

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the **Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program: Winter Woody Plant Identification!** For some of you, this is your first experience with Tremont Institute, and we welcome you! We hope this will be one of many weekends we will spend together learning naturalist skills and gaining knowledge about the Great Smoky Mountains. **Please read this letter in full, as it contains essential information for your visit to Tremont.**

Here's what you need to know about our day together:

- Arrive between 8:30-8:45 AM on Saturday. Come directly to the Dining Hall to pack your lunch.
- We will spend the morning and afternoon outdoors identifying trees and looking at characteristics, hiking about 2 miles or less.
- The program will last until approximately 4 PM.
- Dress in layers for cold weather. You will want to be comfortable standing still or moving slowly outside (trees don't move and we won't need to go far to find them) and be sure to bring a backpack with your rain gear and water (and large enough for your sack lunch).

Valid parking tags are required on any vehicles parking for longer than 15 minutes inside Great Smoky Mountains National Park as part of the Park it Forward program; this includes when parked at Tremont. **Please purchase your parking tag in advance, not when you arrive.** Click here to [purchase your daily or weekly pass online](#). All revenue will stay in the park to provide sustainable, year-round support focusing on improving the visitor experience, protecting resources, and maintaining trails, roads, historic structures, and facilities. [Learn more about Park it Forward](#).

Please read our [latest COVID-19 guidelines](#) prior to your trip and let us know if you have any questions or concerns.

There is no required text for this course. However, if you find yourself wanting to take tree identification to the next level, check out some of these great resources:

This is a very useful guide:

Ronald L. Jones and B. Eugene Wofford. 2013. Woody Plants of Kentucky and Tennessee: The Complete Winter Guide to Their Identification and Use.

This book is a good resource for bark and tree shape characteristics:

Williams, M.D. 2007. Identifying Trees: An All-Season Guide to Eastern North America. Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA.

This book contains good twig diagrams, has additional keys for each genus to allow you to get to species, and great photos:

Kirkman, L.K., Brown, C.L., and Leopold, D.J. 2007. *Native Trees of the Southeast: An Identification Guide*. Timber Press, Portland, OR.

VTree

A free tree identification app for iPhone and Android phones/tablets. For more information about this useful tool see <http://dendro.cnre.vt.edu/dendrology/tools.htm>

About the Instructor

Ken Voorhis, Former Executive Director at Tremont from 1984-2013

I have always loved and been interested in trees. I have an MS in Experiential Education, a BS in Nature Interpretation, and over 40 years of experience connecting people and nature. In addition to creating the Winter Tree key that we will be using in the class, I also created the Tremont Summer tree key and provided all the photography for the *Trees of the Smokies Field Guide*. My passion is sharing my love of the Smokies and naturalist skills with those who are interested in exploring the park and learning more, so I am looking forward to joining you for this class.

Visit our website to learn more about me and the rest of our [faculty and staff](#).

We 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 too can learn about the wonders of the Smokies. If you have further questions, please feel free to reach out.

Happy trails,



Ken Voorhis

www.redmapleridge.com