

# CRep214

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Cryptozoology, Bigfoot, Sasquatch, wood structures, Salado Creek, cryptids, paranormal reality, research, myths, DNA studies, land conservation, wildlife biology, data collection, scientific method, community issues., Cryptozoology, true science, field research, data collection, interdisciplinary knowledge, Jeff Meldrum, Ken Gerhard, Bigfoot, morphology, ecology, folklore, social media cryptids, equipment analysis, healthy competition, research collaboration.

## SPEAKERS

Speaker 2, Speaker 4, Speaker 1, Speaker 3

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00:00

I coming to you from the city of the weird



Speaker 1 00:21

exploring topics from the esoteric and unexplored to dimensions unknown, shining a light of truth on the darkest corners of our reality. Welcome to the curious realm.



Speaker 1 00:42

You Well, hello everybody and happy Tuesday night. Hope the curious family is doing well out there. Hope everybody is having a great beginning of 2026



00:59

man, the world has just been crazy, right?

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### Speaker 1 01:03

Quickening as our bell would say, the quickening is upon us.

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### Speaker 2 01:10

Man, I am looking forward to I've got some road gigs coming up, stuff like that. Never fear, though, folks, as always, we will have nothing but new content for you. Never replays. We've never done replay. We've never done a best of episode or anything like that. Always new content for our audience here at curious realm. So while I am gone next week, you will have the pleasure of being joined by Jason quit. We will be talking about the amazing crystal aura light 23 its origins, and dispelling the myths. That's a lot of what this show is is talking to researchers specifically about dispelling myths and understandings about topics. And one of the big ones for me, you may regularly see me with a crystal in my hand? I'm big on crystals. I love them. For those of you out there, sorry, it's one of the only quote woo things about me. But quite literally, there is a huge misunderstanding with so many crystals out there in so many markets, and people sell things all over the internet and ask ungodly gobs of money for things that are simply not real. So we will be talking about real and fake crystals, and specifically auralite 23 we will also be joined by Jason McLean to discuss the world of paranormal reality, the idea of what the realities behind researching paranormal events, behind researching paranormal topics and these communities, peeling back some of the communities and what, what some of the issues facing those communities are. That's also part of our topic tonight, in the second part, after our quick commercial break, everybody, we will be joined by our good friend and also co founder of the symposium of the strange in San Antonio, Ryan Edwards cryptozoologist, we will be talking about some of the issues facing the community of cryptozoology and how we move research forward as a community in these things and part of our dispelling misunderstandings tonight in our first segment. Here's a video that was recently sent to me by my good friend rod Nichols of Bayer County, Bigfoot, also in San Antonio, also one of the co founders of the symposium of the strange and I was like, we've got to come on like you haven't come on in so long. And talked about the research you do into Sasquatch structures that you are finding here in Texas, things like that. This is an amazing video showing some wild craftsmanship. So welcome back to the show. Rod, how are you today? My friend.

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### 04:06

Hey, man, it's good to be on.

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### Speaker 2 04:09

Always great chatting with you. Man, so much so that, like, I looked at the clock and it was like, oh my god, I was supposed to start our timer four and a half minutes ago.

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### Speaker 3 04:17

Let me Hey, where were you guys talking shot, man, shoot the breeze. Two friends. You know, that's it. It's just reconnecting, man, well, and

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### Speaker 2 04:24

I met you many years ago. Now, actually, yeah, I want to say it was Texas. Bigfoot was was where we met, I think so I'm not mistaken. So yeah, and once again, I am fascinated by my brother. Was the one that was like, You need to go over and talk to this dude. He was like, He's gotten some pictures and stuff on his phone that are wild man. And that's when we met, and I got into your research. And I had, I had known a few other, known, of a few other researchers who had put things up, stuff like that. But. This is something that you have you have been into for a long time. How did you come to found Bayer county Bigfoot rod?

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### Speaker 3 05:09

So I really have to give props and and thanks to a friend of mine, Rick Tullis, who kind of helped me along the way. Is and then Christopher, know what? Well, I think of the BFO in Vermont, who kind of helped me, you know, set, set my feet on the ground and and have a decent, somewhat understanding of some of this stuff. Even though we have, don't, we don't know a whole lot about it, but, you know, at least give me some some background, some some some wisdom in what, what this is all about, and, you know, all this stuff. So I started back in 2018 Bexar County, Bigfoot started back then. And it started with me, really and truly, just binge watching Utah, Utah Sasquatch. I've got maybe Utah Bigfoot. It was a, it was a YouTube channel. And watched all of these videos on this guy's channel, and everything that he presented, you know, was, was really intriguing, because I had no recollection of what wood structures were, or any of these things. And he showed footprints and talked about his own experiences with these creatures out there, and but one of the things that he really focused on was wood structures, and some of them were near areas where people, you know, were more people traffic was, and it just really blew me away. So he challenged everybody on the last video and said, Hey, if you think that I'm putting you on you think this is a hoax. You think this is, you know, crazy, or whatever he's like. Here's the criteria, here's the methodology, go out, use it and see if you file one for yourself. So I applied the next day, and the same day I went out to go look for wood structure. I found one, and it blew me away, because I found I utilized the methodology. And I thought, this is somebody's put me on. This is ridiculous. There's no way. And so that started me on that journey, and I've been doing it ever since, since 2018 actually, we're coming up on eight years of bear kind of Bigfoot, I think, or seven years, yeah, I can't, I can't I can't remember, but yeah, I mean, you know, it's so, it's ever So, ever since then, I've been glued to that so called alleged evidence. And come to find out, you know, across the nation, on different states, you can put some of my wood structures that I found up against somebody in California, northern California, or, you know, Arkansas, or Oklahoma, or Maine, or, you know, people find these things all over the place. And my question about this was, you know, why? Why is it? It's all connected. It's all connected by one prominent Creek, Green Belt, called the Salado Creek, which is very historical in San Antonio. And there's wilderness parks that are connected to this prominent Creek, and each one of these parks has these wood structures in them. Now you got to look for them sometimes, or sometimes they'll present

themselves, just like you saw the video you showed, where it's right smack dab in the middle of a playground surrounded by forests, but it is a part of Salado Creek, and so, you know, that got me thinking, you know, why? Why? Why is that there's consistency. There's some of this stuff is almost the same in construction. Some of it's a little different, but it's all connected. And it blows me away that I'm finding this stuff off of that creek. So that's been my main focus. The other Creek, I will say that I do look at as well is another Creek in San Antonio called Leon Creek, which is another big green belt Creek with a water source, just like Salado Creek has as well. And so it has, has other wilderness parks that are connected to it with just as much wood structure. So, you know, either we've got people coming out of the woodwork and build these things and just trying to just freak people out, or it's, it's, it could be cryptids, you know, but, it's, here's the funny part about it. I've listened to so many encounters Class A encounters, where the person that lives in a rural area that's backed up against the national forest or a Wilderness Park, and they say, Man, I saw this weird, cheapy looking thing on my property. I've never seen that before, a little Wigwam thing, and I've never seen that before, my property. Then, oh, man, here's the creature, you know. Why are these things connected? So, you know, I have to wonder if these are, you know, the evidence of such a creature, whether it's a dog man or Sasquatch, or, you know, what? Of you, I don't know, you know, but, but I have to be able to be my own detective. And here's the one thing that I like to tell everybody, is that not everything is Bigfoot activity, like, right? There's not, it's like, there's not, there's not a there's not a devil around every corner, right? There's not a dream around every corner, right? There's, there's explanations for some of this stuff, which I do understand. But when you look at some of the stuff with before you write it off, you have to look at how big the pieces are. Some of them are ripped out. They did not grow there. They were carried and their substantial weight and size. So again, who or what is doing it and what's the purpose? You know, which is another thing that I come to, you know, ponder on myself,

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Speaker 2 10:44

yeah, yeah. And, you know, as I said in our pre conversation, and as I've always said about these structures, number one, yes. And I can hear, I can hear the hands being raised by the audience right now rod. And, you know, like I watch alone, my my wife and I. It's one of the shows that we sit back and watch together. It's great that she loves that stuff. But yes, the idea of modern survivalist YouTube channels, that kind of stuff, people, people doing, you know, back country living and and that kind of book, Bush crafting, it's called, and I will bring up the sad and all too true reality of the staggering percentage of homeless people that are veterans and many of those, you know, special forces, Green Beret, things like that, all kinds of stuff. So when you're talking about this, and once again, if you look at this, look in the background like that is a public park, like it's, it's not like, it's not like this was way out in the back country on somebody's deer Ranch, 12 miles removed from civilization, something like that, right? You know, in Bandera, this is literally in the middle of the city. And once again, like I said in the pre conversation, I am not pre I am not disposed to think a homeless shelter, because there's not a lot of sign of actual living in. There no trash, anything like that. If it was to be, let's say a group of Boy Scouts that were that were earning a wilderness badge, something like that, sure, absolutely. But I would say no to that, mainly due to the fact that it's still there scout leader in the world that would give you the badge if you left a trace, because that's, that's the Boy Scout way is like no trace left behind when you leave the campsite. It's the way you found it when you got to the campsite, you know. So even if you build the shelter, you disassemble the shelter, you know, things like that. So they wouldn't have left the shelter up, they would have put the debris back where it was, things like that. And just so, you know, folks don't go out and start building. This is kind of like stacking rocks all right? Like, believe it or not, you're messing up micro climates of ecology with critters and bugs and all kinds of things moving all that debris. And I'm here to tell you right now, for those of you that are raising your hands and go, What about rod? Rod's got the time. Rod does not have the time like I know. I know rod personally, Rod does not have the time, nor the personal interest in in going out and building these things and taping them and taking pictures of them. But the pictures that I've seen of yours over the years, and the growing number of them, is fascinating. Rod, fascinating.

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### Speaker 3 13:52

It's very odd behavior for a human. Yeah, you have to admit. I get, I get, well, it's in a playground. Rod, so yeah, you know, probably parents helping their kids build this thing. Look at the pieces involved in this. Yeah. I mean, we're talking pieces that are 12 inches in diameter, some of them eight foot, six foot tall. You know, this thing could fall over and it could hurt and, God forbid, permanently disable somebody. You know. So would you feel comfortable with your child playing inside this and the answer to that question, as a parent myself and for you as well is probably, no, I would not, you know. So, so what? So, what is going on and why are they so prevalent and connected to the creek and connected to these wilderness parks where, by the way, the habitat supports big game. There's a water source nearby. The big game I'm talking about is white tail deer, you know, so and then you've got the now, this is where I kind of get into the whole what I think it could be. Oh, you know, I do believe, I do believe that some of this stuff is cryptid in origin. I really do. Sure. I do believe that it is. I'll tell you. I think these creeks are being used as highways. And I think this activity is done at night. It's not done during the day, obviously, because, you know, I think I would have run into one of these things as many years I've been doing it, or, you know, maybe they're that darn good, and which they probably are at hiding. But, you know, why is it all, why is it so prevalent, and why am I finding these and why are some of the stuff, some of these pieces are ripped out of the ground. They didn't grow there. So who's, who's taking the time and the effort to build this for what these things don't keep out the elements. That thing doesn't keep out the rain. It may not keep out very much of the wind, you know. So what's going on? So, you know, understanding that this type of behavior and this activity is connected to two cryptids based off of, like I said, some of the classy encounters that I've heard with these very reputable podcasts that have, that have had people come on there and said, Yeah, saw this weird looking thing that was built like a little teepee, or, you know, what have you, type of wood structure, and it's connected to them having an encounter with the creature. Now, why is that, you know, and so looking at at this thing, and look at the construction of it, look how crude it's built, how crudely it is built. And some of it doesn't even make sense. It really doesn't. Some of this stuff, like this bark that you're showing right now that's been ripped and twisted into some type of rope or something,

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### Speaker 2 16:38

yeah, around. And I could understand lashing. I could understand using cedar as lashing. You know, vine, all kinds of things, cordage, all kinds of things. But once again, the places that it's used are strange. It's not being used all the way around to lash it together, to hold it up. It's just in random little places. It's in small little spots. It makes no sense. Yeah, it makes no sense. Yeah, it's not, it's not there for structural stability. It doesn't seem in that kind of right? And you were just holding a piece of it up there, yes. And now, how far Hold on. I was trying to get it paused. How far away from city? City is this? Is this city park, like square in the middle of town? Is it? Is it on the outskirts of town? Is it surrounded by concrete?

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### Speaker 3 17:41

Yeah, so this area is going towards the outskirts of town into another county, which is Bulverde County, okay, and so. And again, it is. So this, this land that was here. Now I grew I grew up in this area. I grew up here. So I remember this, these pieces of the land, because back in the day, when I was in high school, we used to go out in these new pieces of land and woods and and, you know, drink beer and start fires, you know, yeah, and so, like you did, you know, a kid in the 90s, you know. So this was all ranch land. This was all ranch land. And now, obviously been developed now this is, this is this area has a very well known land bridge named after Phil harburger, who is our former mayor. He donated a lot of money to these, to these parks, and they built the land bridge that connects to this park. And another one that's that that land bridge goes over at Parkway, and it's very neat, very nice and developed and stuff like that. So you know this, but this area, in fact, one of the ranch houses is still on the property, on, on the off of the creek, on in the park. It's being, it's lived in by by people there, I guess people owned a little part of the property or something. But yes, so this is all Ranch, ranch land. So and again, it is all all connected to the Salado Creek. Now, from that, from that point of where, that that playground is, that I can go about North, about, I would say, not even a quarter of a mile Northeast, and within like a minute or two, or a few minutes, I'll be there at the Salado Creek, where it is big and wide, and there's Lots of wildlife in there. Wow. White tailed deer is the main thing. Yeah, you know that we've got so we, obviously, we don't. We don't have bears here, or any of that, any of that stuff. So, you know, again, this is very, I would say, before you write any of this stuff off, look at the pieces involved and tell me that this is not odd behavior for. Human to do. And why would a human do this? You know, I used to get, I used to get the whole, well, it's kids, you know, the kids that are out there, teenagers. I said, No, I'm a father of teenagers. These kids don't get off their phone. They're not going to get out in the wilderness and build this stuff. Yeah, it doesn't happen anymore. You know. Now, if you ever have this conversation the 80s, maybe be a little different.

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## Speaker 2 20:21

And once again, there are still Eagle Scout kids out there. There are still all kinds of kids out there doing camping, that kind of stuff. Most of them, though, are more of the Leave No Trace behind. They aren't gonna, they are gonna build something and then leave it there, much less in a much less take the time to do it in a public park, right and now, now granted, when it comes to the bears, things like that there, there have been numerous black bear sightings, actually, outside of the San Antonio area. It's been wild over the last couple years, the number that have grown Texas Parks and Wildlife has charted numerous even, even in East Texas, they are back on the rise. So fascinating. But once again, it's not like bears build shelters. And I don't think, and I'm one. I talk about this with our mutual friend Ryan all the time. I see, I see Sasquatch much more the way that I see early man, where, yes, there may have been some light hunting involved, but early man until, until we got to the point that we were making fire regularly and things like that, we didn't really go after big game. We went after things like rabbits that you could chase down or throw a rock or a stick at, squirrels, birds, fish, that kind of stuff. So I would see a Sasquatch eating the same kind of thing. So as long as you have open water with fish in it, that kind of stuff, plenty, plenty for a black bear. If a black bear can be supported, then I think a Sasquatch can be supported. But I think a Sasquatch is smart enough to not really go after a deer in that kind of way. A, it doesn't need that kind of meat. B, it, it, that is a point of injury that, like, it's kind of like thinking that, like, you know, king, King Kong and T Rex are going after it on on the island, on Skull Island, you know, like it was back in the 1920s movie where it's like, it's like, I don't know if that's the case. And I think it's the same way with Sasquatch, where, much like any wild animal, they're going to go after something that may lead to injury, if it's that kind of survival risk, you know. But there is plenty back in that area, once again, to and here it is out of the San Antonio Express about black bears being cited in the area. So once again, if there is enough to support a black bear, then I would posit that there is enough to support Sasquatch. That's where I lie with it. Sure. Once again, black bear are not building these structures. You have been all you have been looking into these structures, at least since I've known you, which, yes, is easily 2020, something like that. It's been a while, and in that amount of time, it's interesting, because this, as far as I know anyway, is the first one that you have found that is really



23:40

within that kind of proximity.

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## Speaker 2 23:45

Some of your stuff is, like, maybe a mile or two outside of things, stuff like that, and washes gullies, that kind of stuff. But, but not necessarily, like, hey, here it is in the public park,

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### Speaker 3 24:01

right, right, which, which is very, again, very odd, very, very odd. And I, you know, it's just, it's one of those things where, here's what I don't do. I don't ever put my videos out when I narrate them and tell people, you know, well, a Bigfoot built this. I don't know that. I don't know that. And, you know, I and, by the way, nobody else does. I'm not claiming that, you know this is, this is exactly what Sasquatch did, and that, you know, that's gospel. I don't know what I'm saying is that it is been known to be connected to cryptids. Yep, ie Sasquatch, or maybe dog man, I don't know, and it lines up with some of the evidence that people have presented, you know, the some of the encounters that people have presented. It all it, this stuff lines up with it. So, you know, my thing. Is, you know, I tell people, you don't think that these creatures, given the right lay of the land, given the right situation, would come in to suburban areas if it, if it, if it benefited them, it could happen. It could happen. It has happened. I rod.

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### Speaker 2 25:19

I say it regularly on this show, if you, if you want to start, if you don't want to start seeing things like, you know, hey, bears, Rovio, the next thing you're going to see is a Sasquatch roaming through the trash at your local apartment complex, no different than bears or coyotes or something like that, because we have encroached upon them. So you want to get into this. You you want to investigate cryptozoology. If this is something that you, a, believe in, B, truly believe in, get into land conservation. Get into land conservation now, because it's their habitat, and you think there's a problem if there's a bear there in the morning, inside, inside of your apartment complex, you know, wait, wait, wait till it's Bigfoot building structures next to your kids jungle gym, right?

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### Speaker 3 26:12

That's something that, yeah, that I think about as well. I will, I will tell you this, there is a part one of the most northern parts of the Salado Creek butts up against a military base, and the name eludes me. It is, oh, gosh, I forgot the name of the military base, but that military base has an expansion of thick forest, hills, beautiful and I know they do the war games there, but it butts up right up against that military base, where it is desolate, right? The other part of that is at the one of the most northern parts. Again, we're looking at the Edwards underground aquifer recharge zone. So again, we're talking about, you know, another area, and I'm not saying that that's what they do. They go underground. But again, this is something that I've read about, and I've heard people talk about some of these creatures coming out of caves, things of that nature. But also too, if you look at the the amount of cave systems underneath San Antonio, I think it looks like it's what, in the six hundreds, maybe five or 600 underground caverns and caves, yeah, in San Antonio. So you've got, you've got a lot of possibilities here that just kind of tell you, there could be something down there. It could be something in this forested area, in this military base. We don't know, you know, but, but I find it very interesting. And I also find it very interesting that some of this stuff actually lines up with some of the people that have encountered these creatures that live around in suburban areas that live off of creeks and rivers and green belts. So it seems to me, like it's become like a highway of some sort, you know, and, you know, so, yeah, and that's, and that's what I've been stuck to, is been that wood structure thing. And for me, if I look at a piece of land, a forested area, it has to make sense. I can't sit there and go, Oh, little forest there. It's got to be Bigfoot, you know, evidence, I don't know that. What? What does the topography Tell me? Is there a way in and way out of that, in the form of a creek or a green belt or a river, that there has to be some type of highway or some type of passage within, within that area, you know. So it just makes sense to me, and that that wood structure there is adjacent, probably about 50 feet from that, that wood structure smack down in the middle of the of the playground. Interesting you've got, it's right next door to it within the wood line



29:01

that is wild.

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### Speaker 2 29:03

And, and, oh, sorry, that's from another guest you know, looking at those kind of things, especially the idea of and I'll bring up some other pictures from you here rod that you had given to us previously. Here's, here's some more of the pictures that you sent us for this episode.



29:24

Let me, let me get those up here.

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### Speaker 2 29:28

And you have found everything from large structures like this one that that you sent the pictures of two small, lean to type structures, all kinds of things. And once again, some of these you would have need. You would have needed a couple people to move some of these pieces. Oh yeah, because they are, they are big. They are absolutely large pieces. And there are some of them, and some of especially the pictures. That you'd sent me for previous episodes that yes, like, show tree roots, stuff like that. Like, full on stumps, all kinds of things. So it's the root system is truly background, yeah, yeah, yeah. And once again, these are, these are large pieces that would need multiple people to move them.

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### Speaker 3 30:22

So absolutely would, and I've documented structures as tall as I had a six foot man stand up in one of these things. So they can get really tall, and they can get kind of, you know, small as well. But the, I guess the, I want to say the MO is kind of the same. You know, it's there you the bigger pieces used as a brace, like a tree, and they're leaned over or, you know, you rarely find some that are actually standing on their own, other than maybe a tipi or two that I've seen that have had big pieces leaned up against each other to make that tippy. But, yeah, so very, but very odd behavior. And the last time, I think that after I had been on your show, the last time, which is a while back, I have had the pleasure of a chemist, he has a PhD in chemistry and DNA studies out of Harvard University. And he got a hold of me, and he I took him out with me, and I showed him a couple of these structures. And he was kind of, like, dumbfounded. He was like, this is tremendous. Like, I've never seen anything like this. Like, you know, it was very odd behavior. He said, I've also taken a wildlife biologist out with me from north, north Texas University who, again, had really no answer for me as to, you know, what this could be. Or, you know, he was these. Both these guys are believers, you know. So sure they feel like it's something that's, you know, could be close or connected to cryptid activity, but they nevertheless, they were, I mean, if you were there, you would see the look on their faces. It's, it's astounding when you see it, you know. So, yeah, when you see them. And so I've, I've got two scientists that that I've kind of stumped and, and why is that? You know, you know, I just

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### Speaker 2 32:30

Well, that was going to be one of my questions was, Do you regularly, aside from photographs, and I know I've asked you this before, and I'm once again, more than happy to will help you build a private page to do so. But a are you? Are you gathering geolocation of all of these structures that you are finding, like a GPS pin whenever you find try and basically, yeah, be able to try to find a path or something like that.

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Speaker 3 33:06

So, yeah, pinning them is on my on my that's what I do, is pin them, okay, on my map, which is what you know, typically, yeah,

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Speaker 2 33:13

and, I mean, you can pull an actual again, yes, coordinates from a pin. So, yeah, but, but that's what I was going to ask. What other, what other data are you gathering? You know, like directional facing? Are you? Are you gathering bits of the wood that have been handled, like, specifically, the stuff that's twisted, things like that, to try and gather DNA off of it, that kind of thing. Because I like, hey, if, especially if you're eating around like you may get saliva, you might get all kinds of usable DNA off things that have been handled in that kind of way. So are you doing that?

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Speaker 3 33:55

Absolutely? Yeah, I have had the one gentleman with with me, who has, who's doing DNA studies, he's taken us some samples, and we were supposed to to kind of convene at the symposium, which we have to postpone. Yeah, I don't know what the what the outcome of that is, so okay, but

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Speaker 2 34:22

testing, so you have material that has gone out for testing. Yes, as far as I know, yes. That's epic.

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That's great. Yes,

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34:32

yes. And all I

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### Speaker 3 34:35

gotta say is some of the stuff that well, some of the things I showed him, he felt like one area. It was really interesting. He felt like one area was like a burial ground. Oh, this was like, Man, this, this feels like the stuff that's buried, you know, so again, it's just Oh. And then I also directed him to an area where this. Lotto. Creek has a, oh gosh, it has fresh string water coming out of it. Beautiful, clear, cold water. It's amazing. That's the structure there you can stand up in. Yeah, right there,

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### Speaker 2 35:12

yeah, that's what I'm saying. When you look at some of these, like these are massive

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### Speaker 3 35:19

pieces, look at that. Why would a person try to build that? No, it just doesn't make any sense. Yeah. I mean, look at that. Yeah.

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### Speaker 2 35:32

So that is beautiful. Once again, it's not then, and this is just me, even, even if it was kids using it to hang out, drink beer, whatever, like, you'd find cigarette butts. You'd find something. There would be some kind of trash. Their kids are not that clean. I'm sorry. I'm sorry. They are like and once again, if it's Boy Scouts or somebody who's into camping or outdoors and that kind of stuff, it would typically be dismantled. That would, that would just be a pile of rubbish by the time that they are gone to provide shelter for animals and to put it back into nature in the way that they made it, you know? So that that's just my argument, folks, and

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### 36:17

that that's just where my logic

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### 36:19

goes that particular one right there. Chris, yeah,

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### Speaker 3 36:24

that one you're showing right now. Okay, so that was right off of the creek going, going northbound, and Leon Creek right there. And then about, and I don't have, gosh, I wish I should have given you the picture. But right about three feet from the opening, three, maybe 334, feet from the opening was a yearling, a little yearling whitetail broken in half and just torn to shreds, like something just had a nice little snack. Wow, front of that, yeah, wow. That was,

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### Speaker 2 36:58

that is, that is wild man. And how often are you out in the field looking for this, and out of, out of, let's just say, out of every 10 trips rod, what are, what are your odds? What are your odds of finding something? How frequently do you find something?

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### Speaker 3 37:16

I find something, I would say, now I'm reduced down to trying to go at least, like, maybe four times a week, three, four times a week, not as much as I used to. You know, the responsibility, the responsibilities of life, kind of, yeah, yeah. Get that you but, but now, the one thing I try to do now, because here's what here's what I do currently, I try to maintain the spots that I know, because these spots, they evolve into different sometimes it'll be knocked down, and then it'll be built back up, and it'll be something different. And then, you know, so some of these spots, they just kind of evolve. I've documented them for years, and they're just different styles, different so I maintain those. I try to keep tabs on currently, what's going on with those. And then what I'll do is I'll try to map out maybe a new park, whether if it's small or big. If I could find a new park that's connected to the Salado Creek again, I'll go and I'll check that out. And it's, it's, I would say, gosh. I mean, I'll be honest, being about 60, 65% of time, you know, when I map out something, I'll find something, not always, but I think a large percentage, the majority of the time, I definitely do find you know something, because now I've got, I've got a kind of a methodology myself, right? So sure again, the first thing I'll do is, I'll go look at the creek. Look at the part that's connected to it. Where's the water source. Okay, like, Okay, so let's, let's look at the lay of the land. Is it a huge place where people go? Is it not is it, you know, and some of these places are, obviously, they're kind of sketchy, so you just got to be, got to be careful. A lot of homeless people that may not want you around there poking around.

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### Speaker 2 39:18

So, yeah, well, and that's I was just about to say, as our good friend Chester Moore says, you know, the the most dangerous thing in the woods is not the animals, it's it's other human beings. It's other people. It is.

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### Speaker 3 39:31

So have to be, have to be careful, yeah, but, but most of the time, I'll, you know, kind of crack down where to look and where I believe there might be some activity and, you know, go at it. And then sometimes it's totally opposite of what I thought it would, where it would be, you know, so that those are, those are things have to be prepared for. But yeah, nevertheless, I have, I have a guideline at least, of what, what I'm doing,

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### Speaker 2 39:58

yeah, yeah. And. Don't want you to give away too much, but for those for those that are wanting to go out and do that kind of stuff, what would you what would you recommend that they look for is, are there particular areas to look for this kind of stuff, particular geographic zones that kind of stuff. What kind of thing, without giving away too much? What kind of things have you found that tend to trend toward greater success in finding this kind of structure?

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### Speaker 3 40:36

Interestingly enough so that that particular structure you showed a while back is like smack dab in the middle of the playground, right? So what you don't see is that it's surrounded by thick woods. It's just nestled right in a thick area. And most of the time, what I found is that if I go look for the playground, which is very weird, look for the playground in this park, and if it's nestled in a very thick wooded area, most of the time, you're going to find one of these wood structures adjacent, whether this north, south, east, west of these, of these playgrounds in in the In the thicker areas where people don't go. And so that's one thing that I look for. The other thing is really and truly. Again, there's the habitat support big game. Is it a creek, a river, or anything that gives you safe passage in and out of the area? And that those are the main things I have to look for. And what is connected to it? Are these wilderness parks connected to it? And if the answer is yes, they're connected to this creek, then we could have something. But when I grow up to these parks, you have to look at, I start at around the playground first, and then I make my way, you know, maybe go north of where, of where the playground is up in that area, or, you know, hey, if it's trending where, sometimes you can, you can kind of line them up where it's like, there's one that's north, right outside of the playground, and then you go a little bit further north, oh, it's like a line, almost like a it's almost like a pattern sometimes, which is kind of Weird. It happens like that. But here's the thing, it's, it's, it can and it can't, you know. So, okay, it's kind of hit or miss. But the main thing is this, does the property have safe passage in and out in the form of greenways or rivers? Is there anything connected to as far as wilderness parks are concerned? Does the habitat support big game. And is there some type of water source close by? Well, I would say, within three miles, four miles, okay, and that would, that would be what I would look okay.

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### Speaker 2 42:50

And then I was going to ask, is it the case that you normally find more than one structure in the area? Like you said, this, structure next to the park had the other one near it. Is it something that you find these within proximity of each other, that if you find one that you could start spiraling out and within a mile you'll find another one, or, you know, like, have, have you metric, anything like that. Yeah.

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### Speaker 3 43:21

So now I will, I haven't given any as far as, like, how many feet, or, you know, yards, or whatever, sure, as far as the metrics concerned, but, but, but to your point, what you brought up, you know, there's one in proximity of that, that is something that I find a lot as well. Like, I would say, I would say about 65% or 75% of the time, you'll find something close by to it, you know, from one structure to another type of thing, you know. And you'll find that they're, you know, like this one mere yards away from the other one. You just got to be, here's, here's the other thing. You got to be really careful. You're not videoing anybody you know without their consent, things like that nature. You don't want to push you're dealing with the public, so you have to be very careful. I tell everybody, don't just roll out to the to the wilderness parks and just start videoing the playground. That's not a good thing to do. No, very careful. All of these, all of these videos, and some of the stuff I find in these playgrounds, they're, they're like, bright as, like Dawn, you know, rise apart, opens and nobody's there, you know what I mean? Or it's dust, yeah, or it's, it's, it's been raining and there's nobody there. I really, I really can't stress enough, you know, not to go out and start videoing in these areas when there's traffic. This is not a good thing. So those are things I do not do at all.

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### Speaker 2 44:56

Yeah, yeah. And that's just it. I think that that is. One of the hugest conversations that I love having on this show, whether it's UFO UAP like Good God, man, the number of times I've said on this show, please stop shining laser beams at things that you don't know what they are, you could literally be blinding a pilot like you are risking people's lives to do. So same thing with this, the idea that like, like this is an open carry state man, like concealed carry, so you don't know who's doing what. You don't know who's got what don't go around just videotaping people, especially in parks where they're working out, you know, or where children are playing that kind of stuff. Like, you can land in some hot business real quick, even though you were doing something extraordinarily innocent. But once again, looking at this like, this is some some big pieces right over here. Now, granted, look at that, yeah, yeah. And there's the playground right over there to the right, like you can see the court.

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### Speaker 3 46:04

You can see it, yeah. So now I will, I will say somebody brought up something when I put out this video, and they're like, Oh, where did Bigfoot Get it? Get his saw? And I'm like, okay, the piece is cut. Big deal. I don't think if this is encrypted in origin, that they would sit there and go, Oh, man, I can't use that piece. It's been cut. Yeah, yeah, they'll never know. I mean,

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### Speaker 2 46:29

that stuff that they left here is something for a mom to sit on for a little while, or something like that. Yeah, yeah. I don't beyond using it.

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### Speaker 3 46:38

I love it when people speak on behalf of something they don't know nothing about, or we don't really know that much about, you know, just because, because I don't claim to know everything at all. No, I'm, no, I'm a, I'm a student, you know,

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### Speaker 2 46:53

and that's just it. You know, nobody here. And that's something that we say on the show regularly, something that we talk about at the symposium regularly. There, ain't no Bigfoot expert. You gotta, you gotta Bigfoot before you have a Bigfoot expert. Folks, they're experts in primatology. They're experts in, you know, fingerprints. They're experts in all kinds of parts of cryptozoology that look into Bigfoot, even wildlife experts like our mutual friend, Chester Moore, that kind of stuff, who can track animals, all kinds of things, however, yeah, no Bigfoot expert. Sorry, you may be an expert on the lore, the history, all kinds of things, the mystery, even. But Right, yeah, to say that you're an expert in these structures would be a huge misstep, because you're still trying to figure them out as well. Like we're saying, there are just a few things that don't seem to add up. Because once again, I'm not going to put it past the fact of maybe it's somebody who was, you know, camping, whatever that builds these things. However, most people like that are tearing it down before they leave. They aren't leaving it up.

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### 48:10

Right. Same, same thing with, with,

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## Speaker 2 48:15

you know, anybody that was a vet, that kind of stuff, if you were, if you were vet enough to have been in the branches of military and parts of military where you were taught this kind of survival CERT training, that kind of stuff is where you learn this, like, here's how you build a survival they don't teach that to every grunt, yeah, in in the Marines, they don't teach that to every boot camp recruit in the army or the Air Force, it's not what they do that is that is specific training that goes to specific people in specific fields. So even even those people like it's part of your training to tear it down so that you aren't tracked. You know, things like that, like you leave no trace behind, for good reasons. So that kind of training stays with you. It's not something that goes away necessarily. You don't see a whole lot of refuse, as far as people hanging out, encamped there, or, you know, just hanging out, drinking beer, smoking cigarettes. You know, there's no Joanie Loves Chachi carved into the tree. Sorry, I just aged myself horribly

o

49:30

with one of the most horrible references ever.

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## Speaker 2 49:35

But you know, things like that that would normally be like the the Junior High High School hangout just off the woods. The cops can't see you, but close enough where you could hear mom, that kind of stuff, that that isn't present in these things.

o

49:55

So not at all.

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## Speaker 2 49:57

We've got about 10 minutes left and. Even, even the fact of, hey, we had some massive floods this last year. Floods move a lot of things like they will, they will move trailer parks down the road, all kinds of things. So to think that something like this, especially, let me, let me bring back this frame of this, because it's a good example of how somebody might think that, like, oh, well, you know, maybe flood waters did this. Maybe flood waters brought it up. Everything else, you would see a lot more backwash. You would see a lot more stuff, like displaced bark from the playground over there, a whole lot more driftwood type stuff. Everything else, not that, not that. Moving flood waters couldn't lift and move every single one of these branches, it absolutely could. You wouldn't see the leaves on the ground that you see or the grass that you see, you would see tons of drift

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### Speaker 3 50:57

along with that absolutely you would. So I think it's, you know, it's pretty apparent, you know, when it's flood, obviously, but to break it down the way you did, that makes, that makes all the sense in the world. I mean that that I, I like, I like, the way you put that so well.

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### Speaker 2 51:16

Once again, our efforts here on this show are never to debunk they are to have an open mind my job, as I say regularly, I am a skeptic. I wear my s like Superman. I am ready to pull it out and use it, because my job as a skeptic is to be waiting for the evidence or data set. Rather, that changes my mind, you know, and to maintain an open heart and an open mind with those things rod, because if you have a closed mind, then you aren't looking for more data. And that's not scientific whatsoever. So yeah, to dismiss all of these things offhand, I think, is very short handed, very short sighted, when it comes to that kind of stuff.

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### Speaker 3 52:04

So I think chances are, you've, you've probably been in one of these parks and passed right by this stuff and never given a second gap. And, you know, I I just, I just don't think that this is human activity. Tell me how any of this makes sense. You know what I mean, like it doesn't. And in even, from you talking about a military perspective, a boy scout perspective, yeah, you know, they they pick up and they pick they clean it up and, you know, like nobody was there. That's the whole purpose, right? So this stuff is being left right there, and these pieces are huge. I have seen the park workers come in,

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### Speaker 2 52:52

work crew, work crew, even, you know, because of the fact that some of them are cut, maybe they're chopping it down for timber, taking it out, clearing it out. So it's not a fire hazard. That is not how it would be stacked to cut it wouldn't be organized in this kind of way, right? And it makes no I guess maybe it makes sense to do it if you're trying to milk the city clock, you know? So your word takes longer out in the Texas.

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### Speaker 3 53:20

But I have, I have talked to a park worker a few years ago. There was one area close to the close to the playground. There was a thick area that I'd been documenting this wood structure for a while, and they finally, I guess they finally saw it, and they put caution tape around it, and they put orange cones around it, you know, meaning, hey, don't get into this. It could hurt you type of thing, right? Danger, yeah. And I caught up with one of the guys. I was standing there, kind of looking at it, and I played dumb, and I said, Hey, man, that's like, What the heck is that thing? He's like, I don't know. I was like, What do you think this is? Like, who? Who does this stuff? That's weird. He's like, it's kids. I'm like, Really, kids? You think it's kids? Yeah, it's kids. I said, so you've seen them build this stuff, right? He's like, No, but it's kids, you know? And so it's just written off, kind of like that in and to me, it's not kids. It is not kids. I just don't think that

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### Speaker 2 54:21

in this right here is the stump I was talking about. If you watch here, folks, I will pause it on screen as it comes up right here to the right. Look at the size of that thing. Look at the size of that yes, massive. That is a massive stump. Look at that right and that is not the ground that's cut flat on the bottom. That stump right there in the ground, you can see the root going into the right? It's interesting because, yeah, all these are based around a tree that is rooted in the ground, right? That's typical, but this stump right here, that's huge. That is multiple, hundreds of pounds. I. Um, so you'd have to have a couple of barely kids, at least two or three barely football size linebacker kids to pick that thing up from dead weight and move it and set it up, you know, if it wasn't just sitting there already.



55:18

So, yeah, but

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### Speaker 2 55:21

once again, anything building the shelter would be paid.



55:24

What I'm forgetting is the Go ahead, sorry.



55:35

Oh no, there he is.

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Speaker 3 55:36

And also, too, I think the percentage of people that that know about this is very, very small, you know, yeah, yeah.

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Speaker 2 55:50

And, you know, that's just it, Rod, you know, one of, one of the things, you know what I mean. So, yeah, yeah, yeah. And that, that's where we come to the conversation of data and finding other people, finding people to share data with, finding people, because it's like, I say, all the time, if you've had an experience, if you have been walking around and you saw something like this while you were walking down the city trail, stuff like that, and you had a Question, and you started thinking about it like science began. You are now a citizen scientist. Like the scientific method started in your head. It began, right? So, so the idea of science doesn't happen in a vacuum, the idea that if you're out there every weekend, if you have trail cameras on your deer lease. Contact people like rod has who it doesn't matter if they're believers or not, but contact your local wildlife department. Contact your local University biology department that may be doing bear counts, things like that, places like Texas A and M, that kind of stuff, because the little trickles of data that you can give them for white tail deer counts for Blue Jay migration counts whatever, because they don't have the money or the funding to put a camera out on private property or go out and get the footage from it, but if you can give it To them, then you're starting to shake that hand in that kind of way. You're starting to provide them regular field data. And it's not strange when you bring them something different from your field camera. It's not strange when you bring them pictures and something like this, and you're like, what's up with that? You know? Because now you've built that kind of bridge. So I'm glad to see that you have, because it's, it's tough for a lot of people a to trust academia to begin with, with this kind of research rod, and that's, that's part of the conversation that we get into with Ryan in the next segment, is, is the idea of, how do we build these bridges of research. How do we get mainstream science to begin looking this way at stuff? And the only way to do it is with real data. You know, having having things to be tested for DNA, that kind of stuff. So good on you for collecting these things, good on you for keeping this stuff before we let you go rod where can people go to follow you? Where can they go to follow Beyer County, Bigfoot, where can they go to keep up with everything that is Bayer County?

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### Speaker 3 58:31

Bigfoot, yeah, so the main platform I operate, where I have the most traffic is going to be Instagram, and it's Bexar County, Bigfoot, B, E X, A R County, Bigfoot on Instagram, and as far as the YouTube channel is concerned, it's the same thing, Bexar County, Bigfoot, tick, tock, the same I do have, I do operate on all through those platforms, Facebook, I do operate on, but It's a very private group. You can ask to be a member, and then I'm just going to kind of look at your profile and make sure that you're not, you know, some kind of troll. Yeah, yeah, you know type of thing. So I like to keep that group a little private and small, but if you're something that's really interested in, you know, wanting to discuss the subject and exchange ideas respectfully. Yeah, absolutely, we want to talk to you, so you'd have to ask to be a member there and answer a couple of questions, but yeah, all through all the platforms. Bear candy, Bigfoot, look me up. Absolutely.

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### Speaker 2 59:37

Rod, thanks so much for your time tonight. Thank you always for your friendship, for everything that you're doing, for the communities out there. It's always great to be involved with you and to see you everywhere, my friend, you take care and happy new year to you and your family, my slob brother, thank you. All right, take care, my friend. While you were online, everybody, it's always amazing. Once again, you have to keep an open mind about. These things do I think that the greater majority of these, yes, yes, I am one that much like I think, with UFOs, UAPs, paranormal, parapsychological things like that, that the greater majority of these phenomena are things that we can explain. I think that the greater majority of phenomena in the sky are our technology or technology of contractors thereof, you know, but there is a range of anomaly of five percentile to three percentile that is unexplainable, that falls within the realms of books like this, the desk reference of scientific phenomena and strange phenomena, you know. And some of these structures I believe fall in the same realm. I don't think all of them do, but I think some of them do, because once again, they go beyond what you would typically expect somebody that does such things to do and you know that opens up a conversation. And when we come back from this quick break, we will be opening up a conversation with our good friend, Ryan Edwards cryptozoologists, about some of the issues with the future of cryptozoology. What, what's happening in the communities? What, what cryptozoology and science can do to begin building those bridges? What cryptozoologists can do to begin building bridges with science, things like that. We will get into that and so much more with our good friend, Ryan Edwards, author of cryptids of the world and other books, right after this,

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### Speaker 1 1:01:56

the key to good science is good research. At the heart of good research is a good data set with the field observation and encounter log from curious research, you can easily keep track of your investigative information all in one place, making it easier to review cases and readily see comparisons and contrasts between them, whether out in the woods, squatching in a back room gathering EVPs or using high tech gear to track UFO, UAP activity this easy to carry, pocket sized scientific data log is the perfect companion for any field researcher. You can find your copy of the curious research field observation and encounter log@amazon.com or visit the official curious realm store at curious realm.com forward slash store to reserve your copy for yourself, your family or a mind that you want to open that website again is curious realm.com forward slash store, you you.

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### Speaker 2 1:03:17

Well, hello everybody, and welcome back from that quick break. And thank you so much for sticking around also. Thank you so much to our sponsors, especially true him science, if you are a user of CBD products like I am, stop on by and visit truehimscience.com today, they have some amazing CBD products. Christopher Lynch and true him science, use a spigeric process by which every part of the hemp plant is used, seeds, stems, roots, buds, leaves, every part is used, reused and combusted and reused until nothing remains, providing an amazing spideric product, complete with terpene profiles and all Stop on by check them out today. True hemp science.com. Is the website that you want to go to. Folks curious. Seven is the code that you want to use to save 7% off your entire cart at \$50 or more and get two count them, two edibles on the way out the door. I have been using Christopher's product. I found him at a farmer's market here in Austin, many years ago, and shortly after finding him, I was prescribed CBD by my doctor. My doctor was like, I think you should try CBD, especially for your travel anxiety, things like that. So I sought him out, I found him, and I have been using his products ever since. Stop on by check them out, folks, once again, that is true. Him. Science.com curious, seven is the code that you want to use to save 7% of your entire cart of \$50 or more. Our guest in this segment the amazing Ryan Edwards. He is the author of cryptid. Of the world, as well as other books on the world of cryptozoology. It has been great to see you come come to the point of writing all of these. Ryan, it has been fantastic. How have you been doing? My friend,

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### Speaker 4 1:05:14

been doing good. Just staying busy, you know, just staying in it, working things like that.

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Speaker 2 1:05:21

Research, absolutely, absolutely. And you know, it's it's interesting, because one of the big missions of this show is demystification of topics. I'll never say, like full on debunking or anything like that. We are here for conversation and for exploring all kinds of topics and the fabric that makes them up. But one of the big things that I pride myself on Ryan is trying to make topics accessible to people who may not be involved or entrenched in those communities. Some of these things can seem very, very nebulous. One of those is cryptozoology, you know, and, and it's, it's funny to me, because I think of so many of them, cryptozoology is oddly

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looked at as, as very,

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I guess not science horribly.

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Speaker 2 1:06:23

You know when, when actually it is. It is literally the root of biology and science in and of itself. So let's kind of start cracking this nut and getting into the misconceptions of cryptozoology and where these lead people to misunderstanding the field,

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#### Speaker 4 1:06:46

of course, well, that's something, especially in my research I always come to is cryptozoology. Think about it. When you go look for cryptid books at a library, where do you find them next year? Right next to UFO. You? UFO ghost? Yeah, conspiracy theories and I'm Paul. Means, okay with that. I get it. You kind of fit all together. But one thing that I kind of have an issue with is, to an extent, because people like to call me everything that's unknown, like, oh, UFOs, ghosts and cryptozoology, it was like a big three, I say, in, like the paranormal field. But if you break down the word cryptozoology, just the Greek ideas. Crypto means hidden, of course, zoology research of animals. So literally, it means the study of hidden animals. It doesn't really talk about anything that's a paranormal in reality, it's something that's truly based in science. If you look at really the grandfathers of cryptozoology with Ivy T Sanderson, even lower Coleman, these men were originally researchers in biological fields psychology and explores and then they discover cryptozoology, and they really established a field in it. So a lot of people, they see cryptozoology as a study of monsters or a study of things that go bump in a night. Well, like with my research, and something we both do, Chris is we try to break that away and bring in the science of it. Because ology is in the name cryptozoology. It is a science, it is a study. And too many people put the word pseudo in photo science, especially when it comes to this, this field.

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#### Speaker 2 1:08:39

I was literally about to bring up the fact that Wikipedia, the go to for most people under the age of 40, let's just say for information, lists it as a pseudoscience and subculture, and it's one of those, and that's part of the problem that I have, and I think part of the misconception that a lot of people have, Ryan, you know, and a lot of the issue that a lot of people have, I guess, with onboarding to the topic, you know, and that's something that I've been talking a lot about lately in communities, especially since the new disclosure movie, Age of disclosure came out, a lot of people within the community of UFO UAP study were very upset, like, this is absolutely nothing new. And it's like, it's not supposed to be anything new for you. Yeah, it's supposed to introduce people like my dad, who who vote in every election and all that kind of stuff, but have no interest in the topic, and it's supposed to introduce them to senators and people like that who are interested in the topic, and make them understand that. Look, these people of credo are interested in the topic. You should be interested to taxpayer, you know, yeah. And. And that's just it. When it comes to science, that kind of stuff, like we say all the time, it doesn't want to say Kleenex. It wants to say facial tissue. And all of these things have been shoved into the paranormal Kleenex box for more than 3040, years, like entire lifetimes, cryptozoology, paranormal. And by that I mean parapsychological events as well ESP telekinesis, as well as conscious ghosts, that kind of stuff, and UFOs, UAPs, all of these things have been shoved into the paranormal Kleenex box.

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#### Speaker 4 1:10:40

I Yeah? And like, when me, like, science is about compartmentalization, it's about breaking stuff down. And, like, either within cryptozoology, like, if you ask any layman off the street, someone is at HEB or Walmart, Who ever heard of Zoology? Probably say no, have you heard of Bigfoot? Yeah, I've heard a Bigfoot. It's about, it's a guy that walked with a bunch of wooden feet up in Northern California, like with me. It's about bringing those delayment, bringing the people that don't know the nomenclature, that don't know what really cryptozoology is all about, because it's so many misconceptions due to it, like, look at popular culture when it comes to like, things like Bigfoot Loch Ness Monster and things like that. People might know those names, but they don't know maybe famous sightings. Maybe they've seen the passing gimbal and film once, but they don't know the decades of people breaking down the film and showing that it's a real life creature, most likely in that film, they bring up things like Sasquatch. They're like, Oh, I've heard Bigfoot Sasquatch. Like, how many times I've gone to big research, Bigfoot conferences? Oh, Sasquatch. The one up in Canada, Bigfoot is down here in tech, here in United States. People don't know the history behind it. People don't know the nomenclature, and that's something I try to bring in too, is like the kind of the idea is that people that are doing this research aren't just kind of romanticizing it, because when you hear crypto zoology and people that know about they kind of get romanticized ideas, ideas of some Indiana Jones guy with a machete looking for dinosaurs in the Congo, or someone with a big bull rifle looking for a Bigfoot in Canada. And that's not really this is all about it's about the research of science, and that's something we try to bring into this. But it's kind of the funny thing too, because for most people, the science turns off the brain. They they hear big words and some, some people get turned off. That's why it is kind of a balance between the science aspect of it and more romanticized aspect. Yes, so romanticism brings people in, but the science should be what cooks them and what keeps them in this field?

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#### Speaker 2 1:13:00

Well And exactly, let's, let's come at this as somebody who has has not onboarded to the topic of cryptozoology, Ryan, when somebody like that first comes up to you, let's just say, at a conference, something like that, they're, they're attending with a loved one, a friend, and this is not really their bag, so to speak. How do you begin conversation with them on the topic of cryptozoology?

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#### Speaker 4 1:13:33

Okay, that's something that's kind of interesting, especially because it kind of brings in the ideas of like, almost like writing style. Are you? I've realized over the years, a lot of people, when it comes to the field, they come from an idea of persuasion. It's like they're trying to persuade the person person that these animals are real or that their sighting is valid. I don't really come at it from that perspective, because someone who's trying to be persuasive. Yes, you can use facts and all that, but usually it puts people off. I come from a perspective of education. I'm here to educate others on this on this field, not trying to persuade them that these animals are real, because most people have already come to their own conclusions, and usually talking like, bring up any ideas of like politics and religion. Once people have made their minds up, it's hard to change it, unless you come at it from perspective of, let me educate you on this. If you want to change your mind, change it. If you don't, don't, and that's why I bring up when my writing, my research. I'm not here to tell people that Bigfoot exists or that the chuma cowbird, just so that Goat Man exists. I'm here to educate them on the topic, and it's there, right? And it's up to them to make the conclusions. It's up to them the let me give you some questions, and then hopefully you can try to answer it with some of the knowledge I give you, yeah, like when people that come up to me at conferences. I'm like, Okay, so there's this, there's this, like, for instance, at my tables, I usually have, like, big footprints. So here's this anatomy, this anatomy, this anatomy. And they're like, Oh, I've never heard about that. Oh, I might have heard that in a show, but they've never heard about it in person. Yeah. And that's really what this field should be about, is educating people on this, and not being here to try to persuade people to think that these animals are real, or that this is valid, because it's really just about education and not just trying to persuade well.

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#### Speaker 2 1:15:32

And that brings up a huge, huge point man, which is the idea of a the lost art of conversation to begin with. It's something that I try to explain to people regularly, is that you do not have to try to convince somebody of a paradigm they're happy with their paradigm. They will more than likely Buck against any paradigm that you're trying to give them. What you need to do is a listen to what they believe and meet them prima facie with what they believe, nothing more, and expect them to do the same with you.

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Yeah, you know,

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#### Speaker 4 1:16:13

finding the middle ground, it's Yeah, taking both aspects of both people, and that's something I especially talk about with being an educator, like, the idea of conversations, it's not dead, but it's not really around anymore in common culture, yeah, and the ideas of you don't always have to be right, like, well, you don't have to be a right fighter. You can be. Let me look at your perspective, see where it's different from mind, and let's try to find a common ground. And the idea of let's agree to disagree is very much a correct idea in this field, because even look at the ideas of what in cryptosology itself is different compartmentalizations. You have the people that are more metaphysical, you have people that are more people that are into maybe something that's maybe Bigfoot over these animals, aliens. You have all these different opinions, yep, and we are here to look at all of them, because what we're here for is data. You can't just That's right, or a different idea

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#### Speaker 2 1:17:18

well, and you can't cherry pick the data either you have to take the data as it comes to you and work the data from there, you know. And if it doesn't fit, you don't have to shoehorn it and make it fit. You set it aside, and you note it and you say, well, we have this kind of data now, and you keep your eye out for more of that data, you know. But, but it is, it is fascinating because, yeah, this is quite literally what we're talking about, folks. Is literally the source of the the aper versus woo camps, you know. And in the idea of

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one can't exist, you know?

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#### Speaker 4 1:18:07

Yeah, it's, I bring up ideas of quantum physics. Look at schrodinger's Cat. If something's not being observed, it's all states at one time. So when it comes to zoology and all paranormal fields, I say we should bring it in that type of ideals, these creatures, these whatever they are, have not been discovered yet, so they are old things all at once, until we use data to discover them. And we, once it's discovered, then we can bring in the ideas. And that's something I've brought up with multiple researchers and buddies of mine, like, okay, let's just say Sasquatch is discovered tomorrow. Sure, who is the people that research it? Are the cryptologist, the ones that research from then on? Or will the primatologist come in and take over the and take over the research? And that's the idea, is that bringing in known sciences into a quote, unquote pseudo science.



1:19:06

No, exactly. And excuse me, folks, my water just tried to kill



1:19:11

me. Speaking of evolution,



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but we don't have deals, Chris,



Speaker 2 1:19:17

but quite literally, that brings up a huge point. Should something like that be found? Who at that point do you bring in? Do you bring in King Gerhard, you know, do you, do you bring in Kenny Irish, or something, or something like that, you know, Lyle Blackburn, that kind of thing. Because, in whose hands does it fall at that point? Because, yes, there are numerous researchers out there, the Fallen Lauren Coleman or not, Lauren Coleman, Jeff Meldrum, included in that you know, knew. Numerous, numerous people whose work would be vindicated and at the same token, yes, you have science and everything, but would they treat it in the same way?

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#### Speaker 4 1:20:11

Now you know like, and that's ideas of like, for instance, within cryptozoology. So this is something that I discussed a lot during the Texas Baker conference earlier this year, is the ideas of having true science within this field. Because something I've seen within cryptozoology and a lot of paranormal fields recently is a kind of step towards the storyteller, people that can relay a story and talk about eyewitness accounts. But what true research is is, yes, those are very important. But what does it mean? Okay, you saw Sasquatch, cool. What is the data where? Where did it happen? What's the location, what time of year? That's why, like with researchers, I kind of bring in this two I there's kind of two groups of researchers. There's the ones that are in the field doing the field research, yeah, and there's the people that are analyzing that research and analyzing the evidence. And that's something that the people that are in the field get a lot of the attention. They're the ones that have the stories, things like that, but also to people to analyze it, people like the late Jeff Meldrum, Ken Gerhard, people like Cliff Barickman, the other ones that will, I won't say necessarily, will prove the existence of these creatures, but all ones that we should look at, because that's the science, and that's Something that brings in, like with cryptozoology in general, is what sciences people should research ahead of time when we get into cryptozoology, because, yes, oh, monsters are real. I want to go hunt monster hunting. That's awesome. But at the same time, make sure you have a scientific, or at least a data driven mind behind it and have some ideas on what type of sciences to bring to the field well.

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#### Speaker 2 1:22:06

And let's get into that real quick, because that is that is a perfect time to bring this up in the conversation, which is understanding how to gather that data and what kind of data you need to gather. And yes, having an interdisciplinary knowledge of these kind of things of like, you know, if you're going into cryptozoology, yes, you would want an interdisciplinary knowledge of at least local wildlife biology, things like that, some generalities of biology of different species, that kind of thing,

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#### Speaker 4 1:22:44

like, and that's something I look at with, like certain researchers, like, for instance, the late Jeff Meldrum, he brought into the big foot field. And like morphologies and foot anatomy. If you look at people like King Gerhard, he is someone who's very knowledgeable in ecology and animals. If you look at even someone like myself, I know a lot about paleontology. There's incident Disciplinary Studies that should be kind of brought into cryptozoology. Like, for instance, with me, when I was a kid, I loved dinosaurs. Like, that's one big thing, and then I can bring that knowledge into cryptozoology and help out the research in this world. Because, like, collecting data is very important, and also knowing what that data means. For instance, I'll bring up Dr Maria Mayer. She's very famous on Expedition Bigfoot. But she wasn't always a Bigfoot researcher. She was a primatologist before primatologist still, and she researches Bigfoot. That's a great example, someone who brings their pre existing knowledge into the field, and that's something that really should be brought about and kind of really talked about and sought after in this field,

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#### Speaker 2 1:24:03

absolutely, absolutely. And, you know, in not just in this field, but in numerous fields. Ryan, when it comes to this kind of research, the idea of, because you see a lot of people using a lot of equipment, and a lot of shows, things like that. You see it on a lot of social media, groups, all kinds of things. It doesn't necessarily mean that you have been trained in said equipment. Know what the actual range of detection of that equipment is, you know, or anything like that. It's, it's kind of like, okay, so I've, I've found, as a signal with some detection software that that is five hertz, that's pretty low, you know, that's, that's below Schumann Resonance, all right? Schumann. Resonance being 7.8 hertz, the heartbeat of the earth, that kind of stuff. But can it come from natural phenomena? Absolutely, sprites in the air, like red sprites and stuff that look like the red lightning, things like that, like lightning itself, will create five hertz whistlers and things like that. You know, earthquakes will create that drilling equipment will create a five hertz signal from so it's understanding, not just the field of study to begin with, and the actual science within the field of study, but understanding the application of that science, understanding the equipment that it takes to get those readings, and what it means when you get a Gaussian meter reading a point oh two in a in a paranormal investigation, you know, like, what? What other means might be creating something in that Gaussian range, you know,

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Speaker 4 1:26:04

yeah, and that's a great point that you bring up, is like equipment. That's why, like, for instance, not put you on the spot, Chris, but that's why I'm like, when I think about equipment, I'm like, equipment guys, let's talk to Chris Jordan, because I'm like, you bring in your pre existing knowledge of equipment and how to use it into this field of ufology and paranormal and cryptosology. And that's something that like, for instance, when you're talking currently, right now, about hurts and stuff going straight over my head. So I'm like, Okay, here's an expert in it, or someone who's very knowledgeable in it that we can go to with equipment and things like that, like having a kind of the cue in the chair, so who knows the equipment? Knows how to analyze it and see and determine what certain data means,

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Speaker 2 1:26:54

absolutely, and not just that, but having somebody, the term I use is a ride or die. You know somebody that like I have numerous friends in numerous fields now, I know I can always bring something to you. I know I can always bring something to King Gerhard or Lyle Blackburn. Should somebody bring it to me? I have numerous investigators in various disciplines that if somebody brings me something, a video, a picture of audio recording.

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If I can't

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Speaker 2 1:27:27

figure it out, I've got numerous people that I can give it to you, and people that I trust their learned opinion on such things, you know, and that can be, that can be hard to come by, that can be hard to find, but you've also got to have that ride or die, that

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is whenever they tell you no

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that, that you can accept that.

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#### Speaker 4 1:27:53

Yeah, and I had something especially I don't feel like a lot of people bring up within this field and this panel research is knowing people, being able to have people that you trust and people that are knowledgeable and different ideals. Like, for instance, I have several research friends of mine that have different ideas, and I'm like, Okay, if I have an eye five, know some that's maybe Livermore crypto I can go to Ken. Gerhard, yeah, if I have something that maybe, oh, some brings up your fellows, I can maybe go to someone like you. Chris, yeah, you have people that have different knowledge of different things, and knowing those people is very important in this field. And that's something that, like, I wish like, I'm really happy that the first ever cryptologist I met in person, was kidding, and I was at a library, and he said one big thing in this field is getting to know people and getting to have good conversations with people, and being able to be personable. And that's something very important in this field, and just any field in general, is being able to get to know people and actually have those connections. And that's why, like, I bring up people to, like, conferences and things like that, like being able to get to know new people and new ideas, and trading ideas and learning from there.

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#### Speaker 2 1:29:13

Yeah, no, exactly, because that is, that is, quite literally what science is, is people collaborating that kind of stuff, not just collaborating, but and there's a there's a scary side to some of that as well, though, Ryan, and that is, that is the the reticence of people to share research. And I think that is also what stymies a lot of these fields, is that people keep their research very, very close guarded. They don't share it with others for fear of it being taken and rightfully so, because that does happen. I know, I know at least two different people in the last three years that have had one of them, like full on part of a book just taken. From them, wow, from research that they were doing. And it'd be one thing if they were credited with the research, that this person had this revelatory, these revelatory chapters about, you know, but, but they didn't. They present the research as though it is their own, you know, and and that,