

## **2023 CCFC AGM Presidents Report – Introduction by Mark Braaten**

I would like to introduce Carrie Saxifrage who will give us the Presidents Report but before I do I would like to say a few words. You may now know that this is Carries last meeting as a board member and president of the CCFC. We are all sad to see her go but we will continue to be enriched by the results of her presence in our organization.

The Cortes Island Ecoforestry Society was largely responsible for envisioning the opportunity that a community forest represented, and clearing the path towards its manifestation. Carrie served Cortes Ecoforestry for 10 years including some time as executive director.

Carrie was elected to the Cortes Community Forest COOP board in 2018 and she hit the ground truthing running. Carries favorite places are in the field. She has kept us in touch with the deeper realities of life in the forest.

By 2019 she was appointed president of the CCFC and representative on the CFGP board where she helped strengthen the consensus process between our communities. Her Ground truthing work continued in collaboration with Andrea Lang to establish a volunteer-based inventory project. Thanks to this work we now have much more confidence in the accuracy of our data.

2020 marked the completion of the inventory project. Carrie continued to work with Andrea Lang to translate the data collected into long range forecasts of timber volumes within the community forest. That same year, Carrie helped initiate Making it on Cortes, the beginnings of our current focus on Value Added wood processing and fostering local economic opportunities. She also spearheaded the creation of our Community Forest Logo

2021 saw the completion and presentation of the Timber Supply Forecasts and release of the Community Forest Logos. Making it on Cortes continued as a focus and gradually evolved into the current Value Added Roadmap project.

Carrie has enriched the CCFC board for 5 most productive years and leaves us in a much stronger position to carry her initiatives forward. We are excited to see how she will continue her service to the forest in the years to come. We all offer her our deepest gratitude and wish her success in future endeavors.