

From "Living With Them" an informal, now out of print, newsletter once shared amongst people whose property was regularly visited (aka habituation) by Bigfoots

SHOULD WE CAPITALIZE "BIGFOOT"?

By Alice D - lives outside of Tanner, WA - 1994

I will have to say that I am confused. How do we address these creatures that visit us, leave us presents, and generally share our lives? You could say, "have you seen Bigfoot today?", as if to say, "have you seen Bob today?". This would assume that Bigfoot is a proper name but I don't actually know the name of the creature that visits my property. I have never been in a position to ask. At times I am not really sure if I am even seeing a creature or something entirely different. You know what I mean, it is that "not this / not that" quality that sometimes arrives in the middle of the night.

So, I could say, "have you seen a bigfoot today", as if to say "have you seen a rock today?". Again, for me, this falls short. The creature that I experience is not an object without a soul. You know what I say. We feel them, know they are there, and maybe catch a glimpse. It is the feeling that is the strongest sensation. You know how it can be overwhelming, often numbing. That said, I cannot bring myself to say "a bigfoot" or "some bigfoots". Should I be thinking "bigfeet" if I feel more than one? I am never really sure if many come to visit or if only one. Sometimes I think there is one but I feel many parts of the one roam the yard banging and calling. When I tell him/her/them to be quiet, it always seems as if there is only one. I apologize for the ramble. Back to my point, it feels like a betrayal of our privilege to think of them this way. No, I cannot say I saw "a bigfoot" today.

So what is right? Perhaps we should follow our hearts with this and not be restricted by the conventions that we have come to accept. I would propose that we think of our friend as an essence of being or a way of life. When I write about my visitor: I really only feel comfortable saying "bigfoot". So I might say, "I saw bigfoot today".