



Sustainable Urban
Forests Coalition

E-newsletter January 2012

QUICK LINKS

[SUFC Members](#)

[Last Newsletter](#)

[More About Us](#)

[Fact Sheet](#)

Vibrant Cities

The SUFC endorsed the [Vibrant Cities Report](#) in January. The report was released late in 2011 and is being distributed to traditional and non-traditional urban forestry audiences across the United States. ([read more](#))



2012 SUFC Policy Platform

Each year, policy education experts from SUFC member organizations vet and prioritize policy issues of mutual interest to SUFC members. ([read more](#))



New SUFC Member: The Nature Conservancy

Meet one of SUFC's newest members, Bill Toomey, North American Director of Forest Health, The Nature Conservancy. ([see interview](#))



SMA Announces Urban Tree of the Year

The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), comprised of 1,400 urban forestry professionals worldwide, has chosen Accolade elm (*Ulmus 'Morton'*) as its 2012 Urban Tree of the Year. ([read more](#))



**SUFC Annual
Meeting and
Advocacy Day**

Advocacy Day:

**Meet New SUFC member:
The Nature Conservancy**

Interview with new SUFC member, Bill Toomey, North American Director of Forest Health, The Nature Conservancy.

SUFC: Your organization, The Nature Conservancy

March 7th
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

SUFC Reception:
March 7th
6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Annual Meeting:
March 8th
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

2012 Events

January 24
1:00-1:45 (EST)
[Urban and Community Forestry
Program Stakeholder Call](#)

January 29-February 1
National Association of
Conservation Districts Annual
Conference
Las Vegas, NV

Feb 19-24
[Municipal Forestry Institute
\(MFI\)](#)
Nebraska City, NE

April 14
[APA's planning the Urban
Forest workshop APA National
Planning Conference](#)
Los Angeles, CA

June 6 - 8
[2012 Ohio Stormwater
Conference](#)
Toledo, OH

September 20-22
[America In Bloom Symposium
and Awards Program](#)
Fayetteville, AR

(TNC), recently became a SUFC member. How does SUFC membership bring value to TNC and where are the most immediate areas of overlap with SUFC?

BT: TNC is an active partner in many national multi-organizational partnerships to address pressing conservation challenges. Begun in 2004, The Nature Conservancy's Forest Health Protection program is currently working with a national partnership, the Continental Dialogue (CD) on Non-native Forest Insects and Diseases, to address the global threat of non-native invasives to urban and natural forests. Because there is a significant urban component to this threat, TNC is interested in getting more engaged in urban forestry issues. Joining and working with the national partners and members of the SUFC provides TNC with an excellent opportunity to help shape urban forest actions TNC and the CD might take.

Also...urban forest professionals play a huge role in keeping urban trees and forests healthy and are critical in the early detection of tree pests - thereby minimizing the ecological and economic impact on our urban and natural forest resources.

SUFC: As a new SUFC member, how do you anticipate contributing to the Coalition's goals and the expanding dialogue/work around Vibrant Cities?

BT: There are a number of the 12 recommendations in the Vibrant Cities report that TNC and the Continental Dialogue would be interested in advancing. We look forward to working with SUFC and implementing these important recommendations.

SUFC: Tell us a little about you.

BT: I have worked with TNC for over 10 years in ground landscape conservation and major gift fundraising. I also served as the Executive Director of a regional conservation organization and arboretum (Highstead Foundation) in Connecticut. I worked in local government and ran the residential recycling program for San Jose, CA.

Personal interests include: spending time with family, running, cycling, teaching Aikido with my wife, hiking, gardening, painting, bee keeping, and

recreational tree climbing.

Vibrant Cities Update

The SUFC endorsed the [Vibrant Cities Report](#) in January. As a collective body, SUFC recognizes the potential the report and the continuing Initiative can have as a catalyst for effective change and increased support of sustainable urban forests and communities. The report was officially released late in 2011 and is being distributed to traditional and non-traditional urban forestry audiences across the United States.



The Vibrant Cities Report is the pioneering product of 25 peer-designated leaders from multiple sectors who share a common passion for healthy, vibrant, and livable communities. As stated in the report, its purpose is to "explore the implications of integrated natural and built urban environments and their possibilities for the future." The report aptly merges on-going conversations, cutting-edge technologies and approaches, as well as visionary, integrative concepts for urbanized areas.

Individual SUFC members are reviewing the report within their organizations and are identifying clear areas of mission overlap with the 12 report recommendations. Collectively, the SUFC is examining its potential leadership role in championing the recommendations and how to best leverage the combined power of the Coalition to advance the outcomes succinctly and compellingly laid out in the report.

2012 SUFC Policy Platform

Each year, policy education experts from SUFC member organizations vet and prioritize policy issues of mutual interest to SUFC members. This core "think tank" encompasses over ten national organizations with diverse interests. Together, they overlay their substantial knowledge of the current federal legislative climate with issues of greatest interest to SUFC members. Thrown into the mix are the prioritized interests of SUFC, resources and capacity of SUFC members, and legislative realities. The result is the annual SUFC policy platform.



1. SUFC 2012 [Farm Bill](#) Re-Authorization Platform
2. Urban and Community Forestry Program Budget Recommendations (under development)
3. [Vibrant Cities Initiative](#)

Keeping the platform agenda short and focused is key to moving a diverse coalition forward. On March 7, 2012, many SUFC members and their constituents will converge in Washington, DC for SUFC briefings and constituent meetings with both the House and Senate members and staff.

SMA Announces 2012 Urban Tree of the Year



The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), comprised of 1400 urban forestry professionals worldwide, has chosen Accolade elm (*Ulmus 'Morton'*) as its 2012 Urban Tree of the Year. The selection must be adaptable to a variety of harsh growing conditions and have strong ornamental traits. Past honorees of the 17-year old Tree of the Year program include goldenraintree (2011), redbud (2010), Chinkapin oak (2009), black tupelo (2008), baldcypress (2007), and Kentucky coffeetree (2006).

The Accolade elm is hardy to USDA Zone 4 and can be expected to reach 40 to 60 feet (12.2 to 18.3 m) in height and 35 to 40 feet (10.7 to 12.2 m) in spread. It is praised by city forestry professionals for its toughness and beauty. Cornell Urban Horticulture Institute Director Nina Bassuk says, "Accolade is one of the most vigorously growing trees we have ever planted in Ithaca, New York. When young, Accolade is somewhat gangly with numerous limbs growing up and out, but not long ago, I saw the original mature Accolade at the Morton Arboretum and it was spectacular, reminiscent of the tall arched form of the American elm. It also has handsome dark green summer color and reasonably good yellow fall color."

Accolade and other hybrid elms like Danada Charm (*Ulmus 'Morton Red Tip'*) have become deservedly popular. They are resistant to Dutch Elm Disease and reportedly resistant to elm yellows as well. They are easy to plant bare root and have a large, highly branched root system. Like other elms, they are highly tolerant of alkaline soil and wet or dry soil conditions. The only danger is of over-planting as their ease of transplanting and vigorous growth in the face of difficult conditions makes them the default tree for tough spots.

The SMA recognizes Accolade elm for its service to urban forests and encourages its use when matched appropriately to site and as part of a diverse urban tree inventory.