

Nov. 2, 2005

GEM 'Critical Issues' series hosts Laura Manthe

Laura Manthe, director of the Oneida Environmental Resource Board, will speak on the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point campus Tuesday, Nov. 8, as part of the acclaimed GEM Critical Issues International Seminar Series.

Manthe is the second of six speakers scheduled to address the 2005-06 Critical Issues theme: Indigenous Knowledge for Sustainable Development.

All the seminars are scheduled for 7 p.m. in the Melvin R. Laird Room, Dreyfus University Center, on the UWSP campus. The series, free and open to the public, is hosted by the Global Environmental Management Education Center (GEM), a center within the College of Natural Resources on the UWSP campus.

Speakers have been invited from Native American and other indigenous cultures overseas. They will discuss sustainability from the perspective of indigenous cultures' traditional knowledge, spirituality, community and health.

Native cultures have in many cases existed for centuries in a sustainable manner that preserves the resources on which they depend. Indigenous knowledge may help modern societies grapple with challenges of shrinking resources and increasing strain on the environment.

Manthe is a member of the Oneida Nation, a federally recognized Indian Nation with a 65,000-acre reservation southwest of Green Bay. The Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin is a member of the Iroquois Confederacy, and its mission is to sustain a strong Oneida Nation by preserving its heritage through the seventh generation.

Manthe has worked for the Oneida Environmental Resource Board for nine years. Her main duties are community education and outreach for renewable energy.

Currently Manthe is a member of a multidisciplinary Sustainable Communities Design Team. The goal of the team is to change the way the Oneida Community is planned, engineered and developed. The team is currently planning the rerouting of highways 54 & 172, revitalization of downtown Oneida and installation of a geothermal heating and cooling system on the new Oneida Administration Building, which is following LEED guidelines for energy efficiency.

Manthe practices what she preaches. She has installed solar hot water panels and a solar electric array on her home. Manthe and her daughter both drive diesel cars powered by used vegetable oil.

Manthe enjoys working with youth and showing them options for a clean energy future.

MORE

Other speakers scheduled in the GEM Critical Issues International Seminar Series include:

- December 13, Hu Huabin, PhD, Professor, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Kunming, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China: Ethnoecological knowledge and sustainable mountain resource management by indigenous cultures in Yunnan, China.
- January 24, 2006: Samuel Kariuki, PhD, Professor of Botany and University Botanical Garden Coordinator, Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya: East African tribal ethnobotany and traditional cultures for sustaining indigenous community health and livelihoods.
- February 28: Ed McGaa, J.D., decorated Marine fighter pilot and author of Nature's Way and other books, and member of Oglala Sioux nation: Native wisdom for living in balance with the Earth.
- March 28: Invitation to be confirmed.

The series is hosted by GEM with grant sponsorship from the UW System Institute on Race and Ethnicity, USDA Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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