



The Calumet • May 2020

President's Message

By Katy Waechter

Chapter President

I hope you're all doing well and in good health. It's a different world since the Calumet was last published and there have been many changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Like schools and businesses, the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society is moving online. Until further notice, all IPCAS-sponsored events will be virtual. CAS meetings also are going virtual, including quarterly meetings and probably the annual meeting. While we want to maintain some semblance of normalcy during this time, our members' safety and wellbeing are more important to us as an organization.

On May 14, Christian Driver (City of Boulder Open Space & Mountain Parks) will kick off IPCAS's online migration and present his research on the history and renaming of Settler's Park in Boulder. Christian's presentation includes updates on Boulder's Indigenous Peoples' Day resolution. We're planning upcoming lecture events throughout the

summer. Keep up with IPCAS emails, social media and website for up-to-date information.

Partner organizations have changed their programming schedules as well on account of the pandemic. Boulder OSMP is moving the Site Stewardship program online and currently preparing online trainings for debut in June. Volunteer fieldwork opportunities will be available when the City of Boulder reopens to volunteer work.

Since History Colorado is closed, all in-person Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC) classes are canceled through the summer. At this point, no PAAC field sessions are scheduled. History Colorado is migrating course materials online and continuing to offer webinars and other online content through the summer.

If you haven't noticed yet, this edition of the Calumet was delivered directly to your inbox. This format saves time and effort in preparing the newsletter, allowing us to move back to a monthly delivery schedule. Please let us know if you enjoy the new format at indianpeaksarchaeology@gmail.com.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the recent passings of Dr. Sarah Nelson and Alden Naranjo.

Dr. Sarah Nelson, Professor of Anthropology and Distinguished University Professor Emeritus at the University of Denver passed away at the end of April. Dr. Nelson was a world-recognized expert on the archaeology of Korea and northeast China, a feminist who altered the discussion of gender in archaeology and prolific author.

Alden Naranjo, NAGPRA Coordinator and Tribal Historian for Southern Ute Tribe, passed away in early May. Naranjo worked with many generations of archaeologists and helped bring agencies and tribes together, especially in Colorado.

Our deepest sympathies go out to families and friends of Sarah and Alden.

Don't hesitate to reach out. It's more important than ever that we stay connected while we're apart. IPCAS may be focused on archaeology and stewardship, but it's the relationships we share that keep us together.

Stay safe out there!

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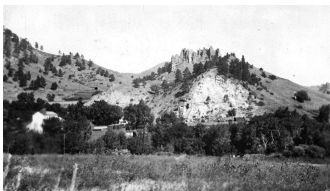
[Member365: Donate directly to IPCAS](#)

Amazon: If you shop on Amazon.com, use [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile) and select Colorado Archaeological Society to receive a small portion of all eligible purchases.

Zazzle: IPCAS shirts, water bottles and tumblers are available from [our Zazzle store](#).

2020 Lecture Series

- Upcoming Lectures -



History of Settler's Park

Christian Driver
City of Boulder

7 p.m. on May 14

[Click to join Google](#)

[Meet event](#)

OR

Phone: 617-675-4444

PIN: 747 803 483

3723#

What We're Reading

- **SQUARE HOLES:** The ability to dig square holes is apparently useful for more than excavation. [Trees do better when planted in square holes.](#)
- **KIDS BOOKS:** Karen Schollmeyer (Archaeology Southwest) reviewed several [books about archaeology for kids near and far.](#)
- **IT COULD ALWAYS BE WORSE:** Dr. Erin Baxter, Acting Curator of Anthropology at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, recently gave a presentation on [the material culture findings from the infamous Colorado cannibal, Alferd Packer.](#)
- **RE-DATING INDIGENOUS HISTORY:** Archaeologists are confronting the idea of dating indigenous sites based on the presence or absence of certain types of European trade goods by [using multiple dating sources.](#)

- **SITE STEWARDSHIP:** Dr. John Welch presented a model for establishing and reinforcing [better protection for cultural heritage sites](#) to ArchaeologySouthwest last spring.
 - **MARMOT CAM:** Along with new webinars and distance learning tools, Crow Canyon Archaeological Center debuted [a wildlife cam to connect viewers with the Crow Canyon marmots](#).
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Feature Article



Plague was around for millennia before epidemics took hold – and the way people lived might be what protected them

By Sonja Eliason and Bridget Alex

One of civilization's most prolific killers shadowed humans for thousands of years without their knowledge.

The bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, which causes the plague, is thought to be responsible for up to [200 million deaths](#) across human history — more than twice the casualties of [World War II](#).

The *Y. pestis* death toll comes from three widespread disease outbreaks, known as [epidemics](#): the sixth century Justinianic Plague that ravaged the Eastern Roman Empire; the 14th century Black Death that killed somewhere between 40% and 60% of the European population; and the ongoing Third Pandemic, which [began in China](#) in the mid-19th century and currently afflicts [thousands worldwide](#).

Scientists long assumed that the deadly disease began infecting humans just before the earliest epidemic, the Justinianic Plague.

But recent [paleogenetics research reveals](#) that plague has been with us for millennia longer: Ancient DNA (aDNA) from the bacteria was recovered from human skeletons [as old as 4,900 years](#). This means people were contracting and dying from plague at least 3,000 years before there's any archaeological or historical evidence for an epidemic.

[Click here to continue reading the original article](#)

Sonja Eliason is a MPhil Candidate in Bioscience Enterprise at the University of Cambridge.
Bridget Alex is a lecturer at California State University, Long Beach.

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Upcoming Events

[Colorado Rock Art Association Meeting:](#)
Kevin T. Jones

7-8 p.m., May 12

[Ask Me Anything \(AMA\) with Colorado Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation](#)

2-3 p.m., May 12

[Click here for Zoom meeting](#)

2-3 p.m., May 19

[Click here for Zoom meeting](#)

[Borderlands + Suffrage in Colorado](#)

6-7 p.m., May 14

[Register for the online meeting](#)

[Spirit of Colorado Lecture Series: Colorado's Hidden History of Sheepscapes by Andrew Gulliford](#)

1-2 p.m., May 18

Email kelsey.voskam@state.co.us for Zoom meeting info

[Borderlands Lecture Series: Exploring Crypto-Judaism in Southern Colorado through Theatre](#)

6-7 p.m., May 21

[Register for Zoom meeting](#)

[Bold Women. Change History. Dawn Teele and Sally Roesch Wagner](#)

7-8 p.m., May 27
[Register for Zoom meeting](#)

[Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month Poster Contest](#)

3-4 p.m., May 29
[Click here for Zoom meeting](#)

About the Calumet

The Calumet is the newsletter of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, and is produced and edited by Daniel J. Schneider in coordination with the board.

Members are encouraged to send ideas and material for The Calumet. All content is subject to review and approval by the IPCAS Board, and may be edited for length, style and clarity.

The submission deadline is the 3rd Monday of the month for the next month's issue. Submissions should be emailed to:

indianpeaksarchaeology@gmail.com

or

dan@schneidan.com

[**IPCAS Website**](#)

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