

In 2018, the Association for Consulting Foresters celebrated its 70th anniversary. The timeline that follows was prepared by Association of Consulting Foresters Executive Director Lynn Wilson as part of that celebration.

MARKING A MILESTONE

*THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING FORESTERS
CELEBRATES 70 YEARS*

The Association of Consulting Foresters of America, Inc. (ACF) was founded in 1948 to advance the professionalism, ethics, and interests of professional foresters whose primary work was consulting to the public. The ACF is the only national association for consulting foresters.

In the spring of 1948, Alex Setser, a consulting forester from Tennessee, began polling all of the consulting foresters in the United States, concerned with networking and sharing of ideas within the profession. He realized that an organization was needed to represent these consultants and allow them to acquaint themselves with their colleagues, protect the field by establishing uniform standards, disseminate new practices, and provide foresters, as well as their clients, with a means of locating consulting foresters of proven reputation. In December 1948, an organizational meeting was held in Boston, and five foresters joined to create the Association of Consulting Foresters of America. These men, who later became the association's founding members, were Halsey Hicks, Robert Moore, Clinton Peltier, Ed Stuart, and J. Atwood Whitman.

The ACF was originally conceived as a division of the Society of American Foresters, but members opted to form a separate entity. The organization was founded on the principles of maintaining and enforcing ethical standards in

forestry, increasing legislative activity, providing information, primarily through its *Consultant* monthly journal, and promoting the use of expertise in the management of forestry resources through continuing education offerings. The association later stated its purpose in its constitution, bylaws, and its code of ethics. The ACF requirement that all of its members have a forestry degree from an approved college or university, at least five years of practical experience in forest management and administration, and at least one year's experience as a forestry consultant was altered in 2011 to allow students and recent graduates and in 2016 to allow affiliate members to join. As of 2017, ACF boasted more than 715 members. The ACF is divided into twenty-four regional chapters and is headquartered in Williamsburg, Virginia.

The records of ACF are housed and maintained by the Forest History Society. They were received from the Association of Consulting Foresters of America on May 1999 (arranged by Harry Murphy) and February 2002 (donated by Keville Larson). □

BY AMANDA ROSS | TIMELINE BY LYNN WILSON

Membership dues are doubled to \$100 in April to support the Washington office. Art Ennis is hired for \$150 per month and the use of a leased car. The office is a sublet space from the American National Metric Council. Art spent \$6,000 of his own money because ACF needed a computer, and while paid for two days a week, he worked nearly full time.

1983

At the annual meeting, \$9,000 is raised to fund representation on the Hill and plans for a Washington, D.C., office are formed.

1979

The ACF Code of Ethics passes the first revision since 1949.

1976

ACF membership count reaches 180 with an annual income of \$6,000. Ed Stuart continues to serve as executive director.

1973

The U.S. Forest Service finances the states providing one-on-one services to landowners from state employees. One state marked as high as a million board feet every 30 days. ACF members go to Congress to testify before the Appropriations Committee to request that the situation be corrected.

1972

Specialization Directory is compiled and begins production on an annual basis. ACF Member Eley Frazer and Bill Greaves of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) agree that the consulting forester would negate the need of a staff forester for TVA. ACF/TVA Project is conceived of and carried out.

1969

President Bill Schofield focuses on the need for continuing education. Course 1 of what became the Practicing Foresters Institute (PFI) is held at the University of Georgia in 1968. ACF is first in developing continuing educational programs, including ethics.

1966-

1983-1990

ACF's Objectives and Code of Ethics are revised and policy and position statements clarified. Membership rules are changed to provide for Candidate and Retired Members and employees of firms. The Practicing Foresters Institute is established on January 1, 1984.



THE ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING FORESTERS

CELEBRATES

Jack Winn is elected the first ACF Distinguished Forester.

1993

Legislative Committee Chairman Harry Murphy arranges a tax symposium sponsored by PFIT and Auburn University in cooperation with ACF to recommend changes in federal taxation. Dues are now \$250.

1995

1996

ACF keeps pace with advancing technology by launching a web page on the "World Wide Web."

1998

Lynn Wilson is hired to run the ACF national office.

1999

The North Carolina Society of Consulting Foresters by an overwhelming majority votes to affiliate with the North Carolina Chapter of ACF. ACF sponsors a congressional staff seminar with the School of Forestry at Auburn University to provide information about the federal tax impact on private non-industrial forest landowners. Full and Retired Members total increases to 466.

2001

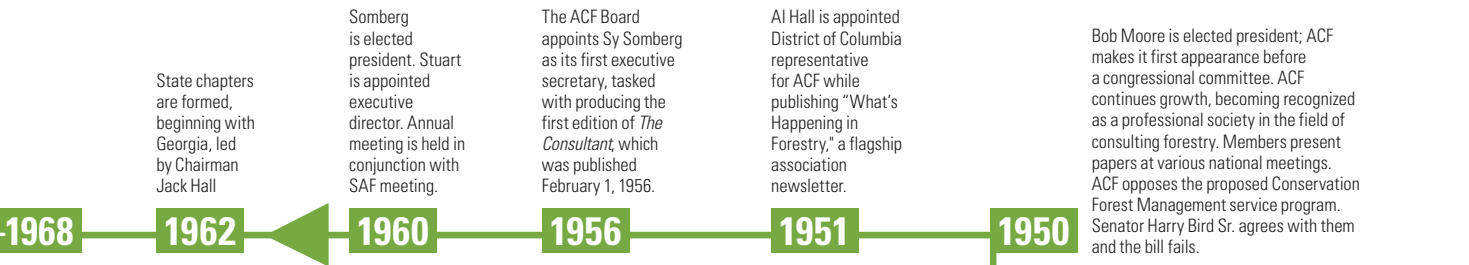
The Kentucky Association of Consulting Foresters invites Lynn Wilson, Rick Burgeson, and Less Ott to address its membership on the feasibility of becoming an ACF chapter. In February of the following year, the groups merge. Members total 638.

2003

The Michigan Association of Consulting Foresters merges with the Michigan ACF Chapter.

2004

ACF enters a Memorandum of Understanding with the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service to streamline members' certification as third-party technical service providers. The West Virginia Chapter wins the first Chapter of the Year Award.



1968
State chapters are formed, beginning with Georgia, led by Chairman Jack Hall

1962
Somberg is elected president. Stuart is appointed executive director. Annual meeting is held in conjunction with SAF meeting.

1960
The ACF Board appoints Sy Somberg as its first executive secretary, tasked with producing the first edition of *The Consultant*, which was published February 1, 1956.

1956
Al Hall is appointed District of Columbia representative for ACF while publishing "What's Happening in Forestry," a flagship association newsletter.

1951
Bob Moore is elected president; ACF makes its first appearance before a congressional committee. ACF continues growth, becoming recognized as a professional society in the field of consulting forestry. Members present papers at various national meetings. ACF opposes the proposed Conservation Forest Management service program. Senator Harry Bird Sr. agrees with them and the bill fails.

1950
ACF approves the same Code of Ethics as SAF and is incorporated in the state of North Carolina.

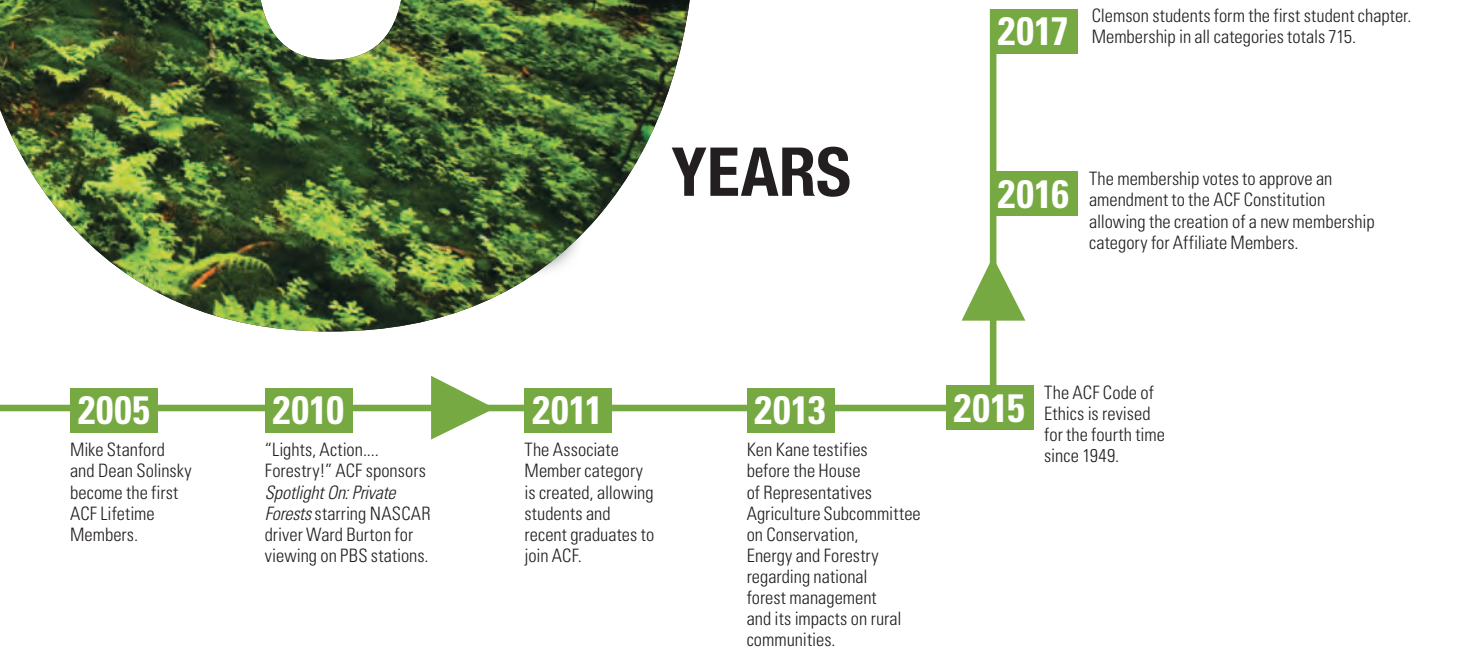
1949
Halsey Hicks from Vermont, Robert Moore from Pennsylvania, Clinton Peltier from California, Ed Stuart from Virginia, and J. Atwood Whitman from North Carolina form the Association of Consulting Foresters upon failure of the Society of American Foresters (SAF) to recognize consulting forestry as a division within SAF.

1948



Since its founding in 1948, the Association of Consulting Foresters of America (ACF) has advanced the professionalism, ethics, and interests of professional foresters whose primary work is consulting to the public. ACF has advocated for consulting foresters, provided policy leadership, connected members, and provided continuing education. Through professional and ethical excellence, a belief in a strong free enterprise system, commitment to science-based stewardship of natural resources, and cooperative relationships among ACF foresters, the association, with its more than 700 members and twenty-four regional chapters, continues to ensure excellence in the practice of consulting forestry.

YEARS



2005
Mike Stanford and Dean Solinsky become the first ACF Lifetime Members.

2010
"Lights, Action... Forestry!" ACF sponsors *Spotlight On: Private Forests* starring NASCAR driver Ward Burton for viewing on PBS stations.

2011
The Associate Member category is created, allowing students and recent graduates to join ACF.

2013
Ken Kane testifies before the House of Representatives Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Energy and Forestry regarding national forest management and its impacts on rural communities.

2015
The ACF Code of Ethics is revised for the fourth time since 1949.

2016
The membership votes to approve an amendment to the ACF Constitution allowing the creation of a new membership category for Affiliate Members.

2017
Clemson students form the first student chapter. Membership in all categories totals 715.