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**Association
of Consulting
Foresters**

EDUCATED, EXPERIENCED,
ETHICAL PROFESSIONALS

July 14, 2025

**Alabama Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters
Named 2025 Large Chapter of the Year**

[Lynchburg, VA] - [The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.](#) (ACF) is pleased to announce the Alabama Chapter as the recipient of its 2025 Large Chapter of the Year Award. ACF is a national organization committed to serving independent consulting foresters who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners. The association annually recognizes a Large and Small Chapter of the Year for their outstanding contributions to the forestry profession, the broader community, and the mission of ACF.

New for 2025, the Chapter of the Year Awards are sponsored by the [Sustainable Forestry Initiative](#) (SFI), whose partnership with ACF reflects a shared mission to advance responsible forest management and promote professional excellence in forestry.

The Large Chapter of the Year Award honors one of ACF's chapters with more than 20 members for excellence in engagement, outreach, and leadership and includes a \$1,500 honorarium.

Selected by a vote of ACF's Executive Committee based on annual chapter reports, the Alabama Chapter stood out for its exceptional commitment to education, landowner engagement, and professional advancement. In 2024, the Chapter hosted a highly regarded Landowner Field Tour at Stouts Mountain Ranch, played a central role in launching a Consulting Forestry course at Auburn University, and participated in dozens of educational events across the state, from K-12 classrooms to industry conferences.

"Our members are deeply integrated in Alabama's forestry landscape, from mentoring future professionals to advocating for sound forest management," said Chapter Chair Brandon Smith. "This recognition is a testament to the dedication and energy of every member."

Alabama Chapter members also served in national and regional ACF leadership roles and contributed to forestry awareness through publications, community partnerships, and ongoing legislative engagement.

"We are thrilled to recognize the Alabama Chapter as the Large Chapter of the Year," said Rick Barnes, President of ACF. "This award is a testament to the chapter's continuous commitment and exceptional contributions to the association and profession."

The California Chapter received the Small Chapter of the Year Award, exemplifying similar excellence within a smaller membership base.

"I congratulate the Alabama Chapter on being selected as the Large Chapter of the Year and appreciate all the chapter has done to further the association's mission," said Shannon McCabe, CAE, ACF's Executive Director. "I also thank SFI for their sponsorship of these awards."

The Large and Small Chapters of the Year were announced and presented by Pennsylvania [SFI Implementation Committee](#) Coordinator Chuck Coup during the Awards Banquet at the recent 2025 ACF National Conference in Lancaster, PA. Chapter members present during the event accepted the awards on behalf of the respective winning chapters.

"We're proud to sponsor these awards and celebrate the incredible work being done at the local level for sustainable forests," said Nadine Block, Senior VP of Network Initiatives at SFI. "ACF and SFI Implementation Committees share a commitment to strengthening our network of on-the-ground forestry professionals and fostering deeper knowledge exchanges across the United States."

ACF provides professional development, networking opportunities, exclusive communications, tools, and resources to consulting foresters. ACF members are the gold standard of forestry consultants because they meet rigorous educational, experience, and reference requirements as well as adhere to a Code of Ethics ensuring loyalty to landowners and their land.

For additional information about ACF, visit www.acf-foresters.org.

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About the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF):

Founded in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) is a professional organization dedicated to advancing the practice of professional consulting forestry and promoting the highest standards of professionalism and ethics among its members. ACF members can benefit forest landowners by enhancing property value, optimizing timber growth through sustainable harvests, maximizing the value of timber, enhancing wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities, and protecting family forest legacy. Learn more at www.acf-foresters.org.

About the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI):

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) advances sustainability through forest-focused collaboration. We are an independent, non-profit organization that leverages four interconnected pillars of work: standards, conservation, community, and education. SFI works with the forest sector, conservation groups, academics, researchers, brand owners, resource professionals, landowners, educators, local communities, Indigenous Peoples, and governments. Collaborating with our network, we leverage SFI-certified forests and products as powerful tools to help solve sustainability challenges such as climate action, conservation of biodiversity, education of future generations, and sustainable economic development. Learn more at forests.org.

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