



## Welcome To My Monthly Newsletter

November 2022

### *To Share the Beauty*



**I had the privilege of photographing this stunning bobcat who turned to me with a mysterious gaze.**

As we move into a season of celebrations and of giving thanks, I am delighted to celebrate with you the beauty of the bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), a medium sized wild cat that ranges from Southern Canada to Central Mexico. The bobcat has an average lifespan of 7 years but the oldest known captive bobcat lived to 32! These gorgeous animals are thought to have evolved from the Eurasian Lynx. Bobcats live in all types of terrain - wetlands, mountains, forests, and deserts. Their population is fairly stable, although declining in some places, with threats that include urbanization and hunting. They are elusive and most active during the twilight hours of the day.

There are many stories and folklore that feature the bobcat in Native American cultures. A very young bobcat was discovered in western Illinois who had been buried by members of the Hopewell culture approximately 2000 years ago. The kitten was found with a necklace of shells and bear teeth - researchers claim it is the only burial of a decorated wild cat in the archeological record. The young bobcat was buried in a sacred place and it is unclear whether the animal was considered a pet or may have had larger spiritual significance. Today bobcats have many symbolic meanings such as representing the

importance of solitude and inner wisdom. They remind us that there can be power and strength through silence.



**A bobcat can be so fast...and also so still. Here a bobcat pauses briefly before moving on.**



**Along with a distinctive bobbed tail, bobcats' ears are also striking - the backs have two white spots which may help kittens to follow in dim lighting and may help to scare off predators since the spots look like eyes. Bobcats have excellent hearing!**

**A Flash of Their Soul:  
Inspiration from the Wildlife of the  
Tehachapi Mountains**



Wendy Mills

**The bobcat is fascinating and is one of my favorite animals to photograph! I honored this beautiful animal by featuring a bobcat on the cover of my book.**

Internet sources:

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bobcat>

<https://hmsc.harvard.edu/north-america-native-bobcat>

<https://nationalzoo.si.edu/animals/bobcat>

<https://www.redwolf.org/bobcats>

<https://www.science.org/content/article/ancient-bobcat-buried-human-being>

Book Sources:

Andrews, T. (1993). *Animal Speak: The Spiritual & Magical Powers of Creatures Great & Small*. Llewellyn Publications.

### ***To Create Awareness***

In future newsletters I will feature a nonprofit organization working to protect our planet's beautiful animals, wildlife and wild places. Next month I look forward to telling you about the United Pegasus Foundation, one of the first and largest Thoroughbred horse rescues in California. They currently care for over 130 horses, most of whom were ex-racehorses who arrived as elder animals or with severe injuries. I can't wait to introduce you to the Founder, Helen Meredith, her nonprofit organization, and some of the magnificent animals she has rescued.



## ***To Share the Love***

Why nature photography? For the love of our beautiful planet, for the love of its wildlife, and most of all, for the love of animals. For the love of photography, both the art of it and the science of it. For the love of the challenge of it all. This is what brings me back full circle to merge my passion for nature and my passion for photography. This is why, as my business career gets nearer to the finish line, my passion for photography has once again crossed the starting line.

I first crossed this line when I took a beginners film photography class back in my 20's and the lights went out. Yes, the instructor had explained to the class how we were to secure the photographic paper on the glass plate before turning the plates over, and yes, it was *my* glass plate that went crashing to the floor. All that could be heard was glass shattering. My glass shattering. But even in the darkness, embarrassed and unsure what to do next (thankfully the instructor was at my side helping me in a flash), yes even in that darkness I knew the light had already turned on for me. I loved photography...

[Read the whole story](#)

Stay Inspired!

Wendy

**Wendy Mills Nature Photography**

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