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MUFON of Ohio P.O. Box 152 Pataskala, OH 43062 [www.mufonohio.com](http://www.mufonohio.com) [mufonohio@columbus.rr.com](mailto:mufonohio@columbus.rr.com)

**October 2019**

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no need for a conference. Secondly, I would like to thank our speakers Seth Breedlove, Sue and Rob Swiatek for sharing their time and expertise in their respective fields of study. Finally, and I can’t say this enough. I feel fortunate to have an excellent board of directors, chief field investigator, and field investigators. In setting up and planning the conference the Budingers (Phyllis and Bruce) along with the Althouses (Terry and Paul) have gone above what is expected. While the conference stands out as our largest single event of the year, our field investigators headed by Ron McGlone should be commended for the job they do 365 days a year. I can’t thank everyone enough.

Making the headlines in on a number of major new networks the past few months is the “Storm Area 51” event. For those unfamiliar with the event, a 20 year old man named Matty Roberts made a posting on Facebook suggesting all interested parties meet outside of Area 51 and storm the gates on September 20, 2019. The goal was to discover whether or not aliens were truly at Area 51. By storming the gates in mass it was suggested “they can’t stop us all”. The whole thing done in jest allowed individuals to post on Facebook if they were interested in participating. The initial response of over 160k soon surpassed 2 million. After Facebook closed the page, Roberts along with a promoter decided hold music festivals near the former secret base.

**Message from the State Director  
By Tom Wertman**



The 2019 MUFON of Ohio is past and now we are beginning to look at next year’s event. I would like to first of all take to time to thank those in attendance. Without attendees there would be

Two of three communities supported what was to be dubbed as “Alienfest”. Camp sites were being prepared, along with musical groups, food vendors, and other necessary resources. The event appeared to be headed for disaster from the beginning. One of the communities Rachel, Nevada has 50 residents and 5,000 to 10,000 people were expected to show for the event. The community has no gas station, one restaurant/bar/gift shop, poor cell phone communication, one pay phone, temperature that can go from 70s to freezing, snakes, scorpions, and cash will be required for all transactions. There are no ATMs within 50 miles of Rachel. Realistically there is no way the community or attendees would be prepared for the event.

As of today, Matty Roberts has backed out of the event, and all music fests in the desert have been canceled. A new location has been found at the Event Center in Las Vegas. No problem with rooms, food, gas, cell phones, and the casinos will gladly take cash, debit, or credit cards.

By the way, September 20<sup>th</sup> is not only the day of the “Storm Area 51” event, but the day I turn 65. My employers have been informed of my intention to retire the end of September, so this closes one chapter of my life and opens another. I’m ready!

How am I going to celebrate? I opted out of the “Storm Area 51” event since military will still be patrolling the area and I want to turn 66. A new chapter in my life will be doing what I enjoy by expanding my UFO research in 2020. I already have six bookings with more talks coming shortly.

**Editor’s Notes**  
**By Phyllis Budinger**



A review of the yearly Ohio MUFON conference held August 17<sup>th</sup> in Bellville Ohio is included in this newsletter. There were about 90 in attendance. Thanks to the Althouses for being the glue by thinking of and doing all the detailed items it takes to put a conference on. Also, thanks to Bruce Budinger who set up the

venue and luncheon.

Kudos also go to Tom Wertman, who gave an excellent impromptu talk at the conference on the very famous Coyne Helicopter event which occurred only a few miles from Bellville. You may recall this was the helicopter caught in some sort of tractor beam by a UFO on October 18, 1973. Tom has done much research of this event. I have told him he should write a book. Maybe he will after retirement in October? Much to our surprise, especially Tom’s, a witness to the Coyne event was present! He was a firefighter at the time. He too made a few comments. This was a serendipitous touch to the conference!

Speaking of the Coyne helicopter case, Bruce and I took our speakers Sue and Rob Swiatek to the site of the event after the conference. Numerous photographs were taken both by the Swiateks and us. Following are a few.



Site where the UFO was observed over the lake



Rob Swiatek, Sue Swiatek Bruce Budinger at the lake shore

It was good to see Cathy Richards our former State Director! She came back from Florida for two weeks to attend a wedding and the conference. I think she’s homesick for Ohio.

The Columbus Dispatch wrote a great personal interest story on Wendy Ban. Wendy and her husband Don Weatherby were made Life Members of Ohio MUFON, for their many, many contributions. Thanks to John Fry for calling my attention to it and giving me the write-up. This appears at the end of the newsletter.

This newsletter contains articles from a number of contributors: John Fry, Paul Althouse, Tim Culbertson, and Rick Hilberg (as always). Thanks much. They are appreciated!

You note there's a new photograph of me on this message. I decided to replace the one taken 15 years ago with a more updated version of myself!



## 2019 Ohio MUFON Conference Presentations By Phyllis Budinger

### Susan Swiatek



Susan Swiatek, Virginia MUFON State Director with many years of investigating UFOs, presented some of the more intriguing cases she has encountered. For a good case she considers the following criteria:

- UFO observed by multiple witnesses
- UFO observed at a range of 500 feet or less
- A UFO with clear cut edges
- A UFO with a large angular size,
- Physical traces left behind
- Event occurred during the day.
- Electromagnetic effect on equipment
- Non-transient sight time, i.e. 10 or more seconds
- UFO performed one or more 'odd' maneuvers or features, e.g. solid light beam, entity observed, altered states of conscience

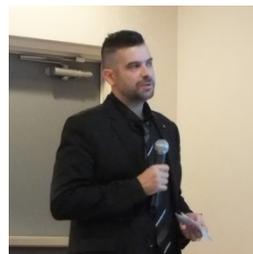
Sue related a very weird story about a man named Gary Sudbrink. Gary is from New York. He has had number of weird paranormal experiences growing up. His family (father and uncle) took videotapes of UFOs while checking Radar arrays in West Virginia in 1988.

She spent a good amount of time relating the following unexplainable incident that occurred to Gary in 1993. He had the rank of Captain in the in the Army where he was a pharmacist. He was

stationed in Texas. Gary decided to fly home (New York) and make a surprise visit to his parents and friends. He flew under another name. At the airport in Texas he was approached by a man with a clipboard at the gate who asked all kinds of personal questions. Gary assumed he was trying to sell something. The man was persistent, and Gary brushed him off. He boarded the plane and another guy sat next to him continuing with the same line of questions. Gary told him also to "get lost". Eventually the stewardess looked at pest's ticket and informed him that he was in the wrong seat and had to move, which he did.

Gary arrived in New York and went to his parents' home. He called a friend to tell him that he was in town. The friend was confused and told Gary that he had already called yesterday to let him know he would be in town. Then weird phone calls started coming to Gary's parent's house. It was a robotic sounding voice from an unlisted number. Eventually some calls were taped, and Sue played them for us. They were very creepy. This weird voice kept asking the same questions over and over. For example, "How long are you back from Texas?" "You are being impersonated by the other voice." Then there were some weird comments like, "We came to be within this planet" "Beware of government interferences. Visitations to be disrupted by them." It was noted that there were long pauses between when Gary says something and there's a response from the caller. Some of the tapes can be found on the web.

### Seth Breedlove



Seth Breedlove (Ohio film maker "Small Town Monsters") discussed his making of documentaries He has quite a list of movies made between 2015 to this year. A partial list includes the following.

- Minerva Monster
- Beast of Whitehall
- Boggy Creek Monster
- The Mothman of Point Pleasant
- Invasion of Chestnut Ridge
- The Flatwoods Monster: A Legacy of Fear
- The Bray Road Beast
- Terror in the Skys

- MOMO, The Missouri Monster
- On the Trail of Big Foot (Mini-series)

His most successful production was on the Flatwoods monster. He said there is a monster story just about everywhere in Ohio.

Seth approaches the paranormal as actual history rather than folklore. He attempts to bring events to life rather than a 'fun story'.

He discussed the long term effects of these events on people using specific examples. Most were negative. He focused in on the kids who witnessed the Flatwoods monster. They didn't want to talk about it anymore. They were ridiculed all through school and after. He puts these effects on screen for his audiences. Then there are long term effects on towns like Point Pleasant, Kecksberg, Flatwoods, and Rachel. He discussed how the cultures of these towns were affected.

He puts people on camera who are from the area and actual witnesses. He emphasized the witnesses are treated with respect in the films.

His approach in filming includes the following.

- Historical content
- Contacting actual witnesses
- Identifying the key figure connected to the case
- Location scouting
- Treat everyone with respect! (Most important)

Seth's next project is a mini-series on UFOs.

### Rob Swiatek



Rob Swiatek (Board Director National MUFON) presented "Disclosure and TRUFOS (True UFOs) in the age of AATIP (Advanced Aviation Threat Identification Program)". The word disclosure presumes the government has something to expose, and they have access to advanced technology. Rob does not think they do. But

AATIP admits unidentified objects are out there, and they don't know what they are.

Rob presented assorted quotes and documents dating from 1947 and 1948 from general Twining, Major General Samford and others stating something unknown was out there. So essentially disclosure occurred at least 70 years ago! These statements were overlooked by the media and scientists.

Rob then got into specific sightings. He grouped them as to commonalities. Following are a few examples of these groupings.

There were those with entities. Around 1916 or 1917 (WWI) in Aldeburgh, England seven to twelve people were seen on a platform about 30 foot from the ground. On 15 July 1976 in Noblesville, Indiana a cylindrical object was observed with beings looking from windows. Then in 1946 in Oklahoma City, OK an object approximately 75 feet in diameter and a dull finish was oriented vertically. It had windows with figures visible from their shoulders.

Diamond shaped UFOs have been seen in Charleston, SC (13 June 2014), Cheshire, England (2 July 1973) and Lawford, England (July 1995). The Lawford sighting was interesting. It was rotating and about 50 feet high. A flock of tweeting birds flew toward it. Then they quickly flew away and quit tweeting.

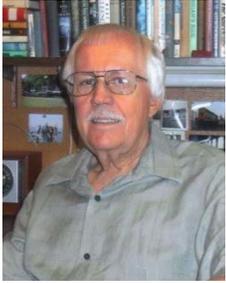
On 26 April 2016 in Grove City, Ohio a series of gray black circles were seen going across the sky. They were constantly rearranging themselves. A similar event happened in 1952 in Albuquerque, NM. Ten objects were shifting in different patterns. Then on 19 November 2016 in Brentwood, CA a strange brown ball was observed shooting out brown balls before slowly fading away. On 3 August 2009 in Houston, TX an object was observed shooting out balls. And finally a glowing orange football shaped object shot out a red ball and slowly faded away. I had no date and location on this one.

Rob's opinion is we are dealing with non-human, intelligent phenomena. He indicated it almost seems it's moving in another dimension. He does not think the government is in contact with ET.



## **A MINI UFO WINDOW**

**By Rick Hilberg**  
**Ohio MUFON Board Member**



Over the years much has been written about "window areas" or "portals" where UFOs and other strange phenomena seem to be seen on a regular basis in a particular area over various periods of time. All theories as to why this may be happening aside, there certainly are specific geographical locations throughout the world where this does indeed happen.

Like many of us in the UFO field, I have gathered with friends over the years to participate in "skywatches" in attempts to spot UFOs. These skywatches were often held in rural areas or in my home town of Cleveland, Ohio at the home of one of the participants.

A curious fact emerged during the time period from 1964 to late 1966. Phenomena were seen in a particular area of Cleveland on an almost constant basis. In fact, the area in question was centered in a particular area of the West Park neighborhood where I grew up. This was borne out by folks in the neighborhood reporting their experiences either directly to me or by calls received via a local UFO hotline that a local group had and promoted for a number of years during that time period. These included observations that I myself made right in my own back yard on a number of occasions while I was outside watching the night sky on my own. I even had a neighborhood witness tell me that her late mother made mention of an abduction like incident from the 1920s on many occasions during family discussions.

Here's an example of some of the curious incidents that occurred from skywatching at the home of a friend from his backyard just several blocks from my house. We often used his yard because it was rather large and devoid of obstructing trees and structures, and was located at the top of a natural ridge with an excellent view of the sky to the west, north and east. One reason why the 1964 through 1966 time period was fruitful was because after 1966 I as well as several other

regular participants started college and regular careers, so these get togethers had to take a back seat to educations and economic pressures.

In July of 1965 three objects, like satellites, were sighted at fifteen minute intervals coming from, respectively, the north, south and east. One of these "lights" was photographed by this writer using a two minute exposure on Kodak Tri-X film. The object appeared as a faint line on the negative, too weak to reproduce in print, but still kept in my files. On this particular night the objects were spotted with both the naked eye and binoculars. They did not correspond to flyovers of any scheduled satellites that were regularly cataloged by a local university. There were many other sightings of similar objects from this active time period as well.

Another particularly interesting report came from the same location on October 9, 1965, when a round object with flashing lights completely around its edge was sighted by hundreds of persons on Cleveland's west side, and was widely reported to the news media as well as the local UFO report center maintained by the Cleveland Ufology Project and manned by my friend and colleague the late Allan Manak. Manak received 92 calls that night, many with multiple reporting witnesses. There as a 2200 foot cloud ceiling that evening with a light drizzle being reported, so the object had to be flying below that altitude and was flying so slowly that it was in sight for many minutes by the various witnesses.

At 9:45 p.m. on the evening of May 6, 1966 five of us were skywatching when a large oval object of a ghostly white light was spotted swiftly moving from the southwest to the northeast. Whatever it was, it seemed to have bands of a duller color running along the bottom of it, and was completely soundless and seemed to be at a very low altitude. Whatever it was, it was in sight for some ten to fifteen seconds, and was as large as a dime held at arm's length. I had a pair of 8X40 binoculars that I soon trained on it, and to me the darn thing bore a striking resemblance to the "flying sub" that was featured on the popular television show of the time, "Voyage To The Bottom of The Sea." One of the witnesses, Edward Biebel, is still an active ufologist living in Arizona. Following is a page from a UFO reporting form with witness drawings made just minutes after the sighting May 6, 1966.

## OUR VACATION INCLUDES FAMOUS UFO HISTORICAL SITES

By Paul Althouse  
 Photographer Terry Althouse  
 Ohio MUFON Board Members

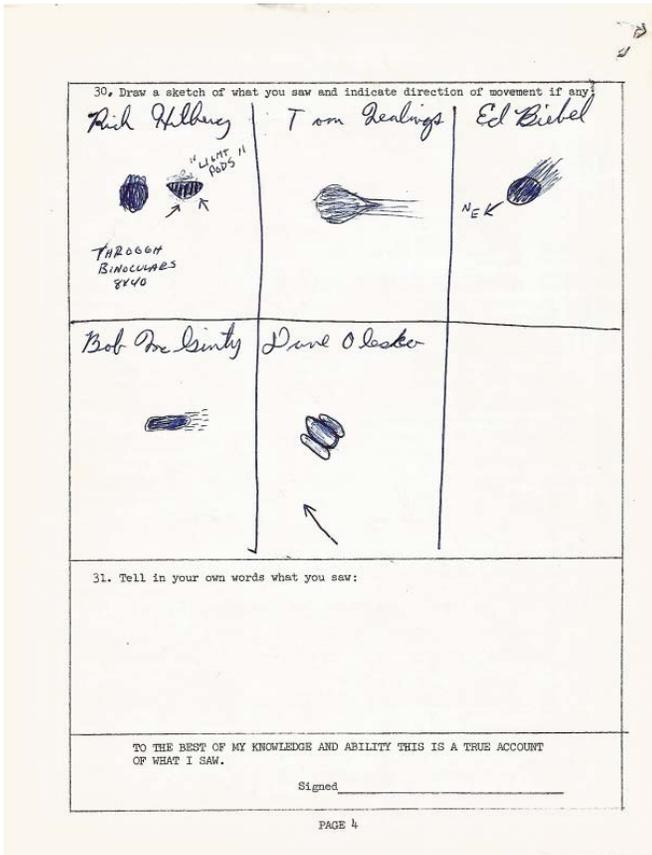


Since our retirement, my wife and I have planned a number of long term road trips visiting various parts of North America. This includes a trip, we have recently returned from, that took us from our home in Ohio through New England and up to Prince Edward Island. As we traveled, we made a point of visiting places that were points of interest to either or both of us.

### ●Shag Harbor UFO Incident

Shag Harbor, Nova Scotia  
 (BTW – the locals pronounce Shag with a long A, as in “shake”)

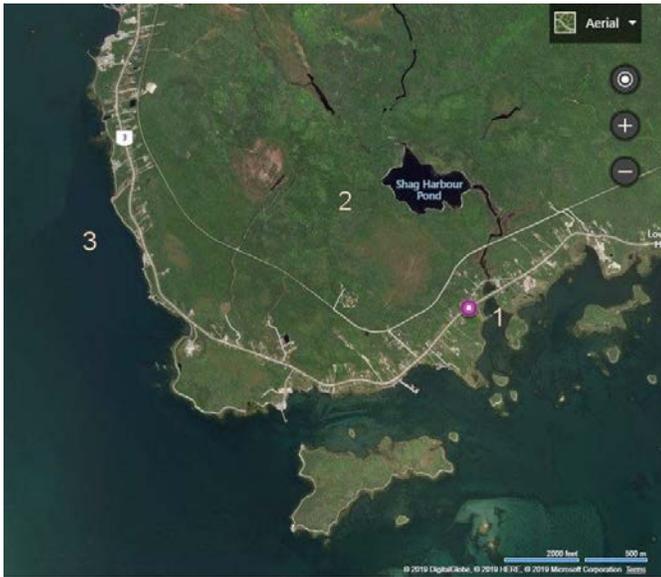
After leaving Prince Edward Island, we made a point of visiting Nova Scotia including Halifax and points along the lower peninsula of Nova Scotia. One of the better known UFO incidents of the 20<sup>th</sup> century occurred at the bottom of the peninsula near a small village known as Shag Harbor in 1967. Today, a small, modest and almost unrecognizable yellow wooden structure along the water’s edge houses a museum or “Incident Center” as they call it. Inside there are a number of exhibits including maps, newspaper clippings and copies of correspondence between the locals, The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), the US Military, the Canadian Coast Guard, and local law enforcement. The US Navy has a presence further up the coast from this location.



A particularly interesting series of sightings took place in October and November of 1966, when V-formations of bluish-white lights were seen flying over, and sometimes maneuvering in turns. These objects were also silent and were seen both with binoculars and the naked eye. I saw very similar objects myself from the driveway of my home just several blocks south of this location in November of 1960.

Why the concentration of sightings in one particular area over a long period of time? Other skywatches were held at other times only a very few miles or so from this one active area of Cleveland without results. Was this indeed a small window where who knows what appears from goodness knows where?





Shag Harbor Map

Map Legend:

- 1 – Where Laurie Wicker was when he saw the UFO in area #2
- 2 – Where the UFO was seen moving over the peninsula in a SW direction.
- 3 – Where numerous witnesses saw the object go into the water and travel under water
- 3 – Coast Guard did extensive searching of this area for a crashed object as some had reported

While visiting the center, we were lucky enough to meet Laurie Wicker, now age 69, who was the first to phone the RCMP regarding what looked like a plane crashing somewhere nearby on the peninsula. (Water sightings were yet to come.) He related that a total of 11 or 12 more witnesses had called the RCMP to report that they thought they were witnessing a plane crash somewhere in the wooded areas of the peninsula.



Laurie Wicker



The Museum Mural

Subsequently, no evidence of a plane crash was found in spite of the fact that the RCMP had sent teams of men to search the area. A short time after the initial sightings, Laurie and a few others traveled to the western shore of the peninsula and met up with others who had seen a bright glowing object enter the water and subsequently travel some distance under water.

No conclusion as to what was seen over and in the water near Shag Harbor was ever reached despite extensive searches by the RCMP, Coast Guard, and US Naval personnel. There are a number of books available on this well documented incident and I highly recommend checking them out to learn many more details than I have room to report here. Laurie showed me a document written by the RCMP, which stated that the origin of the object witnessed was unknown and did not match any known terrestrial vehicles. This conclusion was based on the witness reports of the crafts movements and its subsequent movements under water.

Before leaving, I asked Laurie if there had been other sightings since the events of 1967. He told me of a sighting that occurred last year in the same area that included photos and videos taken by witnesses of a disc shaped object with rotating lights. This part of Nova Scotia, while fairly sparsely populated, contains many fishing villages as the sea has supported the residents of the peninsula for over 100 years.

● **Betty and Barney Hill Abduction**  
Lincoln, New Hampshire

As we worked our way back to Ohio, we made a point of trying to find the historical marker that had been erected in 2006 noting the 1<sup>st</sup> well documented abduction experience of Betty and Barney Hill in 1961. A little investigating on my smart phone led us to a point about 3 miles north of Lincoln on NH Route 3.



The Gas Station Mural

Somehow, visiting these locations makes the Shag Harbor Incident and the Hill Abductions all the more real.

I can't wait for our extensive trip out west next year.



**The UFO community still believes — and science is starting to listen**  
by Chabeli Herrera, Orlando Sentinel,  
Updated: March 21, 2019

([https://www.inquirer.com/news/nation-world/ufo-sightings-believers-mufon-unidentified-flying-objects-outer-space-20190322.html?\\_\\_vz=medium%3Dsharebar](https://www.inquirer.com/news/nation-world/ufo-sightings-believers-mufon-unidentified-flying-objects-outer-space-20190322.html?__vz=medium%3Dsharebar))



The Historical Marker

It should be noted that this area contains many winding roads that weave through numerous small mountains that dot the landscape. There are many lodges in the area as this is prime skiing territory. You could easily be a mile from someone and not be aware of their presence in the least.

Not only is there a historical marker, but just a few hundred yards away sits a gas station with a mural painted on the outside commemorating the Hills' abduction. Inside the Irving gas station is a large posting board (strategically placed next to the beer coolers) full of news clippings and other info relating to the event.



ORLANDO, Fla. — He appeared as if a hologram at first — then solid — suddenly there and clear as you or I, at the edge of the forest behind Trish Bishop's home in Kissimmee.

It was a Thursday in March 2013, the glow of the afternoon tucking in for the day behind the trees. He stood tall, at least 6-foot-3, perhaps 220 pounds and certainly muscular, wearing a formfitting tan colored uniform, boots, and gloves. He lingered by the crape myrtle tree in the middle of the backyard.

When he turned around, it was his face, she remembers, that stopped her.

Bulging eyes jutting so far out of the sockets that Bishop wondered whether he could close them. Skin white as chalk. And a jaw so large, it dispelled any notions the government worker had of the visitor being human.

“If you compare a human jawbone to his, we would be a Chihuahua to a pit bull,” Bishop said.

Paralyzed with fear, she watched as what she believed to be an alien appeared to climb invisible steps, stopping often to snatch glances at her from where she sat on her back porch, fumbling with her phone to appear as though she couldn’t see him.

Her finger was pressed on the number “9” to dial for help.

When he was about 10 feet off the ground, he turned his back to her and pulled himself up — “into a UFO?” she thought — and was gone.

Bishop sat stunned. “I’ve got a freaking alien in my backyard,” she thought.

It would be four years before she told anyone her story, before she’d discover the Mutual Unidentified Flying Objects Network, a nationwide organization 50 years old, and file her report under case number 84886 with the local Florida chapter.

But she worried: Who would believe her?

These days, more people than you’d think.

Across restaurants and meeting rooms in the United States, MUFON groups still gather every month to discuss cases like Bishop’s with the enthusiasm that once gripped the nation during the Cold War, when UFO sightings still made a splash on the front page.

The Space Coast group, made up of some former NASA employees and engineers, has 118 members, the largest in the state. Across the U.S. they number 3,500, with additional offices in 42 countries.

For many years, they were alone entertaining UFO theories. No more.

In the last two years, scientists, politicians, and professionals have increasingly been willing to touch the taboo subject and perhaps lend a little credence to those who still believe.

In December 2017, the New York Times uncovered that the U.S. had gone so far as to fund a secret, \$22 million, five-year project to study UFO claims.

Since then, respected researchers, from the chairman of Harvard University’s astronomy department to at least one scientist at NASA, have come out with theories, albeit controversial ones, that suggest closer study of the role extraterrestrials may play in certain phenomena.

What’s changed, said Robert Powell, an executive board member on the nonprofit Scientific Coalition for Ufology, is our understanding of the universe. As scientists have discovered more Earthlike exoplanets and begun to delve into the options for interstellar travel — one idea includes using a laser-propelled, microchip-shaped probe — the conversation has been shifting.

“We still think of ourselves, as a species, as the center of everything,” Powell said. “Once you ... at least start to discuss interstellar travel, you have to admit that, if there is intelligent life out there, then they have to be able to travel interstellar, too.”

The challenge with UFO and alien sightings has always been the lack of evidence. Bishop said she was too scared to take a photo of her alien. Little to no consequential evidence exists in other cases.

Psychology can explain some of it. Common explanations include a person projecting their unconscious desires onto something, or a predisposition to believe in conspiracy theories informing what a person thinks they saw, said Alvin

Wang, a psychology professor at the University of Central Florida.

People who believe they witnessed something may seek out others who reaffirm that belief, like “being in an echo chamber,” Wang said.

“People tend to hold on to that particularly if it fits in with their worldview and their belief system that there are other beings that inhabit the universe,” Wang said. “And they get ... confirmation support, when they are members of UFO believers community.”

But Bishop stands by what she said she saw. She works a government security job with three area contractors and said she has no reason to lie.

And she’s on the hunt for ET now. After reporting her case in 2017, she bought three hunting trackers on eBay and set them up in her backyard. They’re motion activated, and sometimes they’ll go off in the night and capture 6,000 images — but there’s nothing in the frame. She once caught a Tic Tac-shaped blur in the sky she believes to be a UFO.

“I just think it’s a belief thing until you actually see them,” Bishop said. “You always gotta wonder.”

Some people, like Kathleen Marden, have been wondering all their lives.

It was September 1961 when the then 13-year-old got the call: Her aunt, Betty Hill, and her uncle, Barney Hill, said they’d seen a UFO on their drive through the White Mountains in New Hampshire.

Betty’s dress was torn and Barney’s shoes were scuffed. There were two hours they couldn’t account for and Barney was sure he’d seen eight to 11 figures dressed in black shiny uniforms that were “somehow not human,” said Marden, who now lives outside Orlando.

It wasn’t until the Hills were put through a hypnosis session by Boston psychiatrist Benjamin Simon that their stories of being taken into a UFO and physically examined were revealed.

“They were interested in the skin, in the skeletal structure, in the joints,” said Marden, MUFON’s director of experimenter research. “They examined

their hands, they took their shoes off, they examined their feet, and they did tests on them that appear to be testing their nervous systems, as well.”

The Hills’ alleged abduction was made public in 1965 — and the story gripped the nation. “Did They Seize Couple?” the Boston Traveler posited. “I Was Quizzed in ‘Space Ship,’” read another headline.

Marden has dedicated her life to uncovering the truth behind what she says was government tampering with the Hills’ case and has written four books about her aunt and uncle and flying saucers. She’s seen the change in perception about UFOs in the public and scientific community firsthand.

“I absolutely do think that there is a shift, that people are giving more credence to this than they did in the past,” she said, pointing to the 2017 New York Times story on the Pentagon’s Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program as the turning point.

The program was run by military intelligence official Luis Elizondo and put together at the request of then-Senate majority leader Harry Reid. It ran from 2007 to 2012 in partnership with businessman Robert Bigelow’s company Bigelow Aerospace, which studied cases of American military personnel observing unknown objects.

One case in particular garnered attention when it was declassified because videos showed a craft with no apparent propulsion moving at alarmingly fast speeds. It was filmed in 2004 by two Navy F/A-18F fighter jets off the coast of San Diego.

Navy pilot Commander David Fravor, who witnessed the Tic Tac-shaped craft, told the Washington Post in late 2017 that he maintained it was “something not from Earth.”

Then came Harvard’s astronomy department chair, Avi Loeb, a renowned scientist whom Time Magazine named one of the 25 most influential people in space in 2012.

He, along with colleague Shmuel Bialy, wrote in a publication in *Astrophysical Journal Letters* that a thin interstellar object seen passing through our solar system called Oumuamua “is a lightsail,

flowing in interstellar space as a debris from an advanced technological equipment.”

Loeb went a step further, theorizing that, “alternatively, a more exotic scenario is that Oumuamua may be a fully operational probe sent intentionally to Earth vicinity by an alien civilization.” The theory has provoked the ire of the scientific community, but Loeb has stood by it.

Is it aliens, for sure? Loeb can't say. He just says he can't find another explanation.

At NASA Ames Research Center in California, scientist Silvano Colombano has gone on record suggesting the space agency look at all explanations in its approach to the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, known as SETI. Historically, NASA has not weighed in on the issue much, most recently opening a Center for Life Detection Science that is more about finding biosignatures than analyzing alleged UFO sightings.

But Colombano argued in a March 2018 white paper that the scientific community should be more open about looking at the evidence that is already there, “consider the UFO phenomenon worthy of study,” and engage in “speculative physics” grounded in solid scientific theories but with some “willingness to stretch possibilities as to the nature of space-time and energy.”

Essentially, he said, it was time NASA had a more open mind.

While science dukes it out, the members of the MUFON's Space Coast chapter take their places at their monthly meeting in the back room of an old-fashioned BBQ joint in Palm Bay called Memaw's to discuss what they all believe to be a universal truth.

Many believers come to the meetings because someone they know saw something they couldn't explain, or because they've nursed an interest in the subject since the days of the Cold War, when UFO sightings and abduction claims spiked. Some say they have seen things. Others put stock in more eccentric theories.

They are what's left of a movement that once captured the interest of thousands, inspired books

like Carl Sagan's *Contact*, long-running TV show *The X-Files*, and made Betty and Barney Hill the stars of a 1975 film starring James Earl Jones.

There are many people like Barbara Stusse, who says her mother saw a UFO in 1947 and kept it from her children for 30 years. Stusse remembers waiting for her copy of the Boston Herald every day for a week in 1965, when the Hills' story unraveled in three to four pages of newsprint a day.

“I read that and I thought, ‘I believed it,’ “ said Stusse, 80, who has been coming to MUFON meetings for three years.

And there's Bill Fisk, who is always at meetings taking notes. He's in charge of taking in reported sightings like Bishop's and trying to explain them. Could weather have played a role? Could the person have dreamed it?

Fisk, who has been hooked since the moment he saw a light in the sky make a sharp 90-degree turn when he was 9 years old, joined the local MUFON chapter in 2015.

He went all in, taking 100 hours of online classes over three months to get certified as a field investigator for MUFON. He learned how to read flight plans, how to measure longitude, latitude, and cloud altitude, how to use a Geiger counter to measure ionizing radiation.

Sometimes he gets hoaxes. One man copyrighted an image he took of the sky through a window because he was convinced it was a UFO. Turns out, it was just the reflection of his hotel room's ceiling light on the glass. Chinese lanterns in the sky are often confused with flying saucers. And one woman even claimed an alien came into her house and had sex with her.

“A lot of it is that people don't look up, they don't pay attention to the sky, the last time they read a science book was in 12th grade,” Fisk said. “It's just one of those things that sometimes you just have to bring them along, give them the information, the education to do something with what they saw, put it into a framework.”

A customer solutions representative for CareerSource Brevard, Fisk works on cases at lunch or after work. He can close most in three to

four days, write them off as someone thinking Venus was a UFO, but sometimes he gets one he can't crack.

It joins the small percentage of true "unknowns" that can't be explained by weather phenomena or other means. That possibility keeps him and his colleagues going, always considering each case, always looking up to the sky.

"I would like to see people accept the fact that there are things they can't explain," Fisk said. "... I'm not going to stop doing it. [I'll keep adding] to the database because that's all I can do."



*(The following describes famous Kelly-Hopkinsville CE3 case. This occurred on August 21, 1955, and was recently described by the daughter of a witness to the event. I heard her present this talk at the National MUFON Symposium in Covington, KY several years ago. It's bizarre. Law enforcement officers, civilian investigators and even skeptics agreed something strange happened. You be the judge. Thanks to Tim Culbertson for sharing this recent newspaper article. Ed.)*

## **Woman shares 'amazing story' of aliens in Kentucky**

**By CAROLINE EGGERS Bowling Green Daily News  
Jul 28, 2019**

([https://www.messenger-inquirer.com/news/national/woman-shares-amazing-story-of-aliens-in-kentucky/article\\_f0a87177-a3ac-5c9f-a616-246874a8473d.html](https://www.messenger-inquirer.com/news/national/woman-shares-amazing-story-of-aliens-in-kentucky/article_f0a87177-a3ac-5c9f-a616-246874a8473d.html))



**BOWLING GREEN** — The story goes like this: On a hot summer night in August 1955, a farming family in the Christian County town of Kelly experienced an "invasion" from gray "little men."

A shootout ensued, as well as a brief investigation by a couple dozen police officers, soldiers and reporters. But they found no fur, no blood, no guts and no bodies. Just ammunition shells and holes in the woodwork.

That's the short version. On Tuesday (July 23) at the Warren County Public Library's Bob Kirby Branch, Geraldine Sutton Stith, the daughter of one of the event's supposed witnesses, narrated the longer story as if she was opening the inciting incident of a science-fiction novel.

"Our hound dog, flying by, tail tucked, ears tucked, (came) running under the porch," said Stith, who spoke with a rural Kentucky accent and appeared in bell bottoms and a black choker with a green alien pendant.

Then young family members saw "a silver object" with a rainbow floating behind it. Before long, little gray men started appearing at the house, and a couple family members began firing rifles.

"These were country boys. They could shoot a squirrel running through the tree," Stith said.

At one point, Stith's grandmother questioned whether the little men were actually dangerous.

"My grandmother was a very kindhearted person. She probably would have invited Bigfoot in if he needed help," Stith said.

Then there was quiet, and the family fled in their trucks to the Hopkinsville Police Department.

Soon after, "a caravan of vehicles drove to little bitsy Kelly. There were soldiers, officers and reporters," Stith said.

And subsequently, people flooded Kelly and started camping in the family's yard. The family moved within two weeks of the incident to escape the circus. But they never found peace of mind about the situation.

"Everyone was making fun of the situation," Stith said. "They chalked it up to uneducated hillbillies. They're going to hide that stuff. That's just how it is."

"I was 8 years old when I was told the story and it scared the bejesus out of me. Until the day my dad died, I think that fear stayed in his mind."

Over the years, folks told Stith they wished the events happened to them. Stith rejects the notion: "No you wouldn't, you'd pee your pants and run away. Or you would get your shotgun out."

Throughout the presentation, Stith reiterated numerous times that "it's an amazing story."



## **Robert Friend, Tuskegee fighter pilot who led Air Force study on UFOs, dies at 99**

**By HARRISON SMITH**

**The Washington Post**

**Published: June 24, 2019**

(<https://www.stripes.com/news/veterans/robert-friend-tuskegee-fighter-pilot-who-led-air-force-study-on-ufos-dies-at-99-1.587213>)



In a 2014 file photo, World War II Tuskegee Airman and Army Air Corps Lt. Col. Robert J. Friend shakes hands with a Navy Junior ROTC cadet at Lindbergh Field in San Diego after an honor flight trip to Washington, D.C.

Robert Friend, a decorated fighter pilot who flew 142 combat missions with the fabled Tuskegee Airmen during World War II, then became an expert on missile systems and directed Project Blue Book, the classified Air Force investigation into unidentified flying objects, died June 21 at a hospital in Long Beach, California. He was 99.

The cause was sepsis, said his daughter Karen Crumlich.

Friend was one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen, who took to the skies in World War II as the first black military aviators. The roughly 1,000 black pilots who were trained in the program flew 15,000 combat sorties, destroyed 260 enemy aircraft and received 150 decorations of the Flying Cross and Legion of Merit, fighting the Nazi Luftwaffe while striking a blow against racism back home.

The unit's success was widely credited with paving the way for the integration of the military after World War II, and in 2007, Friend and his comrades were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, recognized for their "unique military record that inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces."

Only 11 Tuskegee Airmen who flew combat missions in the Mediterranean survive, in addition to an unknown number of maintenance and support staffers — women as well as men, including Native Americans, Latinos and other people of color — according to the veterans organization Tuskegee Airmen Inc.

The son of an Ecuadoran immigrant who served in the Army during World War I, Friend flew a P-47 before taking the controls of a P-51 Mustang, a single-seat fighter that he nicknamed Bunny, for his girlfriend and future wife, and decorated with the distinctive red rudder, nose and wing tips that identified many of the Tuskegee Airmen's planes.

Frequently assigned to protect "Flying Fortress" bombers, Friend served as a wingman for Tuskegee commander Benjamin Davis — who later became the first black general in the Air Force — and received the Distinguished Flying Cross for his actions on Oct. 6, 1944, when he strafed airfields in German-occupied Greece.

In a 28-year military career, he went on to serve as an operations officer in the Korean and Vietnam wars; worked on the Titan, Atlas and Delta rocket programs; and from 1958 to 1963 oversaw Project Blue Book, which collected and analyzed more than 12,000 reports of flying saucers and other mysterious airborne objects.

Friend later said he believed "the probability of there being life elsewhere in this big cosmos is just absolutely out of this world," telling HuffPost in 2012, "I think the probability is there." During his tenure, he said, he twice recommended that a federal agency outside of the military take on the study of UFOs.



Retired Lt. Col Robert Friend, Tuskegee Airmen Red Tail pilot, smiles for a photo during the Reno Air Races Sept. 14, 2018, at Stead Airfield, Nevada.

RAMON A. ADELAN/U.S. AIR FORCE

Begun in 1952, Project Blue Book was shut down in 1969 and later declassified by the Air Force, which said that the program didn't uncover "any technological developments or principles beyond the range of present-day scientific knowledge," or to find any evidence of "extraterrestrial vehicles."

Clouds, birds, jet planes and "swamp gas" were credited with spurring many of the unusual sightings, although 701 incidents remain unexplained. The program gained renewed attention in 2017, after The New York Times disclosed the existence of a secret new UFO program — the Advanced Aerospace Threat Identification Program — and inspired a popular History television series, "Project Blue Book," which premiered in January.

Although Friend occasionally discussed Project Blue Book in interviews, he was far better known for his record as a Tuskegee Airman, notably for a two-week stretch when he twice averted disaster.

Striking an oil barge in Germany on Dec. 14, 1944, he unleashed a barrage of bullets that triggered an enormous, mushroom-shaped explosion, nearly taking down his aircraft. "The flame completely engulfed the diving ship," the Pittsburgh Courier reported at the time. "Friend said

it was sort of like being in hell. He managed to pull his ship out at the last moment."

Days later, he faced bad weather and mechanical difficulties while flying over Italy. Disoriented in the darkness, praying to avoid crashing into a mountain or ejecting over the water, he took his chances and bailed out — and recalled in a 2006 lecture that he found himself parachuting toward a mountain.

"I hit the side of the mountain, slid down to the ground and saw a woman running to me with a knife in her hand," he said, according to a Washington Post report. An alarmed Friend soon found that she was no Nazi sympathizer. In an act of wartime desperation, he said, she simply "wanted the silk from my parachute."

The oldest of four children, Robert Jones Friend was born in Columbia, South Carolina, on Feb. 29, 1920, and was raised in New York, where he developed an interest in aviation while watching Zeppelin airships and building model planes.

He studied at Lincoln University, a historically black school in Oxford, Pennsylvania, and received a private pilot's license before applying in 1942 to enter the newly formed black aviation program, part of the Army Air Forces and based at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Friend served with the 332nd Fighter Group in Europe, receiving honors including the Bronze Star Medal and the Air Medal. He later studied astrophysics at the Air Force Institute of Technology and business at UCLA.

After retiring from the Air Force in 1971, he worked as a consultant on the development of missile systems and space-station components, and competed in national bridge tournaments near his home in Irvine, California.

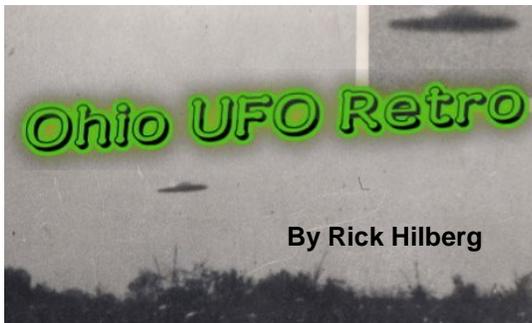
His marriages to Doris "Bunny" Hall and Kathryn Ann Holland ended in divorce, and his wife of more than 50 years, the former Anna Rice, died in 2010. Friend is also predeceased by a son, Darryl Friend, from his second marriage.

Survivors include two children from his first marriage, Thelma Hoffman and Robert Friend Jr.; three children from his second, Michael Friend,

Debra Carter and Dana Friend; a daughter from his third marriage, Karen Crumlich; an adopted daughter, Clara Ann Browning, from Rice's previous marriage; 18 grandchildren; 32 great-grandchildren; and 14 great-great-grandchildren.

Into his 90s, Friend appeared at 20 to 30 speaking engagements each year, answering questions about the Tuskegee Airmen at schools, community centers and the Palm Springs Air Museum in California, where he sometimes greeted visitors while sitting in front of a restored P-51 decorated to look like his old plane, Bunny.

He had encountered racism during the war, he told the Palm Springs Desert Sun, including moments when he felt less than welcome by white comrades who refused to bunk with him in Sicily. But he said he viewed himself less as a racial path breaker than as a pilot, telling the newspaper: "I never felt that I was anything but an American doing a job."



On June 28, 1978 at 11:00 p.m. fourteen residents on Franklin Church Road in Richland County saw a bright yellow light hovering for about 30 minutes. The unusual light then dropped below the skyline for a few seconds, and then it raised back up and dimmed, as if taking off. Officials at the Mansfield airport could offer no explanation for the light. Richland County was also being plagued at that time by reports of a seven to nine foot tall creature seen in the hilly wooded area around Mohican State Park. Called "Bighead", the creature was reported to have red bulging eyes and a head as wide as a tractor tire.

Source: *Northern Ohio UFO Casebook*, Rick Hilberg 1997, 2018.



*(Wendy Ban was one of the founders of Ohio MUFON. She and her husband Don Weatherby did a lot for this fledgling organization to make it a success. She was designated a "Life Time Member" because of it. After Don passed we saw little of her. We can see all of her energy was redirected from Ohio MUFON to saving lives on the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Hotline. Knowing Wendy and her selfless dedication to a task, we can see why this article recognizes her. More than well-deserved Wendy! I thank John Fry for this contribution. Ed.)*

## **Ban, Others are Heart of Franklin County Suicide Hotline**

**By Ken Gordon  
The Columbus Dispatch  
Posted Jun 21, 2019 at 12:01 AM**



Wendy Ban was devastated when her mother took her own life in 1969, but she did the best she could to deal with it.

"Life went on," she said.

When her husband, Don, killed himself in 2008, though, her well of self-help was dry. "Nothing prepares you for a second suicide," Ban said. "At that point, I found I needed more help than I could provide for myself."

The West Side resident joined a support group, Survivors of Suicide, and in 2010, she started volunteering for the Franklin County Suicide Prevention Hotline.

Nine years later, Ban, 66, has logged nearly 2,000 hours of helping through the hotline, putting her own experience to use as she deals with the distraught.

“She’s very dependable,” said Rick Baumann, assistant coordinator of Suicide Prevention Services for North Central Mental Health Services, which runs the hotline. “She’s been there and understands the stress and is able to sell hope, which is what we do.”

Ban was busy June 11 during her regular weekly 6 to 9 a.m. shift, answering calls in a small room at the North Central building in the University District.

The hotline, funded by the Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Board of Franklin County, received more than 16,000 calls last year.

Some callers say they have hurt themselves; others say they are considering it. But Baumann said about 10 percent of calls are from “third parties, “people who are concerned about a friend or loved one, or from survivors -- those left behind after someone dies by suicide.

Because of her experience, Ban said she feels a special affinity for those callers.

“Their grief and the ambiguity (of suicide) is often so overwhelming that they’ll tell me they don’t think they can ever feel normal again,” Ban said.

“I tell them that normal life can occur again, and that they’re not alone.”

Ban can testify to how far society has advanced in dealing with suicide.

Ban was a teenager when her mother, Ruth, killed herself. Back then, suicide was a taboo subject.

“My mother had MS (multiple sclerosis), and sometimes when somebody asked how my mother died, I would say she died of MS rather than suicide,” Ban said.

Thirty-nine years later, after Ban’s husband died, much more help was available, such as the survivors’ support group she joined. On the shelf above the two desks in the hotline room sit several binders full of resources that volunteers can pass along to callers.

Ironically, Baumann said, the increase in available help has caused one problem: With more suicide hotlines popping up locally in recent years -- including those at Ohio State University and Nationwide Children’s Hospital -- the pool of volunteers has been stretched thin.

Hannah Thompson, coordinator of Suicide Prevention Services, said the group has 150 to 200 volunteers at a given time, but about half of those are substitutes and don’t pull a regular shift at the 24-hour, 7-day-a-week hotline.

Thompson also said that “compassion fatigue” and burnout can affect volunteers, who undergo 50 hours of training before being asked to commit to work six hours a week for their first six months. After that, they can drop back to three hours weekly or become a substitute.

Ban’s friendship with Northeast Side resident Michael O’Connell, 69, helped lead O’Connell to start volunteering with the hotline two years ago.

The two usually work the same shift.

“I was a little bit terrified at first, because this is a huge responsibility,” O’Connell said. “What if I screw up? What if I don’t know what to do? But that didn’t happen, because they give you great training.

“They teach you what to say and what not to say, and they emphasize active listening and getting them (callers) to talk.”

The need to talk doesn’t have an expiration date. Eleven years after her husband’s death, Ban still attends the Survivors of Suicide support group.

“The friendships I’ve made in that group and also at the hotline have helped me enormously,” she said.

“And I thought to myself, ‘If I’m not going to step up to volunteer (at the hotline), who is?’ ”

The Franklin County Suicide Prevention Hotline can be reached at 614-221-5445; the Teen Suicide Prevention Hotline at 614-294-3300; or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255/TALK (or 1-888-628-9454 for Spanish speakers). To reach someone at Ohio’s 24/7 Crisis Text Line, send 4HOPE to 741741.