



SaddleBrooke Nature Club

Schedule of Lectures and Activities

2026

Meetings are typically held the second Monday of the month.
Check each meeting for specific time and location.

- No meetings during the summer (June – September)
- Website: SaddleBrookeNatureClub.org

MONTHLY LECTURES

Starting up SOON – October 12, 2026

- **Monday, OCTOBER 12 @ 3:30pm**
 - **WILDCATS IN OUR BACKYARD**

- AZ's four wildcat species, MOUNTAIN LION, BOBCAT, JAGUAR and OCELOT



- Their ecology and behavior
- Why they occur where they do
- How to live safely alongside wildlife
- Stories & findings from 15 years of research and conservation work across southern AZ

- Location: TBD
- Speaker: Susan Malusa, Research Specialist
- U of A Wildcat Research & Conservation Program



- **Monday, NOVEMBER 9 @ 3:30pm**

- **The BATTLE of PICACHO PASS**



- Dates of Civil War and when battle occurred
- Physical location of Picacho Pass
- Terrain at that time
- How Americans 'back east' viewed this region
- Southwest's social and political situation, and the Gadsden Purchase
- Why PP engagement was largely ignored by modern historians
- Bios of 'main actors' in the engagement
- Planning of the operation
- Details of the actual battle (approach, contact, maneuvering during flight)
- 'After action report' on fallout and what happened to participants
- Current markers, monuments, museum displays located at PP or elsewhere
- Location: TBD
- Speaker: Steve Smith,
 - Arizona Civil War Council & USAF Major (Retired)



- **Monday, DECEMBER 14 @ 3:30pm**

- **CANDID CRITTERS of the Catalina's**



- Did you know? Santa Catalina Mtns are home to:
 - A Marsupial
 - 3 members of the Raccoon family
 - 4 of the 5 species of Skunks in North America
 - 2 of the top tier Predators in North America
- Join Naturalist and camera trap videographer David Dean for an up close and personal (and often humorous) look into the lives of the fascinating animals who call these mountains home.
- His presentation consists of a series of short (one minute or less) videos captured by motion-activated cameras in the Santa Catalina Mountains on public land managed by the US Forest Service.
- Watch here as a female black bear waits patiently for her 'boyfriend' to catch up to her.
[Black Bears in the Catalinas](#)
- Location: TBD
- Speaker: David Dean,
 - Naturalist and Camera Trap Videographer
 - Active member of the Sabino Canyon Volunteer Naturalists

PICNICS & FIELD TRIPS

Fall Picnic

- **Thursday, OCTOBER 22 @ Noon**
 - **SAVE THE DATE**



- Catalina State Park
- More details coming soon



Fall Field Trip

Watch for details on our Fall Field Trip in the November timeframe. It's in the works; more info soon ...

