

ENVISIONING A CHANGING DURANGOSCAPE

DURANGO
BOTANIC
GARDENS



Practical Approaches to Adapting Yards and Landscapes to a Changing Climate

March 1-31, 2023

Online Presentations Available to Registrants. View at your pace, convenience, and schedule.

March 16, 2023

In-person event at the Durango Public Library, featuring Panayoti Kelaidis, Senior Horticulturist and Director of Outreach at the Denver Botanic Gardens. Also, meet, talk with online presenters.

Produced by the Durango Botanic Gardens
in partnership with the City of Durango, Mountain Studies Institute,
the Colorado Native Plant Society, and the CSU Master Gardeners

DurangoBotanicGardens.org

HOW IT WORKS ... STEP #1

Speaker presentations will be available online, not for a day, not for a week, but for the entire month of March...

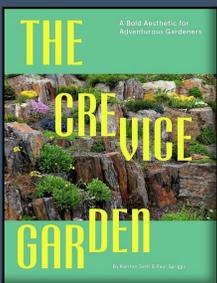
March 1-31, 2023

YOU view presentations at your convenience, on your schedule, and you can return to the site and listen yet again, especially noting questions you wish to pose to the speakers.

This online and in-person event builds upon our successful 2020 conference on adaptation strategies for gardens and landscapes. Adapting-to and mitigating the effects of a changing climate begins in our own yards, gardens, city parks, and urban forest. Thinking anew about how we garden, landscape, and use water will change our *DurangoScape* in ways that will become more viable and beautiful! This online and in-person event seeks to envision what that landscape will (or could) eventually look like.

The Crevice Garden

At our March 16 in-person event, we will draw five names among conference



registrants for a copy of the recently published *The Crevice Garden* by speaker

Kenton Seth and Paul Spriggs. Winners need not be present to win a book (a \$40 value).



Climate Change in Our Region What Do We Know?

Jake Kurzweil
PhD, Hydrologist
Assoc. Dir./Water Programs
Mountain Studies Institute

Scott Roberts
Water Programs Director
Mountain Studies Institute

Mountain regions around the world, including the San Juans, are showing the impact of climate change. Mean annual air temperatures in Southwestern Colorado have risen almost 2°F in only three decades. MSI tracks climate variability and documents trends over time, and investigates effects of climate on ecosystems and natural resources. Scott and Jake share their most recent research on how—and how quickly!—climate conditions are changing in the Four Corners.



Lawns Suck (water, money, effort) Great Alternatives to Grass

Mike Smedley
Durango's Bulb Guru and Rock Garden Fanatic

The irascible Mike Smedley has some strong opinions – and surprising facts – about turfgrass and its absurd overuse, especially in the West. To be fair, Mike will look at the plus side of lawns before making the case to reduce their size or eliminate them altogether. In a presentation rich in photos and humor, he'll offer an honor roll of beautiful, waterwise groundcovers to replace Kentucky Bluegrass, along with savvy ideas and design inspiration to help you transform a perpetually-thirsty lawn into a verdant, colorful lifescape that saves money and uses only half the water (or far less). Tons of handouts, too!



Landscaping for Wildfire Mitigation

Alex Graf
La Plata County Coordinator, Wildfire Adapted Partnership

No matter where you live in southwest Colorado, you are living with wildfire risk. Though we might not be able to prevent fire from occurring in our region, we absolutely can change the level of risk that wildfire poses to our homes and lives. By proactively managing vegetation around the home, landscaping with wildfire in mind, we can take the first step on the path towards fire adaptation, a crucial step to take in the midst of a changing climate.

HOW IT WORKS ... STEP #2

An in-person reception will be held at the Durango Public Library on

March 16, 2023

offering a special presentation by Panayoti Kelaidis, the Director of Outreach and Senior Curator at the Denver Botanic Gardens. You are also invited to meet and speak with the online presenters during this special reception.



Gardening in Uncertain Times: How to Adapt and Prepare for a Changing Climate

Brooke G. Safford

Owner, Blooming Landscape & Design, LLC

Adapting your landscape to changing climate conditions does not mean you have to sacrifice a spectacular looking yard! Whether you're doing your landscape design and planning yourself or using a professional, there are some key things to consider. Brooke Safford will discuss how climate change may impact your landscape and the steps that you can take to create gardens that are both beautiful and resilient.



What are Crevice Gardens? Are They Relevant to Climate Change and How Do I Build One?

Kenton Seth

Owner, Paintbrush Gardens

This increasingly popular style of rock garden is showing up worldwide. Partly what drives this trend is its use in ecologically responsible landscape designs of the future, especially the dry and intermountain western US. Join garden designer, author, and plant addict Kenton Seth from Fruita, Colorado, to find out how to make a crevice garden that is not only trendy, but appropriate in our region and helpful for the earth.



Creating Climate Resilient Landscapes with Native Plants

Alex Crochet

*City Horticulturist
Colorado Springs, CO*

Maggie Gaddis

*Executive Director
Colorado Native Plant Society*

Alex Crochet, City Horticulturist in COS, alongside Dr. Maggie Gaddis, Executive Director of CONPS, will discuss successful steps homeowners can take in order to create a resilient landscape in the face of a changing climate. We will cover the basics from soil mixtures, propagation techniques, seed treatments & collections, and highlight some superstar plants to use at home. Dr. Gaddis and Alex will also discuss steps and efforts being made by both Colorado Native Plant Society and City of Colorado Springs Horticulture program to build resiliency at State and Municipal levels.



Rethinking the DurangoScape:

What will it take to honor our setting?



Panayoti Kelaidis
*Director of Outreach and
Senior Curator, Denver
Botanic Gardens*

Most of us don't bat an eye spending five figures remodeling a room, but boy! we get stingy when it comes to our gardens! Why do we settle for less when a cityscape is the stage setting of much of our (and our children's) lives? Let's look at some examples of garden renovations and designs where a much more attractive, far more resilient (and often less labor intensive) garden replaced a blah conventional design. Let's conjure towns and settings worthy of Durango and the Four Corners!

Mr. Kelaidis' presentation will be made available at our conference website after March 16.

On March 16, 2023

Reception . . . Meet presenters and hear keynote presentation

5:00-7:00pm

**Program Rooms 1&2
Durango Public Library**

This special event is for conference registrants only and is sponsored by Durango Nursery & Supply.





How Climate Change is Impacting our Urban and Park Landscape

Scott McClain

Assistant Parks Director, City of Durango

As a landscape architect he manages over 5,000 acres of natural and developed parklands with extensive experience in design, development, and ongoing stewardship of highly utilized public spaces. Scott will discuss best practices for developing and maintaining sustainable landscapes in a changing climate. Learn how you can facilitate and support change on a community level and gain practical tips that can be incorporated in your own landscapes.



Registrants listen, view presentations on...

- ◆ **Alternatives** to the conventional (and thirsty) grass lawn
- ◆ **What** will the Four Corners climate look like in the near and far future?
- ◆ **What** role will native plants play in mitigating climate change?
- ◆ **How** are the city's responses unfolding in our urban landscapes and urban forest?
- ◆ **Where** and how could crevice gardens fit into the new DurangoScape?
- ◆ **What** role does landscaping play in wildfire mitigation?
- ◆ **How** to talk to your landscaper about adapting to a new climate

Our Partners and Sponsors...



Conference Fees

Registration Information

Includes access to online presentations plus the March 16 presentation

Members of Durango Botanic Gardens, Mountain Studies Institute, Colorado Native Plant Society, and Colorado Master Gardeners..... \$60

Non-members..... \$75

To register now, visit

Or, visit our special conference website for additional details

DurangoBotanicGardens.org

DurangoScape.org

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Questions? Call 970-880-4841 or email: durangobotanic@gmail.com