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**Wisconsin Chapter of the Association of Consulting Foresters
Named 2026 Small Chapter of the Year**

[Lynchburg, VA] - [The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.](#) (ACF) is pleased to announce the Wisconsin Chapter as the recipient of its 2026 Small 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.

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

Selected by a vote of ACF's Executive Committee based on annual reports submitted by chapters, the Wisconsin Chapter was recognized for its exceptional momentum, innovative partnerships, and commitment to advancing the visibility and professionalism of consulting forestry. Over the past year, the chapter hosted multiple educational and networking events, including a field-based mill tour and logging operation visit, as well as a highly successful full-day program focused on traditional and emerging forestry markets. The chapter also strengthened relationships with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, conservation organizations, academic partners, and forestry professionals throughout the region.

The Wisconsin Chapter's outreach efforts have also resulted in meaningful membership growth. Through targeted recruitment and engagement efforts, the chapter expanded representation from just two consulting forestry firms a few years ago to eleven firms today while continuing to grow candidate membership and encourage participation by prospective members. The chapter has also taken a leadership role in advancing discussions around professional standards through development of a Registered Forester Program and continued outreach promoting the value of consulting foresters to landowners and the broader forestry community.

"This award reflects the tremendous commitment and energy of our members," said Wisconsin Chapter Chair Mike Deegan, ACF. "Our chapter has focused on creating meaningful opportunities for education, collaboration, and professional growth while strengthening relationships across Wisconsin's forestry community. We are honored to receive this recognition from ACF."

"We are thrilled to recognize the Wisconsin Chapter as the Small Chapter of the Year," said Gerald H. Grossman, ACF, President of ACF. "The chapter has demonstrated what can be accomplished

through strong leadership, active member engagement, and a commitment to advancing consulting forestry. Their efforts have strengthened both the chapter and the profession.”

The Alabama Chapter received the Large Chapter of the Year Award, exemplifying similar excellence within a larger membership base.

“I congratulate the Wisconsin Chapter on being selected as the Small 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 its continued sponsorship of these awards and support of forestry professionals across the country.”

The Large and Small Chapters of the Year were announced and presented by Buck Vandersteen, Executive Director of the Louisiana Forestry Association and Louisiana SFI Implementation Committee Coordinator, during the Awards Banquet at the recent 2026 ACF National Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Chapter members present during the event accepted the award on behalf of the Wisconsin Chapter.

“We’re proud to sponsor these awards and celebrate the outstanding work being done at the local level to advance sustainable forestry,” said Nadine Block, Senior Vice President of Network Initiatives at SFI. “ACF and SFI share a commitment to helping forests stay healthy and supporting foresters who are doing this important work on the ground.”

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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