



THE ARNOLD ARBORETUM of HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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February 2004

To Whom It May Concern:

On January 8, 2004, Keith Davitt gave two very successful presentations at the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. The first was *Design Workshop for Small Gardens*. The second was *Water Features for Small Gardens*. In both programs, Keith clearly presented his ideas, encouraged student participation, and valued the exchange of ideas that can take place in such design classes.

In *Design Workshop for Small Gardens*, Keith presented a series of before and after images of small gardens he has created, demonstrating design principles and techniques for best utilizing small garden areas. He then presented a series of "before pictures" of real properties with their inherent limitations and encouraged students to use what they had learned to design attractive and useable garden areas. These quick designs were projected for all to see and discuss, after which, Keith projected "after pictures" showing his own installed design solutions for these properties. Keith clearly conveyed the importance of several design principles such as scale and division of space among others, and set up an environment that encouraged dialogue among the class participants and the instructor. By using the quick design sketches Keith pushed students to participate and practice what they were learning. The program was enthusiastically received and I would not hesitate to invite Keith for another such presentation.

In *Water Features for Small Gardens*, Keith incorporated principles from his small garden design program and focused on the benefits and challenges of incorporating small scale water features. To teach design principles, Keith again showed a series of before and after slides of his creations, and asked students to draw quick design solutions for properties he presented. Keith then demonstrated the installation of a water garden using a plastic pond to simulate an excavation and showed how to install the liner and pump, add stone for a natural look, and incorporate plants. Keith provided a balanced mix of design guidance and construction detail through lecture and demonstration. Students left the class feeling confident that they could attractively install a water feature of their own and feeling they had received what they hoped they would. Both programs were very successful and a credit to Arnold Arboretum.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Thompson
Manager of Adult Education