

The logo for the Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, featuring the text "GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS INSTITUTE AT TREMONT" in white, uppercase letters on a black rectangular background.

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program: Mammals Weekend. We hope this is one of many weekends you'll spend with us as we seek to increase our naturalist skills and knowledge. The Great Smoky Mountains are ready and waiting for your arrival.

During this weekend our focus will be on mammals of the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Charismatic megafauna such as the black bear, elk, and river otter will be discussed, as will a variety of oft-overlooked species. By the end of the weekend, expect to become familiar with a variety of issues that mammals face in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It's going to be a fun-filled learning experience.

Get ready! You have registered for an intense weekend during which we will cover material and skills that many people receive in a semester-long class. If you think this sounds ambitious you are right! In order to accomplish our goals it is necessary for you to do some **homework** in the form of readings, that will be emailed to you after you register, to give you the background information needed to take part in discussions and build your toolkit of skills. We have structured this weekend to be a practicum of knowledge you learn via the written word. This means that we keep lecture time to a minimum and actually work on learning skills and practicing them. As a part of this weekend, you will receive *Mammals of the Smokies*, published by Great Smoky Mountains Association.

Instructors:

I will be your instructor for the weekend. I have worked at Tremont since 1996 and am the author of *A Home in Walker Valley: The Story of Tremont* as well as *Great Smoky Mountains Pocket Guide & Journal*. Joining me will be tracking expert Wanda DeWaard. Read more about us at the bottom of the agenda.

Arrival and Departure:

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Friday between 3:00 and 5:00 PM, giving you opportunity to move into the dorm and meet other participants before our 6:00 evening meal. The course concludes early afternoon on Sunday.

Weather:

The weather here can be cool in November. The average daily high for November is usually 61° F and the average daily low 37° F. Keep in mind, however, that some activities may take you through higher elevations which can sometimes be 15° F or cooler. Rain gear is always necessary here in the Smoky Mountains. Please bring it along.

Logistics:


Please read the "Your Visit to Tremont" link for important packing information. Along with your textbook and readings, linens and toiletries, you may wish to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress, and perhaps a bedside lamp if you are a late-night reader. Please bring binoculars (if you have them; if not, we have several pairs to loan), notepad and pencil, and any field guides you like. Sturdy walking shoes/boots, outdoor clothing, and a hat are also important to your comfort. We have Wi-Fi available in our activity center for your use if you bring a laptop. Tremont is a tobacco free campus.

During the weekend we will also be offering you a 15% discount in our bookstore.

Health & Waiver Form: Please fill out the Health/Waiver Form and bring it with you to turn in upon check-in. If you have special needs, dietary (go to <http://www.gsmit.org/Food.html> for more specifics), medical, or otherwise, please send in your form at least two weeks before the program starts. This form must be filled out and turned in to us for you to participate in the program. Please note that food is not allowed in the dorm.

I hope that this information is helpful to you in planning for your upcoming visit to Tremont. Please tell a friend about us, so that they can learn about the wonders of the Smokies. If you have further questions, please feel free to call.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeremy Lloyd". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Jeremy Lloyd
Manager of Field Program and Collegiate Studies

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