



2023 Annual Conference
of the
Colorado Archaeological Society

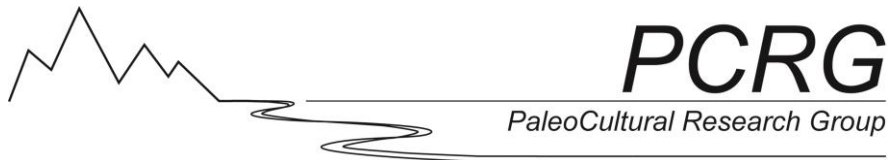
September 30-October 1, 2023

Colorado Springs, Colorado

Hosted by the Pikes Peak Chapter of CAS

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COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Saturday, September 30, 2023

SCHEDULE

8:15 AM - REGISTRATION - Coffee/Tea/Snacks

8:50 AM - WELCOME

9:00 AM – 11:40 AM GENERAL SESSION

- 9:00 Michael Conner
Prehistoric Agriculture and Cultural Developments Along the Arkansas River from Colorado to the Mississippi
- 9:20 Robert Mutaw
Geomorphology and Prehistoric Site Preservation at Paint Mines Interpretive Park, El Paso County, Colorado
- 9:40 Aaron Toussaint, Mia Glover, Madison Dillard
Archaeological Perspectives on Decolonizing Museum Exhibits: Recontextualizing Artifacts and Collections at Four Mile Historic Park
- 10:00 Sarah Allaun
The Geochronological and Geoarchaeological Context of the Clovis-Age La Prele Mammoth Site (48CO1401), Converse County, Wyoming
- 10:20 BREAK
- 10:40 Spencer Little *AHS
Unbelievably Deep: Chronological Assessment of the Hells Midden Site (5MF16), Northwest Colorado
- 11:00 Reid Farmer and Jonathan Kent
New Data on 1971 Excavation of Cherokee Mountain Rock Shelter, 5DA.1001
- 11:20 Peter Faris
Are Shadows Portrayed in Rock Art? They are Implied in Cave Art

- 11:40 -1:15 LUNCH BREAK
- 1:15 Jack Warner
Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve: A Place Where People and Extinct Animals Lived 10,000-15,000 Years Ago
- 1:35 Barb Seanger, Jasmine Saxon, Jessica Ericson
Exploring Archaeology and History in South Park: Educational Courses for Kids
- 1:55 Scott Ortman
The Archaeology of Convergence in the Rio Arriba Valley, New Mexico
- 2:25 Mark Stiger
Variability in Folsom Houses and Assemblages in the Colorado Mountains
- 2:45 BREAK
- 3:05 Erik Jurado *AHS
Beyond the Urban Center: Current Research at San Ignacio, A Regional Center in Teotihuacan's Rural Countryside
- 3:25 Andrew Aceves *AHS
Ceramic Production on The Periphery of Monte Alban
- 3:45 BREAK
- 4:00 CAS BUSINESS/MEMBER MEETING (Following Speaker Presentations)
- 5:15 SOCIAL HOUR / Cash Bar
- 6:30 BANQUET
- 7:15 SILENT AUCTION
- 7:30 KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Dr. Christopher Fisher
Ancient Cities and LiDAR: Angamuco and the Development of Empire

CONTRIBUTED PAPERS – ABSTRACTS

Andrew Aceves *AHS

Ceramic Production on The Periphery of Monte Alban

This paper evaluates a model for centralized state manufacture of elite, domestic ceramics at Monte Alban in Oaxaca, Mexico. Recent findings show Atzompa, a neighborhood of Monte Alban, manufactured unique, large-sized serving vessels and religious funerary urns not produced in Monte Alban's ceremonial center. This suggests residential rather than state-controlled production. Drawing on ethnographic evidence and my 2023 excavations on the periphery of Atzompa's civic-ceremonial center, I argue that Atzompa's small residential plazas manufactured religious and ceremonial ceramics possibly utilizing the same clay sources as their elite neighbors.

Sarah Allaun

The Geochronological and Geoarchaeological Context of the Clovis-Age La Prele Mammoth Site (48CO1401), Converse County, Wyoming

The La Prele Mammoth site (48CO1401), located in Converse County, Wyoming, contains a Clovis-age occupation associated with the remains of a subadult mammoth (*Mammuthus columbi*). In this presentation, the geochronological and geoarchaeological context of the site is presented. The La Prele Mammoth site is buried in an alluvial terrace of La Prele Creek, a tributary of the North Platte River, which acts as an important migration corridor through the Rocky Mountains. Archaeological remains, buried by a series of flood deposits, occur within or below a well-developed buried A horizon, referred to as the Mammoth Soil. Bioturbation of the site has resulted in vertical artifact movement, though peaks in artifact density are evident in vertical artifact distributions and likely represent the occupation surface. Radiocarbon dating of this occupation, including several new dates, suggests an age of $12,941 \pm 56$ calendar years ago (cal yr BP).

Michael Conner

Prehistoric Agriculture and Cultural Developments Along the Arkansas River from Colorado to the Mississippi

As the Arkansas River flows from the Rocky Mountains to the Mississippi River, the surrounding environment changes from semi-arid grasslands to moist, subtropical woodlands. This difference greatly influenced the foodways and population density of Native peoples along the river. Native Americans along the lower Arkansas were participants in two waves of agriculture: the Eastern Agricultural Complex using native plants, between about 4000 and 1000 years ago, and the adoption of maize around A.D. 1000. Maize based agriculture provided the underpinnings for the Mississippian cultural tradition, one of the most complex Native American societies north of Mexico. In southeastern Colorado, maize also appears in the archaeological record about 1000 years ago, during the Apishipa phase. While maize is found at many Apishipa sites and the remnants of structures are common, agricultural intensification was limited compared to groups along the lower Arkansas River.

Peter Faris

Are Shadows Portrayed in Rock Art? They are Implied in Cave Art.

This exercise began with an article from the online site JSTOR Daily dated 1 December 2021 by Roy Sorensen titled “Do We Actually See Shadows?” Sorensen raised it as the philosophical question framed as a shadow is caused by a lack of light, “how can we see something that isn’t there?” Medieval artists often responded to this question by leaving shadows out of their paintings. This led me to wonder if I could find representations of shadows in rock art.

Shadows are certainly important in rock art. Shadows produce the pointers in archaeoastronomy calendar sites. Shadows allow us to see faint rock art under certain conditions of lighting, and shadows from low-angle side lighting allow us to clearly see shallow petroglyphs. I cannot, however, find a convincing example of a shadow included in a rock art portrayal, in other words the image of a shadow in a pictograph or petroglyph.

There are, however, many instances where the artists of Paleolithic European painted caves incorporated shadows in their work. I find it fascinating that so many of the animals portrayed on the walls of painted caves in Europe are shown standing with their feet right at a breaking point in the slope of the wall, so that with a light source held up high they are standing on a shadow.

Reid Farmer and Jonathan Kent

New Data on 1971 Excavation of Cherokee Mountain Rock Shelter, 5DA.1001

The analysis of newly found lithic material from Nelson and Stewart’s 1971 Excavations of the Cherokee Mountain Rock Shelter (5DA.1001), along with additional research on previously rediscovered portions of the collection are discussed. Identifying the sources of lithic materials plus a reconsideration of ceramic types at the site shed additional light on the extent of regional resource exploitation, with occupations between approximately AD 900 to 1650 (Early Ceramic through Protohistoric Periods). Additionally, taxonomic and taphonomic analyses of the fauna recovered during the excavations permit a better understanding of site formation processes at work at the site. Finally, prospects for additional investigation are suggested.

Erik Jurado *AHS

Beyond the Urban Center: Current Research at San Ignacio, A Regional Center in Teotihuacan’s Rural Countryside

Although urbanism is a key focus of anthropological archaeology, most archaeological research on urbanism is city-centric, meaning that studies have focused disproportionately on the urban centers themselves and we know comparatively little about the rural dimension of urbanism and the role of rural communities in urban processes and dynamics. This is particularly true of Teotihuacan in Central Mexico, the largest city in the western hemisphere at its height (100 BCE – 550 CE). To address this issue, my doctoral research investigates Teotihuacan polity organization and urban-rural interaction at San Ignacio, a regional center in Teotihuacan’s rural countryside in what is today the Mexican state of Morelos. The primary aim of this research is to improve our understanding of San Ignacio’s relationship with Teotihuacan and to determine Teotihuacan’s local impact on the social identities, ritual practices, and political-economic

activities of rural communities in Central Mexico. In this presentation, I summarize 2019 and 2023 fieldwork carried out at San Ignacio with CAS support. I present preliminary findings regarding San Ignacio's relationship with Teotihuacan and directions for future research.

Spencer Little *AHS

Unbelievably Deep: Chronological Assessment of the Hells Midden Site (5MF16), Northwest Colorado

This paper will detail new research on the Hells Midden assemblage. This site, located along the Yampa River, was dug over four field seasons in the 1940s by the University of Colorado Museum. UCM excavated thousands of artifacts and ecofacts from four meters of cultural deposits at the site. This sequence is significant for its insights on changing lifeways in this area, particularly during the Formative transition. To understand the variations in the assemblage, this research asks: how old is the site? and how sedentary were the occupants through time? The first question will be answered with thirteen radiocarbon dates; the second question is approached through a multivariate analysis of the collection, comparing the relative degrees of sedentism expressed by these different occupation levels. This talk will present methods and results of this analysis and offer discussion on the implications for the regional precontact record.

Robert Mutaw

Geomorphology and Prehistoric Site Preservation at Paint Mines Interpretive Park, El Paso County, Colorado

Paint Mines Interpretive Park near Calhan, Colorado, contains scenic geologic features that were visited by prehistoric people in the region. The Park will be discussed in relation to its larger geological context and how geologic processes have been affecting and continue to affect the numerous archaeological sites included within the Calhan Paint Mines Archaeological District.

Scott Ortman

The Archaeology of Convergence in the Rio Arriba Valley, New Mexico

One of the shortcomings of traditional archaeological practice in the United States has been a strong separation between "prehistoric" and "historic" archaeology. In reality, traditional history pre-dates the arrival of European settlers, and there are precious few records which document the lives of residents prior to 1900. In this talk, I discuss my current field work in the Rio Arriba Valley of northern New Mexico, where we are working to trace human use of the region across the period of Spanish colonization, and we are emphasizing ways in which the land and its history have encouraged a convergence of residents toward cultural streams that originated locally and elsewhere.

Barb Saenger, Jasmine Saxon, Jessica Ericson

Exploring Archaeology and History in South Park: Educational Courses for Kids

In an exciting collaboration, Community Connections LLC and the South Park Site Stewards have joined forces to create a series of free educational online courses for children, shedding

light on the rich archaeology and history of the South Park area. These engaging courses aim to foster a deeper understanding of the region's cultural heritage among young learners. By leveraging modern technology, South Park Site Stewards and Community Connections LLC have aided young minds in embarking on a thrilling journey of discovery and heritage appreciation.

Mark Stiger

Variability in Folsom Houses and Assemblages in the Colorado Mountains

Excavations at the Mountaineer Site near Gunnison, Colorado, demonstrate that 12,400 cal years ago Folsom hunters built three different house forms. One form, represented by a single large six-meter diameter structure housed a lithic workshop. A second house form about five-meters diameter found at three locations appears to be a long-term occupation of perhaps months duration by a single family. A third form, represented by six three-meter diameter houses is also believed to have been occupied by a family but likely for a relatively short period, perhaps only a week or two. Artifact assemblages from these different structures illustrate different activities that took place within.

Aaron Toussaint, Mia Glover, Madison Dillard

Archaeological Perspectives on Decolonizing Museum Exhibits: Recontextualizing Artifacts and Collections at Four Mile Historic Park

When considering the historical narratives presented in U.S. museums, the inclusion of Indigenous narratives and perspectives exhibited in many sites is often minimal or non-existent. This exclusion is damaging and perpetuates the myth that settler-colonial propaganda seeks to convey. Museums and cultural institutions must begin the process of decolonizing, especially when it comes to exhibits and the narratives portrayed. Because of this, Four Mile Historic Park is actively seeking grant funding to demolish and rebuild their current introductory exhibit in partnership with the Indigenous communities. In the interim, before this work can be done, our project goal has been to create additions to the existing exhibit that will show visitors the multifaceted history of the area, specifically the Indigenous communities who have called the area home. By integrating researched insights on Indigenous presence and how the Indigenous communities of the region have used the land around the historic Four Mile House, we enhance the exhibit's content on historic Denver without deviating from the original purpose centered on local history. This approach allows us to create a more accurate and comprehensive exhibit, illuminating the fact that Indigenous peoples have lived on this land since time immemorial, and continue to call this area home.

Jack Warner

Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve: A Place Where People and Extinct Animals Lived 10,000-15,000 Years Ago

Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve is a paleo-Indian archaeological site located in the Douglas County, Colorado ranch country, SW of Littleton. It was excavated several times between 1960 and 1997. It was found to contain repeated human use from paleo-Indian cultures back to 15,000+ years ago to modern times. It contains one of the largest concentrations of Columbian mammoth bones ever found — over 30 individuals in a relatively small area near the ancient spring. Some of the mammoth bones show signs of human butchering. One of those has been dated at 15,693 years ago. An expert at the Smithsonian is

on record as supporting paleo-Indian site use in this time frame—making it one of the oldest sites ever documented in Colorado. Bones of other extinct mammal species have also been found here, including camel, horse, ground sloth, and ancient bison. This talk describes: What is Lamb Spring? Why is it important? Where does it fit in the archaeological record?

BIOGRAPHIES

Aceves, Andrew *AHS

Andrew Aceves is a Mesoamerican archaeologist and Ph.D. candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder. He received his BA degree from Metropolitan State University in Denver (2019), and his master's from the University of Colorado in Boulder (2022). His research focuses on ceramic production, social organization, and inequality in the Late Classic Zapotec Site of Atzompa (500-950AD), considered to be a neighborhood of Monte Alban's (500BC – 950AD) urban sprawl in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Allaun, Sarah

Assistant State Archaeologist of Colorado, Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado. Sarah received her B.A. in Anthropology at the University of Central Florida in 2015 and M.A. in Anthropology at the University of Wyoming in 2019, and is a Ph.D. Candidate at U.W. Her research focuses on geoarchaeological and geochronological problems related to the hunter-gatherer archaeology of Pleistocene North America in the Plains and Rocky Mountains. She has methodological strengths in geoarchaeology, faunal analysis and zooarchaeology by mass spectrometry, spatial analysis, and lithic analysis and has worked in Belize, Florida, Arizona, Mexico, Alaska, Colorado, and Wyoming. In July 2023, she joined the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado as the Assistant State Archaeologist.

Conner, Michael

Dr. Michael Conner spent 45 years conducting contract and research archaeology in Illinois, Missouri, and Arkansas while working at the Center for American Archeology, Missouri State University, and the Illinois State Museum. He retired to Pueblo in 2019 and joined the Pueblo chapter of CAS to further an avocational interest in the archaeology of his new surroundings.

Dillard, Madison

Madison Dillard is a museum anthropologist with a passion for fostering positive change within the museum industry. Her goal is to ensure that museums evolve into inclusive spaces that celebrate and respect all cultures and communities. After working in museums and other non-profit organizations for several years, Madison decided to pursue a graduate degree, earning her MA in Anthropology with a focus on Museum and Heritage Studies from the University of Denver in 2020. Her master's work focused on social justice, decolonization, and human rights

in museums. As the Museum Services Coordinator at Four Mile Historic Park, Madison's duties include Volunteer Coordinator, DEIA Committee Lead, Gift Shop Manager, and Visitor Services Manager. Since joining Four Mile in Spring of 2021, she has revamped the volunteer department following the COVID-19 pandemic, and worked to make Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility (DEIA) a priority in every aspect of their work.

Ericson, Jessica

Jessica Ericson was born and raised in Pueblo, CO and received her bachelor's degree in Anthropology with a concentration in archaeology from Colorado State University in 2014. Jessica pursued her GIS master's certificate from University of Denver and has been working as a field archaeologist for the past 10 years. Getting the public excited about archaeology has been a passion of hers since her earlier days living in Pueblo. She enjoys the outdoors, being with friends and family, and learning new things.

Faris, Peter

Peter Faris is a 40+ year member of the Colorado Archeological Society, 2013 recipient of the Ivor Hagar Award from CAS, and from 2008 to 2021 represented CAS at History Colorado, on the Board of Directors from 2008 to 2014, and on the Archaeology and Historic Preservation Committee from 2008 to 2021. In 2003 Faris proposed the founding of the Colorado Rock Art Association, subsequently bringing that organization into CAS as a statewide chapter. Now reasonably retired he has written and published <https://rockartblog.blogspot.com> since April 2009.

Farmer, T. Reid

T. Reid Farmer, M.A., R.P.A. has spent many years carrying out CRM projects, working mostly in Western North America. He is the Director of Archaeology of the Cherokee Ranch Science Institute and has been an affiliate professor of anthropology at Metropolitan State University of Denver for nine years. His recent research has focused on the Colorado Front Range.

Glover, Mia

Mia Glover, a graduate of the University of Denver's Anthropology program, holds a master's degree in the field. With a focus on socio-ecological dynamics, Mia explores the intricate connections between policies, land use shifts, climate variations, and their collective impact on both ecosystems and the lives of local communities. Currently engaged in ongoing research in Palau, Mia remains dedicated to her project investigating the interplay of climate change, local policies, and their repercussions on native species, humans, and natural resources. Additionally, she contributes her expertise to the decolonization initiative at the Four Mile House Museum, emphasizing a holistic approach to history representation.

Jurado, Erik *AHS

Erik Jurado works in Central Mexico on questions related to Teotihuacan, urbanism, and urban-rural interaction. He received his BA in Sociology and Anthropology from Colgate University (2015) and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder (PhD in progress, MA 2021). Since 2019 he has been a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.

Kent, Jonathan

Jonathan Kent, Ph.D. Professor Emeritus, Metropolitan State University of Denver (MSUD). He has conducted field research in North America, Mesoamerica and South America. He recently retired from teaching archaeology at MSUD (for 34 years). He has spent ten field seasons on excavation and survey at Cherokee Ranch and is a member of the Cherokee Ranch Science Institute.

Little, Spencer *AHS

Spencer Little is a sixth generation Coloradoan finishing his master's thesis from Colorado State University under the advisement of Dr. Jason LaBelle. Spencer's archaeological interests include Formative occupations in the northern Colorado Plateau and southeastern portion of our state, rock art in the Arkansas Valley, historical archaeology on the Overland Trail, and engaging the public through hands-on archaeology and history. He has served on both the Pueblo and Northern Colorado chapters of CAS and is a recent Alice Hamilton scholar. He is currently employed as a staff archaeologist with SWCA.

Mutaw, Robert

Robert Mutaw, better known as Bob, expressed his first interest in archaeology when he was 7 years old and his father rejected his plea to accompany him and his older brother when they went to dig some mounds on a friend's property near Chillicothe, Ohio. After moving back to where he was born in Waukegan, Illinois, he often amused himself by digging underground forts on the vacant lot next to his family home. Here he honed his technique in excavating rectangular holes with vertical walls. When he wasn't digging, he was out exploring the relatively rural area that surrounded his neighborhood on two sides, not realizing at the time that people actually got paid to walk around looking for stuff. Just before he finished his BA in Anthropology at Southern Illinois University, he took a job in an archaeology lab water screening artifacts and gravel saturated with muddy bottomland soil while kneeling over a bathtub using ice cold water from a garden hose. The summer before he began graduate school at CU Boulder, he worked on the Dolores Archaeological Project first as an assistant lab supervisor watching people wash and sort artifacts and then as a field technician on the excavations of Ancestral Puebloan ruins. After completing his MA, Bob began teaching general anthropology and physical anthropology classes at night for the Division of Continuing Education, and then after he finished his PhD with a specialization in human skeletal biology, he also started teaching at Metropolitan State University of Denver. He also worked for stints with Western Cultural Resource Management excavating archaic stage sites in southwestern Wyoming and a historic townsite near Encampment. He then worked with Powers Elevation in Aurora on survey and excavation projects in Colorado, Wyoming, North and South Dakota, and Kansas and was involved with the

1000s of acres of survey, testing and data recovery excavations for the Denver International Airport. Next Bob worked for Native Cultural Services in Boulder on projects mainly in northeastern Colorado. After about a dozen years of teaching and working part to full time with these firms he took a salaried position with Woodward-Clyde Consultants in Denver, which was acquired by URS Corporation. Here he built a team of cultural resources professionals providing services throughout the Mountain and Plains regions and oversaw over 550 survey and excavation projects with numerous commercial, state, or federal clients. After 16 years with the "Borg," as Bob fondly called the ever-expanding URS Corporation, he founded A&B Cultural Consultants, LLC with his wife Anne in 2012, and since then has completed nearly 200 survey and excavation projects mainly along the Front Range. He has served as Vice President, President, Executive Secretary and board member for the Colorado Archaeological Society; book review editor for *Southwestern Lore*; member of the Board of Directors and chairman of the Facilities Committee and State Historical Fund Advisory Committee for History Colorado; and a Scenic and Historic Byways Commissioner.

Ortman, Scott

Scott G. Ortman is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado Boulder, External Professor at the Santa Fe Institute, and a research affiliate of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. He is also Director of the Center for Collaborative Synthesis in Archaeology within the Institute of Behavioral Science at CU Boulder. His research focuses on the contemporary relevance of archaeological research and findings for the social sciences and for local, indigenous, and descendant communities. He is author or co-author of numerous papers on archaeological demography, complex systems approaches in archaeology, and Pueblo Indian historical anthropology; his books include *Winds from the North: Tewa Origins and Historical Anthropology* (University of Utah Press, 2012), *Painted Reflections: Isomeric Design in Ancestral Pueblo Pottery* (with Joseph Traugott, Museum of New Mexico Press, 2018), and *Reframing the Northern Rio Grande Pueblo Economy* (editor, University of Arizona Press, 2019).

Saxon, Jasmine

Jasmine Saxon grew up in Maryville, Tennessee and eventually found her way to Denver, Colorado where she received her M.A. in anthropology with a concentration in archaeology from the University of Denver in 2018. Through a number of experiences working with the community, Jasmine became passionate about public archaeology and co-founded Community Connections LLC to bring archaeology to local communities. Jasmine lives in Denver, Colorado, with her husband and enjoys cooking, exploring new places, and spending lots of time outside.

Seanger, Barb

Barb Seanger retired from a career in metal manufacturing sales and joined the South Park Site Stewards in 2017. Learning how things are made has always intrigued Barb and by monitoring archeological sites in South Park she was introduced to artifacts such as stone tools and rock features that were made by humans thousands of years ago. Her appreciation for the ingenuity and resourcefulness of ancient peoples through the ages defines an emerging story of human innovation and perseverance. Always an optimist, it's a story that Barb knows will continue with the inspiration and passion of our children and our future generations.

Stiger, Mark

Mark Stiger was raised in Colorado and attended CU, Boulder for his undergraduate education. There he worked under David A. Breternitz for four field schools at Mesa Verde National Park and earned bachelor's and master's degrees. After a three-year stint with the National Park Service, Midwest Archaeological Center, he left for a Ph.D. at the University of New Mexico under Lewis R. Binford. Stiger was hired by Western Colorado University in 1989 where he still teaches today. He has conducted field work for 50 years, written numerous papers, reports, and two books.

Toussaint, Aaron

Aaron Toussaint is a graduate student at the University of Denver studying anthropology with a focus in archaeology. Before attending the University of Denver, Aaron has worked in Cultural Resource Management Archaeology for eight years working in the Northeast, Midwest, Northwest, North; Central; and Southern Plains, Great Basin, and Rocky Mountains. His thesis research has been on the use of Indigenous historic technology during the early 19th century in the Southern Platte Region and Central Plains. This research has been conducted with an Indigenous-informed theoretical approach to understand why traditional practices may have been favored as opposed to Euromerican-introduced technology and practices. With the goal of expanding on this work, Aaron has worked with Four Mile Historic Park on their decolonization initiative and plans to present on his thesis research at multiple conferences.

Warner, Jack

Jack C. Warner has a particular interest in the early people in the Americas in general, and in Colorado in particular. Jack is experienced in archaeological fieldwork: survey, digs, lab artifact curation, analysis, talks, and publications involving prehistoric human occupation in the areas of the Colorado Front Range and Southwestern Colorado. Jack gives talks and tours relating to Denver area prehistoric archaeology, including at the Lamb Spring Archaeological Preserve, a 15,000+ year-old paleo-Indian site with many extinct mammoth and bison remains. Jack is a past President and an active Director of the Colorado Archaeological Society and is the archaeology lead for the Ken-Caryl Ranch Historical Society. Jack received his Master of Science degree from Cornell University and an MBA from the University of Michigan.

*AHS Alice Hamilton Scholarship Recipient

Banquet Speaker Dr. Chris Fisher

Archaeologist, Director of The Earth Archive,
Professor of Anthropology, Colorado State University
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Ancient Cities and LiDAR: Angamuco and the Development of Empire.

At the time of European contact Mesoamerica was dominated by two Empires – the Aztec centered in the Basin of Mexico, and the Purépecha based within the Lake Pátzcuaro Basin, Michoacán, Mexico. In 2009, with the aid of airborne LiDAR technology I documented an archaeologically unknown city which we now called Angamuco that predated the formation of the Purépecha Empire. LiDAR, survey, and excavation at Angamuco has significantly changed perspectives on the development of complex polities in the region. In this talk I will be outlining major discoveries at Angamuco and discussing new models for the development of Empire in this critical region. I will also update developments on the Lost City of the Monkey God, William Shatner and curses, and the Earth Archive.

Dr. Christopher T. Fisher is an archaeologist, a professor of anthropology at Colorado State University, and the founder of the Earth Archive, which is focused on building a three-dimensional record of the entire planet. Dr. Fisher's research has centered on unraveling the complex set of social and environmental variables that resulted in the formation of the Purépecha Empire in Michoacán, Mexico. He and his team were the first to document the ancient city now called Angamuco and at a settlement in the Mosquitia region of Honduras in 2015, now called the City of the Jaguar, discovered a cache of artifacts - an expedition covered in a 2015 issue of *National Geographic* and the book *The Lost City of the Monkey God: A True Story*. His work appears in many edited volumes, such as *The Archaeology of Environmental Change*, journals such as the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* and the *American Anthropologist* and popular publications such as *The New Yorker*. Dr. Fisher has conducted fieldwork and directed projects in the United States, Mexico, Honduras, Portugal, and Albania. In 2007, Dr. Fisher received the Gordon R. Willey Prize from the American Anthropological Association. He earned a BA from Michigan State University and an MA and PhD from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.