

Walker Valley

The newsletter of
Great Smoky Mountains
Institute at Tremont
Spring/Summer 2016

Reflections

IN THIS EDITION

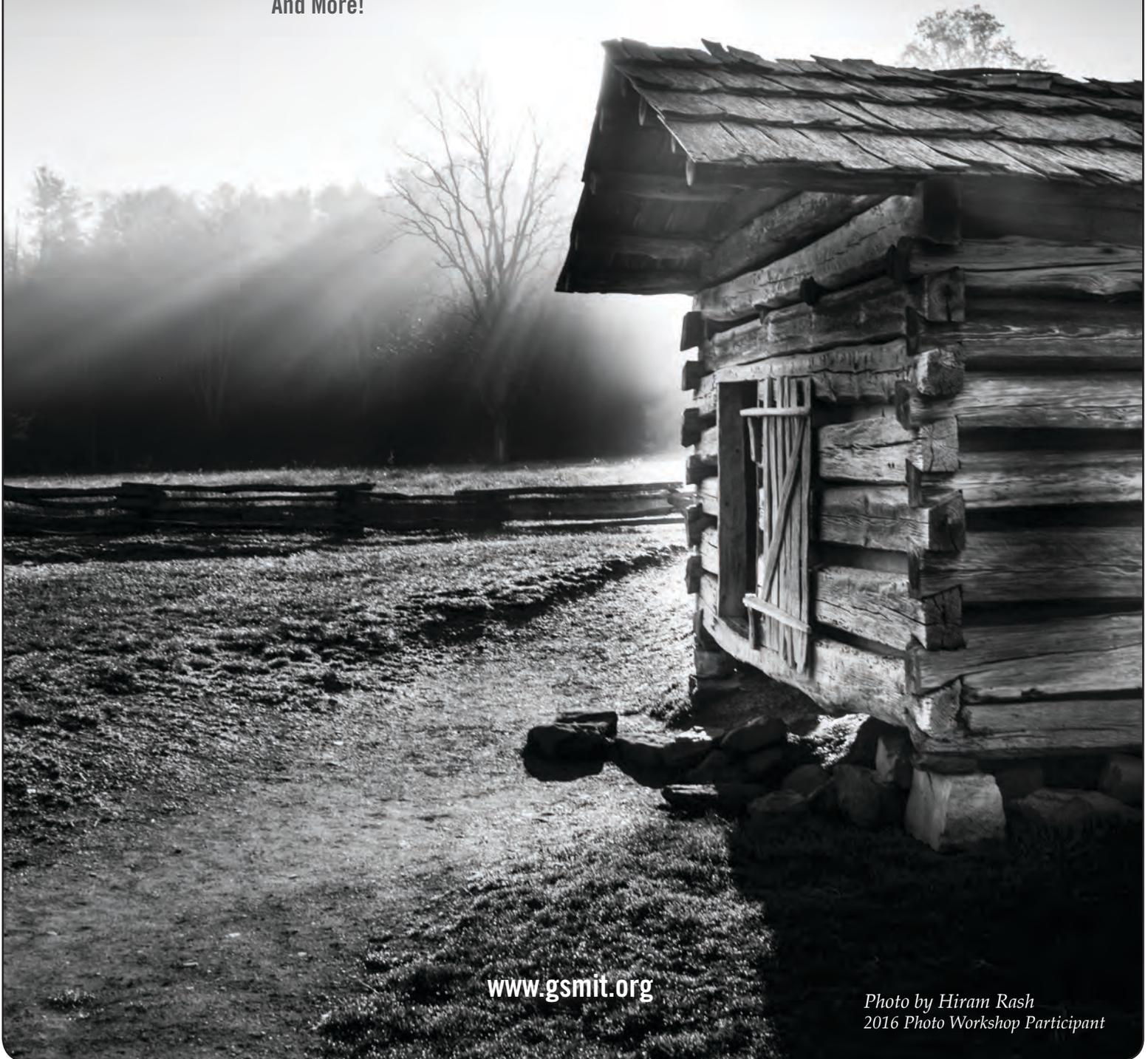
Tremont As An Idea

The Next Hundred Years

2015 Annual Report

Metamorphosing the Monarch Tagging Program

And More!



www.gsmi.org

*Photo by Hiram Rash
2016 Photo Workshop Participant*

Tremont As An Idea

We have a big ‘classroom’ here in the Smokies—500,000 acres of forests, streams, meadows, mountaintops, and more. As the National Park Service celebrates its centennial anniversary, we are thankful for this park, a place that inspires, educates, and conserves our natural and cultural landscapes. Nurturing a ‘sense of place’ is a core part of Tremont’s mission, and the Smokies provide a truly special setting.

‘Sense of place’ encompasses more than just a physical location and the natural world therein. A sense of place includes an emotional and intellectual experience. It is developed when we personally link geography and environment to history and people, both past and present. A sense of place is fundamentally grounded in human experience based on feelings of connection and identity. A sense of place is about relationships, with nature and with each other. Relationships are the heart of the matter. Tremont impacts the lives of thousands of people each year because of our place in the Smokies, but also because of the people—the entire Tremont team and greater family of Tremont participants, partners, and supporters.

Embracing a ‘sense of place’ also involves behaviors, our everyday practices based on an ethic of how we believe we ought to live. This principle of stewardship is another component of the Tremont mission; we hope our learners take home new memories, new scientific insights, and new skills, as well as a promise to themselves to act with increased thoughtfulness and purpose regarding their connection to nature.

During this 100th anniversary year of the National Park Service, I have been moved to moments of deep reflection. In contemplating the work of Tremont, I have come to sense that in addition to being about place, people, and practice, Tremont represents something even more far-reaching, more grand and profound. Tremont exists as an idea. It is an idea that can be present in our everyday lives beyond the Smokies. It is an idea that urges us to marvel in the nature around us on a daily basis; an idea that continuously stokes a passion for lifelong learning; an idea that compels us to recognize opportunities for hands-on science in our own backyards. Tremont embodies an idea that inspires us to strive for happy and healthy communities in all of our places.

Envisioning Tremont as an idea that people take home from their time in the Smokies also has me reflecting on possibilities for how Tremont as an organization might reach beyond the boundaries of the park to influence, shape, and impact our communities. Are there additional opportunities for us to share our spirit, our passion and our expertise with teachers, youth, community leaders, and folks who may never get to visit the park? Is there a need, nay a responsibility, for Trem-

ont as an idea to reach beyond the borders of the national park? If so, should Tremont Institute help fulfill this need and what might that look like? For now, this is simply a thought exercise as I ponder the coming 100 years. These are questions that challenge each of us to think in new and creative ways regarding our role in creating the future we wish to see.

The national parks have famously been called ‘America’s best idea.’ They are places that inspire, educate, and invite us for recreation, a word which literally means to recreate, to restore, to renew one’s self. As an education organization rooted in a national park—our focus of practice and inspiration—Tremont as an idea suggests the power of the Smokies can extend beyond 500,000 acres of formally protected land. As an idea, Tremont can be part of our daily lives and help direct our life’s journeys, wherever they may lead.



Article by
Jen Jones, PhD
President & CEO



Tiffany Beachy

The Experience Your Smokies Class of 2016: Ready to Lead

In 2012, to coincide with and honor the centennial anniversary of the National Park Service (NPS) in 2016, Tremont Institute brought together a group of soon-to-be high school students that would graduate the same year the NPS turned one hundred. We called it the “Experience Your Smokies Leadership Class of 2016.” That summer, I led a backpacking trip through the Smokies for the initial members of the class, five rising freshmen—two from North Carolina, three from Tennessee—who lived in communities surrounding the national park.



GSMTI Archives

During that first summer together, those five freshmen discovered a deep love for the Smokies by spending extended time in the backcountry. We splashed in waterfalls, struggled up steep ascents to mountaintop vistas, discovered salamanders, encountered black bears, and wandered our way through five adventurous days in the wild forests. We struggled through long days with heavy packs, endured torrential downpours, and

fought the elements to spark fire by which we could dry our sopping socks. Along the way, the class members formed deep bonds with one another as they shared in, and sometimes struggled through, experiencing the wilds of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

By the end of that first week, the class was excitedly laying plans for the next adventure the following summer, eager to experience more of the park and further challenge themselves. “How awesome,” I thought at the end of that first week, that these budding teenagers would be exploring this national park with one another for the next four years.

GSMTI Archives



Flash forward through most of those four years, and here we are in 2016. Erin, David, Bella, Aiden, Sterling, and Kristian (we added one more member) have matured into outstanding young adults. Each will be graduating high school in 2016. Around the same time, they’ll come together for a final experience in the Smokies as the Class of 2016. After more than a dozen experiences together, they’ve seen more of the park in a few years than most will in a lifetime. They’ve explored the cultural and natural history of

these mountains, assisted field scientists with research, shadowed NPS employees from several different departments, and spoken publicly about their experiences.

Today, when I speak with any of these young adults, I am in awe of their passion for, knowledge of, and commitment to our national parks system and the values behind it. These six have grown from wide-eyed kids in the woods to impassioned and articulate young leaders, set to take on the world for themselves this year. To me, it’s clear that Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Tremont Institute have inspired, empowered, and educated the members of the Class of 2016 over the last four years. Now, we move into the second century of the National Park Service with six young leaders who are ready to inspire and educate the next generation, each equipped with a deep-running love for the Smokies.

Here’s to the next one hundred years of national parks and the leaders who will continue to protect and share these special places with future generations—looking at you, Erin, Aiden, Sterling, David, Bella, and Kristian!



Article by
Caleb Carlton
Media & Outreach
Specialist

GSMTI Archives



The Next Hundred Years

In case you haven't heard, the National Park System turns one hundred years old this year. We hope you'll join us in celebrating the birth of the National Park Service this August 25.

The words that brought the parks into being make for worthwhile reading. Broadly speaking, the Organic Act mandated the agency "to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." That last phrase—"future generations"—is what informs everything we do on a daily basis here at Tremont.

"to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and wildlife therein, and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations"

Educating kids and adults alike about the importance of preserving this place lies at the very heart of our mission.

National parks were a relatively new idea back at the turn of the 20th century. Nobody knew whether they would succeed. A handful of parks already existed, but a guiding vision for how to manage them—and an agency to carry that vision—did not. Of course the parks turned out to be wildly (pun intended!) successful. Nobody who lived back then knew how immensely important parks would become for sustaining the natural world as well as people.

Just who is to be thanked for bringing the national parks about? Is it the 42nd Congress, which passed the Act of March 1, 1872 that established Yellowstone National Park? Is it John Muir, who inspired many through his passionate writing? Is it Henry David Thoreau, who said "In wildness is the preservation of the world"? Is it even John Calvin, who in the 16th century drew on the Old Testament for the care of all Creation?

All of the above, of course, and others as well. No one stood alone but was a link in a chain. For us today, it's a good reminder that although particular individuals may look like solitary heroes, what has greater impact in the long run is the act of many people working to transform culture and bring about positive changes.

The transformation brought about by the creation of national parks was powerful. The revolutionary notion of setting aside land to be wild—an American-born idea and one we should be so very proud of—did not stay in America for long. Now there are 1,200 national parks or equivalent preserves in more than 100 nations around the globe.

All of this reminds me of a story you've likely heard if you've been a part of the Tremont Experience. Almost a century ago, before the founding of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, logging companies razed 75% of the Smokies forests to the ground. During this time land was set aside for a Girl Scout Camp, which would later become the Tremont campus. One day, scouts learned that loggers were going to blast apart their favorite boulder on the river. Loggers showed up the next morning with dynamite, but the Girl Scouts showed up there first. They sat on the rock all that day, and the next, and the next, until the loggers agreed to leave it be.

But the story doesn't end there. Fast forward to 1994, and again to 2003, when floodwaters visited the valley raising the river to extraordinarily high levels. Girl Scout Rock, which is situated at the head of Girl Scout Island, diverted waters around the island much like the bow of a ship. Topsoil was saved rather than being washed away, which is what would have happened had the rock been dynamited. Trees, plants, birds and people were thus able to flourish on the island.

Little did the Girl Scouts know that by saving a single rock they were really saving an entire island.

National parks function in many ways like Girl Scout Rock. People didn't know in 1916 what parks would mean to us today. Biodiversity, Aldo Leopold's conservation ethic and endangered species were concepts that did not yet exist. But neither do we know today what role parks may play in the future.

Yet we do know this: we need to preserve our parks and manage them with care. Future generations are depending on us, and the work of instilling a love for them in young people who will someday pass it on to their children begins today.

All of which is to say that we're excited about the next one hundred years of the National Park System here at Tremont. The task of connecting people and nature has never been more important. It's hard to think of a better setting than the parks to do just that. Happy centennial to the national parks!



Article by
Jeremy Lloyd
Special Programs Coordinator

Welcoming New Faces at Tremont

A Meal to Remember



Whether you just returned from an all-day hike, or spent the morning catching salamanders, nothing caps the experience quite like a home-cooked meal in the Tremont dining hall. Over the years, we have served up rest, renewal, inspiration, and smiles for all ages in the wonderful meals carefully conceived and prepared by our friendly food service staff. Staff, students, and

adult guests all agree that mealtime is crucial to the Tremont experience.

Shaping that experience since November 2015 is our new Chef/Manager of Food Services, Charice Davis. She comes to us with a breadth of experience, including 25 years in restaurant and kitchen management, but also years of work in the juvenile justice system, and a deep connection to and love of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Why, she and her husband Gary were married at LeQuire's Overlook in Cades Cove to prove the point!

She started cooking as a girl in her mother's kitchen. One funny story she tells is how she became the chef at Parkside Grill purely by accident. She cooked a special dish one afternoon in place of the fish taco special that was planned. After her Director tasted it, he changed her role in the company on the spot from front of house to a role where she created all daily specials and seasonal menus. Once she saw how excited everyone was and how popular these dishes were, she was hooked.

Charice has big plans for our food service, working towards preparing more and more of our meals from scratch, and including more fresh veggies. We have always tracked food waste that students leave on plates, and now we have started tracking and reducing kitchen waste as well.

Some interesting tidbits about Charice in case you are here for Staff Trivia during a meal this year...she was raised in Las Vegas, has had both a goat and pig as family pets, she sat on stage with Barry Manilow, and once even bowled in the White House!

We ask you to help us welcome Charice into our wider Tremont family—next time you are in Walker Valley and catch a whiff of bread baking, or a pot roast simmering, you can be sure Charice had something to do with it. She's hooked on cooking, and we're hooked on her!



Article by
John DiDiego
Education Director

Next time you are here in Walker Valley, be sure to say hi to these new folks at Tremont Institute!

In the Store

Corrine Mauger
Sales Manager

Gail Amatangelo
Sales Assistant

In the Kitchen

Julie Hatcher

Joshua Wright

In the Field

Chris Wandell
Teacher Naturalist

Emily Stein
Teacher Naturalist

Kelly Lecko
Teacher Naturalist

Lydia Reese
Teacher Naturalist

Learn more about our professional faculty and staff on our Web site at www.gsmit.org/staff.html.

Farewell Friends

Two of our lead teacher naturalists are heading off for new adventures outside the Smokies. Everyone at Tremont will miss their enthusiasm and expertise. Please join us in wishing them well.



Dawn Dextraze
At Tremont since 2010



Kensey Baker
At Tremont since 2013
(& as an intern in 2010)

Metamorphosing Our Monarch Tagging Program



Article by
Tiffany Beachy
Citizen Science
Coordinator

What do you do when you have more to accomplish than one person has the capacity to achieve? You harness the power of dedicated volunteers!! In my five years at Tremont Institute, one of my

biggest lessons so far has been recognizing the surpassing value of volunteers. The old saying, 'Many hands make light work,' rings true again and again.

But I'm not the only one to benefit from this arrangement just because we're getting work done—involving volunteers in this way clearly supports our mission of connecting people to nature! A family forms close bonds as they monitor stream salamanders, a retired teacher looks forward to quiet walks to his phenology plot throughout the seasons, and a college student gains valuable field research skills that will aid her in her career.

This past fall, we took the responsibility level of our volunteers to the next level. For the first time, we increased our capacity tenfold by training top notch volunteers to represent Tremont Institute as public monarch tagging facilitators. This self-dubbed team of Monarch Monsters spent many hours in the fields of Cades Cove, teaching fellow volunteers about monarchs, their plight, and the story of their migration and facilitating joyful frolics for people of all ages. This is true citizen science in action!

Another new addition was our very first volunteer Monarch Registrar, the hardworking Juli Rigell! She spent MANY hours steadfastly plugging away at signing up the masses, communicating details, etc. Our new online registration system worked remarkably well, stream-lining the process for everyone.

We have much to celebrate! Most of all, this was another good year for migrating monarchs in this area. We had one weekend where we caught almost 50 monarchs a day! That's a considerable change from the paltry 25 total monarchs that we tagged in 2013. We are hopeful that our little friends will have more good years like this, and healthy wintering populations, so that they can rebound over time. Keep planting milkweed!

Check out these numbers for Monarch Madness 2015:

- 228 monarchs tagged in the National Park
- Over 300 volunteers frolicked in Cades Cove in September and October
- Monarch Monster team logged over 400 hours facilitating public Monarch tagging days
- Now that's pretty awesome! A HUGE thank you to Wanda DeWaard for helping to train our Monarch Monster team! And three cheers for the Monarch Monsters!

2015 Monarch Monster Team:

Stacey & Frank Whetstone
Angelique & Garrett Hickman
Melissa, Georgia, & Chloe Gunter
Clare Dattilo
Terry Uselton
Mac Post
Stephanie, Ethan, Luke, Kristi,
& Moses Bowling
Aimee & Mallory Davis



Check out MonarchWatch.org and [Journey North](http://JourneyNorth.org) (<https://www.learner.org/jnorth/>) for more information about monarchs and to keep up with their migration.



Cheryl Womble

Second Tremont Monarch Tag Found in Mexico

Every autumn, as part of our citizen science programming, volunteers scour the fields of Cades Cove for monarch butterflies. In 2015, we tagged over 200 monarchs with tiny identifying stickers on the underside of a wing, and sent them on their migration to Mexico (where

they winter). The tagging of monarchs helps scientists to monitor the migrating populations and better understand how these butterflies are able to travel such immense distances. Taggers' names are recorded just in case their monarch is found and reported elsewhere. Because of the

sheer number of monarchs that spend the winter in small, forested reserves in Mexico, finding a tagged individual is like finding a needle in a haystack.

On October 5th, 2015, a 6-year-old volunteer, Chesney, gingerly placed a tag on a male monarch in Cades Cove. We were elated to find out that Chesney's monarch not only made it to Mexico, but was found and reported by a local guide! Tag #TNJ057 traveled over 2,000 miles on the wing of that monarch, and came to rest in the Santuario El Rosario, in Michoacán, Mexico.

Award-Winning Citizen Science



Tremont's Citizen Science Coordinator, Tiffany Beachy, along with Great Smoky Mountains National Park's Susan Sachs and Paul Super received the **Achieving Relevance through Public Engagement and Resource Stewardship** award from the National Park Service.

This award reflects the strength of Tremont's partnership with Great Smoky Mountains National Park in the realm of citizen science, specifically through our joint phenology project. There are 28 plots inside the national park with eight of those located at Tremont. Data is recorded in the Nature's

Notebook portal of the National Phenology Network. The project has been highly successful in engaging the public in science by enlisting over 100 volunteers to regularly monitor plots. This level of commitment encourages a long-term sense of ownership in the project and the lands involved. Volunteers not only monitor, but also train new volunteers and often become advocates for Tremont, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and conservation.

So What is Phenology?

Tiffany calls it the "-ology for every day." It's the study of cyclic and seasonal natural phenomena, especially in relation to climate and plant and animal life.

Smokies Scavenger Hunt

Thank you to the 32 teams of adventurous, smart, competitive, enthusiastic people that came out on March 21st for our 8th annual Smokies Scavenger Hunt. Congratulations to all who played and enjoyed Great Smoky Mountains National Park on a beautiful day! The top three teams won certificates to come back and spend time at Tremont Institute, and everyone was included in the drawing for door prizes from our generous sponsors.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



Appalachian Bear Rescue
Janet & Tim Bigelow
Debbie Claypool
Great Smoky Mountains Outfitters
Little River Trading Company



Top 3 Teams Based on Scores 2016

1st - Shamoonies
2nd - SCB Scavengers
3rd - Shining Rock Falcons



SAVE THE DATE
May 24, 2017*

*Date is tentative.

Naturalist Certification Graduates

Please join us in congratulating the 2015 graduates of Tremont's Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program.

Shirley Andrews
Libby Gilley
Julie Labhart
Robin Paris
Dedra Scherer

Lois Snow
Marcy Spencer
John Terrell
Anita Thomas
Julie Whitted

"There is a real emotional, spiritual, and personal connection that builds here --- not just with the huge body of environmental studies but with the natural world itself. There's a growth of mind, of course, but also, a deeper sense of place and belonging in the world as one grows in self. They identify with their personal niche in the greater scheme of life." - SANCP graduate

"The workshop provides a starting place to answer new questions." – workshop participant

Content or Content?



Article by
Chris Wandell
Teacher Naturalist

Whenever I find myself with a few spare moments at work, I check to see who might need my help. So I make my way to my supervisor Jennie's office. As she thinks deeply to outline a task, another voice

beckons from the other side of the bookcase.

Heather is our Marketing Manager who shares an office space with Jennie. It is her voice I hear with a familiar request, "Hey, I can always use some content."

So when someone as endearing as Heather calls to you through a bookcase, you have to do two things: be sassy... and help them out.

I've been struggling for a few days, trying desperately to come up with something that would instill a deep understanding of the universe and potentially move my audience to tears, but alas I have been thus far unable to think of such words.

Until last night.

I woke up out of a half-asleep world to jot down "content, content, content".

You see, content is an interesting word because it's an adjective and a noun, both of which have different meanings and similar pronunciation.

It's an adjective that describes a person as happy or pleased. Like when my student scores a touchdown during free time, gets the answer to a question nobody else knew, or takes an "accidental" dive into the stream, only to rise out with a triumphant roar.

It's a noun to describe a subject or a physical substance. It's the information about the rules of that game, of what a touchdown actually means. It's the baseline knowledge that allowed them to answer that question. It's the fact that

they are actually supposed to be measuring the turbidity (clarity), pH, and dissolved oxygen of that water because it's a state curriculum standard.

Many of my students think that school and learning in general is all about informational content. It's all numbers, scientific terms, and proper usage of a graduated cylinder.

On the other hand, free time is all about the happy version of content. It's about being pleased with what you're doing and finding a good balance between going fast and intensive, versus taking your time and curling up with a good book.

Which is more important?

I've had hundreds of conversations with hundreds of teachers about that basic question. *What are they looking for with their trip to Tremont? What do you want to get out of this class? I see your goals are having fun and building an appreciation for nature, what does that mean to you? And what about you, Ms. Smith? Your goals are learning geologic history for seventh grade prep, and gaining familiarity with tools for measuring water chemistry; should I leave some time for a game?*

Some teachers say "sure, we can learn a little, but I want my students to just be comfortable in nature."

Others shake their heads and say, "the reason our principal lets us take this trip is for the science, so go as heavy on that as you can."

Many others say, "can we do a little of both?"

A lot of it boils down to one question...

Why are you here?

And that only spurs more...

Why did you come here that first time?

Why do you keep coming back?

How do you get your chaperones on board?

What do the students remember?

Why did you pick Tremont?

Why do I do what I do?

Usually those questions have many answers. I know at least the last one does. I do what I do because there's a distinct rush when you can see the

continued on page 9



light click in a student's head about something they'd been struggling to understand up until that day. It's a pleasure to be allowed and encouraged to know as much as possible and share that with another person. I'm part of the most knowledgeable team I've ever met, and it's my job to learn. **I do it for the content.**

At the same time, I do what I do because it's the most exhaustingly incredibly enjoyable career I have ever imagined. I do it to see the look on a student's face when they cover themselves in rock paint; I live for the moments when a student sees a Pileated Woodpecker for the first time. For those moments where I can't even believe an owl just landed six feet in front of me. **I do it for the content.**

So naturally, it's a balance.

Alright, you "accidentally" fell into the river. Why'd you fall? What was that rock covered with? Why was that stretch of water faster? And dude, I'd give that dive a solid six out of ten.

That is probably the biggest salamander I've ever seen in my entire life! Why do you think it's so big? What's it been eating to get that size? Can you tell me what kind it is?

That roaring? Yeah, it does mean we're close to a waterfall. Is this the first time you've seen one? Why do you think you don't find any back home? How does that big straight drop even form?

I offer you a challenge. When you come to Tremont, consider this question:

Content or Content... or Both?

Margaret Epperly - Why I Give to Tremont Institute



Margaret Epperly

I first became aware of Tremont in the early 90's, through a magazine which advertised photography workshops around the country. I had lived in North Carolina since 1979, but had never gone over the mountains to the Smokies.

My first photography workshop at Tremont was a wonderful, almost magical experience

and the many subsequent workshops have been just as great. They are always well organized with agendas which are planned to take full advantage of our time there and highlight the opportunities the park offers. The quality of instructors has always been superb and they do their homework to ensure that participants are at the right place for sunrise and the right place with the right light for many other outings.

I grew up in West Virginia, in a small town where we were free to explore a place called "Big Rock" and you could hike

and climb and play in the creek and use your imagination. I feel that same freedom and sense of joy whenever I attend a workshop at Tremont. From the knowledgeable staff to the talented cooks who provide our yummy meals, everyone seems to have a love of what they are doing and an appreciation of where they get to work.

I've always been impressed with the quality of participants that the adult workshops attract. There is traditionally a great mix of people and there seems to be an instant trust and camaraderie amongst everyone attending. Perhaps it's just that atmosphere of joy that permeates the environment.

Occasionally an adult workshop has overlapped with another one which has young school children participating. In those instances, the eagerness on their faces and their innocence has been contagious. As a child, I was always fortunate to be able to attend camps, whether it was Girl Scouts, science camp or band camp. I don't have children myself and am so thankful that through my gifts, I can help the many programs improve and enable the children of others to come to Tremont who may not otherwise have the means to attend a program. **-Margaret Epperly**

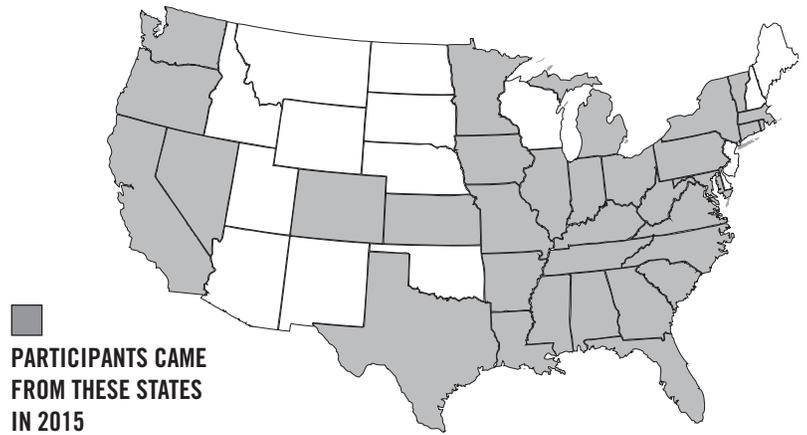
give financial aid

If you would like to support students attending Tremont programs, consider donating. There is an application process for school groups and summer youth to receive funds that are allocated for aid and raised during the year. Without your help, hundreds of students would have missed coming to Tremont. Help us get more youth outside in 2016!

A Quick Look at 2015



Hosted **adults and youth** from **34** states



Teacher Naturalists taught **3,518** students
from **81** school groups

70% of participants received some type of financial aid to attend
This includes scholarships, discounts, & grants.

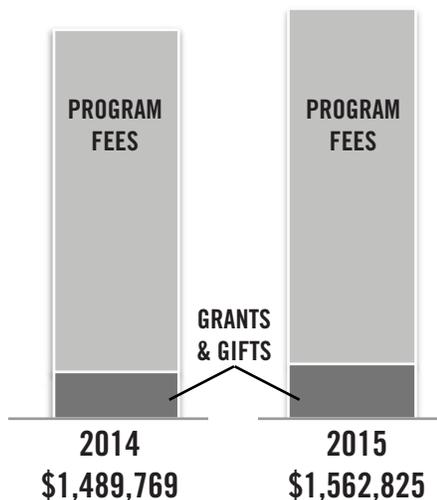


30+ In addition to school group experiences, Tremont led 30+ adult & family programs

10 Celebrated graduates from the Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program

Tremont participated in **58** community outreach events

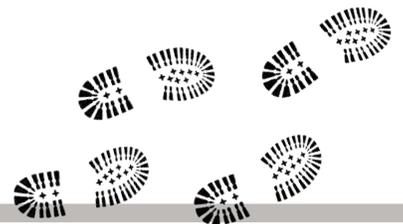
Including Outdoor Knox Fest, Rotary Club Meetings, Ijams Hummingbird Festival, TN Environmental Education Association conferences, UT Knoxville's Early Learning Institute, etc.



volunteers worked **3,318** hours for Tremont

Projects included citizen science, painting campus signs, moving gravel, organizing curriculum, representing Tremont at community booths, washing dishes, raking leaves and more!

Tremont participants hiked more than **44,000** miles.



Volunteers in 2015

Without our loyal volunteers, we would not be able to operate at Tremont. From monitoring a salamander plot to working in our wildflower garden, our volunteers make a profound difference, and we thank them for their dedication and many hours of service.

Bond Almond
 Burke Almond
 Elizabeth Almond
 Kimberly Almond
 Gail Amatangelo
 Joe Amatangelo
 Mark Andrews
 Shirley Andrews
 David Antonelli
 Phil Antonelli
 Alan Archer
 Betsy Archer
 Jamie Archer
 Brian Aylward
 Gina Baker
 Karetza Beckner
 Nancy Biddle
 Warren Bienlenberg
 Janet Bigelow
 Larry Bolt
 Christy Bowling
 Ethan Bowling
 Luke Bowling
 Moses Bowling
 Stephanie Bowling
 Deb Bowman
 William Christensen
 Hannah Christian
 Rosemarie Cirira
 Debbie Claypool
 Glenn Claypool
 Priscilla Clayton
 Virginia Cooten
 Jose Cortes
 Shirley Crisp
 Steve Crosslin
 Weldon Crow
 Margaret Cumberland
 Hannah Cummings
 Jim Cunningham
 Lena Cunningham
 Charles Cuthbertson
 Margie Cuthbertson
 Tim Cuthbertson
 Annabel Dattilo
 Clare Dattilo
 Oliver Dattilo
 Aimee Davis
 Mallory Davis
 Will Davis
 Carmina De Guia
 Amy Delaplaine

Debbi Exberger
 Ron Faulkner
 Alice Fisher
 Sterling Fisher
 Heather Floan
 Michael Floan
 Carolyn Franks
 Nelda Friffith
 Chuck Garten
 Angelia Gibson
 Nate Gibson
 Netsanet Gibson
 Owen Gibson
 Will Gibson
 Robin Goddard
 Sandra Gordan
 Teri Graman
 Bereket Graves
 Fisher Graves
 Harrison Graves
 Marshal Graves
 Meagan Graves
 Laura Greene
 Nelda Griffith
 Brianne Griggs
 Ethan Griggs

Shelly Huskey
 Hunter Hutson
 Tabatha Hutson
 Bill Irby
 Pat Irby
 Andrew Irvine
 Jamie Irvine
 Will Irvine
 Abby Jackson
 Pam Jackson
 Rob Jackson
 Caleb Jernigan
 Kelly Jernigan
 Kyla Jernigan
 Michael Jernigan
 Dave Johnson
 Elin Johnson
 Steve Johnson
 Dave Johnston
 Navia Johnston
 Bekah Joyal
 Sarah Joyal
 Jason Jurkovac
 Josie Jurkovac
 Rose Jurkovac
 Tracey Jurkovac
 Janet Kasper
 Alice Kellogg
 Jacob Kesterson
 Adolph King
 Sharon King
 Dan Klingensmith
 Aaron Klingensmith
 Bruce Koopika
 Davin Kovalchik
 Jill Kovalchik
 Emily Kraeske
 Julie Labhart
 Jinean Latham
 Ken LaValley
 Blake Lawson
 Patria Leath
 Dick Ledyard
 Asler Letterman
 Claire Letterman
 Eliza Letterman
 Hollis Letterman
 Lydia Letterman
 Beci Lincks
 Ted Lister
 Jack Lowery
 Kate Lowery
 Kristen Lowery
 Brad Luttrell
 John Luttrell
 Maegan Luttrell
 Ryan Luttrell
 Tanja Luttrell
 Emma Lyons
 Richard Lyons
 Stacey Lyons
 Corbin Marine
 Glenn Marshall
 Carrie Mayer
 Emily Mayer
 Bob McAndrews
 Tim McGrath

Sam McGroom
 Dakota McMahan
 Daniel Metcalf
 Hannah Metcalf
 Joshua Metcalf
 Karen Metcalf
 Sarah Metcalf
 Eleanor Mimbs
 Emmie Mimbs
 Alex Moeller
 Isabella Morstatt
 Josef Morstatt
 Leslie Morstatt
 Donald Mossman
 Jay Mowell
 Kim Mowell
 Wesley Mowell
 Gary Neibert
 Nancy Noble
 Douglas Ott
 Ed Owens
 Pat Parr
 Ray Payne
 Emilie Perez
 Bailee Phagan
 Brandon Phagan
 Bryana Phagan
 Leanne Phagan
 Emily Pickett
 Paul Pickett
 Mac Post
 Frances Presnell
 Al Rabenold
 Denise Rabenold
 Sam Rabenold
 Sarah Rabenold
 Scott Rabenold
 Seinait Rabenold
 Suri Rabenold
 Kelly Rafferty
 Saeed Rahmenien
 Ann Ramsey
 John Ramsey
 Michele Ramsey
 Randall Reagan
 Suzannah Reagan
 Vickie Reddick
 Kelli Reyna
 Scarlett Reyna
 Mike Richardson
 Juli Rigell
 Josie Riley
 Sean Riley
 Tina Riley
 Jama Rinehart
 Taylor Rinehart
 Herb Roberts
 Deborah Roberts
 Carolyn Rogers
 Paul Rogers
 Judy Rosenberry
 Jessica Rutgerson
 Karlee Rutgerson
 Wyatt Rutgerson
 Bob Rutherford
 Richard Ryburn
 Elisabeth Sandlin

Michael Sandlin
 Tatiana Sandlin
 Theodore Sandlin
 Jacqueline Scholz
 Gar Secrist
 Keane Secrist
 Richard Secrist
 Spain Secrist
 Brenda Sellers
 Nancy Sentell
 Maryann Sexton
 Cheri Shaughnessy
 Tom Shaughnessy
 Madison Sheets
 Kim Simpson
 Michelle Simpson
 Mike Simpson
 Dionysi Siopsis
 Iasmi Siopsis
 Maria Siopsis
 Toly Siopsis
 Amy Sliger
 Kylie Sliger
 Laura Smailey
 Bailey Smith
 Elizabeth Smith
 Noah Smith
 Patti Smith
 Rebekah Smith
 Sarah Smith
 Tyson Smith
 Linda Spannaus
 Linda Spinnard
 Dennis Sput
 Bryan Stache
 Holly Stache
 Bill Steiner
 Sara Stonaha
 Anne Marie Strickland
 Emma Strickland
 Seth Strickland
 Thomas Strickland
 Toby Strickland
 Jared Swenson
 Debbie Talbot
 Gaye Thompson
 Ryan Trenkamp
 Debbie Troutman
 Dave Unger
 Terry Uselton
 Sandy Vandenberg
 Hank Vargas
 Henry Vargas
 Martha Vargas
 LaGonda Veal
 Laura Weik
 Frank Whetstone
 Stacy Whetstone
 Debbie Whitaker
 John Wilbanks
 Kathy Wilbanks
 Nancy Williams
 Susan Williams
 Wanda Williams
 DiAnne Wilson
 Joan Worley
 Seth Worley



Tiffany Beachy

Kimber Bradbury
 Dawn Bradley
 Josiah Bradley
 Jennifer Brehm
 Nevin Brown
 Susan Brown
 David Bryant
 Lee Bryant
 Shea Bryant
 Mark Burns
 April Byrge
 Maureen Cairns
 Riley Cassidy
 Vicki Christensen
 Charlene DeShea
 Wanda DeWaard
 Dawn Dextraze
 Sally Dickie
 Mario DiDiego
 Michele DiDiego
 Ron Dolislager
 Charlene Dubs
 David Dubs
 Bergen Erickson
 Marie Erickson
 Whitney Erickson
 Caroline Erikson
 Erin Erikson

**volunteers worked
 3,318
 hours for Tremont**

Sofie Griggs
 Zachary Griggs
 Addison Grimm
 Chloe Gunter
 Georgia Gunter
 Melissa Gunter
 Dorothy Haislip
 Heather Hatcher
 Glenn Hathaway
 Janet Hathaway
 Walter Hedge
 Lesly Henaushot
 Jane Herbert
 Minde Herbert
 Sam Herbert
 Alex Heslep
 Jacob Heslep
 Paula Heslep
 Angelique Hickman
 Garrett Hickman
 Donna Higdon
 Steve Higdon
 Ryan Hintz
 Thom Hobbs
 Ron Hoffman
 Sherry Hoffman
 Robert Holman
 Boyd Hopkins
 Joy Hopkins
 Amelia Horton
 Claire Horton
 Erin Horton
 Tom Howe

THANK YOU 2015 GIFTS

to the many generous individuals, organizations, and companies who supported Tremont in 2015. Without you, we would not be able to serve the thousands of students and adults each year in this special place.

\$20,000-\$50,000

Alcoa Foundation
AT&T
Jim & Natalie Haslam II
National Park Service

\$10,000-\$19,999

Bill Cobble
Cornerstone Foundation
Bill & Susan Varner

\$5,000-\$9,999

Alcoa Rigid Packaging
Jim & Kati Blalock
Dan & Rosemary Cap
Clayton Family Foundation
Jim Clayton
Cornerstone Foundation
Joe Emert
Randy & Robin Gibson
Covenant Health
Shannon Harper
Jan Heinrich
David Jordan
Raja & Michelle Jubran
Jack & Sylvia Lacey
William Marrison
Edward Pershing
PYA Waltman Capital
UBS Financial Services, Inc.
University of Tennessee
Chad Youngblood

\$2,500-\$4,999

Ackermann Public Relations
& Marketing
Bob Booker
Billy Carroll
Nathan Hunter
Charles & Terry James
Jon Lawler
Mac Post
The Trust Company of Knoxville

\$1,000-\$2,499

Joe & Carole Ayres
Victor & Myra Barrett
Esther Bell
Agnes Bouton
Martin & Loretta Brown
Jeff & Vicki Chapman
Susan Cooper
Ken & Jane Creed
Sam & Jody Curtis
Pete DeBusk

Mary Dresser
Hank & Margaret Dye
Whitney Erickson
Joseph Fielden
Foothills Kiwanis
Phil Francis
Chuck Garten
Jim & Janet Hart
Christine Hayworth
Jerry Hodge
Hugh & Debby Hyatt
Keep the Change Fund
Little River Trading Company
Stephen Lockhart, M.D.
Frank March
Mort & Becky Massey
Steve & Kay Maynard
Conley & Carolyn Murrell
Karen Myers
River Sports Outfitters
Dick Ray
Bill & Kay Stokely III
Joe & Becky Swann

\$500-\$999

Anonymous
Ted & Jill Beattie
David & Judy Birdwell
Mark Burns
Joan Cronan
Nannette Enloe
Elizabeth Estill
Jeff & Alice Fisher
Foothill Striders
Carolyn Forster
Gatlinburg Pittman High
Jen Jones
Lynne Kaminer
Knoxville Leadership Foundation
Sherri Lee
David & Sandy Martin
Susan Packard
Will and Genetta Pugh
Gray Reavis
William & Carole Reeves
Michael & Heather Shepperd
Sarah Stowers
Barbara Vanderjagt
Brenda Wood

\$250-\$499

Adam Brenchley
Jack Burgin
Daniel & Stephanie DeVries
Marie Erickson
Roger & Maria Goetz

Eric Hoepfner
Carolyn King
Joyce Kuzmick
Charles & Clara McNutt
Bob & Sandy Merriman
Todd Moore
Bob & Margaret Page
John Woodell & Michelle Prysby
Paul Ries
Kim Sadler
Ken & Jean Smither
Victoria Soderberg
Don Taylor
Peggy Tollison
Carl Van Hoozier, Jr.
Elizabeth Warren
Ronnie & Camille Wheeler

\$1-\$249

Kim Almand
Grady Amann
Annette Anderson
Anonymous
Dan & Shirley Atwald
B&T Distributing, Co.
Peggy Baldwin
Charles Barber
Clayton-Bradley Academy
Jennifer Bausman
Dwayne Bell
Charley & Patricia Bible
Tim & Janet Bigelow
Kenneth & Amy Bishop
Edwina Bowers
Deborah Bowman
Ricardo Buenaventura
Rose Calhoun
Marty Callaway
Jim & Van Callaway
Heather Campbell
Howard Capito
Jim Casey
Jaime Cepeda
Carolyn Christopher
Jimmy & Bonnie Clark
Glenn & Debbie Claypool
Mike & Connie Clemmer
Ray Colclough
Eli Condie
Michael Crawford
Charice Davis
Heather Davis
Saundra Deighton
John Dickenson
Katherine Dickinson
Larry & Beth Dicus
Thomas & Kathy Dittmaier
Donald & Carolyn Dougall
Don Dunning
Jody Dyer
June Eastvold
Chuck & Patti Edwards
Galal El-Sayad
Karen Ellingson
Darrel Ellis

Margaret Epperly
David, Caroline, & Erin Erickson
Paul Erwin
Mary Ann Everett
W.H. Ferguson
Wendy Fish
Tom & Marian Fitzgerald
Nicole Flory
David Foote
Sandra Fortson
Marilyn Frank
Carolyn Franks
William Froschauer, Jr.
Douglas Fry
Melody Gentry
Jim & June Gerding
Larry Gerrard
Jim & Robin Goddard
Keith Goff
Meredith Goins
Jo Grant
Meggan Graves
Chuck Graviss
Brian Groenhout
Henry & Debbie Guigou
Joan Hall
Randy Hammer
Jim Hands
Tom Hardesty
Ed Harmon
Jeff Harshbarger
Don & Carolyn Hartman
Robin Hatton
Walter Hedge
Sloan Heermance
Roy & Patricia Heifner
Cathy Henn
Miriam Herbers
Ray & Carol Hils
Parks Hitch, Jr.
Torin Hoback
Richard Holland
Terry Holley
John Holloway
Pat Holobaugh
Joy Hopkins
Erin & Amelia Horton
Jeffrey Hoyer
Pat Hyland
Thomas Ihrig
Bill & Patricia Irby
Holly Jackson
Paul James
Malcolm & Barbara Johnson
Christine Johnson
John Johnson
Robert & Sally Johnson
Kelly Johnson
Cathi Jolly
Barry & Colleen Jones
Michael Keller
Phyllis Kelly
Janice Kemp-Phillippy
Knoxville Chapter of TN
Ornithological Society

Heather, Nathanael &
Avigail Laing
Kenny Langley
Bob Lash
Henry & Shirley Law
Patria Leath
Richard Ledyard
Jack & Elsie Leider
David & Susan Lennox
Robert & Linda Lloyd
Steve & Jane Logan
Lloyd Luketin
Robert & Cheryl Manning
B. & Carol Manshady
Susan & Bruce Marshall
Dr. Ralph & Marilyn Martin
Cathy May
Clyde & Anne Maynard
Bill McChesney
Ann McDermott
Randy & Marsha McGinnis
Kathryn McQuaid
Anne McWhirter
Karen Metcalf
Susan Milinkovich
Nancy Miller
Bob Moore
Ann Mull
Jeff & Cheryl Mullen
Frank Navratil
Allyson Neal
Mary Netto
Kathy Newoman
Kenneth & Irene Novak
Bob O'Connor
Denny O'Neal
Al Orsborn
Anne Page
Bob & Janis Patterson
Linda Petrosky
Bill Phelps
Giesela Pierce
Uma Planbeck
Mary Porter

Bill Powney
Gregg & Tracy Price
John & Carolyn Pullias
Jane Qualls McQuire
Robert Ramger
Robert Reily
Tina Riley
David Roark
Ricki Robbins
Susan Roberts
Deborah Roberts
Amy Rochelle
Elizabeth Rogers
Gary & Karyn Rolfe
Frank Ross
Rotary Club of East Cobb
Harold Roth
Bill Schneider
Ann Schuur
Gary & Martha Scudder
Richard & Spain Secrist
Gar Secrist
Raymond Sellers
Brenda Sellers
John Sheffield
David & Judy Shuck
Jackson Shue
Amy Sliger
Pete & Doty Smith
Penny Smith
Mark & Janet Snyder
Douglas Sofer
Shawn & Kristin Spindel
Dennis Spjut
Susan Springer
Lori Steinerd
Ginny Stewart
Jerry & Sharon Stiner
AnnMarie Strickland
David & Sadie Stroud
Maryann Stupka
Linda Suddarth
Christy & Janice Sullivan
Gary Teper

Mary Thames
Bob & Lil Tiebout
Conrad Tinney
William Truex
Angela Tubbs
Mary Alice Tucker
Bob Turner
John & Martie Ulmer
Terry & Marsha Uselton
Marie Vanwalkenburgh
Barry & Jeanie VanWinkle
Georgiana Vines
Judy Voght
Betty Voorhis
Robert & Pat Watson
Alice Watts
Phil & Ann Weinrich
Tina Weston
Jim & Georgie Whitley
John & Kathy Wilbanks
Jim & Sally Williams
Sarah Williams
Eileen Wilson
DiAnne Wilson
Cynthia Wilson
Rachael Witkemper
Woodpickers CD
Kae Wrinkle
Ralph & Karen Wynn
Jerome & Rozanne Zeiger

Cades Cove Cellars
Café 4
Campbell Party Rentals
Casa Don Gallo
Glenn & Debbie Claypool
Copper Cellar
Dead End BBQ
Dawn Dextraze
Dragonfly Photography
Elvira's Café
Fontana Village Resort
Foothills Milling Company
Friends of the Smokies
Great Smoky
Mountains Association
Green Mountain Coffee
GSM Outfitters
Cathy Henn
Russell & Sheri Liles
Little River Outfitters
Little River Trading Company
Magnolia Provisions
Maples Motor Inn
Mast General Store
Eddie Monroe
Morton Massey
Primland Golf Resort
Ripley's Aquarium
Michael & Heather Shepperd
Charlene Stewart
Tellico Village Golf Course
The Inn On the River
The Island at Pigeon Forge
Walt Disney World
West Chevrolet
Wilderness at the Smokies
Willow Ridge Garden Center
Wonderworks
Woodruff Brewing Company

In Kind

Donations

Debra Ahmed
Carolyn Anderson
Aubrey's
Caula Ann Beryl
Biltmore Estate
Bistro by the Tracks
Blue Ridge Mountain Sports
Mark Burns
Evelyn Bryant

Gifts given in memory of

Helen Bales
Paul James

George Fry
Georgiana Vines
Don & Carolyn Hartman

Mark Gibson
Jim & Georgie Whitley

Ellen Hardwick
Tim & Janet Bigelow

Betty Cochran Jones
Ann Mull

Krystal Massey
Kae Wrinkle

Edward Ted Moss
Joan Hall

Bobby Shubert Mullins
Dr. Ralph & Marilyn Martin

Charles & Jeanne O'Connor
Bob O'Connor

Dr. Elsie Quarterman
Kin Sadler

Arthur & Margaret Stupka
Maryann Stupka

Gifts given in honor of

Caleb & Jaima Carlton's Wedding
Mary Dresser

Mr. & Mrs. Bill Cobble
Jim & Natalie Haslam II

Mary Dresser
Nannette Enloe

Hank Dye
Gary & Martha Scudder

Mark Epperly
Margaret Epperly

Sterling Fisher
Don Best

Kathy Huck
John & Martie Ulmer

Arthur & Margaret Stupka
Gregg & Tracy Price

Bill Varner
Shannon Harper

Nathan & Heather Zeiger
Jerome & Rozanne Zeiger

In Memory



Jack Williams

Karen Ballentine

Karen was a long time champion and friend of Tremont. Over her many years of service as Education Branch Chief for Great Smoky Mountains National Park, she made a lasting impact on thousands of lives. Her spirit and passion for education will survive through a scholarship in her name that will help connect kids to nature. To date, friends, family, and co-workers have contributed more than \$8,400 to the Karen Ballentine Scholarship.

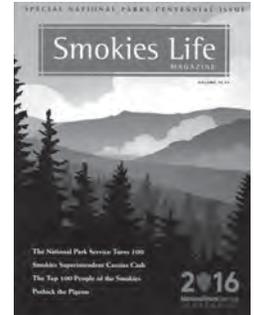
In Honor



Benjamin Drummond / Sara Joy Steele

Ken Voorhis

Tremont's former executive director of 29 years is featured in the centennial edition of Smokies Life. Ken Voorhis has been named one of the Top 100 People of the Smokies. Pick up the current issue to read more about Ken and others who have made the Smokies great!



Board Member Spotlight - Bill Cobble

Believing strongly in the value of an endowment fund, Bill and his wife Donna have opened their home, a stunning 250-acre farm, for the past five years to host Tremont's most successful yearly fundraiser. Thanks to the Cobbles, guests will once again gather at Marblegate Farm in June to share Tremont's vision with others.



Jack Williams

In the late 90's, Tremont was moving out from under the wing of the Great Smoky Mountains Association to become a separate non-profit institute. Tremont needed a Board of Directors to champion the cause, to raise money, to provide direction

on this new adventure, and that board needed a leader.

Former Tennessee Supreme Court Justice Gary Wade tells the story of how Bill Cobble came to be the first board president for Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont.

At the time, Bill Cobble was recruiting for a board position for the Knoxville Zoo, and he believed Gary Wade was the man for the job. Cobble called Wade asking him to serve on the zoo board. However, Wade was reluctant to accept due to other board commitments he was currently working.

Cobble persisted, and Wade had an idea which turned into the "best trade [he] ever made." Wade agreed to join the zoo board if... Cobble would chair the board of a place called Tremont.

Cobble agreed and took the lead in what would be crucial planning years for the institute. He hosted the first board retreat and brought in a facilitator who helped identify the clear vision for Tremont. He was instrumental in getting commitments from key donors and centered the Tremont vision.

"There's no question that absent Bill's leadership, the Tremont board would not have the profile, programming and prestige it did in those beginning days," says Wade.

Since that day, Bill Cobble's work for Tremont and the thousands of students who cross the bridge to campus has sustained and helped build the organization.

Bill Cobble exemplifies an active board member by not only being present, but also by continually pushing to keep Tremont financially stable while evolving programs to fit the next generation of needs.

Thanks to Bill Cobble for decades of service, an unwavering commitment to moving Tremont forward and for taking a chance all those years ago.

Gary Wade is currently the Vice President and Dean of Lincoln Memorial University's Duncan School of Law and previously served as Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Bill Cobble retired as CEO and owner of Cobble Staffing Companies and was the founding President of Tremont's Board of Directors.

School Groups in 2015

A. M. Yealey Elementary School (KY)
 Berrien County Math & Science Center (MI)
 Central Middle International School (IN)
 Cherokee Bend Elementary School (AL)
 Cherokee Middle School (TN)
 Christian Academy of Knoxville (TN)
 Clayton-Bradley Academy (TN)
 Concord Christian School (TN)
 Cornerstone School (FL)
 Daisy Scout Troop 20847 (TN)
 Deshler High School (AL)
 Eagleton Elementary (TN)
 Ellis Middle School (TN)
 Emerald Youth Foundation/
 JustLead Program (TN)
 Episcopal School of Knoxville (TN)
 Fairview Elementary (TN)
 Faith Christian School (SC)
 Follow the Child Montessori School (NC)
 Frazier Elementary School (TN)
 Girl Scout Troop #20044 (TN)
 Glen Este High School (OH)
 Grace Christian Academy (TN)
 Harpeth Hall School (TN)
 Hickory Valley Christian School (TN)
 Holy Comforter Episcopal School (FL)

Hume-Fogg Academic High School (TN)
 Immaculate Conception Cathedral
 High School (TN)
 J. Graham Brown School (KY)
 Jones Valley Elementary School (AL)
 Lebanon Special School District (TN)
 Lenoir City Middle School (TN)
 Lonsdale Elementary School (TN)
 Maplewood Richmond Heights
 Middle School (MO)
 Maryville College "Great Smokies
 Experience" (TN)
 McDowell Early College (NC)
 Mead Montessori School (TN)
 Menlo Middle School (GA)
 Merrol Hyde Magnet School (TN)
 Montessori Academy at Edison Lakes (IN)
 Moody High School (AL)
 Moore Traditional High School (KY)
 Nashville School of the Arts (TN)
 Norris Middle School (TN)
 Ocean Lakes High School (VA)
 Old Trail School (OH)
 Oliver Springs Middle School (TN)
 Oxford High School (AL)
 Pepperell High School (GA)

Pi Beta Phi Elementary School (TN)
 Pope John Paul II High School (TN)
 Rainbow Community School (NC)
 Randolph School (AL)
 Rockford Elementary School (TN)
 Rockwood Middle School (TN)
 Rockwood School District (MO)
 Sayre School (KY)
 Seymour Community Christian School (TN)
 Shelbyville Middle School (IN)
 St Anne Catholic School (VA)
 St. Luke's Episcopal School (AL)
 Station Camp Middle School (TN)
 Sycamore School (IN)
 Tate's School (TN)
 Trinity Christian School (FL)
 Union Grove Elementary School (TN)
 Valley Springs Middle School (NC)
 Visitation Academy (MO)
 Walland Elementary School (TN)
 Walton High School (GA)
 Weatherly Heights Elementary (AL)
 West End Middle School (TN)
 Woodlawn School (NC)
 Woods Charter School (NC)

Colleges and Universities at Tremont During 2015

Bowling Green State University (OH)
 Maryville College (TN)
 Mississippi State University (MS)
 University of Georgia (GA)
 Virginia Tech (VA)
 Purdue University (IN)
 Penn State University (PA)
 Western Illinois University (IL)
 East Carolina University (NC)
 North Carolina State University (NC)
 Texas A&M University (TX)
 University of Missouri-Columbia (MO)



GSMIT Archives



GSMIT Archives

partner with us

Tremont has a long history of partnering with colleges and universities. We work closely with faculty to customize programs and tailor curriculum so students may achieve specific learning objectives in their particular field of study. Many of our programs are organized around a central theme. Our expertise and passion enables us to work with professors and students from across a wide range of disciplines, ranging from wildlife to anthropology, to art and creative writing, to environmental policy and law, and more.

The **Natural Resources College Consortium** dives deep into resource management issues related to the national park. Held each August, participating schools include the University of Georgia, Purdue-North Central, and Virginia Tech. Enrollment for this program is open to students regardless of university affiliation. This consortium may potentially have room for additional schools to participate. Interested professors are encouraged to make enquiries. **Contact us at (865) 448-6709.**

Upcoming Events

SUMMER YOUTH

JUNE

- 13-18 Discovery Camp I
- 13-18 Girls in Science Camp
- 13-18 Wilderness Adventure Trek I
- 27-July 2 Backcountry Ecological Expedition I
- 27-July 2 Discovery Camp II
- 27-July 2 Wilderness Adventure Trek II

JULY

- 5-10 Backcountry Ecological Expedition II
- 5-8 Firefly Camp
- 18-23 Discovery Camp III
- 18-28 Field Ecology Adventure
- 18-28 Teen High Adventure
- 25-31 Maryville College
Great Smokies Experience

ADULT & FAMILY

JULY

- 7-10 Adult Backpacking
- 11-16 Smoky Mountains Family Camp

AUGUST

- 1-3 Aquatic Natural History
- 3-5 Reptiles & Amphibians

SEPTEMBER

- 4-9 Fall Hiking Road Scholar
- 23-25 Southern Appalachian Ecology

OCTOBER

- 2-7 Fall Hiking Road Scholar
- 14-16 Women's Fall Backpack
- 21-24 Autumn Brilliance Photography
Workshop

NOVEMBER

- 4-6 Mammals
- 4-6 Survival Skills
- 12 Annual Volunteer Work Day

CITIZEN SCIENCE

Citizen science happens year-round at Tremont. Participants and volunteers have the opportunity to contribute to scientific research conducted within the national park. Resulting data are shared with collaborating scientists and park resource managers, as well as the general public. Check www.gsmit.org/CitizenScience.html to see what's happening in Walker Valley this season. Popular volunteer projects include bird banding in June/July and monarch tagging in late summer/early fall.



Tiffany Beachy



Gar Scrist

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION

Looking for a great way to enjoy the park this fall? Join us for our annual Homecoming Celebration. The event combines food, friends, and fun to raise money for our scholarship fund. Email heather@gsmit.org to be added to our bi-weekly newsletter list to learn more in the coming months.

DATE ANNOUNCED SOON

teacher escape weekend

You are invited to join us for a weekend in the Smokies where we will share ideas and plan your upcoming Tremont experiences. This short retreat is fitting for both returning teachers as well as those interested in bringing students to Tremont. Escape to the mountains and return home energized and excited for next semester.

WHAT'S INCLUDED:

- Food, lodging and instruction
- Incredible SAVINGS to you and your students
- Preparation for cooperative teaching with our staff
- Activities enhance learner outcomes
- PD hours & network with other professionals
- NEW! - Sessions designed for veteran & new teachers

2016 dates:

Aug. 27-28 and Sept. 17-18

Sign up today to reserve your spot to guarantee
YOUR school's discounts!

Need more info?

Call Jennie McGuigan at (865) 448-6709 or visit
www.gsmit.org/tew.html

relax and enjoy a weekend in the smokies!

Program Spotlight: Photography Workshops

"Thanks for such a wonderful weekend. The surroundings are glorious and I learned so much from the instructors. But it truly is the staff at Tremont that make it such a special experience. I am made to feel so special and so connected with the earth when I'm there, and I'm inspired to be a better person by spending time with people like Elizabeth and Tiffany. They don't just go through the motions, they love what they do and that makes all the difference. So thank you to all of you for providing me with such experiences. They refresh my spirit, they rekindle my passion for the beauty of the world and my heart is so much more peaceful."

- Jane Palmer, Workshop participant 2015 & 2016



JOIN THE FUN
This could be you!

Spots are still available for our Autumn Brilliance Photo Workshop

October 21-24, 2016

Photo by Tom Vadnais,
Photo Workshop Instructor



Photo by Gregory Hurst, Fall Workshop 2015



Photo by Greg Artis, Spring Workshop 2016

SHARE THE FUN - Tell your friends, family, and photo clubs about Tremont workshops!

Campus and Store Updates



Header Davis



Header Davis

Stop in and see our recently updated entryway. Our maintenance team has repainted, refloored and installed several new additions like this lovely banner featuring a background photo by Jane Palmer, one of our workshop participants. While you're here, take a peek in our store. Tremont store manager, Corrine Mauer, has been rearranging and adding new products since she started in early 2016.

experience

We have a variety of programs for all ages and abilities. We are known most often for our school programs, but our calendar is full of options for adults, youth, and families. Options include naturalist classes, photography workshops, family camp, professional development, and summer camps.

For more information, call us at (865) 448-6709 or email heather@gsmil.org to request a program catalog.

"I had the pleasure of coming to Tremont in December, as a chaperone with Cherokee Middle School.

I just wanted to take a second to let you know what an amazing trip this was for both of us. My son, and his classmates, had experiences that will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

For me, it was great to take a trip down memory lane and remember all the good times that I had at camp so many years ago. As an avid outdoorsman and someone who cares deeply about the Great Smoky Mountains, it was so nice to see the children experience, and enjoy, being outside and active in such a special place.



Heather Davis

I can't say enough wonderful things about your staff and everything they did to make this such a wonderful experience. It was truly a pleasure to spend time with a group of people who so clearly love what they do, and are so good at it. As someone who knows all too well that administrators are only as good as the people around them, I can honestly say that you have an amazing team in place."

- David Bolling

David came to Tremont with his school 30 years ago, and in 2015 returned as a chaperone for his son Carter's Tremont experience.



Amy Wilson

Citizen Science - Bird Banding
David, Angelique & Garrett "Fireball" Hickman

volunteer

Could you give one day a month to helping Tremont Institute? Consider supporting Tremont by donating your time as a regular volunteer. There are many opportunities to pitch in. Contact us today to share your skills and know that every moment you put into Tremont gives someone the opportunity to live and learn in this beautiful place.

Volunteer opportunities include planning special events, representing Tremont at community events, assisting in the office or the kitchen, moving gravel, making fire starters, collecting donations, and more.

To find your place among the dedicated Tremont volunteers, email heather@gsmil.org.



Heather Davis

Tremont Booth at Maryville College Cirque du Science
Volunteer, Joan Worley and Education Director, John DiDiego



Jen Jones

Thanks to a clothing grant from Columbia Sportswear our teaching staff is looking sharp while out on the trails!



GSMIT Archives

Spring Road Scholar Hiking Week

What did you enjoy most?

"The hikes, for sure. A year ago, I never would have imagined that I could get out and do something like this. The fact that I could keep up well also surprised me. Being able to prove to myself that I can do things like this means a lot to me. I am in a much better place than I was last year, and being able to do things like this shows I'm capable of more than I ever thought."
*-college senior
 spring outdoor recreation consortium participant*

Sue Zapko



Weatherly Heights School Group Checking In

connect

Sometimes you can't be here with us. That's okay! You can still connect with Tremont Institute.

Continue reading our printed newsletter. Share some info with a friend. The next edition will arrive later this year.



Have you signed up for our bi-weekly newsletter? If not, be sure you do. We'll keep you up to date on what's happening here at Tremont, and send reminders about how you can get involved when the time is right for you.
www.gsmitt.org



Have you watched our videos? The feeling you get from dipping your toes in the Middle Prong can never be duplicated by simply watching the river flow from your computer screen, but on an every day work week, it's the next best thing. Take a break and enjoy the scenery from wherever you may be.
<https://vimeo.com/channels/tremont>

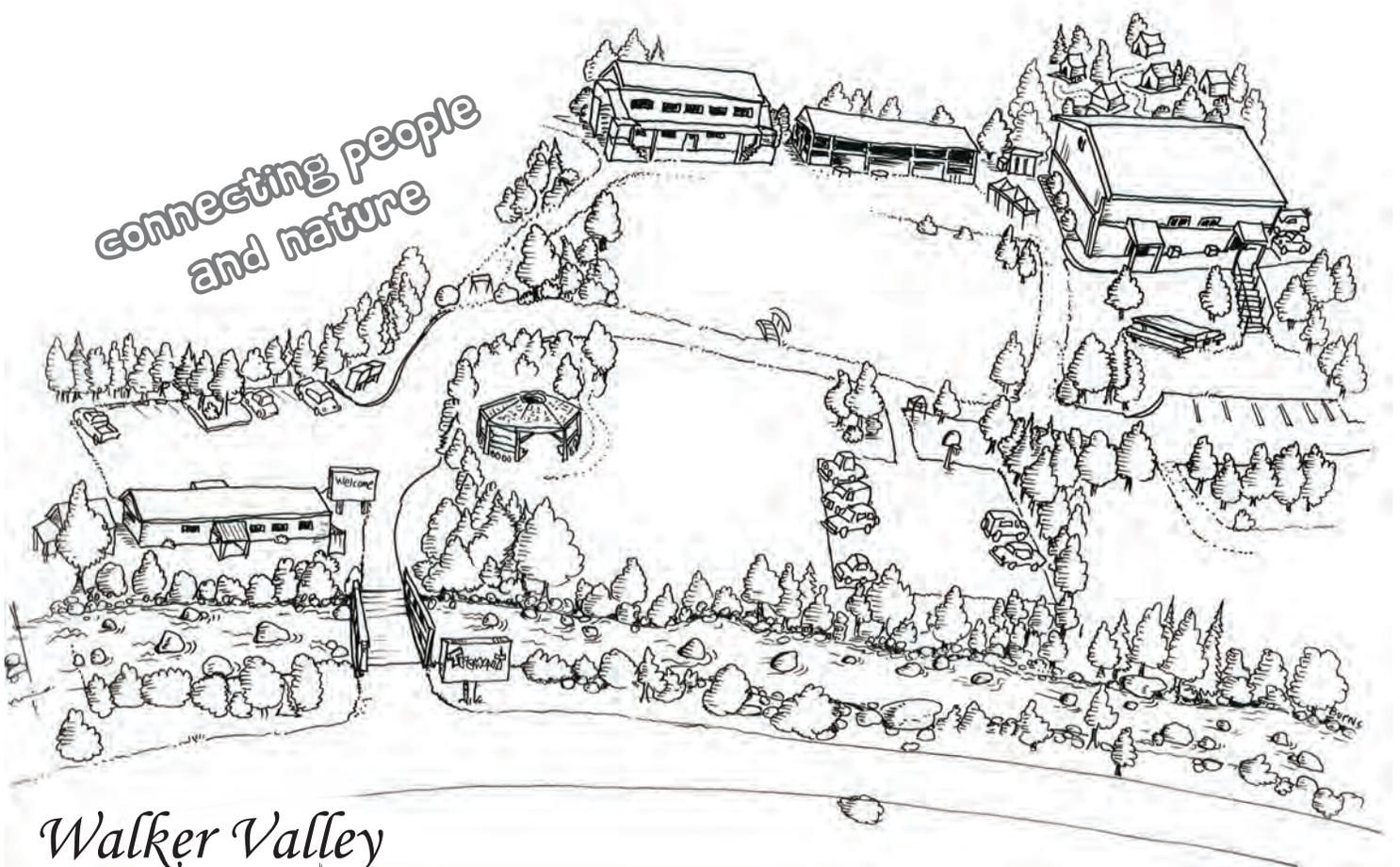


Find us... We are on Facebook, and we love to share our pictures, stories, videos and announcements there. Don't forget to share with us.
www.facebook.com/GSMITTremont



**GREAT SMOKY
MOUNTAINS
INSTITUTE AT
TREMONT**

Great Smoky Mountains National Park
9275 Tremont Road
Townsend, TN 37882



*connecting people
and nature*

Walker Valley

Reflections

The newsletter of
Great Smoky Mountains
Institute at Tremont

*Spring/Summer
2016*

Visit www.gsmit.org or call (865) 448-6709 for more information.