



Kelly Berdahl & Autumn Williams

[www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com](http://www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com)

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### Message from the Curator

Now that its anniversary time again for the Patterson/Gimlin Film, just a quick Happy Birthday to “Patty” (the bigfoot in the film) who became 39 years old on October 20. That is of course the age of the movie, not the bigfoot in the movie. But for many, bigfoot came to life when the movie was made.



As I write this I’m looking forward to our meeting and Rummage Sale Fundraiser this Sunday. We’ve had good responses from a number of you who are trying to help keep this ship afloat. We have been accumulating things for the sale and some members have also come up with suggestions or volunteered to do more to help the cause.

Greg Rose, who has been helping me get the newsletters archived on the website, is a pretty busy guy these days as his wife Anji recently gave birth to their son, Joaquin. Congratulations Greg and Anji! Needless to say Greg has more to do now with a newborn in the house, but that didn’t keep him from coming in with a terrific offer to help spearhead a revamp of the website. Greg offered to be Project Manager for putting together a team of volunteers to upgrade the website. We need to have an online store and there is talk of adding a blog that other members could participate in as well. Greg has already received a couple of responses to a plea for volunteers he posted on Craig’s List, and the work will hopefully start soon on the website.

We’re also thinking of starting a member’s only chat group on Yahoo or something like it so members who don’t live in the area can participate in discussions or share their field experiences with other members on a more timely basis. Glen requested this as he will be out of the area for awhile, but he’d like to keep in touch with everybody.

Tom, who already helps write the newsletter each month, has offered to help in following

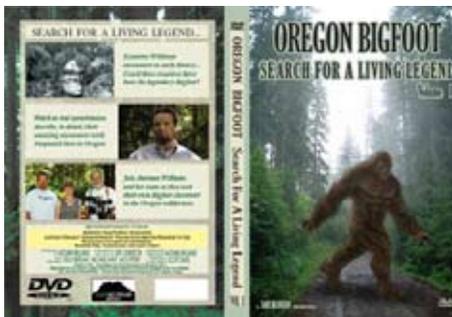
up on local sighting reports as well. We want to reconnect with as many as possible and see if there are any more details they might be able to add to the story they already told.

As I pointed out in the insert in the last newsletter, we were not well-equipped to deal with all the local sighting reports that came in, especially when we first opened, as they were not anticipated. For example, we should have gotten some tissue from the chicken that was killed in Ben Lomond to test for DNA, but we did not. Also, the stories are often told by persons who are under pressure (by others they are traveling with) to leave, and so the stories are often somewhat truncated due to time constraints. At least I have had the presence of mind to jot down the primary information and—in most cases—get their contact information for followup later. But many stories are still sketchy and incomplete, which is why we want to get back to the sources and question them further.



#### Future acquisitions for the Reference Library:

DVD Documentary: *In Pursuit of the Olympic Rainforest Sasquatch* It’s a follow-up from the first *On the Track of the Pacific Northwest Sasquatch* mainly filmed in and around the Hoh River, Quinault River and Queets River Drainages in the Olympic Mountains of Washington State. ([www.wsssg.net](http://www.wsssg.net))

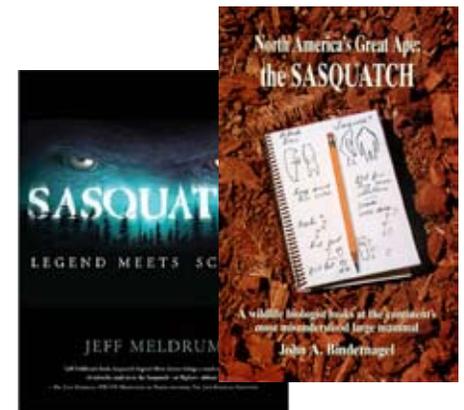


#### DVD Documentary: *OREGON BIGFOOT Search for a living Legend*

“In the summer of 2005, a small team of researchers and a videographer, led by Autumn Williams, ventured into the remote Cascade Wilderness of Oregon... in search of a living legend. This is their story.”

Autumn Williams, Kelly Bergdahl, Michael Nave and videographer Jeff Johnson

The documentary will be released in a two-part series. Volume I, available now, is approximately 113 minutes total running time. There’s over an hour of the movie itself, plus a half-hour of Autumn’s presentation at the Bellingham Sasquatch Research Conference: Women in Sasquatch Research. Also, tech videos and a blooper reel. ([www.oregonbigfoot.com](http://www.oregonbigfoot.com))



#### Some newly published titles available for sale in the museum:

*Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science* by Jeff Meldrum, A Forge Book published by Tom Doherty & Associates, 2006

*North America’s Great Ape: the Sasquatch* by John Bindernagel, Beachcomber Books, 1998

---Michael Rugg

**Basic Bigfoot Evidence and Encounter Documentation-  
"Take a Picture; It'll Last Longer!"**

by Tom Yamarone

It's been nearly a month since the Fall Equinox and the days are getting noticeably shorter. There's dew on the plants and car windows in the mornings and the days of three digit temperatures are but a searing memory of Summer. October is a special month for many reasons. October 20<sup>th</sup> is the day we celebrate the Patterson-Gimlin film – our favorite bigfoot movie! Halloween ends the month on a fun note for the young and young-at-heart and signals the start of the holiday season. There's still plenty of reasons and good weather to justify a trip out the woods.

So, let's go over some of the things you might do should you have a bigfoot encounter – or come upon someone else who's just had one. We'll skip over the visceral reactions...you're on your own there. I don't think anyone can really predict how they will react during such an event. It depends on so many factors and what the encounter is like. But in the aftermath of a bigfoot event, there's a few steps we can take to document what happened and add to the existing database of bigfoot sightings and encounters.

There is quite a buzz these days on the internet regarding standardization of this



data. It seems like a noble cause and a direction bigfoot research should take. Standardizing report formats and witness interviews will allow other researchers and



the academic world to take a look at the bigfoot phenomenon in a more organized manner. Also, in the cases where physical evidence is available, uniform documentation of such will allow for others to analyze it – I'm talking about footprints, hair, and other artifacts. And more importantly, how to photograph these, make a cast, etc. We had a workshop last March where we covered some of this and in up-coming issues of the newsletter, we'll disseminate some of this information.

What's important to derive if you've had a sighting or are the first one to make contact with a person who's had one? The following information is all very important to note:

1. What happened? A written narrative (or tape recorded audio narrative) of the occurrence.
2. Date and Time of the encounter.
3. Location. Where did it happen? And should you have the inclination to flee the location, take a moment to drop something or mark the spot so you can find it again. Ultimately, GPS coordinates are the best – or as close as you can mark the spot on a topographic map. Note the nearest road and nearest town to the location as well as accurate directions on how to get there.

4. What were you doing just before it happened?
5. Were there other witnesses?
6. What was the weather and lighting conditions like at the time of the event?
7. Anything else you might add that would be helpful in understanding what happened?
8. Any physical evidence noticed after the event? Footprints, hair or other spoor?
9. Did you take any photographs or video? If not – and you happen to have a camera on you – take some photographs of the location.

What if you should come upon something you think is evidence of a bigfoot while out in the woods? It could be a footprint, a uniquely broken tree, a possible nesting site, or an unusual stick formation. Simple...take a picture of it!

As far as field research is concerned, much of what I know I learned at Operation Odyssey – a weekend workshop on investigative techniques presented by Kathy Moskowitz Strain, Bob Strain and Montra Freitas in April 2004. The purpose of this free, two day workshop was to teach participants how to recognize, record and collect bigfoot evidence. The focus was on field methods and much of what was covered dealt with basic issues such as outdoor safety and equipment needs for field outings. There are tentative plans for the Alliance of Independent Bigfoot Researchers ([www.bigfootresearch.com](http://www.bigfootresearch.com)) to have another of these events next Spring.





We'll keep you informed when the plans are announced.

The things I took away from this weekend all had to do with attempting to properly document bigfoot evidence. I mentioned above what information to record should you have a sighting or obtain a photograph or video. Let's take a quick look at what the next steps would be should a bigfoot encounter provide you with physical evidence.



Photographing the site is very important – and documenting the site, as well. As mentioned in a previous issue of the newsletter, multiple photographs should be taken of anything you find in the field that resembles a bigfoot track. A scale item should always be in the photo –

hopefully a tape measure or photo scale – but anything as simple as a dollar bill, water bottle or a knife will suffice. Avoid the typical “here’s my boot next to the print” photo as shoes and boots vary in size. And try and take as many photos as possible from a variety of angles and always one directly overhead (if possible.) Measurements of the track length and width (across the balls of the foot and the heel) are necessary as well as the distance between prints (the step) and the distance from a right print to the next right print (the stride)...measure the step and stride from toe to toe or heel to heel between two consecutive prints.

Mapping the site is very important. One should follow the steps provided in the reference article “Archaeological Data Methods” by Kathy Moskowitz Strain and Reid Nelson.

The next key element of bigfoot evidence is casting of any print evidence. The museum had a casting workshop last Spring and should be able to host another event like that next year. I’m not going to

cover casting here, but should you locate a print you deem worthy of casting, give the museum a call. We’ll get you the material you need or talk you through the process.

I didn’t intend for this article to be a detailed treatise on “how-to” document bigfoot evidence. It was intended to encourage us to be more diligent in our documentation. There is some basic information that we can be more astute at noting when we do have the opportunity. So, take good notes, take more pictures, draw a map or sketch of where you were and let’s see what we can piece together about this creature. This year alone in California we’ve had multiple reports of unusual vocalizations, a couple of great sightings and an excellent find of a track trail in Humboldt County. The evidence is out there...let’s be sure to document it when we have the opportunity!

That’s about it for documentation and what to do should you find yourself in a post-encounter situation. Let’s see what else is going on these days

Here’s what you should do if you happen to photograph or take a video of a bigfoot. I found these tips on-line – they were posted on an internet forum by Rick Noll.

1. Mark accurately the spot where you are taking the pictures from, including the height above the ground and angle you are shooting at. Note the shutter speed, iris setting and focal length of the lens. Place this information on paper and on a detailed map of the immediate area.
2. Record the time, date and weather conditions.
3. Try to get to the exact spot ASAP where the sasquatch was seen and record/document track ways, distances traveled, distances to the camera position and the heights of objects seen in the video at relatively the same distance as the sasquatch. Photo and cast tracks if any are present or find someone who can do it for you.
4. Have someone interview you on tape ASAP as to what you saw and did about it.
5. Make a digital, lossless copy of the original tape or internegatives of films. Place the originals in a safety deposit box at your bank of choice.
6. Contact a local newspaper to run a story of the event including a still image from the film or video. In the US as soon as you make an image you have copyright so there is no push to work that issue. People will tell you to sign up for copyright but what you are really doing is applying for a legal firm (with payment of course) to run legalities for you. Don't do this until you have done the stuff listed above .
7. Never say anything you think you might regret at a later date about the event or the content of your documentation.
8. All measurements should be double checked; utilize a second person and use two measuring devices at a later date when you're more clear headed.

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The last few steps involve taking control of the situation if the video or photograph truly rank as clear evidence of a bigfoot. You'd want to insure the original and also he suggests having a friend or family member "run interference" for you with the people that would be contacting you. All very good advice from an experienced bigfoot researcher.

Now, these might seem extreme, but they're not. Should you actually have a very good photograph or video – one that will rival the best photographic evidence to date (namely, the Patterson-Gimlin film) – these are words of wisdom. If I remember correctly, he posted these suggestions around the time of the Manitoba video when the person who took the video was overwhelmed by the response to the initial press release. Then we all got to see the video and the steps taken by the gentleman from Manitoba certainly could have been done in a different manner. The video itself did not live up to the hype and the follow-up investigation and comparison video were ineffectual and lacking because they did not allow for the original image to be analyzed in a consistent manner. Hence, we're back to the topic of standardization... or the need for standardized procedures.

And wouldn't it be great to actually have some new photographic evidence – and have to take all these steps? Indeed. I guess the point of my writing this is more or less to encourage you to take the time to document any event you feel is important and worth adding to the knowledge base. We have a report form on file at the museum based upon several internet databases.

### 39th Anniversary of the Patterson-Gimlin Film

Yes, it's that magical day again when die-hard bigfooters head for Louse Camp and Bluff Creek to bask in the memory of that fateful day. It's been talked about before but there's truly a special feeling down there in that rugged ravine near the film site. We'll have to see if we can locate anyone going there this year and get a report on what the weekend was like up there.



## MEDIA / POP CULTURE



### SciFi Investigates Bigfoot

SciFi Investigates is a new "reality" program on the SciFi Channel. They have a team of four investigate some "paranormal" phenomenon each week. The team consists of an archeologist (age 50) a paranormalist (age 35) a crime scene investigator (age 25) and a celebrity skeptic (age 22-all ages are guesses). Boston Rob (the skeptic) is known among TV viewers from the Survivor show, and is definitely the weakest member of the team. The team started out by visiting the lab of Henner Fahrenbach where they were shown hair samples, track casts, the P/G Film and the Memorial Day Video. The skeptic shook his head and with a casual wave of his hand wrote off all the evidence he was shown as "fake."

Next, the crime scene investigator went to visit with Jeff Meldrum and saw some of his track casts, including some with dermal ridges. She transferred some of the friction skin whorls to a sheet of plastic to show the other team members evidence of dermal ridges from casts.

The next sequence included two eye witnesses who told them their stories. We didn't get to hear much of what they said other than a word or two. After the segment they admitted that the witnesses seemed to be telling the truth and not just making it up.



Finally, they went out on a "hunt" with Autumn Williams. This included call blasting and baiting with cow liver and rabbit flesh. They also strapped some hi-tech wildlife cameras to trees and used a baseball bat to produce some wood knocks. The blasting and knocking was combined with vocalized screams and calls as well. Most of this took place in the dark, and they indicated they had heard "something" respond.

The biggest joke was the attempt by Boston Rob to duplicate the Memorial Day Footage by donning a floppy-haired bigfoot suit with huge fake feet and running down a hill. Twice he ended up tumbling head over heels. Throughout he looked ridiculous and was obviously a guy in a suit. They also attempted to create a fake track using a rubber foot from the costume. The end result was very crude with no toe details, but they claimed it was a pretty good fake. Rob also claimed his his costume sequence was believable (no way) and their final conclusion was that the evidence could all be fake, but they tended to believe the eye witnesses, so the final verdict was "maybe."

Autumn Williams was very "professional" and took all their ridiculous antics in stride. She has of course done TV before (Mysterious Encounters.) Good job Autumn.



That this show is aimed at a youthful audience is obvious, otherwise why would they have a young kid as the mandatory skeptic? I found him extremely annoying when he interrupted Fahrenbach and pronounced all his evidence fake. The paranormalist even pointed out that Boston Rob had no basis for his skepticism other than his smart alec attitude.

The show will investigate other paranormal subjects in future episodes including UFOs. The mandatory skeptical attitude on this type of show continues to be tedious and contrived, but at least they sopped short of calling the witnesses fools or liars.