An expert on native plants to West Virginia will teach a workshop on "How to Grow Mushrooms for Fun and Profit" at New River Community and Technical College’s Nicholas County Campus in Summersville on Saturday, Oct. 10, beginning at 1 p.m.

Lawrence T. Beckerle of Craigsville, an active member in the WV Native Plant Society and chairman of the WV Chapter of Quail Unlimited, will be the instructor for the workshop which will teach "everything you need to know to start growing your own gourmet shiitake mushrooms. These mushrooms are not only a delicious gourmet treat, but are also known for their dietary supplemental value," says Mary Igo, program specialist on the Nicholas County campus and coordinator of the workshop.

Shiitake (Lentinus edodes) is a mushroom traditionally used to increase energy, longevity, virility and control appetite. It also has anti-fungal, anti-tumor, and antiviral properties which are suggested for colds, flu, immune function, viruses, bacteria, cancer, tumors,
parasites, headache, measles, libido, vision, constipation, hemorrhoids, diabetes, liver ailments, nerve pain, gout, cholesterol levels, blood pressure and heart disease.

Berkerle, a former adjunct faculty member at Glenville State College, was a candidate for the Republican nomination for Agriculture Commissioner in 2004 and for the state senate nomination in 2002.

In 2004, he presented an academic paper, "Techniques for Encouraging Native Plants and Creating Bobwhite Quail Habitat on Drastically Disturbed Land," to the national meeting of the American Society on Mining and Reclamation.

Please call 304-872-4520 for more information and to register for the class. Class size is limited and pre-registration is required.

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