

Report From Western Maryland

August/September 2018

The weather has been mostly uncooperative here in MD, lots of rain, thunderstorms, and high humidity, with an unusually high population of very hungry mosquitos. I have not been getting out much as other duties have been keeping me quite busy this past summer. Archery season for whitetail started here on September first and I always try to get out to some of my older research areas that are in non hunting places just before and after the season starts. Experience has shown that my big hairy friends tend to spend more time in these areas during hunting season.

8/12/2018 State park land, western Washington County

I have not been in this area since last fall and found nothing during that time. Fire roads were all neat and tidy and MD Forestry was cutting out some of the bigger damaged ash trees. I thought it was time for a scouting trip so I went in on August 12 and everything was grown up, fire roads had not been maintained and large trees were down on the fire roads, especially the roads that go into more remote areas. This was a very common occurrence five to six years ago when there was a lot of activity in this area.

I wandered around in a big loop hitting all of the choke points where I have found tracks before and I was not disappointed. I found three tracks, twelve inches long (3.5 at the heel, 4.5 at the ball of the foot). None of these tracks were connected so I was not able to get step and stride lengths but they did tend in the same general direction. The soil in the



tracks was compacted about twice as much as my 180 lbs. could do. There were also some indistinct tracks of the same size and some heel strikes scattered in the same northwest to southeast direction towards another non hunting area close by along the Potomac River.

9/9/2018 State Park land, Western Washington County

Went back into the area on September ninth, in a heavy all day rainstorm, though this is difficult with my cameras I have always had unusual things happen in this



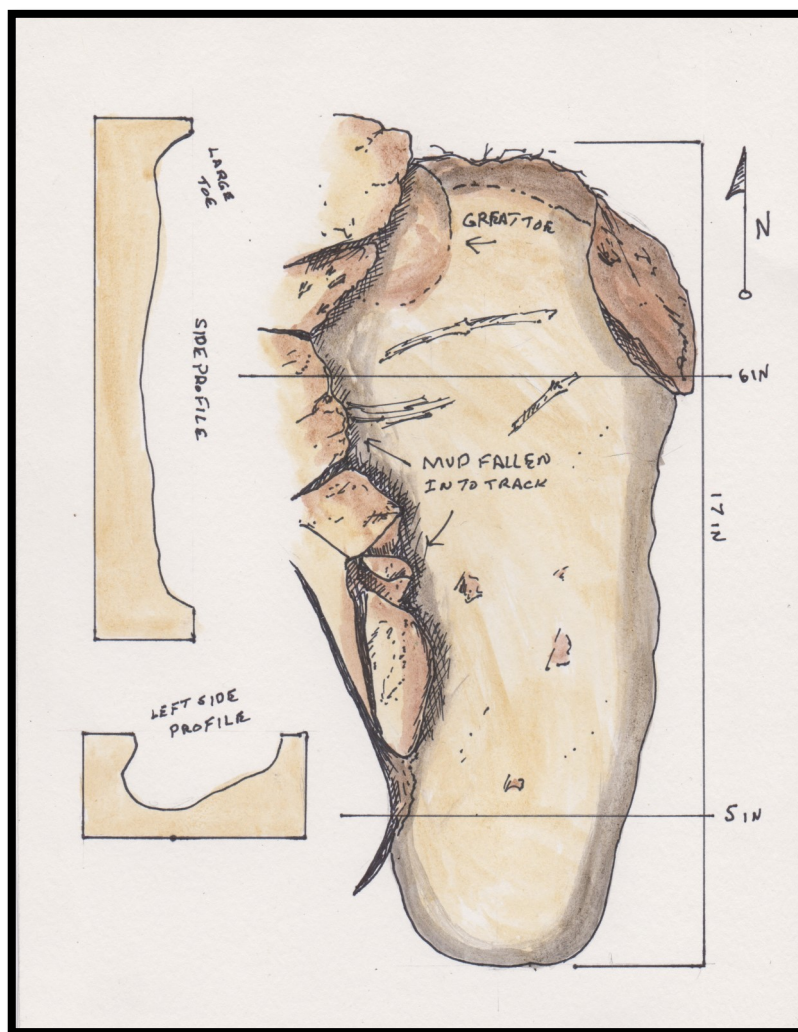
area in rain or thunderstorms. I went into the woods off the railroad tracks that bisect this area and immediately had the feeling of being watched this feeling persisted as long as I was in the area. I found a few more of the twelve inch tracks, indistinct, but the length was correct and the compression of the soil was the same. These appeared to be fresher but were less defined due to the rain.



I was walking on the main fire road through the area to get to a spot that overlooks a stream valley and found a seventeen inch right foot track under a freshly fallen large tree branch. It looked very much as if the branch was falling and the fellow that made the track sped up and shifted sideways to avoid it. Though the track was full of rain water and there was some damage due to mud falling into the track, I could distinctly see the impression of the large toe and the shape of the bottom of the foot. The heel was



five inches across and it was about six inches wide at the ball of the foot. The track was deeper at the front, indicating acceleration, and the inner line of the track soil deformation gave the appearance of a quick push off to the left to avoid the tree limb. Unfortunately it was a single track so no step or stride lengths were able to be made. There were some indistinct possible heel impressions but nothing really documentable.



Drawing of the track to clarify some of the detail that you can't see in the rain filled photograph. The large limb that fell was just behind the track and stopped about three feet up in the air held up by another fallen tree. The left side of the track was about 2.5 inches deep and about .5 inches on the right side. The track was on the one spot for about 100 feet where



Random photograph from the same area described. I was feeling watched so I took some still photos around my position, this was January 2013. I found this guy in a photo. When I went back to examine the area a few days later there was a squashed down spot under the fallen tree but whatever this is it could not have been more than about three feet tall. This is also about the time I stated finding 8 inch tracks of Sasquatch proportions.

I used to think that this area was used to train young Sasquatch due to its lack of human traffic as well as its easy connection to really difficult to get into places. Smaller tracks and photographic evidence seemed to back this up five or six years ago, but then it appeared that this activity stopped, or was just me overthinking what I was seeing. This emerging new pattern of behavior is very similar to what went on here in the past, I'll just have to pay attention and see what happens.

Trent Carbaugh

September, 2018