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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2019

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**RONALD & SANDRA MOYERS WIN VIRGINIA TREE FARM FOUNDATION'S
2019 OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR AWARD**

RICHMOND, VA — The Virginia Tree Farm Foundation, state partner of the American Tree Farm System, recently presented Ronald “Ronnie” and Sandra “Sandie” Moyers of Highland County, Virginia with the 2019 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year (OTFY) Award at the 2019 Virginia Forestry Association Summit at the Sheraton Norfolk Waterside Hotel in Norfolk, Virginia. This annual award recognizes private landowners that have done an exceptional job of forest management on their property and are also actively promoting sustainable forestry. Through this award program, these individuals are honored as leaders in good forestry while their land demonstrates the benefits of good forest management.

Since 1955, the Moyers Tree Farm has been a family affair. Ronnie’s passion for the outdoors was passed down from his Grandfather and Father. It is obvious that Ronnie and Sandie Moyers have passed this love and dedication along to their own children and grandchildren. The Moyers truly understand the value of educating the next generation about the importance and sustainability of our natural resource as well as maintaining their property with upmost stewardship. They often invite school groups and college students to use their property as outdoor classrooms. Most individuals in Highland County and surrounding communities know that the Moyers family owns and operates a commercial sugar camp on the property, known as Laurel Fork Sapsuckers. Each year they open their camp to the public for educational tours, hosting thousands of visitors during the Highland County Maple Festival. Ronnie is a logger by trade, therefore, the Moyers take a proactive approach in the management of their forestland. They remain knowledgeable of any invasive species and implement new habitat improvements on their property when necessary, such as their current work with sustaining the golden-winged warbler. The Moyers have a true passion for the outdoors; they are intimately familiar with every acre of their tree farm. Alongside their family, the Moyers’ passion is the driving force when it comes to caring for and managing their property.

Many voices joined the chorus of support for the Moyers receiving the OTFY Award. The Senior Area Forester of the Mountain Valley Area, Patti Nylander, explained how “Ronnie manages his logging business professionally and with a mind toward the future forest condition. He is respectful of the land he is working on, keeps his equipment and operation clean, and makes every effort to restore access roads to the condition they were prior to moving on to the job. When I complete an inspection on one of Robbie’s logging jobs, I know I will be greeted with his genuine smile, followed by “How’s it lookin’?” He is always willing to take any suggestions to make the job look even better and seeks guidance from our agency to plan his logging jobs to avoid negatively impacting water quality.” “No one is more deserving of the Tree Farmer of the Year Award than Ronnie Moyers,” says Josh Umar, Executive Director, Highland County Chamber of Commerce. The Moyers’ nomination will be further submitted for the 2020 Regional OTFY Award. Stay up to date by visiting the Virginia Tree Farm Foundation website or email vatreefarm@vaforestry.org.

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About Virginia Tree Farm Foundation:

The Virginia Tree Farm Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization working to implement the mission of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) on the ground in Virginia through coordinating and tracking Tree Farm inspections to ensure that Virginia Tree Farmers meet the Standards of Sustainability, landowner outreach and communication, and participation in public events to support ATFS and its stakeholders. Learn more at www.virginiatff.org.