



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.](#)

September 2026 Colorado Scientific Society Newsletter

Colorado Scientific Society 2026 Past Presidents' Dinner and Program



Reconstructing a Cretaceous Arctic marine ecosystem and tackling a fossil “who-dung-it” mystery

**Dr. Karen Chin, University of Colorado, Boulder
CU Museum of Natural History**



Dr. Karen Chin

Dinner and presentation at the **Mount Vernon Canyon Club**
24933 Clubhouse Circle, Golden, CO 80401
(on Lookout Mtn., off I-70)



Mount Vernon Canyon Club

We are in Canyon Room with its balcony overlooking Clear Creek and the Divide. It is accessed by both stairs and an elevator.



Aspen room terrace

Social Time 5:30 pm

Dinner Service 7:00 pm

Program 8:00-9:00 pm

Everyone is welcome.

Menu

Dinner Buffet with Cash Bar

\$70 regular

\$30 student (for the first 10 students)

Salads:

- ***Mixed Green Salad (GF):*** Mixed greens, blue cheese crumbles, granny smith apples, and pecans served with maple vinaigrette dressing

- **Peach Panzanella Salad:** Peaches, raspberries, grilled ciabatta, arugula, Bermuda Onion and goat cheese with white balsamic vinaigrette

Entrées:

- **Colorado Pan Seared Chicken (GF):** Frenched chicken breast, poblano sauce, corn relish
- **Peach Pork Chop (GF):** Colorado Inspired with peach chutney

Starch: *Maple roasted sweet potato hash (GF)*

Vegetable: *Bistro seasonal vegetables (GF)*

Rolls with butter

Drinks: *Coffee, Tea, Iced tea*

Dessert: *Petite Gourmet Dessert Display: Chocolate cup mousse, Key lime pie cup*

Online Registration and Payment via PayPal

Please make online reservations by Monday, September 7th.

Register for CSS Past Presidents' Dinner

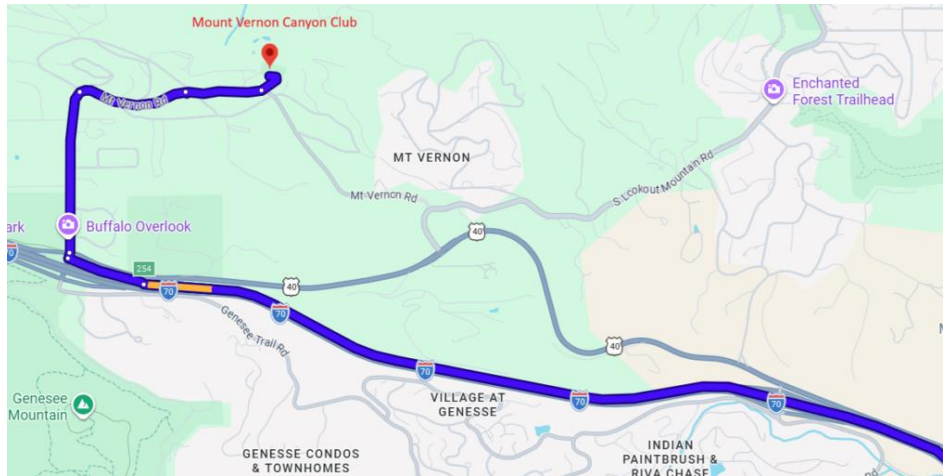
Use this form to Register for CSS Past Presidents' Dinner by USPS mail with a check.
[Send in Reservation by USPS with check](#)

Link to Join CSS Past Presidents Dinner talk via Zoom

CSS invites you to Join our meeting via Zoom on Thursday, September 10th at 7:45 pm.

Click to Join CSS Zoom Meeting
from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android

Mount Vernon Canyon Club



Route to Mount Vernon Canyon Club, from Google Maps

The Mount Vernon Canyon Club is southwest of Lookout Mountain north of I-70 via exit 254 (Buffalo Overlook).

Link to [Mount Vernon Canyon Club](#) on Google Maps



Mesozoic Arctic Ocean

Abstract: Fossil evidence from Devon Island in the Canadian High Arctic sheds light on a marine ecosystem that flourished in the warm temperate Arctic during the greenhouse world of the Cretaceous. A thick sedimentary sequence of the Kanguk Formation preserves dense concentrations of planktonic microfossils, modest numbers of invertebrate and vertebrate fossils, and innumerable coprolites (fossil feces). These fossils reveal a surprisingly productive ancient ecosystem and shed light on paleoenvironmental conditions in the Cretaceous Arctic. But why are many more coprolites than body fossils found in the area, and who produced the feces? Recent research helps answer the “who” and “why” of this “who-dung-it” mystery.



Karen Chin

Dr. Karen Chin studies the structure & dynamics of Mesozoic ecosystems. Her work focuses on how ancient communities of organisms differed from those in modern ecosystems, and what types of interactions occurred within vertebrate communities and the environments they shared. She is renowned as a leading expert in the study of coprolites (fossilized feces) and employs a multidisciplinary approach involving geological, biological, and chemical characteristics of coprolites, trace fossils and body fossils. Her work focuses on understanding interactions among ancient organisms, and deducing the environmental conditions in which these organisms lived and were fossilized.

Also see:

[Discovering the Past Through Dino Poop](#)

[Episode #40 Who Dung It? with Karen Chin | Paleo Nerds](#)

[Flyer for 2026 Colorado Scientific Society Past Presidents' Dinner](#)

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Colorado Scientific Society Presidents at 2025 CSS Past Presidents' Dinner Ned Sterne 2022, Bob Raynolds 2018, Tom Casadevall 2019, Jeff Pigati 2024, Matt Sares 2013, Pete Modreski 2012, Marith Reheis 2017, James Paces 2020, Karl Kellogg 1997, Steve Sonnenberg 1992, Cal Ruleman 2023, Bill Nesse 2007, Scott Minor 2010

[Pictures of the Past Presidents of the Colorado Scientific Society taken at earlier Past Presidents' Dinners](#)

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!

**Geological Society of America
GSA Connects 2026 Annual Meeting**

**October 11-14, 2026
Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado**

Plans are in progress for CSS to share an **exhibit hall booth** at the meeting with the Friends of Dinosaur Ridge

Several field trips on the meeting program will be led or co-led by CSS members.

The Colorado Scientific Society will be hosting a Topical Session:
Peaks, Plains, and Plateaus: 150 years of Colorado Science Discoveries

CSS October Meeting

Thursday, October 15, 2026

Dr. Josh Lively, Curator of Paleontology
Utah State University Eastern, Prehistoric Museum

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

All are welcome – no admission charge

Join us at in-person after 6:30 pm for social time before the meeting.

Join Zoom meetings after 6:45

Meeting and Program begin at 7:00

The Link to Join CSS October Meeting via Zoom will be posted here later

The details about attending the meeting in person at the Golden Calvary Church follow the details about the talk.



Mosasaurus are one of Blake Lively's main research interests

Speaker



Dr. Josh Lively

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.

In-person Meeting at Calvary Church, Golden

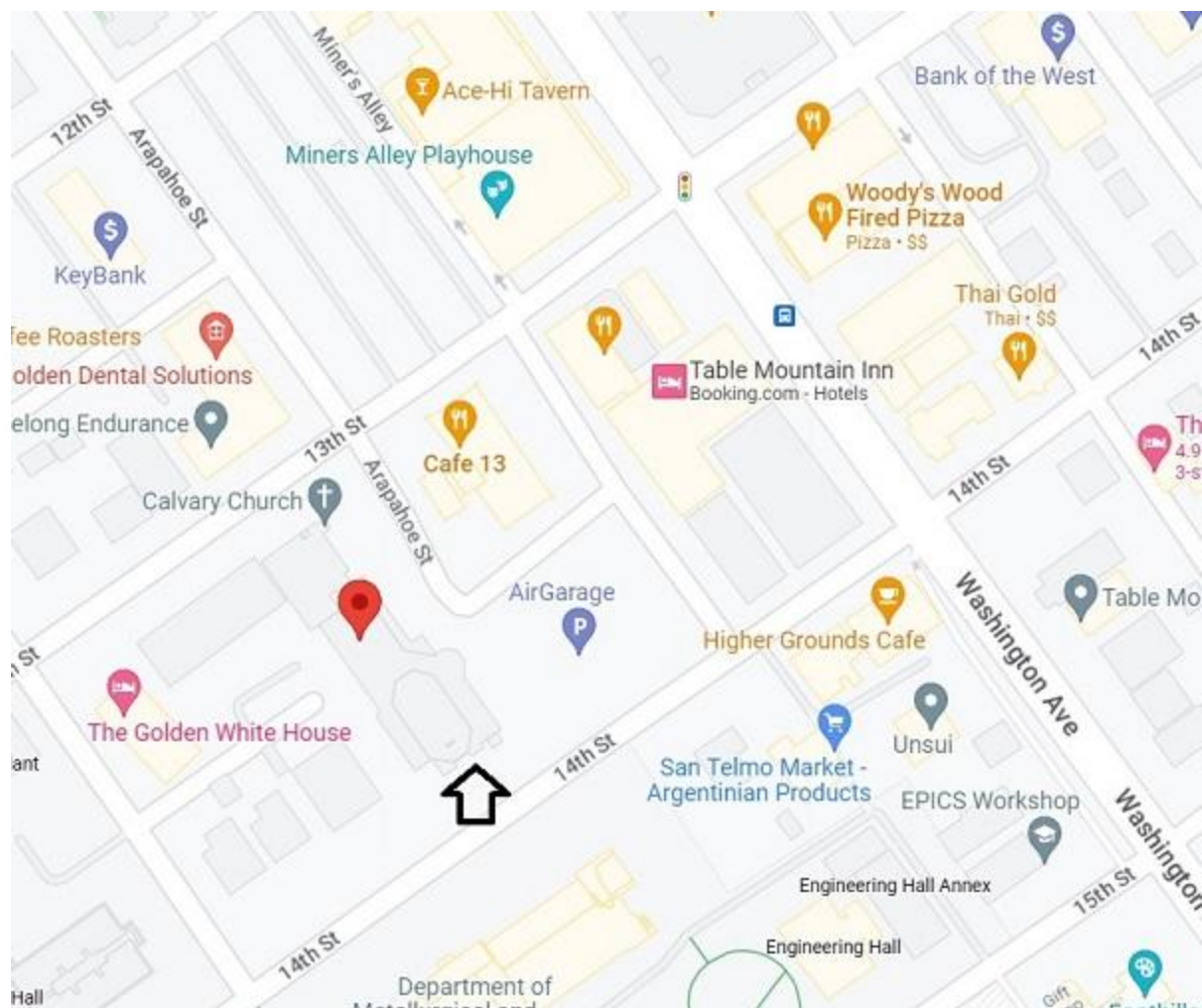
All are welcome – no admission charge

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.

[Calvary Church, 1320 Arapahoe St, Golden, CO 80401](#)

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.

For details about Parking, etc. see **[Venue – Calvary Church, Golden](#)**

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

**CSS November Meeting
Poster Night with Lightning Talks**

Thursday, November 19, 2026

For Students and Early Career Earth Scientists

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

**CSS December Pot Luck Dinner and
Past President's Address**

December, 2026

Speaker: **Amy Atwater**, Director of Paleontology, Friends of Dinosaur Ridge
and current President of the Colorado Scientific Society

More details coming



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

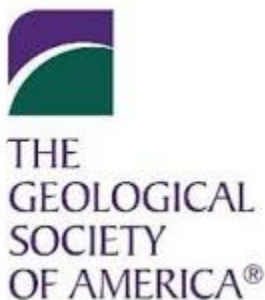
The Colorado Scientific Society was founded in 1882 as a forum for the exchange of observations and ideas on the topics of earth science. Lecture topics largely focus on earth science, and are open to the public. In addition to our monthly lecture series, the society is also active in public service. 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



The Colorado Scientific Society is an Associated Society of the [Geological Society of America](#)

Please send comments about the Colorado Scientific Society website to **ColoSciSoc.webmaster at gmail.com**

We meet at the [Calvary Church in Golden](#) and appreciate them sharing their facilities.

We have our December Business Meeting and Potluck Supper at [New Terrain Brewing Company](#) and appreciate their support.

Meetings are normally on the third Thursday of the month.

All are welcome – no admission charge

Join us at in-person after 6:30 pm for social time before the meeting

Join Zoom meetings after 6:45

Meeting and Program begin at 7:00

See [Archives of CSS Talks – Indexed](#) (under Events) for previous Colorado Scientific Society Talks, or just follow the link.

More about some of our past, present, & future CSS activities!

A lot goes on at CSS “behind the scenes”, and if you don’t make it to our meetings in person or browse our website frequently you may not know about them! Let us do our best to update you on some of these that have, or will, take place!

Ongoing:

At each of our in-person meetings we have:

Copies of *The Geology of Boulder County* by Raymond Bridge (2004) are available for \$20; see our Treasurer, Jim Paces.

Colorado Scientific Society T-shirts; if you’d like one, you might check with Jim in advance (jpaces.css@gmail.com) to make sure he’ll have one in your size, on hand at the meeting).

We have ***Good refreshments*** at each of our meeting!

Each year, CSS has a competitive **Research Grant Program** for graduate and also undergraduate earth science students. Typically, several dozen applicants share in total awards exceeding \$10,000.

This year, the CSS Council voted to donate \$1000 to Friends of Dinosaur Ridge toward the new exhibit construction at the Lockley Discovery Center (now completed and open to visitors).

At the 2026 Geological Society of America annual meeting, in Denver, October 11-14, CSS will sponsor a session as part of the technical program: **Peaks, Plains, and Plateaus: 150 years of Colorado Science Discoveries**. CSS will also sponsor a field trip in the Front Range area near Denver & Golden.