

Tennessee Naturalist Program  
 Owl’s Hill Nature Sanctuary  
 2025-2026 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. 14, 2025 Session B: Saturday Aug. 16, 2025	Laura Smith, OHNS
The World of Invertebrates: Pollinators, Predators, and Pests	Session A: Thursday Sept. 11, 2025 Session B: Saturday Sept. 6, 2025	Dr. Kaushalya Amarasekare, Tennesse State U. Dr. Steve Murphree, Belmont University
The Ecology and Geology of Tennessee	Session A: Thursday Oct. 9, 2025 Session B: Saturday Oct. 11, 2025	Margie Hunter, Author
Tennessee Mammals: Creatures of Habitat Thursday Session: 12 - 4:30 pm	Session A: Thursday Oct. 16 2025 Session B: Saturday Oct. 18, 2025	David Coats, TNP Naturalist
Feathered Fauna: The Birds of Tennessee Both Sessions: 7:30 am - Noon	Session A: Thursday Nov. 13, 2025 Session B: Saturday Nov. 15, 2025	Laura Smith, OHNS
Tennessee Reptiles and Amphibians: Scutes, Scales and Skin Both Sessions: 1 - 5:30 pm	Session A: Thursday Feb 26, 2026 Session B: Saturday Feb 28, 2026	Pandy Upchurch, TWRA (retired) Robert English, LEAPS
Forests and Trees of Tennessee	Session A: Thursday Mar. 26, 2026 Session B: Saturday Mar. 28, 2026	Dave Walters, TN Division of Forestry (retired) Dr. Cindi Smith-Walters, MTSU Center for Environmental Education (retired)
Forbs, Ferns, Mosses, and More: Herbaceous Plants and Fungi of Tennessee	Session A: Thursday April 9, 2026 Session B: Saturday April 11, 2026	Margie Hunter, Author
Tennessee's Living Waters	Session A: Thursday, Apr. 23, 2026 Session B: Saturday, Apr. 25, 2026	Angel Folwer, EcoGenic
Nocturnal Naturalist BOTH Sessions: 4:30pm - 9:30pm	Session A: Thursday May 7, 2026 Session B: Saturday May 9, 2026	Laura Smith, OHNS

**REGISTRATION** conveys a commitment to class work AND volunteer hours (40). Volunteer hours must be completed within 2 years of the course's first class date. Participants must be 18 years of age or older. **Please do not register if you cannot attend the first class.**

**REFUND POLICY:** If you cancel in writing to [laura@owlshill.org](mailto:laura@owlshill.org) more than 14 days in advance of your first class you will receive a full refund. Within 14 days of the first class, TNP will give refunds based on a tiered refund policy: 14-7 days receive 50% refund; 7-3 days receive 25% refund. Your registration is nonrefundable within 3 days prior to the first class and beyond.

**ATTENDANCE AND MAKEUPS:** Missed classes must be made up for course completion. There is no refund or credit for missed classes. Registration includes two (2) free makeup classes at your home chapter. Additional makeups or makeup classes at a chapter other than your home chapter will incur a fee, payable the day of the makeup.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Makeup class attendance is contingent on available space. Priority will be given to students who have missed fewer than 3 classes. Please confirm a spot by emailing [laura@owlshill.org](mailto:laura@owlshill.org) (or the coordinator of the chapter where they are seeking a make up) in advance of the desired class. Missed classes must be made up within 2 years of the first class. Students who do not complete the course series within the makeup window may register for a future class at full price.

**WHAT TO BRING:** Bring a refillable water bottle. Dress for the weather (unless under severe weather threat, sessions are rain or shine). Attire and closed-toe footwear should be appropriate for hiking and outdoor activities. Depending on the season, consider bringing sunscreen, hat and bug spray.

**CERTIFICATION:** Students have 2 years from the date of the first class to complete volunteer work and all classes to earn initial certification.