



TENNESSEE NATURALIST PROGRAM

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER



TNP CORE COURSES

CORE COURSE RECAP

This spring, several TNP chapters finished up their core course. It's a bittersweet feeling when classes come to an end, but there are plenty of opportunities to stay involved with TNP! Dig deeper into your favorite class topics with TN2 Continuing Education workshops, or keep volunteering to earn TNP milestone pins, or reach out to your chapter about helping with classes next year. Your TNP experience doesn't end with your last class!

FRIENDS OF SOUTH CUMBERLAND

Sewanee, TN | Next course begins fall 2025



Natalie Troth

DISCOVERY PARK OF AMERICA

Union City, TN | Next course begins fall 2025



OWL'S HILL NATURE SANCTUARY

Brentwood, TN | Next course begins August 2025 - more info on page 4



MURFREESBORO PARKS AT BARFIELD

Murfreesboro, TN | Next course begins early 2026



Craig Hargrow

FROZEN HEAD STATE PARK

Wartburg, TN | Next course begins spring 2026



UPCOMING CORE COURSES



Audubon Acres

Chattanooga, TN | Saturday classes

August 16, 2025 - October 18, 2025

[View full schedule here](#)

Coordinator: Jere Thompson

tnpcoordinator@chattaudubon.org

Registration open now!

<https://tnnnaturalist.org/register/>



Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary

Brentwood, TN

Session A (Thursdays): August 14-May 7

Session B (Saturdays): August 16-May 9

[View full schedule here](#)

Coordinator: Laura Smith

laura@owlshill.org

Registration opens July 15 at 8am CT

<https://tnnnaturalist.org/register/>

HEADS UP!

These chapters have high demand and are known to fill up within minutes. Follow these tips to increase your chances of getting a spot:

1. Create an account in the database and add your personal information ahead of time.
2. If possible, use a computer, not a tablet or phone.
3. Be ready. Open the registration page ahead of time and refresh the page as needed.
4. Have your payment method nearby. You can use PayPal or credit/debit card.

There will be several more courses beginning in fall 2025. Stay up to date with open registrations by watching for TNP announcements via email and social media and checking <https://tnnnaturalist.org/register/> regularly.

TNP core courses are taken as a whole and are not offered individually.

TN2 - TNP CONTINUING EDUCATION

UPCOMING TN2 WORKSHOP



TN2: Caves and Karst in TN

Saturday, July 19 9:00am-3:30pm CT

Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Instructor: Ken Oeser

Price: \$150 CE Hours: 6

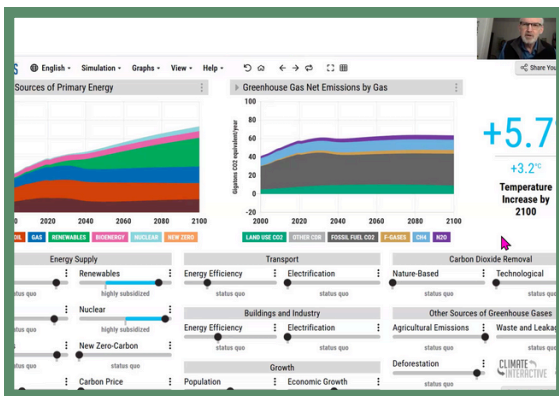
Registration opens June 9

<https://tnnaturalist.org/register/>

This 6-hour workshop will explore the geological origins and features of karst, the animals that visit or live within these specialized environments, and the process of cave mapping. Students will visit several caves and karst features in Cedars of Lebanon State Park and State Natural Area. This is a TNP-favorite and fills up quickly!

NEW: TN2 ON-DEMAND WORKSHOPS NOW AVAILABLE!

Exciting news: TNP is now offering online on-demand workshops! These workshops are video recordings of past virtual workshops and are always open for registration. Currently there are two offerings, with plans to add more in the future.



TN2 On-Demand: Climate Change

Price: \$20 CE Hours: 1.5

<https://tnnaturalist.org/register/>

Learn about climate change using En-ROADS, a user-friendly model similar to those used by climate scientists. Recorded from the January 2025 virtual workshop.



TN2 On-Demand: Environmental Advocacy

Price: \$20 CE Hours: 1.5

<https://tnnaturalist.org/register/>

Learn effective skills to advocate for environmental issues in the private or public sector at local, state, and federal levels. Recorded from the August 2024 virtual workshop.

TN2 RECAP

Spring was an exciting time for TN2 workshops! Here are some photos of the best moments.

TN2: TRAIL BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE



April 19 Henry Horton State Park

Students discussed the science of trail building before hitting the trails to do some hands-on work!

Photo credits to Loraine Flegal

TN2: FOSSIL DISCOVERY



April 26 Fort Negley - Nashville

Students learned about the history, geography, and geology of Tennessee and got to identify and collect fossils!

Photo credits to Anne Padgett

TN2: SWAMPS ECOLOGY



May 3 Reelfoot National Wildlife Refuge

Students learned all about swamps at Reelfoot Lake, the state's largest natural lake, and took a canoe float to find a variety of unique animals and plants!

Photo credits to Margie Hunter

TN2: CICADAS RETURN!



May 10 Cumberland Trail State Park

Students enjoyed learning about the emergence of a 17-year periodical cicada brood happening in Tennessee this year. Have you heard them yet?

Photo credits to Michelle Bayless and Susan Cordell

VOLUNTEER AND CE OPPORTUNITIES

PRE-APPROVED HOURS

The following events have been pre-approved for TNP volunteer or continuing education hours. You will still need to enter your hours into the database for approval.

Seed Scouts - Southeastern Grasslands Institute (SGI)

June 20 - virtual workshop 3-4pm; June 27 - volunteer training at Cummins Falls SP 12-2pm

Volunteer and CE opportunities:

- Attend a Seed Scouts volunteer training and learn how to help SGI scout and monitor plant populations for seed collection. These collections are essential to providing seeds for grassland restorations.
- Register at <https://segrasslands.volunteerhub.com/vv2/>
- Log training hours as Continuing Education > General Fieldwork Techniques
- Once you've completed training and are an official Seed Scout, you can log your monitoring hours as Volunteer > Stewardship > Native Seed Collection

Join the Board - Tennessee Invasive Plant Council (TN-IPC)

- TN-IPC is recruiting interested individuals to serve on its board of directors. TN-IPC's primary mission is to raise public awareness about the spread and ecological harm of invasive nonnative plants in Tennessee, facilitate the exchange of information regarding management, control, and native plant alternatives through their website and area workshops, and initiate actions to prevent further invasive plant introductions.
- TN-IPC's quarterly meetings are conducted online during the week and last 2 to 3 hours. Anyone with an interest in protecting Tennessee's natural communities and promoting native species is welcome to join a meeting. If you would like to be notified of the next board meeting (likely in June), please contact Margie Hunter, mhunter55@comcast.net.
- Visit tnipc.org, to learn more about the organization.

Turtle Transport - Little River Wildlife Rehabilitation

Ongoing through October

Volunteer opportunities:

- Little River Wildlife Rehabilitation needs help transporting rehabilitated turtles back to their home range. They are centered in Maryville, but the turtles sometimes need to be transported up to two hours away.
- Contact Michelle Wilson at michellefaywilson@gmail.com or 865-268-9414 for additional information and training.
- Log volunteer hours as Stewardship > Animal Care/Wildlife Rehabilitation

Early Summer Medicinal Plant Walk

June 8 11am-1pm Kingston Springs, TN

Class description:

- Learn how to safely identify herbs, both native and invasive, and talk through best practices for harvesting and wildcrafting with care and reciprocity.
- Register at <https://cedarhillhomesteadtn.com/products/plant-walk-gossett-tract>
- Log continuing education hours as Foraging Education

National Trails Day - Tennessee State Parks

June 7

Volunteer and CE opportunities:

- Over 50 Tennessee State Parks will be hosting hikes or volunteer events for National Trails Day this Saturday, June 7.
- For a full list of Tennessee State Parks National Trails Day events, visit <https://tnstateparks.com/about/special-events/national-trails-day-hikes/>

Walden's Ridge BioBlitz - Foothills Land Conservancy (FLC)

June 23 8am-5pm ET (stay as long as you'd like!) Harriman, TN

Volunteer opportunity:

- This 1000-acre tract is located in Harriman, TN (Roane County) and offers exceptional biodiversity and scenic beauty. FLC is working to acquire the property and transform it into a public park through partnerships with the City of Harriman and Roane County, utilizing grants to make this vision a reality. Since this project is in its early stages, documenting the flora and fauna on the property will significantly strengthen our grant applications. You'll be using iNaturalist to document everything you encounter.
- **Register at this link**
- Log volunteer hours as Citizen Science > Animal/Plant Count, Survey, Monitoring

**WANT TO GET YOUR ORGANIZATION'S EVENT
PRE-APPROVED FOR VOLUNTEER OR CONTINUING
EDUCATION HOURS? FILL OUT THE FORM [HERE!](#)**



ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

The organizations listed below frequently have volunteer and/or continuing education opportunities. Visit the linked websites for more information. Remember to check with environmental organizations in your community about opportunities. You can also ask your chapter coordinator and instructors.

TNP Chapters

TNP has 14 chapters across the state that often need volunteers and offer continuing education opportunities. Visit the link for a list of our chapters and contact information. <https://tnnaturalist.org/chapters/>

Tennessee State Parks

There are state parks all over Tennessee that need volunteers and provide continuing education opportunities. Visit the link for up-to-date opportunities and events. <https://tnstateparks.com/get-involved/volunteering>

Friends Groups at Tennessee State Parks

Many state parks in Tennessee have Friends groups that offer volunteer and continuing education opportunities. Visit the link to see a list of Friends groups. <https://tnstateparks.com/get-involved/friends-groups>

Tennessee Environmental Council

The Tennessee Environmental Council has opportunities in a variety of environmental sectors. Visit the link for up-to-date volunteer opportunities and events. <https://www.tectn.org/getinvolved.html>

Wild Ones

There are four Wild Ones chapters in Tennessee. Visit the link to find a chapter near you and view events. <https://wildones.org/events/?state=TN>

Tennessee Native Plant Society

TNPS conserves and celebrates native plants. Visit the link for up-to-date opportunities and events. <https://www.tnps.org/events/category/calendar/>

Cumberland River Compact

The Cumberland River Compact has a variety of hands-on volunteer opportunities dedicated to protecting the waters of the Cumberland River. Visit the link for up-to-date volunteer opportunities. <https://cumberlandrivercompact.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

Harpeth River Conservancy

There are several ongoing volunteer opportunities. Visit the link for more information. <https://harpethconservancy.org/get-involved/volunteer/>

CERTIFICATIONS AND MILESTONES

Congrats to all the TNP students who earned their certification or reached a TNP milestone from March - May 2025. We appreciate your dedication to TNP!

CERTIFICATION

Andrew Ervin - Bays Mountain
Taylor Riecken - Cummins Falls
Loryn Bennett - Ijams Nature Center
Mary Urrutia - Memphis at Pinecrest
Kris Christen - Frozen Head
Kaiti Elaine - Murfreesboro at Barfield
Claire Wisener - Discovery Park
Julia Hawkins - Bays Mountain
Heather Karella - Cummins Falls
Cara Albin - Bays Mountain
Rachel Moore - Owl's Hill
Jana Perryman - Murfreesboro at Barfield
Jennifer Skarsaune - Bays Mountain
Julie Garcia - South Cumberland
Hannah Wood - Seven Islands
Bev Horn - Owl's Hill

Jennifer Cox - Owl's Hill
Lynn Conrad - Cummins Falls
Susan Rice - Owl's Hill
Stacey Haag - Owl's Hill
Michelle McAtee - Owl's Hill
Clay Bibby - Owl's Hill
Trayte Peters - Owl's Hill
Maureen May - Owl's Hill
Haley Stocker - Owl's Hill
Stephanie Durman - Owl's Hill
Katherine Duckworth - Memphis at Pinecrest
Anne Vo - Memphis at Pinecrest
Peggy Bates - Bays Mountain
Eliza de Shon - Owl's Hill
Carla Blevins - Owl's Hill

MILESTONES

Emily Culbertson - 100 hours; 150 hours; 200 hours
Katy Ginanni - 50 hours
Aprele Griffin - 150 hours
Sarah Tichenor - 100 hours
Carol Blickenstorfer - 50 hours; 100 hours
Jody Mock - 200 hours
Christa Davidson - 150 hours; 200 hours
Shawn Wolfe - 100 hours
Karie Falder-Saeed - 50 hours
Betty Blanton - 300 hours; 400 hours
Anne Anderson - 300 hours

Jan Hamock - 50 hours
Nick Stockmaster - 50 hours
Copper Jackson Bradford - 400 hours
Tera Rica Murdock - 200 hours
Susie Peterson - 100 hours
John Cousino - 50 hours
John Henkelman - 400 hours
Emilie Fauchet - 200 hours
Alan Leiserson - 50 hours
Joy Long - 100 hours
Mark Masco - 200 hours

HOW CLOSE ARE YOU TO YOUR CERTIFICATION OR NEXT MILESTONE?

[Log in to the TNP database here](#) and click the "Tracks" tab on your homepage to see how many hours you have remaining. **You might be closer than you think!**

CONNECT WITH TNP ON SOCIAL MEDIA!



Facebook

Tennessee Naturalist Program

[Click here to follow TNP on Facebook!](#)



Instagram

@tnnaturalist

[Click here to follow TNP on Instagram!](#)

DONATE TO TNP!

Tennessee Naturalist Program is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to inspiring the desire to learn and share Tennessee's nature. We do not receive funding from any state or federal sources. All donations are appreciated and go towards furthering our mission. You can donate to TNP by following the link below. Thank you for your support!

[Click here to donate to TNP](#)

Thank you to our donors from April 2025 - June 2025: **Erica C.**
We sincerely appreciate your support of TNP.

TNP MERCH

Shop TNP summer tees and accessories on our website! Proceeds help support the Tennessee Naturalist Program. **[Click here to shop now!](#)**

