



# Newsletter

April 5, 2023, Vol. 3, No. 1

## DurangoScape Conference Attracts 200

Our Envisioning a Changing DurangoScape, an online and in-person event, has surpassed 200 registrants as of the end March. Our March 16 reception featuring Panayoti Kelaidis, senior curator and director of outreach for the Denver Botanic Gardens, was attended by 118. Bill LeMaire, president of the Durango Botanic Gardens, commented at the reception that this was, “...one of the largest gatherings of the region’s horticultural figures in recent memory.” Reception attendees heard Panayoti Kelaidis urge audience members to rethink how they landscape and garden, to think in terms of a new paradigm that is more resilient in the face of a changing climate while using less water and, often, less labor. “Let’s conjure towns and cityscapes,” he urged, “worthy of Durango and the Four Corners.”

Eight presenters recorded their presentations online ranging across a host of practical approaches to adapting yards and landscapes to a changing climate. Flexibility of viewing—the recordings are available to registrants until April 7—was a major plus according to registrants. Our geographical reach was also expanded, as one Arizona registrant commented: “I just finished the presentations of your climate conference Envisioning a Changing DurangoScape. I learned so much, and appreciated the expertise of each of your presenters. More power to each of you!”



*Read the blog post*

## 2023 Gardens on Tour Coming June 24

Please save the date, June 24, for our annual Gardens on Tour, from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. This year we are offering eight gardens, including the Durango Hot Springs. The featured gardens range from city lots at 6,500 feet to rugged terrain at 9,000 feet, with views of the mountains and the Animas River. These gardens will stimulate your senses with the sight and smells of fragrant, vividly colored flowers, vegetables, native shrubs, waterwise plants, wildflowers, crevice gardens, water features, and a Zen garden. Discover the many possibilities of residential gardens while enjoying a day out in LaPlata County with friends and family. TIP: Makes a much appreciated Mother's Day gift. Stay tuned for registration information, beginning May 1.



# Literary Garden Dedication Set for June 29

The Literary Garden, being built just to the west of the library, is scheduled to be dedicated with a ceremony and other activities on June 29, the same week as the library's Literary Festival. That same evening the library will feature a presentation by well-known author, Lisa See. See a video of the Literary Garden, produced by Alan Markert of Max Action Productions.



## Great Garden Series Begins May 10

Perhaps the best deal in Durango: Our Great Garden Series, produced in association with the Durango Public Library and the CSU Extension office, begins Wednesday, May 10 with Darrin Parmenter discussing drip irrigation techniques. GGS presentations begin at 4:30pm, last roughly an hour to an hour and a half and, wait for it, they're free! We'll send out reminders but if you wish to get an early look at this year's schedule, view and print the GGS lineup. [Download the PDF version here](#)

GREAT GARDEN SERIES		
<i>Join us at the library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday from May through September. Presentations begin at 4:30pm. All presentations are FREE and no registration is required.</i>		
DATE	TOPIC	PRESENTERS
May 10	Drip Irrigation for Your Home Garden	Darrin Parmenter
May 24	Regenerative Landscaping	Brooke Safford Eric Roig
June 14	Thinking Like Nature to Help Regenerate Earth and Ourselves	Mandy McGill
June 29	Literary Garden Dedication. Join us to celebrate our newest garden. Learn about plans for future gardens	DBG Board
July 12	Bonsai in the Southern Rockies: Use of Native Material in an Ancient Art Form	Andy Hawk
July 26	Lavish Spring Color: Bulbs for Waves of Blooms Learn the secret for incredible bursts of color all season!	Mike Smedley
August 9	Gold From Garbage! Get Going with Composting!	Kevin Ford
August 23	Artist's Tales from the Herbarium	Amy Wendland
September 13	Water Harvesting	Eva Montane
September 27	Tour of the Santa Rita Park Demonstration Garden	Justin Elkins

The Great Garden Series is a collaborative effort brought to you by...



## Garden Maintenance Has Begun, We Welcome Volunteers

Welcome back to all of you wonderful volunteers who have made the gardens a showcase with your loving care. And please, any newcomers, we would love to have you join us. Our maintenance season kicks off on Saturday, April 8 and will continue on Saturday mornings until the end of September. We work in the gardens from 9am to 11am in April, May, and September and from 8am to 10am in June, July and August to avoid some of the summer heat. This year, we plan to focus more on specific educational events that will hopefully help us here at the gardens as well as at home. For example, some maintenance sessions will include tips on how to maintain different types of grasses. We will announce those demonstrations sessions and other maintenance information in our weekly email to volunteers. Also, we will work on weed identification (some sprouted last fall and are already green!) and removal.

For new folks who are interested in helping, you may contact Lynn Mitzlaff at [DLMitzlaff@gmail.com](mailto:DLMitzlaff@gmail.com) with questions or to be added to our weekly distribution list.



## Avoid These Shrub Flubs

Many of us are thinking about pruning about now and, perhaps most tricky of all, is the correct way to prune shrubs. Our good friend, Mike Smedley, shares some thoughts in the attached document on how not to flub your shrub pruning. [Download the PDF here.](#)

## Docent of the Quarter



*Kandy Dille*

Kandy Dille was awarded Durango Botanic Garden Docent of the Quarter during the Docent Recognition High Tea on February 19, 2023. Kandy and her husband, Scott, moved from Chicago to retire to Durango in 2020. Kandy was a certified Illinois Master Gardener for 10 years and developed her love of gardening while training and working with a weekly Master Gardener crew at the Chicago Botanic Garden. She will be the new Docent Coordinator of the Durango Botanic Garden and a Co-Captain of the Youth Garden Bed within the new Literary Garden.

## Docent Kick-Off Training

Durango Botanic Gardens Docents provide the vital leadership for much of what happens in the Gardens. Over 20 Docents gathered for their annual refresher training, nicknamed The Kick-Off, on March 31. The purpose of the event was part social, part educational, part administrative. Docents were updated on new information that Board members have been developing during the winter: DBG's Strategic Plan, new plans for the Literary Garden, revised information for conducting Garden tours, and new Plant Select introductions.



*Docent Kick-Off attended by 20 DBG docents*

Docents were enlisted by team leaders for the many upcoming events and projects: youth activities in the Gardens, Literary Garden Dedication, Great Garden Series, Bulb Sale, Gardens on Tour, wildflower hikes, and an added Docent on Duty for the Literary Gardens during Saturday maintenance.

***Become a Docent***

---

## **Become a Member... We Need You**

### **Donate**

**NOTE:** Our physical location is 1900 E. Third Avenue, at the Durango Public Library. The gardens are located to the north and east of the library, along the Animas River Trail.

**Mailing Address:**

Durango Botanic Gardens  
10 Town Plaza, #460  
Durango, CO 81301

**Phone:** 970-880-4841

**Email:** [durangobotanic@gmail.com](mailto:durangobotanic@gmail.com)

---