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News Release

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October 26, 2010

Archaeologist Richard Daugherty and writer-photographer Ruth Kirk to speak on the rich record of Washington's past

Dr. Richard Daugherty, archaeologist and Aberdeen native, and writer and photographer Ruth Kirk, will give a free public presentation at the Aberdeen Timberland Library on Saturday, November 13 beginning at 2 p.m. They will explain what archaeology is—and is not—and how sites are found. They'll also show film clips of two Olympic Peninsula digs: the ancient mastodon hunted near Sequim 14,000 years ago and the cedar-plank houses at Ozette, an excavated former Makah village south of Neah Bay.

On August 8, 1977, Emanuel "Manny" Manis (1926-2000) unearthed mastodon tusks nearly eight feet long while excavating a dry peat bog on his property on the southern outskirts of Sequim, Clallam County. Archaeology and paleontology experts who excavated the site confirmed that the tusks and other bones were those of a mastodon preserved in the wet peat for 13,000 to 14,000 years. An unrelated bone they found embedded in a rib, if indeed a spear tip, provided the first evidence that humans interacted with these prehistoric mammals.* The finds are now housed at the Museum & Arts Center in Sequim.

The Northwest coast of the Olympic Peninsula has been inhabited for at least 2,000 years. Over hundreds of years, mudflows repeatedly swept into the houses at the ancient whaling village at Ozette, burying and preserving them. In 1970 when tidal erosion exposed the village to the activities of collectors and hikers, the Makah Tribal Council contacted Dr. Daugherty.

Remarkable finds were recovered at this dig using pioneering archeological methods. The 60,000 artifacts Daugherty and his crew recovered over the next eleven years have classified Ozette as one the most significant archaeological discoveries in North America. Many of the artifacts as well as full-scale replicas of cedar long houses and whaling, sealing and fishing canoes can now be seen at the Makah Cultural and Research Center in Neah Bay.

Dr. Daugherty is an emeritus professor of anthropology at Washington State University. Ruth Kirk is the author and photographer of many acclaimed natural and human history books about the Northwest. A limited number of copies of their book, "Archaeology in Washington," will be for sale, with the proceeds to be donated to the Friends of the [Aberdeen Timberland Library](http://www.trlib.org), which is sponsoring the program.

Aberdeen's library is at 121 E Market St. For more information, call 533-2360 or go to www.TRL.org.

* *Source: State of Washington, Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation; essay made available by www.historylink.org.*

Timberland Regional Library provides for the information, reading and lifelong learning needs of the Grays Harbor, Lewis, Mason, Pacific, and Thurston county public at 27 community public libraries and 7 library service partner locations. The library system is funded mainly by local property taxes. Anyone needing special accommodations to participate in a library's program may contact the library one week in advance.