



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.](#)

Summer (July-August) 2026 Colorado Scientific Society Newsletter

CSS Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 1, 2026 at 11:00 a.m.

As the CSS has done the last two years, Connie and Roger Knight have graciously offered their home and yard to host a potluck/barbecue picnic for the CSS (we may also be joined by members of one or two other geological organizations). We'll begin at 11 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 1. Roger (the BBQ chef) and Connie will provide hamburgers and brats, and all who attend are invited to bring a favorite dish to share—any side dish, appetizer, salad, desert, and drinks of your choice. Their address is 1800 Washington St., Golden; aside from nearby street parking, you may park at the Safeway on Jackson St. (2 blocks away) and perhaps at a nearby church.

Connie and Roger would appreciate knowing about how many people expect to attend. If you plan to come, please call or text Connie, 720-530-1387, or email her, cnknight@comcast.net. Once we know you are coming, we will provide some more parking advice. This has been a very enjoyable gathering in past years, and we appreciate Connie and Roger hosting this picnic for us!

Upcoming events:

Past Presidents' Dinner

Thursday, September 10, 2026

Dr. Karen Chin, University of Colorado, Boulder Geological Sciences, and CU Museum of Natural History. At the Mount Vernon Canyon Club; reservations will be needed, and details will follow.



Dr. Karen Chin:

Research

My research investigates the structure and dynamics of ancient ecosystems—particularly those of the Mesozoic Era (about 65 to 250 million years ago). I am interested in how ancient communities of organisms differed from modern ecosystems in composition and organization. Much of my work focuses on tapping information available in permineralized coprolites (fossil feces), but I also examine other trace and body fossils. My work focuses on understanding interactions among ancient organisms, and deducing the environmental conditions in which these organisms lived and were fossilized. I use a multidisciplinary approach by examining geological, biological, and chemical characteristics of fossils

and compare the fossil evidence with modern ecosystems to derive paleoecological interpretations.

Keywords

paleoecology, ichnology (trace fossils), petrographic and chemical analyses of fossils, coprolites, dinosaur diets

Research Interests

Primary: Paleontology and Paleobiology, Geobiology

Secondary: Geochemistry, Paleoclimate and Paleoceanography

Education & Training:

Ph.D., University of California at Santa Barbara 1996

Tentative CSS field trip, Sat.-Sun., Sept. 26-27, 2026, to NE Colorado

Bob Raynolds, Ned Sterne, and others are working on plans for a weekend field trip to the northeast corner of Colorado. It will concentrate on water, archeology, and Oligocene geology. Highlights will include a paleo chert quarry long used by indigenous peoples to get material for stone tools. We will also consider the aquifers (Ogallala and river gravels) and the importance of water for irrigation and our challenges of keeping downstream neighbors whole as the river flows diminish. ***Details will be forthcoming!***

At the Geological Society of America, “GSA Connects” 2026 Annual Meeting, Oct. 11-14, 2026 at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver

- (1) Plans are in progress for CSS to share an exhibit hall booth at the meeting with the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge;
 - (2) The CSS will be hosting a topical technical session at the meeting: **“Peaks, Plains, and Plateaus: 150 Years of Colorado Science Discoveries”**
 - (3) Several field trips on the meeting program will be led or co-led by CSS members.
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CSS October Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Dr. Josh Lively, Curator of Paleontology, Utah State University Eastern, Prehistoric Museum; “**Mosasaurs**” . At Calvary Church, Golden; social time 6:30 p.m., Zoom link available at 6:45, program starts at 7:00.



Joshua Lively, Ph.D., is the Curator of Paleontology at the Prehistoric Museum in Price, Utah. His main research interest is the spatial and temporal change in ecosystems – both freshwater and marine – during the Late Cretaceous, or last 34 million years of the Age of Dinosaurs. Lively’s specialties include turtles and mosasaurs, as both groups are well represented in the fossil record. He has spent the last 15 years conducting fieldwork in

Utah and beyond.

CSS November Meeting – Poster Night and Lightning Talks

Thursday, November 19, 2026. Presentations by students and early career earth scientists; at Calvary Church, Golden; social time 6:30, Zoom link available at 6:45, program begins at 7:00.

CSS December Potluck, Business Meeting, and Past President's Address

(exact date and location to be announced)

**Dr. Amy Atwater, CSS President and Director of Paleontology,
Friends of Dinosaur Ridge** (presentation title TBS)



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

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. *See all this and much more current information about the Society on our website, <https://coloscisoc.org>*

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

Colorado Scientific Society 2026 officers and Councilors:

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

Secretary – **Patrick Sullivan**

Treasurer – **Jim Paces**

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

President-elect (to become president in 2027) **Eric Roberts**, Colorado School of Mines

Councilors: 2024-2026: **Nate Rogers**, Colorado Geological Survey

2024-2026: **Susan Slomski**

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

2025-2027: **Harrison Gray**, U.S. Geological Survey

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

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

Committees:

Executive Committee: Amy Atwater, Chair, Shannon Mahan, Patrick Sullivan, James Paces

Student Research Grants: Shannon Mahan, Chair; Susan Slomski, Nate Rogers, Harrison Gray, Amy Crandell, and Madeline Ferguson

Nominations Committee: Shannon Mahan, chair, + 3 others to be selected

Membership Committee: Bob Raynolds, Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Chair

Newsletter Editor: Pete Modreski, US Geological Survey, retired

Past Presidents' Best Paper Award: Shannon Mahan, US Geological Survey

Webmaster: Chris Morrison; ColoSciSoc.webmaster@gmail.com

GSA Liaison: Lewis Kleinhans



The Colorado Scientific Society is an Associated Society of the **Geological Society of America**