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**Association
of Consulting
Foresters**

EDUCATED, EXPERIENCED,
ETHICAL PROFESSIONALS

July 17, 2025

**Jim Alfriend Named Distinguished Forester by
the Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.**

[Lynchburg, VA] — [The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc.](#) (ACF) is honored to name James I. “Jim” Alfriend, ACF, of Thomson, Georgia, as the 2025 recipient of the Distinguished Forester Award, the highest honor bestowed upon an ACF member.

ACF is a national organization committed to serving independent consulting foresters who manage forests and market forest products for private woodland owners. The Distinguished Forester Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated extraordinary contributions to the consulting forestry profession, the stewardship of private lands, and the advancement of ACF.

Election to Distinguished Forester is reserved for a select group of ACF members and requires a petition signed by at least ten voting members, approval by ACF’s Executive Committee, as well as a two-thirds vote of approval by the full voting membership of the association.

“Jim Alfriend’s career is the very definition of distinguished,” said ACF President Rick Barnes. “He has elevated the profession through decades of service, leadership, and integrity. His influence can be seen in the landowners he’s served, the foresters he’s mentored, and the standards he’s upheld.”

Alfriend has been a practicing consulting forester for over 40 years and currently serves as manager and part owner of James I. Alfriend Consulting Foresters, LLC, serving clients across Georgia and South Carolina. He is a registered forester, certified appraiser, and real estate broker in both states. His clients span from individual landowners to bank trust departments and international owners, with a reputation for multigenerational service and long-term trust.

A Vietnam veteran and former U.S. Army Captain, Alfriend began his forestry career at Continental Can Company before founding his own firm in 1983. His ACF service includes terms as Chair of the Georgia Chapter, Southern Regional Director, and Executive Committee liaison to the Practicing Foresters Institute. He is also a recipient of the Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources Distinguished Alumnus Award and a respected leader in Georgia’s forestry community.

“I have always believed in the strength of this association and what it stands for,” said Alfriend. “ACF represents quality, and I’ve built my career around those values - serving landowners with professionalism, honesty, and care. I am deeply honored to be recognized in this way.”

Alfriend was formally recognized at ACF's 2025 National Conference in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In a moving presentation delivered by his son and fellow ACF member and leader James P. (Jamie) Alfriend, Jamie shared "My dad has always put others before himself. Whether it's his family, his employees, his clients, or even strangers in need. He never thinks of his own needs first. I've truly never met a more selfless man."

"Jim's legacy is woven into ACF's history," added Shannon McCabe, CAE, Executive Director of ACF. "His dedication to ethical forestry, mentorship, and association leadership makes him a model for our profession. This award is richly deserved."

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.

About James I. Alfriend Consulting Foresters, LLC:

Established in 1983 and based in Thomson, Georgia, James I. Alfriend Consulting Foresters, LLC is a full-service forestry consulting and natural resource management firm providing land management services to Georgia and South Carolina landowners with a staff of six foresters, an office manager, and an administrative secretary. Clients include private landowners of 50 acres to 25,000 acres, Bank Trust Departments, and Foreign Ownership Clients. Visit www.alfriendforesters.com to learn more.

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