A SCIENTIST'S VIEW OF CHANGES AT THE BOTTOM OF LAKE TAHOE

PRESENTATION BY ANNIE CAIRES, UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA RENO

Annie Caires is a research faculty member in the University of Nevada, Reno's Aquatic Ecosystems Analysis Laboratory. She has been working on benthic invertebrate ecology since 2004 and received a Master's degree in Aquatic Ecology from Utah State University. She has studied the benthic invertebrate assemblage in Lake Tahoe since 2008. She finds the creatures that live at the bottom of the lake fascinating, and hopes to continue studying them to explore the cause of dramatic changes to their unique communities.

Date: Tuesday, March 1, 2011

Time: 5:30 No-Host Bar. Program begins at 6:00 p.m.

Cost: $5 donation requested.

Location: Tahoe Center for Environmental Sciences
                291 Country Club Drive, Incline Village, Nevada

Researchers from the University of Nevada, Reno and UC Davis have recently found that substantial change has occurred at the bottom of Lake Tahoe over the past 4 decades. What is happening on the lake bottom and what changes are being found in the plant and animal communities that inhabit deep areas of the lake? What is causing this change and how will it impact the overall health of the lake?

The team of scientists and volunteers initiated a comprehensive investigation of the lake bottom (the first since the 1960s). They used dredges to collect 400 samples from deep areas of the lake to detect changes since the 1960s survey. Looking for elusive native species, they found critters that live only in Lake Tahoe. These species include a blind shrimp that normally lives in dark caves and a stonefly that, unlike other stoneflies, lives its entire life in the lake. Meet these interesting species and learn why they might be the "canaries in the coal mine" for the health of Lake Tahoe.

Join Annie Caires in an exploration of the deepest areas of Lake Tahoe and learn about the biological community that lives within its abyss.

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