



## *Colorado Scientific Society*

*The objective of the Society is to promote  
The knowledge and understanding of Earth science,  
And its application to human needs*

### *Presidential Address*



### **Was Emmons Wrong?**

**Dr. Vince Matthews**  
Director, Colorado Geological Survey

**Thursday, December 15, 2005**  
**American Mountaineering Center**  
710 10<sup>th</sup> St. (NE corner with Washington), Golden  
Social half-hour – 6:30 p.m. Meeting time – 7:00 p.m.

## **Abstract**

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### **Was Emmons Wrong?**

By Dr. Vince Matthews, Director, Colorado Geological Survey

In his inaugural address to the Colorado Scientific Society in January of 1883, the Society's first president, Samuel F. Emmons, made some rather strong assertions about the geology and mineral resources of Colorado, to wit:

“In Colorado ....we have coal fields whose extent is probably greater than those of Pennsylvania.”

“In silver, Colorado stands pre-eminent.”

“From a mineralogical point of view, the wealth of Colorado exceeds that of the other states.”

In comparing gold to California: “the field for investigation and for the application of scientific methods is all the larger.”

“For the study of the Archaean ... it is safe to say we have nowhere else in the world such opportunities.”

“On all the broad extent of these United States certainly no region can be found which presents more facts of interest, more opportunities for investigation, and greater possibilities of new discoveries than the State of Colorado.”

Given that he had served admirably on the King Survey of the 40<sup>th</sup> parallel examining the geology in California, Nevada, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming, and Colorado; he appears to have had a good comparative basis upon which to make some of these assertions. But was he right, particularly on the last assertion? Or was he simply engaging in boosterism? This address will attempt to show that his statement is as true today, as it was then.

## **Colorado Scientific Society President's Note December 2005**

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By Vince Matthews

I have always felt that CSS is unique among the numerous geological societies in the Metro Area. The other groups are so narrowly focused, that the talks are usually of only marginal interest to me. But, since I first joined 35 years ago, CSS has offered excellent scientific talks that cover a broad spectrum of the earth sciences. Our field trips are superb. The networking opportunities are extraordinary.

Because I feel so strongly about CSS, it is very hard for me to understand why we aren't attracting more new members. That is clearly the

continuing challenge for our Society. I hope that all of you will turn your ingenuity toward helping us bring in new people. Our survival depends on it.

It is a great honor to have had the privilege of serving as your President this past year. I treasure the opportunity and experience. On the 15<sup>th</sup>, I turn over the silver-nugget gavel to Chuck Kluth. I first met Chuck two decades ago when we were both serving on the CSS Council. He will do an excellent job as the 123<sup>rd</sup> president, and I look forward to working with him on the Council in the coming year.

# CSS Student Presentation Awards, 2005

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There were seven student presentations at November's meeting. The awards for best papers are:

**First prize:** Timothy MacIntyre, \$500; CSM; Fault-related bleaching and sediment-hosted copper mineralization at the Cashin Mine.

**Second prize:** Douglas Kreiner, \$250; CSU; Hydrothermal alteration and its effects on slope stability in Alum Creek.

**Third prize:** Thomas Neely, \$50; CSU; 3D strain at transitions in foreland arch geometry.

Thanks to all who participated and attended.

# CSS Nominations for Officer Positions

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At December's meeting, we will be voting from the floor for 2006 officer positions. The nomination for 2006 President-elect is William Nesse. For councilors, the nominations for the two

positions are Scott Minor and John Keller. Nominations will also be taken from the floor.

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## 2006 OFFICER NOMINATIONS

### President Elect.

William Nesse  
Other

### Councilors

Scott Minor  
John Keller  
Other

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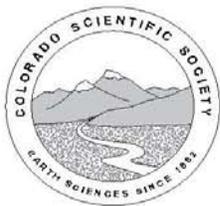
# It's Time to Pay Dues for 2006

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By Don Sweetkind

Membership dues for the coming year (2006) are now due. You will find a dues payment form in this issue of the newsletter. You will also see a reminder in the mail this month. Based on your votes at the end of last year, dues payments have increased \$20 for regular members; dues amounts are unchanged for the other dues categories, \$10 for corresponding members (outside the Colorado Front Range area), and \$5 for students. If you are uncertain of your member status or whether you owe dues, contact CSS Treasurer Don Sweetkind by phone at 303-236-1828 or by e-mail at [dsweetkind@usgs.gov](mailto:dsweetkind@usgs.gov)

As you pay your dues, please consider making an additional contribution to one of our Memorial Funds (which support our student research grants program) or the Endowment Fund (which we use to defray operating costs). Any contributions made in 2005 (i.e., checks dated before Jan. 1, 2006) will be credited toward the 2005 tax year. Don will send out an acknowledgement receipt to all those members who contributed in 2005 for tax reporting purposes. Please remember that your entire contribution goes towards generating interest for the grants and that your contribution is 100% tax deductible since the Society is a non-profit Section 501 (c)(3) organization.



## 2006 DUES & FUNDS CONTRIBUTIONS COLORADO SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Last Name)      (First Name)      (Initial)      (current email, if available)

**DUES:** Dues are for the calendar year (January-December)

Regular Members (\$20, CO Front Range) \_\_\_\_\_  
Corresponding Members (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_  
Student Members (\$5, enrolled in college) \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMORIAL FUNDS:** These funds support earth-science research grants to graduate students throughout the nation. If your contribution is not specified, it will be distributed equally among the funds:

(A) Ogden Tweto Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
(B) Steven Oriel Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
(C) Edwin Eckel Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
(D) Bill Pierce-Heart Mountain Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
(E) George Snyder Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
(F) Chuck Pillmore Memorial Fund \_\_\_\_\_  
This contribution is made in the memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENDOWMENT FUND:** This fund is used to support the Society's monthly meetings and newsletter, field trips, family night, annual Emmons Lecture, and special activities. \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS (DUES AND FUNDS):** \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your checks payable to the Colorado Scientific Society

**Send this form  
& your check to:**

**Colorado Scientific Society  
P.O. Box 150495  
Lakewood, CO 80215-0495**



# Earth Science Meetings and Talks



*Newsletter items must be received by the 25th of each month. Items may include special events, open houses, etc...thanks!*

**Colorado Scientific Society's** regular meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month at the American Mountaineering Center in Golden (unless otherwise advertised). Social time begins at 6:30 p.m. and talks start at 7:00 p.m. For more information, contact Vince Matthews at 303-866-3028 or [vince.matthews@state.co.us](mailto:vince.matthews@state.co.us)

**Denver Mining Club** meets every Monday (except when noted) at Country Buffet near Bowles and Wadsworth (at 8100 W. Crestline Ave., Littleton) 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Dec. 12., "Gold in the ground - more leverage, less risk", by Mike Richings, President and CEO, Vista Gold Corp. Dec. 19, Auction of mining memorabilia. <http://china-resources.net>.

**Denver International Petroleum Society** meets the second Friday of each month at the Wynkoop Brewing Co., 18th and Wynkoop Streets. Reception at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon, talk at 12:30 p.m. Make reservations (required) by leaving message at (303) 623-5396. Reservations accepted until 10:30 a.m. on Wed prior to the meeting. Cancellations accepted until 11:00 am Wed prior to the meeting. Cost: \$15 for lunches; talk only-\$2. Contact Keith Murray at (303) 986-8554 for info.

**Denver Region Exploration Geologists' Society (DREGS)** meets in the Mutual Consolidated Water Building, 12700 West 27th Avenue, Lakewood. Social hour 6:00-6:30 p.m. Technical presentation at 6:30 p.m. Meetings are normally the first Monday of each month. Dec. 5, "The Sweet Home rhodochrosite specimen mine", by Paul Bartos, CSM. Dec location at CSM Mineral Museum, 13<sup>th</sup> & Maple, Golden. For information contact Jim Piper, (303) 932-0137, or the website <http://www.dregs.org>.

**Denver Well Logging Society (DWLS)** meets on the third Tuesday of each month, Sept. through May. Lunch and a technical talk at the Wynkoop Brewery begins at 11:30 a.m., 18th and Wynkoop Sts. in Denver. Subject matter usually deals with the application of well logs to oil and gas exploration. Call Elice Wickham at 303-573-2781 for reservations. Web page: <http://dwls.spwla.org>.

**Rocky Mountain Association of Geologists (RMAG)** Reception at 11:30 a.m., lunch at noon., talk at 12:30 p.m. Reservations are taken by recording at 303-623-5396 until 10:30 a.m., Wed. before the luncheon. Cancellations are taken until 11:00 a.m. on Wed. at 303-573-8621. Luncheon cost is \$20 payable to RMAG at the door. Talk only (no reservations)—\$3. Meeting location: Denver Petroleum Club, Anaconda Tower, 555-17th St, 37th floor. Web page: <http://www.rmag.org>.

**Colorado AIPG December and annual meeting** Reception at 11:30; lunch and speaker, noon to 1:30. University Club, 1673 Sherman St, Denver. Dec. 14, "Rockfall hazards in Colorado: A land-use and transportation perspective with recent case histories", by Jon White, CGS, and Ty Ortiz, CDOT. \$23 w/ advance reservation, \$25 at door. Contact Tom Cavanaugh by C.O.B. on December 9 for reservations at 303-425-1125 or at [cavtrac@comcast.net](mailto:cavtrac@comcast.net) or [tcavanaugh@ogenvironmental.com](mailto:tcavanaugh@ogenvironmental.com).

**Rocky Mountain SEPM** Reception at 11:30, lunch at noon, speaker at 12:30. Reservations, Dave Uhl:303-389-5092 before noon of preceding Friday. \$15.00 lunch, \$3 talk only. Wynkoop Brewing Company, 1634 18<sup>th</sup> St., Denver. [David.uhl@EnCana.com](mailto:David.uhl@EnCana.com).

**University of Colorado at Boulder, Geological Sciences Colloquium** Wednesdays, 4:00-5:30 p.m., Rm. 180.Refreshments at 3:30 pm on the 3rd floor. For more information, call 303-492-8141. Dec. 7, "Paleobotany, Orography, and the rise of the Colorado Front Range", by Kirk Johnson, Denver Museum of Nature and Science. Web page: <http://www.colorado.edu/GeolSci>.

**Friends of Dinosaur Ridge** Fireside chats resume in the fall. Web page: <http://www.dinoridge.org>. Admission is free, but donations are welcome. For more information please contact the FODR Visitor Center at (303) 697-3466.

**Colorado School of Mines, Van Tuyl Lectures** Fridays from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00p.m. in Berthoud Hall room 108. For further information, check <http://www.mines.edu/academic/geology/calendar>.

**USGS Geologic Division Colloquium.** Thursdays, 1:30 p.m., Foord Room, Building 20, Denver Federal Center. For more information contact: Peter J. Modreski, U.S. Geological Survey, Denver, Colorado tel. 303-202-4766, fax 303-202-4767 email [pmodreski@usgs.gov](mailto:pmodreski@usgs.gov).

**For a constantly updated, online geo-calendar, visit the Colorado Geological Survey at**

<http://geosurvey.state.co.us>

Colorado Scientific Society  
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Lakewood, CO 80215-0495

<http://www.coloscisoc.org>



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