

COLORADO

CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2007

at the **Wynkoop Brewing Company**

<http://www.wynkoop.com/>

Corner of 18th and Wynkoop in LoDo, Denver

About a block from Light Rail. Thirteen minutes by foot from Auraria.

**—SALVAGING SUBURBAN SCIENCE:
How the fossils beneath Denver provide a unique
perspective on climate change—
Kirk Johnson**

Vice President & Chief Curator, Denver Museum of Nature & Science

Denver is built on nearly 12,000 feet of layered rocks that represent portions of the most recent 300 million years of Earth history. Denver is literally sitting on a stack of Ancient Denvers. Construction-related excavations routinely encounter fossil remains of these ancient landscapes. Since 1991, Kirk Johnson and the Denver Museum crew have been running from one construction site to the next along the Front Range urban corridor trying to pull dinosaurs, leaves, logs, mammoths, and musk oxen from these sites before they are covered back up and lost to science. One of these sites, a buried forest floor on the side of I-25 in Castle Rock, has turned out to be at, 64 million years old, the earliest known tropical rainforest, raising questions about the origins of rainforests and the distribution of ecosystems in a greenhouse world. The goal of the Denver Basin project is to understand why tropical rainforests occurred along the eastern flank of the Rockies immediately after the extinction of the dinosaurs.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME. The discussion starts at 6:30 in the Mercantile Room (no food service there). Come before 6 PM to leave yourself time to get something to eat, or stay and eat afterwards. We end around 8 PM.

There's no charge. The Wynkoop is generously providing the facility; we buy our own drinks. It is first come, first seated, and **seating is limited** so that everyone can take part in the discussion.

The Colorado Café Scientifique is organized by an informal group of President's Teaching Scholars and faculty from CU and institutions up and down the Front Range, as well as science fans from industry, government and elsewhere. We welcome your input, including ideas for speakers and topics. Bring them with you to the next Café, or e-mail them and any questions to John.Cohen@UCHSC.edu

Essential information on our Web site at <http://CafeSciColorado.org>