CREEPY CREATURE NEWS

THE FLORIDA SKUNK APE

The Skunk Ape of Florida is a lot like the West Coast's Bigfoot. Tales of it go back decades, to the pioneer days and even to Native American legends. In every story, the ape is described as a hairy monster that has the body of a large ape, but the face of a human.

The Skunk Ape is said to be about 7 or 8 feet tall, with shaggy, dark hair, and a strong odor. One of the most famous encounters happened to a woman changing her tire on a deserted, dark road. As she worked, it approached. Another car came by and it ran away. Hunters in the Wekiva Swamp in 1947 shot it, thinking it was a bear. When the shooter approached, he saw itwasn't. He went to get his friends but when he returned, the creature was gone. Their dogs refused to follow the trail it had left. They only told the story in 1999, having kept it a secret all those years because they did not want to be made fun of.

In 2000, a letter and a picture were sent to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office. The picture, taken in someone's backyard, showed a weird animal with long, black fur and red eyes, hiding behind palmetto leaves. The letter said the animal in the photo was the Skunk Ape. Since the letter was not signed, most people think it was fake, but others say it is proof that Florida's most famous furry resident is real!

What do you think the letter said? Write a letter to the police as if you have seen the Skunk Ape!

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