

Press Release

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THE OREGON ENCYCLOPEDIA



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A partnership of Portland State University, the Oregon Historical Society, and The Oregon Council of Teachers of English

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The OE History Night at Edgefield in September

The Oregon Encyclopedia (The OE) continues its monthly series of History Nights at McMenamins pubs. At each History Night, The OE will look back at the seminal people and events that have shaped our communities. Visit www.oregonencyclopedia.org for History Night locations and more details.

“The 13,000-year history of Columbia River salmon”

Presented by Dr. Virginia L. Butler

Tuesday, September 27, 2011

6:30 pm

McMenamins Edgefield, 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale, Ore.

Free and open to the public

For thousands of years, Native people who lived on the Columbia took advantage of the abundant fish in the river. Virginia Butler, a cultural anthropologist from Portland State University and specialist in aboriginal fisheries, will describe what she and other researchers have discovered in seventy-five archeological sites in the Columbia river basin. Those archaic fish remains dating to the past 13,000 years provide an unparalleled record of fish abundance and distribution in the river system and reveal surprising answers to the questions, what kind of fish did people gather on the river and what has happened to those species? Dr. Butler joins scientific research with historic and contemporary records to highlight the long and enduring connection between fish and indigenous people in the Pacific Northwest.

Virginia L. Butler is a Professor in the Anthropology Department at Portland State University. Her research focus is zooarchaeology, the study of animal remains from archaeological sites, which she uses to examine long-term relationships between people and fish. Her geographic focus is western North America. She has published papers in a range of journals including *American Antiquity*, *Journal of Archaeological Science*, *Journal of World Prehistory*, *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, *Quaternary Research*, and *Ecology and Society*.

The OE is an online resource for information on the state’s significant people, places, events, institutions, and biota. Over 800 entries and essays have been published online and new entries are added every day. For more information visit www.oregonencyclopedia.org.

The OE is a partnership between Portland State University, the Oregon Council of Teachers of English, and the Oregon Historical Society. The OE has received support from a collaborative of the state’s five cultural partners—the Oregon Arts Council, Oregon Council for the Humanities, Oregon Heritage Commission, Oregon Historical Society, and the State Historic Preservation Office—with funding from the Oregon Cultural Trust. The Oregon Council of Teachers of English, the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon University System, Willamette University, and private donors have provided additional support.