



Scenes from the new bigfoot DVD "Clawed"

www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

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Message from the Curator

Now that Summer is fully upon us its time to figure out some strategies for canvassing the county for probable bigfoot habitats or corridors. After all, most of the members who regularly attend our meetings live within an hour and a half drive. We should be able to put together some plans for following up on previous bigfoot reports and rumors in this watershed, an area that is neatly enclosed by many man-made and natural obstacles and barriers. That should make the job easier here than in more remote areas where the forest giants have a much greater range in which to elude detection. I expect the density of these creatures increases the farther north you go, but I would also suspect they each have more wandering space nonetheless.

In my opinion, our "backyard bigfoot" are likely to be more accustomed to being in the vicinity of Homo sapiens than their northern cousins. That might tend to make them more "approachable" (I like to think so anyway.) The specific geological and topographical obstacles and targets in the area could be mapped, along with specific food sources enabling us to predict where these animals might be expected to go. For example, we already know these critters stay close to and travel in creeks and drainages and other bodies of water. We know they are likely to choose corridors that are less likely to reveal them, and that they are likely to be attracted to food sources such as orchards, occasional chicken coops and deer.

Recently a man came into the museum who lived a number of years in the vicinity of Nisene Marks Park in Aptos near an area where a number of bigfoot events have been reported, including six years of ongoing sightings. He said he's heard nighttime screams that caused his two wolf hybrid dogs (female is 145 lbs) to cover in fear. He also reported that there is an avocado orchard very closeby that was completely abandoned for a number of years,

with trees overflowing with ripe avocados. I think that would be a reason for bigfoot to hang around that vicinity at certain times of the year. Likewise there are apple and persimmon orchards on the other side of the Park on the Old San Jose Highway out of Soquel.

Another man came in who said we are welcome to come look around his property, on the west side of Nisene marks, not far from Olive Springs Quarry, where he's experienced some strange screams and other night sounds. He was not specific, but he insisted that if we think there are bigfoot in Aptos/Soquel, then he's got 'em around his place for sure. Quarries seem to come into play quite often, at least with several events we've heard about. Evidently bears are also attracted to them, as I have heard several recent accounts of bears as well as bigfoot near local quarries.

Just the other day a woman who recently moved to the area said one night she got lost and ended up at the top of San Lorenzo Avenue (right up the hill on the street in front of the museum). As she turned around at the dead end in front of the Quarry, she noticed a couple of glowing red eyes in the trees at a height of about eight feet. She did not investigate, but hurried away very creeped-out. Coincidentally, last Fall when we investigated the stick shelter up on Gold Gulch Creek, I could hear the big trucks going up the hill to the quarry, as the creek goes right by it.

Last issue I mentioned a sighting by several young men of a BF type thing seen on Valencia Creek three years ago (also in Aptos) and that I was awaiting a follow-up. The man (Barry) who reported the incident spoke to the boys again and they told him the creature they saw was jet black, but did not appear to be shaggy or have any noticeable hair on its body. He also said it seemed to just "disappear" behind a narrow sapling. Barry said he encouraged them to come to our museum and report the sighting, and he believes one of the boys has already been to the museum. We also had a visit from a

man and woman who live in Columbia, South America. The woman works as a nurse in a hospital there and she said she's seen and heard things that indicate they have their own BF creature there. It is called El Mohan, and is called a "Folk Tale" or legend by scholars.

A young woman came in who lived in Seattle as a teenager (she's in her early thirties now). When she was sixteen, she and a friend were walking in Ravenna Park, downtown Seattle, a little after 11:00 PM when they saw a large hair-covered man standing next to the creek reach own and grab a drink of water with his cupped hand. They both turned and headed out of there without a word being said until they were several blocks away (right out of Harry and the Hendersons!).



Recent new titles available in the museum include *Bigfoot Casebook Update* by Janet & Colin Bord and the DVD "*Clawed: The legend of Sasquatch.*" The mask we have on display in the front of the museum was one of the prototypes used in developing the costume used in the film. As BF-killing-people movies go, it's pretty tolerable as the people who are killed are all poachers, so it's about self-defense. The young actors do a decent job, and the ending has a sort of a "twist" as well. On the BF front, Farlan Huff of Illinois sent more photos of the "BF" he shot with a trip camera sitting on a window sill in Oklahoma. I suggested he try and recreate the photo with a person acting as he thinks the BF did when it triggered the camera. He did so and sent the results. It does show how the photo came to be overexposed as it was in the BF shot, but there was extra ambient light in the background of the "recreation" so the overexposure is not as dramatic, but it does help show how the original MIGHT be a photo of a BF. Check it out when you're in the museum. Perhaps we'll include the photos in a future issue.

---Michael Rugg

Bigfoot Rendezvous A Gathering of the Bigfoot Community in Pocatello, Idaho, June 16 - 18, 2006

by Tom Yamarone

Rendezvous...a bigfoot rendezvous... just like the mountain men in the 1840s, bigfoot enthusiasts were due to gather along the banks of the Snake River in southeastern Idaho for three days of revelry, camaraderie and information sharing. It had been a long, hard winter and the lure of a rendezvous was too much to pass up. It was a weekend to anticipate due to the fact that many prominent bigfooters were due to be there including Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum, Richard Noll, Christopher Murphy, Kathy Moskowitz Strain, MK Davis and Doug Hajicek. Others of exceptional qualifications— although not as publicly prominent – would be there as well, including Owen Caddy, John Mionczynski, Willie Preacher, Jimbo “Bobo” Fay, Bob Strain, Craig Woolheater, John and Montra Freitas, Kelly Berdahl, Scott McClean and Pete Travers. Good friends would be in town from Washington state as well as people I’ve met on the bigfoot internet.

The event was organized by Brandon Tennant of Falling Rock Productions. The city of Pocatello and Idaho State University cooperated in the endeavor as well as the Idaho State Museum of Natural



History. The museum opened a small but informative exhibit on the bigfoot/sasquatch phenomenon due to run through September 2006 with many of the displays coming from the “Meet the Sasquatch” exhibit that was in Vancouver, B.C. last year.

People began arriving Friday afternoon as we gathered in the old town section of Pocatello. This city has a rich history dating back to the days of the Hudson Bay Company and the fur trade. Then it was a stop along the Oregon Trail for pioneers heading west in the mid-1800s. There is a large native American reservation that surrounds the city and, as I learned in the museum, the Shoshone-Bannock tribes

that occupy the reservation include the band of Shoshones that gave us Sacajawea. Yes, we were in the lap of history there on the western fringes of the Rocky Mountains.

The “festival” was little more than a few local food vendors, a couple of native American artists and the bigfooters who had merchandise to sell. Fortunately, it was a festive atmosphere as friends renewed acquaintances and spent the afternoon catching up on the past year’s events while being serenaded by a couple of local bands. I got to play a set of bigfoot songs which were appropriate background music for this gathering. We finally departed as the long June day faded into night.

The next morning we were congregating at the university’s student union auditorium for a long day of presentations. Rick Noll started with an excellent recap of the September 2000 expedition that netted the Skookum Cast. He included historical sightings from the area and detailed the activities of the outing. It was similar to the presentation he gave at the Willow Creek bigfoot symposium in 2003 and was great to hear this material again. He exhibited the cast in the auditorium and it was a rare opportunity to see the cast first hand.

Christopher Murphy’s presentation could aptly share the title of his 2004 compilation book, “Meet the Sasquatch.” In one hour he covered many of the classic



stories of the sasquatch lore found in the books by John Green. His talk was highlighted by personal photographs from many of the locations depicted in the accounts from his native British Columbia.

After lunch, we were treated to the Hairy Man pictograph talk by Kathy Moskowicz Strain. She first presented this material at the Willow Creek symposium and had many new images this year. It is a fascinating account of the only known bigfoot represented in the rock art of the native Americans and is from the Tule River Reservation in the Sierra Nevada Mountains near Sequoia National Park. She presented other depictions of the Hairy Man in baskets by the Yokut tribe who inhabit the reservation that contains the Hairy Man pictograph. She recounted several of their tribal stories involving Hairy Man and even played a song by a tribal elder she recorded in 2005.

MK Davis's talk centered around his photographic study of the Patterson-Gimlin film from 1967. If you are unaware of his work, he is able to show detailed segments of this film on his computer that prove this is indeed a living creature – like some of us knew all along. You see the feet flexing as they lift from the ground, toes spreading out as they flex towards the next step, muscles flexing in the legs and other details you don't see in the film played at regular speed. His presentation struggled through some computer glitches, but his work is some of the most important to date proving the authenticity of this film.

After dinner we had three more presentations and, fortunately, they were all exceptional because if it were anyone else, fatigue would have thinned out the weary crowd. Dr. Jeffrey Meldrum gave an outstanding talk about sasquatch foot anatomy and the studies he did with other primates to discover the mid-tarsal flex exhibited by early bi-pedal locomotion.

Doug Hajicek, well-known producer of "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science" and the TV series "Mysterious Encounters", detailed how he became interested in the subject of bigfoot and how he was able to transfer the Patterson-Gimlin film to high definition video – a project that led to many new discoveries in that film.

Owen Caddy, a former African park warden and primatologist, spoke about the Patterson-Gimlin film and showed how certain procedures can bring out more that we can actually see in the original film. At one point, he shows how the face is actually more ape-like than we perceive it.

Sunday's events were highlighted by the presentation of John Mionczynski who detailed his experiences in the Rocky Mountains over the last few decades. He works as a wildlife biologist and contracts out his time among a variety of federal and state agencies. His most memorable bigfoot encounter was depicted in the 2006 documentary "Giganto: The Real King Kong" which aired on the History Channel in January (and was produced by Doug Hajicek). John continues to investigate bigfoot encounters and is participating in the North American Ape Project with Dr. Meldrum and Rick Noll. He is an exciting new face on the scene and one that we might hope to see more of in the years to come.

A Native American panel offered a rare glimpse into how bigfoot is regarded in their culture. "We know of it as an historical fact," stated one of the panelists. They don't often share their knowledge with the western world outside of the reservation, so this was an amazing chance to listen and learn from those who have shared their world with this elusive creature for generations. The audience listened with rapt attention and deserved respect. I can't get into all of the stories they shared, but suffice it to say, they are still experiencing sasquatch related events to this day on their reservation in Idaho.



The conference was an excellent opportunity to not only experience these excellent presentations, but a chance to interact with others who are excited and knowledgeable about the subject. There really weren't enough opportunities to just "hang out" with other bigfooters, but we did find the time late at night to do so. This is always the most memorable aspect of attending such a conference – getting to share our experiences in this endeavor. It was, indeed, a rendezvous and a way to make contacts that we'll maintain throughout the years ahead. It may not have been widely attended but the people that were there were sufficient and exciting company to have made the trip worthwhile. It is something everyone interested in the subject should experience once – just to enjoy a weekend together with those who share your interest in bigfoot.

Top Left: Chris Murphy and his namesake
Bottom Left: Bobo with Richard Noll
Top Right: John Mionczynski
Below: John and Montra Freitas,
Kathy and Bob Strain



Tom Biscardi's Even Further Adventures



As mentioned in our last issue, Tom Biscardi has been putting out bogus and misleading information concerning a severed "hand" that he got from bigfoot researcher Don Monroe.

Biscardi was already using the "hand" to garner media attention by prematurely calling it a "Bigfoot Hand" even before DNA testing had been done. Since our last issue the specimen has been studied by a forensics lab. This is the statement released by Biscardi concerning the test:

"The following is a summary of the results of these initial DNA tests... The DNA tests confirm that the hand is...

- 1) Not Human
- 2) Not any known primate
- 3) Not in even 'in the system' "

Craig Woolheater of Cryptomundo.com emailed the Laboratory requesting clarification on the results of the DNA test they performed at Tom Biscardi's request. Here is the reply:

Dear Mr. Woolheater:

Our laboratory did provide a standard DNA test to Mr. Tom Biscardi. However, the statements Mr. Biscardi used in his press release dated June 9, 2006 on the website: searchingforbigfoot.com are not consistent with our report, and we found the statements grossly misinterpreted and very misleading.

Due to the confidential nature of DNA testing for identification, we won't be



Above top: alleged "bigfoot hand"; Above bottom: xray next to human hand (right)

above photos from www.cryptomundo.com

able to publicize the original report without the consent of our client. Since Mr. Biscardi directly quoted us in the press release, we found we have no choice but clarify our findings.

We hope this helps to answer some of your questions.

Thanks.

Felicity Tao

Marketing Program Leader

Forensic Services

DNA Diagnostics Center

Mr. Woolheater:

In addition to the statement we sent you just now, we would also like to clarify that Mr. Tom Biscardi didn't send us a hand to test with. We received some tissue samples from him, which we couldn't verify if they came from a hand or not.

Thank you.

Felicity

A copy of the lab report has indeed been made available and according to the report from the DNA Diagnostics Center, the DNA samples provided by Biscardi were "highly degraded and, therefore, a DNA profile cannot be obtained."

The suspicious nature of the thing should have suggested a cautious approach, but as we've learned Biscardi is much more interested in getting press than doing careful research. Don Monroe got the hand from the Sheriff's Office after they determined it was NOT human. It was originally found in a garbage dump. It has been skinned, and the fingertips and most of the thumb have been removed.

A glance at the brown bear forepaw bones shown here indicates why the tips are missing — they most likely held claws, an instant clue that the "hand" is actually a paw, or what's known in the pastry business as a "Bear Claw."



BIGFOOTER'S DATES

October 13-15, 2006 **Texas Bigfoot Conference** Jefferson, TX

www.texasbigfoot.com

Cryptid of the Month

DNA tests solve mystery of giant 'lion-killing' apes

People living around the town of Bili, about 200 kilometers east of the Ebola river, have long swapped stories of ferocious apes with a penchant for killing lions (*New Scientist*, 9 October 2004, p 32). The apes seemed too large to be chimps. From photographs, they were estimated to weigh up to about 100 kilograms, and their footprints at up to 34 centimeters long were bigger than a gorilla's.

To solve the mystery Cleve Hicks and colleagues at the University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, spent a year in the field tracking the apes. During that time, Hicks logged an unprecedented 20 hours observation. "I see nothing gorilla about them," he says. "The females definitely have a chimp's sex swellings, they pant-hoot and tree-drum, and so on."

Analysis of mitochondrial DNA taken from faecal samples also puts the animals within the *Pan troglodytes schweinfurthii* group. Hicks is now analyzing samples of nuclear DNA in the expectation that this will rule out a chimp-gorilla hybrid. "I would say that possibility is negligible," he says.

The Bili apes are, nevertheless, unusual. Their skulls have a gorilla-like sagittal crest, but also many chimp-like features. Recordings reveal that they howl during the full moon. The apes live at high density. Hicks found 430 nests in a 160-kilometer trail system. "At least some are definitely night nests," he says, which is atypical for a chimp. While gorillas nest on the ground, chimps usually bed down in trees.

Hicks says the animals regularly smashed up termite mounds, and used tree roots and rocks as anvils for breaking open fruit and, in one instance, a forest tortoise. They also use sticks up to 2 metres long to dip for driver ants, and shorter sticks to fish for other invertebrates.

Colin Groves of the Australian National University in Canberra has studied skulls collected from the region. He thinks that the Bili skulls are unusually large, but that morphologically they are a unique population of *P. t. schweinfurthii*.

About 18 kilometers north-west of Bili, Hicks discovered a large population in which the density of the animals is much greater. What's more, they do not appear to have encountered humans before. "It's fantastic. They surround us and show curiosity - even the adult males," he says. "It is these guys we want to study."

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