

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.

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>

Smokies TreeID app

A free tree identification app for iPhones, specific to the Smokies, created by Ken Voorhis and SANCP graduates Allison and Rodney Pearson. Download at: treeid.info

About the Instructor

I'm pleased to be teaching this class this winter. Please 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,



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