

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FOR LAND HEALTH AND HUMAN HEALTH

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL GEOGRAPHY COLLOQUIUM

DARA SAVILLE

UNM DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

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DARA SAVILLE IS AN HERBALIST, GEOGRAPHER, AUTHOR, MOTHER, AND NATIVE PLANT ADVOCATE IN ALBUQUERQUE. SHE IS THE FOUNDER AND PRIMARY INSTRUCTOR OF ALBUQUERQUE HERBALISM AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE YERBA MANSA PROJECT, A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION.



DARA IS ALSO THE AUTHOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO PRESS BOOK, *THE ECOLOGY OF HERBAL MEDICINE: A GUIDE TO PLANTS AND LIVING LANDSCAPES OF THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST* AND IS A CONTRIBUTING AUTHOR TO SEVERAL COMPENDIUM BOOKS.

3:00-4:00PM, SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

As rapidly unfolding ecological changes usher in a new era of awareness, there is an urgent need to engage the general population in environmental education. These programs should be appropriate for all ages, be freely accessible to everyone, and include activities that not only help people to understand environmental changes and their cultural impacts but also provide ways for communities to take meaningful action. Successful and effective community environmental education should be wide-ranging and exemplify the interconnectivity of land health and human health. One way to do this is for people to learn about the importance of local native edible and medicinal plants that contribute to ecosystem functions and human wellbeing while also perpetuating regional culinary and healing traditions. These programs should also provide the opportunity for hands-on habitat restoration and replanting of these important native species. In doing so, we will help our community to develop a sincere land connection, an investment in reciprocal care and advocacy, and increase the vitality of local ecosystems and our own health.