

**From Point of Pines to the Prayer Rock in Arizona, From Roberts Ranch to the Rawah in Colorado:  
A Symposium Honoring the Contributions of Dr. Elizabeth Ann Morris to American Archaeology**

**(8:10)** Welcome

**(8:15)**

Elizabeth Ann ‘Liz’ Morris: Sixty Years (and Counting!) of Archaeological Adventures

Kelly J. Pool

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

Liz grew up surrounded by artifacts and archaeologists, the offshoot of being Earl and Ann Morris’ daughter. Her first adult fieldwork was with the Chicago Natural History Museum in New Mexico; she never looked back. A University of Arizona masters (1957) and PhD (1959, first female department graduate) on the Basketmaker were interspersed with four years at Point of Pines. Emil Haury and Ray Thompson became her mentors. Excavations in Iran and France followed; Liz returned home after two years with a family. Living in Cambridge, Tucson, and Philadelphia, she held part-time archaeology jobs, began teaching anthropology, and raised two sons. In 1970, she accepted an associate professorship in CSU’s Sociology and Anthropology Department. At retirement in 1988 as full professor, Liz had run the field school for 15 years, conducted pioneering research, and influenced numerous students. Traveling, volunteering, researching, writing, and keeping her parents’ work alive now fill her days.

**(8:30)**

Those Pesky Basketmakers: Does Liz Have the Answer?

Mona C. Charles

Center for Southwest Studies, Fort Lewis College

As a new researcher on an old subject, sites of the Prayer Rock District of Northeastern Arizona continue to entice and tantalize. Broken Flute, Ram’s Horn, Obelisk, and other cave sites are unequivocally among the most significant archaeological resources in the Southwest. Earl Morris, a member of the Bernheimer Expedition of the American Museum of Natural History (1928, 1930) and the Carnegie Institution (1931), unearthed architecture and exquisite artifacts from the newly defined Basketmaker II and III periods. Publishing the findings passed to Liz Morris for her Ph.D. Her publications endure as some of the most influential to our understanding of the Basketmaker II to III transition on the Colorado Plateau. Liz may or may not have known that she was embarking on a journey that remains as relevant today as it did in 1928 or even in 1957, when she and the Morris Ford pickup snaked their way through the deeply dissected arroyos and craggy canyons of the Prayer Rock District in search of the pesky Basketmakers.

**(8:45)**

Dr. Elizabeth A. Morris: Pioneering Archaeologist at Colorado State University

Jeff Eighmy

Emeritus Professor, Department of Anthropology, Colorado State University

When “Liz” moved to Colorado in 1970, she joined Marie Wormington as the only two female archaeologists in the state. At CSU she became the first female to head the fledgling Department of Anthropology, and she was the first female to receive a PhD from the University of Arizona in 1959. She was active in her profession and in a field-based research program focused on the Front Range of

Colorado. Even with the demands of single parenthood and full-time teaching, Liz managed to inspire a generation of young archaeologists during a particularly crucial time in the evolution of North American Archaeology.

**(9:00)**

Honoring the Legacy of Elizabeth Ann Morris: Dipper Gap Revisited

Michael D. Metcalf

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants and Colorado State University

Liz Morris came to CSU in 1970 and immediately immersed herself in the archaeology of the Colorado Front Range and High Plains, generously involving her students in field projects ranging from day-trip surveys and testing projects to full-season excavations involving large field school crews. Graduate students were included in the authorship of reports and publications, and field schools provided the topic for several masters theses, including that of the author. I will be forever grateful for the experience of being the excavation foreman for the 1972 CSU field school at the Dipper Gap Site, and being guided through the process of analysis and writing up the results for my MA thesis. Liz provided her students with a wealth of field opportunities as well as instilling her rigorous and witty approach to thinking about archaeology and prehistory. This presentation will review the Dipper Gap excavations and discuss the site's place in Colorado Prehistory after the passage of almost 40 years.

**(9:15)**

A Collision of Generations: Liz Morris's Influence on my Adventure in Archaeology

Kevin T. Jones

Ancient Places Consulting, Salt Lake City, UT

Liz Morris was in the early 1970s the very picture of a field academician—wool skirt, hiking boots, chambray shirt, tasteful authentic turquoise jewelry, glasses with string keepers, hair pulled back in a pony tail, clear, piercing eyes, serious demeanor, articulate and erudite speech. She and I had much in common. Well, we both had pony tails. Despite our outward and apparent differences, I developed a great and deep respect and appreciation for Dr. Morris and the archaeological world she shared and interpreted for her students. Her personal connection with the field and its practitioners was extremely engaging. She opened the world of archaeology to me, and it had a lasting positive effect, personally and professionally.

**(9:30)**

The Other Side of Time: Liz Morris and CSU in the 1970s

Ken Kvamme

Department of Anthropology, University of Arkansas

CSU was a hopping place to study archaeology in the 1970s, with some of the best and brightest students I have known. It was a lot of fun. Liz Morris constantly led projects and took students into the field. Her toughness was legendary, yet she showed kindness to her students. She never shirked hard work and would always lead from the front—students often had difficulty keeping up with her. She supported students with interesting projects and was open minded, allowing us to follow our muse to pursue esoterica like statistics or computers. At a host of sites north of Fort Collins we learned excavation techniques; in the Narrows Project near Fort Morgan we surveyed for months on end through much of a winter. In the Rawah Wilderness we hiked high and low seeking the Paleoindian. Through it all Liz was there for us teaching, mentoring, and leading.

**(9:45)**Dr. Liz Morris and Culturally Modified Trees (CMTs) in Colorado— How did it Happen?

Marilyn A. Martorano  
RMC Consultants, Inc.

Culturally Modified Tree (CMT) research in Colorado began in the late 1970s with the support of Dr. Liz Morris, Colorado State University. The first official document about Colorado CMTs was my 1981 CSU thesis *Scarred Ponderosa Pine Trees Reflecting Cultural Utilization of Bark*. In the last 30 years, CMT research has been expanded from the basic identification of CMTs as important cultural resources to a variety of research topics: ethnicity of the peelers; expanded identification of CMT tree species including bristlecone and limber pine, and spruce/fir; replication of the peeling process; nutritional analysis of the inner bark; types of tools utilized in the debarking (ax/hatchet, wedges); identification of uses for wood removed from CMTs (cradleboards, fire-starter); and improvement in coring techniques and dendrochronological analysis to obtain peeling seasonality information. Thank you, Liz, for believing in and supporting the dreams of a young, CSU graduate student so many years ago.

**10:00 BREAK****(10:15)**Twenty-Five Years of Survey in the Rawah Area, Medicine Bow Mountains, Northern Colorado

Michael D. Metcalf and Elizabeth Ann Morris  
Metcalf Archaeological Consultants and Colorado State University

Liz Morris, her students in the CSU Department of Anthropology, and colleagues conducted annual visits to the Medicine Bow Mountains over a period of 25 years between 1971 and 1996, recording 63 prehistoric sites in the higher forests and tundra of the Rawah area in the headwaters of the North and South Platte Rivers. Sites dating from the Paleoindian Era to the Historic Period are represented; only the Protohistoric Era is absent. Site types include base camps with artifact assemblages that are large, diverse, and multicomponent in nature, as well as stopovers and kill/butchery locations with few finds. Especially notable is the Carey Lake Site (5LR230), a multicomponent base camp at an elevation of 11,000', from and around which 13 Paleoindian points have been collected.

**(10:30)**Professors and Professions--A 25 Year View from the Monarch Pass Game Drive

Art Hutchinson  
National Park Service, Intermountain Regional Office

In our private and professional lives many people cross our paths: some pass by with hardly a memory and others make a lifelong impression. Liz Morris is one of those special people who made that impression. Her role as professor and advocate for the profession certainly fostered a new generation of archeologists. For some of us other careers became a reality. A truly effective professor and mentor is one who provides students with an ability both to develop their academic skills and also to ground truth true abilities and interests. Again, Liz was one of those special people who could do both. The Monarch Pass Game Drive system provided me with the opportunity to work closely with Liz and Jim Benedict to document this important high mountain site. This presentation will focus on Liz's life and her love of the mountains.

**(10:45)**Landscape Archaeology in the Larimer County Foothills, from the Roberts Ranch to Soapstone Prairie

Jason M. LaBelle

Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology, Colorado State University

Since 2005, the Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology has led a survey and testing program in the northern Colorado foothills aimed at building upon the regional chronology first established by Dr. Elizabeth Ann Morris. Systematic survey of the Red Mountain Open Space, Soapstone Prairie Natural Area, and several surrounding properties documents a dense concentration of Native American sites spanning from Clovis to the late prehistoric in age. Testing of a smaller number of these sites reveals buried occupations dating back to the Early Archaic, with most <sup>14</sup>C dated occupations dating to the late Holocene. My presentation focuses on spatial patterns identified in site size and density, discussion of the existing radiocarbon chronology, and inferences regarding prehistoric land use. Comparison is made to the nearby Roberts Ranch, long home to the annual CSU field school. Thank you Liz, for all you have done in building a framework for understanding the archaeology of northern Colorado.

**(11:00)**

38 years later: 5LR110 and Red Mountain Archaeology

Michael Troyer

Colorado State University

5LR110 is a large, stratified site in northern Larimer County, Colorado. Dr. Elizabeth Morris and her students discovered the site in 1974 as part of the Boxelder water control project archaeological survey. The Colorado State University Laboratory of Public Archaeology and the Center for Mountain and Plains Archaeology have subsequently reinvestigated the site in 2006, 2009, and 2011. Present evidence indicates occupations dating back to the Early Archaic and continuing through the Protohistoric and historic periods. Much of what we know about prehistoric use of Larimer County and northern Colorado stems directly from Dr. Morris's work during her time at CSU. Here I present an example of one site discovered in the 1970s that has been subject to reinvestigation and analysis and is now preserved as an interpretive site in accord with the vision of the Larimer County Red Mountain Open Space.

**(11:15)**

Collaborating With Liz to Present the Art and Archaeology of Ann Axtell Morris

Sally J. Cole

Dolores, Colorado

A 2010 SAA paper honoring the works of Ann Axtell Morris, mother of Dr. Elizabeth Ann Morris (Liz), was launched when Liz obtained digital copies of Ann's paintings, drawings, and notes on file at the American Museum of Natural History and provided supportive information and photographs. The body of materials augments descriptions of archaeological subjects and research methodologies provided in Ann's 1931 books, *Digging in the Southwest* and *Digging in Yucatan*, and are of considerable research interest. This presentation offers a brief look at the richness and scope of Ann's data and how it was produced and presented to the archaeological community and generations of a very interested public.

**(11:30)**

Closing Remarks

Elizabeth Ann Morris