

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN FIELD SEMINARS

## LEARN ♦ EXPLORE ♦ ADVENTURE

### COLORADO CAT TALES

**JUNE 14, 2008**

**COURSE LEVEL: II/III      COURSE #: 08-012**

**FEE: \$85**

**INSTRUCTOR: DR. MARY JEAN CURRIER**



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**LOCATION: Rocky Mountain Field Seminar & Conference Center  
1895 Fall River Road, Estes Park, Colorado**

**TIME: 8:30 AM - 4:00 PM**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The cat family is uniquely adapted for survival in a variety of climates. Colorado is fortunate to have three wild cat species. This course will discuss the adaptations of cats, both in anatomy and physiology, focusing mainly on the mountain lion (or cougar), the bobcat, and the newly introduced lynx. Also included will be what to do should you encounter a mountain lion in the wild. The afternoon will be spent looking for lion signs behind the Rocky Mountain Field Seminars Conference Center.

#### **COURSE LEVEL: II/III**

**Short-distance walks throughout the day on primarily level terrain**

**Moderate hikes of less than five miles per day with elevation gain of less than 1,000 feet**

#### **BRIEF INSTRUCTOR BIOGRAPHY (additional information available at [www.rmna.org](http://www.rmna.org)):**

Mary Jean Currier, Ph.D., is a Colorado native and received her master degree and doctorate from Colorado State University working with mountain lions. She was the subject of a segment of "Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom" entitled "Women in the Wild Kingdom."

**EXPECTATIONS:** Professional conduct will be expected from participants at all times. Individual ideas will be respected. Except during course breaks, cellular phones, pagers, and personal entertainment devices are strictly prohibited in the classroom and during field sessions.

**CAR-POOLING:** Rocky Mountain Field Seminars courses utilize car-pooling to limit vehicles traveling into the Park. Car-pooling makes it easier to keep the group together, reduces transit time, and allows courses greater access because fewer parking spaces are required at destinations. In addition, it provides an opportunity for participants to discuss course material in small groups during transit. Typically, a few participants from each course volunteer the use of their vehicles for car-pooling to course locations.

#### **TENTATIVE COURSE SCHEDULE:**

8:00 AM	Coffee & introductions
8:30 AM	Natural history of cats
10:00 AM	Break
10:15 AM	Pursuing the mountain lion in the classroom
Noon	Sack lunch & discussion
1:00 PM	Looking for mountain lion sign

## WHAT TO BRING:

- Sack lunch, snacks, energy bars/, & **WATER**

## REMEMBER TO BRING THE 10 ESSENTIALS:

Rocky Mountain National Park recommends that hikers always carry the 10 essentials in their daypacks.

- Raingear
- Sunglasses & sunscreen
- Pocketknife
- Sack lunch, snacks, & water
- Extra layers of clothing
- Map & compass
- Candles
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight or headlamp
- Matches or other fire starter
- Extra food & water

*Note: Rocky Mountain Field Seminars recommends that participants for all courses dress in layers and wear comfortable/sturdy hiking boots/shoes. Participants should be prepared for sudden changes in temperature and weather conditions.*

## RECOMMENDED READING:

Baron, David. *The Beast in the Garden: A Modern Parable of Man and Nature* (2004).

This is a book about the urbanization of mountain lions, particularly along the Front Range. It should be read by anyone living in the foothills.

Barr, Nevada. *Track of the Cat* (Anna Pigeon Mystery) (1994).

A mystery in which the perpetrator tries to pin the murder on a mountain lion.

Grandin, Temple. *Animals in Translation: Using the mysteries of Autism to Decode Animal Behavior* (2005).

A fascinating exploration of animal behavior based upon the author's own experiences.

McCall, Karen, and Jim Dutcher. *Cougar: Ghost of the Rockies* (1992).

Beautiful photos of a female mountain lion that was released into the wild for a year.

Shaw, Harley. *Soul Among Lions: the Cougar as Peaceful Adversary* (1989).

Harley Shaw in Arizona and Maurice Hornocker in Idaho are the "fathers" of mountain lion research, and both were involved in research when I was. This book is about Harley's experiences and perceptions.

For more technical reading, I would recommend:

Hornocker, M. G. *A Winter Territoriality in Mountain Lions*. Journal of Wildlife Management 33:457-464, 1969.

Murie, Olaus. *A Field Guide to Animal Tracks*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co., 1954.

Young, S.P. and E.A. Goldman. *The Puma: Mysterious American Cat*. Amer. Wildlf. Inst., 1946.

## **TEACHER RECERTIFICATION CREDIT**

All courses are eligible for teacher recertification credit through the Centennial Board of Cooperative Education Services (BOCES). The new fee is \$25.00 per seminar (.5 units) or \$25.00 per series of threaded seminars (1.0 - 3.0 units). A list of threaded seminars can be found in the Field Seminar Catalog or online at [www.rmna.org](http://www.rmna.org). Participants must enroll in all seminars of a threaded series in order to qualify for the \$25.00 multi-unit fee. Please be prepared to pay for this credit with a check, made payable to BOCES, on the first day of a seminar or on the final day of a threaded series of seminars.

## **THIS COURSE IS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR CSU CREDIT.**