



NEWS RELEASE

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Aiken Business Owner Serves as Past President, Association of Consulting Foresters *Michael R. Wetzel, ACF, Principal, Ecce Silva, LLC, Takes the Helm, July 1, 2020*

Williamsburg, VA –Aiken business owner, Michael R. Wetzel, ACF, Ecce Silva, LLC, will serve as past president of the [Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.](http://www.acf-foresters.org) (ACF). ACF members are independent professionals who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners.

“I know I’ll be relying on Mike’s leadership and knowledge as I assume the role of ACF president,” said Justin M. Miller, ACF, [Green Timber Consulting Forestry, Inc.](http://www.greentimberconsulting.com), and president of ACF.

As a practicing professional forester and fire manager, Wetzel is the principal of Ecce Silva, LLC. He has accumulated extensive knowledge of the use, application and effects of controlled forest (woodland/natural areas) fires. His logging safety experience is drawn from his eight years with the logging safety oriented Forest Resources Association.

Wetzel is a South Carolina certified prescribed fire manager, a Georgia certified prescribed burn manager, a South Carolina Registered Forester, and a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester. He is a graduate of Colorado State University’s fire management program.

“I look forward to continuing my work with Justin and the other members of ACF’s Executive Committee,” said Wetzel. He has been a member of the ACF Executive Committee since 2013.

As a member of ACF, Wetzel served as the South Carolina ACF (SCACF) Chapter Secretary from 2005 – 2008; and SCACF Chapter Chairman 2010 - 2012. At the national ACF level, he was a member of the ACF Policy Statements Task Force, 2010 and Chairman of the ACF Constitution and Bylaws Task Force, 2011 - 2013. He received the 2011 ACF President’s Award for his work on these task forces. He became president of ACF in 2018.

“I’m delighted to continue to work with Mike as the past president of ACF,” said Shannon McCabe, CAE, Executive Director, ACF. “I look forward to partnering with him to further the association’s mission.”

Wetzel joins ACF’s 2020 new Executive Committee members:

- President, Justin M. Miller, ACF, Green Timber Consulting Forestry, Inc., Pelkie, MI

- President-Elect: Wayne S. Pfluger, ACF, Lone Star Forestry, LLC, Huntsville, TX
- Gulf Regional Director: Russell D. Autrey, ACF, Larson & McGowin, LLC, Mobile, AL
- Northern Regional Director: Rene D. Noel, Jr., ACF, Southern Maine Forestry Service, Inc., Windham, ME
- Treasurer: Roger G. Lord, ACF, Mason, Bruce, Girard, Inc., Portland, OR
- Secretary: Lee A. Steigerwaldt, ACF, Steigerwaldt Land Services, Inc., Tomahawk, WI

Returning to ACF's 2020 Executive Committee are Thomas D. Amesbury, ACF, Forester's Co-Op, Grass Valley, CA, Western Regional Director; and Matthew B. Gillette, ACF, Rock Springs Forestry, Inc., Courtland, VA, Southern Regional Director.

ACF members help landowners enhance property values, increase the value of timber, produce a more sustainable timber harvest, enhance wildlife habitat, and establish and protect a family's forest legacy. Because of their vital role in the supply chain, ACF members have been deemed essential workers during COVID-19.

As a condition of membership, every consulting forester must have minimum education and experience levels, complete the Practice of Consulting Forester course, and most importantly, agree to adhere to the organization's stringent Code of Ethics.

For more information about ACF, log onto www.acf-foresters.org.

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About ACF

Founded in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters represents independent professionals who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners. ACF members help landowners enhance property values, increase the value of timber, produce a more sustainable timber harvest, enhance wildlife habitat, and establish and protect your family's forest legacy. As the gold standard of consulting foresters, ACF has 24 chapters across the U.S. offers its members professional development, publications, insurance, networking opportunities, and advocacy information on state and federal issues. For more information, log onto www.acf-foresters.org.