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For more Information Please Contact:

Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc. (928) 282-4938

Arizona Climate: Past, Present and Future September 13

On Wednesday, September 13th for its *Preserving the Wonder*[™] Speaker Series, Dr. Michael A. Crimmins will explore the historical patterns and mechanisms driving climate variability across Arizona and how they may be impacted in a changing climate.

Free to members, residents and visitors - all are welcome to join Keep Sedona Beautiful ("KSB") at 5:30 p.m. at its historic Pushmataha Center on 360 Brewer Road. The evening will include complimentary appetizers donated by El Rincon Restaurante Mexicano and refreshments provided by KSB.

According to Dr. Crimmins, "Arizona possesses an exceptional diversity in landscapes and vegetation. Its dramatic topographic features and geographic position bring a range of temperatures and precipitation equivalent to the range experienced between Mexico and Canada. Topographic features create steep gradients in temperature and precipitation that support ecological community types from mixed conifer at high elevations to desert scrub at lowest elevations.

"Two 'wet' seasons can bring precipitation in torrential downpours (summer monsoon) or light snow showers (winter storms) with major implications on how and where water important to plants is stored in the soil. Longer-term cycles in Pacific Ocean temperatures can impact storm tracks across Arizona, bringing multi-year wet periods and long-term droughts. Major changes in the global climate system have been observed in recent decades that have directly impacted Arizona's complex climate."

Dr. Crimmins is on the faculty of the Department of Soil, Water, and Environmental Science at the University of Arizona and is a Climate Science Extension Specialist for Arizona Cooperative Extension. In this position he provides climate science support to resource managers across Arizona by assessing information needs, synthesizing and transferring relevant research results and conducting applied research projects. His extension and research work supports resource management across multiple sectors including rangelands, forests/wildfire, and water resources as well as informing policy and decision makers. This work aims to support managers by increasing climate science literacy as well as developing strategies to adapt to a changing climate. He also serves as a drought monitoring expert on the Arizona Governor's Drought Task Force and has worked with counties across Arizona to implement drought preparedness and impact monitoring plans.

Keep Sedona Beautiful's monthly *Preserving the Wonder*[™] Speaker Series is held the second Wednesday of each month from September through May. It focuses on presenting a diversity of programs relevant to the unique environment of our region.

Keep Sedona Beautiful, Inc. is a nonprofit organization that, by acting through the stewardship of its members and volunteers, is committed to protecting and sustaining the unique scenic beauty and natural environment of the Greater Sedona Area. For more information about Keep Sedona Beautiful, please visit <http://www.keeppedonabeautiful.org/> or call 928.282.4938.