

for monsters

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fits the description of a dinosaur extinct for 60 million years — but did spot unusual footprints. “It was pretty damn exciting,” Mackal says. Still, he says that’s not proof.

And so the society — which hopes to organize expeditions financed by contributions — will search for evidence and study photographs, sonar tracks, footprint casts and tissue and hair samples.

Still, the scientists know the chances of discovery are extremely remote.

The society has several reports of “unexpected animals” it wants to investigate, including large octopi, spanning 150 feet and sea serpents that may represent primitive whales known as archaeocetes, believed to be extinct for 20 million years.

Also, the society will probe other sensational tales of the yeti, the sasquatch, the alma or the wildman — all versions of hairy, human-like creatures reported in the Himalayas, the Soviet Union, China and the United States.

‘Cryptozoologists’ search

CHICAGO (AP) — Roy Mackal has wandered through steamy, uninhabited jungles searching for dinosaurs. And he’s journeyed to distant waters looking for sea monsters. Now he and his fellow scientists are joining forces — hoping to rediscover forgotten worlds.

Mackal is among a unique group of scientific sleuths who hope to prove that sauropods, apemen and the “Loch Ness” monster still roam the planet.

These scientists belong to the recently formed International Society of Cryp-

tozoology — an organization of about 300 members, formed to explore the science of unknown or unexpected animals.

The society — primarily for scientists — includes paleontologists, biologists and anthropologists from France, China, South Africa and the United States. They represent some of the biggest and best institutions of the science world — the Smithsonian, the Darwin Museum in Moscow, the Peking Natural History Museum and more.

“We’re interested in solving mysteries

— regardless of the outcome,” says Mackal, a University of Chicago biologist, society co-founder and a director of the Loch Ness monster investigations.

Many of these mysteries have been controversial for decades.

But, says J. Richard Greenwell, society secretary-treasurer, “People haven’t been communicating with each other. There’s been a gap between what’s represented in the field and the scientific community. The society will bridge that

gap.”

Some of the creatures that intrigue them most were last known to have walked the earth millions of years ago. One may be the sauropod dinosaur — or mokele-mbembe, as the animal has been dubbed by villagers in the Congo. Mackal and Greenwell journeyed there in search of a reddish-brown creature that witnesses describe as being 30 feet tall, with a long neck, head, tail, heavy legs with claws and, sometimes a mane.

They did not see the animal — which