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# Virginia Forestry Association

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PAUL R. HOWE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **ROBERT W. FARRELL WINS VIRGINIA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION'S OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

**Richmond, VA** – Robert W. Farrell has worked diligently over the past year leading efforts to review the operating structure of Virginia Forestry Association (VFA), propose restructuring changes, and develop a plan to implement these changes. In recognition of this work, Rob received VFA's Outstanding Member of the Year Award at the 2017 Virginia Forestry Summit.

In his role as VFA's Restructuring Task Force Chair, Rob's visionary and organizational talents led the team to develop viable transition strategies as well as a draft transition plan. His commitment, patience, perseverance, and enthusiasm helped to keep his group on task through a challenging process. During this time, Rob arranged and participated in meetings, researched, developed proposals, and supported VFA's President in this important action item in VFA's strategic plan.

"Rob has gone above and beyond the call of duty by taking on a leadership role in VFA's restructuring proposal process," said Carolyn Mulligan, Past President of Virginia Forestry Association. "His commitment has certainly been a great benefit to VFA and will help position us for better efficiency and effectiveness in the coming years."

Rob is currently Deputy State Forester for the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOP). Previously, Rob served as director of the forestland conservation program. Prior to his career with VDOP, Rob worked as an arborist and urban forester in Maryland and Virginia. He is a Certified Arborist and has a B.S. and M.S. in Forestry from Virginia Tech. Rob currently resides in Albemarle County with his wife and their two sons.

Rob has been a VFA member since 2007 and currently serves on the VFA Board of Directors. Rob is also currently serving a second term on VFA's Executive Committee and has been actively engaged on several additional VFA committees and task forces.

The Outstanding Member of the Year Award, given continuously since 1949 by VFA, is for recognition of individual, outstanding contributions in the area of conservation, utilization and enhancement of Virginia's forest resources. The specific contributions of the individual selected for this award must be significant and noteworthy and result in a positive continuing impact on the Association, the public, and/or the greater forestry community of the Commonwealth.

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### **About Virginia Forestry Association:**

Founded in 1943, the Virginia Forestry Association (VFA) is a non-profit, privately supported organization with the mission of promoting the stewardship and wise use of the Commonwealth's forest resources for the economic and environmental benefits of all Virginians. VFA members are forest landowners, foresters, forest products businesses, loggers, forestry consultants, and a variety of individuals and groups who are concerned about the future well-being of Virginia's forest resource. VFA seeks to maintain a political and economic climate favorable for forest ownership and forest industry in the state and to enhance the public's perception of forestry through effective outreach and communications. Learn more at [www.vaforestry.org](http://www.vaforestry.org).