



Colorado Scientific Society – Earth Sciences since 1882
The oldest scientific society in the Rocky Mountain region

Founded in 1882, the objective of the Society is to promote the knowledge and understanding of Earth science, and its application to human needs. Samuel Franklin Emmons, 1841-1911, was “Geologist in Charge” of the Colorado Division of the U.S. Geological Survey when it was established in 1879 and was the first president of the Society. We focus primarily on earth science, welcoming members with interests in all fields of science. [Learn more.](#)

January 2026 Colorado Scientific Society Newsletter

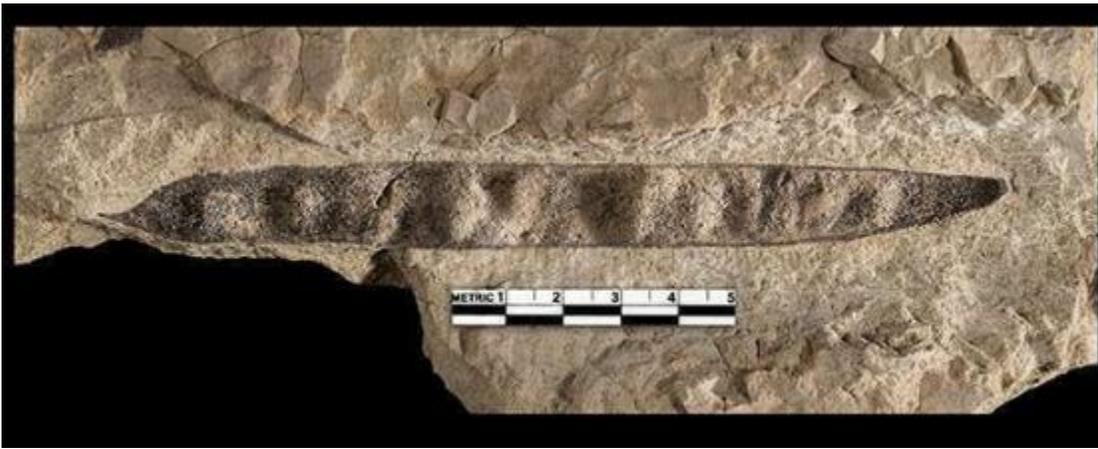
CSS January Meeting
Thursday, Jan. 15, 2026 at 6:45 p.m.



**The evolution and recovery of plant life across the Cretaceous–
Paleogene mass extinction**

Thursday, January 15, 2026

Dr. Gussie Maccracken, Assistant Curator of Paleobotany at Denver Museum of Nature and Science
Meeting at Calvary Church Golden and on Zoom



Fossil after K-Pg



Dr. Gussie Maccracken

Speaker Background:

Dr. Gussie Maccracken is the DMNS Assistant Curator of Paleobotany, studying fossil plants and their ecological interactions in deep time focusing on reconstructing ancient landscapes across the Cretaceous–Paleogene mass extinction event. She has done fieldwork throughout the Western Interior of North America, including Utah, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico, and Coahuila, Mexico.

Education

Postdoctoral Fellow; NSF-DMNS Research Fellow in Biology Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History

PhD: University of Maryland, College Park, 2020

BA: Colorado College, 2011

Keywords

Paleobotany, K-Pg extinction event, vascular plant evolution, herbivorous insects

In-person Meeting at Calvary Church Golden

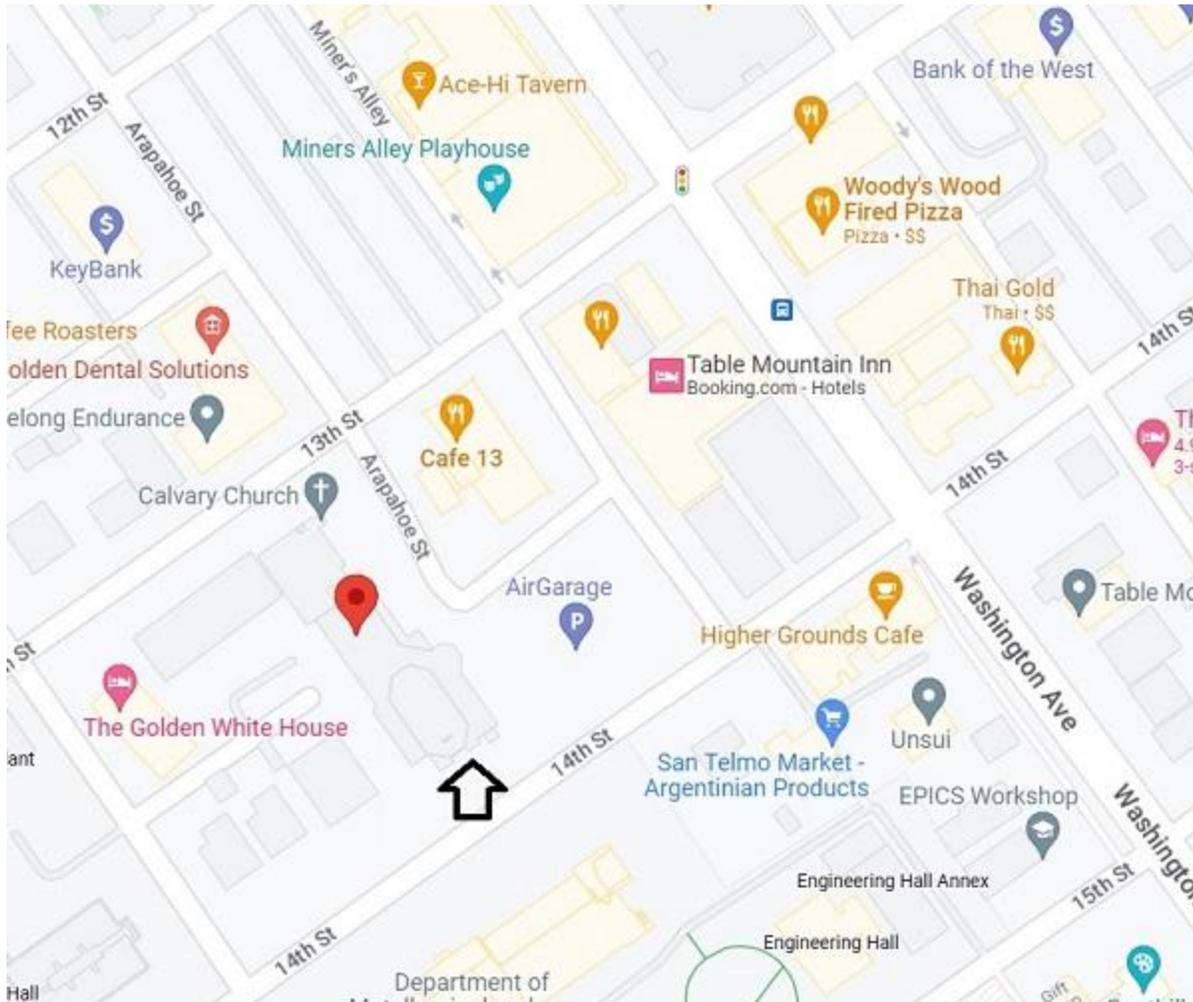
All are always welcome – no admission charge

6:30 pm – Social time begins at Calvary Church Golden. Enter off 14th St.

6:45 pm – Join Zoom meeting, if attending remotely

7:00 PM – Meeting starts.

Please arrive early. Church doors are locked, and **no one will be at the door to let you in after 7:00 pm.**



Golden. Enter at arrow on map.

[1320 Arapahoe St, Golden, CO 80401](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1320+Arapahoe+St,+Golden,+CO+80401)

Click on link to open a Google map.

Enter off 14th St., going in via the main glass doors on 14th St.

Do **not** enter the old church above 13th St.

Go through building following the CSS signs to the Community Rooms 1 and 2, where we meet.

The church doors must stay locked, and we will have a person to let you in at the doors off 14th st.

They want to see the presentation too, so **please arrive before 7:00 pm.**

There will be a phone number that you can text to be let in if you arrive late.

Parking

On street parking is available close by, west of Washington Ave in downtown Golden. The “Public Parking” garage [it is no longer called “Air Garage” parking] NE of the Church is free for registered

church members but not for us. Lowest parking rate is \$5.75 for three hours; one pays using a QR code shown on signs there. For that parking rate, it says one is supposed to park on the upper (roof top) level. When driving uphill (southwest) on 14th St, the rooftop entrance is the 2nd entrance to the parking structure, immediately before the church.

For free parking: 14th Street usually has parking within a block of the entrance to the Church. Coming from the north (CO 93) or northeast (CO 58, between North and South Table Mountains), come southeast on Washington Street, turn right (southwest) on 13th Street, Turn left on Cheyenne St. Go up the hill and turn right on 14th Street. Park on your right.

Coming from the east or or southeast on US 6 (6th Ave.), exit US 6 onto 19th St. going NE. Turn left on Illinois St. Go through the Mines campus and turn right on 14th St. If you can, park NE of Cheyenne St.

When 14th Street is full, Mines may have scheduled an event.

There is Golden city parking southwest of downtown Golden. This is downhill from (northwest of) the Church in the half block between 13th and 12th streets, between Arapahoe St. on the SW and Miners Alley on the NE. There is usually space here. The Foss Lot (SE half of the parking area) is private and says "Paid Parking". The public Arapahoe Lot (NW half of the parking area) says "Paid Parking 7-5" and should be free.

To get to the meeting, go up the hill along the church by Arapahoe St.

You can also find parking in the streets below (north of) the Church and west of downtown Golden.

Copies of *The Geology of Boulder County* by Raymond Bridge (2004) will be available for \$20 at the meeting.

Field Trips and "No Moss" short field trips: *To Be Announced*

Click to Join or Renew your
Colorado Scientific Society
Membership

Please pay your CSS dues for 2026!

You may pay dues online or print out a PDF of the membership form and mail it to us with a check. Continuing your membership in CSS will enable us to continue all our ongoing programs, including our field trips, virtual meetings, Student Research Grants, and more.

See [Membership and Donations](#) for the CSS membership PDF and our online membership payment form.

Regular CSS Membership is \$25;

Student Membership, \$5;

Life Membership, \$395.

Send your membership payment, if not done through [our online membership payment form](#), to Colorado Scientific Society P.O. Box 150495 Lakewood, CO 80215-0495.

Thank you!

New and renewal memberships in November and December are also good for the next year.

[Read past Colorado Scientific Society Newsletters](#)

**[Archive of Past Colorado Scientific Society Meetings
Including video recordings of most meetings](#)**

About the Colorado Scientific Society

The Colorado Scientific Society was founded in 1882 as a forum for the exchange of observations and ideas on the topics of earth science. Lecture topics largely focus on earth science, and are open to the public. In addition to our monthly lecture series, the society is also active in public service. We fund student research grants, construct and post signs that describe local geologic features, and organize and lead field trips.

The Colorado Scientific Society normally **meets on the third Thursday of the month from September through May.** (In the summer months of June-August, too many members are out in the field.)

6:30 – Social time at in-person meetings

6:45 – Join Zoom meetings

7:00 – Meeting and Program begin

Election of 2026 officers took place at our Dec. 2, 2025 Annual Meeting. Our 2026 officers and Councilors are:

President – **Amy Atwater**, Director of Paleontology at Dinosaur Ridge

Secretary – **Patrick Sullivan**, Colorado School of Mines

Treasurer – **Jim Paces**, U.S. Geological Survey, scientist emeritus

Past President – **Shannon Mahon**, U.S. Geological Survey

President-elect (to become president in 2027) – volunteers for nominations are still sought

Councilors: 2024-2026: **Nate Rogers**, U.S. Geological Survey

2024-2026: **Susan Slomski**

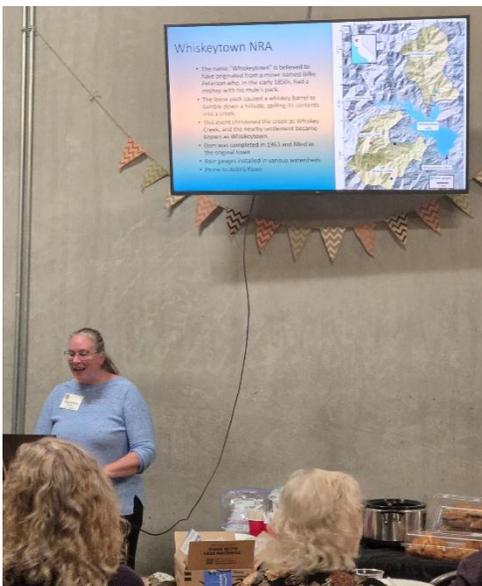
2025-2027: **Lisa Rukstales**, U.S. Geological Survey, retired

2026-2027: **Harrison Gray** (filling in the remainder of a 2025-2027 term)

2026-2028: **Madeline Ferguson**, Colorado Geological Survey

2026-2028: **Amy Crandell**, Colorado Geological Survey

Our 2025 Annual Meeting, Potluck Dinner, and President's Address took place at New Terrain Brewery on Dec. 2, 2025. It was a very good meeting all around, and we enjoyed Shannon Mahan's outgoing President's Address about dating of sediments relating to past flood and debris flow events at the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (near Redding, CA).



In these last photos, we see retiring President Shannon Mahan turning over the Society's 1907 silver gavel (made of Colorado silver and presented to the Society on its 25th anniversary) to incoming President Amy Atwater; holding our youngest member in attendance, who is obviously coveting that shiny and historic gavel.



And, an invitation from CSS member Lew Kleinhans:

Last Minute Holiday Gift...

... for you and/or family member(s) and friend(s)??

*Join the fully outfitted, 9-day Grand Canyon Float Trip with scientific leadership from **June 14-23, 2026.***

The price of \$5,500 per person includes:

- *First night lodging at Cliff Dwellers Lodge (June 14th).*
- *Boats, crew, and scientific leadership.*
- *Transportation at the end of the trip (June 23), including a scenic helicopter lift-out and fixed-wing flight back to your point of origin (Marble Canyon, AZ or Las Vegas, NV).*
- *All food, food preparation, and complete camping gear.*
- *...and much more!*

Knock this once-in-a-lifetime item off your bucket list. A \$600 deposit secures your spot.

See the link to the trip flyer and testimonials below.

<https://rebrand.ly/grandcanyonfloattrips>

And/or contact Lew Kleinhans at lewis.oysterclub@gmail.com or +1-720-273-9233 (consider texting before calling and/or leave a message) to register or for more information.