

Taking a Closer Look: The Ecology of Summer Lake Through an Artist's Lens Workshop Information and Agenda

Instructor: Jerri Bartholomew

Teaching Assistant: TBD PRAx Art+Sci Fellow from Oregon State University

Dates: Wednesday, June 25 - Monday, June 30, 2025

Arrival: Wednesday, June 25, 2025

Departure: Monday, June 30, 2025

Skill Level: All skill and knowledge levels welcome. All methods used will be taught and practiced as part of the workshop.

Mobility Level: Most levels of mobility can participate. We will carpool to sites of interest and take short walks. Although we will be collecting samples in the field, hiking will be limited and easy. This will include walking on dirt, gravel, and uneven terrain. While PLAYA is accessible, the sites off campus are not.

Materials List to Bring:

- A sketchbook or journal and writing implements
- Materials and clothing for walking in the landscape
- Optional: Art supplies to work in the media of your choice, (e.g. photography, painting, writing, sketching)

Materials Provided by Instructor:

- Art material for printmaking project
- Microscopes
- Hand lenses
- Collection vials and bags
- Other instruments for collecting data in the field

Description

During this 5-night workshop led by artist/scientist Jerri Bartholomew, we'll use the tools of art and science to explore how water, and lack of water, shape the unique ecosystems of Summer Lake. In the field, we'll map and examine the plants and soil from two ecosystems that feed the lake, as well as from the dry lake itself. In the studio, we'll examine locally collected material using lenses and microscopes to see complexities you can't see with your naked eye. Using drawing and gel printing, and/or a medium of your choice, you will explore how perception changes with scale and how data can be incorporated into and inform art. In this workshop we will not only explore Summer Lake, but the waters that are associated with it: the streams that flow from the Fremont-Winema Forest (Harvey Creek), and the ODFW wildlife refuge through which the Ana River flows. This workshop teaches how to view the ecosystem at different scales – from a landscape scale map of the lake and waters that feed it, to fine structures viewed under a microscope. This information will then be incorporated into

the artwork to provide context and visual richness. Participants will keep a notebook and will create a collection of annotated prints or booklets describing the different ecosystems.

Participants will leave this Workshop with: An appreciation of the diverse ecosystems that contribute to Summer Lake; the ability to integrate scientific data with artistic expression; an understanding of how art and science inform each other.

Instructor Bio

Jerri Bartholomew is an emeritus professor of microbiology at Oregon State University and director of the JL Fryer Aquatic Animal Health Laboratory. She is also a glass artist who uses ecological and scientific imagery in her own work. Having worked at this interface for over 25 years, she brings a background integrating art and science to the PLAYA science council. For the past 8 years she has initiated efforts at OSU that include a faculty art-sci collaborative group, a student club (Seminarium) and a fellowship (in its third year) that funds over 25 students on a year-long art-science pursuit (PRAX Interdisciplinary Fellowships).

Agenda

Day 1 – Arrival day // Wednesday, June 25

1:00 - 4:00 pm: Arrival

6:00 pm: Meet and Greet (BYOB and snacks)

Day 2 // Thursday, June 26: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Morning: Introductions and workshop overview, short slideshow; Discussion and demonstration of methods we will use to collect and examine samples; Demonstration of gel printing techniques

Afternoon: Collect data and samples at field site #1; Studio time for examining samples, sketching and printing. Meet to share work and observations.

6:00 pm: Group dinner provided by PLAYA

Day 3 // Friday, June 27: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Morning: Collect data and samples at field site #2.

Afternoon: Studio time for examining samples, and creation of art; Personal time to explore. Meet to share work and observations.

Day 4 // Saturday, June 28: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Morning: Collect data and samples at field site #3

Afternoon: Studio time for examining samples, and creation of art; Personal time to explore. Meet to share work and observations.

Day 5 // Sunday, June 29: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Morning: Completion of artworks, compilation into books

Afternoon: Completion of artworks, compilation into books

Sharing with class

Day 6 – Departure Day // Monday, June 30

Depart by 12:00 pm