

The newsletter of Great  
Smoky Mountains  
Institute at Tremont

Spring 2011

# Walker Valley REFLECTIONS



JOSIE DAVIS



CHRISTINA MCCOY



GSMIT ARCHIVES

Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont  
2010 Annual Report



MARY SILVER



JOSIE DAVIS

CONNECTING  
people and nature

[www.gsmit.org](http://www.gsmit.org)



# From the Executive Director

2010 Accomplishments, The Back-Story

When I was a kid, one of the best things my mom ever did for me was to tell me, “Don’t come home until the street lights come on.” My friends and I rode our bicycles all over creation and found those out-of-the-way places that Robert Michael Pyle so aptly dubbed “ ‘rough ground’—little patches of undeveloped nature that are not manicured, planted, controlled or protected, but are close-to-home and available for kids to play in, as they please.”

My family took me camping. We went to state and national parks. We canoed, hiked, water-skied, and explored both new and familiar wild places. There was a natural history museum in our town that I loved to visit. They had animals there, and classes about the animals, and opportunities for kids to volunteer to help. I did that and later even got a job on their “junior staff!”

Last year the President announced America’s Great Outdoors Initiative. He asked the leaders of those agencies that deal with people and the

outdoors to go to the American people and find out what is needed to begin the implementation of a 21st century conservation agenda. The resulting report was submitted to the President this February and represents ideas from 51 public listening sessions held across the country.

It is not surprising that what was heard was a description of childhood experience today that is very different than what I had growing up. It was also heard that “Americans care deeply about our outdoor heritage and want to enjoy and protect it.” People realize that we are less connected with the outdoors, with nature, and they believe that it is important to find ways to remedy that. The report goes on with a number of recommendations and great ideas for how to implement them. You can view the entire report at <http://americasgreatoutdoors.gov/report/>.

Tremont has been connecting people and nature for over forty years. Hopefully the President’s Great Outdoors Initiative will help us and others who have similar goals. What we do is critically important work. Utilizing our national parks as places to reconnect people with the natural world makes great sense.

At Tremont we see firsthand the value of bringing school children into the classroom of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Living and learning in the Smokies for more than just a short visit helps children develop ownership of “their” national park.

We also help them realize that there is “rough ground”

in their home neighborhoods. Many of the children don’t know what is available in their own backyard.

Recently, one of our teacher naturalists, Tesha, began researching what natural areas, parks, nature centers, etc., are near the kids’ home communities. She encourages them to visit these places when they return home.

A teacher who is working to bring a group of students to Tremont expressed the need to engage students with the outdoors.

“Many of our teachers have volunteered to sponsor as many students as we can because we believe that these students need to be able to see the world outside their own.

Many of them know only about many trees by the books I have in my classroom, or by the pictures they see on their television screens at home. I work with a population that does not value the outdoors. They do not see the importance of nature or wildlife or conservation of land in this country. So many of these students don’t really know why they want to come to Tremont yet.

If we can get a large enough group to experience what Tremont has to offer and then bring those students back to share what they saw and what they were given, we might be able to change the culture in a way that will place more importance in nature, in conservation and education.”

It is a joy to witness this kind of change in children through our programs and their experience with Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

What I’ve tried to relay in these few paragraphs is important context for this annual report issue of our newsletter. It explains the people and nature piece that is woven throughout the numbers and statistics that are a part of this report.

Without the back-story, the depth of experience, and the story of what they represent, the numbers and statistics don’t reflect the full impact of our mission... *Connecting people and nature in Great Smoky Mountains National Park.*

Much thanks to all of those who helped us with that mission in 2010! Teachers, students, naturalists, the National Park Service, donors, board members, staff, volunteers, advisors, guest presenters, friends, and family—the list is endless but THANKS TO ALL!

I hope you will appreciate reading about our 2010 accomplishments and will choose to get involved in 2011 as we go about this great and important (and enjoyable) work.

Ken Voorhis  
GSMIT Executive Director

# What Can Visiting a National Park Do For You?

By Jeremy Lloyd, special programs coordinator

National parks will figure into the vacation plans of many Americans this summer, and that’s a good thing. When people visit parks they fall in love with them, which in turn ensures their prolonged existence so future generations can enjoy them.

But what good does it do us to visit a national park? Besides glimpsing wildlife and seeing beautiful scenery, breathing fresh air and spending time with family, how exactly do we benefit? A book I’ve been reading recently, a classic in conservation literature, Mountains Without Handrails: Reflections on the National Parks by Joseph L. Sax, offers some insights. What’s intriguing is how closely several of his answers relate to our work here at Tremont.

## Contemplation

Sax points out that from their very beginning the national parks were created to provide visitors with more than just scenery. Frederick Law Olmsted, designer of Central Park in New York City and chairman of the commissioners managing Yosemite when it was first formed, argued that parks are for the “contemplative faculty.” Parks, in other words, are for leisure and recreation. Unstructured time creates space for soul-searching and getting to the bottom of our selves. This, in turn, benefits a democratic society and keeps it healthy.

Here at Tremont I have witnessed the kind of deep contemplation on people’s faces that you don’t see at the mall, or the post office, or in the workplace. I’ve seen it in people sitting by the banks of the Middle Prong, as they finish the solo hike during a wilderness trek, or as they gaze into the dying embers of a campfire at day’s end.

Opportunities to “get outside yourself” simply to think and feel do not occur easily in our daily routine. That’s one reason people come to Tremont, because for a short time at least, every person who comes here gets to be like Henry David Thoreau exploring their very own personal Walden Pond.

## Unmediated Experience

National parks also offer experiences minus a “middle man.” In a wild landscape

such as the Smokies, no one is reading a script or maneuvering levers behind a curtain. Instead it’s a real life adventure.

The fact is, most people who visit the Smokies come not because of the natural scenery but because of the wide variety of attractive activities the surrounding area offers—all of them mediated experiences. But in order to experience something more authentic, you must visit the national park.

Climbing a mountain, catching a salamander, watching a snake slither across the trail, carrying a backpack full of a week’s worth of supplies—these are just a few experiences that happen on a regular basis at Tremont, all of them unmediated. It only appears on the surface that teacher/naturalists are controlling them. Rather, they act as midwives helping to bring them into being. And that’s in part what going to a national park means: giving up some control and being open to having an experience that is visceral, hands-on, and self-directed.

## Cultivating Desire

Our culture champions individual choice and taste above almost everything else. This way of thinking ultimately leads each of us to believe that we’re the center of the universe. One result is that we only choose to do whatever is easiest and least demanding.

Sax argues that we humans ultimately do not know, and cannot specify, what we want. True desire, he argues, must be cultivated. This means sometimes accepting the possibility that others may know what is good for us better than we do ourselves. Children provide a good illustration for this, though for adults it’s true as well. Without cultivating a taste for fruits and vegetables, a child may want to eat only candy, and the result is a very unhealthy individual.

It’s with this principle in mind that the National Park Service, instead of trying to please every person’s wish by dropping

standards to the lowest common denominator, instead encourages visitors to pursue forms of recreation that are more challenging and demanding than they’re used to. And it’s why here at Tremont we lead middle school age children into the woods on hikes, cultivating in them the desire for wilderness, adventure, and learning in nature.

The result is a generation of youngsters who possess a firsthand knowledge of the natural world and who will grow up to take care of it.



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## Your National Park Awaits You

In closing, Joseph L. Sax argues in his book that satisfaction from activities we take part in come not from merely occupying ourselves, but from engaging ourselves. It’s hard to imagine a better way for this to happen than by getting outdoors.

So come visit your national park in the Smokies this summer. Come sit by the shores of the Middle Prong and contemplate life deeply. Come for an adventure no one alive will ever experience in quite the same way. Come and stimulate your appetite for lifelong learning in the outdoors.

The reasons for visiting a national park this summer are too many to count. What will be yours?

*We shall not cease from exploration,  
And the end of all our exploring  
Will be to arrive where we started  
And know the place for the first time.*

—T.S. Eliot, Four Quartets

# “Boot Up” For Basic Training in Southern Appalachian Ecology

By Sandi Byrd, director of development & public relations

Do you want to become a better naturalist, communicator, and land steward by learning the ecology and natural history of the southern Appalachian Mountains?

You can do just that, and join many others who have already done so, by participating in our Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program. Through a series of eight core courses, you will learn fundamental and specialty skills in southern Appalachian ecology and interpretive techniques.

Since the program began in 2008, we have had 25

graduates. Many others have simply enjoyed sampling some of the classes and learning more about Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

There’s no deadline for completion of the program, so you can take the courses at your leisure. You don’t need formal training in biological sciences or natural history to succeed, so come join a group of curious, nature enthusiasts (like yourself) for the learning experience of a lifetime!

Here’s what participants are saying about this program:

**C**ourses for the Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program cover ecological communities, plant identification, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, stream ecology, the history of nature study, interpretation, and other skills necessary to an educational naturalist.

To qualify for the non-credit Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certificate, you must complete all eight core courses. Students not enrolled in the certification program may take courses individually.

Courses are held at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont with field work throughout Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Participants may commute from home or stay onsite, and all meals are provided.

*“After completing this incredible certification, I was immediately offered a full internship (12 weeks) with the GSMNP Sugarlands Visitor Center. I found that rangers and the VIP staff all praised this program and depended upon my naturalist skills to assist them at the information desk as well as interpreting programs and hikes.” – Cynthia Beal*



GSMIT Archives

*“I began hiking all of the trails in Great Smoky Mountains National Park in late 2009 and writing an online blog of the experience. Plants are my focus, yet the overall natural history scope of SANCP has definitely broadened and informed my understanding of the larger landscape, allowing me to reflect more of the park’s nature in my writing. As part of this endeavor, I volunteered with both the bird banding and monarch butterfly tagging activities at GSMIT in 2010.” – Margie Hunter*

*“I have volunteered over 1,500 hours of service to Great Smoky Mountains National Park helping visitors at the Sugarlands Visitor Center, developing and presenting formal interpretive natural history programs to the public, conducting informal roving programs (bear safety, etc.) and a host of other projects supporting the park. I am an Adopt-a-Trail volunteer leader. I have hiked over 7,000 miles in the park. In 2010, I became a seasonal park ranger in RED/PAC where I have helped introduce over 5,000 K-12 students to the natural world around them. SANCP has helped me to accomplish this directly with its program content and indirectly by inspiring me to continue learning more about natural history on my own. My goal is to help inspire and develop the next generation of environmental stewards of the Smokies.” – Lloyd Luketin*

*“I work at Coffee County Central High School and have been able to use the knowledge gained from the wonderful classes at Tremont in several ways. In biology class I am amazed at the information I can share with both students and instructors on minute details about the natural world. My grandchildren are amazed that Nana knows so many bird species and how a frog eats or a snake senses prey. My interpretive skills have been greatly enhanced by my Tremont classes, and now instead of just showing, I am able to enhance my presentations with more information.” – Ann Lendley*

The Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program is made possible through a partnership between Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont and the University of Tennessee.

# Why I Take My Class to Tremont

By Linda Williams, teacher, Seymour Community Christian School, Seymour, TN

Several years ago I took my first and second graders to Tremont for a one-day field trip. I wanted them to enjoy God’s creation and experience the fun of playing in a stream and hiking in the mountains.

*“I really appreciate you’re telling us about things that we did not know. Thank you for making it like the best fieldtrip ever. Maybe I will take my kids there and let them learn what I learned, and maybe they might pass it on to their kids.” – Ben, student, Missouri*

*“You have taught me so much in the last few days. It was such a great experience that I will always remember. Seeing everything here has really opened my eyes to what is really out there. Now I think nature rocks!”*

– Cassie, student, Mississippi

Little did I know what doors this one day would open.

A couple of years later I moved up to 4th and 5th graders, and we returned for a winter stay of three days. Experiencing the mountains in the winter was new, and we found that the mountains offered many surprises in January.

We have returned since in the fall, and this year we will come in April for a spring adventure. The same children will be coming this time, because I have moved up with them and we enjoy comparing the difference each season makes.

I have many objectives when I take the



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children to Tremont and have not been disappointed. My first objective is for the students to develop a sense of responsibility to be good stewards of the beautiful world

*“Our kids learn so much about nature and working together, but the most important thing I see is growth in self-confidence and esteem. Tremont does so much for everyone—but most importantly our kids’ image of themselves is changed forever.” – Keith, assistant principal, North Carolina*

*“Our annual class trip to Tremont always solidifies the biology lessons that our students learn the previous year. Being out on the trails and experiencing first hand the wildlife and vegetation in the Smokies is such a new experience for our students. It is something that they never forget—a highlight of the high school experience.”*

– Tonya, teacher, Michigan

# Tremont Awarded Grant for Climate Change Workshop

Tremont has received a grant for \$30,000 from the National Parks Foundation as part of a collaboration between the Foundation, the Will Steger Institute, and three other institutes similar to Tremont.

The other institutes are NatureBridge in California and Washington (includes Yosemite Institute, Olympic Park

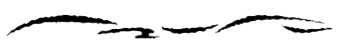
Institute, Headlands Institute, and Santa Monica Mountains Institute), North Cascades Institute in Washington, and Mississippi River Fund in Minnesota (supporting Mississippi National River &

*continued on page 12*



# Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont

## 2010 Annual Report



Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont provides in-depth experiences through educational programs that celebrate ecological and cultural diversity, foster stewardship, and nurture appreciation of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The following are highlights from 2010:

### Executive Summary

In-depth residential environmental education programs at Tremont reached 5,837 people. Since residential programs are several days or more, our impact is better translated into 21,119 user days and 175,288 program hours. We served 79 school groups from 12 states. 135 children attended summer programs and 1,155 attended adult programs including our Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification program that had 15 graduates.

In addition to residential users, we had contact with 785 people through outreach activities, 255 through citizen science, and a record of 13,270 through our visitor center, for a total of 20,147 people contacted.

We were able to distribute a record \$69,913 in financial aid. These funds consisted of \$38,063 in needs-based scholarships, \$8,390 for Science Teacher Institute participants, and \$23,460 in park designated grant funds, mostly from Toyota, to support participants in our JustLead Day Camp program with the Emerald Youth Foundation, Girls in Science Camp, Science Teacher Institute, Climate Change and Lichen teacher workshops.

Sales were good especially in comparison with other park bookstores. Gross sales for the year were \$129,605 for a net of \$72,598 in profits, which are donated back to Tremont from Great Smoky Mountain Association and help to fund our programs.

In spite of a continued sluggish economy, we met our budget due to staff efforts to recruit groups, reduce expenses, and raise necessary support income. We also completed \$50,190 in capital improvements.

### Staff and Board

Our greatest resource is our staff, and we continue to strengthen our team and enhance our abilities through staff development and effective hiring. Two key members of the education team—our school program and citizen science coordinators—left us for other opportunities. A search for well-qualified replacements occurred toward the end of the year, and new employees filled these positions in January.

We also have a wonderfully qualified and committed board of directors that continues to help us develop, shape, and bring about an exciting vision for Tremont's future.

### Other Key Accomplishments

- The Environmental Assessment for Tremont facilities was completed.
- The park, Friends of the Smokies, and the Tremont board began work on a fundraising agreement and the beginning of plans for a capital campaign to complete the first phase of our campus redevelopment project and to increase our endowment. Revenues from this endowment will be used to fund scholarships and special program initiatives, and to assure that we can maintain and operate improved facilities.
- A new cooperative agreement between Tremont and Great Smoky Mountains National Park was signed.

### Programming

Our Program Leadership Team continues to develop with increased confidence, coordination, and oversight of programs.

In 2010, 79 schools from 12 states attended our school programs. Attendance held steady in spite of hearing numerous comments from schools about tight budgets, financial needs of students, and continued pressures to meet tighter standards in the classroom.

School Program Highlights:

- Over 60 teachers are now participating in our informal Teacher Advisory Group.
- A Guide to Cooperative Teaching was created to help teachers prepare for their role, and to help staff focus on how cooperative teaching should work.
- Once again, we worked with Dr. Bob Powell at Clemson University to conduct an evaluative study of our program in comparison with all curriculum-based educational programs offered in the national park.
- For the first time, the lead instructors for all Southern Appalachian Certification Programs (SANCP) were Tremont core staff. Three of the eight courses have been accepted as Criteria I workshops for the North Carolina Environmental Education Certification Program.

- Several new programs were created, including: Climate Change Weekend, UGA Teacher Quality Workshop, and Home Educators' Week.

Summer Youth Programs:

- A talented summer staff left at the end of the summer more knowledgeable and even more energized, as a result of the positive environment created and sustained by summer leadership.
- Two-dozen girls attended our second Girls In Science Camp (funded by Toyota).
- Partnering with the Emerald Youth Foundation, a new JustLead Day Camp program was launched.

Citizen Science:

The infusion of citizen science into all of our programming sets Tremont apart from most other organizations in the field of environmental education. Through citizen science projects, we collect data and expose participants to the world of field science as they become scientists seeking answers to questions in ecology. These projects are integrated into our programming in such a way that schools, summer campers, and adult participants all get a taste of this fascinating world of inquiry and field science.

### Other Programs /Initiatives

- Our annual Appalachian Celebration was held at Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center in Townsend, with storyteller Elizabeth Rose and music by Jill Pair and the Mountain Shadow Band. There were 314 in attendance.
- Homecoming brought 181 individuals to Tremont to have dinner on the grounds, bid on silent auction items, and listen to Bill Landry of "The Heartland Series" tell stories of Walker Valley, the area now known as Tremont. \$18,786 was raised to support scholarships for students to attend Tremont programs.
- The Great Smoky Mountains Scavenger Hunt hosted 17 teams into the park, introducing participants to many places in Great Smoky Mountains National Park that they had never seen. It also raised just over \$2,000 for scholarships.
- The Governor's Summit on Children and the Outdoors was attended by Education

Director John DiDiego and Executive Director Ken Voorhis. Ken, who was a presenter, represented non-formal educators.

- Program staff exhibited at the National Science Teachers' Association.
- Partnering with NatureBridge, North Cascades Institute, and the National Parks Foundation, program staff created a Climate Change curriculum for use by teachers in parks and classrooms.
- Education Director John DiDiego contributed to the development of a Tennessee Environmental Literacy Plan and served on the Tennessee Environmental Education Association board.
- Special Programs Coordinator Jeremy Lloyd contributed to the public's understanding of the history of Walker Valley through his book [A Home in Walker Valley](#). Since its publication in 2009, this book has been distributed to dozens of schools, as well as being available to the public through park stores and the Tremont web site.
- Staff initiated planning for the 2011 annual conference of the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA), which will be hosted by Tremont in August of 2011. (see page 10 for more information.)
- The Tremont web site underwent a total overhaul, with the "new and improved" web site premiering in November. More information and more opportunities for interaction are now available for our site visitors.

- Social media continues to grow as a useful tool for sharing information and alerting participants about programs and activities. Tremont Facebook fans went from 521 fans in 2009 to 1,291 at the end of 2010.

### Grounds and Facilities

We continue to seek out ways to make improvements to our campus that will enhance the Tremont experience. Numerous projects were completed in addition to routine grounds and facilities maintenance.

- Alcoa volunteers helped install a new entrance roof over the main door to the activity center.
- Walmart executives from around the country volunteered their time to help build a new information/interpretive kiosk outside the dormitory.
- A new foot log to Girl Scout Island was built with help from a number of volunteers.
- The Spruce Fir Room in the activity center received a major facelift with added windows, energy efficient lighting, and insulation, using sustainable products for these improvements.
- All areas of the dormitory were sealed and/or painted.
- New bunks were purchased for the entire dormitory, with over half installed by year-end.
- Wood floors in the Cove Room and dining hall were refinished.

### Our Supporters

We owe much of our success this year to all those who supported our efforts. This support enabled us to continue to offer programs to both children and adults, develop new initiatives, and provide increased financial aid.

Support income comes from many sources, as you will recognize on pages 8 and 9.

Dick Ray, former president of Tremont's board and chair of our major donor campaign for the past two years, led us to another record year for this program. These gifts added to other annual gifts made throughout the year, brought the 2010 annual fund total to \$101,913 or 106% of our goal.

Our special thanks go to Alcoa Foundation, the Heinrich Family Foundation, Cornerstone Foundation, Clayton Family Foundation, First Tennessee Foundation, and Trust Company for their continued support. Allocations from Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Toyota provided funding for Girls in Science, Smoky Mountain Science Teacher Institute, JustLead Day Camp, and other programs.

Great Smoky Mountains Association again donated the profits from the store at Tremont, and Friends of the Smokies designated a portion of the funds raised through their annual Swag Country Inn event.

In-Kind services and donations made our special events possible. A list of these special donors is on page 9.

Thanks again to each and every one of you for your interest, your leadership, your participation, and your support. Your gifts help to assure that the next generation understands and protects our public lands.

ATTENDANCE		FINANCIAL	
Total residential participants	5,837	Earned income	87%
Youth programs	4,682	Program fees	\$1,092,077
• Students	3,964	Net sales	\$72,598
• Teachers/adult leaders	718	Increase in investments	\$2,451
Adult programs	1,155	TOTAL earned income	\$1,167,126
Program user days	21,119	Support income	13%
Program user hours	175,288	Program fees subsidized	\$56,863
Citizen Science	255	Other support income	\$122,014
Outreach	785	TOTAL support income	\$178,877
Park visitors (in visitor center)	13,270	Total income (operating)	\$1,346,003
Total impacts	20,147	Expenses (operating)	\$1,320,698
Number of groups	119	Capital expense	\$50,190
• Youth 3-day	62	Endowment (current value)	\$1,209,952
• Youth 5-day	27	Financial aid	
• Adult	30	• 594 students received	\$38,063



# THANK YOU!

...to the many generous individuals, organizations, and companies who helped support Tremont in 2010. Without you, we would not be able to serve the thousands of students and adults each year in this awesome place.

We hope you will continue your support in 2011. You can donate online through our secure store site at [www.gsmit.org/donate.html](http://www.gsmit.org/donate.html).

## Donations

From 1/1/10 to 12/31/10:

### \$25,000 & ABOVE

Friends of the Smokies  
Great Smoky Mountains Association

William B. & Carol  
Leichenrning Dresser Foundation  
Woodpickers

### \$10,000 TO \$24,999

Bill Cobble  
Cornerstone Foundation  
National Park Foundation

### \$500 TO \$999

Agnes Bouton  
Foothill Striders  
Steve & Sue Kiefer  
Bill & Marion Oliphant  
Edward Pershing  
Daniel Ray  
John Woodell

### \$2,500 TO \$9,999

ALCOA  
Tutt Bradford  
Randy & Jenny Boyd  
Clayton Family Foundation  
Herb Coleman  
Edwin Dale  
First Tennessee Foundation  
Heinrich Family Foundation  
Sherri Lee  
The Trust Company

### \$250 TO \$499

Jack Burgin  
Henry & Marty Callaway  
Michael Campbell  
Liz Coburn  
Charlie & Debie Hanie  
Jim & Janet Hart  
Dave & Debra Hensley  
John Johnson  
Bill & Brenda Johnson  
Carolyn King  
Neal & Pat Linhardt  
Terry & Sue Maddox  
Debra McCarter  
Sandy & Bob Merriman  
Nantahala Outdoor Center  
Robert Reily  
E. Lee Rice, Jr.  
Peter & Trudy Shea  
Charlene Stewart  
Barry & Jeanie VanWinkle  
John & Kathy Wilbanks

### \$1,000 TO \$2,499

Cathy Ackermann  
Bob & Karen Anderson  
Tim & Janet Bigelow  
Jim & Kati Blalock  
Boeing Matching Gift Program  
Sandi & Dick Byrd  
Crum & Blazer Insurance  
Larry & Beth Dicus  
Marvin Hammond  
Bill & Patricia Irby  
Christopher Jackson  
Rick Johnson  
Maribel Koella  
Fred Lawson  
David & Sandy Martin  
Conley & Carolyn Murrell  
Pershing, Yoakley & Associates  
Dick Ray  
Wes & Liz Stowers  
Carl Van Hoozier, Jr.  
Betty Voorhis

### \$100 TO \$249

Roy & Paulette Aaron  
Carol Alette  
Duane & Cindy Allen  
Grady Amann  
Jane Arseneau  
Charles Douglas Barber  
Missy Kane Bemiller  
Jennifer Bostick  
Julie Brown  
Patrick & Fae Burkhart  
Alice Cannon

Dan & Rosemary Cap  
Steve & Margaret Carr  
Jay Casselberry  
Jeff & Vicki Chapman  
Richard Chinn  
Allen Coggins  
Ray (Bucky) Colclough  
Cyndie & Warren Cornelius  
Sam & Mechelle Crowe  
Joseph M. & Sue Dawson  
Mary Dresser  
Don Dunning  
Mamie & Rindall Dunston  
Ginny Elliott  
Darrel Ellis  
Barbara Foglesong  
Steven Foster  
Ansley Fox  
Marilyn Frank  
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J. Paul Moore  
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Charles Purkey  
Mary Rahner  
Stephanie Ramsey  
Christi & Ted Ridley  
Ricki Robbins  
Gary & Karyn Rolfe  
Kenneth & Sally Sargent  
Troy Sellers  
Donna Sherwood  
Cindi Smith-Walters  
Victoria Soderberg  
Shawn & Kristin Spindel  
Jeffrey Spitzer  
Stalcup Benefits Company  
Maryann Stupka  
Don & Martha Sundquist  
Gary Teper  
David Unsell  
Georgiana Vines  
Judy Voght  
Ken & Jennifer Voorhis  
Gary & Sandy Wade  
Eileen Wilson  
Geoff & Pat Wolpert  
Douglas & Sara Yoakley  
Nicholas Young

### UNDER \$100

Eddie & Ola Abbott  
Cherie Adcock  
Don & Lois Alexander  
Barbara Allen  
Andrei Barasch  
Dean & Betty Barber  
Jeff & Susan Barnes  
Vi Biehl  
Steve Bieritz  
Ernie Blankenship  
Violette Blumenthal  
William & Phyllis Braddock  
Tom Bruce  
David Butts  
Virginia Carroll  
Earnest & Jane Carson  
Jim Casey  
Mike & Connie Clemmer  
Sarah Cook  
Sara Crum  
Philip & Diane Cupelli  
Bev Dalia  
Heather Davis  
Stella Lee  
Jack & Elsie Leider  
Phil Lovelace  
Lloyd Luketin  
Eric McArtor  
Michelle McCuistion  
Tom McDonald  
Sandy McHone

Patti Edwards  
Ralph Egli  
Steven & Karen Ellingson  
Melinda Ethier  
Diane Etsweiler  
Ruth Ewald  
Eileen Fielding  
Robert & Ruth Fitterer  
Kenlyn Foster-Spence  
Andrew & Linda Franklin  
Carolyn Franks  
Elizabeth French  
Michael Frome  
William Froschauer, Jr.  
Rose Gaertner  
Bill Gazda  
Kate Gilbert  
Meredith Goins  
Carmen Gonzalez  
Alyson Gourley  
Tarah Green  
John Greer  
Angela Gruetzmann  
Leslie Hadaway  
Bill Hammond  
Laura Hammons  
Gail Harris  
Michael & Lora Harvey  
Linda Hatcher  
Roy & Patricia Heifner  
Sharon Heinrich  
Courtney Hendricks  
Mark & Mary Gay Henegar  
Thomas Hollister  
Patricia Holobaugh  
Tim & Mary Lou Holt  
Barry Huffstetler  
Sandi Hughes  
Lora Irwin  
Jolanda Jansma  
Barry & Colleen Jones  
William & Jennifer Kaduck  
Heather Karnes  
Wally Kelley  
Kevin Kennard  
Kathleen Kerin  
Donell Kerns  
Clifford & Ruth Kirk  
Judy Kito  
Julie Labhart  
Ray Lamping  
Bill & Becky Landry  
Edwina & Terence Lawler  
Phyllis Lee  
Stella Lee  
Jack & Elsie Leider  
Phil Lovelace  
Lloyd Luketin  
Eric McArtor  
Michelle McCuistion  
Tom McDonald  
Sandy McHone

Michael & Felicia  
Phillips McIntosh  
Daniel & Lizette McKaig  
Paul McKown  
Joseph & Karen McNamara  
Isabel Meisler  
Jennifer Moore  
Robert Moore  
Aaron Mulroy  
Ann Munson  
Colleen Murray  
Cecil & Roberta Nelson  
Kathy Newman  
Anthony & Rosemary Nichols  
Debby Nuchols  
Denny O'Neal  
Nancy Olsen  
Henry & Marguerite Oswald  
Robert & Carolyn Palermo  
Amber Parker  
Bob & Janis Patterson  
Jerry & Joan Paul  
Niels & Pat Petersen  
Linda Petrosky  
Louise Presley  
Kevin Price  
Erna Prickett  
Sarah Ray  
Sol Resnick  
Cathy Rhodes  
Glenn Rice  
Gary Rice  
Gertrude & Louis Rizzi  
Julie Rochelle  
Marilyn Rogers  
David & Lisa Rogers  
Elizabeth Rogers  
Carolyn Rogers  
Jerry & Betty Roper  
Kim Cleary Sadler  
Paul & Jeanne Sanders  
William (Bill) Schneider  
Paul Schuch  
Jim & Liz Schumacher  
Richard & Spain Secrist  
Jerry & Diane Shackelford  
Lee Coursey  
Sherri Coursey  
Meg Crafton  
Melissa Crisp  
Mechelle Crowe  
Sam Crowe  
Wendi Cruice  
Jim Cunningham  
Leana Cunningham  
Breanna Daniels  
Elizabeth Davis  
Margot Spore  
John & Jan Spruill  
Vic & Connie Stacy  
Gloria Stafford  
John G. Stallings  
Jerry & Sharon Stiner  
Paul & Anna Catherine Super

Carleton Swafford  
Michael & Cyd Tarrier  
Glenn Thompson  
Tracy Trenkamp  
Phil Trick  
William Truex  
Gregory Tucker  
Michael Turley  
Bob Turner  
Patricia Twilla  
Terry Uselton  
Sean Utthe  
Liana Vitali  
Tom & Christy Walsh

Scott Warwick  
Steve Watts  
Miriam Weiner Szubin  
Andy Welshan  
Dan & Theresa White  
Jim & Sally Williams  
Robert Wilson  
Priscilla Wilson  
Christie Wolf  
Mitchell & Jenny Workman  
Elizabeth Yang  
Alex Young  
John & Mary Zanichelli

### IN-KIND

Lois Alexander  
Appalachian Ballet Company  
Apple Cake Tea Room  
Aubrey's Restaurant  
Auto Pro  
Janet & Tim Bigelow  
Big Frog Expeditions  
Blue Moon Cruises  
Brown's Creek Wine & Spirits  
Clayton Center for the Arts

Dancing Bear Lodge  
Dandy Lions Gifts  
Dick's Sporting Goods  
Eagle Distributing  
Fightmaster Fly Fishing  
Gracie's Restaurant  
Great Smoky Mountains Association  
Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center  
Home Video Studio  
Jon's Golf Carts  
Knoxville News Sentinel  
Luxbury Inn & Suites

Miss Lily's Café & Catering  
Missy Kane & Covenant Health  
M. J. Montgomery  
O'Charlie's Restaurant  
Olive Garden  
Pizza Kitchen  
Regions Bank  
Smoky Mountain Discovery  
Tennessee Valley Winery  
Suzanne Terrill  
The Home Depot

The Tomato Head  
Thomas Boyd Clothing  
Trillium Cove Home & Garden  
Turkey Creek Woodworks  
Vienna Coffee Company  
Watts Bar Belle Riverboat  
WBIR-TV Knoxville  
WDVX  
WebKnitter, LLP  
Willow Ridge Garden Center  
WonderWorks

Nicolas Qualman  
Amanda Rader  
Buddy Randolph  
Debbie Randolph  
Joe Randolph  
Lydia Reese  
Nadine Rhea  
Adele Richardson  
Amelia Richardson  
Ava Richardson  
Charlotte Richardson  
Evelyn Richardson  
Rowen Richardson  
Russell Richardson  
Chris Rigell  
Ellen Rigell  
Juli Rigell  
Taylor Rinehart  
Ariane Roland  
Devin Roland  
Micah Roland  
Clara Ross  
Enid Rowe  
Tom Rozman  
Owen Schumacher  
Aubre Sciamarke  
Gar, Keane, & Richard Secrist

Elizabeth Shoecraft  
Mary Silver  
Debbie Simmons  
Rodney Smith  
Jake Spanyer  
Margot Spore  
Dennis Sput  
Bill Steiner  
Alissa Stewart  
Brandi Stewart  
Dalton Stewart  
Doug & Charlene Stewart  
Brandon Stucks  
Suzanne Terrell  
Danielle Tidel  
Anthony Trenkamp  
Ryan Trenkamp  
Samantha Trenkamp  
Jaime Tuttle  
Terry Uselton  
Roberto Vazquez  
Karen Van Son & family  
Vincent Van Son  
Jeanie Van Winkle  
Ken Voorhis  
Brenda Walter  
Gracie Walter

Jack Walter  
Lauren Walter  
Olivia Walter  
Will Walter  
Grace Ward  
G. G. Ward  
Greg Ward  
Maggie Ward  
Tommy Ward  
Libby Weithmauer  
Frank Whetstone  
Stacy Whetstone  
John & Kathy Wilbanks  
Portland Wilbanks  
Mary Wilson  
Joan Worley  
Alie Zennie  
John Zemie  
Robert Zennie  
Robin Zennie

Americorp  
Experience Your Smokies  
Maryville College  
Master Gardener's Club  
Pre-College Upward Bound  
Walmart Stores

## Leave a Lasting Legacy

You have an opportunity to leave a lasting legacy that speaks of who you are and what you hope for those you leave behind. Making a planned gift gives you the tool to make a meaningful statement about what you love and cherish.

If Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont means something special to you, you can signify that connection with something as simple as a gift through your will. You might have a specific amount in mind or you may want to designate a percentage of the remainder of your estate once you've taken care of your heirs.

The following is an example of the language that can be included in your will:

I give and bequeath to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont, a non-profit organization (Tax ID #62-1833479), located at 9275 Tremont Road, Townsend, TN 37882, for its general purposes, the sum of \_\_\_\_\_dollars -OR- \_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate.

For more information about making a planned gift, contact Sandi Byrd at [sandi@gsmit.org](mailto:sandi@gsmit.org) or call (865) 448-9732 Ext 24.



# Tremont to Host National ANCA Meeting in August

By Sandi Byrd, director of development & public relations

Tremont has been selected to host the annual Summit of the Association of Nature Center Administrators (ANCA) on August 17-20. This is the first time the group has met at Tremont since it co-hosted the event with Ijams Nature Center in 1998.

ANCA is an international network of nature and environmental learning center leaders. The association is dedicated to bringing the best practices in the field to directors of nature centers, outdoor education centers, and environmental learning centers.

Each summer the group meets at various locations throughout the United States. Summits are structured to encourage information sharing, mentoring, training, and professional networking. Workshops and facilitated sessions are a combination of best practices from industry veterans and fresh advice on dealing with today's challenges.

A variety of post-Summit trips are also being planned for participants to choose from, as well as making sure

there is some free time during the conference to explore the national park and surrounding area.

Tremont is excited to bring this group back to the national park and back to Tennessee. It's a great opportunity to share not only what we are doing at Tremont, but to shine the spotlight on our national park and this part of the country.



ANCA was founded two decades ago when the people who ran nature and environmental learning centers began getting together to share ideas, experiences, and hard-won professional wisdom.

ANCA is now an international network of nature and environmental learning center leaders designed to enhance professionalism and provide the support system critical to innovative and progressive management.

The Association of Nature Center Administrators is a private nonprofit organization created solely of and for leaders in the nature center profession, and is the only such organization in the United States.

For more information about the conference, please visit our web site at <http://www.gsmit.org/anca2011.html>.



JENNIFER VOORHIS

Ken Voorhis, Charlene Stewart, and John DiDiego attended the 2010 Northwoods Summit at Treehaven Environmental Learning Center in Tomahawk, Wisconsin. They were there to enjoy and learn, but also to encourage participants to come to the Smokies in 2011.

## Thanks, Mom!

This Mother's Day, when you pay tribute to your mom, you can also help others celebrate her life through a gift to Tremont.

Your mom is probably the most important person with whom you'll ever come in contact. She taught you everything from how to tie your shoes to which fork to use at dinner. She taught you how to share yourself with others by sharing herself with you.

This Mother's Day (May 8th) pay tribute to this very

special person by making a gift in her honor to Tremont's scholarship fund. In this way, you will be giving the gift of education to a child who otherwise might not experience the Great Smoky Mountains and all that it can teach them.

Mom will love you even more for it, and so will the child who benefits from your generosity.

For more information on how to make a gift in tribute or honor, go to [gsmit.org/donor](http://gsmit.org/donor).

## Other 2010 Highlights

These few photos give you just a quick look at some of the other activities that made 2010 another great year at Tremont. For more information on these programs or any of our programs, go to [www.gsmit.org](http://www.gsmit.org) or contact us at [mail@gsmit.org](mailto:mail@gsmit.org).



DICK RYAN



DAVE STILES



(clockwise) Appalachian Celebration, Homecoming speaker Bill Landry of "The Heartland Series" and Ken Voorhis, Smoky Mountains Science Teachers Institute, Girls in Science Camp, Scavenger Hunt, (inset) Wilderness First Responder



GSMIT ARCHIVES



MIDDLE, JOSH DAVIS; RIGHT, DONNA GAST; INSET, GSMIT ARCHIVES



# What Does the Tremont Mission Mean to Me?

By John DiDiego, education director

During an all-staff training session, this question was posed to our staff. We allowed everyone to head out into the park to sit and reflect on this. When they came back, each person, from the kitchen staff to the office staff, shared their answers.

This exercise was so powerful and thought provoking, I thought it would be great to share them with a wider audience, so you can get a sense of the conviction and seriousness of purpose we bring to our work. Below is a selection of answers—enjoy!



MICHELLE KEY

*Providing opportunities to children and adults to experience the outdoors in the best example of the natural world in the entire country.*  
— Sandi Byrd, director of development and public relations



GSMIT ARCHIVES

*It means providing people with a place to learn about nature with the hope that it's not a one-time experience.*  
— Mary Dresser, program specialist

*We provide opportunities for rediscovering, enjoying and exploring. And in the process, we enrich people's lives and make them more capable of living lightly and in harmony with the place that they live on and from.*

— Ken Voorhis, executive director



KEN VOORHIS

*We provide an essential piece of the human experience—one that is becoming more and more marginalized.*  
— Adam Leiterman, 2nd year teacher/naturalist



KATE SELBY

*Get people outside, exploring, discovering, asking questions, learning, and caring about the natural world.*  
— Dawn Dextraze, 2nd year teacher/naturalist

## Tremont Awarded Grant...

continued from page 5

Recreation Area).

The grant is an outgrowth of the Foundation's Parks Climate Challenge program that works to educate students regarding climate change using national parks as classrooms.

The model that will be developed by this collaboration will consist of two delivery systems. The first is an in-person teacher training that will be conducted this summer at each institute, and the second is the development of an on-line component that any teacher can use to self-train and access resources necessary for teaching climate change in the classroom.

The teacher trainings from these climate change workshops will utilize and teach common resources and principles, but each institute will also utilize and teach additional principles and resources unique to their region.

At Tremont, the training will take place during the annual Smoky Mountains Science Teacher Institute, June 20-25. In its eighth year, this program attracts teachers from around the country and for one week immerses them in the biological diversity of the Smokies.

Participating teachers will not only receive relevant training through the workshop, but will also be charged with developing hands-on service projects with their students once they return to the classroom. These service projects will be based on the information derived from the workshop, but not necessarily take place within the boundaries of the national park. This flexibility will allow the model the potential of reaching many more students.

The National Park Foundation and the Will Steger Institute will work with the institutes throughout to capture the essential training model, curriculum, resources, and other take-aways that will then be used to develop an online resource.

This online component will then provide the resources needed for any teacher to develop lessons focused on climate change, as well as develop service projects with their students.

## Tremont Transitions

Welcome Jennie and Tiffany!!

By John DiDiego, education director

During the last half of 2010, Tremont said 'so long' to a couple of long-time staff and major shapers of our programs—Jen Martin and Josh Davis. With these big shoes to fill, we set about to hire two new folks worthy of the roles of school program coordinator and citizen science coordinator.

We reviewed hundreds of applicants and narrowed them down to two folks, and I am pleased to introduce them as the newest members of our program leadership team.

### Jennie McGuigan

Jennie is no stranger to our programs because she was a teacher/naturalist from 2000-2001. She joined our team in January and is working hard to learn the current program and get reacquainted with the area.

She was born in Jacksonville, FL and spent most of her childhood mucking about the North Florida/South Georgia marshlands and waterways. As a child, she camped with her family and helped her grandfather on his farm, which nurtured in her a deep love and appreciation for people and nature.

In 1999, she received a BS in Recreation Management with a concentration in Outdoor Experiential Education from Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. After that she spent three years gaining experience working on educational farms, teaching at nature centers, and leading backcountry travel expeditions throughout the United States.

One of those fundamental experiences was being a teacher/naturalist at Great Smoky Mountains Institute here at Tremont. Later, she attended Western Washington University and graduated in 2004 with a Masters of Education in Natural Science/Science Education with a certificate in Non-Profit Administration and Leadership.

After graduate work, she worked for the North Cascades National Park as a wildland

firefighter. There she met her husband and together they purchased a small farm and had two beautiful daughters (Olivia, 5 & Morgan, 3).

She continued to work part-time for a variety of environmental education organizations in the community until she took over as full-time program supervisor for an Early Learning Center.

She enjoys gardening, saving heirloom seeds, watercolor painting, fishing, cooking, and martial arts. She also enjoys singing, music, laughing with friends, and spending time with family.

Her passion and experience working with schools and her knowledge in environmental science education will be a fantastic addition to the quality programming at Tremont. She looks forward to getting her family settled in Maryville, learning more about the community, and meeting all of you very soon.

### Tiffany Beachy

Tiffany comes to us with energy, enthusiasm, and an extreme fondness for all things avian. She knocked our socks off during the interview process and has begun the process of steeping herself in Tremont citizen science programs and learning how they fit into the overall

educational programs.

She was born and raised in Roanoke, VA and earned her BS in Wildlife Science from Virginia Tech in 2003 and her MS, also in Wildlife Science, from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville in 2008.

Her graduate research was part of a multi-state effort to assess the effects of forest management on Cerulean Warblers. She lived the life of an itinerant biologist for a while between schools and has participated in avian research in Tennessee, Canada, Mexico, the Galapagos Islands of Ecuador, Venezuela, and Missouri. She became quite addicted to Cerulean Warblers and continued to follow them to all parts of their global range. She spent the past year working as a private

lands wildlife biologist in Smithfield, VA.

Tiffany is delighted to be back in east Tennessee, and thinks it is appropriate that she now lives directly in the shadow of Cerulean Knob. Her hobbies include bird-watching, hiking, backpacking,

kayaking, star-gazing, running, biking, listening to live music, dancing, cooking, drawing, reading, writing, spending quality time with close friends and family, learning, worshipping God, and just being outside.



MARIEE SLOVIN



FELICITY NEWELL

## What's Your Story?

Did you visit Tremont as a child? Maybe you came with a school group, spent a summer at camp, or worked as a teacher/naturalist one season. We want to hear from you!

Did your Tremont experience inspire you to work in environmental education? Have you shared the wonders of the Smokies with others after discovering it for yourself at Tremont?

Email [heather@gsmiit.org](mailto:heather@gsmiit.org) and share your story. We'll be featuring Tremont alumni in future editions of our newsletters and on our web site.



For kids who like exploring  
**Discovery Camps**  
*June 13-18*  
*June 27-July 2*  
*July 18-23*

For kids ready for an extra challenge  
**Wilderness Adventure Trek**  
*June 13-18*  
*June 27-July 2*

**Teen High Adventure**  
*July 18-28*

For kids who think science is serious fun  
**Backcountry Ecological Expedition**  
*June 27-July 2*

**Girls in Science** TOYOTA ALCOA FOUNDATION  
*June 13-18*

**Field Ecology Adventure**  
*July 18-28*

For science teachers who want to get their class doing science outside  
**Smoky Mountains Science Teacher Institute**  
*June 20-25*

For grownups who like to hike  
**Teacher Naturalist Week (formerly Naturalist Hiking Week)**  
*July 11-16*

**Albright Grove Old-Growth Hike**  
*July 13*

For grownups who like to learn  
**Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program Reptiles and Amphibians**  
*July 11-13*

**Aquatic Natural History**  
*July 13-15*

For families who like to spend time living and learning together in the Smokies  
**Smoky Mountains Family Camp**  
*July 4-9*

## Summertime and the Learning is Easy!

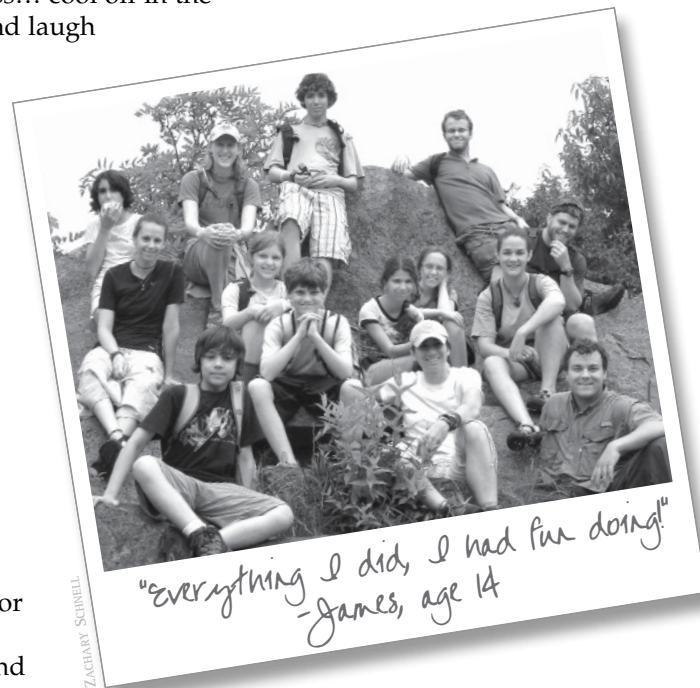
Catch salamanders... experience the awesome power of a waterfall... collect insects... hike through wilderness... cool off in the swimming hole and laugh with your new friends around the campfire.

Investigate old-growth forests, track black bears, set-up field experiments, or climb a mountain.

Backpack to spectacular views, fall asleep to the sound of a wild mountain stream, understand outdoor living ethics, and experience firsthand the animals and plants that call the Great Smoky Mountains home.

These are just a few of the things you could be doing this summer if you choose one of the many summer

experiences offered at Tremont. Look over the list and see if someone you know is up



to the challenge to come live and learn in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It will be a summer they won't soon forget.

### Save the Dates!

**Appalachian Celebration**  
*July 15, 2011*

Get ready for some foot stomping, feel good music and storytelling that will peak your imagination and take you away! Once again, Tremont partners with Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center to bring you and your family and friends the mountain music that will sooth your soul and feed your spirit. Relax in the center's beautiful open-air amphitheatre and enjoy a great evening of family fun.

*Cost: Tickets \$5.00 at the door.*

**Homecoming**  
*September 18, 2011*

Remember the old fashioned dinner on the grounds from days gone by? Well, this is even better. Good food, good friends, great music and a night to celebrate. Everyone is invited to come and celebrate over four decades of connecting people and nature. An evening you won't forget!

*Cost: Tickets \$50 per person.*

For more information on either of these events, go to [www.gsmit.org](http://www.gsmit.org) or call Heather Davis at (865) 448-9732, Ext. 14.



## Looking Ahead

In addition to our year-round school programs, we offer youth, family, and adult programs. Visit [www.gsmit.org](http://www.gsmit.org), call (865) 448-6709, or e-mail [mail@gsmit.org](mailto:mail@gsmit.org) for more information on our offerings!

### APRIL

**Le Conte Lodge Weekend**

*April 15-17, 2011*

Experience Le Conte Lodge, the highest elevation lodge in the eastern United States. You'll stay the first night at Tremont, then hike to the top of the Smokies to enjoy dinner and spend the night at Le Conte Lodge. A Tremont teacher/naturalist will share knowledge of natural history, high elevation ecology, and any chance wildlife encounters! Program lasts from supper the first day to late lunch on the last day.

*Cost: \$418*

**Spring Photography Workshop**

*April 15-18, 2011*

Join nationally recognized photographer Bill Lea and his team of photographers on an unforgettable learning experience in the Smokies. Bill will work with you at your skill level and you are sure to learn something new. This weekend is chosen as an ideal time to capture the mountains in springtime. Space is limited so register now!

*Cost: \$611*

### MAY

**SANCP\*—Birds of the Smokies**

*May 6-8, 2011*

What could be better than a weekend of bird watching? Discover the bird species of the southern Appalachians with emphasis on natural history of each species.

*Cost: \$288*

**SANCP\*—Plants**

*May 6-8, 2011*

Great Smoky Mountains is renowned for its plant diversity—come learn the basics of sorting all of those species into recognizable taxonomic groups and their associated communities. You'll increase your overall knowledge of plants and learn tips and tricks for recognizing species and family groups. Botany has never been more fun!

*Cost: \$288*

**Birdwatching Morning!**

*May 14, 2011*

Bird diversity is at its height during the spring migration—join Executive Director Ken Voorhis for a half-day of birding in Cades Cove. This is a

great program for beginner or experienced birders—learn to recognize some avian friends by sight and by song!

*Cost: \$25*

### JUNE

**Smoky Mountains Science Teacher Institute**

*June 20-25, 2011*

Immerse yourself in the biological diversity of the Smokies and return home with exciting new ideas for involving your students in hands-on science. Tremont produces this workshop in collaboration with the National Park Service and Discover Life in America. Your instructors will include Tremont staff, NPS educators and scientists, and other scientists involved in research in the park.

Program lasts from Monday supper through Saturday lunch.

*Cost: Workshop is offered to teachers for \$50 non-refundable registration fee. Contact us for details.*

### JULY

**Smoky Mountains Family Camp**

*July 4-9, 2011*

Haven't decided on a family trip this summer? We combine all of the excitement of summer camp with the fun of a family vacation for Smoky Mountains Family Camp! This week is fun for all ages—with hikes and explorations for the energetic, wildlife discoveries for the curious, and entertainment and relaxation for everyone. We offer choices each day for you to create your own vacation while sharing quality time and making memories for a lifetime.

*Cost: \$1,103 for a family of four (\$230 each additional person).*

**SANCP\*—Reptiles and Amphibians**

*July 11-13, 2011*

The Smokies boasts a healthy population of amphibians and reptiles. Although these secretive species are not often seen, they are a part of the fabric of diversity that is the hallmark of the national park. You will be guided through this fascinating hidden world, through presentations, field trips, and discussions. Learn to identify common species and see some of them close up.

*Cost: \$288*

**Teacher Naturalist Week (formerly Naturalist Hiking Week)**

*July 11-16, 2011*

Explore the trails with an experienced teacher/naturalist, choosing each day to participate in a day hike or an enrichment session, all designed for the professional teacher and amateur naturalist. If you want to really see the Smokies, this is the week for you! Participants should be in good physical condition and come ready to explore both the natural history and the natural landscape of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in a memorable week.

*Cost: \$428*

**SANCP\*—Aquatic Natural History**

*July 13-15, 2011*

Water has been called the lifeblood of the Appalachians—it helped shape the mountains themselves and streams continue to be corridors of life in the rich forests of the Smokies. Come spend the weekend “immersed” in the waters of the Smokies, exploring the ecology of streams and learning a great deal about the array of species that contribute to the diversity of aquatic life.

*Cost: \$288*

**Albright Grove Hike**

*July 13, 2011*

The Smokies still harbor some of the old trees that made up the forests prior to the logging era. Albright Grove is perhaps the best example of the old-growth forest. Come away with a new understanding and appreciation of what the Smokies were and what they someday will be again! This will be a seven-mile hike with some elevation gain. Lunch and trail snacks provided by Tremont.

*Cost: \$30*

**Appalachian Celebration**

*July 15, 2011*

Come celebrate these mountains and the rich history of those who settled here. As the sun goes down, gather in the open-air theater of the Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center for an evening of entertainment and music. Be mesmerized by storytellers as they charm you with wonderful stories woven with wit, humor, and expressive enthusiasm. And don't be shy about tapping your feet and singing along with traditional mountain music played under the stars. An unforgettable evening!

*Cost: \$5 at the door*

*\*Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program*



## 2010 STAFF

### teacher/naturalists

Brian Ballenger  
Caleb Carlton  
Dawn Dextraze  
Adam Leiterman  
Christina McCoy  
Tessa Omeis  
Mary Silver  
Tyson Wepprich

### citizen science coordinator

Josh Davis

### school program coordinator

Jen Martin

### special program coordinator

Jeremy Lloyd

### program specialist

Mary Dresser

### SUMMER PROGRAM STAFF

#### teacher/naturalists

Roslyn Fuhrman

#### backpack instructor

Katherine Selby

#### environmental education

##### interns

Kensley Baker  
Andrew Handverger  
Madelyn Kenny  
Zachary Schnell

#### science research interns

Elizabeth Davis  
Lydia Reese  
Keane Secrist

#### citizen science educator

Bettina Hasty

#### education director

John DiDiego

#### food service director

Steve Foster

#### food service

Mechelle Crowe  
Linda Hatcher  
Sherry McCollum  
David McNeill  
Lisa Russell  
Emma Lou Willison

#### grounds & facilities

Sam Crowe  
Ron Hood  
Doc Johnson

#### assistant office manager

Julie Brown

#### development/pr director

Sandra Byrd

#### development/pr assistant

Heather Davis  
David Styles

#### sales

Gary Carpenter  
Linda Vananda

#### finance assistant

Mike Gross

#### human resource/office manager

Charlene Stewart

#### executive director

Ken Voorhis

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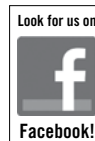
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KNOW?

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Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is operated in cooperation with Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

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Program brochures are available by contacting our office: [www.gsmit.org](http://www.gsmit.org) • (865) 448-6709 • [mail@gsmit.org](mailto:mail@gsmit.org)



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