

Unusual Tracks Found on January 19 and 31, 2020

The area in question is a hilly hardwood and pine forested area on land owned by the Maryland Department of Natural resources in Western Maryland. It is close to the Potomac River and connects to both forest along the river as well as a very large area of state owned public hunting ground to the north which in turn continues into even larger areas of forest in south central Pennsylvania.

The entire area sits on a magnetic anomaly, very deep iron ore, the center of which is just about where the tracks were found. The variation in this spot can range up to 12 degrees (east or west depending on geophysical conditions) off of the normal 12 degree west declination. This information is based on a USGS magnetic survey as well as my own measurements with an improvised instrument using a compass, a GPS unit, and a long stick (with some painful calculations, I might add). This is important due to the propensity of odd occurrences, some quite weird, that happen in this relatively small area.

I have been doing serious Sasquatch research in this area since 2011, grew up here and also worked for MD DNR in the area, so I know it well. It is not unusual to find 14 to 17 inch Sasquatch tracks here on a regular basis as well as an occasional long range sighting, vocalizations, infra-sound, and some interesting photographs. Over the years, though, I have seen orbs floating through the woods, electrical flashes, a creepy semi-visible thing, been followed at night by a white shape, etc... Most of these odd things I attribute to "John Keel-ish" manifestations, that is, either somehow hallucinatory, or brief peeks into other realities, or some other fleeting phenomenon that leaves no physical trace.

The exception to this is when I find odd tracks, which brings us to the point of writing this. Back in 2012 I found a single canine track, almost perfect in mud of just the right consistency to show detail. The track was 6.5 by 6.5 inches with details of the pads and claws with a slight impression of the "hock" at the base of the track. Problem was, it was a single track in a muddy fire road without a hint of any others in any direction. Odd, but essentially useless as a single track doesn't tell you much. Wrote this one off as an anomaly. In 2014 I found a long trackway of a bipedal hoofed

critter, which is a story for another time, and recently I found more canine (?) tracks.

January 19, 2020



First track found, toes to the left.



Second reasonably clear track.



Trackway goes directly down the center of the photo.

On late afternoon on January 19th, 2020 I ventured into the area to just do some looking around. Conditions were cold, mid 30's, slightly windy and overcast. The ground was lightly frozen on the surface to a depth of about one inch with a small amount of hoarfrost that had formed on the surface during the day. Whilst looking about for tracks I saw a circular impression which at first I thought was another of the aforesaid hoof-prints, but on closer examination looked like a mountain lion track, but on



Detail of first track.



Detail of second track

yet even closer examination the track was too deep and the wrong shape, it very much looked like a canine track. The track was roughly oval 6 inches long by 4.5 inches wide. Though the track was frost damaged the toes could be clearly discerned as could the central pad, no claws were in evidence but they could easily have been damaged by re-freezing. The track was very deep, two inches, through the leaf litter and capillary roots to the shale/soil substrate. It looked as if the foot was punched down onto the ground in either a fast turn or to initiate acceleration (*more likely, no side tilt to the track*). I found other tracks, not as

clear up to this point.

While I was measuring and recording the tracks I heard a ruckus north of my position about 150 yards away in a heavy pine grove. It sounded as though something large was either trying to get away or get closer. I quickly set up a video camera on a small tripod aimed at the pine grove in case something came out, nothing happened though. As it was getting dark at this point, I packed up my gear and got out of there.

January 31, 2020

Suffering from an excessively large bump of curiosity, and as the weather had been roughly the same, I decided to go back a little earlier in the day to see if I could find more tracks.

Following the initial track-way I searched in the



Frost damaged track.



Deer leg bone, twisted apart to get to the marrow. Only something with hands can do this. There are no teeth marks on the bone. Found in the area of the tracks but older.

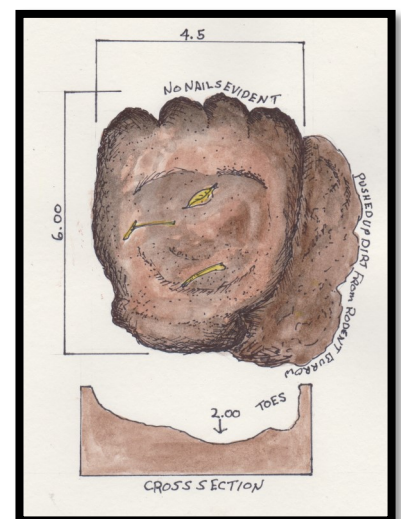
direction of travel and managed to pick up the tracks again. They were not as clear after the

slight freeze/thaw cycle and some trampling by

deer, but I was able to get a good consistent step length of 42 inches between six tracks. I stayed out till after dark on this day watching the pine grove with both a long lens still/video camera and a thermal camera but saw nary a thing.

Conclusions

Whatever this thing was it was relatively heavy, judging by the impressions that I could make by jumping on my toes it outweighed my 200 lbs. by at least 50 to 75 lbs. The tracks penetrated through the leaf cover and capillary roots to the substrate of soil mixed with shale chips, almost as if the foot punched down, toes first, when moving. Soil compression is consistent with a 250 lb. or so weight. For comparison



Field drawing of the best track with a profile through the middle.

a 17 inch Sasquatch track on the same surface just compacts the surface without going through the leaf litter unless acceleration is involved and the toes push through. Greater weight offset by the surface area of the foot, human tracks in the area do the same things even with hard soled boots.

Even large mountain lion, (200 lbs.), tracks do not leave impressions like this, the weight is spread out between four feet and a cats foot is more compliant with the ground surface. *(Note; a few years ago I wanted to see what actually happens to the ground surface when a Sasquatch track was made. To do so I started bisecting tracks*

lengthwise and scraping away enough dirt to get a look at the cross section of the soil compaction, then I would cut the track crosswise to do the same thing. I repeated this process on Sasquatch, human, bear and a few mountain lion tracks.)

A step length of 42 inches, (using human proportions which is just educated guesswork) would make the creature roughly 84 inches tall. 6.5 to 7 feet of height would be consistent with the overhead cover on the path that the tracks take across the top of the hill.

The tracks were without a doubt bi-pedal, there was no indication at all of even temporary quadrupedal travel.

Trent Carbaugh, January, 2020



Speculative drawing illustrating the direction of force of the foot. All tracks showed evidence of this.