

Tremont Institute kicks off bird banding season on National Citizen Science Day

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TOWNSEND — Tremont Institute will host an open house from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday, May 27, to kick off bird banding season. Tremont Institute, in partnership with the Citizen Science Association, is hosting this official event as part of a month-long national celebration of citizen science. Citizen science is public participation in scientific research.

Bird banding has been one of Tremont Institute's most popular citizen science programs for the past several years with community members meeting to get a glimpse of wild birds of the Smokies up close. Nets are set up around Tremont's campus as part of a research project studying the Louisiana Waterthrush. Tremont faculty members will collect birds from the nets, record information, band the birds with small identifying bands, and release them.

In addition to Tremont's bird banding station, citizen science volunteers will be onsite to share information about other research projects going on at Tremont and how anyone can become a citizen scientist.

Hands on activities will introduce visitors to the world of citizen science at Tremont Institute. Projects featured include bird banding, Otter Spotter and Bioblitz using iNaturalist, Monarch butterfly tagging, phenology/Project Budburst, soil respiration monitoring, terrestrial and aquatic salamander monitoring and more.

There is no charge for this event, and no registration is necessary. Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont is located at 9275 Tremont Road in Townsend at the entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park.