



January 2010

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our **Liken' Lichens Workshop** at Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont! We hope you are looking forward to a fun and adventure-filled weekend together exploring nature in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This special program is funded with a generous grant from Toyota through Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

At the same time that our lichen workshop will be going on, so will the Southern Appalachian Naturalist Certification Program: Interpretation/Naturalist Skills weekend. Visit our program page to learn more about this exciting opportunity to gain even more specialty skills in Southern Appalachian ecology and interpretive techniques in plant identification, birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, stream ecology, and many other subjects. Our lichen workshop does not count toward certification but represents a special offering that covers a unique feature of Southern Appalachian natural history, and which may be of interest to individuals taking part in the naturalist certification program. We hope this is one of many weekends we will spend together as we seek naturalist skills and knowledge.

Arrival and Departure:

Plan to arrive at Tremont on Friday, February 19th between 3:00 and 5:00 PM, giving you opportunity to move into the dorm and meet other participants before our 6:00 evening meal. The program will end after lunch on Sunday, February 21st.

Weather:

It may help you to know that over the past five years, the month of February has been characterized by an average daily high of 54° F, and an average daily low of 28° F. Come prepared for cool early mornings and pleasant afternoons. You will be outdoors for periods of time. The Smokies are a very wet and humid climate; expect that it will rain at some point during your stay here. Rain gear is always necessary in the Smokies. We will carry it at all times.

Logistics:

Please read the "Your Visit to Tremont" booklet (see link) for important packing information. Along with linens and toiletries you may want to bring a mattress pad to ease the firm mattress. You also may want to consider bringing some additional items with you for this weekend such as binoculars, notepad and pencil, field guides, and camera. Rain gear, waterproof boots, and a hat are also important to your comfort. Participants will receive journals to use for taking notes.

Health/Waiver Form:

Please fill out the Health/Waiver Form and bring it with you to turn in upon check-in. If you have special dietary needs, or anything else we should be aware of in advance, please send in your form ahead of time.

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

Sincerely,


John DiDiego
Education Director

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Likin' Lichens

February 19-21, 2010

Friday, February 19

- 3:00-5:00 **Check-in and get settled**
6:00 **Supper**
7:00 **Welcome and introductions**
7:30-9:00 **Introduction to lichens with Jennifer Love**

Saturday, February 20

- 8:00 **Breakfast**
9:00 - 12:00 **Lichen hike - practice using "Lichens of Tremont" dichotomous key
& hike**
12:30 **Lunch**
1:30 - 4:30 **Lichens as bio-indicators with Susan Sachs (NPS)**
6:00 **Supper**
7:00 - 9:00 **Dyeing with lichens and other uses with Susan Sachs & Jennifer Love.
Make tardigrade collectors**

Sunday, February 21

- 8:00 **Breakfast**
9:30 - 12:00 **Lichens as ecosystems – tardigrades and other creatures**
12:30 **Lunch**
1:30 **Evaluations & departure**

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