

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. **Arboguard Tree Specialists received the 2017 Outstanding Marketing Grand Award for their new Construction and Development Website.**

“Arboguard is to be commended for creating this outstanding resource for tree protection for construction projects,” said Mary Lynne Beckley, Executive Director of the Georgia Urban Forest Council. “Their new website offers vital direction in keeping healthy trees a part of urban settings.”

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.

###

PICTURED: (L-R) Derrick Catlett, President of the Georgia Urban Forest Council; Ben Kent and Jamie Blackburn of Arboguard Tree Specialists; and Paul Randler, Urban and Community Program Manager, Southern Region, U.S. Forest Service.