

BURROWS, CYNTHIA

“TSRC has never been the ‘science driver’ of the workshops, it allows that to come from the organizers and participants. This enables the science at TSRC to stay ahead of the curve.”

CYNTHIA BURROWS Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, University of Utah

HOMETOWN My formative years were spent in Boulder, CO.

TSRC Since 2003. Board Member, Organizer & Participant

I KNEW I WANTED TO BE A SCIENTIST WHEN In the AP Chemistry class at Boulder High, I got interested in the annual senior project – brewing beer. (We had another formal research project that didn't work out, but the beer was a great success!) Seriously, it was a great high school chem teacher, Phil Ogata, who inspired me to continue in chemistry.



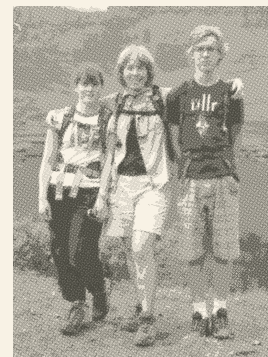
Extremely Uncomfortable, but Quite Practical Really

HER STORY The founders of TSRC, Steve Berry and Peter Salamon, have championed freedom and informality as hallmarks of TSRC since its inception. If Steve had his way there would be “no prearranged, formal talks,” and Peter describes the ideal TSRC workshop as one filled with “prepared presentations on unfinished pieces of research, which are then dissected with questions, interruptions, and



discussions.” Although relatively new to TSRC, Cynthia pushes the idea of freedom one-step further. As a TSRC board member, she is one of the most ardent voices for preserving the

unstructured nature of TSRC – not simply in the nature of the workshops themselves, but in preserving the freedom given to workshop leaders to organize their own meetings on their own terms. “Some other conferences have so many rules that they are really no fun anymore,” wrote Cynthia. “Instead of letting scientists run a conference, some organizations think they need to police every step



Cynthia Burrows and her Kids

you make to ensure you are building towards their ideal. You wind up being so regimented that the conference cannot adapt and evolve to reflect what the participants want, in real time. That is not true of TSRC. The Telluride workshops have a fluid form, and what is built at the end of the week reflects the dynamics of the participants, the science . . . and the weather.