



APPLIED SUSTAINABLE RANCHING ETHNOBOTANY AND TRADITIONAL USE STUDIES

JULY 8, 2016
**SEMINAR &
FIELD DAY**

**BOOK
NOW!**

You're invited!

As part of the **TRU Applied Sustainable Ranching Program**, we will be hosting a seminar and field day for the students with presentations from both local and international industry specialists. These speaker series will follow the topics the students are currently learning. To leverage the benefit of this program to ranchers and agriculture producers in the community and to enhance the student experience, we invite you to attend any or all the seminars that are of interest to you. This week's presenters are **Brenda Walkem** and **Verna Miller**.

<p>Brenda Walkem</p>	<p>8:30AM</p>	<p>Verna Miller will chair this seminar. This session will begin with individual presentations by ASUR students on identification of 20 native plants found within their regions along with the traditional uses of each plant by First Nation peoples. After a short break these will be followed by a presentation by Brenda Walkem on Traditional Use Studies. In the afternoon, Verna will lead a field walk on some nearby rangelands to identify key species and discuss their traditional uses as well as their seasons of critical use.</p>	<p>\$25 + Gst</p>
<p>Verna Miller</p>			

Please bring a picnic lunch to eat during the field day.

FRIDAY, JULY 8 • 8:30AM

Meet at: **TRU Williams Lake Campus**—Room 1251

Pay at the door, or call ahead to book your spot: 250.392.8000

For more information call Gillian 250.319.2367

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SPEAKERS



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BRENDA WALKEM

Brenda is a member of the Cook's Ferry Indian Band in Spences Bridge and is a member of the BC Institute of Agrologists. She began working with Traditional Use information in the summer of 1992 as an Ethnobotany

Field Assistant for the Secwepemc Cultural Education Society while working on her Bachelor of Science Degree in Plant Science from the University of British Columbia, which she completed in 1993. In 1993 she began working for the BC Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food for over three and a half years. While there, she worked with a number of Bands in the Southern Interior of BC coordinating a Weed Control program on the Band's lands, promoted the 4-H program to the First Nations communities and helped set up workshops for First Nations ranchers and farmers.

She began working for the Nicola Tribal Association (NTA) in Merritt on a Traditional Use Study of the Nicola Watershed in 1997 as a researcher. In 2000 she became the senior researcher in charge of technical support at the Tmix^W Research Department at

NTA. In 2002 she became the traditional research manager within the department and in fall 2003 she became the acting research director. She later became the research director of Tmix^W research until Fall 2007 when she became the manager of the Esh-kn-am Cultural Resources Management Services Department of Esh-kn-am Investments Joint Venture, a company owned by four Nlaka'pamux Bands.

Over the past 18.5 years while at Tmix^W Research and Esh-kn-am, Brenda has worked on or managed numerous projects including many traditional use studies; a number of ecological species models and cultural species models projects within the Merritt Timber Supply Area (TSA); Nlaka'pamux Management Guidelines for 10 plant species and five wildlife species; a project moving the 10 plant species and five wildlife species models beyond the Merritt TSA into the rest of the Nlaka'pamux Area of Interest; co-stewardship policy statements for five plant species and five wildlife species; a number of Species at Risk projects; the development of a Traditional Food Guide, Field Guide and Poster for the Nlaka'pamux people; government and forestry referrals and Cultural Survival Area Strategy work.

VERNA MILLER (PEPEYLA)

Pepeyla is a member of the Nlaka'pamux homelands within the Interior Salish Tribal area of British Columbia, Canada. She was raised by her traditional paternal grandparents and then attended Indian residential school near Lytton, BC. After raising her family and serving in the Canadian Armed Forces Reserves, she attended the University of Victoria and received a Bachelor of Arts with a double major in Geography and Environmental Studies (2005). In 2013 she earned a Master of Education degree at Thompson Rivers University. Her project and Capstone paper was titled *Indigenous ways of teaching and learning in context of culture: the Braided Theory*.

Pepeyla has worked for her community as the Director of Tmix^W Research – an Indigenous Research Group consisting

of Ethnobiological interests, water rights, title and rights, cultural/sacred landscapes and archaeology. In 2004, she was appointed as Project Facilitator for the Nlaka'pamux Health and Healing Society to provide mental and spiritual counselling for victims of the residential schools and subsequent settlement agreement. In 2009, health issues deemed early retirement for a year followed by two temporary positions as health manager for three bands until her final retirement in 2012.

She has been a member of various boards of directors for local Indigenous organizations and is now the Chair of the Nlaka'pamux Child and family Services Society. In 2006, she was selected to go to Thailand to be a member of the Ethics Committee for the International Society of Ethnobiology (ISE). At present she is the Vice-President of the ISE and will become President in 2016 at the next Congress in Uganda.