

# The DC Forester



National Capital  
Society of American Foresters



Summer 2016



Cherry Blossoms in Washington, DC, *photo courtesy of David Gwaze*

## Upcoming Events

IUFRO Biological Invasions of Forests Workshop  
Shepherdstown, WV  
July 19-22, 2016

IUFRO Mistletoes: Pathogens, Keystone Resource, and Medicinal Wonder Workshop  
Ashland, Oregon  
July 17-22, 2016

IUCN World Conservation Congress  
Honolulu, Hawaii  
September 1-10, 2016

Allegheny Society of American Foresters  
Annual Summer Meeting Program  
The Westin, Mount Laurel, NJ  
September 14 -16, 2016

## NCSAF Chair's Mid-Year Review by David Gwaze

We are halfway through the year, and it is with great pleasure that I present a mid-year review of our chapter.

NCSAF continues to be one of the most active chapters in SAF. The year started with a well-received presentation by Paul Trianosky, the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)'s Chief Conservation Officer. This luncheon presentation marked SFI's twenty-year history as a certification program, its commitment to engaging communities all across the country with their grants program, and SFI's more recent Conservation Impact initiative.

Our second event was a luncheon presentation was by Dave Koch, Timber Sale Forester and Acting Division Chief of Forestry and Wildland Fire Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs. Dave gave us a great overview of Indian forestry: organization, history, Indian self-determination policy and its impact, ownership complexities, program statistics, current initiatives and issues, and challenges and opportunities. *Continued on Page 6.*

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### Wilhelmina Bratton to serve as NCSAF Service Chair

Wilhelmina and Clarence Bratton have been married for 53 years with their permanent home in Asheville, NC. They have three children: Ms. Clarice Bratton, Mrs. Cardelle Bratton Spangler and Dr. Charles F. Bratton; and two grandchildren. Wilhelmina works for the Forest Service in Washington, DC, but routinely travels home.

**Professional experiences:** Forest Service National Partnership Coordinator, Washington, DC, 1999–present; Forest Service Grants and Agreements Specialist, Radnor, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC, 1998–99; Forest Service Contract Specialist, Washington, DC, 1992–98; Management Consultant, Asheville, North Carolina, 1990–92; Vice Mayor (2 years), Member of City Council, Asheville, North Carolina, 1982–91; Acting Director, State of North Carolina, ARC, Black Mountain, North Carolina, 1988–90.

**Education and professional development:** BA Sociology, University of North Carolina at Asheville, 1978; Leadership Asheville graduate, 1983; work toward MBA, Wake Forest University, 1990; Strategic Planning and Center for Creative Leadership, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, 1990; inducted as an honorary member/alumnae, Tuskegee University’s Forestry and Natural Resources Program, 2003; Society of American Foresters’ Leadership Academy, Nebraska City, Nebraska, 2005; Forest Service Senior Leadership Program graduate, 2006

**Professional accomplishments:** During the XI World Forestry Congress, October 13–22, 1997 in Antalya, Turkey, authored and presented before a conference audience a paper “People to People, USA: A Mystical City,” which challenged this group of world policymakers with a practical framework for improving urban forestry practices. In preparation for the XII World Forestry Congress, held in Quebec City, Quebec, Canada, September 2003, partnered with the Canadian Forestry Association to implement a program for students, in grades 3–5 at an international school, to participate in activities in the fields of forest fire protection, forest health, and conservation education.

**Community activities:** Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Chapter Member; Rotary Club Member served in various leadership roles, Washington, DC; Agriculture Federal Credit Union Board of Directors and served on various committees; Society of American Foresters; Member and former Chair, NCSAF. Member of the 2016 NCSAF leadership team.



Wilhelmina Bratton

## Annual NCSAF Intern Luncheon by Connor Stephens, Policy Intern, at SAF

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On Tuesday, June 28th, the National Capital Society of American Foresters in conjunction with the SAF national offices held their highly popular annual intern luncheon at the Washington office of the American Forest Foundation. The annual luncheon, which aims to facilitate the exchange of ideas between young professionals from a wide variety of natural resource fields, drew a large turnout with more than 40 interns and a dozen current NCSAF members. The large turnout made for a lively afternoon of networking with many in attendance heralding from the far reaches of the country. The afternoon was punctuated by a colorful speech given by the luncheon's guest speaker, Mark Rey.

Mr. Rey formerly served as the USDA Under Secretary for Natural Resources and the Environment during George H. W. Bush's administration and is currently an Executive in Residence at Michigan State University's Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability and a National Capital SAF member. Mr. Rey oversees the William A. Demmer Scholars Program that provides students with internships at federal agencies or non-governmental organizations that focus on natural resources. Throughout his presentation Mr. Rey focused primarily on instructing young professionals on how to make the most of their internships with their respective organizations. While Mr. Rey recommended a variety of strategies on how to contend with situations ranging from adapting to your working environment to attending staff meetings, the core message of his presentation revolved around the notion that interns must actively pursue what they want to accomplish during their time with their organizations if they wish to make the most out of their experience.

After concluding his presentation, Mr. Rey then lead a discussion on the importance of natural resource management centered professional societies to the continuing development of the worlds of academia and private industry. The discussion drew heavily on the need for independent third party organizations to monitor the trajectories that these critical areas of natural resource management are undertaking, and the importance of having organizations that can responsibly represent the interests of the world of natural resource management as a whole. The meeting was then concluded by encouraging those in attendance to join professional organizations in their respective fields, and to go and boldly contribute to the fields which they were each captivated by.

The NCSAF extends its sincere appreciation to Mr. Rey for presenting at our 2016 luncheon, to the American Forest Foundation for hosting the luncheon and to the National SAF for collaborating on this annual activity.



2016 Intern Luncheon  
*Photo courtesy of Rocco Saracina*

## Board of Director's Report by Rachel Reyna

Greetings National Capital SAFers:

As I write this column, summer is in full force! I hope you take time to enjoy vacations and summer celebrations. Things have been very busy at my “day job” – and my work with SAF has been very busy also. Those who know me know that I have always been a big supporter of SAF and have been heavily involved– but I will say that, since joining the Board of Directors, I have been even more impressed with the number of things that SAF has to offer. There are so many opportunities to be involved and so many impressive projects going on across the nation. I see first-hand the dedication of staff and the leaders who volunteer their time and expertise to the good of the profession. If you want to be involved more in SAF, locally, regionally, or nationally, please let me know – I am happy to get you plugged in.

As I mentioned above, there is much going on at SAF. I am not able to go over everything in the space of this column, so I've chosen some things to highlight:

*The Kurt Gottschalk Science Fund* - The Science Fund has been officially renamed after Kurt. A draft of implementation guidelines for the Fund is currently out to the Board for comment. Fundraising efforts have begun in order to reach the stated goal of \$250,000. There is currently a matching opportunity available so that if you donate now, your donation will be matched dollar-for-dollar. You can make a personal donation, or your division/chapter could make a donation. Consider having part or all of the proceeds from an upcoming silent auction go towards the Fund. Let's help reach its goal in memory of Kurt and to the benefit of forest science!

*Evolving Forestry* - You will begin to hear more about this effort to continue to move forestry forward – and to help SAF meet the needs of its members and the needs of the forestry community at large. I will continue to share information with you as I obtain it.

*Employer Support for SAF Membership and Participation* - SAF is having discussion regarding how to encourage employers to support their staff in relation to participation/membership in SAF. One proposal is to create a national award that would recognize employers who are currently supporting their staff in this way. The Board is also interested in examples of how employers are supporting SAF involvement. If you have an employer that is supportive of your participation – and you are willing to write up a little paragraph explaining the type of support they offer (and perhaps what they see as the benefits to their organization of having you participate), I would love to convey that information up the chain.

*Natural Resource Partnerships* - The hardworking staff at the SAF national office continue to forge partnerships with other natural resource organizations. They have met with groups such as American Forests, the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities, the National Institutes for Food and Agriculture, American Fisheries Society, The Wildlife Society, the Society for Range Management, the Society for Conservation Biology, and others. Fostering connections with these groups will strengthen ties among organizations, so that we can work together for common goals – such as motivating young people to seek education and careers in natural resource-related fields.

*Issues and Advocacy* - The policy staff at the national office, John Barnwell and Danielle Watson, have been doing a great job working at the national level and with state and regional societies. These policy experts are great folks to tap if your division or chapter is working on a policy-related issue. Be sure to check out their monthly email “Issues and Advocacy,” which will give you a great picture of what SAF is doing on our behalf in the policy arena – it will also keep you up-to-date on what is going on in other parts of the country, perhaps there are ideas that you can use in your local area. *Continued on Page 5*

## Board of Director's Report Continued from Page 4

*Website* - There is a new national SAF website! This effort has been a long time in coming, but is well worth the wait. If you haven't done so already, please check out the new site at [www.eforester.org](http://www.eforester.org). This was a tremendous amount of work for the national office staff, and they have done a great job. Please keep in mind that this new website runs on a new system – and with new systems, there's always a learning curve and glitches could be possible. Efforts for continuous improvement of the site are ongoing. If you have thoughts/suggestions/comments on the new site, please send them to me: I will work on compiling them to send to the national staff.

*Cross-Pollination with National Capital SAF* - I am working on helping to better cross-pollinate information among the two entities that I represent: ANSAF and NCSAF. I was excited that NCSAF Chair, David Gwaze, and some others from your group were able to make it to the ANSAF winter meeting. I am including a link to your website in my next column for the ANSAF newsletter, so that the Allegheny folks can see what you are up to. Hopefully some of them will be enticed to visit one of your meetings. Please also feel welcome to attend the upcoming ANSAF Summer Meeting Sept. 14-16, 2016 in Mount Laurel, NJ. The information on the meeting and registration is available at: <http://www.alleghenysaf.org/events/>

*National Convention* -Please keep in mind that the National Convention is closer than you think: November 2-6, 2016. We will be in Madison, Wisconsin this year. I hope you will consider attending this fantastic meeting. You will meet foresters from all across the country (and some from other countries and continents), hear what the latest research is uncovering, and learn how other people are tackling issues you may be struggling with. Convention registration is open – check it out at: <http://www.xcdsystem.com/safconference/website/registrationdetails> .

As always, if you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me. I look forward to seeing you at an upcoming meeting!

All the best,

Rachel R. Reyna

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Visit NCSAF online at: [www.NCSAF.org](http://www.NCSAF.org)

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### 2016 NCASAF Leadership:

David Gwaze, Chair

Rocco Saracin, Chair-elect

Christine Cadigan, Treasurer

Jeff Bradley, Secretary

Joe Reddan & Eric Norland, Co-Program Chairs

Jeanne Kavinski, Membership Chair

Melissa Moeller, Fundraising Chair

Doug MacCleery, Historian

Elaine Chalmers, Policy Chair

Terri Bates, Communications Chair

Sonny Ng, Webmaster

Estelle Bowman, Newsletter Editor

Wilhelmina Bratton, Service Chair

Marilyn Buford, Science & Tech Coordinator

## The DC Forester, Spring 2016

### NCSAF Chair's Mid-Year Review by David Gwaze, continued from Page 1

Our third event was the annual summer intern luncheon. The keynote speaker was Mark Rey, former USDA Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, and current Executive in Residence, Center for Systems Integration and Sustainability, Michigan State University. Interns received helpful advice on how to stay actively involved in workplace events, effective networking, proper dress and decorum, and managing varying workloads as well as meet various senior representatives from various organizations.

These events were important for providing an opportunity for members: 1) to broaden their knowledge, 2) network with others and 3) share ideas and get immediate feedback from subject matter experts. Furthermore, interns as the future workforce got helpful advice from seasoned professionals about how to be effective in the workplace.

The NCSAF executive leadership is revising the NCSAF strategic plan, which was last updated in 2007. The proposed changes are expected to make the Plan relevant to current NCSAF direction, including identifying NCSAF priorities for the coming 12 months so that we can move forward with purpose. I am indebted to Rocco Saracina, chair-elect, who is coordinating the revision of the plan.

NCSAF continues to collaborate with the Allegheny SAF (ANSAF). Three NCSAF executive members attended the ANSAF winter meeting held in February 2016, and I continue to participate in planning the next ANSAF winter meeting. Members are encouraged to attend the ANSAF summer meeting scheduled Sep 14-16, 2016, in Mount Laurel, NJ. The theme of this meeting is "Forest Management for Productivity and Resilience".

Our webmasters have worked diligently to update the NCSAF website. Please check out the updated home page at [NCSAF.org](http://NCSAF.org) which features a new look, relevant news and upcoming events for our members, and an Amazon Smile referral link to support NCSAF while shopping. Be sure to visit the updated calendar for the year and archived newsletters dating back to 2005 un-

#### SAVE THE DATES:

**SAF & NCSAF BARBECUE-AUG 13**



**LANDS DAY SERVICE EVENT-SEPT 24**

**WINE AUCTION-OCT 13**



This newsletter is the second NCSAF newsletter published this year. Our Newsletter Editor, Estelle Bowman, should be commended for keeping the newsletter going because it has not been easy to get articles. Please consider providing a short item of news, or an in-depth article to [ejbowman@fs.fed.us](mailto:ejbowman@fs.fed.us).

NCSAF has several events planned for the upcoming six months, including one luncheon presentation, a BBQ in collaboration with the national office, the annual wine tasting and auction event, park cleanup event in collaboration with the National Parks, and our end-of-the year holiday party. I look forward to seeing you at these upcoming events. The NCSAF executive committee is also looking forward to finalizing the strategic plan.

As I have mentioned in the past, my position as Chairman has been made much easier by the tremendous help and assistance I receive from the NCSAF executive leadership team, for which I am very grateful.