



Walker Valley
REFLECTIONS

The newsletter of Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont • Winter 2008

WINTER

silent, still,

*slowing, preparing, building,
the mountains rest and wait*

PEACE

—Tremont staff wish you a peaceful holiday season

From the Executive Director

Milestones

In 1934, Great Smoky Mountains National Park was established. In 2009 Tremont, along with other park partners, surrounding communities, and millions of friends and visitors, will celebrate that 75th anniversary.



In 1969, the first school group crossed the Middle Prong at Tremont and participated in a residential environmental learning experience in Great Smoky Mountains

National Park. In 2009 we hope that you will join us, as we not only celebrate the park's 75th but 40 years of connecting people and nature at Tremont.

A lot of water has been under that bridge since Tremont began with a handful of community leaders who, along with the National Park Service and Maryville College, set Tremont's environmental education program in motion. In the next year we will focus on milestones over the years as we look to the future. Watch for opportunities to learn about and share stories of Tremont's past and help us as we develop a vision for what is yet to come.

In the last issue I reported about some of the staff transitions that we were experiencing this fall. I am pleased to introduce you to our new education director, John DiDiego. John comes highly recommended and well equipped to serve in this key role. He has a B.S. in English from Notre Dame and a M.S. in Environmental Education/ Interpretation from the University of Wisconsin Stevens Point. He worked for Nature's Classroom in

Massachusetts and at the Central Wisconsin Environmental Center. The Peace Corps took him to Russia where he also developed environmental education programs. He was then director of the Blue Ridge Outdoor Center in Georgia and has spent the last three years as education director at Yosemite Institute. His family, wife Michelle and boys Thomas (3 years) and Mario (8 months), moved to Maryville in November.

Jennifer Love, who led the charge this last year in working with the entire program staff to revise and reformat our lesson guide, finished her tenure with us in mid-November. She was a huge help in training and preparing the restructured program leadership team. Jen Martin and Jeremy Lloyd have quickly settled into their new roles as school program coordinator and special program coordinator. The third member of that team (in transition at this time) is the program specialist who will be working with all of the schools to develop their schedule of activities for their Tremont visit. We are thrilled to have a great team in place to lead our programs and guide us as we begin our second 40 years.

I also wanted to give you an update on our progress with our facility plans. The park has selected C as the preferred alternative as part of the Environmental Assessment (E.A.) for upgrading Tremont's facilities. We expect the final approval of the E.A. from the National Park Service regional office any time now. Look for further details on our web site and in upcoming e-news as we finalize details of what alternative C will involve, and plans for raising the necessary funds and developing the plans for this exciting project.

Tremont's New Curriculum DVD has Arrived!

We are very excited to announce that Tremont's "Connecting People and Nature: A Teacher's Guide" DVD is complete! Jennifer Love, Tremont's former school program director, along with Tremont's team of teaching staff spent two years revising and updating our curriculum and putting it in a handy DVD format.

This DVD contains everything a teacher needs to know in order to plan a trip to Tremont. When used along with our web site, teachers will have the most up to date materials and information.

When you first pop the DVD into your computer, you will see the following folders: The Introduction to the Tremont Experience, Planning a Trip to Tremont, Tremont Lessons, and even Tremont's video that you can show your students and their parents.

The Introduction to the Tremont Experience folder includes information about Tremont's mission, our student evaluation and assessment project, acknowledgements, and even a Tremont trip glossary.

The Planning a Trip to Tremont folder includes a chaperone guide, information about financial aid, even Tremont trail maps. Also included are descriptions of our citizen science projects, and how students can participate in real park research!

One of the most valuable resources on this DVD is the Tremont Lesson folder. This section has every Tremont program and all our lesson materials used by Tremont staff. The lesson folder includes our lesson outlines, activities, even reproducible pages such as worksheets and dichotomous keys. Often we hear teachers say how Tremont has so many interesting programs—it is hard to choose which ones to take! With this resource, our hope is that teachers can use our additional lessons as pre- and post-Tremont trip activities.

This DVD has been a huge project, and we thank Jennifer Love for her guidance and all of her effort in making this project a success. Teachers, if you are interested in a Tremont trip for your students please contact us at (865) 448-6709 for more information. This DVD is also available for purchase from Tremont and soon through our new online store!

Poplar Grove Green Team visits Tremont

By Mary Silver, Teacher/Naturalist

About 90 students from Poplar Grove School, in Franklin, Tennessee, recently spent a few beautiful fall days exploring the mountains with us. Like many sixth grade groups, they hiked to the waterfall, caught critters in the stream, and learned how to continue caring for the environment once they return home. For several members of this group, eco-friendly living was already a habit long before the class trip. Rachel, Georgina, Emma C., Sydney, Emma W., Anne, Pritali, Olivia, and Brooke all belong to the Poplar Grove Green Team, which has helped their school become one of the greenest in the state as recognized by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation.

Poplar Grove is a member of the Tennessee Pollution Prevention Partnership

(TP3) at the highest level of achievement, the Promoter level. All over the school, the Green Team's efforts toward that goal are evident.

"We fly our TP3 flag right under the state flag in front of the school," said elementary principal Lee Kirkpatrick. "We're proud of what we're doing."

The Green Team meets after school to tackle conservation projects around the building and to discuss ways to keep the planet healthy. Sixth grade team members were eager to tell Tremont naturalists all about what they've done, from designing light switch plates with energy-saving reminders to running the school's recycling program. They conduct an Energy Patrol throughout the classrooms, checking to see that lights and computers have been turned

off when not in use. On some weekends they've done special projects or attended local environmental events. And knowing this group, they've had a ton of fun with all of it.

To a sixth grader, those after-school hours are precious. Why spend them in Green Team activities? One student was inspired by the movie Wall-E. "I don't want our world to be covered by icky landfills," she said. Others are motivated to help protect places they love, from India to a spot near the town's rec center. "We can't save the whole world on our own," said one girl, "but we can help a little. Wow, that was deep, wasn't it?"

Thank you Green Team and everyone else out there trying to help a little!

Funds for Community Artists Available for Tennessee Teachers!

Thanks to a \$1,330 grant from the Tennessee Arts Commission through the Knoxville Arts & Culture Alliance, Tennessee teachers can request a community artisan to present to their school group during their stay at Tremont.

These funds allow Tremont to contract with local artisans to share Appalachian culture through art, dance, music and storytelling with Tennessee schools taking part in Tremont's in-depth residential educational programs.

Community artisans, locals with special artistic skills, interests and talents that deserve to be shared with others, have a special place here at Tremont. We believe it is important for students to see and hear how the people of these mountains sustained their livelihood. Both students and artisans

benefit from this program. Students learn that there is more to life in the mountains than the wildlife, and begin to see a full picture of what days were like in the past; while artists benefit by exposing their craft to a new generation, attracting new listeners, and teaching students new skills to carry on these traditions.

Current Tremont community artisans include:

- Sparky and Rhonda Rucker
- Elizabeth Rose
- Steve Kopman
- Bob Grimaldi
- The Woodpickers
- Faye Wooden
- Jerry & Joan Paul
- Nancy Brennan-Strange
- Sean McCollough.



GSMIT ARCHIVES



These funds are awarded to Tennessee teachers on a first come, first serve basis and must be utilized by June 15, 2009. And while you're booking your school trip to Tremont, make sure to request your community artisan paperwork at the same time!

Goodbye from Jennifer Love...

As you may know, November 7th was my last day at Tremont. As such, I wanted to write a quick note to thank everyone for making this such a memorable experience!

I first want to thank the staff—teaching, office, maintenance, kitchen—everyone works so hard to make this the best experience it can be for our participants. After being in education for over 10 years, I want to thank Tremont for giving me the opportunity to spend the past two years working with some of the best teacher/naturalists I have ever encountered. These young educators are people who are passionate about the Smokies, but are even more passionate about teaching children and adults to love and take care of this Earth. I want to thank them for all of their hard work and dedication.

I want to thank Tremont for giving me the opportunity to work with dedicated and enthusiastic classroom teachers. Every week I would get the chance to meet teachers who have valued this outdoor experience for their students so much they have jumped through all the hoops tossed in their direction, and have immersed themselves in this experience.

I also want to thank Tremont for giving me the opportunity to work with the Tremont staff to evaluate and revise our curriculum, "Connecting People and Nature: A Teacher's Guide." Prior to arriving at Tremont, I used this curriculum as part of my EE lessons at other centers and part of my classroom lessons when I taught public school. All of the Tremont teaching staff have been involved in this excellent product and it was great to see the look on their proud faces when the final product was unveiled and all of our hard work came to fruition.

This is a very special place and I know I will be back many times in the years to come. My home will remain in the southern Appalachians in the mountains of North Carolina where I hope to get back into the classroom. I expect to hear great things about Tremont!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Love
School Program Director

Tremont Gets Ready to Sign Up Schools For 2009-2010

It's almost time for teachers to sign up their schools for the next school year!

With 2009 right around the corner, we'll soon start taking applications from teachers to choose their dates for the 2009/2010 school year. This year we're doing things a little different—instead of mailing letters to teachers reminding them that it's time to schedule for next year, we'll be communicating with emails. So it's important that we have your correct school email address!

Here's how it works: Schools that come this year in December, January, or February get first choice of dates for next year. After we put these schools on our calendar we'll open it

up to schools that have come or will come during the other months this school year. We will notify teachers via email where they will find the application and calendar posted on our web site.



We also invite all other teachers who are interested in bringing their students to apply early for the best possible dates. If you're not sure if you have your correct email address, please contact Julie at (865) 448-6709 or mail@gsmnit.org and ask to be put on the school mailing list. We'll need your name,

your school's name and address, and of course your email address.

Don't be left out! Let your students come explore in the best classroom there is—Great Smoky Mountains National Park!

Hello from Jen Martin...

In January 2004 I began working at Tremont as a Teacher/Naturalist. Throughout the past five years I have met some amazing people, worked with wonderful schools, and have learned so much about the Smokies.

The best part of working at Tremont has been establishing long-lasting relationships with schools and dedicated teachers. We have numerous schools that have been coming to Tremont for a long time, some as long as 20 years. I look forward to continuing to work with these schools, as well as new ones, in the future.

It is really difficult to say goodbye

to Jennifer Love. She has been a mentor to all the staff and we have learned so much from her. Jennifer's heart is in education, and we're excited about her teaching back in the classroom. Her students are lucky to have her as a teacher!

I'm thrilled to be the school program coordinator at Tremont. No one can fill Jennifer's shoes, but our teaching staff here is strong, dedicated, and enthusiastic about teaching. Thanks to everyone for your support!

Jen Martin
School Program Coordinator
Jen@gsmnit.org

An Autumn Reflection of Summer Days

By *Debora Blind*

Tremont is very fortunate to have had Debora Blind, a high school art teacher from Ohio, join us this summer as an artist in residence. In the following article, she reflects on her experience with us and we've included here a couple images by Debora or summer intern Hannah Harper (who Debora mentored in natural illustration skills). Debora will be

displaying a series of Great Smoky Mountains paintings at the Smoky Mountains Visitor Center in Townsend from January 24 to February 3, 2009. An artist's reception will be held on January 25 from 2-5 p.m. where you can meet Debora and Tremont's Special Program Coordinator Jeremy Lloyd. Come join us!

The leaves are falling in swirls around my sketchbook as I look out over my backyard and try to capture the shape and colors of a maple leaf lying nearby. As I draw the contour lines, my mind wanders back to a few weeks ago when the foliage being drawn was a vibrant green instead of golds and reds. The light falling around me had a warm, yellow feel instead of a cool, weaker golden touch. And... I was at Tremont, instead of Cincinnati, Ohio.

Laying the pencil down, I allow the memories of working as a visual artist in residence to come to the forefront of my thoughts, and I take a few stolen moments to try to recapture those wonderful days of June and July. I think about working side-by-side with the marvelous staff at Tremont: leading nature clubs, working on nature drawings with various hiking groups, or watching teenagers going through an evening of square

dancing moves. Many hours spent wandering off on my own to complete oil paint landscapes at Cades Cove or in Walker Valley have resulted not only in finished work,

but also in memories of the vitality of nature. The challenge of trying to capture the "portrait" of a large crayfish

nicknamed "Goliath" still brings a smile to my artistic self. And nowhere on earth have I experienced the peace that can permeate the soul like the tranquility granted by resting beside the Middle Prong... feet dangling in the sparkling water.

The privilege of living and working at Tremont will continue to enrich my life. I look forward to the future, when other visits to Tremont will allow me the opportunity to improve my art, and explore the wonderful connections



between the arts and sciences. So, at least for the time being, I'll pick up my pencil again... and continue the drawing that started the thought provoking retreat back to those delightful summer days.



2008 Photo Contest "Color"

By Josh Davis, Senior Teacher/Naturalist

The results are in! After much deliberation and careful consideration, the staff at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont have chosen the winners for the 2008 photo contest. As noted on the entry form, first prize is a voucher for admission to a Tremont program of your choice, up to a maximum value of \$450. Second prize will cover up to \$225 of admission to a Tremont program, and third prize is a \$100 voucher. There are three honorable mentions, each of which will receive a free Tremont water bottle.

To learn how you can enter next year's contest, join our mailing list by sending your contact information to mail@gsmiit.org. To view these winning photos in color visit www.gsmiit.org/photocontest.html.



1st place—Nancy McCaffrey, East Moriches, NY
Mingus Mill Window

"Walking towards the house there was a great reflection of the autumn leaves in the windows of the Mingus Mill house. Isolating the one window I took the photo and loved the results."

2nd place—Nancy Hickey, Cumming, GA

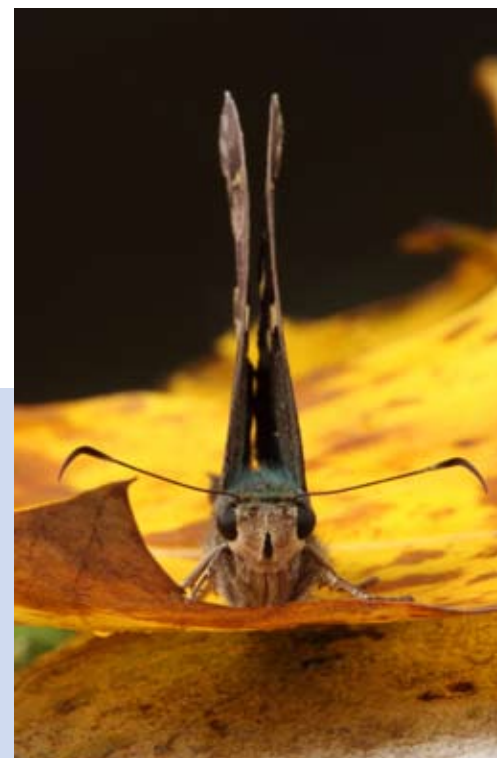
Elkmont Treefrog

"While camping in Elkmont I was down on the river photographing a Jack in the Pulpit. As I was concentrating and focusing on the blossom, out of the corner of my eye I spotted this tree frog sitting on the leaf of the plant I was photographing. He was trying really, really hard on not being seen so I shot him from the underside of the leaf so as to not disturb him."



3rd place—Julie Hatvany, Kingston, TN
Tremont Road

"A random spot on Tremont Road in the fall 2007. The fall color and the light make a stunning scene. I just pulled over and shot the picture looking down the road."



4th place—Jennifer Rowe, Brevard, NC

Fall Color Butterfly

"This October I was lucky enough to attend the "Chasing Light in the Smokies" Fall Photo Workshop at Tremont, where I got the opportunity to shoot along the Middle Prong of the Little River. I was leaning down over a rock to try to capture a reflection in the river, when I noticed this little guy (who I later found out was a long tailed skipper butterfly) sitting very still just a few inches from the camera. I quickly switched to my macro lens and fired a few quick shots, but it was so cold that morning that he patiently waited until I was able to maneuver myself to the best position to show off his funny greenish head and the beautiful yellow leaf he was sitting on."



5th place—Constance Mero, Mooresville, NC
Soft Colors of Fall

"This photo was taken along the Little River at Elkmont. I was very intent on taking some close-up water reflection shots when I realized my memory card was nearly full. I stood up, turned around, saw this image and took my last shot of the day"



6th place—Stacie Bullard, Sylacauga, AL
Color Above the Cove

"Every year in late June, something spectacular happens high above Cades Cove—the blooming of the flame azaleas on Gregory Bald. I recently made my first trip up to the bald, and when I reached the end of my hike, I was amazed by what I found. The views from Gregory Bald were breathtaking, and the azaleas were absolutely incredible. There were so many different varieties and colors of azaleas that it would have taken days to see them all. If you plan on visiting the Smokies in June, you must make the hike up Gregory Bald. You will never forget it."

Honest John

By Jeremy Lloyd, Special Program Coordinator



Take a walk down memory lane with Tremont! In each of the forthcoming *Walker Valley Reflections*, we will rerun an article from our past. It always helps to look back and reflect on where you've been when you're planning your way forward! This article, Honest John, was written by Jeremy Lloyd in 1997. Yes, our very own Jeremy Lloyd, who has been with us for ten years! We are thankful for

his dedication.

Keep your ear to the ground! Jeremy has written a book about Tremont, *A Home in Walker Valley* which should be published in time for our anniversary next year. More details coming soon. Tremont has been fortunate to keep such a creative soul in our midst!

Much to your delight, following another hard day of living in the Information Age, you return home to flop onto the couch, doze off, and find yourself in 1897, traveling through Walker Valley.

You've come to hunt bear with "Big" Will Walker. In you waltzed from the city. *Waltzed* probably isn't quite right—bounced, rollicked and careened is more like it, on something like a slow-motion roller coaster in the wrong century, a road which repeatedly climbs and drops and crosses the river half a dozen times. South beside Middle Prong you ride your horse, Witchazelnutcase. She's ugly but agile, and this is no walk in the park for either of you (at least not for another 40 years).

You pass a few homesteads along the way, and when the steep valley walls widen a little, Walker's Fields finally come into view. The fields look barren now, but in a few short months maze will shoot up higher than even Will's shoulders. And there's Big Will himself!

"Whar you been?" he barks.

You swallow hard and fashion excuses in your mind: "Tuckaleechee was flooded out, Mr. Walker, sir, and Witchazelnutcase has the worms..." But before you make the mistake of actually uttering these impotent excuses to this imposing patriarch standing before you, a wry grin rises up Will's face. You sigh in relief. You gulp again suddenly, however, for with a quick swing of his giant limbs, a musket appears in the crook of Will's arm, loaded and ready: Ol' Death itself, the famous gun.

"Today we're going to pay Honest John a visit," he says.

Together you and Will head up the trace past the cemetery where many of his kin lie buried. You continue around the north side of Fodderstack Mountain until it begins

descending into the neighboring watershed, then head uphill. Out of breath and struggling to keep up, you wonder if Honest John is kin to Will or just a neighbor. A tender-footed, greenhorned townsy, your ignorance has gotten the best of you in the past, like the time you mistook a springhouse for a lavatory and upset the homesteader. So you muse harder.

But old habits die hard away from home. For as a rhododendron thicket parts—or *folds* rather, like a house of cards laid asunder by the backhand of a stern dealer—a giant, dark beast emerges. A bear, half-a-ton large, steps out in your direction. Its head spans the width of a wash bucket and its paws are each the size of a loaf of bread. *Rye* bread. It stares you in the eye.

Says Will, as he raises his rifle to his shoulder, "*That* is Honest John."

A fury of thoughts courses through your mind. What for the love of reason and decency is a grizzly-sized *Ursus* doing in a black suit on the wrong side of the continent?! Any normal bear should be half that size! You remind yourself that in springtime bears may be smaller still, since they've burned off their layer of winter fat. When they emerge from their dens in spring, squawroot is one of the first foods they'll seek, which bears find growing beneath oak trees. And squawroot isn't exactly filling. Bulk that they lost over winter will take months to rebuild, and will require weeks of seeking food sources in yellow jacket larvae and other insects. Eventually they'll get on the move, males covering a range of up to 30 square miles, and females with young, which they bear every other year, roaming up to seven square miles. But now, in early spring, they're especially immobile and shy. They should be busying themselves relieving

itching and shedding their winter coats by rubbing against trees or waltzing through briars—not crashing through thickets attracting hunters.

The facts spill through your head. You pride yourself on remembering this scientific data from your university years. You have it all figured out. Rationally, you decide, no backcountry behemoth the size of Honest John could really exist, and you must be dreaming. These woods don't scare me.

But then....

KA-BOOM!!! With the sonically voluminous aid of Will's musket, you find yourself on your back, the chestnut trees waving overhead in the breeze. You fainted. Ouch! Turning over slightly, you carefully pry a needlesome chestnut husk from your behind, and then from your hand with a stick. You wonder if Will's buckshot found it's goal. Even Ol' Death misses on rare occasions. And this time it did.

"Blast," mutters Will.

Trying to appear sheepish and coy, you stand up, knees knocking. You have been in the city too long. The reason you came to these mountains was to learn a different way of knowing—something mountain people seem so well-endowed with. Native intelligence. It's harder than you thought, painful even. But you're glad you came. Facts are not enough to sustain the human soul. The Information Age, waiting back in 1997 for you, hasn't conquered you yet. And you're glad—though you don't say so to Big Will—that Honest John got away.

Does the offspring of Honest John still roam these hollers today? Or is it simply a bunch of mountain myth and malarkey? Only wonder knows.

(For more on Honest John, see Michael Frome's *Strangers In High Places*.)

Changes Are a-Comin'

By Meredith P. Goins, PR/Development Director



Presidential changes. Economic changes. Seasonal changes. Just as Bob Dylan sang... "the times they are a-changin'" and as I've often said, changes are constant! Here at Tremont, we're changing for the better by building a new web site that will offer online program registrations, a real online store, and the ability for online donations. A new email newsletter format will be forthcoming as well!

We are currently working on updating our web site to reflect our 40th anniversary. A 40th anniversary logo has been created and will feature prominently on the site. Keep an eye on your mailbox for your 2009 program guide for your first glimpse of Tremont's 40th anniversary logo!

Limited edition items featuring the logo will be available for purchase through our new, secure online store in early 2009. These limited edition logo items will include water bottles, clothing, and more, and will also be available in our welcome center on campus.

Also, the new web site will allow you to register for adult, family, and summer camps online, 24 hours a day. No need to mail, fax, or call in your program registration anymore! Book the kids' summer camp trips, sign up for Tremont's Family Adventure Weekend over Valentine's Day, then plan for the girls' weekend away with our Women's Fall Backpack all at the same time with a few clicks of your

mouse! Sorry, no school group registrations online. We prefer to work with each school individually to make sure we consistently meet your needs in a one-on-one fashion!

With the availability of an online store and registrations comes the ability to accept donations online too. As you know, Tremont continually needs your help to support our programs. Annual, scholarship, and endowment funds donated by hundreds of individuals each year help us stay strong, and allow us to offer our programs to children who might not be able to afford it otherwise. I hope you will consider using this new function as we roll it out in the coming year.

Special thanks goes to Michelle Key, our design and computer guru, who made all of these changes possible! She designed our new logo, web site, and is implementing the online store, donations, and registrations. We couldn't do it without her expertise and creativity!

Once these changes have been put in place, I welcome you to give me your feedback. Although I'll be asking you for your comments through online surveys in the future, I would love for you to go ahead and tell me your thoughts on all of this! Email meredith@gsmiit.org or call me (865) 448-9732 ext. 24 and let me know if you like these changes, what we can do to make them easier or better for you, and what you'd like us to change in the next 40 years!

Science Research & Other Volunteers

From 8/1/08 to 11/15/08:

Grady Amann	Lois English	Seth Huddleston	Glen Marshall	Mark Poley	Jess Sutt
Aaron Andrew	Jodi Eanes	W.C. & Glenna Julian	Maryville Christian School	Hannah Reagan	Kristen Swann
Geneva Andrew	Clark Faig	Jonathan Key	Kyla McClellan	Chris Rigell	Suzanne Terrell
Gethin Andrew	Jim Faig	Michelle Key	Emily, Jennifer, & Noah McIntyre	Ellen Rigell	Cory Thacker
Kate Barber	Gretchen Fitzgerald	Steve Kiefer	Shawn McLeod	Juli Rigell	Eric Thornton
Paul Bartels	Gary Free	Sue Kiefer	Megan Milam	Laura Rigell	Jenna Thornton
Cleavy & Sonya Bates	Hellena French	Will Kilgore	Maggie, Ruth, Tim & Timothy Milburn	Taylor Rinehart	Briana Tisch
Isaac Blankenship	Bob Gerkin	Barbara Kimbel	Bonny Millard	Julianna Romanski	Karen Tozzi
Marialaina Bouchard	Diana Gilbertson	Barbara Knight	Sarah Miller	Shirley Romines	Sarah Tozzi
Christy Breedlove	Elijah Gilbertson	Blake Knight	Joseph Milsaps	Patsy Russell	Ally Trest
Jason Carter	Jonah Gilbertson	Brad Knight	Monica Milsaps	Gar, Keane, Richard, & Spain Secrist	Megan Van Son
Linda Christianson	Robin Goddard	Denise Knight	Samuel Milsaps	Marsha Segal	Jeanie Vanwinkle
Debbie Claypool	Meredith, Mike, Samantha, & Seth Goins	Erin Kramer	Kelly Mott	Elizabeth Slorp	Elan Young
Tim Cooper	Danielle Graham	Kate Lanake	Chris Nelson	Hillary Smith	Kim Wagner
Bruce & Joy Coursey	Jessica Green	Sayrah Lane	Dylan Palmer	Lamar Smitherman	Tom & Christy Walsh
Lee Coursey	Bri Gresham	Bennett Lapedes	Marjorie Palmer	Larry Snyder	Keith & Sandra Warren
Sherri Coursey	Lara Gresham	Hannah Lauzan	Kade Parker	Dana Soehn	Matt Warner
Clay Crowder	Mike Gross	Blake Lawson	Davis Parker	Haven Spanger	D. Watts
Cate Culbertson	Kim Gunnarson	Beth Lazar	Robyn Parker	Jake Spanger	Frank Whetstone
Sam Curtis	Taylor Gunnarson	David Lazar	Ed Pearson	Siena Spanger	Stacy Whetstone
Abigail Davis	Mary Hand	Hannah Lazar	Charles Pendergrass	Lyliny Spore	Kelsey White
Daniel Davis	Jim & Melba Harmon	Olivia Lazar	Andrew Perkins	Margot Spore	John & Kathy Wilbanks
Denese Davis	Tully Herr	Malerie Lazar	Chris Perkins	Dennis Spugot	Lauren Winder
Wanda DeWaard	Patricia Hoffman	Wendel & Meredith Liemohn	Niki Perkins	Patricia Stackhouse	Asher Wright Tisdale
Hannah Dickens	Jonas Holdeman	Hillary Livaccari	Pi Beta Phi School Students	Vernon Steele	Rendi York
Johanna Dickens	Judy Holdeman	Jason Love		Bill Steiner	
Robert & Melodie Dowbiggin	Jesse Huddleston	Leo Lubke		Doug & Charlene Stewart	
Andy Driscoll	Regina Huddleston	Linda Lubke		Jacque Stiver	
Alex Durand		Joynee Marsh			

THANK YOU!

...to the many generous individuals, organizations, and companies who help support Tremont—allowing us to connect people and nature in Great Smoky Mountains National Park!

If you would like to know more about Tremont's needs, how to contribute, or need help planning a donation, please contact Meredith P. Goins at (865) 448-9732 ext. 24 or meredith@gsmrit.org.

Donations

From 8/2/08 to 11/17/08:

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Blue Smoke Coffee

Cathy Ackermann
Paul & Virginia Ayers
Jennifer Bauman
Tim & Janet Bigelow
Jim & Kati Blalock
Tutt Bradford
Deanna Brice
Julie Brown
William Bruhin
Henry & Marty Callaway
Gary Carpenter
Glenn & Debbie Claypool
Allen Coggins
Robert Davis
Fred Forster
Jo Anne Funk
Lee & Della Gowan
Gary & Sherry Hensley
Bud Hopkins
Joan Kropff
Robert & Susan Kropff
T. W. & C. W. Mann
Sandy Martin
Eleanor Morrow
John Narro
Edward Pershing
Dick Ray
Cindy Spence
Vic & Connie Stacy
Charlene Stewart
Virginia Tracy
Linda Vananda

Barry & Jeanie VanWinkle
Georgiana Vines
Ken Voorhis
John & Kathy Wilbanks

ENDOWMENT FUND

Sam Crowe
Richard & Jeanie Hilten
Jason Love
Jennifer Love
Ken Voorhis

IN MEMORY OF LONDON CALDWELL

Jim Ogle & Cheryl Houston

IN MEMORY OF ARTHUR & MARGARET STUPKA

Maryann Stupka

IN HONOR OF JOHN & JUDITH NEFF

Guy Peters & Barbara Druffel

IN-KIND DONATIONS

Canvas Hair Designs
Cedar Bluff Cycles
Dollywood
Farragut Wine & Spirits
Fee/Headrick Family Entertainment Group
Fightmaster Fly Fishing
Foothills Milling Company

Great Smoky Mountains Association
Holiday Inn Pigeon Forge
Knoxville News Sentinel
Miss Lily's Cafe & Catering
Maple Grove Inn
Massage for Health
Ruth's Chris Steakhouse
Serenity Salon & Gift Boutique
Stir Fry Cafe'
Stringtown Pottery
Tennessee State Parks
Wine & Spirits Cellar
Wonderworks

Doug & Charlene Stewart
John & Christy Walsh

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN DONATIONS

Surgical Specialists of Tennessee
School Care, Inc.
Tennessee Geographic Alliance
Tetra Tech
The Trust Company
Vulcan Materials
Darrell Akins
Grady Amann
Annette Anderson
Dorothy Andrews

Pat Atkins
Dan & Shirley Awald
Paul & Virginia Ayers
Jeff & Susan Barnes
William & Patricia Bell
Missy Bemiller
Kenneth & Amy Bishop
Jim & Kati Blalock
Thomas Blalock
Tutt Bradford
Richard & Trudy Braun
Joe & Kathy Burns
Betsey Bush
David Butts
Henry & Marty Callaway
Dianne & Joseph Caverly
Richard Chinn
Famin Chou
Jerry & Jill Christian
William & Laura Clay
Ed & Meredith Clebsch
Mary Kathryn Cockrill
Allen Coggins
Herbert Coleman
Lee Congleton
Susan Cooper
Kenneth & Jane Creed
Betsey Creekmore
Sam Curtis
Jim Dace
Larry & Beth Dicus
Joe Dreimiller
Nelson Eddy
Darrel Ellis
Mary Teresa Ervin
Steve Fillmore
Alex Fischer
Ted & Jean Flickinger
Bob & Linda Foster
Helen Fry
Bill Giles
David Gilliam, M.D.
Jan Goddard
J. L. & Martha Goins
Mike & Meredith Goins
David Goldberg
Gene Goss
Harry Goza
Mark Durand & Beverly Green

Glenn Green
Donna Gurecki
Vicki Guss
Mary Ellen Haddox
Jim & Melba Harmon
Mary Harper
Michael Harvey
Gordon & Mary Jo Haskins
Buford Hatcher
Barb Hebert
Lucy Henighan
Richard & Jeanie Hilten
Parks Hitch, Jr.
Eric Hoepfner
Richard Holland
Jamie Holmes
Jo Hoy
Joseph Houston
Rita Hughes
Charles Hultquist
Homer & Betty Isbell
Jeffrey Johnson
Susan Jones
Clara Jung
Lee & Nikki Kalvaitis
Wally Kelley
Allan & Mary Kelly
Karen Kenst
Carolyn King
Clifford & Ruth Kirk
Lois Klein
Robert Klein
Maribel Koella
Ruth Knoll
Sandra Kurtz
Mark & Debbie Kyllö
Elise LaGrone
Fred Langley
Henry & Shirley Law
Jon Lawler
Blake Lawson
Nancy Leahy
Sherri Lee
Wally & Jan Lee
Casundra Lemley
David & Susan Lennox
Robert & Linda Lloyd
Liza Mann
Wilma Maples
Ann McCurdy
Robert & Martha Ann McDermott
Jane McGuire
Sandy McHone
Marina McKinley
Sue Milinkovich
Bonnie Millard
Greg Moncrief
Bruce & Bettye Montgomery
Charlie & Tracey Muise
Tom & Eva Murphy
Frank & Cindy Murray
Kathy Newman
Kenneth Novak
Robert & Deborah Nye
Pat & Barbara O'Brien

Denny O'Neal
Bob & Janis Patterson
Joan Paul
Tyler Payne
Ronald & Bobbie Pell
Mary Ann Plourde
Louise Presley
Shane Pugh
John & Carolyn Pullias
Dick Ray
Dot Rankin
Robert Reily
Christopher Rigell
Elizabeth Rogers
Gary & Karyn Rolfe
Jerry & Betty Roper
Mildred Ruen
Kim Cleary Sadler
Randall & Pamela Sale
Paul Sanders
Paul & Patch Scott
Brenda Sellers
Raymond Sellers
Douglas & Barbara Shaffer
Peter & Trudy Shea
Bobby Snider
Lynn Shultz
Charlie & Susie Smith
Victoria Soderberg
Cindy Spence
Jeffrey Spitzer
Jerry & Sharon Stiner
Robert & Beth St. Jean
Ricky Summitt
Don & Martha Sundquist
Carolyn Rogers
Harold Roth
Julie Tallman
Hazel Teague
Karen Terry
Buzz Thomas
Claudia Thomas
Dennis Thorn
Lillie Tiebout
Wright & Susan Tisdale
Marjorie Totten
Michael Turley
Bob Turner
Patricia Twilla
Barry & Jeanie VanWinkle
Georgiana Vines
Judy Voght
Tom & Christy Walsh
Jeff Wadley
Lynn Webb
Phil & Ann Weinrich
Marion Westerling
Ken & Susan Whitaker
John & Kathy Wilbanks
Nancy Williams
Geoff & Pat Wolpert
Nicholas Young
Jerome & Rozanne Zeiger



Want to go get some coffee?

Join your friends for a "fresh cup of Appalachian hospitality" and help support Tremont's scholarship fund at the same time!

The Tremont Blend, a vibrant medium roast, is roasted to order for each customer by Appalachian based micro-roaster Blue Smoke Coffee Roasting Co. This environmentally and socially responsible coffee is roasted using green renewable energy and contains 100% organic, shade grown and fair trade beans. Order online at www.BlueSmokeCoffee.com. Each purchase of the Tremont Blend supports the Tremont scholarship fund—helping us connect people and nature.



Looking Ahead



Visit www.gsmnit.org, call 865-448-6709, or email mail@gsmnit.org for more information on any of our offerings!

January

Winter Teacher Escape Weekend

January 9-11, 2009

This weekend is an opportunity for teachers to meet other teachers, share ideas, learn about new Tremont programs, and answer questions before your school year begins. By attending this program, teachers will receive a certificate of completion for their school participation in a type of five day Tremont school program. It also reduces the cost of the trip for each of your students!

Cost: This program available at no cost to teachers bringing groups to Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont in the 2009/2010 school year, but a refundable \$50 deposit is required to register.

Wilderness First Responder Course

January 18-25, 2009

Do you know how to respond to backcountry emergency situations? Anyone interested in the wilderness or in emergency medical training will benefit from this course. Instructors from Roane State Community College will lead the program, and the curriculum meets the Tennessee Department of Transportation's standards for First Responder. Participants will be eligible for national registry and state testing upon completion of this program.

Cost: \$820.



Trees in Winter Hike

January 24, 2009

Join Ken Voorhis, Tremont's executive director, as he leads a small group to discover one of his deep passions—trees! Join us for a winter hike, allowing for magnificent views in a less crowded park, to learn how to identify trees using the bark, branches, and buds. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water and lunch. Meet at Tremont at 8 a.m. for this winter day experience!

Cost: \$20 per person. Pre-registration required.

February

Wilderness First Responder Refresher

February 6-8, 2009

If you have taken Wilderness First Responder in the past and are due for a renewal, this program will satisfy the requirements to renew certification on the national registry. This program is also an excellent review of wilderness medical information and skills. Limited enrollment!

Cost \$375.

Family Adventure Weekend

February 13-15, 2009

Spend Valentine's Day exploring Great Smoky Mountains National Park with your family! This family weekend is chocked full of hikes, crafts, games, waterfalls, beautiful views, campfires, and plenty of time to enjoy being with the ones you love. We will provide discovery and adventure AND we do all the cooking. It doesn't get much better than this! Join our talented staff for a weekend you will never forget.

Cost: \$365 for family of four ages 6 and up (\$80 for each additional person). If a weekend just isn't enough, ask about our Smoky Mountains Family Camp June 29-July 4.

Naturalist Skills/ Interpretation: A Teachable Art

February 20-22, 2009

Due to the shorter nature of the Naturalist Skills course, we have paired it with Interpretation so you can complete two Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program courses in one weekend!

Naturalist Skills provides an historical survey of the study of natural history and its practice as conducted by a naturalist. Students will learn the naturalist traditions, observation techniques, journal keeping, and the tools of a naturalist.

Interpretation: A Teachable Art provides rudimentary knowledge regarding the theory and principles of environmental interpretation, how to communicate effectively, and how to develop meaningful interpretive programs. Expect fun, hands-on activities, and participatory education as we progress from learning about good communication to actually teaching.

Cost: \$260/person (includes instruction, meals, and lodging) or \$235/person without lodging (meals are required).



Liken' Lichens Educator Workshop

February 20-22, 2009

Lichens—these mysterious organisms have fascinated people for years. Not a plant, not a fungus, but a surprisingly elegant combination of the two. Spend the weekend delving into the enchanting world of lichens as we learn their basic ecology, identification, and natural history during this field-based workshop.

Cost: Thanks to a generous grant from Toyota through Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park, the workshop is available for ten K-12 teachers for only \$50. The cost for non-teachers is \$260. Space is limited to 15 participants, so register early!

March



Smokies Scavenger Hunt

March 7, 2009

Gather your friends, family or coworkers and create a team for the Great Smoky Mountains Scavenger Hunt! This special edition hunt will honor both GSMNP's 75th anniversary and Tremont's 40th anniversary while reviewing the cultural and natural history of the park and exploring issues and resources that affect the park today. The event will take place over a 24-hour period with teams receiving their hunt questions via email at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 6 and due no later than 5 p.m. on Saturday, March 7 when tallying begins. This event is limited to 200 participants so register early!

Cost of registration per team: \$50. Includes up to two t-shirts per team. Extra t-shirts are \$10 each.



Secrets of the Middle Prong Hike

March 14, 2009

Join Tremont staff as we share the secrets of our special area of the park, the Middle Prong! This easy grade hike is great for history and railroad buffs, with the added bonus of waterfalls and wildflowers making this hike something special for everyone! Wear sturdy shoes and bring water. Meet at the parking lot at the end of gravel road three miles past the Tremont campus at 8 a.m. for this day hike.

Cost: \$20 per person. Pre-registration required.

May

Le Conte Overnight

May 8-10, 2009

Head to the top of the Smokies and spend the night at Le Conte Lodge, the highest elevation lodge in the eastern United States. The first evening will be spent at Tremont, and we'll head up the mountain the following morning. Along the way, our education staff will share their knowledge of natural history, high elevation ecology, and science. While at the top, you will enjoy spectacular views, hearty meals, and a cozy bed. We'll return to civilization on the last day. We suggest you sign-up with a friend, or be prepared to bunk with a new one.

Cost: \$380. Full amount is required for registration.

STAFF

teacher/naturalists

Brian Ballenger
Nathan Daniel
Nicole DeBurton
Mike Matzko
Lindsay Menard
Mary Silver
Kim Wagner

senior teacher/naturalist

Josh Davis

school program coordinator

Jen Martin

school program director

Jennifer Love

special program coordinator

Jeremy Lloyd

citizen science director

Jason Love

program specialist

Robert Dowbiggin

education director

Amber Parker
John DiDiego

food service director

Steve Foster

food service

Toni Adams
Mechelle Crowe
Linda Hatcher
Lisa Russell
Emma Lou Willison

grounds & facilities

Sam Crowe
Ron Hood

assistant office manager

Julie Brown

pr/development director

Meredith P. Goins

pr/development assistant

Michelle Key

sales

Gary Carpenter
Linda Vananda

finance assistant

Mike Gross

human resource/office manager

Charlene Stewart

executive director

Ken Voorhis

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

president

Dick Ray

vice president

Ed Pershing

secretary

Sandy Martin

treasurer

Wright Tisdale

past president

Fred Forster

Patrick Atkins

Kati Blalock

Alex Fischer

Jim Haslam

Maribel Koella

Jon Lawler

Jamie Woodson

emeritus directors

Cathy Ackermann

Bill Cobble

Patrick Roddy

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

This newsletter is printed on 100% post-recycled paper. Newsletter design concept by Lisa Horstman. Designed by Shelly Powell.

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



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

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Permit No. 127
Knoxville, TN

