

## NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: 11/21/16

Contact: Mary Lynne Beckley 470-210-5900

For immediate release



---

## THE GEORGIA URBAN FOREST COUNCIL PRESENTS 27th ANNUAL GEORGIA URBAN FORESTRY AWARDS

The Georgia Urban Forest Council (GUFC), a nonprofit organization with the mission of sustaining Georgia's green legacy by helping communities grow healthy trees, presented its 2017 Excellence in Urban Forestry Awards Program on November 8 at the Callaway Gardens in Pine Mountain, Georgia. This annual awards program rewards individuals and organizations for outstanding work in protecting and enhancing our community forests. One Grand Award was given to each of the following categories: Marketing, Development, New Initiative, Civic Organization, Community, Education, Student, Urban Arboriculture, and Individual Achievement. Each award recipient received a framed print of a Griffin bald cypress from an original pen and ink drawing by artist Barry Nehr, commissioned for GUFC. **David Dechant received the 2017 Outstanding Individual Achievement Grand Award.**

“David Dechant has created an admirable legacy as a leader and educator in urban forestry,” said Mary Lynne Beckley, Executive Director of the Georgia Urban Forest Council. “His dedication to his profession and to healthy trees and the communities in which they stand is to be outstanding.”

The Georgia Urban Forest Council was founded in 1988 by a group of individuals who recognized the need for an organization to address urban forestry issues in Georgia. Today, GUFC brings educational programs, leadership and resources in maintaining healthy trees to our towns and cities around the state. For more information on the Georgia Urban Forest Council and its 2017 Awards Program, please call 470-210-5900 or visit [www.gufc.org](http://www.gufc.org).

###

PICTURED: (L-R) Derrick Catlett, President of the Georgia Urban Forest Council; David Dechant; and Paul Randler, Urban and Community Program Manager, Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service.