



**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 February Meeting**  
**Thursday, Feb. 19, 2026 at 6:45 p.m.**

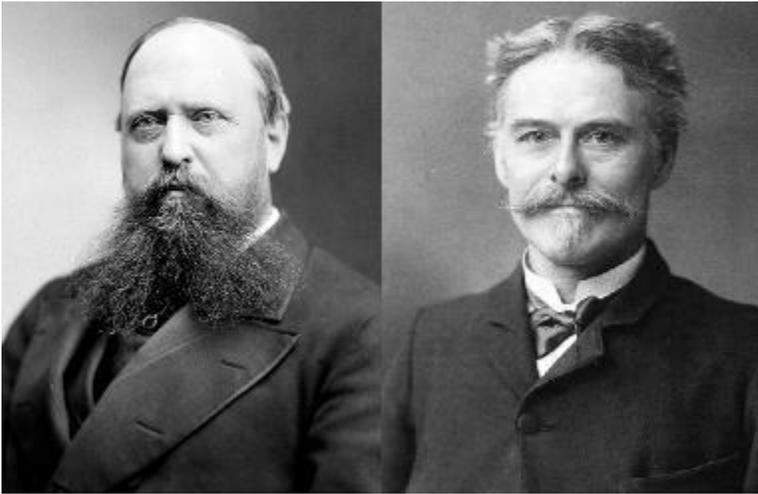
**CSS February Meeting**



**We already know everything?**  
**How fieldwork rewrites 160 years of research in the Niobrara Chalk**

Thursday, February 19, 2026

**Anthony Maltese**, Senior Curator for Research, Exploration and Morphology at Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center



O.C. Marsh (left) and E.D. Cope (right)



Polycotylid (plesiosaur) skull

**Abstract:** Intense exploration of the late Cretaceous (~85 Ma) Niobrara Chalk began shortly after the Civil War, with Bone-War rivals Charles Marsh and Edward Cope describing dozens of species of fish, mosasaurs and pterosaurs before the turn of the last century. Work was so intense that by the early 20th century interest waned, with researchers believing that everything important had already been found.



fossil collection

Today, renewed intensive fieldwork with improved collection and preparation methods are revealing that even this famous and well sampled formation has more secrets left to give up, from soft tissue and molecular info to many brand new species.



Anthony Maltese with *Deinosuchus schwimmeri* skull

**Speaker Background:**

**Anthony Maltese** is a Senior Curator for Research, Exploration and Morphology at the Rocky Mountain Dinosaur Resource Center and Treibold Paleontology, Inc., in Woodland Park, CO. He is a seasoned paleontologist and museum professional with expertise in curating, laboratory preparation, fossil reconstruction, grant writing, and community outreach with over 20 years of experience in the field.

**Education** BA: University of Kansas focused in Geology/Earth Science, 2003

**[Interview a Geologist: Anthony Maltese](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA6Ftmnzh90)**

(<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nA6Ftmnzh90>)

**Keywords** Fossil vertebrates, Niobrara Formation, late Cretaceous, field/laboratory preparation

Flyer for **[CSS talk, February 16, 2026 by Anthony Maltese about new discoveries in the Niobrara Chalk](#)**

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**In-person Meeting at Calvary Church Golden**

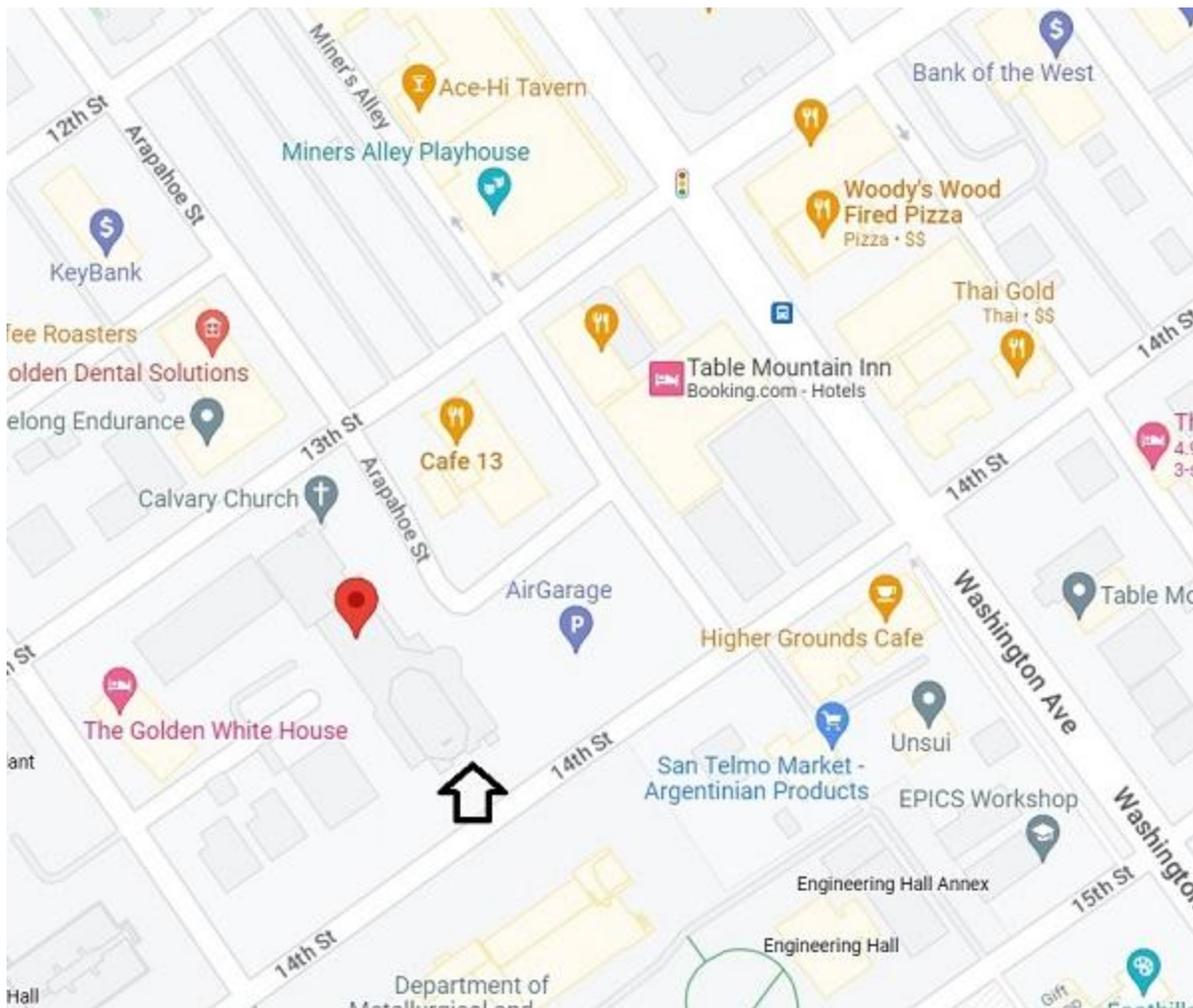
*All are welcome - no admission charge*

**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.**



Calvary Church Golden. Enter at arrow on map.

[1320 Arapahoe St, Golden, CO 80401](https://www.google.com/maps/place/1320+Arapahoe+St,+Golden,+CO+80401/@39.7475,-105.215,15z)

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” 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 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. There is usually also parking available a block from the church, on campus on Illinois 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.

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### **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!

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

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## **Field Trips and “No Moss” short field trips: *To Be Announced***

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### **[Read past Colorado Scientific Society Newsletters](#)**

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

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## **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) – **Eric Roberts**, Colorado School of Mines  
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

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#### **Other events:**

***We'll repeat, from CSS member Lew Kleinhans:***

***... 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](mailto:lewis.oysterclub@gmail.com) or +1-720-273-9233 (consider texting before calling and/or leave a message) to register or for more information.***

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#### **More events:**

**Fri.-Sat.-Sun., Feb. 27-28-Mar. 1, Gem and Mineral Show** at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Golden, sponsored by the Denver Gem and Mineral Guild. Hours 10-6 Fri. & Sat., 10-5 Sunday. Featuring “Red, White, and Blue Minerals”. Free parking and admission.

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**Events at the Mines Museum of Earth Science, Colorado School of Mines, 1310 Maple St., Golden:**

**Fri., Feb. 13, 6-8 p.m., The Science of Wine: A Valentine’s Tasting Experience, “Date Night”.**

**Fri.-Sat.-Sun., Mar. 6-8, 10-4 p.m., Mines Museum Rock, Mineral, and Fossil Sale; all welcome.**

**Sat., Mar. 7, 1-4 p.m., Free Mineral ID Day; bring a limit of 3 specimens per person.**

**Mines Museum regular hours are 9-4 Mon.-Sat., 1-4 Sun.** Museum admission is free but there is a parking charge on campus, weekdays until 5 p.m. Phone 303-273-3815 for information about Museum events.

More events:

**Denver Museum of Nature & Science, 2026 Earth Science Colloquia:** the first next colloquium talk:

**Thurs., Mar. 5, Ecosystems after the asteroid: new palynological discoveries at the K/Pg boundary,** by Antoine Bercovici, DMNS.

*“Talks are in-person-only, from 2-3 p.m. in Ricketson Auditorium. Museum admission not required to attend. Enter through Staff/Volunteer entrance, 50’ east of main visitor entrance, and let Security know you’re attending the talk, they will direct you to the location.”* The next two talks will be:

**Fri., May 1, Hot to the touch! Scorching temperatures in the mid-Cretaceous western USA,** by Anne Fetrow, Colorado College.

**Wed., May 20, Recent research on the pattern of erosion and uplift around and caused by the Yellowstone hotspot,** by Joel Pederson, Colorado College.

See <https://sites.google.com/view/dmns-earth-science-colloquium/home> for the full year’s schedule of DMNS Earth Science Colloquia.

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**Thurs. March 19, Colorado Scientific Society March meeting;** 6:45 p.m., Calvary Golden Church.  
For program information see <https://coloscisoc.org>

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**March 20-22, Fort Collins Gem & Mineral Show,** 4-8 p.m. Fri. Mar 20, 9-6 Sat. Mar. 21, 10-4 Sun., Mar. 22. Sponsored by the Fort Collins Rockhounds Club; featuring, “Fossils and Geodes”. At The Ranch/Larimer County Fairgrounds, Thomas M. McKee 4-H, Youth and Community Building; 5280 Arena Circle, Loveland, CO; I-25 exit 259.

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