

# “Missouri is Squatchy”



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*That is a quote from Cliff Barackman, cast member of Animal Planet’s Finding Bigfoot TV show, when he visited Branson in 2015.*

That is the year I personally heard an eerie tale from an out-of-town professional fisherman. For the purpose of storytelling, I’ll call him Billy (not his real name). Billy was in town from Louisiana for a big fishing tournament held on Table Rock Lake. I cannot do his exact version of events justice, but he was in a cove trying different lures when he heard a splash behind him. He turned and saw nothing. The scene got really quiet. Not so much as a frog or cricket made a sound. The sun was setting below the treeline, and Billy decided to continue fishing while he still had light. Minutes later, when Billy had relaxed, a small rock hit the lake some fifteen or twenty feet from his boat. Then another, much bigger rock hit again. This time...closer. He searched the shoreline and angrily

called out “Knock it off!”. There was no answer...no movement. Then he heard an animal-like howl and saw big trees swaying. Billy didn’t stick around to see more!

Whether you believe the tales of Sasquatch are a hoax, a misunderstanding, or are not sure what to believe, there are plenty of stories of encounters out there. According to the Bigfoot Field Researchers Organization, there have been 147 reports of Bigfoot sightings in Missouri alone. According to their website, [bfro.net](http://bfro.net), Taney and Stone counties have had 11 official reportings of Squatchy between 2010-2018.

If you have an encounter with, or evidence of Bigfoot, don’t call me! I’m no expert. I do love a good story, however, and the Ozarks are rich with history and wonder.