



## Week of June 7-13



Nicole Bankston

*Trillium in bloom at Oregon Caves National Monument*

### Special Events This Week

#### Film Crew in Action

Greg Frederick Productions is filming a Public Television series about the Monument on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. You might be one the visitors the film crew hopes to interview.

#### Ranger Programs

Free Ranger programs will be offered each day this week with a fireside program Saturday night. Check the blackboard in the visitor center for fascinating topics and times. Candlelight tours that present a unique perspective of the caves will take place on Friday and Saturday evenings.

#### Chateau Programs

The Chateau has a full agenda planned for this week beginning Monday with Artist-in-Residence, Jennie May Donnell's interview of local Llama wool artist Joyce Abrams. Listen to the soothing sounds of ranger/ musician Lindsey Brown as she plays classical piano on Tuesday, while the Monument's own David Hodges brings poetry to life on Wednesday. The weekend will bring intriguing stories each day from Jennie May Donnell. Confirm times and programs at the Chateau front desk.

### Trillium *Trillium ovatum*

The Monument received snow late this year causing many of the spring flowers a delay in blooming. However, the trilliums, which take six to eight years to go from germination to flower, could not wait and are providing a magical show for visitors this week. Native Americans

considered trilliums to be sacred and used them for problems with conception and childbirth. These delicate flowers are rewarding to spot and will change from white to dark purple as they age. Look for them on any trail at the Monument, but especially along the creek on the "No Name" trail.

### Cougar *Puma concolor*

Cougars, also called mountain lions, pumas, panthers, catamounts, and painters, can be sighted at Oregon Caves by the few lucky enough to catch the elusive cat's journeys. The season's first sighting, by the Monument's new Law Enforcement Ranger Bryan Warner, was in the first parking lot near the kiosk/restrooms. Spotted at dusk, the massive cat bounded across the road where Warner intended to park.

Mountain lions are at the top of the food chain and their presence indicates a healthy and balanced ecosystem of other fauna and supporting flora. Cougars are protected from hunting in our National Parks and the possible expansion of this Monument will allow these predators the possible 100 mile range each of these animals needs to survive. **Enjoy a free fireside program about cougars with Ranger Dave Thompson on Saturday evening at 8:45.**



National Mountain Lion Foundation