WARNING: All of these links should be to the Internet Archive version of the pages, snapshot near the airing of this MonsterTalk episode. Do not go to the current website of Doubtful News, which was taken over by Malware (B)Advertising.

The 'Sierra Kills' episode – Bigfoot individuals shot?

October 14, 2011

The Bigfoot community has been abuzz the past year regarding a story about Bigfoot individuals, described as an adult and two juveniles, that were shot with at least one presumably killed by two hunters. The event supposedly took place in the Northern California Sierra mountains in fall of 2010. The website Bigfoot Evidence provides a rundown of what has become known as the "Sierra Shooting" or "Sierra Kills" incident.

The figure was standing on two legs with it's arms above it's head. It took roughly eight to ten steps toward the vehicle. The arms were moving a little either because it was walking, or it was intensionally swaying them. It was dirty grey in color with some black mixed in. The figure was very large. Hunter 1 decided it had to be a bear...

The shot was fired hitting it's mark in the chest region. The figure went down. It got back up immediately and started running on two legs, and then on all fours. It went from two legs to four legs a couple of times before it left view.

When they reached the spot where it was standing they noticed movement in the nearby brush. Two smaller figures appeared from the brush and started circling around their position. The smaller ones were totally hair covered, but were much more black in color. They would go back and forth from two legs to four. They were exhibiting some type of chatter back and forth to each other. Hunter 1 and Hunter 2 described them as a cross between a gorilla and a bear...Hunter 1 started to get the feeling he might be attacked. He made a quick decision, turned and fired. The figure went down and rolled right down to Hunter 1's location. He lifted it up, and then placed it in the brush. They then decided that they needed to leave, now.

It's a wild story and it gets wilder with additional details about the hunters, the return to the location, the retrieval of samples (but **no bodies**) and other people involved, as well as allegations of various sorts thrown about. Results of testing of the samples has not been made public.

UPDATE: It's just gotten even WEIRDER! <u>Latest rumor is that a sample was taken from a fetus of</u> the creature that was shot.

So, what's the evidence? Tall tales. That's all so far.

There is big hype regarding "projects" related to finding and proving Bigfoot exists – the <u>Erickson project</u> and the <u>Olympia project</u> are examples. We can be certain of one thing: Bigfoot and its kin are a hot topic all over the world. With so many reports of encounters, expeditions and investigations, if the big story doesn't break in the next year (with better evidence than mystery hair, footprints, poor visuals, and more stories), that's solid support for the idea that the creatures <u>just aren't out there at all</u>.

The danger of pretending to be Bigfoot: You can get hit by a car. And die.

August 27, 2012

The only thing surprising about this is that it hasn't happened sooner.

<u>Sasquatch stunt takes a tragic turn – Daily Inter Lake: Local/Montana.</u>

A man dressed in a military-style "Ghillie suit" who was attempting to provoke a Bigfoot sighting was struck by two vehicles and killed on U.S. 93 South of Kalispell Sunday night.

"He was trying to make people think he was Sasquatch so people would call in a Sasquatch sighting," Montana Highway Patrol Trooper Jim Schneider said. "You can't make it up. I haven't seen or heard of anything like this before. Obviously, his suit made it difficult for people to see him."

The Flathead County Sheriff's Office identified the man as Randy Lee Tenley, 44, of Kalispell.

Tip: Jim Lippard

Alcohol may have been a factor. It is a tragedy.

Russians claim Yeti hair identified: Doubt abounds (Update: 200 Ninja yetis)

October 30, 2012 By idoubtit

Russians announce they have hair from a human-like creature which is not a Homo sapien. You should BE VERY SKEPTICAL of this story. Even the source – what is akin to the Siberia equivalent of the Daily Mail – is equivocal in its headline.

Yeti – the best proof yet or an elaborate hoax?

DNA 'tests' of hair supposedly from a Yeti in a Siberian cave show it comes from an unknown mammal closely related to man, it was claimed last night.

The alleged findings were revealed on the official website of a regional government in Russia.

It claimed that two tests were carried out in Russia and one in the US. These had agreed the hair came from a human-like creature which is not a Homo sapien yet is more closely related to man than a monkey, it was reported.

'We had ten samples of hair to study, and have concluded that they belong to mammal, but not a human, and not the animals known to the area where they were found, like a bear, or wolf, or goat, or any other animal,' Professor Valentin Sapunov was quoted as saying.

The hairs were found in the Kemerovo region in Siberia in the same cave that was a destination of a 2011 scientific conference. American Bigfoot researchers were invited to discuss the creature. Dr. Jeff Meldrum, a credentialed expert who attended, was less than impressed. An exclusive report from Doubtful News is here.

Dr. Jeff Meldrum, professor of anatomy and anthropologist at Idaho State University, has spoken out about his recent excursion to Siberia to examine the existence of the Russian Yeti. Dr. Meldrum was a featured speaker at the Pennsylvania Bigfoot Conference in Youngwood, PA on Sunday, October 23. His conclusion: the yeti evidence was poor and he and other researchers were brought to Russia to add credibility to the local claim that yetis live in the area.

The claim of indisputable proof of the Yeti in this part of Siberia is at least a year old. But, the scientific community isn't convinced.

The release of the results coincides with the coming ski season in Kemerovo. There is RAMPANT speculation that the Yeti promotions are publicity stunts to draw tourism. November 11 is Yeti Day!

But, there's no doubt some people do believe the creatures actually live there. The biggest proponent of the Yeti reality is Igor Burtsev (various spellings: Bourtsev, Burtsaev), who led the expedition last year. Curiously, he is questioning the validity of the hair ID claims!

The report says that three "world level universities" did the analysis of the hair(s). The hair was divided into three lots and sent to a laboratories in Moscow, St Petersburg and Idaho (Meldrum's?). But details end there. Did they all agree? How, exactly, was it tested? What did it show? Why wasn't this written up as a scientific paper? No word from Meldrum yet (I'll keep looking; there is a good chance he will have something to say considering he found the cave discovery to be a complete setup and bemoaned the lack of scientific protocol).

To add to the strangeness and dubiousness of these Yeti reports, the article notes that the announcement on the Russian website turns a bit paranormal. The text as reported suggests the creatures have a super sense and know when things are about to happen. This is similar to what <u>Dr. Burtsev has said – they do have paranormal ability as well as weapons</u>. He believes they are a relic Neanderthal population.

This report will be touted by the Bigfoot believer sites and ignored (probably) by the scientific community. Any such discovery means nothing until it is written up, examined and critiqued by others. They are making a HUGE claim and this is an unscientific and highly questionable way to go about declaring it.

UPDATE: (3-Nov-2012) More doubt and some <u>additional unsupported speculation continues</u>:

The Sun posted a report interviewing both Professor Valentin Sapunov, who claimed definitive DNA evidence of a Yeti this week and Oleg Pugachev, Director of the Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Science.

Sapunov seems to stand by the DNA results he claimed for the Yeti fur, while Pugachev, director of one of the labs that did the testing says they were not even able to extract any genetic material.

The above is from Bigfoot Lunch Club blog because I won't link to The Sun piece. You can see the reprint there. But Sapunov goes on to explain "no confirmed sightings of yetis because the animals have an acute sense of danger." He notes that at least 200 of them exist. The lab director says he is outright lying about the DNA. Hmm.

When anyone, scientist or not, <u>claims supernatural senses to explain why he has no evidence</u>, it's time to just turn around and walk away from him. His credibility is zero. THIS kind of stuff is why the Bigfoot field is a joke. You can't run a research area on speculative claims and nonsense.



Azasskaya cave



Azasskaya cave from the inside, during the 2011 expedition

Related Posts:

- Creating a Yeti tourist trap in Siberia
 Yeti again: Russian Bigfoot in the news
 Kemerovo [Russia] says come for the Yeti stay for the skiing

Yeti again: Russian Bigfoot in the news

September 26, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

Scientists prepare to hunt for the abominable snowman

Russian Yeti expert and head of the International Centre of Hominology Igor Burtsev, tried to hunt down the beast last year. He claimed to have discovered samples of yeti hair. But as yet, no DNA analysis of the hair he supposedly found has been released.

Local government official Sergei Adlyakov told Trud newspaper a state inspector spotted one of the animals in Shorsky National Park.

"The creature did not look like a bear and quickly disappeared after breaking some branches of the bushes," he was quoted as saying.

But when Mr Adlyakov was asked about the sighting by the Siberian Times he said it was "private" and never meant to go public.

In August fisherman Vitaly Vershinin told another local Siberian newspaper he saw two creatures near Myski village.

Source: The Australian

This story is being circulated among the tabloids. I'm not going to give additional commentary except to say, gee, what short memories we have! (Click links below) And, expect more of this stuff in the coming month. That's how they roll in Kemorovo.

American Bigfoot scientists and researchers felt hoodwinked by Russian Yeti event (From October 24, 2011)

Kemerovo [Russia] says come for the Yeti stay for the skiing

For more Russia-Yeti stories, click here.



Mascot for a Russian mining company were the Yeti was supposedly seen

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China's Bigfoot (the Yeren) used in tourism ploy

March 8, 2012 Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology No Comments

Home of Chinese 'Bigfoot' seeks to boost eco-tourism chinadaily.com.cn.

Shennongjia, a forest region and long rumored home of the elusive Bigfoot-like ape man in the central province of Hubei, wants ecotourism there to boost the underdeveloped region's economy.

Less than two months after the Shennongjia Nature Reserve was named a national 5A-Class Scenic Spot by the National Tourism Administration, the region has teamed up with Beijing, seeking the Chinese capital's help to develop its tourism.

The Shennongjia Forest Region and Beijing Municipal Commission of Tourism Development signed an agreement earlier this week, according to which Beijing will help Shennongjia promote tourism.

Source: China Daily

Jumping on the bandwagon as Siberia has done in promoting their Russian Yeti, China is capitalizing on their Yeren.

Bigfoot has been a symbol of the wilderness and nature. But, lately, he's become a way to cash in on bringing people to your location to spend money on camping and treks. Unamusing. Especially since the evidence for an existence is no better than it ever was.

Located deep in the remote mountains in Hubei, Shennongjia Nature Reserve has long been rumored to be the home of the elusive creature known in China as the "Yeren," or "Wildman" in English. It is also referred to as "Bigfoot" after the legendary North American ape-man.

More than 400 people have claimed sighting Bigfoot in the Shennongjia area since last century, but no hard evidence has been found to prove the creatures' existence.

Regardless, it sounds like a lovely place to visit. But, not to see the Yeren.

Icelandic river monster video investigated as evidence to claim prize money

August 19, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology

2012

No Comments

Back in February, we had the major monster story of the <u>Iceland river monster</u>, <u>Lagarfljótsormurinn</u> or Lagarfljóts worm.

It was very clear that there was no way it could be a living giant serpent or "wurm" since nothing that large exists, looks like that, or can survive in the frigid waters of this volcanic island. The more plausible explanation, when details were examined, was that this was a net or cloth caught in the current which undulated like a living thing.

That's why this news caught my eye:

Commission to Verify Iceland Lake Monster Video

It appears that the person who took the famous video is looking to be awarded some prize money offered for photo evidence of the creature.

The district council of Fljótsdalshérað municipality in East Iceland has appointed a 13-person investigative commission to evaluate whether the infamous lake monster Lagarfljótsormurinn is the phenomenon filmed by Hjörtur Kjerúlf, farmer at Hrafnkelsstaðir, last winter.

This summer, Hjörtur has made claim to ISK 500,000 (USD 4,200, EUR 3,400), a prize in a competition the local municipality launched 15 years ago on photos of Lagarfljótsormurinn. The prize was never paid out because none of the photos entered were thought to show the monster.

However, the district council at the time promised that if the monster would ever be caught on camera, the photographer would be entitled to the prize.

Source: Iceland Review Online

The Yeren (Chinese wild man) to be featured in film

August 31, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

<u>China makes its peace with this Bigfoot – latimes.com.</u>

China has no creature-feature tradition because film regulators historically have shunned superstition on the silver screen.

But a new film, "Bigfoot," aims to take a swipe at China's longstanding monster movie ban. The Hollywood co-production of a local legend will begin shooting in a central China nature reserve in October with help from a special-effects master who worked on "Gremlins."

"It's been a dream of mine to bring the Yeren story to life," said Walas, using the Mandarin word for the giant "wild man" of Chinese lore who is akin to the Sasquatch of Pacific Northwest legend in the United States.

"Notes early on in this two-year process said, 'You can't make the Yeren story because it's not scientific fact,'" L.A.-based "Bigfoot" producer Richard Jefferies of Wiseacre Films said. "But then they just started coming around."

"Our Yeren is going to be the protector of the forest rather than the violent beast seen in typical Bigfoot movies," he said. "We're exploring the dual nature of the creature, sitting on the razor's edge between man and animal. The film will show the delicate balance between nature and civilization."

Tip: Bigfoot Lunch Club

Finding Bigfoot just got REALLY serious! (UPDATED: Prize money)

October 26, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

Spike TV Offering Largest Prize in Reality TV History With 'Big Foot' Series - Hollywood Reporter.

Spike TV announced Thursday a 10-episode pickup for 10 Million Dollar Big Foot Bounty, a new reality competition that's offering what would be the largest cash prize in TV history. The only catch is that the titular \$10 million, backed by insurers of the bizarre at Lloyd's of London, can only be awarded to a contestant that provides irrefutable evidence that that Big Foot exists.

Scientists, zoologists, trackers and actual Big Foot hunters are among the competitors the series is lining up, with casting already underway. Teams will present their evidence to Big Foot "experts" in attempt to win the prize.

Ah, I have heard rumors of this one. I'm sure us Bigfoot news junkies will recognize many of the characters that will show up. At least this one puts their money where their mouth is, literally. \$10 million? That's a lot of money. It's also now the <u>biggest payout in TV history</u>. (As it should be! This would be a HUGE find.) But, for that amount of money, the only irrefutable evidence would be a body. Living or dead. No blurry blobsquatches allowed.

But if you think this show is going to be any more than ridiculous entertainment, you're probably out looking for Squatches on the weekend.

Put up or shut up, you Squatchers at Finding Bigfoot. That's a lot more money than your takehome pay. If you think Bigfoot is behind every tree and harassing campers every night, get cranking and catch one.

UPDATE: (27-Oct-2012) Ben Radford has a piece on this at Discovery News. He mentions the JREF Million Dollar Challenge. But, I did contact the JREF about a year ago to ask if a cryptozoology find would be eligible for the prize, DJ Grothe said no, an animal is not paranormal evidence. Fair enough.

Guy Edwards at the <u>Bigfoot Lunch Club has an insight</u> into why the \$10 million dollars really does not exist (it's sort of an insurance payout) and why the odds are certainly not in the Bigfoot hunters' favor. After reading this, it would be pretty clear that only a body (or major body part) would do for a payout. I wonder if they define this well for the contestants for the show.

Also, one thing to note, this is not a free-for-all open prize. Only selected participants are vying for the prize.

Finding BigRatings: Animal Planet ditches reality for docudrama dollars

August 3, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Media, Pseudoscience

6 Comments

Finding Bigfoot announces new season and expansion around the globe. But no Bigfoot.

'Finding Bigfoot' Gets Even Bigger! Animal Planet Takes Search for Squatch Worldwide

This November, FINDING BIGFOOT, one of Animal Planet's topperforming series ever, delivering more than 1.3M P2+ viewers in its
second season, returns with 11 all-new episodes and two specials
that take the team of investigators farther across the globe and
further into sasquatch history than they've ever travelled. For the
first time, the intrepid cast of investigators — Bigfoot Field
Research Organization (BFRO) president Matt Moneymaker, researchers
James "Bobo" Fay and Cliff Barackman, and skeptical scientist Ranae
Holland — will expand their search in North America and beyond to
investigate the sasquatch phenomenon known as "yowies" in Australia
and the "orang-pendek" of Indonesia. Also for the first time, Animal
Planet will produce two "aftershow" specials, where the cast will
answer burning questions from fans, dive deeper into the evidence
and theories, and give behind-the-scene stories and insight.

At the press conference (I have not seen), it appears the cast got a grilling from TV critics who poked fun at Animal Planets slide into mythical creature features.

TV critics suspicious about Animal Planet's 'Finding Bigfoot' – The TV Column – The Washington Post.

When they actually do find Bigfoot, one TV critic wondered, what contractual arrangement does Animal Planet have with the producers to slap that episode on the air out of order.

Animal Planet General Manager Marjorie Kaplan admitted that she had no such contractual arrangement — "but I will tell you when they find Bigfoot, you will know quickly."

Another critic wondered whether Animal Planet "had run out of real animals" to profile.

Kaplan said the network has been reinvented and now is all about exploring the "rich planet" on which we live.

Tip: Multiple



The take away story here is that these shows do well with viewers. Those viewers are not scientists, they don't know how science works and they probably enjoy the idea of the mysterious. The executives ADMIT they are only after ratings as the mermaid "docudrama" did so well ratings-wise, that "is evidence our audience loved it," Kaplan said, adding that there are "new species being discovered all the time."

Ugh! Then cover the new species found. The small mammals, insects and deep sea creatures. Oh wait, those aren't big and eye catching like those we have SEARCHED for for decades and STILL have not found.

And "rich planet"? More like rich sponsors.

The critics cited Animal Planets <u>fake docudrama on Mermaids</u> as evidence the <u>network has gone off the deep end</u>. Then, Bobo of Finding Bigfoot huffed that you are "ignorant" if you equate Bigfoot with Mermaids. Well yes, we'd agree with Bobo there since no one has suggested "Finding Mermaids" which are more obviously folklore in the public eye. But not by much. There are MANY gullible viewers out there and Animal Planet certainly has weakened their reputation as a network (as have other channels original branded as having "science" content) by showing these blatantly psuedoscientific and unrealistic shows.

More: Finding Bigfoot crew make big claims about recent Yowie search

Keep squatching. More 'Finding Bigfoot' on the way

March 15, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Media, Pseudoscience

2012

ANIMAL PLANET FINDS MAMMOTH-SIZED RATINGS FOR "FINDING BIGFOOT": Discovery Press Web.

Animal Planet's FINDING BIGFOOT concluded a strong nine-episode run this past Sunday with the second season averaging more than 1.3M P2+ viewers, up 15% vs. season one (1.38M vs. 1.2M). It now

All content copyright 2012, Sharon Hill. Used by permission.

9 Comments

ranks among Animal Planet's top-three performing series of all time among P2+. Animal Planet ordered additional episodes, which are slated to air later this year, including two to be shot internationally.

Tip: MattMoneymaker1 on Twitter

Matt Moneymaker of the BFRO, and part of the show, tweets:

What does he mean by this? That it's NOT good (it isn't) and that they haven't found anything (they haven't)? It sure seems like he is berating his own show as "Scooby-Doo-ish. (So, it's all hoaxed to keep us away while the crooks hide their treasure?) At least they did find stuff in Scooby Doo and it was very entertaining. (I might be a Finding Bigfoot hater...)



Once again, I can't be sure how many of these 1 million plus viewers watch this as "reality" or as ridiculous entertainment. It seems that the majority of people who give it a try either love it or hate it. Me? No bones about it, I do dislike the show from the flawed premise (Bigfoot is out there to find as opposed to figuring out what people are experiencing) to the terrible portrayal of "scientifical" methods. This is not science and is not reality in any way. But, it brings the eyeballs in same as other nonsense shows portraying "investigation" like Ghost Hunters and Monster Quest (now cancelled).



Bigfoot is big in popular culture today – many things to many people

March 27, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Media, Paranormal, Pseudoscience

No Comments

LA Times has an interesting round up of Bigfoot in pop culture today:

Bigfoot? He's not so elusive

"We all want to believe that there are still monsters lurking in the secret corners of the planet, and that's the allure of Bigfoot," said Marjorie Kaplan, president of Animal Planet, home to the hit series "Finding Bigfoot.

The series, which attracted 1.6 million viewers for its second season premiere, will launch its third season this summer. "If anybody's going to find him, it's going to be us," Kaplan declared, adding with a laugh, "hopefully after 100 episodes."

Source: LA Times

Marjorie: Does that mean if you DON'T find him, he doesn't exist? No. But it's a silly thing to say considering the Finding Bigfoot show is a group of self-styled experts in something never shown to exists, dragging a film crew through remote areas like suburban New York. It's no secret that I'm not a fan of this show that tries to pass off contrived situations as "scientific". But, I digress to more important parts of the article...

The piece highlights the growing popularity of the big guy, as we noted here on <u>Doubtful News in many</u> <u>pieces</u>. A new crop of documentaries and movies are on the way.

Dr. Meldrum notes:

"There's been a real upswing in scholarly interest along with this huge undercurrent of popularity among the general public," said Jeff Meldrum, the Idaho State anatomy and anthropology professor and primates expert who wrote "Sasquatch: Legend Meets Science" as a companion to a Discovery Channel special of the same name. "There's something about the human psyche that really connects with this icon."

Every time Bigfoot or Yeti makes the news, the public goes searching online, finding amateur Bigfoot groups, blogs and forums to share their views.

Finding Bigfoot member Cliff Barackman said, "Our show reinforces the fact that we're looking for a species, not an individual, and that we're trying to help people understand what a Bigfoot might actually be."

I don't agree. They have come into the project with a preconceived notion of what it is – a legendary but genuine man-like beast with paranormal smarts that seems to give away its location but <u>always remains juuuuuust out of reach of the seeker's grasp</u>. They push this view that is likely NOT the best one. More



Wacky Wednesday viral video: Mr. Snuffleupagus? (Updated)

Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Hoaxes

Woolly mammoth spotted in Siberia

A beast lurches through icy waters in a sighting a paranormal investigator thinks could prove woolly mammoths are not extinct after all.

comment on this story 174 comments

The animal - thought to have mostly died out roughly 4,000 years ago - was apparently filmed wading through a river in the freezing wilds of Siberia.

The jaw-dropping footage was caught by a government-employed engineer last summer in the Chukotka Autonomous Okrug region of Siberia, it is claimed.

Tip: Bigfoot Evidence and Doctor Atlantis

Blurry footage. From Russia. Hmm. You don't think it could be fake, do you?

I won't even mention that his looks NOTHING like a mammoth except for the brown furry part.

Siberia is wild, I guess, but there is no good evidence that mammoths still are alive there. This is not "good evidence".

Bear with fish? CGI hoax? Mr. Snuffleupagus? More likely than this being a mammoth.

UPDATE (9-Feb-2012): This video is the copyright of one Michael Cohen of All News Web, a site that serves up nothing but nonsense as "The World's Only Inter-Galactic Daily News Service". Yeah... UPDATE (10-Feb-2012): Benjamin Radford has this article that includes comments from a video-effects artist.

Derek Serra, a Hollywood video-effects artist who has previously analyzed faked UFO videos, told Life's Little Mysteries that the video, in his opinion, appears to have been intentionally blurred, probably to obscure the animal's true identity.

"Even low-resolution cameras can focus fairly well on something," Serra said. "But there's really nothing in this video in focus. The rocks in the foreground have a blur to them that doesn't seem natural."

It also includes other questions we ought to ask of this video before assuming that it is really as fantastic as The Sun says it is. Instead, there is ample reason to discount it as a hoax.



Mammoth video hoax: Original film revealed (Updated)

February 13, 2012 Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Hoaxes

'Woolly Mammoth' Video a Hoax, Original Footage Proves

We all knew the <u>Siberian Mammoth video</u> was a hoax. It was blurry, it looked either like computergenerated imagery (CGI) or a bear with a fish crossing a stream. The person who was responsible for the video runs a known hoaxing site, All News Web. But, wow, did this make news all over the internet.

The truth is out. Ben Radford uncovers what appears to be the source of the original video that DOES NOT show any animal.

Ludovic Petho filmed the footage at the Kitoy river in Siberia's Sayan Mountains in the summer of 2011.

Petho filmed the river scene during a 10-day solo hike in the mountains as part of a video project he's working on about his grandfather's escape from a Siberian POW camp in 1915 and his walk across Siberia to Budapest, Hungary. The footage may end up being used in a documentary film—but there's one big difference between the video he shot and the woolly mammoth video.

"I don't recall seeing a mammoth; there were bears, deer, and sable," he said in an interview with Life's Little Mysteries. "But no woolly mammoths. I had no idea my footage was used to make this fake sighting." Petho noted that his original video had been available on YouTube since July 2011, depicting an exactly identical scene—minus the faked woolly mammoth, of course.

Well, Michael Cohen, what's your explanation? Even put your COPYRIGHT on it? *tsk tsk*

[2021 – the MonsterTalk (Blake Smith) takedown video that matches Petho's footage frame-per-frame to Cohen's hoax is HERE.]

No Comments



UPDATE: (14-Feb-2012) The Huffington Post has more:

When HuffPost contacted Barcroft Media, the co-copyright owners of the video, a spokesman was less than forthcoming.

"To be honest, it's not really anything that we want to comment on because we just license videos and images for other people, so we're going to sort it out with Lou and Michael and work out what's the right thing to do," he told HuffPost.

According to Petho, Barcroft Media was initially upset because it was under the impression that the river footage was Cohen's property.

When asked for comment, [mammoth video owner] Cohen wrote in an e-mail to HuffPost, "I just looked at this footage and all it proves is that someone filmed the same spot at another time. While this new revelation does open up the prospect that this might well be a hoax at this stage, it is not conclusive and might simply be a case of the same spot being filmed twice.

"I was only given sketchy details regarding this footage," Cohen added. "And it is interesting to note that if, indeed, a mammoth was filmed, it occurred in the Irkutsk region — an area of intense paranormal activity."

I suspected this would be his retort – I didn't know and it doesn't prove anything. It is HIGHLY likely now that this is confirmed hoax because of Mr. Cohen's history and the lack of ANY other evidence or



Is this an Iceland river monster? (video now included)

February 4, Posted by idoubtit under <u>Anomalies</u>, <u>Cryptozoology</u>

Video: Iceland 'Lake Monster' Captured on Film?.

Footage was captured of an obscure phenomenon yesterday which appeared to be swimming in the glacial river Jökulsá í Fljótsdal, east Iceland.

People speculate whether this may be the notorious snake-like monster Lagarfljótsormurinn, which is said to reside in the lake Lagarfljót.

Tip: Forteanzoology.blogspot.com



It turned out to be some stationary material stuck in the stream that the current caused to move in a serpentine matter. [2021 YouTube Link]

It appears that the person who took the famous video is looking to be awarded some prize money offered for photo evidence of the creature.

The district council of Fljótsdalshérað municipality in East Iceland has appointed a 13-person investigative commission to evaluate whether the infamous lake monster Lagarfljótsormurinn is the phenomenon filmed by Hjörtur Kjerúlf, farmer at Hrafnkelsstaðir, last winter.

All content copyright 2012, Sharon Hill. Used by permission.

7 Comments

This summer, Hjörtur has made claim to ISK 500,000 (USD 4,200, EUR 3,400), a prize in a competition the local municipality launched 15 years ago on photos of Lagarfljótsormurinn. The prize was never paid out because none of the photos entered were thought to show the monster.

However, the district council at the time promised that if the monster would ever be caught on camera, the photographer would be entitled to the prize.

Source: Iceland Review Online

First hairless, bloated, dead monster of the season found along NY's East River (UPDATED: Raccoon)

July 23, Posted by idoubtit under Anomalies, Unsolved mystery 2012

15 Comments

Yep, it's summer. You know it's hot when bloated dead carcasses start to appear labeled "monster".

Graphic Photo Shows Bloated Rat Monster Washed Up Near East River

Yesterday we received three graphic photos of this above creature on the shore of the East River. Our tipster wrote, "Is this another incarnation of the Montauk Monster, or just the biggest rat in the city?" The animal was under the Brooklyn Bridge on the Manhattan side, and was "maybe two feet, a bit more perhaps, head to tail."

Source: The Gothamist

Photo: Denise Ginley

Is this another Montauk Monster? (dead raccoon) It's hard to tell from this picture but it looks pretty disgusting. I'm still searching for the other photos that may actually show more detail. It's hairless and bloated – indicative of being dead and in the water for a spell. Actually identifying the creatures is fairly easy if you can view the feet, skull and determine the size. It's obviously some mammal (cat, rat, groundhog, dog?) but with no close up, it's very difficult to determine. Regardless, there is no sense in jumping to monstrous conclusions. It's not a mutant, it's just a dead thing we aren't used to seeing so dead.

UPDATE: <u>Big</u> thanks to the photographer, Denise Ginley for commenting and pointing us to more picts. I'm posting these additional ones to help with identification. You can see more by logging into flickr <u>here</u>.



Photo Denise Ginley

UPDATE(26-Jul-2012): Tetrapod Zoology's Dr. Darren Naish has commented that pictures of the open mouth/lower jaw and considering the feet, this is another raccoon just like the Montauk Monster. The link to Dr. Naish's analysis of the Montauk carcass is here. This does not look exactly like the Montauk carcass but the key is the feet and teeth. If you every find a strange carcass, get a complete round of pictures, with something IN the picture for size scale. And always photograph the teeth and feet.

Check out this great link: Actually, Lots Of Monstrous Creatures Have Been Found On Beaches It's rather normal for carcasses to wash ashore. In 8 of those pictured in this gallery, 4 look like raccoons. One is a dog, one an otter/muskrat thing and 2 are unidentifiable. But, it's not hard to imagine that some of these animals died or were dumped dead into the local creek/river where the body, in the process of losing it's hair and bloating, lasted long enough in the cold water to be washed into the ocean and up onto the shore. The lucky photographers came across the mystery.

For more on freaky hairless things, check out my article here: <u>Hairless Freaks! Casting A Critical Eye Toward "Mystery Animals"</u>

Prehistoric-looking fish surprises South Carolina beach goers

March 27, Posted by idoubtit under Anomalies, Cryptozoology

2012

Strange sea creature on South Carolina coast ID'd as Atlantic sturgeon

Something strange washed ashore on Folly Beach in South Carolina this past weekend. The beast had some wondering if it was some sort of new species.

A veterinarian from a South Carolina aquarium identified the fish as a sturgeon. The Atlantic sturgeon can grow to 15 feet in length and weigh over 800 pounds.



Tip: Cryptozoology Online: Daily News

The sturgeon is a freaking looking thing, for sure. This one may be missing its head. There ought to be a name for odd-looking things that wash up on the shore where people freak out before finally asking someone who might be zoologically inclined to weigh in on what it is. This type of thing happens often.



[This one is going around again: $\underline{San\ Diego\ Demonoid}$ (opossum)

This fish (*Acipenser oxyrinchus*) is rare, critically endangered in some areas due to overfishing. But this species is not out of place, it is native to the Atlantic waters all up and down the east coast.

All content copyright 2012, Sharon Hill. Used by permission.

No Comments



Washed up beast in San Diego. Or, what the...? (UPDATE: Solved)

February 1, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Unsolved mystery

Behold: The San Diego Demonoid | VICE.

The Ten Commandments of the internet dictate that anyone who receives images of a "monster" is obligated to disseminate and investigate them, even though incidents like this seem to happen about once a year these days. This one apparently turned up on Pacific Beach in San Diego last week.

The guy who emailed us these photos termed it a "Chupacabra/Montauk Monster-looking creature" in the subject line. Most people I've shown it to, including myself, think it's bullshit.

UPDATE: It's real.



It is reminiscent of the Montauk Monster. (For my review of <u>Hairless Freaks, see here.</u>) At first I thought it was plastic-looking...

Yet, it took all of a few hours to discover the truth on this one. Darren Naish of <u>Tetrapod Zoology</u> and original figure-outer of the Montauk Monster says that he was contacted by Vice to provide an expert opinion. What is it? **AN OPOSSUM.**

I stand corrected on the "fake"; apparently the sun and surf can give you a bleached mohawk. Party on, dude. Well, maybe not so much now...

Here is $\underline{\text{Ben Radford's}}$ view on Discovery News.

And here is $\underline{\text{Darren's blog post on Tet Zoo}}\text{, complete with opossum skull for comparison.}$

All content copyright 2012, Sharon Hill. Used by permission.

3 Comments

Deleted: But, I can't help but get the stench of bad chupacabra hoax all over this one. And, to do our part, we are gleefully polluting the seeding the internet with these pictures for your enjoyment.

Government public service: assure people mythical things are not real

July 3, 2012 By <u>snoma</u>

First alien spaceships, then 2012 doomsday, zombies, now mermaids. Does the government need to explain the Tooth Fairy, Easter Bunny and Santa myths too?

No evidence of mermaids, says US government.

The National Ocean Service made the unusual declaration in response to public inquiries following a TV show on the mythical creatures.

It is thought some viewers may have mistaken the programme for a documentary.

"No evidence of aquatic humanoids has ever been found," the service wrote in an online post.

The article was written from publicly available sources because "we don't have a mermaid science programme", National Ocean Service spokeswoman Carol Kavanagh told the BBC.

The inquiries followed May's broadcast of Mermaids: The Body Found, on the Discovery Channel's Animal Planet network.

Source: BBC

That Animal Planet program about mermaids caused quite a stir about mermaids, as we <u>PREDICTED</u>. The show wasn't a documentary. It was purely fictional, a bit like a "what if" type show. The disclaimer that it was fiction/speculation was not made clear. Or clear enough.

See our original posts on this by going here.

Animal Planet sciences up Mermaids with 'A Body Found'

May 2, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Media, Pseudoscience, Uncategorized

10 Comments

It's MONSTER WEEK on Animal Planet May 21-28. The feature of the week is a new 2 hour program called MERMAIDS: THE BODY FOUND premiering Sunday, May 27.

Mermaids: The Body Found | Animal Planet | Mermaids: The Body Found | Animal Planet | Press Release.

This two-hour special is science fiction based on some real events and scientific theory.

ANIMAL PLANET'S PAINTS A WILDLY CONVINCING PICTURE OF THE EXISTENCE OF MERMAIDS, WHAT THEY MAY LOOK LIKE AND WHY THEY'VE STAYED HIDDEN...UNTIL NOW

Two-hour CGI Special Unravels Mysterious Underwater Sound Recordings, Dives Deep into the Aquatic Ape Theory and Questions if Mermaids are Related to People

What if there's a kernel of truth that lives beneath the legend of the mythic mermaid? Now, ... Animal Planet brings viewers into the world where the legend is real. The film blends real-life events and phenomena with the story of two scientists who testify they found the remains of a never-before-identified sea creature.

Source: Monsters and Critics



Um. This does not sound good. It sounds like speculation presented in a fact-like format. I do not like that. It so easily confuses people who, even with a disclaimer, tend to see television as truth. Think of the rise in all the zany ideas connected to ancient aliens, UFOs and ghosts thanks to TV shows presented on what we would assume would be nonfiction-content programs.

The reason why Animal Planet did this is obvious. Mermaids are the new big thing. We have three stories prior to this on the site <u>directly related to mermaids</u> and yet that is one of the most frequently used search terms that brings people to the site. Go figure.

The "sciencey" bit they alude to is the aquatic ape theory.

Is it possible that apes split off from terrestrial apes millions of years ago (due to coastal flooding) and retreated into the water, evolving into aquatic creatures somewhat related to humans?

Is it possible that we haven't discovered every creature and that if massive whales haven't been discovered until recently, it answers why we haven't been able to detect mermaids yet?

Improbable to the point of saying "No, that is quite silly." It's based on imagination alone.

Here <u>is a comprehensive site</u> that tells you why the aquatic ape theory does not merit serious scientific attention:

The [aquatic ape theory/hypothesis] is a theory which seeks to replace well founded and well argued theoretical views which have been made for many years. It is also radically different. I think it is reasonable to expect that for such a radically different theory to replace all others it should not be "supported" by the sorts of sloppy and/or dishonest methods I've described here.

Besides the many false "facts" it proffers as evidence, the [aquatic ape theory/hypothesis] arguments are a hotbed of examples of the Logical Fallacies, including ad hominem, ad hoc, Strawman, Irrelevant Conclusion, Fallacy of Exclusion, Fallacies of Ambiguity, Appeal to Pity, and Special Pleading. It claims to use the principle of convergent evolution, but does so in a strange and unscientific way: first, they use it only in cases where they want to (inaccurately) claim similarity of features, not when it is evidence against their theory (as in the case of the actual ubiquitous aquatic features); and their version of convergence ignores the role of phylogeny (relatedness) in evolution (as in expecting humans to use reptilian or avian salt glands for salt excretion instead of kidneys as all mammals do). Since phylogeny is the central idea in evolution, this places their theory not only outside the mainstream, but indeed outside of all evolutionary theorizing for the past half century or more.

Another major problem the [aquatic ape theory/hypothesis] has arises from its ad hoc reasoning: the theory is internally inconsistent.

Animal Planet is trying to science up the idea again because it looks so cool and fascinating, why not? I'm surprised it took them this long. I guess they had to wait for the CGI to look realistic.

A rash of flesh eating incidents sparks CDC clarification: Zombies don't exist

June 1, Posted by idoubtit under Anomalies, Mass hysteria, Media

11 Comments

2012

Zombie Apocalypse: CDC Denies Existence Of Zombies Despite Cannibal Incidents.

The horrific face-eating arrest in Miami and several other seemingly subhuman acts has many people wondering what's behind this flesh-munching wave of terror.

A zombie apocalypse, however, is not what we should be worried about, at least according to the federal government.

Over the years the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has released a couple of tongue-in-cheek "zombie warnings," which really are just disaster-preparedness stunts. But on Thursday, the agency made it official: Zombies don't exist.

"CDC does not know of a virus or condition that would reanimate the dead (or one that would present zombie-like symptoms)," wrote agency spokesman David Daigle in an email to The Huffington Post.

Nevertheless, recent incidents in which humans reportedly ate human flesh have the Internet in a firestorm, with "zombie apocalypse" being Google's third most popular search term by Friday morning.

Tip: Fark.com

Well of course not. Zombies are a hot topic though considering the popularity of them on TV and in films, especially recently. But is this a case of an increase in such incidents or the reporting of them? It's unclear.

Surviving catastrophe: Learn what to do when zombies attack

March 13, 2012 By <u>snoma</u>

Surviving the Coming Zombie Apocalypse: Michigan State University To Offer Zombie Fighting Class [Video].

The zombie apocalypse is coming, that's a fact. And if you want to be prepared you should probably enroll in Michigan State University's new course, "Surviving the Coming Zombie Apocalypse: Catastrophes & Human Behavior."

The course, according to Time Magazine, focuses on how humans behave when faced with plagues or other catastrophic events. The course will cover the hypothetical questions concerning a zombie uprising, but will also look at how to deal with earthquakes, plagues, falling meteors and other doomsday scenarios.

The course will be taught by Glenn Stutzky, who summed up the program to TIME.com by saying: "In a time of catastrophe, some people find their humanity; other lose theirs."

Tip: @unexplainedmys via Twitter

I get that the Survival Zombie Apocalypse books are fun to read and a novelty item to have in your bookshelf, but doing an actual course in it, at a university? A waste of tuition money? Or, a unique way to illustrate concepts? I bet it will be the most popular course in the catalog.

Link to the actual class website (2021 Link)

CDC uses Zombies to teach disaster preparedness.

Cryptozoology expedition to Congo is on Kickstarter (Updated: no scientists)

April 15, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Evolution 2012

5 Comments

Kickstarter is a site designed to help people fund their projects. You can donate to things you feel are worthwhile. One young explorer is looking for \$26,700 for an expedition to located undiscovered animals.

<u>Documentary Expedition to Congo- KILLER REWARDS!</u> by Stephen McCullah — Kickstarter.

Our first expedition will be dubbed The Newmac Expedition. It will be a preliminary three month (or as long as our health allows) four man venture. We'll launch on June 26th and we anticipate discovering hundreds of new insect, plant, and fish species during the course of our research and work in the area. There is also the legitimate hope of discovering many reptile and mammalian species as well. We have received reports from week to two week expeditions in the region of eye witnesses seeing canine sized tarantulas, large river dwelling sauropods, and a species of man eating fish (which was recently discovered on river monsters).

Tip: The Anomalist

Stephen relates the story of Operation Congo in the 1980s by William Gibbons. The party was searching for Mokèlé-mbèmbé (often described as a dinosaur-like creature). They didn't find it.

Gibbons returned and heard stories about other weird creatures that resembled dinosaurs. No one has ever found evidence of large unidentified dinosaur-like creatures in the Congo. And, there is absolutely no good reason to think they still exist 65 million years after their demise in the fossil record

So, it appears Stephen has lofty goals at the top, but meanwhile, there is a good case to be made for many species still left to discover. They likely won't be the attention grabbing cryptids though.

They plan to collect specimens and use trail cameras. All in all, a worthy goal. However, this will be an extreme difficult expedition. It's dangerous. Also, he says his colleagues have "a firm background in Biology" but are there zoologists? I don't see the point in amateurs trekking into the Congo. This makes me VERY suspicious.

Also, red flag, Gibbons is a Creationist. I see no statement that Stephen is as well but I'm getting vibes based on the construction of the post and the absence of important details – like university affliations. Creationists think finding a living dinosaur will somehow made evolution look bad and the Bible look true. Anyone who is off to explore the Congo and mentions Gibbons... well, I'm skeptical.

See this piece for more A LIVING DINOSAUR IN THE CONGO? (PART 2)

UPDATE: I asked Stephen what the biology backgrounds are, he wrote:

I studied Biology At UMKC and Missouri State. I've also been on trips of this nature to Brazil, Bolivia, Nicaragua, and Costa Rica. My partners all come from different backgrounds and have different skills to bring to the expedition. I have experience categorizing plant and animal species in the Amazon. There really isn't much to it in my oppinion besides an eye for detail, having the information available to you, and the ability to organized and store your findings.

My cousin Jonothan Sales (22) who just took a humanitarian aid trip back to Nicaragua with me, Is going to college for religious studies, has a very big interest in zoology, and spends a great deal of time working on humanitarian projects in rural India. My close friend Sam Newton (23) is currently writing a survival book full time in North Carolina, and then Justin Brown (24) a proffessional hunter and tracker from Missouri.

So, a group of amateurs (note the "religious studies").

Kids off to the Congo to look for dinos and giant spiders

May 18, 2012

By <u>idoubtit</u>

Remember the kids (sans scientists) who want to go to the Congo to look for a real version of The Lost World?

Dino Hunters Secure Necessary Funding For Congo Expedition.

Stephen McCullah needed to raise \$26,700 by May 11 in order to secure enough funds through Kickstarter.com to, well, kickstart his expedition to the Republic of Congo to hunt a reported living dinosaur.

When the deadline arrived, the 21-year-old adventurer and Missouri native had received pledges totaling nearly \$29,000.

He's now packing his bags and a powerful tranquilizer rifle — to bring down a possible dinosaur during what he has dubbed the Newmac Expedition.

McCullah said that his team will end up at the southern tip of Lake Tele, where mokele-mbembe have been reported. The Newmac explorers will set up camp at the village of a pygmy tribe.

For the remainder of their three-month stay, and as long as there are no health or safety issues intervening, the men will set out every day with a variety of special cameras, searching for new species, large or small, including canine-sized tarantulas.

Tip: @HuffPostWeird



Mokele mbembe depiction

I have no hope he'll find any living dinosaurs OR giant spiders; those are implausible ideas (that have been pushed by mostly those of the Creationist ilk with extremely poor quality and questionable evidence to support it). My concern is that they are way way over their heads by failing to consider the danger and difficult in this venture. They will be lucky to get back healthy. Also, it is troubling that there are no scientists involved. See also Ben Radford at Life's Little Mysteries: <u>Jurassic Lark</u>

The latest news about pictograms that look like dinosaurs is also mentioned in this story in what seems to be a suggestion of "Hmm, could be..." We can imagine all we want but imaginative speculation doesn't make it so.

Desperately seeking dinos on ill-conceived Congo adventure

June 14, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

Here is more on the story of a bunch of amateurs trekking to the Congo to look for new species.

Joe Marrero, Hollywood man, going to Congo to find Africa's Loch Ness monster.

Joe Marrero is planning a little trip this summer, and it's got his family kind of concerned.

The Hollywood software engineer is among a team of optimistic young men who intend to trek through the unforgiving Congo on a most outlandish quest: discover — and possibly bring back — a living dinosaur.

"Naturally, anybody's family would be worried about them," he said. "They don't want to hear the details."

Africa experts say the family's fears are well-founded. New York travel agency owner Valentine Sazhin has traversed the Congo. "There are many dangerous places," he said.

Marrero, 28, is the eldest of the six-man team that makes up the Newmac Expedition, named for its principals, leader Stephen McCullah and survival expert Sam Newton. They will brave the jungly Congo River to track a legendary sauropod said to live along its shore, the one pygmies call — cue the spooky music — Mokele mbembe.

What the team lacks in academic credentials or African experience, it makes up for in enthusiasm. And they're undaunted by skeptics. "I've gotten everything — from people that were very supportive, to, 'You guys are a bunch of idiots.' " McCullah said.

Tip: CFI's Morning Heresy

This group has been successful in raising attention and money for their expedition. On the surface, it looks astoundingly naïve and dangerous. As we have covered before, there is NO good evidence that an unknown dinosaur-like animal is behind the mokele mbembe legend. The idea of dinosaurs in the African jungles is one promoted by Creationists to disprove evolution (won't happen). Yet, the search for the creature comes to the forefront of all of these articles. To venture into an unfamiliar, hostile

environment to attempt a scheme for which you have little to no training is... daft. They are not scientists and they are chasing a legend. Sure that sounds romantic and adventurous but this is real life with real problems and real consequences. But, as they note, they were made aware of the risks. However much they choose to marginalize them (and rely on their tranquilizer guns) in pursuit of their goals is their decision. Here is the <u>original story</u> where I ask the lead person about their background. And here is the <u>piece that notes that they reached their funding goal</u> to look for dinos and giant All content copyright 2012, Sharon Hill. Used by permission.

Whatever happened to the trip to the Congo to look for Mokele-mbembe?

October 13, 2012 By idoubtit

Whatever happened to those kids off to the Congo to look for living dinosaurs and giant spiders?

Well, it crossed my mind today and I wondered why I hadn't heard anything about Stephen McCullah's successfully funded Kickstarter project. They were scheduled to leave in late June for Africa.

If you recall, there was a bit of a kerfuffle from the serious/skeptic viewpoint. There were <u>no scientists</u> involved. And it sure seemed ill-conceived and overly ambitious.

Indeed it was. It seemed to have collapsed within a few days.

What happened?

One of the participants, Joe Marrero, posted this update back in July:

Two days before Stephen and Sam left for the Congo, I had begun to suspect that the expedition had financial problems when I was told that a specific purchase was not within the budget. Within two days of the team entering the Congo, I was forced to withdraw from the expedition when I was told that there "wasn't enough funds for three months." This was shocking and I was disappointed that I had placed my reputation on the line, only to have someone I trusted disappoint me with their poor financial planning.

Joe doesn't say anything more about it. But an anonymous tip was revealed on David Meyer's site: THE DINOSAUR EXPEDITION GOES...EXTINCT?

Yesterday [July 18, 2012], we received an anonymous tip that the Newmac Expedition had returned from the Congo. Supposedly, the group was forced to curtail its 3-month trip. The exact reason remains unclear but we were told that Expedition member Stephen McCullah posted a message on his personal Facebook page about a lack of research permits. We've also heard that the Expedition suffered gear losses via theft.

This information has yet to be confirmed. But if true, it explains Marrero's decision to withdraw from the Expedition. Adding fuel to the fire are the changes made to the Newmac Expedition's social media platform. Its website has been abandoned. The last Facebook update came on June 21. The last Twitter update, announcing the departure of Joe Marrero, came on July 10. And the last update on Kickstarter (which we are unable to access) came on July 13.

David proceeds to wonder what happens to the Kickstarter funding. Does the ~\$29,000 need to be paid back?

I searched and can't find any more about this story after this point in mid-July. Here is a piece from the Sun Sentinel. But I assume they made it back OK but didn't really get off the ground.

Inverness Courier | News | Could this be the Loch Ness Monster?.

Shot by George Edwards — who has led Nessie hunts as part of his Loch Ness Cruise business in Drumnadrochit for the past 26 years — it shows a mysterious dark hump moving in the water towards Urguhart Castle.

"I was just about to return to Temple Pier (in Drumnadrochit) and I went to the back of the boat which was facing the pier and that's when I saw it," said 60-year-old Mr Edwards, a lifelong believer in the monster.

"It was slowly moving up the loch towards Urquhart Castle and it was a dark grey colour.

"It was quite a fair way from the boat, probably about half a mile away but it's difficult to tell in water."

After watching the object for five to 10 minutes, Mr Edwards said it slowly sank below the surface and never resurfaced.

Mr Edwards took the photo at 9am on 2nd November last year but before releasing it publicly sent it to the USA for analysis.

Tip: Fortean Times Breaking News



Photo credit: George Edwards/CASCADE NEWS

Edwards is touting that he had the photo analyzed. "I have friends in the USA who have friends in the military. They had my photo analysed and they have no doubt that I photographed an animate object in the water." I have no idea what that means if anything. Edwards has taken another photograph back in the 80's.

Nessie hunters claim it is NOT a sturgeon. Sturgeons have actually not been found in the Loch but remain a possibility for some as an explanation.

But I wonder... Edwards did not mention it moved other than sank into the water after a while. He was very far away. Why didn't it move? What part of the animal would this be?

While this is not a blurry picture, it also gives us basically no details. I am highly suspicious. So, have it everyone.

UPDATE (4-Aug-2012) As expected, this new photo went all over the web yesterday. Benjamin Radford at Live Science, who wrote a book on lake monster mysteries, leans toward something real in the water (not a hoaxed photo) but what the thing actually IS is far from clear. He also tends toward log or piece of tree. I've seen upturned canoe as an option. But it CAN be something we're not going to guess correctly. What it LIKELY IS NOT, is a an unknown species as yet to be catalogued by science. Possible? Yes. Likely? Hardly. But it is certainly good for tourism to the Loch. Tweets from Darren Naish give us two more things to keep in mind: Darren Naish@TetZoo

'New' <u>#LochNess #monster</u> photo: photographer Edwards (professional tourist guide!) has history of taking <u>#Nessie</u> photos. <u>#cryptozoology</u>

4 Aug 12 Darren Naish@TetZoo

<u>#LochNess #monster</u> photo taken 2011 by tour guide George Edwards: available for months on a postcard with another alleged <u>#Nessie</u> photo.

<u>5 Aug 12</u>

Doing the humpty hump: Edwards' Nessie photo matches fiberglass prop

August 21, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Hoaxes 2012

8 Comments

Update about the latest Loch Ness photograph... it's looking like a hoaxy hoax.

LOCH NESS MONSTER: Follow Up on the George Edwards Photo.

[...] things have moved forward on this story as resident monster hunter, Steve Feltham, has unearthed evidence that may well prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the picture is a staged hoax. According to the Daily Mail (link still not up), Steve was told by a friend that the picture looked a lot like a fake hump he had owned.

The hump is about ten years old and was used two years ago for the "Truth Behind the Loch Ness Monster" documentary made by National Geographic. Steve says that at 5m47s into this documentary you can see the hump on George Edwards' boat (frame below) and again at 6m54s in the water.

One therefore presumes that the picture was actually taken at the time it was used by the documentary crew. It is not clear whether at that time it was intended to be used as a hoax or was just a playful snap.

Tip: Jeb Card

The photo never made sense. And, indeed, this looks damning as a very good match. Check out the post for more pics.

And, see <u>Steve Feltham's facebook page</u> (who broke the story) that describes the fiberglass hump as it was used in a National Geographic documentary.

Source: Steve Feltham https://www.facebook.com/groups/141086595460/permalink/10152019953935461/

Steve is known as the <u>Nessie Hunter</u>. He stated: "For 21 years now I have watched and waited on the shores of Loch Ness for a glimpse of one of these animals. Never have I entertained the thought of creating a hoax sighting."

Good for you, Steve. Not so good for Mr. Edwards who has some explaining to do. So far, he is standing by his picture as genuine. But Steve claims Edwards' boat was used to tow the hump, therefore, this was a deliberate hoax.

 $\label{eq:update:} \textbf{UPDATE:} \ \text{Here is an } \underline{\text{article and video by STV}}. \ \text{VERY interesting quip by Edwards at the end there...}$

Mr Edwards declined to be interviewed on camera, but told STV News that he denied knowing anything about a fake hump.

He said Mr Feltham was entitled to his opinion and said people who make their livelihoods from the Loch should be happy it is in the news.

Update: (Steve Feltham posing with the fiberglass "hump" he suspects was used in hoax.)



In 2013 Edwards confessed to the hump being a hoax.

A stinking badger

November 16, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

Here is a strange story from Serawak in East Malaysia:

Villagers mystified by strange animal

An Indonesian plantation worker and a 75-year-old farmer got the shock of their lives when they were attacked by an unknown animal species in two separate occasions earlier this month.

The farmer, Aris Kuna of Kampung Paon Gahat, was attacked by the rare animal while attending to his pepper garden about noon. The foreigner, however, was attacked a week later at a plantation near Kpg Baing while gathering oil palm fresh fruit bunches around 9am.

The animal that attacked the duo was described as having a 'bear and wild boar' resemblance. Fellow workers and villagers who saw the carcass, brought by the Indonesian, could not identify the animal species

"It's a rare species. None of the villagers could identify it when we saw the body and pictures of it. Some even took to the Internet to find out but to no avail. Could it be one of those already considered extinct?

It has a pig-like snout, is furry brown with long claws, about 2 feet long. Not very imposing. I don't want to post the pictures because they are copyrighted by the Borneo Post but at first glance, it screamed "BADGER" to me. The comments to the piece, indeed, had many suggestions from the badger family. The "stink badger" ID sounds about the best. They are native to islands of Southeast Asia



Palawan Stink Badger (Mydaus marchei) highly resembles the carcass



The odd things about this story were that the villagers were quick to suggest it was something rare, or unique or possibly thought to be extinct. Another possibility is that they just weren't used to seeing it and this story has been exaggerated more than it needs to be. Humans have a tendency to really hype up a story, I'm not clear that killing a badger is all that good of a story without some added color commentary and mystery.

Fifteen people in Nepal victim of serial killer leopard(s)

November 3, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

Leopard suspected of eating 15 people in Nepal - CNN.com.

A ferocious leopard may have killed 15 people in Nepal in a 15-month span, its latest victim a 4-year-old boy that the creature dragged away into the jungle to eat.

The head of boy was found in the forest a kilometer from his home Saturday morning, said Kamal Prasad Kharel, the police chief of the Baitadi district, an area about 600 kilometers (373 miles) west of Kathmandu.

The police chief suspects that a single man-eating leopard is responsible for the deaths. If not, there are at most two of the man-eating creatures around, he believes.

Maheshwor Dhakal, an ecologist at the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation in Kathmandu, agreed that it is unusual to find more than one or two man-eating animals in one area. Most leopards live on wild prey.

Controlling this particular leopard has been a challenge for the wildlife officials in Kathmandu.

The chief district administrator has granted permission for this particular leopard to be killed. Normally, it is illegal to kill wild animals.

This is somewhat reminiscent of the <u>Beast of Gevaudan</u>. Wolves went for mostly children, attacked and dragged away, leaving a gruesome find. (I'd recommend <u>this book</u> for more on that topic and the <u>Monster Talk episode here</u>).

There is no mention of any special attributes of this man-eater. The local officials have recognized that this is an extreme case but one that can be handled with knowledgeable people (a veterinarian is being sent to look at the situation) and proper attention. It just may be in this case that the humans were easy prey.

Leopards are classified as "near threatened" in India.

Sheep deaths in Mexico blamed on chupacabra

March 5, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Questionable claims

No Comments

Inexplicata-The Journal of Hispanic Ufology: Mexico: Chupacabras Strikes in Michoacán

Michoacán's Diario ABC reported the strange deaths of 35 sheep in the town of Parácuaro. The incident occurred in the early morning hours of 1 March 2012. The boides [bodies] presented claw and tooth injuries; the majority of the injuries were under the neck, as if sliced by a razor. The person who looked after the sheep pens stated that he saw the entity that attacked the animals: it had fangs, claws and wings, and moved very quickly.

@UFOChronicles on Twitter



The <u>chupacabra phenomena has been solved quite handily</u> by Benjamin Radford in his comprehensive book <u>Tracking the Chupacabra</u>.

This was reported as being a chupacabra attack, according to researcher Scott Corrales of Inexplicata, but I see nothing to suggest that it isn't rather ordinary (if unfortunate for the owner). I can't translate Spanish but you might want to take a look at this news video linked below. It shows an array of dead animals, some are alive, but *only one* has a neck gash. I see no blood on the others at all. Also, they flip between the same camera views, none of which do much to establish what was said in the story.

When it comes to reports of entities with "fangs, claws and wings"... I'm not buying it. It's one story and we know that people tell exaggerated stories or they may very well misperceive what they see. There has NEVER been any evidence for a creature that looked like the chupacabras as described here. Most livestock deaths are by predators. Incidentally, "wings" is not typically described in Chupacabra sightings. Curious.

Eye gasped when I saw this thing! (Updated: Swordfish)

October 11, 2012 By idoubtit

Giant eyeball found on beach, posing mystery for marine biologists - Cosmic Log.

A giant eyeball that washed ashore and was found by a beachcomber in Pompano Beach, Fla., is mystifying wildlife officials — but probably not for long.

The softball-sized eyeball was reported to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission on Wednesday, and wildlife officers put the specimen on ice. It will be preserved and sent to the Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg, Fla., for analysis.

Marine biologists couldn't immediately identify which species of sea creature would be associated with the eye, but researchers will use genetic testing if necessary to solve the mystery, said Carli Segelson, a spokeswoman for the commission. "I shouldn't say this, but they may be able to eyeball it," she told me today.



Carli Segelson / Fla. FWCC via AP

The ideas right now are focusing on a large fish – swordfish, tuna, or deep-water fish species. An expert can tell what type of animal it comes from and it appears that it is not from a whale or squid. Can't WAIT to find out what it is. We'll keep you posted.

Tip: Meganne Valerioti

UPDATE: Deep Sea News says experts report it's definitely a swordfish. But, still, how did it GET there?

Sönke is an expert on everything visual in marine organisms including transparency, cryptic coloration, bioluminescence, ultraviolet protection, and of course vision. He responded

I'm fairly sure it's just the eye of a large scombrid, likely a swordfish or marlin. They get seriously big, but people don't realize it because most of the eye is inside the head.

He then went a step further and then emailed a few of his colleagues He then went a step further and talked with some colleagues — definitely a swordfish eye $\frac{1}{2}$

UPDATE (15-Oct-20120: The official confirmation:

"Experts on site and remotely have viewed and analyzed the eye, and based on its color, size and structure, along with the presence of bone around it, we believe the eye came from a swordfish," said Joan Herrera, curator of collections at the FWC's Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg, in a statement. "Based on straight-line cuts visible around the eye, we believe it was removed by a fisherman and discarded."

Goblins blamed for unfortunate incidents in Zimbabwe

May 23, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

A Zimbabwe family believes goblins are causing their recent misfortune.

Goblins attacks family, burn down homestead.

Three huts and a house were flattened last Sunday, while people are occasionally being pelted with stones by unseen things, believed to be goblins at a Chisumbanje homestead in Chipinge South where mysterious occurrences are haunting the Sithole Family.

In this true to life tragedy whose scripts reads like a horror movie, the Sithole family had to make do with stones being thrown at them for the past two months, while soil is intermittently tossed into their pots by invisible assailants as they will be preparing food. However, things came to a boil early last week when three huts at the homestead as well as a house suddenly went up in smoke and the family now sleeps in the open, while the few belongings they managed to salvage from the raging fire are heaped outside.

Whenever one young male member of the family, Taso Sithole (16) entered each of the huts and as soon as he came out, that hut would unexpectedly go up in smoke and this happened on all the four structures that were burnt at the homestead. To make matters worse, efforts to put out the fire were rendered futile as the well at the homestead mysteriously ran dry, only for the well to automatically fill up to the brim with water soon after the huts had been razed.

Tip: Fortean Times Daily News

Oh dear. Goblins?

Funny how there are clues in this story, just as in the <u>Firestarter story from last week</u>. It's hard to understand how deep the superstition must be for people to not see obvious human causes for this. Whether the 16 yr old was directly responsible for the fires or some neighbors were harrassing them, it's sad that they lost their home and are subject to such trouble. Consulting local healers and praying will only help if they get some form of counseling to deal with obvious social troubles.

Goblins continue to run amok in Zimbabwe

June 4, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

Goblins saga, girl dies under 'mysterious' circumstances

A Grade Seven pupil has died under "mysterious" circumstances at Nhlupho Primary School in Kezi District, where a recent goblin exorcism ceremony resulted in the village head committing suicide.

The death, which occurred on Wednesday, has divided villagers with some saying the goblins that were allegedly removed from village head Moffat Ncube's home were responsible for the death.

A villager who asked not to be named said the girl fell ill on Sunday last week, saying something was eating into her left thigh, and died on Wednesday.

"She was perfectly healthy and only had a boil on her right leg. However, on Sunday she started screaming saying something was burrowing into her left thigh and causing unbearable pain. We think it is those goblins because no one could see anything," said the villager.

A teacher at Nhlupho said villagers believed that the goblins were now feeding on human flesh because their owner was no longer around to give them food.

Tip: The Anomalist

Evil goblins were blamed for terrorizing villagers in this story from a few weeks ago. In both cases, several more rational explanations are readily apparent. But those aren't mentioned. Darkness does still envelop many cultures around the world. Education is a key but a long, difficult road.

Mysterious "black magic" creature scares Namibian village

February 23, 2012
By idoubtit
Mysterious 'boost' t

Mysterious 'beast' terrorizes villagers

An unknown creature is reportedly frightening and threatening village residents in the Uukwiyu Uushona constituency (Oshana region).

According to regional councillor Andreas Mundjindi, the mysterious animal was spotted late last Saturday chasing dogs and goats. Mundjindi says that the beast even almost injured a young man on Sunday afternoon on his way home.

"This is an alien animal that the people have not seen before. We don't have a forest here and only bushes. So, this must be black magic at play", the councillor told Informanté.

The animal is said to be white in colour with a dog-like head and pig-like backside. Locals are now only working and walking in groups whenever they go somewhere — day or night.

Tip: Cryptozoologynews.blogspot.com

Not much to go on in this story that has strong tones of occult magic. We'll watch to see if this things gets a name and becomes the next cryptid du jour to cause panic (or a media flurry).

Another piece: Weird 'dog-headed pig monster' terrorizes Africa

'Aswang' ghoul in Philippines is not real says skeptical Archbishop

April 21, Posted by idoubtit under Belief, Mass hysteria, Superstition

2 Comments

'Aswang' in Pangasinan not true, says Archbishop Cruz | Inquirer News.

Retired Archbishop Oscar Cruz says the aswang (Philippine ghoul) believed to be lurking in Pozorrubio, Pangasinan that have kept residents sleepless for a number of days was not true.

In a phone interview with Radyo Inquirer 990AM, Cruz said that he thinks the residents would not say such things unless they had not actually experienced of felt strange phenomena.

The question was whether the strange phenomena could actually be attributed to aswang, Cruz said.

"These are often not true and are instead caused by other things such as animals that are uncommon in the area, but people still attributed it to the aswang," Cruz said.

Asked whether the aswang could be removed from Filipino culture, Cruz believed that globalization and the advancement of civilization might slowly end people's belief in the aswang.

Tip: The Anomalist

This is a very interesting insight into superstitious belief in the Filipino culture – folklore and religious. The Bishop talks about exorcisms and evil spirits. He suggests a number of different reasons why the aswang idea continues but sounds somewhat reasonable and hopeful that stories about ghouls will die out. That is, if parents stop using such stories to scare their kids about the evils of being out late at night.

"Culture is already part of the life of a person, that's why it can be very hard to remove," Cruz said.

The <u>aswang</u> is an inherently evil vampire-like creature and is the subject of a wide variety of myths and stories. The label seems to be applied to many creatures including death eaters.

People fear scary creatures roam in the Mumbai night (UPDATE: arrests made)

February 27, 2012
By idoubtit
Vampires and cannibals prey on fear in the Mumbai

Over the past week, the fertile imagination of Mumbai's collective consciousness has been in the feverish grip of some dreaded creatures. Vampires, cannibals and monkey men all appear to have chosen the city as the site for their spring rendezvous. While Mumbai cowers under the covers, cops are having a hard time laying their fears to rest.

Mumbai police have been inundated with reports of sightings of these creatures, but have found no evidence to substantiate them. As mass hysteria sweeps the city, terror-stricken residents are caving into fear and altering their daily lives.

Tip: The Anomalist

It's all rumors. Rumors are enough to send very superstitious people into a mass panic, not going out at night, reporting everything suspicious to police. As police try to squelch the rumors, this seems to reoccur. For more on Monkey Man, see here and here and here.

UPDATE: (2-Mar-2012) Of terrace-hopping creatures & child-eating ogres

Some of the rumours are assuredly bizarre. In the eastern suburbs, there has been talk about 'oil men' who cover their lithe bodies with some slimy stuff so that they can easily slip away from pursuers.

Another part of the city has been so tormented by tales of childlifting gangs with painted faces that mothers are worried about sending children unescorted to schools and playgrounds. Some stories, like that of bands of Africans picking up children, are offensively racist, at least for people who pretend they are sensitive about such things.

Other fantastical characters in the telltales wear shoes fitted with metal springs that enable them to jump from terraces of one building to another.

UPDATE (4-Mar-2012) 'Monkey man' rumour: Cops arrest 72 in crackdown

The Mumbai Police have finally cracked the whip on rumours about 'monkey men' and the 'chaddi baniyan gang' floated in city's suburbs, by arresting 72 people for allegedly spreading the rumours.

Although the East Region police have made the arrests, mostly of local residents, the West and North Region police stations are yet to register a single case — in spite of a death in Kandivali in a stampede-like-situation sparked of by an alleged sighting of a 'money man'. [sic]

According to Quiser Khalid, additional commissioner of police (East Region), 27 offences have been registered against people for spreading rumours and creating fear and panic.

"We traced the pranksters and arrested them," said Khalid. "After the arrests, the rumours have died down considerably," he added.

Police looking for lion in Essex, U.K. (UPDATED: called off)

August 26, Posted by idoubtit under Cryptozoology, Questionable claims

4 Comments

Essex Police investigate 'lion' sighting near St Osyth

Police in Essex are investigating reports that a lion has been spotted in a field near St Osyth.

Residents have been advised to stay indoors after the sighting in fields off Earls Hall Drive around 19:00 BST.

Essex police are working with experts from Colchester Zoo who believe the reports to be genuine after being shown a photograph by a member of the public.

Local resident Che Kevlin told the BBC: "I heard a loud roar at 10pm. It sounded like the roar of a lion."

Tip: Tim Ashley

The local zoo is not missing an animal. Officials are checking to see if one may have escaped. The picture mentioned above has been released. It is not clear just how credible the evidence is for this but they are taking it seriously. Stay tuned. (Further updates are appreciated)

UPDATE (27-Aug-2012) (<u>Associated Press article</u>) There have been no droppings or prints found. <u>There is one questionable picture on the Daily Mail.</u> It's not clear if the picture is the one given to authorities that made them pretty certain they were dealing with a big cat. This piece from the Guardian quotes a zoologist that says <u>it's probably a dog</u>, not a male lion.

Forsyth and zoological director Anthony Tropeano of Colchester zoo arrived in St Osyth, where the sighting occurred, with tranquiliser equipment at the request of police, she said.

"By the time we got there whatever it was had gone. We were shown some photographs, but they were from very far away, very poor quality and to be honest there was no way of saying 'yes' or 'no'," Forsyth said.

Asked if she was sceptical that the animal pictured was a lion, she said: "I think it's unlikely. I think it was more likely to

be a dog. It certainly wasn't a male lion. It didn't have a mane."

Still many questions remain.

Improbable sightings of dangerous animals are a familiar part of the British news cycle, particularly at the height of summer when journalists struggle to fill papers and news bulletins.

It's difficult to believe an African lion is on the loose when NO ONE says they are missing any.

UPDATE: <u>Called off.</u> Probably not a lion.

Police officers decided to call off the search on Monday after no trace of a big cat was found.

A police spokesman said: "We believe what was seen on Sunday evening was either a large domestic cat or a wildcat.

This is the picture. (!?!?!) Holy hell, how can you expend resources for that!



Tiger reported by two witnesses in Puyallup, Washington

May 24, Posted by idoubtit under Anomalies, Cryptozoology, Unsolved mystery

2 Comments

Animal control finds no signs of tiger near Puyallup | KING5.com Seattle.

Pierce County animal control and law enforcement officers spent more than two hours searching for a Bengal tiger that three people reported seeing just outside of Puyallup on River Road.

A spokesman for the sheriff's office said a mother and son who live in the same house said they saw a tiger walk by their home. The driver of a car on River Road also reported seeing a tiger.

Tip: @seattle_JC on Twitter

Animal control finds no signs of tiger near Puyallup

Pierce County animal control and law enforcement officers are responding to reports of a bengal tiger on the loose just outside of Puyallup on River Road. view full article

So, I can't quite tell if these are independent reports although they seem so. Sightseers are all over. Witness do not seem to report a "tiger" just a large cat which is odd because tigers are VERY large and distinctive. Two witnesses that apparently did not communicate saw SOMETHING. We will keep you up to date on this story. Details are lacking as of now.

Vampire concerns reported in Serbia

November 29, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

I've seen this one over the past week circulating on the Daily Mail and other tabloids which we normally don't address here at Doubtful News (because EVERYTHING in the Daily Mail and The Sun ought to be assumed to be doubtful). But since it finally made it to mainstream news, it's worth addressing. This piece also has some better sourced information.

Vampire Threat Terrorizes Serbian Village

For the people in a tiny Serbian village there is nothing sexy or romantic about a vampire. In fact, they are terrified that one of the most feared vampires of the area has been roused back to life.

Rather than 'Twilight's' Edward, the people of Zorazje fear that Sava Savanovic is lurking in their forested mountains of western Serbia.

They believe that he is on the move because the home he occupied for so long, a former water mill, recently collapsed. Savanovic is believed to be looking for a new home.

"People are very worried. Everybody knows the legend of this vampire and the thought that he is now homeless and looking for somewhere else and possibly other victims is terrifying people," Miodrag Vujetic, local municipal assembly member, told ABC News. "We are all frightened."

Vujetic said villagers "are all taking precautions by having holy crosses and icons placed above the entrance to the house, rubbing our hands with garlic, and having a hawthorn stake or thorn."

If the "panic" as described in these pieces are true, and people are frightened, local folklore is still strong in this place. As noted, "Traditions die slowly in this part of the world." From reading the piece, it appears that it was just a very creepy old place, associated with a person who obtained a mythical reputation that is too darn interesting to fade away. The best

Documented reports of vampires occur in this area in modern times. Strange but apparently true.



Serbian "vampire" Sava Savanovic



Vampire of folklore Sava Savanovic and the mill house where they say he lived.

Thylacine video hoax making the rounds

April 25, 2012 By <u>idoubtit</u>

Video from Tasmania national park apparently shows live thylacine

BREAKING NEWS: Tasmanian Tiger Filmed In Central Tasmania 2012 Uploaded by IMLYINGISWEAR on Feb 22, 2012 The shots of the national park were done by me with a fujifilm s2000.

Tip: Darren Naish

Note the You Tube user name: I'm Lying I Swear

Darren noted that this was actual CGI footage from the film The Hunter, recently released. But, it is making the rounds on social media and some people believe it is real. The thylacine, or tasmanian tiger, is extinct. While sightings are still reported and many people believe it is still out there, it almost certainly has died out due to such few individuals remaining over the past decades to carry on a population.

More about The Hunter The Hunter: New movie about finding the thylacine

Also noted on Cryptomundo today.

Other thylacine stories in the news.