



I had a chance to sit down with Jodie Donahue, the owner of the property in Chesapeake where the infamous found-footage horror movie *The Belair Witch Project* was filmed in 1999. Jodie told me all about the property and why it's worth a visit to see some of the places where those iconic scenes were filmed over twenty years ago.

"You'd be amazed how well the place is preserved," Donahue told me. "If you walk through the woods even on a bright sunny day, you suddenly find that the light seems far off in the distance and you're surrounded by thick foliage. Remember how the kids in the movie thought they were going in one direction but it turned out they just went in a circle? You might just have the same experience if you spend some time on my land."

Of course I had to ask Donahue about the infamous cabin where that terrifying final scene was filmed. It's hard to imagine a scarier place to spend an hour, trying not to think about what... or who might be lurking in a corner. Donahue gave me a wry smile when I asked about the cabin, and told me "look, I can't tell you to go inside the cabin... but hypothetically if you did, you'd find yourself immersed into the final scene of *The Belair Witch Project*. And who doesn't want to live out a moment like that?"

I asked Donahue straight out: are you giving tours of that cabin? Donahue told me they weren't giving tours, but "if people take self-guided tours, well, just make sure to tag us on Instagram."

Of course this property has a lot more going for it than just some cheap thrills. I asked Donahue how they felt about having so much history in their backyard. Donahue said they considered it an honor to be responsible for keeping such a storied property in good enough shape for the public to come visit.

Donahue said "I think when people come and see the place they'll be able to tell how much I respect the value of keeping this property intact."

For horror movie buffs and casual thrill-seekers alike, the *Belair Witch* property seems like a place you can't miss. And Donahue didn't hesitate to tell me (several times) that explorers need to stop by the gift shop first to purchase a map.

Donahue also told me the map will tell you everything you need to know about what you can and can't do on the property. But according to Donahue, "we don't focus on what you can't do; we focus on making sure you leave with a realistic and authentic experience."

Above

A photo provided by Jodie Donahue of light trying to reach the ground through the thick woods on the property where *The Belair Witch Project* was filmed.

"if people take self-guided tours [of the cabin], well, just make sure to tag us on Instagram"

I'm not sure if "authentic experience" and "\$20 map" go hand in hand, but it definitely fit the vibe I got from Donahue as someone who was looking for profits to go along with promotion.

As for whether you're brave enough to bring a camera along for your adventure? Well, that's up to you. Just make sure to leave it rolling when you go exploring so we can turn it into a movie after you disappear into the woods...

THE BELAIR
WITCH PROJECT

EXPLORE...
IF YOU DARE

COME SEE THE ORIGINAL FILMING
LOCATION FOR *THE BELAIR WITCH PROJECT*
EXPLORE EVERY INCH OF WHERE THAT
ICONIC FILM WAS MADE

ABOUT
EXPLORE
DIRECTIONS
SHOP

ABOUT...

Experience the legend and the ultimate scare for yourself. How well can you navigate the dense woods? Can you keep your wits about you as darkness creeps closer and closer? How long can you stand in the same basement corner as Josh did and not look back?

Was that a scream you heard in the distance... or was it just your imagination?



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[SHOP](#)

Public Records Request

Jurisdiction: Maryland

Name: Knowles, Hunter

DOB: 07/24/1995

Address: 2818 Winding Lane, Chesapeake, MD, 21250

Records Found: 01

Jurisdiction: All Other Domestic U.S. States and Territories

Name: Knowles, Hunter

DOB: 07/24/1995

Address: 2818 Winding Lane, Chesapeake, MD, 21250

Records Found: 0

Record Name: Knowles, Hunter

Jurisdiction: Maryland

Source: Chesapeake County Circuit Court

Type: Criminal

DOB: 07/24/1995

Address: 2818 Winding Lane, Chesapeake, MD, 21250

Case #: 60315422

Filing Date: 10/16/2019

Disposition Date: 10/23/2019

Disposition: Guilty Plea

Sentencing: 30 days imprisonment with 30 days suspended sentence, \$250 fine

Statute: MD Crim Law Code § 9-501

Summary: Defendant was caught trespassing on the property of the abandoned building that formerly held Chesapeake Upper Elementary School. Upon discovery, Defendant indicated to the responding officer that they were the owner of the property before acknowledging this was false under additional questioning. Defendant was charged with one count of making a false statement to a law enforcement officer. Defendant was sentenced to 30 days imprisonment with all 30 days suspended. Three years probation imposed.



