



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the **Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program: Mammals!** Whether this is your first course or eighth course, we hope this is one of many weekends we'll learn and practice naturalist skills together as we gain knowledge about the Great Smoky Mountains.

Over the course of the weekend we'll discuss charismatic megafauna as well as smaller species that are often overlooked. Expect to become familiar with a variety of issues that mammals face here in the national park and throughout the eastern United States. *Don't* expect to actually see many mammals, since most are nocturnal and all are outstanding at avoiding humans. *Do* expect to gain new skills in observing the landscape and figuring out how animals behave by tracking and reading their sign. We promise it will 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 complete a **homework** assignment in the form of a short reading before your arrival. Once you register this reading will be emailed to you. Its purpose is to give you background information necessary for taking part in discussions and building your toolkit of skills. You will also receive *Mammals of the Smokies*, published by Great Smoky Mountains Association. Throughout the weekend, indoors lecture time will be balanced with learning and practicing observational skills. Individual presentations and an assessment will round out the weekend.

**Instructors:**

I am pleased to be your primary instructor for this workshop. Visit our website to learn more about me and the rest of our [faculty](#). You can learn about Wanda DeWaard, who will be teaching tracking, at the bottom of the agenda.

**Arrival and Departure:**

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Friday between 3:00 and 5:00 pm in order to have enough time to move into the dorm and meet other participants before our 6:00 pm evening meal. Check-In will take place in the Gift Shop located in our office building, which is the first structure to appear on your left after crossing the bridge onto Tremont's campus. The program will end shortly after lunch 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. Bring a rain coat! The Smokies are a very wet and humid climate and you can *expect precipitation in one form or another* at some point during your stay here.

**Logistics:**

Please read the "Your Visit to Tremont" link for important packing information. Along with your linens and toiletries, you may want to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress, plus a bedside light or headlamp if you are a late-night reader. Also bring binoculars if you own a pair. If you don't own any we have a limited number of pairs to loan. Also bring a notepad and pencil and any field guides you like. Sturdy walking shoes/boots, outdoor clothing, and a hat are a must for personal comfort. *Note: though wifi is available in the Activity Center, we invite and*

encourage you to unplug for the weekend. Learn more about our [food](#) and [facilities](#). Please note that food is not allowed in the dorm.

**Readings:**

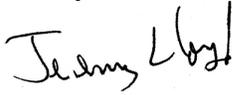
Please read the homework assignments for this course in advance. Doing so is crucial to helping you understand much of the material covered during the course. Some material therein will be a part of your assessment at the end of the course. The readings that will be emailed to you are: *Of Bears, Boars, and Chestnuts* by Rose Houk, and *Coyote Intelligence* by Paul Rezendes.

**A special offer just for YOU...**

You will receive a copy of *Mammals of the Smokies* during the weekend. Also, during the weekend, you will receive a 15% discount on any merchandise you purchase from our gift shop—this is a great deal!

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

Sincerely,



Jeremy Lloyd  
Manager of Field Programs and Collegiate Studies

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