

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 19, 2015

Contact: Molly Grieco, 202-448-0229, molly@spitfirestrategies.com

**American Tree Farm System Honors Paul Harwood as
2015 National Outstanding Inspector of the Year**

Award recognizes forest inspectors for outstanding accomplishments

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) is pleased to recognize Paul Harwood of Tunbridge, Vermont as the 2015 National Outstanding Inspector of the Year. Harwood was selected from among four regional winners for his exceptional on-the-ground work with family forest owners in Vermont and continued commitment the American Tree Farm System.

The Outstanding Inspector of the Year award annually recognizes forest inspectors for outstanding sustainable forest management and exemplary work for ATFS. The award was presented at the ATFS National Leadership Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

“Paul Harwood’s dedication to sustainable forestry practices is evident in his work encouraging landowners to become ATFS-Certified,” said Sarah Crow, Senior Director of American Tree Farm System Certification at the American Forest Foundation. “He has truly made a difference in Vermont’s forestry community.”

Harwood has an extensive history in forestry work. His company, Harwood Forestry Services, manages over 45,000 acres of forestry; and he has worked for Vermont Forests, Parks and Recreation as a specialist in forest resource protection. Additionally, he played an instrumental role in developing state guidance to help Vermont family forest owners enroll in ATFS, helping align the ATFS Standards of Sustainability and Vermont’s tax standards for forests.

“Forestry and Paul Harwood are synonymous,” said Kathleen Wanner, executive director of the Vermont Woodlands Association, who nominated Harwood for the award. “Paul is one of Vermont’s most valued inspectors who speaks passionately about the value of the ATFS program. His insistence that foresters are our hope for the future of the program has shaped the strategic planning process for the Vermont Tree Farm Committee.

The 2015 Regional Outstanding Inspectors of the Year, all with outstanding accomplishments as well, are Robert Perleberg of Pierz, Minnesota; Cathy Hardin of Cantonment, Florida; and Michael Meredith of Medford, Oregon.

###

The American Tree Farm System® is a network of 82,000 family forest owners sustainably managing 24 million acres of forestland. ATFS is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland system in the United States, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards. The American Tree Farm System® is a program of the [American Forest Foundation](#).