

# Bigfoot hunter says he found tracks of elusive beast in Ohio

COLUMBUS (AP) — A former big-game hunter thinks the elusive creature known as Bigfoot may be roaming the hills of southern Ohio, along with other members of its family.

"I say there's a family, more than one," said Robert Gardiner, 40, of Columbus.

But many persons think otherwise.

Gardiner, president of the North American Bigfoot Research Team, said he and team members found footprints of the creatures in the Wayne National Forest, four miles west of McArthur, in an extensive search last weekend.

Gardiner said they are making plaster casts of the footprints found in ravines.

"There were six different sizes of footprints," he said. "The whole place was crowded with footprints of different sizes and weights."

The smallest footprint was eight inches long and the largest was 17½ inches long and nine inches wide, he said.

"They're from the Pacific Northwest, mi-

grating here from Mt. St. Helens due to the volcano eruption," Gardiner said.

He said the creatures traveled the nearly 3,000-mile distance from Washington state by averaging 200 to 300 miles a day through underbrush and creek beds to their new home in Ohio.

Gardiner doesn't think they are violent or dangerous.

"I have never seen one," he said, although he has been tracking Bigfoot for the last 12 years.

"I think they have a lot of intelligence," he said. "They walk upright like we do."

The search is to continue.