



TAMÁSTSLIKT
CULTURAL INSTITUTE

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TAMÁSTSLIKT CULTURAL INSTITUTE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE UMATILLA INDIAN RESERVATION

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AUSTRALIAN CONSERVATIONISTS TO SPEAK AT TAMÁSTSLIKT

On August 5, 2009, at 3:30 p.m., two speakers from Central Australia will present a talk entitled, *An Integrated Approach to Management and Monitoring Central Australian Waterbodies: 2 Case Studies*. Speakers will be Jayne BrimBox and Veronica Perrurle Dobson.

Arid waterbodies have been called “precious jewels of the desert” because they not only provide reliable water for humans, livestock and native terrestrial and aquatic animals, but because they are often biological hotspots and areas of high endemism (indigenoussness: nativeness by virtue of originating or occurring naturally, as in a particular place). Arid waterbodies are also jewel-like in their fragility. Extinction rates for animals and plants that rely on arid waterbodies are often higher than rates in other arid land types.

Historically, Aboriginal people actively managed waterholes to provide both cultural and ecological benefits (e.g., through increasing surface water area and longevity) and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of all waters within their own traditional country. The disparity between current western and Aboriginal knowledge of the locations of water sources is indicative of the dearth of scientific understanding about waterbodies across Central Australia. This talk provides a background to central Australia, and how developing bi-cultural

techniques to survey and monitor Central Australia wetlands has enhanced both scientific and cultural outcomes.

Jayne Brim Box works part-time as the freshwater mussel project leader for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) Department of Natural Resources. She also works for the Biodiversity Conservation Unit, Department of Natural Resources, Environment and the Arts, Alice Springs, Northern Territory, Australia.

Veronica Perrurle Dobson is a senior eastern Arrernte speaker. She is also a holder of much indigenous ecological knowledge, especially of the cultural and medicinal value of native plants. She has worked as an educator, interpreter and in bush foods research. She has co-authored the 'Eastern and Central Arrernte Dictionary' and authored the book 'Arrernte traditional healing'. She will speak on protecting the springs of Urlampe-arenye Ranges at Ltyentye Apurte in the Australian Outback.

Contact Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute at (541)966-9748 or visit www.tamastslíkt.org for more information. Tamástslíkt Cultural Institute is owned and operated by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR). Tamástslíkt is located at the very end of the main driveway of the Wildhorse Resort & Casino, 10 minutes east of Pendleton, Oregon. Tamástslíkt can be reached via Exit 216 off Interstate I-84 or by following the "Mission-LaGrande" sign south off Highway 11 onto Highway 331. In addition to the museum and interpretive center, Tamástslíkt operates a museum store, café, and meeting room rentals.