

Affiliations

MnSTAC's diverse members represent a wide spectrum of tree-related interests. The organization fosters and supports local community tree programs across the state so healthy forests are fully integrated into community development, infrastructure, education and management. MnSTAC's specific role is to:

- Advocate for public and private community forest interests
- Network, exchange and disseminate information
- Serve as Minnesota's urban forestry council, advising the state forester on implementing state and federally funded programs.



MnSTAC

Nonprofit Organizations

- American Forests
- Chisago-Isanti Woodland Council
- Dirt Diggers Garden Club
- St. Paul Foundation/Great River Greening
- Hiawatha Valley RC&D
- Inst. for Ag. and Trade Policy
- Merriam Park Env. Com.
- MN Association of SWCDs
- MN State Horticultural Society
- MN Nursery and Landscape Assn. Tree Trust
- Whittier Neighborhood Reforestation Proj.

Universities

- Horticultural Research Ctr.
- Isanti Community College
- Itasca Community College
- St. John's University
- U of M
 - College of Agriculture
 - Plant Pathology Dept.
 - College of Natural Resources
 - Entomology Dept.
 - Forest Resources Dept.
 - MN Landscape Arboretum
 - Landscape Plant Dev. Ctr.
- U of M Crookston
 - Dept. of Natural Resources
- University of Minnesota Extension Service
 - Clay Co.
 - Mahnomon Co.
 - Norman Co.

Private Consultants

- Accent Company
- Close Landscape Architect.
- Cook Company
- Dahlgren, Shardlow and Uban, Inc.
- EnvironMentor Systems
- Forestry Professionals, Inc.
- Heartwood Forestry
- Joan Spence and Assoc.
- Kunde Company Inc.
- MyCological Applications
- Plant Disease Diagnostics
- Plant Health Assoc., Inc.
- Point Forestry
- Scientific Services
- The Write Connection
- Treescapes
- Vernix Forestry Consultants

Utilities

- Minnesota Power
- Northern States Power

Nurseries

- Bachman's Wholesale Cntr.
- Bailey Nurseries, Inc.
- Law's Nursery
- Lee Nursery
- Wild Rose Landscape Gardening

Tree Services

- Canopy Tree Care
- Davey Tree Company
- Living Sculpture Tree Care
- Rainbow Treecare
- St. Croix Tree Service
- Top Notch Treecare



MnSTAC is committed to bringing the best information to the public, professionals and decisionmakers of Minnesota.

For more information contact:
 Glen Shirley
 Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee
 9930 Logan Avenue South, Room 5
 Bloomington, Minnesota 55431-2904
 Tel. 612-948-8761

Printed on recycled paper using soy-based inks.

25 Years of Cooperative Community Forestry

At right: Governor Wendell Anderson signs the original Shade Tree legislation. L to R: Tom Kalitowski (then attorney, MDA); Albert Hofstede (then mayor of Minneapolis); Jeffrey Spartz (then Minneapolis Park Board); Governor Wendell Anderson; Don Willeke; Tom Johnson (then Minneapolis City Council member)



The urban/community forest is the green infrastructure that encompasses all natural resources of any urban or community area.

Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Committee (MnSTAC) and the Minnesota State Legislature

"We must be planting different species of trees so that there will always be large and handsome trees adding to the beauty of our state."

—Gov. Wendell Anderson, February 1975



Partners in Preserving Community Forests

In March 1961, a single elm in Highland Park, St. Paul tested positive for Dutch elm disease. Dr. David French, UM plant pathologist predicts: *"The devastation will shock the residents of this area."* By 1973, there are over 2500 positives, 1,000 infection sites along the Mississippi River and no one enforcing control programs.

From this critical situation, *MnSTAC was born*. For the past quarter century, MnSTAC and the Minnesota State Legislature have worked together to preserve and protect community forests statewide. Without MnSTAC and its advisory role to the Legislature, the state can not meet mandates to receive federal community forest funding. And without the support of the State Legislature, MnSTAC cannot do its job—*"speaking" for the trees of Minnesota.*



JANET LARSON

Tree Planting and Maintenance

Major Accomplishments of MnSTAC Affiliates

- Minnesota ReLeaf: Over 58,000 mostly native trees have been planted as part of 283 grant projects.
- On-site technical assistance: Over half of Minnesota's 862 communities have received help to complete tree planting, disease control and inventory projects since 1991.
- Cost-sharing programs: Tree planting programs have helped community forests recover after disease devastation, floods and other catastrophic events.

Needs

- ✓ Continue DNR's Mn Releaf.
- ✓ Support DOT's Living Snowfences, windbreaks for highway safety and environmental enhancement.
- ✓ Support research to back up locally funded tree maintenance, preservation and renewal.



COURTESY TREE TRUST

Education

Major Accomplishments of MnSTAC Affiliates

- Tree inspectors: over 2,000 individuals have been certified from throughout the state.
- Recognition and public awareness: Minnesota's 133 Tree City USAs and other exemplary community forests programs are publicized and Arbor Day celebrations promoted.
- In-service education: Workshops are held for tree professionals, municipal and utility employees, agency personnel, citizen advocates.
- Research: University research-based information has helped communities manage trees.
- Keeping Nature in Your Community: Seminars are held for local decision-makers on an ecosystem approach to land use planning.

Needs

- ✓ Fund a U of M Center for Urban and Community Forestry as a resource for all Minnesotans.
- ✓ Support Tree Trust Community Forestry Initiative for program collaboration.



JAMES APPLEBY, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

Forest Health

Major Accomplishments of MnSTAC Affiliates

- Disease management: Nearly 10 million elm losses prevented through disease control programs. Federal and state funds have helped treat 67% of the 8,387 known oak wilt infection centers in communities statewide.
- Pest inspection, monitoring, regulation and management: Gypsy moths, Japanese beetles and Asian long-horned beetles are being kept in check.

Needs

- ✓ Continue to fund U of M and MDA research and management of tree diseases, regulated and potential tree pests.
- ✓ Support MDA eradication of bio-invasaders (buckthorn, etc.).
- ✓ Continued funding support for MDA nursery inspection.
- ✓ Support identification of factors leading to vulnerable trees (i.e. U of M research regarding predictable preventive practices).



COURTESY MINNESOTA DNR

Urban Growth and Tree Preservation

Major Accomplishments of MnSTAC Affiliates

- Best Management Practices: Created guidelines and training regarding best management practices for protecting woodlands in developing communities.
- Model tree preservation and open space ordinances: Developed guidelines and assisted with public policy.
- Partnerships: Collaborations between MnSTAC, local leadership and private tree professionals provide a consistently high standard of on-site technical assistance.

Needs

- ✓ Build public awareness: Balance needs of wetlands and agricultural zoning with tree needs. (e.g., 36 square miles are lost in Minnesota to urban growth each year.¹ Undeveloped land is being badly fragmented. Who speaks for the trees?)
- ✓ Consider community forest needs in Smart Growth initiatives.

¹ Statistic: MDA

"I wish I had despotic power, for by no other means can I preserve the noble forest trees that are still left growing in different parts of the city."

—Thomas Jefferson

"It is now obvious . . . that levy limitations for support of control programs fall short of what is necessary to carry out an effective program."

—MnSTAC Legislative Report, Dec. 1974

"We lost 13,837 elms to Dutch elm disease the first one-half of the 1975 growing season."

—Jon Wefald, Agriculture Commissioner, 1975

"Thanks to the commendable efforts of the 1975 State Legislature . . . elm disease relief has now been made available to Minnesota homeowners."

—Wendell Anderson, 1976

MnSTAC's History

1974
 Commissioner of Ag appoints 15 charter members to "Dutch Elm and Oak Wilt Advisory Committee"
 Legislature passes Shade Tree Disease Control Law, memo area. Tree inspector concept originates.
 Don Willeke, citizen tree advocate, appointed to Shade Tree Advisory Committee (now at 32 members)

1975-79
 MnSTAC proposes shade tree disease control funding. Legislature appropriates \$1.6 million ('75)
 Community grants to 37 communities to combat tree disease of Mpk jointly establishes "war" on DED and with City
 Skip Humphrey and Rep. Tom Berg active tree advocates
 Mobile Shade Tree Program education trailer travels the state and fund reforestation ('77-'78)
 Over 500 communities have active local sanitation and reforestation programs
 MnSTAC proposes and Legislature appropriates \$25.6 million budget ('79-'80) for Shade Tree Program, called "Minnesota Miracle." No other state approaches this level.
 Representative Henry Kalis active MnSTAC member
 Quarterly newsletter created for community foresters and friends of the forest
 Ferguson Falls named First MN Tree City USA

1980-89
 MnSTAC reports to the Legislature: Since 1974, ~840,000 elm and oak trees lost to disease, but 16 million protected
 ~Nearly 500 Minnesota communities in nearly every county have shade tree disease management programs on public property
 ~512,000 new shade trees have been planted
 Guide to Community Forestry published and distributed statewide
 Financial crisis: appropriation drops to \$7 million over 2 years; Shade Tree Program abolished due to budget constraints ('82)
 Gypsy moth detected in St. Paul; MnSTAC cites gypsy moth as "new crisis" and urges renewal of Shade Tree Program to fight oak wilt and gypsy moth.
 MDA and DNR combine resources to bolster and promote Arbor Month Program
 1985: Legislature reinstates funding at \$450,000 ('2 yr.) to include gypsy moth; additional \$80,000 later appropriated for oak wilt
 Tree Inspector Certificate program reinstated
 Quarterly newsletter reinstated
 GIS tracking and computer assisted mapping established
 Senator John Bernthagen and Representative Harold Lasley sponsor bill to study problems facing community and urban forests
 Bernthagen report issued
 Don Willeke retires as MnSTAC chair after 15 years management programs
 Most communities statewide have shade tree disease management programs
 MnSTAC organizes 6th National Urban Forestry Conference in Minneapolis
 Regional STAC units formed to better serve local needs throughout the state
 MnSTAC ADVOCATE newsletter launched, reaching 4,000 people statewide
 Asian long horned beetle and Japanese beetle identified as new threats to Minnesota's trees
 MnSTAC website added
 Supported by MnSTAC and the state nursery industry to increase gypsy moth efforts
 Legislature increases MDA base funding by \$190,000
 Farm bill provides \$230,000 to MN efforts (federal match)
 MnSTAC designated official advisory group for Minnesota on federal funds for community forests
 Oak wilt control identified as priority
 Federal oak wilt money expires ('97) and state needs to support Shade Tree Programs
 Oak wilt infection centers in communities significantly reduced with federal support
 \$250,000 - \$300,000/yr. estimated need of state matching funds to communities for oak wilt control
 Well over one million feet of control (vibratory plow) line created to protect trees against diseases in past decade
 State continues to step up to the plate
 to preserve and protect urban and community forests

1990-Present