



## SUFC Members eUpdate

### *Recent News*



*Ray Tretheway (Sacramento Tree Foundation), Phillip Rodbell (US Forest Service) and Andy Lipkis (TreePeople) - at the April Vibrant Cities Task Force Meeting (DC tree planting).*

#### **VIBRANT CITIES**

In April 2011, the U.S. Forest Service and non-profit New York Restoration Project (NYRP) convened the [Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests: A National Call to Action](#) task force outside Washington, DC. The three-day workshop addressed the future of our nation's urban forests and ecosystems; incorporating the health, environmental, social and economic

### Annual SUFC Meeting and Advocacy Day - 2011

SUFC members set attendance and participation records for our [Annual Meeting and Advocacy Day](#) on April 12th and 13th in Washington, DC.

Your collective hard work (prior and at the meeting) resulted in clearly identified priorities which the Steering Committee is shaping into a practical action plan for 2011-2012.

Thank you to all SUFC members and guests who participated, presented and shared their expertise and time. Special thanks to meeting sponsors including: Keep America Beautiful, International Society of Arboriculture, American Forests, Tree Care Industry of America, National Association of State Foresters, and Arbor Day Foundation.

### Upcoming Events

benefits they bring to sustainable and vibrant cities. The VCUF task force set out to craft a vision, set of goals and recommendations to advance urban forestry and natural resources stewardship into the next decade and beyond.

The [25 member](#) Task Force include the nation's most visionary and respected municipal and state officials, national and local non-profit leaders, researchers, urban planners, and foundation and industry representatives. This three-day session was intense. Participants shared they were leaving "inspired", "with a much wider circle", "smarter and better informed", and "leaving with a sense of hope."

Three SUFC member representatives: Jim Skiera (International Society of Arboriculture), Mark Garvin (Tree Care Industry Association), and Dan Lambe (Arbor Day Foundation) are serving on this prestigious (and demanding) Task Force. Several other SUFC member organizations are also represented including the Alliance for Community Trees, National Association of State Foresters, and Society of Municipal Arborists. SUFC also has on-going participation on the [Planning Committee](#).



### **EPA Strives to Create More Livable Cities Through Green Infrastructure**

April 29th the EPA announced the [release](#) of their new Green Infrastructure Strategic Agenda and community partnership effort. The [Strategic Agenda](#) is the outline of activities that EPA will be undertaking to encourage more rapid adoption of green infrastructure practices. Through the partnership effort, EPA will work with communities to address implementation issues and foster information sharing. The first 10 communities in which our partner organizations are located were announced and additional partners will be identified in the coming months.

In addition, the Office of Water and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance issued a joint [memorandum](#) encouraging communities to use green infrastructure approaches for wet weather management.

### **Work Group Updates**

## **Steering Committee**

**June 2**  
[Planning the Urban Forest](#)  
Waco, TX

**June 6-9**  
[2011 SGSF Annual Meeting](#)  
Jacksonville, FL

**June 15 (deadline)**  
[Conservation Fund - Kodak America's Greenway Awards](#)

**September 18-21**  
[ICMA Annual Conference](#)  
Milwaukee, WI

**October 6-8**  
[America in Bloom 10th Anniversary Educational Symposium and Awards Program](#)  
Washington, DC

**November 14**  
**Alliance for Community Trees Annual Meeting**  
Lake Buena Vista, FL

**November 15-17**  
[2011 Partners in Community Forestry Conference](#)  
Lake Buena Vista, FL

**November 30 - December 3**  
[ASCA Annual Conference](#)  
Incline Village, NV

### **EXTRAS**

The Steering Committee met [May 2, 2011](#).

## Policy Work Group

The Policy Work Group met on [April 28, 2011](#) and [May 9, 2011](#).

### Meet a SUFC Member

#### America In Bloom



Laura Knukle,  
Executive Director

America in Bloom's ([AIB](#)) mission is to promote nationwide beautification through education and community involvement by encouraging the use of flowers, plants, trees, and other environmental and lifestyle enhancements. AIB supports this mission through a variety of programs and services, including a friendly competition between communities. Cities are evaluated by eight criteria: urban forestry, floral displays, landscaped areas, turf & groundcover areas, environmental awareness, community involvement, tidiness, and heritage preservation.

Trees are purposefully included in the mission statement and as one of the eight criteria that cities are evaluated on because of the value they bring to the world.

Each year I'm amazed to learn about the AIB outstanding tree programs many cities have in place. AIBI celebrates and recognizes these efforts, but also takes the important next step of sharing these best practices with other communities so they can develop their own successful urban tree management programs.

AIB shares a commitment to a consistent urban forest agenda with other SUFC members. It's wonderful that SUFC can bring together like-minded organization to facilitate dialogue and develop solutions. We all become stronger by working together.

**All SUFC members endorse a common set of Policy and Operating Principles.**



**SUFC Hosts Forest Service Stakeholder Call: Overview of FY 2012 Budget. Missed it? See [cliff notes](#).**

#### You're Invited:

To help us celebrate [High Performance Building Week](#) with a congressional green roof tour and reception

**Thursday, May 26  
6 - 8 p.m. EDT**

ASLA Headquarters' Rooftop  
636 Eye Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20001

RSVP:  
[governmentaffairs@asla.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@asla.org)  
by Tuesday, May 24

For more information, contact Kevin O'Hara, [kohara@asla.org](mailto:kohara@asla.org) or 202-216-2370.

*This is a widely attended event and attendance is permissible under both the House and Senate rules.*

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