



CapriTaurus
BIGFOOT
Discovery Museum

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Message from the Curator

Now that Fall is approaching, we can expect an increase in Bigfoot activity. Statistics indicate the best time of year for a spontaneous roadside sighting is the month of October. If you ever thought about driving down narrow mountain roads in the middle of the night in the hopes of seeing a bigfoot, the next 6-8 weeks are really prime time.

For the sake of our ongoing project to map out the food supply in Santa Cruz County, last Monday, Mike Barrow and I circumnavigated Nisene Marks Park by auto. We went up Olive Springs Road to the quarry, proceeded up Old Soquel San Jose Road, then across Highland Avenue above the Soquel Demonstration Forest, where we found acreage "cabled off" by a Redwood Empire Lumber Company out of Cloverdale. We also found concord grape vines loaded with fruit growing wild on the side of the cut above the road.

We continued down Eureka Canyon Road to Rider Road, which intersects with Buzzard Lagoon Road. We found substantial numbers of orchards along the way to the ranch where multiple sightings have occurred, but we were still unable to substantiate the avocado orchard reported to be on Buzzard Lagoon. The orchard apparently is out of sight from the road, on a parcel posted with Keep Out signs. We'll get back to the source again to check that theory.

We tried to find the property where a man sleeping in a pickup camper was rudely awakened by a large animal shaking his truck,



but weren't able to differentiate his property from his neighbors. We'll follow up with more calls asking exact directions for next time. (He came into the museum last week with his report. He said there is a natural spring on the property and persimmon and other fruit trees nearby as well.)

Paula and I headed up to Loch Lomond as they're scheduled to close for the season on September 15 (Friday!) We walked the lower trail around the reservoir and spoke to the Rangers (actually employees of the City of Santa Cruz Water Department.) The watershed area consists of 3500 acres centered around the man-made lake. It's been there since 1962, and all of the heavily forested areas around the lake are indicated as **Off Limits** on the trail map, except the Eastern shoreline. That restricted area accounts for about 66% of the entire watershed – which makes it likely BF habitat.

The most recent walk-in report to the museum came from a man who works at Lick Observatory on Mt Hamilton. He mentioned that he's found old newspaper letters from the 1860's claiming sightings on the back side of Mt Hamilton. He also told of a sighting he had back in 1963 in the Portola Redwood Park. He was 15-16 at the time and travelling with three buddies. Late one Winter night, they stopped at the park seeking a camp site. The ranger gave them a camp even though it was off season. So they built a fire and "played around a bit with the raccoons and so forth. There was a good

sized moon that night, so he and one of his friends went in search of firewood. Hearing a noise, they both glanced off the trail and saw a large, upright, heavily built figure that was covered in white hair. It rocked somewhat as it stared at them from the forest about 30 yds away. He noted that his friend refused to talk about the incident until 40 years later, when he finally admitted he saw it too!



Recent acquisitions for the Reference Library:

- Out of the Dark* The Complete Guide to Beings From Beyond by Brad Steiger
- Hunt for the Skinwalker* Science Confronts the Unexplained at a Remote Ranch in Utah by Colm A. Kelleher and George Knapp
- The Historical Bigfoot* by Chad Arment
- Bear Attacks Their Causes and Avoidance* by Stephen Herrero
- The Long Walk* by Slavomir Rawicz
- Squatching and Journey Toward Squatchdom* a documentary by Scott Herriott DVD
- Keeping the Watch* profiles of Independent Researchers into The Bigfoot Phenomenon DVD by Grendel Films
- Bigfoot Man? Myth? Monster?* Bigfoot research DVD
- High Strangeness: Men in Black, Mothman, Flatwoods Monster & Hairy Bipedes in UFOs* by Wendy Connors MP3 files of audio recordings CD
- Big Gilyuk The Bigfoot* by Lil Liza Jane CD

Some newly published titles available for sale in the museum:

- Bigfoot Casebook Updated Sightings and Encounters from 1818 to 2004* by Janet & Colin Bord
- Sasquatch The Apes Among Us* by John Green (first published in 1978)
- Bigfoot Encounters in Ohio* by Chris Murphy
- Shadows of Existence Discoveries and Speculations in Zoology* by Matt Bille

---Michael Rugg



A September to Remember

3 Years Later and the Willow Creek Bigfoot Symposium is Still a Landmark Event

By Tom Yamarone



It seems like August never happened – at least, not in the bigfoot world. It capped off a sensational family summer, but nary a peep was heard from our big hairy friends. Some folks made it out into the woods and many more stopped by the museum to tell their bigfoot stories. Mike has now collected notes and contact information from close to 70 witnesses... 19 of those are eye-witnesses to a bigfoot sighting right here in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Over the course of the up-coming Fall and Winter, we'll be trying to interview these folks and flesh out written accounts of their encounters. In the meantime, September holds the promise of an outing or two. It's also

the 3rd anniversary of the International Bigfoot Symposium that was held in Willow Creek, California in 2003.

This was a monumental event in the history of the bigfoot phenomenon. For one weekend, many enthusiasts crowded into the little Humboldt County town to rub elbows with John Green, Bob Gimlin, Jeff Meldrum, John Bindernagel, Rick Noll, Jimmy Chilcutt, Henner Fahrenbach, Al Hodgson, Matthew Moneymaker, Bobo Fay, Thomas Steenburg, John Freitas, Daniel Perez and other folks who had become household names in the literature about sasquatch – and the emerging television documentary world. Others were to catapult themselves into the bigfoot limelight with their presentations or mere attendance, including Doug Hajicek (producer of the documentary *Sasquatch: The Legend Meets Science* and the

from reaching a wider audience. And even then, it barely captures the essence of the weekend. It is, however, an excellent document of the presentations as such. There are a few articles in newspaper archives and on-line at bigfoot sites, but they too fall short of capturing the whole event.

It was a Thursday afternoon when we began congregating in the area for the Friday morning start to the conference. The press conference in front of the Willow Creek-China Flat Museum was the first taste of the weekend. Many folks had their first opportunity for some personal time with John Green and Bob Gimlin. We then had the first of our common meals – a sack lunch in the shade of the trees nearby enjoying the company of those in attendance. I'll never forget the personable father and son from



TV series *Mysterious Encounters*), Christopher Murphy, Kathy Moskowitz Strain, Autumn Williams, Chester Moore, Jr., (our own) Mike Rugg and Paula Yarr, Craig Woolheater, Lee Murphy, Scott McClean and a slew of others. What's more impressive about this weekend was that it succeeded to such a degree despite the fact that many others couldn't be there including Jane Goodall*, Ray Crowe, Larry Lund, Ron Morehead, Al Berry, Bobbie Short, MK Davis, Don Keating, Loren Coleman and other people involved in furthering this cause.

Time does seem to be whittling away at the giddiness we all had for over a year after this event. Friendships formed that weekend have forged into a wonderful circle of contacts in the bigfoot world. The bigfoot conferences at Bellingham, Washington in 2005 and Pocatello, Idaho in 2006 were exciting in their own right, but not monumental like Willow Creek was. It's too bad the DVD set from the event is so exorbitantly priced – that kept it

Texas (the Chester Moore's), listening to a man named Ken Yielding share his sighting event from the previous summer in Washington, or as the first amazing day of talks ended, watching the majority of the auditorium raise their hands when Doug Hajicek asked who here has had a bigfoot encounter... just an amazing moment.

Well, that trip down memory lane is always a good one. Willow Creek was the starting point for my personal search for bigfoot and I'm as lucky as Patterson and Gimlin for all the folks I've had the pleasure of meeting and getting to know.

* - right, not necessarily a "bigfooter" but she was slated to be the keynote speaker until a last-minute change in her schedule prevented her attendance. She did, however, send along a statement to be read at the conference and she has come out publicly in support bigfoot research – or that the evidence to date merits such an investigation by science.



Keep a Good Thought in Your Hearts for Star Sams –

Bigfooter, Loving Wife and Mother



She passed away exactly a month ago as we were going to press with the last newsletter. A tragic auto accident ended her life way too soon and has left many who knew her devastated. She and her husband, Jason Valenti, co-sponsored the Sasquatch Research Conference in Bellingham, Washington last year and all of us who attended were treated to some lasting memory of her kindness and endearing smile. I just wanted to make sure we didn't go on without taking a moment to think a good thought for Star and Jason and their son, Jahn.



Time to Get Out in the Woods

This is the perfect time of year to get out and have a look around – and document anything unusual that you might see or hear. There have

been several strange sound events from the local hills, the Sierras and the coastal range in Mendocino County lately. As the seasons change and the summer crowds dissipate, there's a nice window of opportunity before hunting season to take to the hills.

I've got my eye on a trip up to the Smith River area. While I was away in July up in the Bluff Creek region, a report was submitted to BFRO. I called this witness just recently and it turns out his report is not able to be published because it was a second hand account and there wasn't much detail he could add. He was out driving on an isolated road in the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park that week in July when he and his daughter came upon two cars blocking the narrow dirt road. When they noticed he was behind them and made room for



him to pass, they yelled out their windows that they had just seen a bigfoot. This was at 6 pm on July 13th in the hills above Crescent City. Good to know – and even better to make contact with this nice man as he had some other stories to tell. He has been a campground host in the state park and has heard unusual vocalizations on several occasions. His children also had a sighting near the town of Hiouchi, California in the late 1990s. I'll try and research these and recount them in a future issue of the newsletter. And just the other night, I chanced upon Loren Coleman on the Coast to Coast AM radio show with George Noory (Art Bell's old show). He was discussing Thunderbirds at this point in the interview. A few moments later the first caller was a man relating an excellent bigfoot sighting. It caught my attention when the caller stated, "We were on our honeymoon up on the Smith River near the Jedediah Smith Redwoods."

He went on to describe seeing a large, brown fur covered animal that he initially thought was a bear – "but it smelled something awful" – and he was very accustomed with the native

wildlife as he claimed to be a professional tracker with a degree in Wildlife Management. At this point, the animal stood up, noticed him and purposefully strode across a fern covered clearing into a thick stand of brush and timber. He had a clear view of it walking and swinging its arms and it burst easily into the brush and disappeared. This amazed the witness as he didn't think most animals (like elk or moose) would have attempted to go through the thicket as opposed to going around it. In order to give some idea of the size of the bigfoot, he stated that the ferns they both were standing in came up above his waist and only reached the lower thighs of the creature as it walked off. I tried to find out more details about his account and learned that this occurred in August 1994.

Well, it got me excited about returning to the Smith River and the Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park. That's about all for now! Please let us know of your accounts and outings – we'd love to hear about them!



Left top: Tom plays a set at the Symposium;
Left bottom: Green, Gimlin, Chilcutt, Fahrenbach, and Noll;
Left middle: Seated- Meldrum, McClaren, Bindernagel, Bayanov; Standing- Fahrenbach, Moskowitiz Strain, Schillinger, Chilcutt, Noll, Gimlin, Green, Higgins, Steenburg, Hodgson
Right top left: Star Sams at Bellingham;
Right Bottom left: Scott McClean on the path in the Jedediah Smith Redwoods
Right top middle: The banks of the Smith River
Right Bottom right: The road through the Jedediah Smith Redwoods



Photograph that accompanied an article from the Scientist Magazine, September 2006 (Vol. 20, No. 9 NOTEBOOK section, pages 18-19) about the Pocattello Conference. Tom is wearing his Bigfoot Discovery Museum T-shirt, now available to members for \$15 (plus s&h if you want it shipped) Comes in adult sizes S -XXXL, in White, Ash, Pink or Blue. hat's Jeff Meldrum on the right.

PALEOANTHROPOLOGY

New Research Indicates the Neanderthals Survived Longer

by MALCOLM RITTER, Associated Press Writer
Sep 13, 2006

NEW YORK - Neanderthals survived for thousands of years longer than scientists thought, with small lingering bands finding refuge in a massive cave near the southern tip of Spain, new research suggests.

The work contends that Neanderthals were using a cave in Gibraltar at least 2,000 years later than their presence had been firmly documented anywhere before, researchers said. "Maybe these are the last ones," said Clive Finlayson of The Gibraltar Museum, who reported the findings Wednesday with colleagues on the Web site of the journal Nature.

Neanderthals were stocky, muscular hunters in Europe and western Asia who appeared more than 200,000 years ago. They died out after anatomically modern humans arrived in Europe some 35,000 to 40,000 years ago and spread west into Neanderthal territory.

Scientists have long been fascinated by the last days of the Neanderthals. Were they doomed because they couldn't compete with the encroaching modern humans for resources, or because they caught new germs from the moderns, or because of climate change? Did the two groups have much contact, and what kind?

The Neanderthals probably roamed a large area and used the cave periodically as a place to cook, eat and sleep, he said. The cave has yielded butchered bones of such animals as wild goat and deer, and remains of mussels and shellfish. At the time of the Neanderthals, the Mediterranean Sea was about three miles away; rising sea level has since brought the water to within a few dozen yards.



MEDIA / POP CULTURE



This past week there was an extensive Sasquatch movie event on the Sci Fi Channel, including *Sasquatch*, *Sasquatch Hunters* and the "world premiere" of *Sasquatch Mountain*. The pulpy *Werewolf*

of *Bray Road* was added to the series as the token "shapeshifting" hairy biped. Lance Henriksen was in two of these films and his newest, *Sasquatch Mountain*, was originally called *Devil on the Mountain*. E! Online News, September 13, 2006 reports: "The Sci Fi Channel movie *Sasquatch Mountain* discovered 1.7 million Bigfoot fans – the cable network's fifth-most watched show of the week."



The Jack Links Beef Jerky company has been running a series of video ads called "Messin' with Sasquatch." They have run the videos on TV and on the website they have a journal featuring Sasquatch's family photos. There is a tie-in to My Space as well as UTube. Sasquatch is everywhere you look.



Cryptid of the Month

Sumatran rhino seen in Borneo jungles
Fri Sep 8, 2006

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia - Wildlife rangers have made the first-ever sighting of a Sumatran rhino deep in the jungles of Borneo, taking video and photos of a single male after a decade-long search, conservationists said Friday.

SOS Rhino, a Chicago-based wildlife foundation, hailed the recent sighting in Malaysia's Sabah state as a "major discovery" that suggested a growing population of the Sumatran rhino was present in the wild. The foundation said rangers from its expedition followed tracks that led them to the male rhino, but didn't say exactly when it took place.

"We have been tracking these animals here in Sabah for almost 10 years now and although we have seen tracks and signs of the rhino, this is the actual first sighting of a rhino in the wild," it said in a statement. We are excited about the photos and video clip as it also helps us determine the sex of the animal and its health condition in its natural habitat, something that was dependent on guess work before."

The Sumatran rhino is the smallest and most endangered among five species of rhinos left in the world, and the only rhino species found in Malaysia. They have rapidly vanished in recent decades as their rain forest habitat has been lost to logging, plantations and other development and poachers hunted them for horns used in aphrodisiacs and traditional medicines.

Sabah is the last preserve of the Borneo Sumatran rhino, a subspecies of the Sumatran rhino, a bristly, snub-nosed, smaller version of the African variety.

The subspecies has already become extinct in other parts of Borneo because of poaching. Borneo island is divided between Malaysia's Sabah and Sarawak states, Indonesia's Kalimantan province and the oil-rich sultanate of Borneo.

Fewer than 300 rhinos of the second subspecies, the western Sumatran rhino, are believed to be living on Indonesia's Sumatra island and mainland Malaysia.

Hopes for the Borneo subspecies were boosted after Malaysian government wildlife officials and World Wildlife Fund experts found evidence of at least 13 of them in May last year. Rhino protection units have since launched patrols to deter poaching

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