

Kesha Braunskill
Urban and Community Forestry Specialist
U.S Forest Service
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EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy (A.B.D) Biological Science, Ecology.
University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Master of Science, Natural Resource Management: 2007.
Delaware State University, Dover, Delaware
- Bachelor of Science, Animal Science: 2003.
University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

PROFESIONNAL EXPERIENCE

Delaware Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinator- Urban Forester (2014- 2023)

- Administer the State of Delaware's Urban and Community Forestry Program (U&CF); including grant administration, supervise staff and report directly to the state forester
- Primary contact for the United States Forest Service's (USFS) regional counterparts for Urban Forestry Program
- Manages the annual USFS State appropriations for the U&CF grant of \$200,000 and the Chesapeake Bay Watershed grant for \$30,000
- Leads the Urban and Community Forestry Council as per the Delaware State Code Title 3 Chapt 10
- Work closely with municipality, legislative, community leaders, and underserved communities regarding urban forest issues
- Work with state and government agencies to implement Delaware's State Forest Strategies
- Manages federal grants and competitive state grant program

Delaware Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

Outreach and Partnership Coordinator- Urban Forester (2013- 2014)

- Evaluated the health, condition, structure, and survivability of naturally occurring trees and associated vegetation.
- Provided technical assistance for homeowners and communities for sick and hazard trees
- Responsible for outreach and providing grants to municipalities and communities throughout Delaware for tree planting and maintenance projects.
- Organized planting projects and invasive species removal projects throughout the state of Delaware
- Reviewed development, and landscape plans for compliance with county codes relating to tree conservation and forest buffers
- Prepared and wrote technical reports and Community Wildfire Protection Plans for communities with large invasive fuel loads

Delaware Forest Service, Department of Agriculture

Forestry Seasonal Position (2012- 2013)

- Responsible for working on a regional project collecting tree data evaluating forest health of forests with US Forest Service.
- Maintained data electronically with PDA and computer filing system.
- Evaluated development applications and provide comments on forests and forest buffers

Delaware Department of Natural Resources, Division of Fish and Wildlife Delaware Natural Heritage and Endangered Species Program

Biological Aide (2009-2010)

- Regularly collected, preserved, and sent temperature and chemical sensitive tissue samples for analysis across country.
- Responsible for developing and maintaining a data base for roosting sites in DE, bat data collected, volunteers. Coordinate volunteer schedule as well as site visits with landowners, outreach and training of citizen scientists who participated in bat counts.
- Designed written material to be distributed to public. Regularly interacted with public to serve as an educator about bat importance and preservation.
- Monitored the presence of the federally endangered Delmarva fox squirrel in Delaware.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant (2020, 2018, 2006, 2005, and 2004). Dendrology, Economic Botany, Ethnobotany, Biometrics, Environmental Science. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Delaware State University. Dover, Delaware

- Lecture and lead instruction
- Prepared power points presentations for course lectures
- Proctored exams and was responsible for leading laboratory exercises
- Assisted in grading for student evaluation

Teaching Assistant (2012, 2011, 2010, and 2008). Cell Biology and Organisms, Biology of Populations and Communities. Department of Biological Sciences, University of Illinois at Chicago, Illinois.

- Lecture and lead discussion sections, maintain and grade assignments, and proctor exams. Responsible for leading laboratory sections and having office hours for students.
- Lecture and lead discussion sections, maintain and grade assignments, and proctor exams. Responsible for leading laboratory sections and having office hours for students.

Adjunct Instructor (2009). Mammalogy, Advanced Wildlife Biology. Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. Delaware State University. Dover, Delaware.

- Lecture, administer assignments and exams, and evaluate student performance.

Combined Research (2004-2012) University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) (PhD) and Delaware State University (DSU) (Master's)

- DSU masters research investigated seed dispersal by feral horses on a barrier island in Maryland
- UIC PhD research investigated habitat use and competition by gray squirrels and endangered Delmarva fox squirrels in Maryland
- Developed the experimental design for both master's and PhD thesis research which included: greenhouse growing experiment of wetland and dune plant species, collection of behavior data of feral horses and fox squirrels, field data collection of wetland, dune, and forest vegetation.

- Development of the experimental design for UIC PhD thesis field work of an endangered rodent species on federally managed land which included multiple layers of official approval from UIC Office of Animal Care and Institutional Biosafety and U.S. Fish and Wildlife.
- Management, analysis, interpretation of data collected for research. Preparation of master's thesis and public presentation of results to the scientific community.
- Managed research equipment, inventory, assistance, and procurement

Professional Organizations and Certifications

- 1T.org U.S Council, American Forests and World Economic Forum 2020- 2023
- Northeast-Midwest State Foresters Association Urban and Community Forestry Program Coordinators Committee- Chair 2019, Vice Chair 2018, Secretary 2017
- Native Roots Farm Foundation Board Member 2022
- Kent County Conservancy Board Member 2022
- Delaware Resource Conservation and Development Council 2017- 2023
- Kent County Cooperative Extension Advisory Council 2017-2023
- Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee- Delaware State University Council Member 2014-2023
- Delaware Wildlife Rehabilitators and Educators Council, President 2019-2020, 2014- present
- Expanded Dispatch Recorder, United States Forest Service Wildfire Dispatch Support 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- DE Pesticide Safety Education Program- Improvement & Modernization Initiative Stakeholder Team 2014-2016
- Delaware Delmarva Fox Squirrel Conservation Plan Stakeholder group 2014
- Delaware Invasive Species Council 2012-2019
- Ecological Society of America 2012-2016
- The Wildlife Society 2009- 2016
- University of Illinois at Chicago Women in Science and Engineering 2010- 2012
- University of Illinois at Chicago Native American Support Program 2010- 2012

Professional Development

- International Society of Arboriculture Tree Risk Assessment Certification 2013
- International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist since 2013. #PD-2276A

Grant Management

USFS State Core funding 5 year grants 2022 \$250,000

USFS Chesapeake Bay Watershed Funding 3 year grants 2022 \$20,000

USFS Landscape Scale Restoration Grant- Tree Stewards Program 3 year grants \$158,000

DNREC Nonpoint Source MOA pass through grant 2017 \$20,000, 2018 \$29,000, 2020 \$29,000, 2022 \$25,000

DNREC Climate and Energy MOA pass through grant 2019 \$44,000, 2020 \$40,000, 2022 \$40,000