

**Tennessee Naturalist Program
Owl's Hill Nature Sanctuary
2026-2027 Course Schedule**

Session A: Thursdays

1 pm - 5:30 pm*
Bring a Snack

Session B: Saturdays

9 am - 1:30 pm*
Bring a sack lunch

* unless otherwise noted below

Students register for either Thursday or Saturday sessions

Topic	Dates	Instructor
Becoming a Naturalist	Session A: Thursday Aug. 13, 2026 Session B: Saturday Aug. 15, 2026	Laura Smith, OHNS
The World of Invertebrates: Pollinators, Predators, and Pests	Session A: Thursday Sept. 17, 2026 Session B: Saturday Sept. 26, 2026	Dr. Kaushalya Amarasekare, Tennessee State U. Dr. Steve Murphree, Belmont University
The Ecology and Geology of Tennessee	Session A: Thursday Oct. 8, 2026 Session B: Saturday Oct. 10, 2026	Margie Hunter, Author
Tennessee Mammals: Creatures of Habitat	Session A: Thursday Oct. 29 2026 Session B: Saturday Oct. 31, 2026	David Coats, TNP Naturalist
Feathered Fauna: The Birds of Tennessee Both Sessions: 7:30 am - Noon	Session A: Thursday Nov. 12, 2026 Session B: Saturday Nov. 14, 2026	Laura Smith, OHNS
Tennessee Reptiles and Amphibians: Scutes, Scales and Skin Both Sessions: 1 - 5:30 pm	Session A: Thursday Feb 25, 2027 Session B: Saturday Feb 27, 2027	Jesse Eaker, TWRA Brian Miller, MTSU
Forests and Trees of Tennessee	Session A: Thursday Mar. 11, 2027 Session B: Saturday Mar. 13, 2027	Kyle Hanners, Tennessee Division of Forestry
Forbs, Ferns, Mosses, and More: Herbaceous Plants and Fungi of Tennessee	Session A: Thursday April 15, 2027 Session B: Saturday April 17, 2027	Margie Hunter, Author
Tennessee's Living Waters	Session A: Thursday, Apr. 22, 2027 Session B: Saturday, Apr. 24, 2027	Angel Folwer, EcoGenic
Nocturnal Naturalist BOTH Sessions: 4:30pm - 9:30pm	Session A: Thursday May 6, 2027 Session B: Saturday May 8, 2027	Laura Smith, OHNS

The Tennessee Naturalist Program at Owl's Hill is open to adults 18 or older. Before you register, please make sure you can attend the first class. Please do not register if you cannot attend the first class.

What to Bring

- A refillable water bottle and a lunch / snack
- Weather-appropriate clothing and shoes suitable for hiking and outdoor activities. Sessions run rain or shine (except in the case of severe weather)
- Sunscreen, a hat, and bug spray depending on the season

Refunds: If you need to cancel, please email laura@owlshill.org or info@tnp.org. Cancellations more than 14 days before the first class receive a full refund. Within 14 days, a tiered policy applies: 7–14 days out, 50% refund; 3–7 days out, 25% refund. Cancellations within 3 days of the first class are non-refundable.

Attendance & Makeup Classes: All missed classes must be made up to complete the program. Registration includes 2 free makeup classes at your home chapter. Additional makeup classes, or makeup classes at another chapter, have a \$40 fee, payable to the chapter where the makeup class takes place. No refunds or credits are issued for missed classes.

Space is limited. To secure a makeup spot, email laura@owlshill.org (or the coordinator of the chapter where you are seeking a makeup) in advance.

Certification: You have 2 years from your first class date to complete all classes and volunteer hours to earn your certification.