EDIBLE AND POISONOUS FUNGI OF THE SMOKIES
Saturday, July 21 @ 9:00 a.m. - Course # 18SU858
Instructor: Whitey Hitchcock, Ph.D. – E-mail: drwhitey@comcast.net

Welcome to the Smoky Mountain Field School. In order to ensure the safety and enjoyment of your chosen experience, please carefully review the information below well in advance of the meeting date. If you have any concerns or questions about the class contact the instructor(s). For issues related to registration contact Personal and Professional Development at 865-974-0150.

MEETING PLACE/TIME: Meet at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday at the Big Cataloochee backcountry registration parking area. This is less than a half-mile before the campground and on same side of the road (left). Allow ample travel time in consideration of restroom stops, weather conditions, and traffic – Be on time! Classes generally end back at the meeting place by late afternoon.

GENERAL INFORMATION: Participation in all classes is voluntary and each participant will be required to sign a Release of Liability as part of the class roster. Participants should advise their instructor(s) of any medical issues that could become a concern or place themselves or others at risk. Everyone is asked to refrain from the use of cell phones or tobacco products during the experience. Classes are held rain or shine and refunds are not issued for ‘no-shows’.

WHAT TO EXPECT AND WEAR: Much of the Smokies consists of rugged, remote terrain and participants must make themselves aware of the potential risks involved. The weather in the Park is often unpredictable and can change rapidly producing strong winds, a sudden drop in temperature and even winter-like conditions, especially at the higher elevations. Do not underestimate the year-round need for adequate rain protection and warm layers including a hat and gloves and secure them in waterproof bags. For most day sessions expensive, high-tech clothing and hiking boots are not necessary but comfortable field clothes and sturdy footwear are essential.

RECOMMENDED ITEMS: Make adjustments according to your needs and those of the class.
_____ Daypack/Hiking stick or trekking poles
_____ One to two quarts (liters) of fluid/snacks/lunch and/or dinner
_____ First aid items and personal medications
_____ Emergency items: Compass, light source, small knife, waterproof matches and whistle
_____ Sunscreen (year round) and insect repellent (seasonal)
_____ Field guides/notepad and pen or pencil/small hand lens/binoculars/camera and accessories
**Getting To Cataloochee:**

The entrance road to Cataloochee Valley is a winding, gravel road that has some steep drop offs with no guard rails. The road is narrow, so drivers may be required to stop or back up their vehicles to allow oncoming motorists to pass. Horse trailer traffic may be encountered on the road. Please use caution when driving on this road.

The most direct route into the valley is to take Cove Creek Road. To get to the valley from interstate I-40, exit at North Carolina exit #20 and travel 0.2 miles on route 276. Turn right onto Cove Creek Road and follow the signs 11 miles into the Cataloochee Valley. To get there from Oconaluftee or Cherokee, take the Blue Ridge Parkway to Highway 19. Follow 19 (toward Asheville) through Maggie Valley. Turn left onto Highway 276 N. Just before the entrance ramp to I-40 (but past gas station), turn left and follow the signs 11 more miles to Cataloochee. Using the Cove Creek Road route, motorists will be traveling on a gravel road for approximately 15 minutes.

A more scenic route (not recommended for RVs) is to take a long winding road, highway Route 32, from Cosby, TN to the Tennessee-North Carolina state border, where the road becomes gravel. It twists and winds into Cataloochee. (This route is not recommended if your passengers are prone to car sickness.) Using this route, motorists will be traveling on a gravel road for approximately 45 minutes.

Mileage to Cataloochee:
from Gatlinburg - 65
from Cherokee - 39
Cataloochee

From I-40, exit at North Carolina exit #20. After 0.2 mile, turn right and follow the signs 11 miles into Cataloochee Valley. To get there from Oconaluftee or Cherokee, take the Blue Ridge Parkway to Highway 19. Follow 19 (toward Asheville) through Maggie Valley. Turn left onto Highway 276 N. Just before the entrance ramp to I-40 (but past gas station), turn left and follow the signs 11 more miles to Cataloochee.