

TRACKING MOUNTAIN LIONS
WITH MATT NELSON

Thursday, May 16, 7:00 p.m.
Admission is \$5

In recent years, local residents have noted more frequent sightings of mountain lions along the Mendonoma coast, so Matt Nelson's talk on this fabled feline might not only be entertaining, it may also provide information that can come in handy when walking on local trails. Nelson will present some interesting findings he has uncovered and share his insights into the behavior of this animal.

A native of Annapolis, Nelson graduated from Point Arena High School. From an early age he has honed his outdoor skills by chasing blacktail deer and wild boar or fishing for salmon and steelhead in nearby waters. He has turned this interest into a business called Redwood Coast Animal Tracking.

Funded by grants from a variety of sources including private Colorado ranchers, UC Davis programs and the National Science Foundation, Nelson participated last year in the Garfield Mesa Lion Project, an extensive study of the impact mountain lions have



on the entire ecosystem. He will share the surprising results of that study, which showed the interdependence of a wider variety of wildlife than anyone expected.

Nelson will also discuss the habits of the mountain lion and ideas why sightings seem more prevalent in recent years. He attributes the upsurge to factors such as population growth and human encroachment on wildcat territory. But he thinks many encounters are not with enfeebled older cats looking for easy prey, but with curious juveniles not yet wary of people.

Not only is Nelson an accomplished tracker, he has honed his wilderness skills by living at the Teaching Drum Outdoor School in Wisconsin for two and a half years. He holds a Cybertracker Track and Sign Specialist certificate and a Trailing 3 certificate.

He plans to illustrate his talk with a video presentation and will allow time for questions from the audience.



**Have a love of art
and people?**

The Dolphin Gallery needs new volunteers to help staff this wonderful part of Gualala Arts. No experience needed! We provide training and mentoring - you just need to show up! If you love talking to visitors about the North Coast and our great arts community then this is a perfect "job" for you. The Dolphin Gallery is open 7 days a week, 363 days a year so we need a village to cover the 2 shifts a day that keep our doors open.

If this sounds like a great way to spend half a day every once in a while, please contact Carol Chell at 707-884-9757 or stop by The Dolphin Gallery and talk to the docent on duty.

GUALALA ARTS

Readers Theater

May 7 at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room.

The Last of Mrs. Lincoln by **James Prideaux**

For info, contact Jane Simmonds, 886-5148

Listeners are always welcome.

Find current info, phone numbers and meeting schedules for Gualala Arts Interest Groups on **GualalaArts.org**.

GUALALA ARTS

Book Club

May Selection:

To the Lighthouse by Virginia Woolf