

# ALL POINTS BULLETIN



## Colorado Archaeological Society-Denver Chapter

“...in the future, as in the past, the gathering of information will depend to a great extent on cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists.” (H.M. Wormington, 1978)

---

Volume 57, Number 01

January 2019

---

**January General Meeting:** Tuesday, January 15, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Sturm 154, Sturm Building, University of Denver, 2000 Asbury Avenue, Denver, CO 80210. (The building is located just off High Street on Asbury Avenue. There is parking available directly adjacent to the building on the west side. Most street parking is time-limited, so please be aware of where you are parking for the meeting.)

**Speaker:** Dr. Meredith A. Wismer

**Title:** *Good Things in Small Packages Investigating Pocket Gophers as Food at the Rainbow Site*

**Abstract:** Archaeologists often exclude the remains of burrowing rodents when reconstructing the diets of ancient people, as frequently these creatures intrude into a site long after it was formed. A surprising number and spatial concentration of pocket gopher specimens from the Rainbow Site (13PM91) in northwestern Iowa suggests that people accumulated a large quantity of pocket gophers for use during the Early Late Woodland period (AD 550-620). Individually, pocket gophers may have had little to offer nutritionally; however, collectively their predictable habits, visibility on the landscape, and fat content may have made them a valuable supplement during lean winter months. This talk examines the possibility of pocket gophers as a “survival” food for Rainbow’s prehistoric inhabitants and explores how they may have been obtained and processed. Importantly, most methods for cooking and consuming pocket gophers leave little evidence behind for archaeologists to find, perhaps leading us to underestimate their use as food by ancient people.

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Meredith A. Wismer is a zooarchaeologist and instructor of anthropology at Aims Community College in Greeley, Colorado. She was recently awarded a PhD in Anthropology from the University of Iowa, where her dissertation research focused on animal use during the transition to horticulture within the tallgrass prairie region. She has worked on archaeological projects in Arizona, Alaska, France, Romania, and Colorado.

---

### **February General Meeting:**

Monday, February 11, 2019, 7:00 p.m., Sturm 154, Sturm Building, University of Denver, 2000 Asbury Avenue, Denver, CO 80210.

---

### **Saving Places Conference, 2019**

For 21 years, Colorado Preservation, Inc.’s (CPI) Saving Places® Conference has gathered individuals from across the state (and widely beyond) to strengthen historic preservation efforts through networking and education. CPI is a statewide nonprofit that promotes historic preservation statewide by providing advocacy, education, outreach, and preservation services to communities and individuals.

The 2019 Saving Places® Conference will focus on The Next Generation of Preservation: A CALL TO ACTION which will explore the changes, threats, challenges, and successes of the preservation movement along with the communities and leaders working to move it forward. You can expect over 80

engaging sessions, workshops, and tours. AIA and APA credits available including a Preservation Leadership Training offered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

### **The Saving Places Conference is open to all!**

Monday – Thursday, February 4-7, 2019  
The Sheraton Downtown Denver Hotel

For more information, visit [the Saving Places website](#).

---

### **Minutes of the DC-CAS Board Meeting November 5, 2018**

The meeting was held in the VIP Room at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Monday, November 5, 2018. President Linda Sand announced that the 2019 slate of officers and directors to be voted on at this meeting is: President Greg Davis, Vice President Jon Kent, Secretary Vickie Davis, Treasurer Michele Giometti, CAS Rep Tami Coyle, PAAC Rep Alex Rosa, Directors Aubree Gabbard, Linda Sand, and Reid Farmer. With no further nominations being received, the slate was elected. Cashel McGloin officially resigned as Membership Chair as she plans to take a job at the Smithsonian Museum in Washington DC.

The December 10 Members Night meeting will be at Jon Kent's lab, (Room 241 Cherry Creek Building, MSUD). Jon reported that three speakers have been lined up; one slot remains to be filled. He also reported the January 15 speaker will be Meridith Wismer speaking on the archaeology of the woodlands and prairie dogs as a resource.

The October General Meeting minutes were approved.

Jon Kent then introduced the evening's speaker Kimberly Munro, a Doctoral Candidate at LSU. The title of her talk: *"The Cosma Complex, a Persistent Landscape in the North-Central Peruvian Andes."* The Cosma Complex is located in an isolated basin in the Cordillera Negra Mountains. Ms. Munro did a pedestrian survey in the upper Nepena River Valley in 2013 followed by three seasons of excavation 2014-2016. Cosma functioned as a Kotosh Religious Tradition during the Late Preceramic Period 3000-1800 BCE. Excavations were done on large rectangular mounds. In an interesting modern-day

sidelight there is an annual celebration on November 16 by the Cosma River.

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m. Attendance was 40. Submitted by Ken Andresen.

---

### **Minutes of the DC-CAS General Meeting December 10, 2018**

The meeting was held at the South Classroom Building/Cherry Creek Building room 241, Metro State University Denver, Monday December 10, 2018.

President Linda Sand called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. In this last meeting of 2018, outgoing President Sand presented the Denver Chapter Charter dated 1947 to incoming President Greg Davis.

Vice President Jon Kent opened this traditional last meeting of the year as December Member's Night, with short talks by several volunteer members. The first talk was by Lynn Hoy (who has completed all the PAAC classes). She described the excavation work last summer at the Tahosa Creek property owned by the Salvation Army adjacent to Highway 36 near Long's Peak. Historic air photos showed two ponds behind earthen dams on the site. The dams have since been breached to reduce flood potential. During the work a backhoe was used to trench across the location of the larger of the ponds.

The second talk was by Krista Barry and Sarah Carlson. They described their work together with volunteers at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science (DMNS) in relocating anthropological artifacts from an older storage area to a more spacious area. The work involved placing the items in new archival containers. About 70,000 items had to be accounted for.

The third talk was by Emma Davis, a high school sophomore. She described her work at the Magic Mountain site last summer. The excavation lasted 19 days and was a project of the DMNS.

The fourth talk was by Alex Rosa. He talked about his work in Sicily covering the Norman occupation 1061 – 1194 AD. The subject was Siculo-Norman Tableware and the site location was on Monte Bonifacio. The survey work involved the use of bushes to uncover artifacts.

The fifth talk was by Teresa Weedin. She talked about bedrock petroglyphs at a site in Uintah County. The site is about 24 miles north of the Dinosaur Monument visitor's center on Highway 40. The contrast in lighting of the glyphs depends on the time of day. She showed comparisons from two separate site visits.

The next board meeting is January 7, 2019 at Jon Kent's lab in the Cherry Creek Building. Submitted by Ken Andresen.

---

### Other Lectures

#### **BIENNIAL GEORGE MCJUNKIN LECTURE: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF SLAVERY**

Dr. Theresa Singleton, professor of anthropology at Syracuse University, will explore what the science of archaeology has revealed about the lives of enslaved peoples, both in the southern United States and the Caribbean. Archaeologists have conducted studies of plantation slavery for more than a half century. Singleton will discuss the findings uncovered from 18th and 19th century slave settlements that provide information on the living conditions and cultural practices of enslaved peoples. Throughout the Americas, enslaved people experienced a similar fate, but regional distinctions are becoming increasingly apparent. The biennial George McJunkin Lecture, is named in honor of the former slave, cowboy, and aspiring archaeologist who helped discover the Folsom Site, one of the most important archaeological finds of the 20th century.

Wednesday, January 16, 2019, 7:00 p.m.  
Denver Museum of Nature and Science  
Phipps Theater  
\$8.00 for members  
\$10.00 for nonmembers

***Examining Food: Beyond Identification, Calories, and Nutrients – What is the Carbon Content?***  
**Linda Scott Cummings, PhD and R.A. Varney,**  
**PaleoResearch Institute**

Food is essential to life, and is an important and integral part of the archaeological record. Archaeology facilitates examination of ancient food, using those results to define our understanding of culture and chronology. Radiocarbon dating charred food crust presents challenges. We have mastered

issues of recovery and lab treatment, but archaeology retains assumptions about food being a simple representation of the past. Now we ask, are these records all they appear to be and only what they appear to be? How do the principles of cooking chemistry help understand radiocarbon dating charred food in vessels?

From one Oneota (Blood Run) vessel sampled in three locations we obtained three radiocarbon dates including two that are congruent (from the rim and the exterior shoulder) and one discrepant (from the upper interior wall), pointing to the importance of understanding your sample of charred material. It also provides an example of the importance of understanding cooking chemistry. Multiple paired charred food crust and annual samples from southeastern Iowa and other locations show the effectiveness of chemical pretreatment to obtain congruent dates.

Our NSF grant was awarded to develop a chemical pretreatment method that would produce congruent dates on paired charred food crust and annual samples. We are studying dates produced on charred food obtained from rim vs. body sherds from the same vessel. A repeat of the concept of dating multiple samples from different areas of the same vessel should be paired with an annual from the same context allows us to confirm which dates are congruent. We combine our knowledge of archaeology, food chemistry, lab chemistry, and radiocarbon dating with a healthy dose of curiosity to produce recommendations and methods that will yield more accurate dates on charred food crust, as well as identify when the food cooked in the vessel just cannot yield an accurate date. We show the pitfalls of attempting a freshwater reservoir correction factor and discuss radiocarbon dates obtained on reference fish and other reference animal bones.

January 26, 2019 – 2:00 PM  
Denver Central Library, Conference Center  
(Basement)  
10 W 14th Avenue Parkway  
Denver, CO 80204

**October 2018 Financials**

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
DENVER CHAPTER

Balance Sheet  
October 31, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

Key Bank Checking	2,512.95
1st Bank CD 182 day 1/3/19 .15%	5,706.64
1st Bank CD 182 day 4/16/19 .20%	4,821.38
1st Bank CD 1 Yr 2/20/19 .90%	<u>5,047.50</u>

Total Checking/Savings 18,088.47

Other Current Assets

Prepaid Expense 0.00

Total Other Current Assets 0.00

TOTAL ASSETS 18,088.47

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

Current Liabilities

State CAS Dues Payable 0.00

Total Current Liabilities 0.00

Temp. Restricted Net Assets

Scientific Applications Fund	4,224.91
Swallow Report Project Fund	1,558.81
D Bucknam Memorial Speaker Fund	1,136.30
Education Fund	52.40
Field Trips / Special Events	483.01
Student Membership Fund	57.50
Speakers Meal Fund	<u>327.24</u>

Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets 7,840.17

General Fund 10,562.19

General Fund Net Income (313.89)

Total Equity 18,088.47

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY 18,088.47

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
DENVER CHAPTER

Income Statement  
October 1 - 31, 2018

MTD YTD

General Fund

Income

Membership Dues	25.00	1,718.00
Interest-Savings, Short-term CD	4.81	52.63
Donations Received		<u>375.00</u>

Total Income 29.81 2,145.63

Expenses

Bank Service Charges		
Dues Paid to State		324.00
Insurance		345.00
Storage Space		514.00
Transfer to Scientific Applications Blackfoot Cave Expenses	3.50	154.00
Scholarship Contribution		222.52
Donations		400.00
		<u>500.00</u>

Total Expenses 3.50 2,459.52

Net Income 26.31 (313.89)

Scientific Applications

Income

Transfer from General Fund	350.00	154.00
Donations Received	-	<u>75.00</u>

Total Income 350.00 229.00

Net Income 350.00 229.00

Speakers' Meals

Expenses

Speakers' Meals		<u>99.68</u>
Total Expenses	-	99.68

Net Income (Expense) - (99.68)

Dale Bucknam Memorial Speaker Fund

Expenses

Travel Expenses		<u>610.80</u>
Total Expenses	-	610.80

Net Income (Expense) - (610.80)

Swallow Report Project

Expenses

Radiocarbon Date Report		<u>795.00</u>
Total Expenses	-	795.00

Net Income (Expense) - (795.00)

---

Denver Chapter  
Colorado Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 100190  
Denver, CO 80250-0190

The All Points Bulletin is published monthly by the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and is governed by the bylaws of the Denver Chapter. Articles appearing in the All Points Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers or members of the Denver Chapter. The All Points Bulletin is published monthly by the Denver Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and is governed by the bylaws of the Denver Chapter. Articles appearing in the All Points Bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of the officers or members of the Denver Chapter.

**CIRCULATION:** Greg Davis

**EDITOR:** Vickie Davis

**ASSISTANT EDITOR:** Amy Howard

Denver Chapter CAS, P.O. Box 100190, Denver, CO 80250-0190

**WEBSITES: Denver Chapter:** [www.cas-denver.org](http://www.cas-denver.org)

**Colorado Archaeological Society:** [www.coloradoarchaeology.org](http://www.coloradoarchaeology.org)

---

**DENVER CHAPTER OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT** – Greg Davis  
[greg.cas.denver@gmail.com](mailto:greg.cas.denver@gmail.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT** – Jon Kent  
(W) 303-615-0676, (H) 303-504-4463  
[kentj@msudenver.edu](mailto:kentj@msudenver.edu)

**SECRETARY** – Vickie Davis  
[vsdavis7@msn.com](mailto:vsdavis7@msn.com)

**TREASURER** – Michele Giometti  
[michgio@msn.com](mailto:michgio@msn.com)

**MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON**

Currently vacant

**CAS REP** – Tami Coyle  
[tcoye2000@aol.com](mailto:tcoye2000@aol.com)

**PAAC REP** – Alex Rosa  
605-545-6556  
[ralex166@gmail.com](mailto:ralex166@gmail.com)

**APB EDITOR** – Vickie Davis  
[vsdavis7@msn.com](mailto:vsdavis7@msn.com)

**DIRECTORS**

Aubrey Gabbard  
[aubree.gabbard@gmail.com](mailto:aubree.gabbard@gmail.com)

Reid Farmer  
[trfarmer60@gmail.com](mailto:trfarmer60@gmail.com)

Linda Sand (past president)  
[llsand@comcast.net](mailto:llsand@comcast.net)

Lisa Yeager  
[liyeager@msn.com](mailto:liyeager@msn.com)

revised 01-06-2019