



NARGS is coming to Cheyenne, Wyoming in 2025! Mark your calendar for your Wyoming adventure **June 12 to June 16, 2025.**

Why Wyoming? Cheyenne is near the interface of the High Plains and the alpine wonderland of the Front Range, Laramie Range, and Snowy Range. Cheyenne's elevation of 6,068 feet above sea level gives it a great climate for rock garden plants. Intense sunlight, clear skies, and low humidity allow us to grow alpine plants that languish in warmer, more humid environments. We can even grow some alpine plants that our friends in Denver cannot grow just 100 miles to the south and 1000 feet lower in elevation.

Cheyenne is easy to get to because of its location near the center of the continent. Denver International Airport is just two hours away. Rent a car and plan to spend some time before or after the conference exploring Wyoming and adjacent states.

You'll be able to spend time at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens looking at the new Crevice Garden in full bloom, and you'll see our beautiful parking lot island beds planted with a wide range of water-wise plants. The crevice garden is full of surprises—plants previously not considered hardy in Cheyenne have withstood temperatures as low as -25°F and a sudden temperature drop from 43°F to 3°F in just thirty minutes. It's truly an international garden where plants from South Africa harmonize with Wyoming natives and European plants found in the Alps grow alongside plants from the Northern Rockies. Crevice garden plants are beautifully adapted to wind, which averages 13 mph in Cheyenne, and easily withstand the hailstorms we experience every year.

Thursday, June 12, 2025:

10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. **Check in at the lobby of the Shane Smith Grand Conservatory at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens.**

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. **NARGS Admin Committee meeting, Classroom, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens**

1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. **NARGS Board meeting, Classroom, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens**

2:30 to 3:30 p.m. **NARGS Chapter Chairs meeting, Classroom, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens**

3:30 p.m. **Plant Sales open, Gathering Rooms, Cheyenne Botanic Gardens**

5:00 p.m. We'll step outside as the Botanic Garden closes to visitors and we'll enjoy an in-depth tour of the Crevice Garden and production areas.

6:00 p.m. We'll head back indoors for the official welcome and some appetizers with a cash bar before you head out for dinner at one of Cheyenne's many fine restaurants

Friday, June 13, 2025: We'll spend our first full day in Cheyenne, Friday, June 13, touring private gardens and the historic High Plains Arboretum

on the grounds of the 1928 Cheyenne Horticultural Experiment Station. We'll tour a new crevice garden that has become a streetside attraction, see a contemplative rock garden with stunning views of the Front Range and a largely untouched prairie in the back yard. We will visit a rock garden with a stunning waterfall, pool and bonsai and a rock garden that echoes a mountain stream flowing through a grove of aspen. Buses depart Little America at 8:00 a.m. Lunch at The Bunkhouse.

3:15 p.m. Buses return to Little America

4:00 p.m. Buses depart for Cheyenne Botanic Gardens; Plant sale opens.

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Kiwanis Community House

7:00 p.m. Myron Cook lecture

8:00 p.m. Kenton Seth lecture

Saturday, June 14, 2025: Saturday will take us to the beautiful Vedauwoo (pronounced vee-da-voo) Recreation Area in the Medicine Bow National Forest, where you'll see massive granite outcrops that rise out of the high prairie. Among the forest of pine, aspen, and Douglas fir, you'll find Wyoming's state flower, the Wyoming Indian paintbrush, *Castilleja linariifolia*, together with a host of other plants. We'll visit the Biodiversity Institute at the University of Wyoming in nearby Laramie where we'll see a boulder garden and the Berry Prairie, which is planted on the rooftop. Buses depart Little America at 8:00 am. Box lunch provided.

3:30 p.m. Buses return to Little America

4:30 p.m. Buses depart for Cheyenne Botanic Gardens; Plant sale opens.

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Kiwanis Community House

7:00 p.m. NARGS Awards

7:30 p.m. Isaiah Smith lecture

8:00 p.m. Mike Kintgen lecture

Sunday, June 15, 2025: We will travel to Fort Collins, Colorado on Sunday to visit the Gardens on Spring Creek, where renowned designer and book author Lauren Springer will be on hand to show us the Undaunted Garden she created. You'll be able to visit the new Plant Select crevice garden located nearby which consists of zones constructed with different types of stone. We'll also visit the wonderful private gardens of Carol and Randy Shinn and Kirk Fieseler. Kirk produces dwarf conifers, and you'll have a chance to purchase rare conifers while we are there. Buses depart Little America at 8:00 am. Box lunch provided.

4:00 p.m. Buses return to Little America

5:00 p.m. Buses depart for Cheyenne Botanic Gardens; Plant sale opens.

6:00 p.m. Dinner, Kiwanis Community House

7:00 p.m. NARGS 2026 Preview

7:30 p.m. Bonnie Heidel lecture

8:30 p.m. Connor Smith lecture

9:30 p.m. Conference Wrap Up

Monday, June 16, 2025: The last day of the conference on Monday, June 16 will consist of a choice of three carpool destinations—a local rock garden created by a devoted collector of stones and a small rock garden with spiky plants and art, a 100-mile journey to remote Chalk Mountain with its views of surrounding desert areas and diversity of bun plants, or a trip to the Snowy Range to see alpine plants. Each of these options are limited to the first 30 registrants, so you will want to register early to take advantage of these wonderful opportunities.

Tuesday, June 17 - 22, 2025: “The Alpines of Wyoming” post-conference tour. Separate registration and details under “Tours” at

www.nargs.org

Speakers: We've got a great slate of speakers. We'll hear from renowned crevice garden guru **Kenton Seth** who will speak about crevice gardens for every climate, retired geologist **Myron Cook** who will tell us about the unique geology of Wyoming and its great diversity of rocks. Cheyenne Botanic Gardens' own Horticulture and Operations Supervisor **Isaiah Smith** will take us on a crevice garden journey. **Mike Kintgen**, Senior Horticulturist in charge of the alpine collection at Denver Botanic Gardens will cover the wonders of both prairie and alpine plants of the region. **Bonnie Heidel**, recently retired from the University of Wyoming where she served as Botany Program Manager for the Wyoming Natural Diversity Database, will showcase the diversity of Wyoming flora, focusing on rare species. **Connor Smith** of Utrecht Botanic Gardens in the Netherlands will provide his take on the evolution of rock gardens and how they can provide a new and exciting way for the next generations of rock gardeners to celebrate nature.

Evening Lectures: Our evening lectures and dinner will be at the Kiwanis Community House, a charming lodge-like building on the shores of Sloan's Lake adjacent to the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. It is a five-minute walk from the Shane Smith Grand Conservatory. We will also have a plant sale featuring several vendors. We'll be selling the plants through the Tilted Tulip Gift Shop at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens in our Gathering Rooms, and you'll have time to shop, socialize, and explore the gardens each day of the conference before dinner.

Cheyenne has something for everyone. Founded with the arrival of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1867, Cheyenne is home to the Cheyenne Depot Museum, a must-see for rail fans. Known as Paris West, Cheyenne has a downtown core that has a remarkably high rate of preservation of grand old buildings with marvelous architectural features. Adjacent to the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens is the Frontier Days complex with its Old West Museum.

If you want to combine the conference with a sightseeing vacation, Cheyenne is an easy day's drive from Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks and the Bighorn Mountains in Wyoming and the Black Hills and Badlands National Park in South Dakota.

Cheyenne is the largest city in Wyoming and serves as its capital, so it has all the amenities that much larger cities have. A little more than 65,000 people call Cheyenne home, so it has a homespun, friendly vibe. We hope to see you in Cheyenne next June. Explore the peaks and prairies with us!

Registration

Registration will open on Monday, February 3, 2025. Visit the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens web site at www.botanic.org to register.

Limited to 200 registrants.

Cost \$495.00; you must be a NARGS member. You can join or renew your lapsed membership in the registration process.

Your choice of one of the optional carpool outings on Monday, June 16 may be booked at the same time you register for a separate fee of \$30.00 that covers your lunch and a fuel stipend for those who are driving vehicles and who are willing to transport registrants. Each of these optional tours are limited to 20 participants and you must be registered for the full conference prior to registering for a Monday tour.

Payment is by credit card or debit card at the time of registration and you will receive email confirmation. Payment and confirmation will be handled through TicketLeap.

Registration is online only (no paper registration).

Travel

Cheyenne (CYS) is served by two flights daily through Denver International Airport (DIA). Cheyenne Airport is a small airport, and you can avoid long security lines by using it instead of DIA as your destination. It is just over two miles from the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and five miles from Little America Hotel & Resort. If you choose to use DIA, you may choose to rent a vehicle for the two-hour journey to Cheyenne. Another option is Groome Transportation, which operates a bus service from DIA to Cheyenne. Rental cars are available at either airport. Cheyenne is at the junction of Interstates 25 and 80 and is easily accessible via surface transportation. Uber service is available in Cheyenne. Parking in Cheyenne is free.

Plant Sale

The plant sale will be staged in the Gathering Rooms in the Shane Smith Grand Conservatory at the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens. **The plant sale will open at 3:30 pm Thursday, June 12.** All sales will be made through the Tilted Tulip Gift Shop; vendors may or may not be present at time of sale. Plant sale merchandise is not subject to the 10% Cheyenne Botanic Gardens Member Discount. Plant holding will be available if you wish to shop early, have us take care of your plants for a few days in our hail protection structure, and then pick them up just before you depart. We are working to get plant inspection service for our Canadian members who wish to buy plants.

Lodging

We have negotiated a competitive price of \$139 per night for a room with one bed and \$159 per night for a room with two beds at Little America Hotel and Resort, which is located near the junction of Interstate 25 and Interstate 80 and less than 4 miles from the Cheyenne Botanic Gardens and the Kiwanis Community House. **This is not a block of rooms but is a special courtesy rate that will only last as long as room inventory allows, and will not be honored after May 12.** Be sure

to book lodging early by phoning 307-775-8400 or online at <https://reservations.travelclick.com/4651?groupID=4555399>.

Dining

Your registration includes all meals except for Thursday dinner and breakfast each day. We will have light refreshments and a cash bar for the Thursday welcome reception. Lunch will consist of a visit to the Bunkhouse Bar and Grill for an authentic western experience Friday and box lunch Saturday and Sunday. Dinner will be served buffet style at Kiwanis Community House. We will have a cash bar with each dinner.

Important Dates

February 3, 2025: Registration opens.

May 12, 2025: Last day to register without surcharge; thereafter registration will be \$525.00

May 12, 2025: Last day to cancel registration with full refund less a \$50 fee.