



Natalie Schmidt & Daniel Searle - Animal X with Kriss Stephens and Chester Moore, Jr.

www.bigfootdiscoveryproject.com

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Message from the Curator

Now that we've at long last gotten permission from the Planning Dept to get our permit, we can finish the development of the museum exterior and the Bigfoot Diorama. Yeah. As most of you know, we have four life-sized bigfoot models that we're anxious to display, folk art that once resided in a Seattle museum.

This newsletter officially launches the "community connection," and our first meeting (today) will start the ball rolling on the further development of the museum, and bringing us all closer to solving the mystery as we see it: **EXACTLY WHAT IS BIGFOOT?**

We are hoping that other members of the community will step up to help in developing future exhibits, join us in field studies, and lend a hand in setting up curriculum for workshops and special events for the whole family.

We're asking for feedback on the exhibits; suggestions for improving the displays; topics you'd like to see covered better by the museum; et al. Thanks to all of you who have chosen to join us on the project.

--Michael Rugg

EXHIBITS COMING Chester Moore donates materials for a Southern Bigfoot Exhibit

Chester Moore, professional outdoorsman, author and talk show host, has provided us with plaster casts made near the Big Thicket, on the Texas/Louisiana border. There are casts of left and right juvenile feet, overlapping adult tracks, and a very clear, albeit truncated, adult three-toed track. Yes 3 toes.



As is often the case in the bottomlands of the South, the local hairy bipeds leave tracks with three toes! Moore makes a good case in his newest book, **Bigfoot Lives. Deal with It**, for inbreeding as an explanation for the aberrant digitation. (a word?) What's more, due perhaps to the particular characteristics of



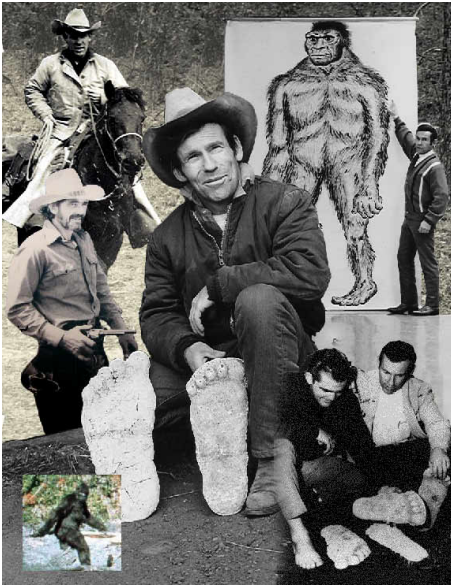
the vegetation, these animals seem to spend a lot more time down on all fours than do the Pacific Northwest variety. As Chester puts it, "Bigfoot creatures up North tend to be tree-hugging Hippie types, while those down here in Texas seem to be more of the heavy metal, aggressive type."

The only descriptions we have of local tracks, from the Valley Press article of July 1980 (referring back to the '70s,) describes finding three-toed prints. Does that indicate genetic isolation inbreeding going on here as well? For more on Chester Moore:

www.cryptokeeper.com

Bibliography Southern Bigfoot:

- The Lake Worth Monster of Greer Island Ft Worth TX* 1969 by Sallie Anne Clarke
- Smokey and the Fouke Monster* 1974 by Smoky Crabtree
- Swamp Bigfoot - Tales of the Louisiana Honey Island Swamp Monster* 1999 by Dana Holyfield
- In the Big Thicket on the Trail of the Wildman* 2001 by Rob Riggs
- Bigfoot South* 2002 by Chester Moore, Jr.
- Bigfoot Lives Deal with it!* 2004 by Chester Moore, Jr.



Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin to be Honored with Museum Display

The Bigfoot Discovery Museum recognizes the Patterson-Gimlin film as the best evidence of bigfoot to date. As such, the museum features a "life-size" enlargement of frame 352 (created by Scott McLean with help from M.K. Davis for the 2003 International Bigfoot Symposium in Willow Creek, CA), a copy of one of Patterson's footprint casts from that day and a multimedia display running the film and some recent analysis on a loop nearby. There is also a display of some still photos from the famous film and a display of the 1968 Argosy magazine article.

We are planning on expanding this display to include a tribute to the two men responsible for this film – Roger Patterson and Bob Gimlin. We would request items relating to or photographs of either man to include in the display. We will treat these as either a donation to the museum or a temporary loan. All contributions to this tribute to Patterson and Gimlin are greatly appreciated. Bob Gimlin is an honorary member of the museum, by the way.

Author Requests Information for Biography of Roger Patterson

Someone has finally undertaken the project to write Roger Patterson's biography so we might get to know the man behind the film. David Murphy has been researching his subject for almost a year and is in the process of conducting dozens of interviews.

He would request that anyone who knew Roger Patterson – or can share a story or two – please contact him through the museum. David's book will hopefully be published early next year.

Some Comments on the current P/G Film Hoax Event

Over the years any number of individuals have been rumored to have been responsible for "faking" the famous Patterson/Gimlin Film. Bob Heironimus is only the *current* pretender, but he seems to have been telling that story long enough to have convinced even himself. Unless my "artist's eye" is totally out of order, there is still no doubt that the P/G creature appears more ALIVE and ATHLETIC than Bob H -- even in a "state of the art" vintage 2005 Bigfoot suit! My ability to judge character would also have to be equally on the fritz, to accept Bob H's undetailed error-ridden tale over the soft-spoken word of Bob Gimlin. If Bob H wore a gorilla suit for Patterson (and I can *imagine* a scenario in which he *might* have) you can bet he did it in a back yard in Yakima WA, not at Bluff Creek CA. It really boils down to one man's word against another's, and I'd bet on Bob Gimlin any day.

--Michael Rugg

And what about the Lie Detector Test? Do a Google search on *Polygraph Tests* and see what you find. Talk about "unscientific" ... what a laugh.

F I E L D W O R K

Outing Notes: An Initial Exploration of the San Lorenzo Valley

by Michael Rugg and Tom Yamarone
Saturday, April 15, 2005

Exploratory Hike of the Old Quarry
Watershed near Zayante, CA

4:00 p.m. Clear conditions, temp. 70

We began our hike by climbing the grade into the old quarry area and discovered an isolated area frequented by local hikers, horseback riders and motorcyclists. There was also sign of plenty of wildlife including deer, rabbits, coyote and possibly a mountain lion. Abandoned buildings were strewn with the litter of late night parties but we passed only a few people during the hike. The road circumnavigates the edge of the quarry

which is now being reclaimed by the local flora. We passed two fenced off pump houses and the road ended at the second pump house. It is surrounded by a mixed conifer and hardwood forest. We considered this to be an area to investigate periodically for tracks and at night for possible activity. We hiked out to our vehicle shortly before 7:00 pm.

Late Night Drive to Remote Locations in the San Lorenzo Valley

After dinner and a musical respite, we began the late night phase of our area investigation just before 10:00 pm. We drove up Hwy 9 through Ben Lomond and into the town of Boulder Creek. From there we proceeded along Hwy 236 towards Big Basin Redwoods State Park. We stopped briefly to explore some of the side streets near where activity has been reported. We passed through the state park and continued on Hwy 236 until we reached the upper elevations of the watershed. We parked and used a game caller to do some call blasting. The conditions were foggy and breezy in the forest where we were and we had no returns on this activity. We departed the area after sitting and listening for 45 minutes.

We drove to Hwy 9 and headed north to Skyline Blvd. We turned south (it turns into Summit Road at some point) and explored the upper reaches of Bear Creek Road. Stopping frequently, we eventually made it back into Boulder Creek and proceeded south on Hwy 9 to Felton. From there we explored the Zayante Creek watershed. We arrived at a position near the headwaters of Zayante Creek at 1:30 am. We stayed at this spot for the next hour and a half call blasting every 30 minutes. We had no response although this seemed to be a very likely area. The upper reaches of the canyon are densely wooded and sparsely populated.

At 3:00 am we left to return to Big Basin State Park along Hwy 236 and remained there until 4:30 am. We returned home at 5:30 am. We did observe a bobcat as it crossed Summit Road and several small herds of deer in that area as well. Other than that, we got a good first look at some of the spots to concentrate on in this area.

We hope to be able to investigate these areas on future occasions and will discuss dates and potential methods for an undertaking of this nature at the monthly meeting. We welcome participation in this effort from the general public as well.

Getting Out In The Field

by Tom Yamarone

You're interested in the bigfoot/sasquatch phenomenon. You've read all of the books – well, most of them – and have seen the documentaries. Fictional movies and artwork are also a part of your collection. You've finally decided you would like to go out in the woods and actually look for one of these wonderful creatures. That's the path I took a couple of years ago and it's been an interesting experience. No, I haven't seen one (yet) nor documented one, but I've seen and heard things while out in the mountains that convince me there is an elusive creature living there.

The first thing I did towards this goal was to attend the Willow Creek International Bigfoot Symposium in 2003. I went to this event with the intention of meeting people who shared a similar desire – that is, getting out in the woods to search for bigfoot. The symposium was a milestone event and left a lasting impression, especially the last day when a guy I met there drove me out to the Patterson-Gimlin film site along Bluff Creek. That is a place that is not that easy to reach – miles of single-lane paved road and then more miles of dirt roads. It's nothing like it was in 1967 and is overgrown with dense vegetation. Still, just being there was very inspirational. That clinched it for me. Getting out in the woods was something I had to do.

Bluff Creek near the Patterson-Gimlin film site

I met a few and within weeks we were making camp in a remote forest in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. That weekend we were part of a "call blasting" activity. An alleged bigfoot scream was projected out at set intervals through a loud PA system. Within seconds of the first call, a return call was heard very similar to the long, drawn-out "howl" you hear in some of the TV documentaries. It was far enough away to be exciting instead of frightening. Throughout that evening we heard other types of unusual screams in the forest near camp and were able to record some of these.



The next day we surveyed the area and found footprint-like impressions in the forest duff. I discovered the Sierras in the late Fall do not have the soil conditions favorable to finding tracks – it's dry, hard-packed and littered with the forest detritus. Nonetheless, I went home after my first weekend in the woods a very happy camper.

That Fall I was able to go out on three more occasions in another part of the Sierra Nevada Mountains above Oroville, California. We never had any such success as on that first trip, but we were able to find possible track impressions and other signs of activity. It was a long Winter waiting for the first outing of Spring the following year, but it was well worth the wait.

In March of 2004, I camped with a friend along the Klamath River north of Willow Creek, California and we discovered some footprint impressions along a rocky sandbar. They were in a soft sand embankment so we were unable to determine with any certainty that these were bigfoot prints, but their size and width indicated that they might just be. Here's a photo of an 18" long impression that was 5" wide at the heel.



Operation Odyssey

In April of 2004, a group of people associated with the BFRO held a weekend campout dubbed "Operation Odyssey." About 19 people attended coming from as far away as Washington. It was organized very similar to a seminar and we had presentations about field safety, expedition preparation and how to identify and document evidence of bigfoot activity. They showed us photographs of possible tracks, tree breaks and twists and alleged sasquatch nests. We also had a "hands-on" activity that had us casting our own tracks, mapping and photographing a track trail and collecting hair and other possible evidence such as fingerprints. It was not only an informative weekend, but a chance to meet more people to go out in the field with on future occasions.



We hope to have a similar event associated with the Bigfoot Discovery Museum sometime in the coming months as we begin to focus some of our field outings right here in the San Lorenzo Valley. If you are interested in attending an event like this or would like to participate in our search for bigfoot in the local region, please contact Mike at the museum. I look forward to hearing about your field activities and also sharing some more of mine with you in the coming editions of this newsletter.

BIGFOOTER'S DATES

May 27-29 **Sasquatch Research Conference**, Bellingham WA
June 5 **Seattle Sasquatch Symposium**
Seattle Center
June 18 **Southern Crypto Conference**
Conroe TX
Sept 24 **East Coast Bigfoot Conference**
Jeannette, PA
Oct 14-16 **Texas Bigfoot Conference**
Jefferson. TX

Cryptid of the Month



May 12, 2005
'Oddball rodent' discovered at Laotian market
By JOHN NOBLE WILFORD
Courtesy of R.J. Timmins / New York Times

The rodent called kha-nyou has a body about a foot long, with a 6-inch tail that is not as bushy as a squirrel's. They live in the forests and limestone outcrops of Laos. With long whiskers, stubby legs and a long, furry tail, they are rodents but unlike any seen before by wildlife scientists. They are definitely not rats or squirrels, and are only vaguely like a guinea pig or a chinchilla. And they often show up in Laotian outdoor markets being sold as food.

The discovery was announced Wednesday by the Wildlife Conservation Society and described in a report in the journal *Systematics and Biodiversity*. The new species in this previously unknown family is called kha-nyou (pronounced ga-nyou) by local people. Scientists found that differences in the skull and bone structure and in the animal's DNA revealed it to be a member of a distinct family that diverged from others of the rodent order millions of years ago.

Naturalists had trouble recalling when a new family of mammals was last identified. It may have been when, in the 1970s, a new family of bats was found in Thailand. The most active period of finding and classifying new species and families was in the 19th century, when explorers and settlers moved into remote interiors of the continents.

Timmins, who is based in Madison, WI, but concentrates on research in Southeast Asia, said in an interview that he first came on the animals laid out on market tables. Local farmers and hunters trapped or snared the animals, which they also referred to as rock rats, slaughtered them and took them to market. As far as he knew, Timmins said, no Western scientists have ever seen a kha-nyou alive.

Timmins' encounter occurred in the late 1990s, about the same time that another scientist, Dr. Mark F. Robinson, independently collected several of the carcasses as specimens. The adults have bodies about a foot long, with a 6-inch tail that is not as bushy as a squirrel's. They knew immediately that this was, as Timmins said, "an oddball rodent."

The specimens were sent for analysis at the Natural History Museum in London by Dr. Paulina D. Jenkins, a staff zoologist, who compared them with known rodents. Tissue samples were delivered to the University of Vermont for DNA studies by Dr. C. William Kilpatrick, a molecular scientist.

Only in the last year were the two scientists, as well as the two discoverers, ready to publish their findings. The researchers gave the animal the formal name of *Laonastes aenigmamus*. But they recommended that it be referred to by the common name of kha-nyou or Laotian rock rat.

Hairy giants and a king's fears surface from a cellar

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

A SMALL strongroom in the basement of the Home Office has yielded a treasure trove of documents about the turbulent events of the English Civil War. Historians will soon be able to study the 1,700 pamphlets for the first time, after the department officially gives them to the British Library today. The 17 bound volumes are in perfect condition and include handwritten notes in the margins believed to have been composed by courtiers of Charles I.

"The most interesting thing is the way it represents a snapshot of a kaleidoscope of opinion in a short space of time during a crucial period in our history," Giles Mandelbrote, curator of the British Collection 1501-1800 at the British Library, said.

There are papers debating the rights and wrongs of Parliament's battle with the monarchy, including one entitled *Conscience Satisfied*, which argues that "there is no warrant for the arms now taken up by subjects". There are reports of Civil War skirmishes and battles, and many contain rumours about the King's links with Catholic powers overseas.

There are also records of unusual discoveries, including the finding of a "miraculous sea monster with two heads and ten horns" — probably a giant squid — off the coast of Ireland. Another is an explorer's account of "hairy giants" in a description of two islands in the South Sea, called Benganga and Coma, discovered in a voyage which started in January 1669 and finished that October.

It says: "The natives that rode in the canoes were all hairy, having no other clothing than what nature had furnished them with; and the least of them, by computation, above 11 foot high."

Mystery surrounds who collected the pamphlets and how they came to be at the Home Office, which was founded only in 1782. Mr Mandelbrote said: "A lot are sympathetic to the King and a few are printed in Oxford, where the Royal Court was based for much of the Civil War."

It is thought that they were put in the Home Office library in the 19th century but no documentation has been found indicating their origins.



MEDIA / POP CULTURE



The Manitoba "Affair"

"The Hunt is on for Bigfoot in the Great North," according to the Tabloid TV Program "A Current Affair." Cree Indian **Bobby Clarke** at Norway House in Manitoba, Canada, April 16, 2005, shot video of a dark anthropomorphic form apparently walking along the edge of the river about 300 yards away. The video is fuzzy, tiny and pixelated at best, yet the "expedition leader, **Franklin Ruehl, PhD** said "it could be the "tape of the century." Other members of the Current Affair "Expedition" include **Brett Hudson**, the TV Producer who bought the rights to the video for an undisclosed amount, and "legendary rock star and chainsaw artist" **Cherie Currie**, who the TV announcer described as being "known as 'Jailbait' in the Runaways" and "determined now to be Bigfoot bait."

Whew, talk about Tabloids, this show wrote the manual. If anything comes of this we'll let you know... but check out the chainsaw chick's website... she is an accomplished chainsaw artist and we'd love to have some of her work on display here at the Discovery Museum!

