

COLORADO
CAFÉ SCIENTIFIQUE

TUESDAY 12 DECEMBER 2006

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.

WHAT'S ALL THE HULLABALOO OVER DYING ASPEN?
WHAT WE KNOW AND DON'T KNOW

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The recently reported aspen tree die-off differ from normal aspen vegetative succession or decline in that mature trees die quickly within a year or two and no new sprouting occurs, indicating that the lateral roots may also be dead. If that is the case, then aspen will not re-occupy the site since the species reproduces primarily by root sprouting in the west. An aspen grove is a single interconnected living thing, perhaps the largest organism on earth! Die-off seems to begin in epicenters and spread radially through an affected aspen stand. Stands on all topographic positions, moisture regimes, and soil types are affected and the phenomenon has been reported throughout the west from Arizona into Alberta. Die-off can affect one aspen stand and leave other nearby stands untouched. *Cytospora* cankers, poplar borers, and other damage or stress agents are often associated with die-off epicenters; however the possibility of a yet-unknown invasive disease or insect cause still exists. Aspen grove death has become apparent in Colorado, where aerial surveys indicate thousands of acres are affected.

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>