



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

Resume – 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: DesertView Theatre
- 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: DesertView Theatre
 - 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: DesertView Theatre
 - 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
 - FLYCATCHER picnic area
 - More details coming soon



Fall Field Trip

– Picacho Peak Civil War Encampment

- **Saturday, NOVEMBER 21 @ 11am**
- **SAVE THE DATE, Tentative Schedule**
- Picacho Peak State Park



- enjoy food from Calvin's Still Smokin BBQ area
- Ranger Talk @ 10:30, Battle of Picacho Pass
 - for those who missed our Nov 9 Lecture
- Weapons Demonstration @ Noon
- Walk thru Union and Confederate camps
- Chat with reenactors
- More details to come

