

Tree E-News

Colorado State Forest Service

June 2012

Urban and Community Forestry

Western Colorado Community Forestry Conference: The 22nd annual WCCFC was hosted this year by Western State College (WSC) on May 18th. Since its inception in 1990, the WCCFC had been a spring-only gathering for eight years. It was moved to the autumn in 1999 to take advantage of more reliable road conditions and weather. Moving the conference back to the spring this year made this a special conference for several reasons: 1) this was the first time that a college campus hosted the conference, 2) WSC holds the distinction of being designated as a Tree Campus USA, the first college to gain that honor in Colorado, and 3) the conference could be held in the brand new College Center while classes were not in session. The facility proved to be a first-class meeting place with above average amenities. Another first for the 22nd WCCFC was an emphasis on bringing in local tree experts to address higher elevation community trees. Four out of the five conference presenters currently live in the Gunnison Valley and were first time presenters at the WCCFC.

National Award: On April 28th, our friend and Colorado State Forest Service (CSFS) and Colorado Tree Coalition (CTC) colleague Ralph Campbell received the Frederick Law Olmsted Award at the Arbor Day Foundation Award Ceremony in Nebraska City, Nebraska. This annual award recognizes an outstanding individual that has had a lifelong commitment to tree planting and conservation at a state or regional level. Ralph's nomination packet was filled with great stories and praise from his urban and community forestry peers from Region 2 of the USDA Forest Service as well as several of his CSFS supervisors. Everyone agreed that the quality and quantity of Ralph's contribution to the community forests of Colorado was exemplary and worthy of recognition. Ralph was also well-known to the staff at the Arbor Day Foundation. They were pleased that he was nominated and selected for this prestigious award. Friends from Nebraska, Kansas, and Colorado all gathered at the Lied Center Lodge in Nebraska City to help Ralph and his wife, Char, celebrate. A heartfelt congratulations to Ralph Campbell from all his friends for this special recognition.



Urban Tree of the Year: The Society of Municipal Arborists (SMA), a national organization of 1,400 urban forestry professionals, has chosen Accolade elm (*Ulmus 'Morton'*) as its 2012 Urban Tree of the Year. With the threat of Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorned beetle possibly affecting so many of our community tree choices, it is good to see large leaf elm varieties making a comeback. A very thorough write-up along with personal testimonies and pictures can be reviewed on the SMA website: www.urban-forestry.com.

Colorado Tree Coalition

Tour de Poudre: The 13th annual Champion Tree Classic Tour de Poudre will take place on June 24th. This event is being co-hosted by the International Society of Arboriculture Rocky Mountain Chapter and the Colorado Tree Coalition. The complete registration form can be downloaded from the CTC website: www.coloradotrees.org. Once again, the start and finish location is the New Belgium Brewery in Fort Collins. There is a short and long ride this year. All funds generated from registration fees will be used for tree planting and tree research. Registrations must be submitted by June 15, 2012.