



Number 12

MUFON of Georgia news and research

February 1999

State Director's Message

Georgia seems to have entered the new year with a dramatic slow down in the flurry of reports received throughout the fall of 98. More specifically, there is absolutely nothing being reported as this is written. Even the THC seems to be rather quiet. Mike Hitt, our historian and archivist, told me at the November 29, 1998 meeting that he expected things to dry up, basing this on past statistics. He predicted it just right!

We held our bi-monthly dinner forum on Saturday January 9, 1999 with 20 persons in attendance. For those unable to attend, Bill Stockstill, our associate from the Microsoft UFO Forum, was ill and unable to be present for his lecture on triangular UFOs. I understand he has recovered and will give this presentation at a later date. We heard from our David Brown at the meeting, as he gave a presentation on the Dead Sea scrolls and related matters. The next Dinner Forum is set for Saturday March 27, with an agenda scheduled to center on the information presented at the Gulf Breeze UFO Conference the previous week. (Several of our members have planned to attend this Florida event).

Mark Ausmus and I are already discussing attending the MUFON Symposium in Arlington, Virginia in July. I encourage others to give this some thought and let us know if you plan on attending. Some may want to car pool for this.

Turning to administrative and operational matters, Dan Wright, MUFON's Deputy Director, is working very hard to increase the overall accuracy and professionalism of MUFON investigations and reports. He has sent down enhanced criteria and SOP's to the various State Directors dealing with these issues. Locally, this will result in our report review process being modified, as well as a more strict

approach to the actual format used in compiling the investigators report that accompanies the Form #1 or whatever form is used.

The actual SOP describing the requirements and the review process is covered in the other sections of this bulletin. You will find the investigator's report format is straight out of Chapter IX of the MUFON Manual. This format is what MUFON HQ requires, and that is what we will give them. I have used this format since

Continued on page 2

Calendar of Events



- March 19-21, 1999..... Gulf Breeze UFO Conference
Pensacola Beach, Florida
(850) 432-8888
www.projectawareness.com
- March 27, 1999..... MUFON of Georgia
Informal dinner, Shoneys
Piedmont Rd, Atlanta. 5:00 PM
- April 24, 1999 Kentucky MUFON 2nd Annual Conference
Western Kentucky University
(502) 286-8331
ufoarch@gte.net
- July 2-4, 1999 1999 MUFON Int'l UFO Symposium
Arlington, Virginia
See the MUFON UFO Journal for details

Georgia UFO cases are located at:

<http://www.isur.com>

as well as links to many MUFON sites

The *Georgia Sky Watch* newsletter is an open forum for the exchange of ideas and information concerning UFOs and related phenomena. Opinions expressed by contributing writers are those of the particular author and do not necessarily reflect the views of MUFON of Georgia, *Georgia Sky Watch*, its editors or publishers.

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Your articles, letters and comments for the *Georgia Sky Watch* newsletter are greatly appreciated.

Great Reading and Internet Website Reviews

by David Brown

Seeing is believing....all you have to do is go to the many bookstores such as Barnes and Noble, Dalton Bookstores and Walden Books to find many, many books written on the subject of ufology, abductions and Crop Circles. I have even had the opportunity to find many books at the Book Nook II, which holds many new and used books about the UFO phenomenon on its many bookshelves.

One book which has caught my attention is written by Jenny Randles of Great Britain. It is entitled, *UFOs and How to See Them*. It is a hard-back book filled with many photographs of famous UFO sightings, as well as the history of UFOS. It explains the UFO phenomenon, from both perspectives: the believers and the debunkers.

I found Ms. Randles "checklist" on how and where to see a UFO most valuable. It closely follows MUFON's investigative techniques and questions, and can provide some answers to the questions on the MUFON Field Investigators Exam.

Next time, I will review *The Alien Conspiracy and the U.S. Government Coverup of UFOs*, a book that I found at K-Mart, and some interesting websites.

coming aboard MUFON in 1996 and used a similar format in many hundreds of homicide and other felony cases since the 1970's, 80's and into the 90's. The descriptive paragraphs accompanying the various report sections in Chapter IX actually tell you what to write. (!) All you have to do is fill in the information you uncovered during the interview and investigation. It could not be more simple. I am including a sample of these categories in this bulletin. Unless I personally tell you otherwise, each investigators report accompanying a Form #1 or other MUFON form will reflect this format. (Please keep in mind that each Form #1 or other MUFON form should be HANDWRITTEN by the FI at the time of the witness interview, and signed by the witness. You don't have a case without a signed Form #1.)

There are certain expectations and requirements to be met by all personnel no matter what position you hold. These expectations and guidelines are clearly defined in our Manual i.e. your job description. Each member comes aboard MUFON voluntarily, and with this comes a certain implied pledge that you are willing to donate your time and expertise to the goals and objectives of MUFON according to MUFON SOPs. This is a key element in the overall team effort that MUFON is trying to foster. I've spent the last year continuing and upgrading the organization started by John Thompson, and have been helped by several highly motivated individuals. I want this to continue and grow stronger throughout 1999, but it will take this team effort and individual cooperation to give MUFON HQ the professionalism they are trying to develop. True professionals 'talk the talk AND walk the walk'. I want MUFONGA to be composed primarily of 'walkers'. We have received a lot of positive publicity in recent years, and the public opinion of MUFON of Georgia seems to be good. This has come about because of our FI's, FIT's and others have been unafraid to get involved, pursue cases, talk to the public and carry forward our agenda of professionalism. Personally, I intend to bear down even more in 1999. As a team, this should also be reflected in your 1999 efforts.

Hope to see you on Saturday, March 27th at our second 1999 UFO Dinner Forum!

March UFO Dinner Forum

The next UFO Dinner Forum is scheduled for Saturday March 27, 1999 at Shoney's Piedmont in Atlanta, beginning promptly at 5:00 PM. The agenda will be a discussion of the information presented at the Project Awareness Gulf Breeze UFO Conference which will have taken place the week before. Several members of MUFONGA and ISUR are planning to attend the Gulf Breeze conference and will have this latest info available for discussion. Recent Georgia cases will also be covered. As always, your spouse or friend is invited, as well as any SERIOUSLY interested potential members that you are acquainted with. Shoney's Piedmont is located at 2540 Piedmont Rd Atlanta, (the South Buckhead community) and is about 1/2 block north of the intersection of Piedmont and Lindberg. The MARTA PD and Administrative complex is adjacent to the restaurant. Please call me or send an e-mail if you have any questions.

Shoney's has served our purpose well, but I would like to find a buffet style restaurant with a similar meeting room in the same area if such a place exists. Waiters running in and out tend to distract our meeting somewhat. A place where we can go through a line and get a good meal, and then sit and talk would actually be better. I'll keep everyone posted on this. I'm open to suggestion if you know of anyplace.

I will encourage those attending the Gulf Breeze conference to obtain all the free handouts and materials available (if any) to bring back for distribution to our members. Barbara and I have planned to attend as have several others.

Tom Sheets

Visit the MUFON HQ Home page at:

<http://www.mufon.com>

Spring Sky Watch

We are currently contemplating a Spring sky watch in one of several locations. Reports of UFO sightings have fallen off dramatically since the upsurge we experienced in the Fall. As Spring approaches, UFO activity may increase somewhat allowing the potential for our group to confirm a sighting. After the Summer 'sweat, rain and bug-fest' of SW 98 in LaGrange, our luck seems to have improved somewhat. A small group of MUFON of Georgia members witnessed a short duration event in August 1998 on Ft. Mountain, and a larger group witnessed a more unusual event, again on Ft. Mountain, during the Leonids sky watch of November 18, 1998.

I am giving consideration to a couple of locations traditionally rife with UFO reports. One, of course, is a return to Ft. Mountain in Chatsworth where the view is awesome. The other location, suggested by John Thompson, is Roosevelt State Park atop Pine Mountain in west central Georgia. This park is about 15 miles SE of La Grange and has an elevation of about 1300 feet, which is considered high for that particular area. Thomaston, which also has a UFO history, is only about 20-25 miles east of this park. I will be going down to the park to check it out in a few weeks. It may be ideal with a good view over the THC and toward Thomaston.

One other possibility I have considered is Douglasville-Hiram area. As you know, we had reports of activity there in the Fall. MUFON of Georgia's William Lester and David Brown actually encountered highly unusual sightings themselves when interviewing witnesses there. I know of no convenient place in that vicinity and would welcome input from anyone who knows the area.

Finally, I want to do this sky watch before the bugs, insects and other biting critters come out for a warm weather feast -- before late April.

Tom Sheets

Field Investigation Requirements

by Tom Sheets

MUFON Deputy Director Dan Wright has asked state chapters to follow certain procedures for the investigations of all UFO reports. MUFON is strengthening its initiative to publish good reports. Whether the report is submitted by a twenty year veteran field investigator or a green FIT, these procedures will enhance the professionalism of the investigation and report. Part of this effort involves the report review process described elsewhere in this bulletin.

Dan will be evaluating all reports that are submitted from MUFON of Georgia and other state chapters. He will be grading and returning any insufficient reports that are submitted from state chapters.

In order to better comply with the desires of MUFON HQ, the local SOPs described in this bulletin will take effect beginning immediately.

The format of all MUFONGA investigative reports MUST follow the exact outline as illustrated in Chapter IX (Writing the Report) of the Manual.

Each FI must gear their investigation and their questioning to obtain the information that is called for in Chapter IX.

The actual writing of the report must include the format as given in Chapter IX. (FIs and FITs attending training have received examples of this from actual past reports).

Two complete copies of the report must be submitted to the Chief Investigator as described elsewhere in this bulletin.

The Chief Investigator or Assistant State Director will review the submitted report. Complete and correct reports will be forwarded to the State Director for

submission to MUFON HQ. In the event that incomplete reports or improperly written reports are received, the CFI or ASD will contact the FI or FIT who submitted the report and assist in getting the additional work or corrections made within the 30 day review period.

1. FIs will initiate an investigation in one of the following ways;

(a) Develop the information locally (personally) from media report(s), personal networking, or other means.

(b) Receive the assignment from the SD, ASD, or in some cases a SSD.

2. FIs will pursue the investigation by contacting the witness as soon as possible (considering the FI's and the witness' schedule). The FI will seek the advice and assistance of more experienced FIs, the SSD where applicable, or higher MUFONGA HQ personnel during the inquiry.

3. After the FI carries the inquiry as far as possible per the MUFON Manual chapters on investigation, the FI will prepare a report that reflects the specifications described in Chapter IX of the Manual, 'Writing the Report'.

4. The FI will request advice and assistance of the aforementioned senior MUFONGA personnel whenever necessary during the report preparation.

5. The FI will then forward two complete copies of the report to the Chief Field Investigator or ASD.

6. A 30 day review period for the report will begin on the day it is received by the CFI or ASD.

7. The CFI and/or the ASD will review the report immediately upon its receipt and determine; if it is complete i.e. no further investigative actions are needed, or whether it is incomplete and additional action is needed.

8. In the event a report is determined to need additional action, the immediate review (upon receipt)

will allow about a month for the additional action to be completed. The CFI and/or ASD will contact the FI generating the report and describe what additional steps need to be taken, and will convey to the FI the need to complete these steps within the 30 day review period. Furthermore, the FI will submit a supplementary report on these additional steps to the CFI or ASD within the 30 day review period (two copies).

9. When a report is judged to be complete, both copies will be forwarded to the State Director for the final local review and submission to MUFON HQ.

10. These guidelines will be subject to review and modification as the organizational structure or operational conditions within MUFONGA change.

Field Investigator's Reports

by Tom Sheets

As described in the Field Investigation Requirements article above, the FI's report must conform to the format mandated in the MUFON FI Manual, Chapter IX. It must be type written, and two copies submitted to the Chief FI for MUFONGA. (These two copies should include other supporting documents from the investigative file, maps, sketches, drawings, charts, photos, any news articles, and other text used in the investigation. The originals should be sent, and photostats made for the second copy. The FI/FIT should keep a third copy for their own files.)

When completed and submitted the 30 day review period by the Chief Field Investigator will begin.

The following is an example of what your report should look like per the MUFON Manual Chapter IX.

Report Heading-Example Subject: (Leave this line blank for the time being.)

Type of Report: (List which form was used, General Form #1, and other applicable forms.)

Date of Report: (Date you completed the report and sent it in.)

Date of UFO Sighting: (Whenever it happened or as close as witness can establish.)

Time of Sighting: (As above.)

Place of Sighting: (List the City, County, Province [if applicable] State and Country.)

Local Evaluation: (You must give each case an evaluation as specified in Section 9.2.5: either it is identified, or an unknown.....if unknown, it is either; 1) of Great significance, 2) Significant, 3) Ordinary, 4) Borderline; In other words if it is identified, put it here. If it is an unknown, say so and give it one of the above 4 ratings.)

To: (Your report is ultimately to MUFON HQ and is original material, state so here.)

From: (Your full name and title goes here and also that of your partner if it is a joint investigation.)

Sighting Background: (Describe how you obtained the information that led to this investigation. If it came from the SD, ASD, CFI or SSD, give the gist of the conversation and the date. If it came from a news article describe it and put copy in your report. If the witness called you, state such. Always include the date in everything you do or write.)

Sighting Account: (This is where you tell the story of what happened....dates, times, what the witness or witnesses told you, how you checked it out and verified it, your process of elimination, what the Form 1 or other form revealed or indicated, and any other factors critical to telling a concise story of what occurred. This can be as short as a couple of paragraphs or as long as several pages depending on the complexity of the case)

Activity Log: (This is a short block of info describing what you did and when you did it; if you precede each step of the written report with the date it happened or the date you did it, this takes care of itself)

Interview and Interrogation: (I don't particularly agree with the 'Interrogation' part, as it carries connotations of forcing a confession out of someone, but this is what we do during an interview, we take a formal statement. Thus, in this section, you describe the existing conditions at the time of the interview, where, from whom, who else was present, setting of the interview, how the witness acted and reacted, some personal data about the witness, what kind of schooling, hobbies, interests, occupation, a little background of hometown, and home environment.)

Additional Witness Check: (Tell here of any additional witnesses you interviewed and what they said or did not say to corroborate the main witness' statement. Include a little bit of the same personal elements as described above. If any other witnesses completely disprove the statement of the main witness, we want to know about it here. Likewise if it corroborates your main witness's statement, tell about it. Also include any efforts you undertook to locate additional witnesses.)

Natural Phenomena Check: (This is where you describe the elimination process; from checking the Manual's star and celestial body chart, the meteor shower schedule, the 'Night Sky' section of the MUFON Journal, indicating any unusual weather conditions, any celestial software programs you might have if you own a PC, likewise astronomy websites, or credible research and reference materials from the library or other sources. Denote what you have ruled out and why, and anything else you suspect may or may not be the stimulus, if applicable.)

Man-made Object Check: (Similar to above. If applicable to the type of case, you might have to check out satellite orbits, the possibilities of weather balloons, returning space shuttle, NASA barium cloud, NASA launch, commercial or military aircraft

[military aircraft verification is sometimes a challenge], and other factors. Just tell what you did.)

Other Possibilities: (This is where you tell about the other things that may or may not be a factor in your case. Does the witness have a history of psychic events in his or her life? Has evidence of a hoax been observed? Does the witness use drugs or is the witness heavily medicated? Does the witness appear unstable?)

Witness Background: (The average MUFON witness usually asks that their identity be kept confidential. This makes a background check hard to do without revealing their identity. An astute and alert investigator can, however, learn much about a witness's background from the home environment, personal data related by the witness, and the witness's occupational history, etc. Does it all add up? Does the witness profess to be an antique collector but lives in a flop house? Does the witness claim to work the night shift at a large computer firm, but drives a beat up van full of buckets, mops, floor polishers and cans of floor wax? HMMMMMMMM..... I think you get the idea. If it adds up, say so here. If it doesn't, say that also. Finally, relate the witness' personality and credibility.)

Sighting Evaluation: (This is where you write about your over all impression of what you have gathered and put together. If the event is identified, describe it. If it is an unknown grade it as: Of great significance; Significant; Ordinary; or Borderline. Analyze and write it all here, and also list it in the heading section under "Local Evaluation" as described there.)

Detailed Backup: (This is the material that completes the investigative file: maps, event area sketches, photos of event site, field notes, recording tapes or video tapes, news clippings, etc. This should all be marked as to case date and place. Applicable items should be photostated and sent with both copies of the report to the CFI or ASD.)

Please note that some cases may get rather complicated. The FI or FIT has the latitude to create additional categories to insert anywhere within the above described report format in order to cover

additional areas of investigation, and to better relate to MUFON HQ exactly what transpired. These additional categories will NOT be used in lieu of those specified by the manual, but in support of these mandated categories.

As an example, suppose that while at the event site you encounter a team of persons all dressed in khaki clothing and bush hats taking photos, measuring, writing in notebooks, etc. You talk to them, look at some credentials, walk by and look into their vehicle. They've told you they are with the "Global Saviors of the Green Planet and the Waters" but they all have USMC type haircuts and are wearing canvas jungle boots under their trousers. Hmmmmmm..... walkie-talkies too! Anyhow, you might want to create a section for this and insert it between "Additional Witness Check" and "Natural Phenomena". You might call it "Additional Interviews and Observations" or maybe "Encounter with Another Agency" or something similar. Therein, you can describe this encounter giving all the particulars and your suspicions.

Anything you do to support the required format is okay with me as long as it is simple, straight to the point, provides information crucial to the investigation and does not cause your report to deviate from the specified requirements.

As final note, when a case is worked by a pair of investigators, the actual report writer must have all the information at his or her disposal, so that the report has the actions of both investigators. It's perfectly fine to say something like, "My partner, FI Jane Doe, interviewed the second witness and was told the following...." As long as both FIs have collaborated and both know what the other found. A well rounded and accurate report which is easy for MUFON HQ to read and understand will be the result.

If there are any questions about how to formulate your investigator's report, please contact me. I will try to answer your questions and provide you with a copy of an actual report that illustrates the described requirements.

Crop Circles

Part 2 of 3

by Roberta Puhalski

This is the second installment of the article on Crop Circles by MUFON of Georgia's Senior Research Coordinator, Roberta Puhalski. This article will continue with Part III in the next Georgia Sky Watch Bulletin. The information in this segment is copyrighted by the BLT Research Team Inc. and is used with their permission.

The plant anomalies noted so far are as follows:

1. On the microscopic level, abnormal enlargement of cell wall pits in bract tissue (the thin membrane which surrounds the seed-head and which supplies nutrients to the developing embryo.)
2. Grossly enlarged (both laterally and longitudinally) plant stem nodes (the fibrous "knuckle-like" protuberances on the outside of the plant stems.)
3. Marked bending of the plant stem nodes often in conjunction with "expulsion" cavities (holes blown from the inside-out) in the parenchyma tissue around the nodes. This bending can be as slight as 10 degrees and as extreme as 90 degrees (occasionally even more), and can occur at the apical, penultimate, or all of the nodes on a given stem.
4. Stunted, malformed seed heads in which the seeds are, variously, missing altogether or are severely stunted, with lower seed weight (when the seeds are present they are usually significantly smaller and weigh less than control seeds taken from plants outside the formation.)
5. Markedly significant alterations in seed germination trials (here, seeds taken from formation plants are germinated and followed in the laboratory for up to 21 days, with regular measurements obtained on growth rates and vigor, and this data compared to the germination and growth rates of control seedlings) depending upon the age of the plants at the time a crop formation occurs, as well as several other variables

including the apparent intensity and complexity of the causative energy system involved, the formation seeds:

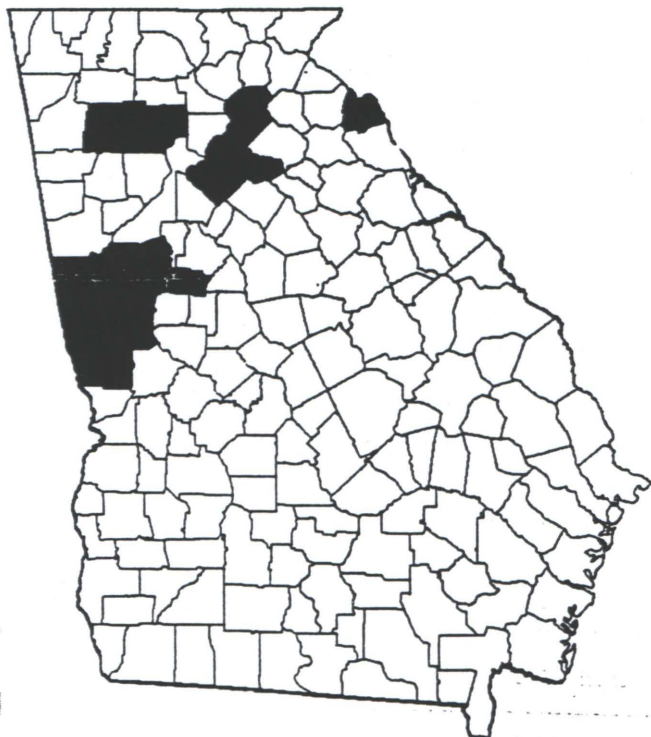
1. Do not germinate at all.
2. Do germinate, but exhibit grossly depressed seed vigor and root and shoot development.
3. Do germinate, but exhibit seedling development inconsistent with that typical of the species or variety.
4. Not only germinate, but exhibit markedly increased rate and robustness of seedling growth rate.

These thoroughly documented physical changes to crop formation plants are all statistically significant at the 95% level of significance or better--a level of confidence accepted by the scientific community around the world and in all scientific journals.

And in every instance these data are obtained using controls from each formation field.

Several control studies have also been conducted, including 'blind' studies (in which the BLT Team was unaware that samples had been submitted from events of man-made origin) and, again, the formation plants were compared to control plants gathered from the same field but varying distances away from the downed crop. In these control studies, crop was downed using planks, rollers, and human feet, and sampled at various times after being downed throughout the growing season, then shipped to the lab in the normal manner. In a few instances very slight node length alterations have been observed in manually flattened crop; however, these changes were not found in conjunction with the other criteria and were not discovered to be statistically significant. Although human production of these events (at least using planks, rollers and feet) can cause slight alteration to the affected plants, it does not produce cell wall pit enlargement, expulsion cavities, stunted or seedless seed-heads, significantly elongated stem nodes, or gross alteration in germination results.

Look for Part 3 of 3 in the next issue.



SSD Coverage for Georgia. Are you interested in investigating UFO reports? Positions available.

State Section Directors

Bill O'Brien - SSD (770) 516-6634
Counties: Bartow, Cherokee

Jim Clifford - SSD, Field Investigator (770) 279-2094
Counties: Barrow, Gwinett, Hall

John Thompson - SSD, Field Investigator,
Former State Director (770) 845-1145
Counties: Harris, Heard, Meriwether, Troup

Tom Sheets - SSD, Field Investigator, State Director
(770) 460-8447
Counties: Coweta, Fayette, Spalding

Herbert Emmel - SSD, Field Investigator
Counties: Hart

Additional Field Investigators

Jack Dowless - FI, ARO (706) 625-8171 (Calhoun)

James Hood - FI (706) 889-0522 (Cumming)

Mark Ausmus - FI, ASD (770) 339-4978 (Lawrenceville)