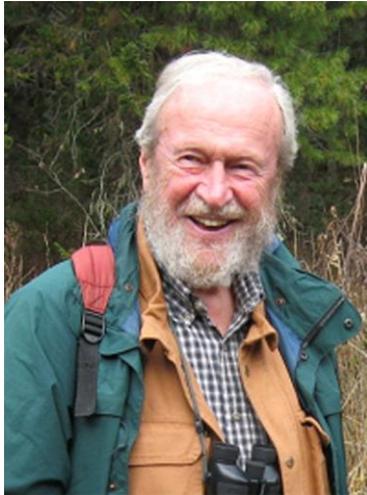


News

IN MEMORIAM: JOHN BINDERNAGEL



On the evening of January 17, 2018, *Relict Hominoid Inquiry* (RHI) editorial board member and contributor Dr. John Albert Bindernagel passed away at his home in Courtenay, British Columbia, Canada, after a two-year-long battle with cancer. He was 76 years old.

Dr. Bindernagel contributed an essay to the RHI entitled, *Misunderstandings arising from treating the sasquatch as a subject of cryptozoology*, coauthored with his colleague Dr. Jeff Meldrum. As usual, his passionate defense of the undisputed existence of *sasquatch* made him a controversial figure amongst orthodox scientists and also those who still consider the hominoid a member of the cryptozoological realm.

Born in Kitchener, Ontario, Dr. Bindernagel graduated from the University of Guelph before completing his PhD at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. While still at university in Guelph, Dr. Bindernagel raised eyebrows by frequently raising the subject of the existence of *sasquatch* as a matter to be discussed within the scientific community. He was regarded as somewhat of a maverick, even a crank, by some of his peers for even bringing up the topic for serious consideration.

This passion for the *sasquatch* ultimately led to him pulling up stakes with his whole family and relocating to the “crucible” of the *sasquatch* legend — British Columbia. From the time of his arrival in 1975, to his eventual recent passing, British Columbia was not only his physical and intellectual home, but he found it a spiritual oasis as well. He never had more clarity and inspiration than when he was out in the bush of Vancouver Island, as well as on the mainland of the province of British Columbia, searching for *sasquatch* as well as known wildlife.

This was a huge life change for a young John Bindernagel, who upon graduation cut his teeth as a biologist in a variety of locations stretching from Uganda to Iran, thence on to Trinidad. In 1988, he felt some validation for his dogged pursuit of *sasquatch* when he and his wife Joan discovered a number of *sasquatch* footprints in the environs of Strathcona Provincial Park. He also firmly believed that vocalizations he experienced at Comox Lake in 1992, were those of an unknown primate residing in North America.

Dr. Bindernagel completed two influential books on his quarry, first with *North America's Great Ape: the Sasquatch*, published in 1998, which placed the *sasquatch* within the context of the anatomy and behavioral ecology of the known great apes. It was followed, in 2010, by *The Discovery of the Sasquatch: Reconciling Culture, History, and Science in the Discovery Process*, in which he explored the reasons for the unwillingness of relevant scientists to consider the evidence indicating the potential discovery of *sasquatch*. He lectured far and wide, and was an immensely popular speaker at a number of *sasquatch*-related conferences because he brought science to bear in the investigation of *sasquatch*. He sought every opportunity to present this

topic before his professional peers in wildlife biology. He also was instrumental in assisting world-renowned chimpanzee expert Jane Goodall in her own consideration of the *sasquatch* question.

Dr. Bindernagel was a soft-spoken, polite and respectful man, who always found time to talk to anyone inquiring into the subject of *sasquatch* that might cross his path. As a decent and extraordinary human being, John Bindernagel had few equals. He was a genuinely nice and likeable person, one who made anyone he encountered feel that they mattered and that they had a voice.

His departure from *sasquatch* research has resulted in a void that will be difficult to fill, such was his influence and dedication.

John Kirk III
Vancouver, British Columbia

