



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GREEN ROOFS FOR THE WEST SYMPOSIUM
“GREEN ROOFS: GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE”
AT DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Green Roof Conference and Trade Show at the Gardens
June 16, 2011

DENVER—The third annual Green Roofs for the West Symposium will take place at Denver Botanic Gardens on June 16 from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. This forward-thinking and informative event will spotlight innovative ways green roofs are leading us to a future of more sustainable cities in the challenging climate of the West. It is co-hosted by the Gardens, U.S. Green Building Council, the University of Colorado and Colorado State University.

The Symposium will feature a full day of in-depth sessions, presented by leading green roof experts and designers who will address green infrastructure and how green roofs fit into sustainable urban, suburban and regional planning. The event will feature a trade show featuring a variety of businesses that cater to the needs of green industry professionals. Also included will be a workshop on constructing green roofs and Low Impact Design (L.I.D.).

“This conference will revolutionize the way Coloradoans view green roofs, and prove that green roofs are a viable and integral component of sustainable development in the arid west,” says Deb Kleinman, executive director of the Colorado chapter of US Green Build Council.

Invited speakers from the U.S., Canada, Germany and England include:

Manfred Köhler: In the 1980s, Prof. Köhler saw that green roofs were a chance to integrate more buildings, in particular, residential apartments, into the greenery of the inner city regions of Berlin. He tested the effects of green roofs on urban climate, water retention and biodiversity. Kohler has published more than 100 scientific publications related to green roof and living wall technology. Since 1994, Prof. Köhler has been a professor at the University of Applied Sciences in Neubrandenburg, teaching landscape ecology and working on green roof technology. Prof. Köhler is one of the founders of the Toronto-based World Green Infrastructure Network, which counts 19 national organizations as part of its network. Prof. Köhler has been the president since 2008.

Angela Loder is completing her doctoral dissertation on health, green cities, the workplace and green roofs. She works with the City of Chicago and the USDA Forest

Service and is a Canada-US Fulbright Fellow. In addition, as an advisor on the Green Advisory Board of the Green Realty Trust (Real Estate Industry), she provides expertise on green roofs, green building retrofits and office worker health and well-being.

Mark Simmons is director of the Research and Consulting Program at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center at the University of Texas. He graduated from University of Cape Town with a M.Sc. in Botany, and received his ecology Ph.D. from Texas A&M University. His research and consulting projects focus on sustainable and regenerative landscapes include green roofs, native turf grass, prescribed fire, invasive species control and urban green space restoration, with clients including Army Corps of Engineers, George Bush Presidential Center, NASA and the National Parks Service.

Dusty Gedge has a deep and active love of nature. He is as the current president of the European Federation of Green Roof Associations, which has been instrumental in promoting green roofs throughout Europe and most recently in Turkey. Dusty is also founder of livingroofs.org, the UK's first independent green roof organization. Additionally, Dusty is co-founder of Green Roof Shelters, which promotes not only green roofs but also habitats made out of recycled shipping containers.

Paul Kephart, a renowned biologist, restoration ecologist and expert designer of living architectural systems, is sought after for his skill as an innovator and pioneer in the fields of environmental planning and ecological design. Paul has developed his profound understanding of natural processes over the course of almost thirty years of diverse ecological work including: ecological design, horticulture, botanical surveying, biological assessment, watershed management, mitigation, land stewardship and resource management planning.

The Symposium will also highlight the publication of the new “Design Guidelines and Maintenance Manual for Green Roofs in the Semi-Arid and Arid West.” This publication is now available at <http://growwest.org/> for free. The guidelines are a collaboration of the University of Colorado Denver, City and County of Denver, Green Print Denver and the Urban Drainage and Flood Control District.

This full-day program is tailored to architects, landscape architects and designers, facility managers, policy makers, planners, energy specialists, engineers, horticulturists and students. The symposium delves beneath the surface to inform professionals about green roof viability and implications in the West, and lay the groundwork to influence policy in Denver and the Intermountain West.

Denver Botanic Gardens' own green roof, which showcases more than 50 species and varieties of drought-tolerant plants, will be open throughout the day for tours. Green industry professionals visiting the Gardens during the symposium are also encouraged to stroll the grounds, network with their peers, participate in panel discussions and learn about other sustainability programs at the Gardens.

Cost: Pre-registration for individual: \$100. Day of event: \$125, if space available. Students with valid ID: \$30. Includes continental breakfast, lunch and beverages.

For more information or to register, visit www.botanicgardens.org and click on the “Calendar” link, e-mail registrar@botanicgardens.org or call 720-865-3580.

About Denver Botanic Gardens:

Green inside and out, the Gardens is considered one of the top botanical gardens in the United States and a pioneer in water conservation. Accredited by the American Association of Museums, the Gardens' living collections encompass specimens from the tropics to the tundra, showcasing a plant palette chosen to thrive in Colorado's semi-arid climate. The Gardens' dynamic, 23-acre urban oasis in the heart of the city is now in its 52nd year, offering unforgettable opportunities to flourish with unique garden experiences for the whole family – as well as world-class education and plant conservation research programs. Additional sites at Denver Botanic Gardens at Chatfield, a 750-acre wildlife and native plant refuge in Jefferson County; and Mount Goliath, a high-altitude trail and interpretive site on the Mount Evans Scenic Byway, extend this experience throughout the Front Range. For more information, visit us online at www.botanicgardens.org.

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