

Sasquatch in Clearwater FL

Sighting Details:

Date: 05/1975

Time of Day:

Season: *May early Summer*

State: *Florida*

County: *Pinellas*

Nearest town: *Clearwater*

Nearest road/Highway: *SR 590 and SR 577 - Along Alligator Creek/Lake, US 19 S. to SR590...access to Alligator Creek on SR 577*

Weather Conditions: *Evidence seen during day - Good Conditions Sighting occurred at night (during storm)*

Terrain of location: *Swamp-like wetlands*

Anything else odd: *Probably last sighting ever in Pinellas County, FL. (County is now 98% developed)*

Other Witnesses: *Not to the sighting but 5 other individuals saw "evidence" of a large creature moving effortlessly through the thick woods.*

Local Stories: *Small snippets in the paper shortly before and after May 1975. 1 VERY credible witness reported seeing the creature walk across the road at night near sighting area.*

Submitted by witness on: *03/21/2004*

Original report:

During the late spring of 1975, our local paper printed (tiny, back page) reports of Bigfoot sightings within 2 miles of the woods behind my residence. Curious yet skeptical, I led a small group of friends on a "Bigfoot Hunt" into the woods looking for anything out of the ordinary in the swamp-like wetlands that we had all become very familiar with. Armed only with a Brownie camera, we walked along a popular fishing path for about a mile until the trail ended due to the impassable overgrowth. The six of us decided to split up and forge separate trails into deep woods in hopes of finding some/any evidence of a large "Ape-man" making this area his home. Tim was the first to call out as he had (slowly) moved up the bank into a thick thorn-brush area where no sane man would tread. He had come across an entirely "new" trail made by something large moving through the area as if impervious to the thorns that hampered our every step.

The ground was hard in this area and no footprints (or boot-prints) could be discerned. We looked for evidence of a machete or scythe to cut this trail but there were no dried "clippings" on the ground as you would expect from "hacking" through the thorns. It appeared as if a fully uniformed football player had run straight through the entanglement not caring about the effects of the sharp thorns. We followed the trail for about 100 ft. and came across a matted-down clearing. We had all seen this type of "nest" before as Alligators will roll around and smash down the foliage where they intend to lay eggs. However, it is almost always right next to the creek (or water source) and the trail is usually muddy and has prints. This "nest" was high up on the bank and had no such muddy trail leading to water. We looked around and found 3-4 trees that had been snapped at around the 10ft level. Snapping off the tops of these trees was no great feat but it would have required a ladder for us to do so.

It now became apparent that we were standing in "something's" nest and the bravery-challenged members of our group decided it was best to turn back here. Rob and I decided to follow the path farther into the woods even though it was getting late. The trail eventually leads to the creek but along the way we found areas that had been "dug-up" as if something was pulling up embedded roots with its bare hands. Where the trail met the creek we did finally come across something that resembled a footprint.... a deep impression in the mud that eclipsed our shoe sizes by 2.5 times. We took a poor quality picture of the print thinking that this might be our last chance to get a shot while traveling at a normal pace. The trail ended at this spot and the only way to move farther into the woods was along the creek's edge. After about 50 ft. of walking in and out of the creek, we came across 2 carcasses of dead ducks that had their chest cavities "scooped" out.

If an Alligator eats a duck, you might find a pile of feathers or a foot or a beak. We had no idea what would pull out the innards of duck and leave the carcass. With little light left to get a good picture.... we both felt this was probably a good place to end our "Hunt" (on our terms). During our walk back through the swamp, we both agreed that we felt as if we were being "watched & followed" almost the entire time.

My sighting occurred at 3:30AM the next morning. I may have been awakened by the sound of thunder (or nightmares of my chest cavity being "scooped" out), not sure. But I felt COMPELLED to go out into the yard (even though it was raining) and look in the direction of the creek that ran along my property. It didn't take but about 5 seconds for me to realize that what I was doing (standing in the rain at night) was pretty stupid, so I turned to run back into the house when again, I felt COMPELLED to look one more time in the direction of the creek. It was then that I saw 2 large red glowing eyes rising up from behind the creek bank at a distance of about 50 ft. I could not move for nearly 10 seconds (I think) Whatever this was had me paralyzed in its gaze. When I did "break loose", I ran back to the house probably screaming audibly and found a nice corner to curl up embryo-style in until the mid-afternoon.

It isn't easy to relate the last part of this story to anyone (for obvious reasons) but I hope this can be helpful to those who are researching this creature. I've spent a lot of time in the woods since then and have never seen or heard anything I'd contribute to Bigfoot. But I do know the animals of the woods and how animals in general behave. Is this an animal? Yes, and No. It has animal-like instincts but human-like intellect (or beyond). I feel that (perhaps) by treading on the creature's "nest"...it took an interest in me and actually was able to "locate" me at a later time and make an attempt (as best I can figure out) to communicate with me. Even though I was scared to death at the time, the "compulsions" I felt were benign/inquisitive. Somebody who could have "stood their ground" at that moment may have been able to unlock ALL the mysteries of this creature. It's a shame I wasn't prepared for huge red eyes to come up out of the swamp.... seen too many bad movies like that.

Don't know that I'd want that to happen again, either. I believe there is a "paranormal" connection, mostly because no bodies have ever been found. That isn't.... well.... natural. Carcasses get torn up in the woods but nothing eats.... like, skulls. It seems to be able to co-exist ok with humans but especially here in Florida, I see its habitat being built over and boxed-in. If one ever is found (and it is a natural creature), I bet it will be in S. Florida in some boxed-in by development stretch of wetlands. If it's not a natural creature.... you won't get anything much more than snapshots, tape recordings and hair samples...ever.

Follow up Investigation by David S

I was unable to contact the witness to verify this encounter but there have been other sittings around the area but several miles apart. It would not be uncommon back in 1975 for these creatures to move into an area then move out once more human activity increases.