



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Lizton's Michael D. Warner, ACF, Named Distinguished Forester from the Association of Consulting Foresters**

Williamsburg, VA –For his lifetime dedication to contributing to forestry and to [Association of Consulting Foresters](#) (ACF), Michael D. Warner, ACF, President and Forester, [ArborTerra Consulting, Inc.](#), Lizton, IN, has been honored with the organization's national Distinguished Forester award.

"Mike truly deserves this award for his many valuable contributions to the forestry industry," said Michael R. Wetzel, ACF, Principal, Ecce Silva, LLC, Aiken, SC and president of ACF. "For more than 30 years, Mike has run his consulting forestry business, been an active member of ACF, contributed to related industry organizations, received several awards, was a guest on an industry podcast, and published several professional articles."

The award marks a forester's contributions to the application of forestry on private lands, to the advancement of the profession, to private ownership of forestlands, and to the national organization.

"I am delighted to accept this honor from ACF," said Warner. "It's been a pleasure to work with my colleagues throughout the years for the betterment of the forestry industry, and to advance the consulting foresters profession."

Warner is president and consulting forester of ArborTerra Consulting, a firm that provides forestry and natural resource management services to landowners throughout Indiana. Warner was a general partner at a production nursery, where he developed a production system to grow containerized trees for reforestation projects. He began his career with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services where he was a soil conservationist, state forester, and one of the youngest area conservationist in the country at the time.

As a volunteer in the forestry industry, Warner has been a member of ACF since 2005 serving as the organization's national secretary from 2016 to the 2020, chair of the 2019 national conference committee and as a member of the chapter guide task force (2017). He served as chair of the ACF Indiana ACF chapter from 2011 to 2019 where he doubled the number of members.

Among his volunteering for more than 10 organizations he has served as a governor appointee on the Indiana Invasive Species Council, a certified forester with the Society of American Foresters, chair and treasurer of the Hoosier Heartland Resource Conservation & Development, and a past supervisor of the Hendricks County Soil and Water Conservation District. He has served on the board of directors for the Indiana Woodland Steward Institute, Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and Indiana Nurserymen's Association. He has been an active member of the Indiana Forestry & Woodland Owners Association and is an active participant in the recently formed Indiana Forest Forever coalition.

In addition to ACF's Distinguished Forester Award, Warner has been honored with ACF's President Award (2016), and the chapter award from the Hoosier Soil and Water Conservation Society. Additionally, he was a member of the 2009 class of the Hendricks County Leadership Program.

Warner received his Bachelor of Forestry from Purdue University (1976). He is a licensed commercial applicator (forestry and ornamental pest control); Technical Service Provider for NRCS; a Society of American Foresters Certified Forester; an Indiana Nurseryman's Association Accredited Master Plantsman; a member of the Soil & Water Conservation Planning and Management; and a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Certified Wetland Delineator.

"On behalf of ACF, we congratulate Mike," said Shannon M. McCabe, CAE, Executive Director, ACF. "This is the highest honor a consulting forester can achieve and it couldn't have gone to anyone more deserving."

Foresters considered for this award are nominated and voted on by their ACF member peers. Typically, the award is bestowed upon the recipient at ACF's National Conference but this year's conference scheduled for June 2020 in Austin, was canceled due to COVID-19.

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. 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 Forestry 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](http://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](http://www.acf-foresters.org).