

The sasquatch in Northern Wisconsin



*A fresh look at some
39 year old photos*

Gene Baade 1/9-14/2019

In 1979 and 1980, two trackways of 19” footprints were discovered in the vicinity of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, where Joyce, our children, and I lived. The tracks were investigated by me and a couple of other individuals. One plaster cast and several photographs (transparencies) documented these discoveries.

In 2018 I acquired a slide scanner. Using it and a digital photographic program to add clarity without inappropriately altering the images, I was thrilled to have been able to create good quality digital images of these transparencies, including two that were almost completely washed out. Noteworthy is that collectively before, during, and after those years we received several reports of sasquatch sightings and in some cases conducted interviews of the witnesses.

The word, “sasquatch” is derived from the name given by the Chehalis Nation in SW British Columbia. The word, “Bigfoot,” is a word coined during a time of intense publicity in northern California in the 1950s. “Yeti” is a name of complicated derivation I have summarized in a book on the subject that I published in 2016. The resident First Nations of N. Wisconsin and Minnesota are the Ojibwa - alternatively - Chippewa. They have two names for this creature: *Puck Wuji Ininees*, meaning “wild man” and *Djeneta*, meaning “giant.”

This presentation in picture and text highlights these exciting discoveries of 1979 and 1980. I am indebted to my long time friend and former physician, Dr. Daniel Johnson, for suggesting I create a Google Slides photo album.



19" track, 6 toes.
6" width at ball of
foot. One print in
a trackway of
about 100 yards
length found Oct
8, 1979, by Keith
M____ and
photographed by
him Oct. 11,
1979. Scanned
by Gene Baade
Jan., 2019.



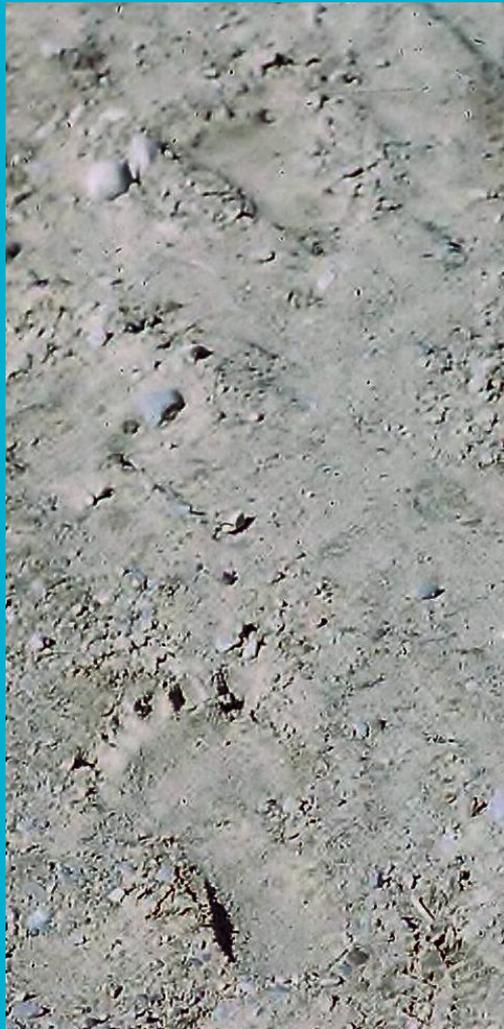
Cast made by Keith M____
Oct 11, 1979. Cast given
to Gene Baade by Keith
years later. It's important to
note that the two
trackways described in this
presentation were not
evidentiary anomalies.
They occurred within the
context of several
sasquatch sightings in this
area over a number of
years. First and second
hand reports of these
sightings were over time
shared with my friends
Keith M____, Pat K____, and
me (Gene Baade) over the
course of my 15 years in
Wisconsin.



Keith M___ photo Oct. 11, 1979, and scanned by Gene Baade Jan., 2019. Left photo has been cropped to magnify a portion of the full photo. The full photo shows, at the top edge, a third print. Right footprints were obliterated by tire tracks. Stride (left heel or toe to next left heel or toe) was about 90", or about an 8' span.



On location with friend and fellow investigator,
Pat K____ Nov. 2, 1979.



Oct. 11, 1979. Same trackway, but different spot along it. Second photo has been cropped to better show two prints. On the full photo, there appears to be an impression of the right foot ball and toes near second left foot imprint, but this is not certain. Keith M____ photo scanned by Gene Baade



Although hard to examine in a photo, a same size footprint, and fresh, was found Nov. 2, 1979, by friend Pat in an area of sphagnum moss between the road and the nearby lake, and very close to earlier footprint trackway. It was found during our first examination of the site of the trackway. Even the toe placement could be detected with the naked eye. Of course this photograph is useless as objective evidence, but I can tell you that in real time and place because it was so remarkably well defined that it made chills go up our necks. The weight required to compress this moss and break it down would have had to be significant. Gene Baade photo.



Gene Baade photo. A fresh trackway of 28 tracks was discovered on April 20, 1980, about seven months after the Oct., 1979, trackway, and about 10 miles southeast of the latter. The same sasquatch obviously walked here. (Same length & about the same width, same number of toes, and same configuration). Depth of this print was $1\frac{1}{4}$ " - $1\frac{1}{2}$ ". The account of this discovery and ensuing events are available on a separate document from Gene.

April 20,
1980,
trackway.



April 20, 1980,
trackway.





The story of this April 20, 1980, trackway is summarized in a separate document available upon request, but a late afternoon first visit to this site immediately after being informed of it revealed 28 FRESH tracks which, to varying degrees, were remarkably defined, depending on substrate under each step. They clearly revealed individual differences of placement and movement of parts of the foot and individual toes, some of them subtle. The living tissues of the foot offered variables involving pressure ridges, contours, etc., from step to step including toe movement (spread, contraction, extension) - I. E., a living foot made these prints. That night I (Gene) woke up and realized that the film leader of my fresh 35mm film roll had not engaged in the camera sprocket (only twice in my life has this happened) so the next morning Joyce and I drove out and I rephotographed a few prints. The wind was blowing, rapidly degrading the prints, plus we had walked around them a lot. One print was still quite good. I regret some things in my life along with regretting my many sins, but my failure to load the camera properly is one of my biggest regrets. Both the 1979 and 1980 trackways are remarkable as only a few extensive trackways that are genuine have been found and documented in over 60 years of research in North America (in contrast to thousands of genuine prints found as a single print or several). My first visit to this site that late afternoon was with friend Pat and his father-in-law, Julius (see my portrait of him below). Both of them were members of my church. I remember Julius saying, with absolute awe, as we were examining these prints, "That must be one big son-of-a-buck." (No, I never heard Julius use obscene language - ever.)

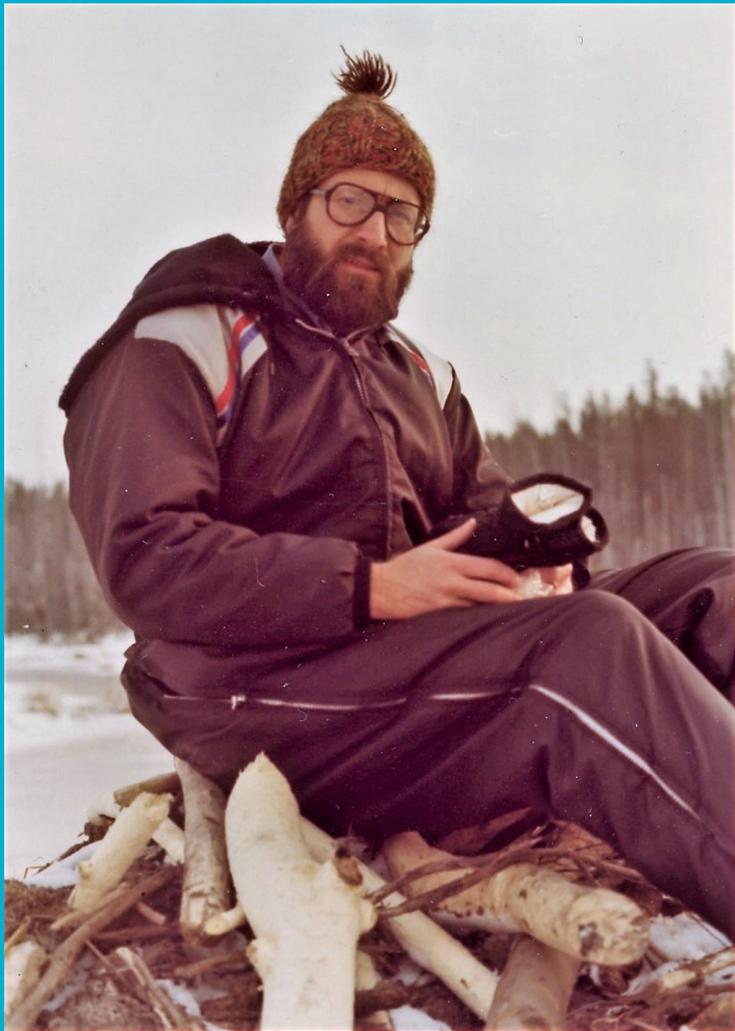


Julius Gerdes
(1916 - 2011): one
of the finest,
kindest, and most
genuine men I
have ever known.

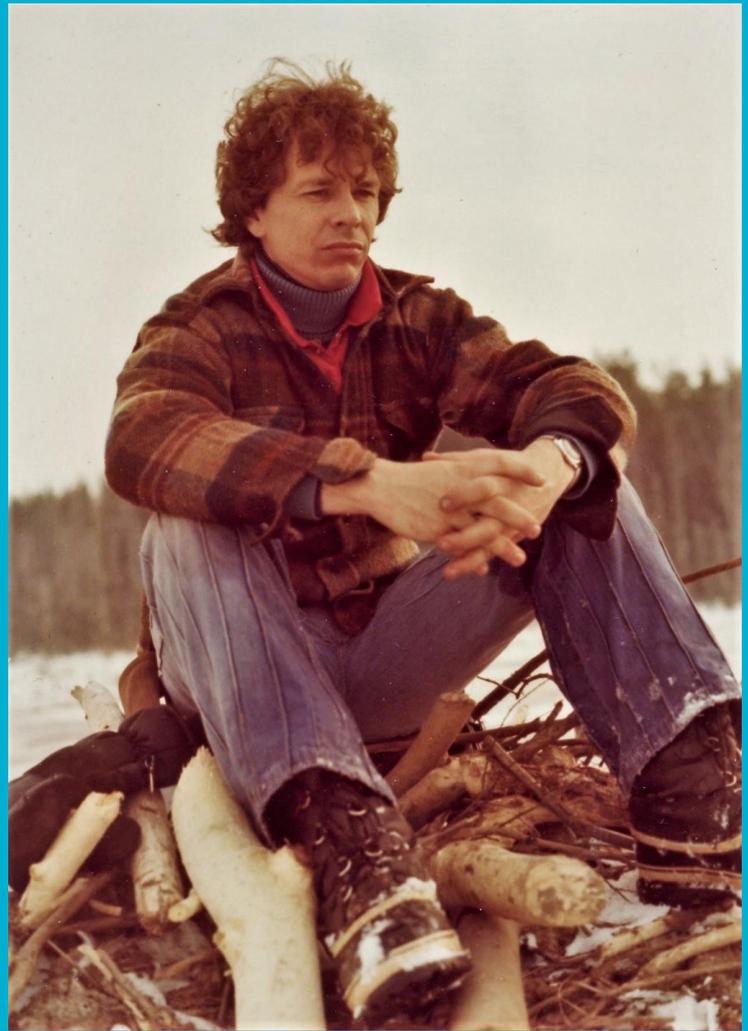
EUGENE W. BAADÉ PHOTO



Long time friend and fellow Lutheran churchman, Keith M____, the Wisconsin biologist who found both trackways. Gene Baade photo, October 22, 1979.



Winter 1979-80. Left: the author, Gene Baade, and right, Pat K___, Gene's close friend for nearly 48 years now. These amateur investigators responded to footprint discoveries and unearthed first and second hand sighting reports, including a dramatic one between the times of the first and second trackway discoveries, and conducted interviews with witnesses whenever possible. Reports of activity in this general area have by no means ceased and Pat keeps his ear to the ground, not without success.





Pat examining beaver work on a later visit to the 1979 site.



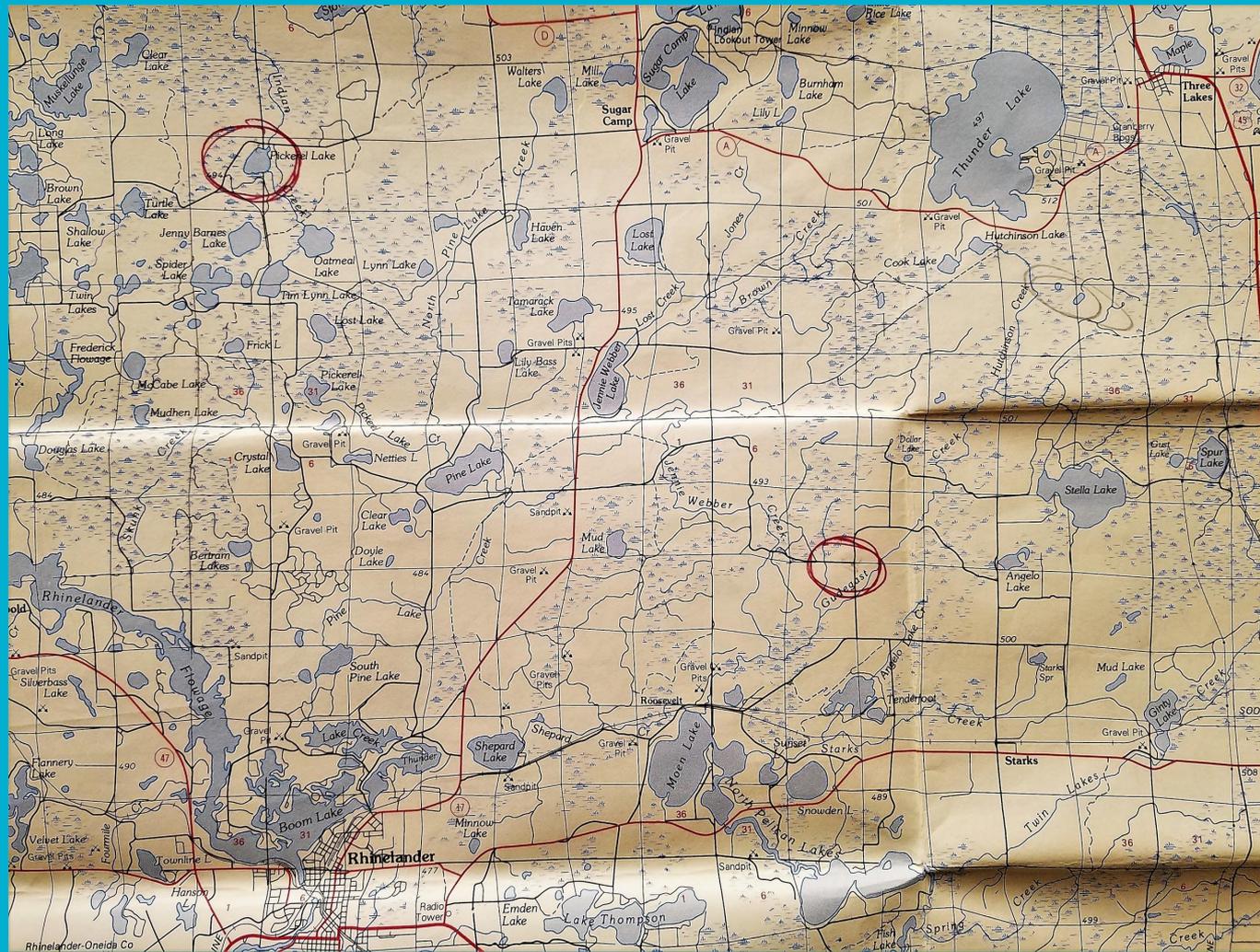
Friend Dean
H____, with Joyce
and Angela, on a
late fall visit to
the 1979 site.



Joyce in trackway area, spring 1980, gathering budding pussywillows for home decoration.



Pat and
Gene
scouting for
sign in the
former's
trusty
Cherokee.
Spring,
1980.



Map of appropriate portion of Oneida Co., Wisconsin. Note the abundant lakes, streams, and muskegs (swamps). “The rivers are their highways.” Access to a food supply, water, and quickly to cover are the three essential requirements. Northern Wisconsin supplies all three, abundantly.



A practical and perfectly executed joke on Gene by long time friend Dennis H___ at the Rhinelander parsonage one Saturday night, awaiting Gene's discovery before church on Sunday morning!

As noted, an expanded account of the information presented in these slides is available from the author upon request. He is also planning to compile all his notes and letters on these and other findings from this locale, accompanied with photos, and publish them in booklet form in the next couple of years. The booklet will not be for sale to the public, but will be available to select interested parties upon request for production cost only, plus shipping. Your comments on this presentation are most welcome.

Left behind by “Old
Six Toes.”

