

Friends of PINNACLE PEAK PARK Newsletter

Friends of Pinnacle Peak Park • PMB 288, 8711 E. Pinnacle Peak Road • Scottsdale AZ 85255 • www.pinnaclepeakpark.com

Wildcats of Arizona

By Yvonne Massman

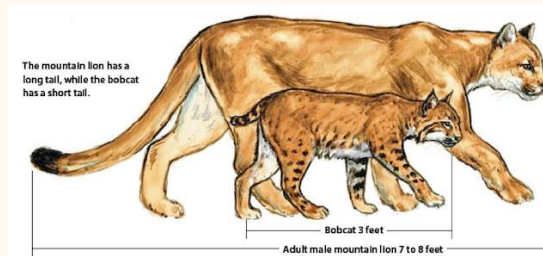
The most common cats in the area of Pinnacle Peak Park are mountain lions and bobcats. All wild cats make their living by not being seen. The one factor that may give their stealthy lifestyle away is an involuntary tail twitch. This behavior is one characteristic that may catch your eye, enabling you to spot one in the distance.

The mountain lion (also known as a puma or cougar) is the fourth largest cat in the world. The estimated population of cougars in Arizona is between 2000-3000, which is a healthy size. These large cats require a suitable range of 150 square miles, which someday could pose a problem for their sustainability as the state becomes more and more developed.

The bobcat's population is more than healthy, it is thriving. Their sustainability and habitat have even surpassed coyotes and javelina in the urban environment. The suitable range for a bobcat is between 3-6 miles. Cottontail rabbits are 80% of their diet and it is very rare for them to take a household pet as a meal. The detriment of the bobcat most likely won't be in the form of development, but may come in the form of being trapped for their fur. Demand for their pelt has experienced a huge increase in the past few years, with some being purchased for up to \$1000.00.

The cougar's recognition of its prey is a learned behavior. Their usual prey consists of deer, elk, antelope, bighorn sheep, wild horses and domestic cattle. The most likely reason for an attack on a human is habituation to an area, starvation, and loss of habitat. If you do happen to encounter a cougar in the wild, and the cougar is exhibiting stalking behavior, you should act big, scary and large. Do not play dead and do not run away. Running could trigger their predator instinct to chase after you. Currently there are no recorded deaths from mountain lion attacks in Arizona. The most common areas for recorded deaths have been in California and Colorado, and further North in Canada.

Identifying a Mountain Lion vs. a Bobcat



Our state fosters two additional large cats; Southern Arizona is an optimum habitat for the jaguar and the ocelot. Sightings of these cats have been reported as recently as 2014. The range for both cats stretched into the northern part of the state at one time, even as far north as the Grand Canyon for the jaguar. When these cats were roaming the northern areas of the state the migration pattern of the jaguar was the mountainous ranges and the ocelot utilized the lower riparian corridors.

An interesting fact is that the jaguar is the only North American cat that can roar. This vocalization is due to the presence of a hyoid bone. Jaguars are the 3rd largest cat in the world, weighing in at 300 pounds.

Big cats are a real treat to see; if you are lucky enough to see the mountain lion that lives in the vicinity of Pinnacle Peak Park be sure to snap a photo! We still need one to display in our photo gallery in the office.

Welcome to the Park's Newest Member!

By Yvonne Massman

assignment was Pinnacles National Park located in California. Prior to Greg's outdoor career he worked with the Department of Defense out of Washington DC. Greg is quite an accomplished scholar with three masters degrees, one bachelors degree, and an associate and vocational degree! Originally from Wisconsin, Greg, his wife Claudine, and their dog Toby are new residents to Arizona. Greg's parents and in-laws are now Arizonans, which inspired their decision to put down roots here as well. He is excited to continue educating visitors about the natural resources here in Scottsdale, as well as protecting and managing the park and preserve. Greg loves tennis and is a massive Roger Federer fan. He enjoys most outdoor physical activities, tries his best to learn to play new musical instruments, has a huge soft spot for animals, and would love to practice and improve his beginner-level Spanish with anyone who can help him out. On your next visit to the park be sure to pop your head in the office and give him a big "HOLA!"

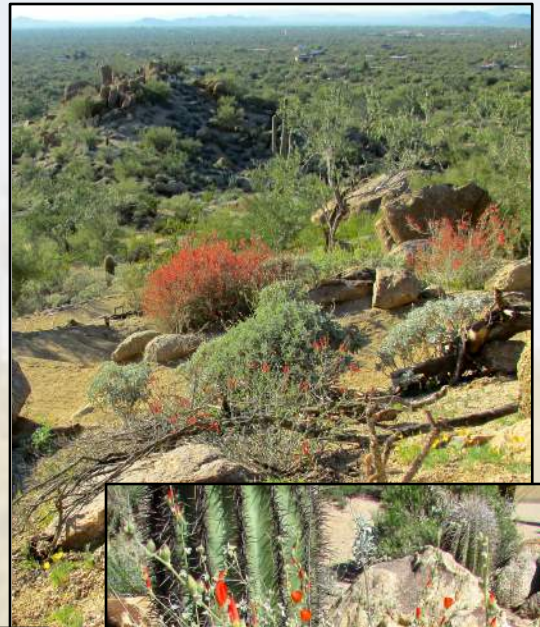
Pinnacle Peak Park welcomes Greg Paulsen as the new Assistant Natural Resources Coordinator. Greg comes to us from the National Park Service, where his most recent park



Spring in the Park

Photos by Kathy Mascaro





CALL FOR PHOTOS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS

Are you a local
photographer, or someone
who loves taking photos of
Arizona's natural beauty?

Pinnacle Peak Park is
looking for photos taken in
the park for our next
calendar and we want your
submissions!

Please send Jim Sciacero
your photos at:

PinnaclePeakPhoto@gmail.com



**This Newsletter is published by
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