

Mushroom Identification Workshop

Details, Outline, Directions and What to Expect

-Date: June 29, 2019

-Time: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (arrive between 9:00 and 9:30)

-Location: Cumberland Mountain State Park (near Crossville) at picnic shelter #3 across from the tennis courts near the playground area. For park details, location, and directions, go to:

<http://tnstateparks.com/parks/about/cumberland-mountain>

-Facilitator: Steve Roberts, Cumberland Mycological Society President

-Price: \$60 per person, which includes materials and handouts

-Reservations required, as number of participants for workshop will be limited. Email Steve Roberts at oldwoodenfence@gmail.com or call 931-484-0103 if you would like to attend.

-Lunch: Bring your own. Also bring drinking water.

-A restroom is located within walking distance to the picnic shelter

Outline of Workshop

Morning Session

- 1) Participants can bring fresh mushrooms they have picked in the past 24 hours, if possible
- 2) Demonstrate various ways of obtaining mushroom spore prints and discuss their importance
- 3) Discuss the ecological role of mushrooms, their habitats, and the use of that information to assist in identifying
- 4) Discuss different types of mushroom, their various structural parts, and introduce several technical terms used in field guides descriptions and other literature
- 5) Introduce the categorization of mushroom into groups and families
- 6) A brief introduction and overview of mushroom taxonomy: Latin names for mushrooms
- 7) Discuss the mushrooms on hand, their features, and place them in their correct categories.
- 8) Describe how to collect mushrooms, then walk on nearby trails in woods in park to gather mushrooms
- 9) Place mushroom specimens in their correct categories
- 10) Question and answer session

Lunch break

Afternoon Session

- 1) Discuss mushrooms collected and important identifying characteristics, applying information and terms introduced in morning session.
- 2) How to use mushroom field guides and their keys & descriptions for mushrooms to assist in their identity
- 3) walk on nearby trails in woods in park to gather mushrooms
- 4) Place mushrooms in their correct categories
- 5) Discuss most recent mushrooms collected, discuss important identifying characteristics, and apply information learned in morning and afternoon sessions.
- 6) Question and answer session
- 7) Conclusion

A little bit about workshop facilitator:

Name: Steve Roberts

Education: University of Tennessee, B.A. in Geography

Education and experience with mushrooms: 18 years of independent study

Participation with Cumberland Mycological Society: A charter member in 2004, vice president from 2004 to 2008, president from 2009 to present. One of principal identifiers at forays, creates and maintains species lists, organizes and leads forays & walks, website design & maintenance, and photography.

Teaching experience: Past: taught private music lessons to children and adults for 6 years; taught children to play chess and implement chess strategies as coach of local elementary school chess club for 9 years. Present and more recent (with mushrooms): informal instruction on foray walks; formal instruction at workshops & private identification lessons.

Career: Various business pursuits. Past: music store owner/operator for 13 years. Present: marketing of natural health technologies, piano tuning, property rentals & sales, land investments, and farming.

Other interests: Nature, hiking, organic gardening, alternative health, genealogy research, and music & songwriting (for better or worse, one of very few inhabitants of planet Earth who has created an album of original tunes about mushrooms/ mushroom hunting. CD title = "Mushroom World.")