FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Alabama Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters Named 2023 Large Chapter of the Year

[Williamsburg, VA] — <u>The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.</u> (ACF) is pleased to announce that the Alabama Chapter has been named its 2023 Large Chapter of the Year. 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 exceptional accomplishments.

Sponsored by STIHL, Inc., the large chapter of the year award honors one of ACF's chapters with more than 20 members for exemplary contributions to forestry, the local community, and the association. The Alabama Chapter will receive \$1500 as part of this esteemed award.

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

Alabama Chapter ACF members are directly involved as members and officers of a multitude of industry and civic organizations and actively promote the consulting forester profession to elementary, middle, and high school students and teachers. Additionally, the Chapter regularly demonstrates how ACF's ethical standards and membership qualifications benefit private forestland owners through presentations and other community involvement.

The Alabama Chapter was also recognized with the Large Chapter of the Year award in 2022, making this the second year in a row they have earned this prestigious honor.

Bruce Lanier, Alabama Chapter Chair expressed their gratitude, saying, "We are incredibly honored to receive this recognition of the hard work and passion of our members, who continuously strive to make a positive impact on Alabama's forests and communities."

"This award is a reflection of the high-quality individuals that we have in our Chapter," adds Billy Rye, former Alabama Chapter Chair. I congratulate all our members for this much deserved recognition of promoting the practice of professional consulting forestry."

ACF's Small Chapter of the Year Award similarly honors a chapter with less than 20 members and the 2023 award was presented to the Maine Chapter.

"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 STIHL for sponsoring both of our chapter of the year awards for the sixth year."

The Large and Small Chapters of the Year were announced during the Awards Banquet at the recent 2023 ACF National Conference in Eugene, Oregon. Chapter members present during the event accepted the awards on behalf of the respective winning chapters.

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. Visit www.acf-foresters.org to learn more.

For media inquiries or more information, please contact:

Shannon M. McCabe, CAE
Executive Director
Association of Consulting Foresters
shannon@acf-foresters.org
www.acf-foresters.org