Lifetime Achievement Award

Gene Dempsey
* submitted by Mike Conner *

Gene Dempsey
* submitted by Kimberly Pearson *

Celeste White
GUIDELINES

- Nominate your own work, the work of your organization or the work of another.
- Each application must be typed and presented in a standard three-ring binder (no larger than ½ inch capacity). The completed awards entry form must be the first page of the application. The second page of the application should be a 200-word overview of the nomination. (Note: For winning nominations, the overview of the nomination will be used for presentation purposes and to highlight the individual, project or program in The Council Quarterly newsletter.) Following the brief overview should be a summary of not more than three typewritten pages that describe the project’s, program’s or individual’s contribution to urban and community forestry as outlined in the Award Categories.
- Support documentation such as photographs, press clippings, printed pieces, and letters of commendation are encouraged, but shall be limited to 12 additional pages. All supporting documents must be attached or secured inside the application. Please, no loose documentation such as videotapes. Each application must include at least three digital photos in order to be considered. Examples include photos of the individual recipient, project logo, etc.
- Deadline for entry is October 28, 2016. Submit the original, one full copy and the three digital photos to:

Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program
Florida Urban Forestry Council
Post Office Box 547993
Orlando, FL 32854-7993

All submitted materials become property of the Florida Urban Forestry Council. Please note: The Awards Committee reserves the right to reassign the entry to another category if deemed appropriate. For questions or additional entry forms, please contact Sandy Temple, Florida Urban Forestry Council Executive Director at (407) 872-1738.

ENTRY FORM
Deadline for Submission - October 28, 2016

Gene Dempsey
NAME OF ENTRY, INDIVIDUAL OR PROJECT

Michael D. Conner
NAME OF CONTACT PERSON FOR THE ENTRY

Calvin, Giordano and Associates, Inc.
COMPANY/AGENCY

1800 Eller Drive
ADDRESS

Fort Lauderdale FL 33316
CITY STATE ZIP

954-266-6469 954-921-8807 MConner@cgasolutions.com
PHONE FAX E-MAIL

I believe that Gene is also being nominated for this Lifetime Achievement Award by Kimberly Pearson and Julie looss

NOMINATED BY (IF DIFFERENT)

ADDRESS

CITY STATE ZIP

PHONE FAX E-MAIL

AWARD CATEGORY (please check one):

☐ Outstanding Professional
☐ Outstanding Tree Advocate or Tree Advocacy Group
☐ Outstanding Project
☐ Outstanding Urban Forestry Program
☒ Lifetime Achievement Award

SEND ALL NOMINATIONS TO:

Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program
Florida Urban Forestry Council
Post Office Box 547993
Orlando, FL 32854-7993
NOMINATION FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

GENE DEMPSEY, Urban Forester for the City of Fort Lauderdale Who Passed away on Sept. 30th

When I think of what it means to be an Urban Forester, I think of Gene Dempsey. In fact, if you were to look up the definition of “Urban Forester” in the dictionary, I think that there should be a picture of Gene next to the definition. In addition to doing all of the things that an Urban Forester should normally do, like tree inventories, management plans, and Arbor Day Celebrations, Gene impacted the community in three important ways. He changed the perception of the City officials and touched the lives of my family and friends in the process.

When Gene first became the Urban Forester for the City of Fort Lauderdale in 1996, the City was not really known for its tree canopy. The City was experiencing explosive growth in the beach area as well as in its downtown core and the residential neighborhoods immediately surrounding it. The City was probably actually losing trees at this time. When the Planning & Zoning staff and City officials were reviewing plans and approving big development projects, they were not really focused on trees. However, in his usual quiet, yet determined, manner, Gene became the steady and constant voice for the trees in the City. Over time, he changed the perception of his colleagues and the City’s leaders and policy-makers. Trees are now given the consideration that they need in all new development plans.

Another important way in which Gene impacted the community is through the City’s Adopt-A-Tree and Tree Give-Aways programs. While my own yard does not have much room for any new trees, my close friends, Sandy and Richard, do have room in their yard. They rarely missed one of the many Tree Give-Aways that Gene organized. I would listen with great delight as they would talk about the latest addition to their yard, and all of the “cool” native trees and “stuff” that were available at the most recent event. The joy that they got out of picking out these trees and then planting them in a corner of their yard was evidence to me that Gene’s presence and influence was being felt within the community.

Finally, when my son went to elementary school, my wife and I became very involved in our neighborhood school. Of course, being a Landscape Architect myself, I was often “recruited to volunteer” on all of the garden and beautification projects on campus. One of the main desires of the school was to have street trees planted along the roads surrounding the school. All it took was one phone call to Gene and soon there were beautiful Gumbo Limbo trees lining the streets around the school. Now, twelve years later, whenever I drive by those majestic trees, I think of Gene fondly, and realize that his legacy has also touched me and my family in a personal way, as well as the community as a whole.

For all of these reasons and more, I truly believe that Gene Dempsey defined what it meant to be an Urban Forester. Therefore, I feel that Gene Dempsey is worthy of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Urban Forestry Council, an organization that was near and dear to his heart.

In memory of my late colleague and good friend, Gene Dempsey.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Conner
In Loving Memory of Freddie "Gene" Dempsey

Dear Members of FL ASLA Broward Section:

Freddie "Gene" Dempsey of Hollywood, Florida passed away on Friday September 30, 2016 after a courageous battle with cancer. Gene is survived by his wife Deborah Sarbey Dempsey, his son Zachary Dempsey and his sisters Betty (Jeff) Wilson and Brenda Dempsey. He is also survived by his niece Charlotte (Derek) Quinley and great nephews Paul and Jamie. He is preceded in death by his parents Freddie and Mary Nell Dempsey. Services will be held on Tuesday October 4, 2016.
at 5:00 p.m. at the West Broward Church of Christ at 12550 West Broward Blvd, Plantation, FL 33325.

Gene grew up in Bay Minette, Alabama and graduated from Auburn University in 1981 with a BS in Forest Management. His passion for forestry continued throughout his life and through his work first with the Florida Division of Forestry and later with the City of Fort Lauderdale as its Urban Forester. While at the City, Gene oversaw numerous invaluable programs including the Adopt a Tree Program in which Gene felt fortunate to be a part of the city's initiative to give back to the community. He was also very proud of his role in ensuring the City of Ft Lauderdale's continued designation as a "Tree City USA", Gene authored several articles for the City's website and publications, and created Gene's Green Scene blog which had over 900 followers.

Gene proudly served on the Executive Board of the Florida Urban Forestry Council

Gene was a devoted member of West Broward Church of Christ where he taught Sunday School to both adults and children. Amongst his many activities in the Church, he served as the boys' speech competition coach for the Church's Lads to Leaders program for 15 years.

Gene exemplified the values and ideals that we all aspire to – honesty, integrity, respect, accountability, kindness and trust. He will be deeply missed by those who knew him.

The family requests in lieu of flowers, gifts be made to the National Arbor Day Foundation at arborgorday.org or Christian Homes For Children at 12001 SW 72nd Street, Miami, FL 33183.

To learn more about Gene's background and what his contributions meant for Landscape Architecture in the state of Florida, click here.
Gene Dempsey
**Guidelines**

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  Post Office Box 547993
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October 28, 2016

Florida Urban Forestry Council
Post Office Box 547993
Orlando, FL 32854-7993

RE: 2016 Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards
Nomination Category: Lifetime Achievement Award
Nominee: Mr. Gene Dempsey

Dear Florida Urban Forestry Council,

It is with a heavy heart but also extreme pleasure and gratitude that I nominate Mr. Gene Dempsey for the Lifetime Achievement Award Category for the 2016 Florida Urban Forestry Councils’ Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards.

Gene Dempsey grew up in Bay Minette, Alabama, and later graduated from Auburn University in 1981 with a BS in Forest Management. Gene came to Florida in 1986 working for the Florida Division of Forestry, where he fought wild land fires as a forester in Orlando, and was then assigned further south to Hollywood where he served as their City Forester. Gene was responsible for conducting and maintaining the city’s street tree inventory and coordinating Arbor Day celebrations to continue their Tree City USA designation. He began to train code officers on the City’s new tree abuse ordinance, and educate the public on proper pruning standards and appropriate tree planting. He was later assigned further west to Davie as the Urban Forestry Coordinator for the Everglades District, where he managed urban forestry projects from Palm Beach County down through Monroe County, coordinating the assignments of foresters who served those areas. He was responsible for the administration of over 150 forestry grants, as well as the management of the Dade County Pineland Reforestation Project. He also organized the annual county-wide Arbor Day events which were partnered with state wide industry organizations.

Gene began to work for the City of Fort Lauderdale in 1996 as their Urban Forester and remained employed with them until his passing. Gene managed the Adopt-A-Tree Program, continued the City’s Tree City USA designation, developed the City’s hazard tree policy, collaborated with the Utility Advisory Board to improve utility tree trimming, conducted community tree plantings and quarterly City Tree Give-Away’s, developed the Save-A-Tree Plant-A-Tree program, initiated the City’s street tree planting requirement for all new development, implemented the City’s Florida Friendly Landscaping® code, participated in the certification of the City as a Certified Wildlife Habitat, and was responsible for the purchase and maintenance of City’s tree inventory software program. Recent records from 2012 – 2015 indicate that Gene either himself planted or gave away over 12,420 trees within his City.
Gene supervised several City landscape maintenance and installation crews, the City’s tree service crews, and trained numerous City team members on property tree pruning, selection, installation and care. Gene authored many articles for the City’s website and publications, contributed to editorials and commentaries for forestry related newsletters, and created *Gene’s Green Scene* blog which had over 900 followers.

Gene proudly served on the Executive Board of the Florida Urban Forestry Council from 1999 through 2006, and the Board of Directors for the Landscape Inspectors Association of Florida from 1997 - 2011. Gene was accredited by the International Society of Arboriculture as both a Certified Arborist and a Certified Municipal Specialist, and by the Landscape Inspector’s Association of Florida as a Certified Landscape Inspector.

When I remember Mr. Gene Dempsey, I think of a person who had consideration for his peers and undeniable compassion for his community; a person who had a strong sense of conviction in his values that truly cared for and was interested in our trees and our environment. Mr. Gene Dempsey had an excellent reputation for superior customer service, was a respected teacher and speaker in our industry, and was recognized as a person of action and accomplishment in planting a sustainable urban forest.

Over the past 35 years, Gene passionately worked with various national and state-wide organizations, multiple governmental agencies and their designees, several City departments and their teams, the Garden Club and City Civic Association members, local students and their families, as well as countless volunteers – always with the consistent goal of adapting the urban forest to be sustainable for future generations. Gene was a warm and welcoming co-worker and a consummate community builder. Gene was the epitome of all the values and ideals that we aspire to – honesty, integrity, respect, accountability, kindness and trust. Gene learned on a regular basis about urban forestry initiatives and how the urban forest could truly be sustainable for future generations. Mr. Dempsey was not happy just planting trees. He wanted it to be the right tree in the right place, for the right purpose with the right goal.

Gene Dempsey passed away on September 30, 2016. In the short time since then, over 1,200 trees have been planted in his memory though the National Arbor Day Foundation. I believe this is a testament to how he represented himself to others throughout his life. A true life-long professional stands out from the crowd, and for those of us who are paying attention, we recognize when such a professional was among us. For these reasons, I recommend Mr. Gene Dempsey as the 2016 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Pearson

Kimberly Pearson
Chief Landscape Plans Examiner
Free parking passes will be provided to fortlauderdale.gov/renourish.

To register, please visit

Snyder Park • 3299 SW 4th Avenue • Fort Lauderdale
April 26, 2014 • 9:00 AM to Noon

Students can earn community service credit.
Participating will receive a free tee and beautifying Snyder Park.

Day is celebrated Arbor Day with us by Earth Month and Fort Lauderdale Cares
This year marks the City of Fort Lauderdale's

Volunteer!
Calming All

In unity with Fort Lauderdale Cares Day

Fort Lauderdale 2014

Renourish
GUIDELINES

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ENTRY FORM

Deadline for Submission - October 28, 2016

________________________________________________________
NAME OF ENTRY, INDIVIDUAL OR PROJECT

________________________________________________________
NAME OF CONTACT PERSON FOR THE ENTRY

________________________________________________________
COMPANY/AGENCY

1206 West Columbia Street

Orlando  FL  32805

CITY  STATE  ZIP

PHONE  FAX  E-MAIL

________________________________________________________
NOMINATED BY (IF DIFFERENT)

________________________________________________________
ADDRESS

________________________________________________________
CITY  STATE  ZIP

PHONE  FAX  E-MAIL

________________________________________________________
AWARD CATEGORY (please check one):

☐ Outstanding Professional
☐ Outstanding Tree Advocate or Tree Advocacy Group
☐ Outstanding Project
☐ Outstanding Urban Forestry Program
☒ Lifetime Achievement Award

SEND ALL NOMINATIONS TO:

Friends of Our Urban Forest Awards Program
Florida Urban Forestry Council
Post Office Box 547993
Orlando, FL 32854-7993
November 21, 2107

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to nominate Celeste White for the Florida Urban Forestry Council Lifetime Achievement Award. I have had the good fortune of working with Celeste for close to 27+ years and have relied on her knowledge and abilities as the Commercial Horticulturist with Orange County and the University of Florida and then with her assistance when I was on the board for the Florida Urban Forestry Council and Flowering Tree Society of Central Florida.

Celeste has been the Commercial Horticulturist with Orange County University of Florida IFAS Extension in Orlando Florida for the past 27 years. She is a graduate of the University of Maryland and has been with the University of Florida Extension Service for the past 26 years. Previously, Celeste was the Urban Horticulturist with the Seminole County Extension Service in Sanford, Florida and the Landscape Manager at the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress in Orlando, Florida. Celeste has provided education and training for the landscape maintenance industry and commercial pesticide applicators in the areas of planting, pruning, fertilization, irrigation and pesticide safety and use.

My early involvement with Celeste was with her assistance as the Commercial Horticulturist for Orange County. When we had issues and concerns with our landscape whether pesticide management, landscape or the trees, Celeste would schedule site visits and assess the problem and give her recommendations. I can't count the number of times she has assisted us when I needed outside expertise supporting our own recommendations. She has assisted by bringing in outside specialist to help support our documentation.

I was asked to join Orange County Horticulture Advisory Committee by Celeste in the mid 90's. One of my main interests in the committee was to be involved in affordable education for our entry level to field supervisor level. Our committee would request the types of training we would like to have for our staff and she would ensure it would happen. The seminars would be ½ to full day, excellent speakers and lunch for $20-30 dollars per person. They would range from Landscape Management to Palms and Trees. Celeste came to the Parks Division and trained all of our staff in BMP’s along with administering the test at no cost. With Celeste’s hard work and dedication, she was able to educate affordably the employees in our industry for over 25+ years.

I was a FUFC board member prior to Celeste joining the board, I requested her assistance editing the Trees of Central Florida brochure. She was an integral part of ensuring quality, organization and accuracy of information provided on that document. Once she joined the council she continued to use her talents to educate the membership. Celeste always was willing to take on responsibilities whether it was as President for the council, Awards chairperson, or as the UFI chairperson.

Celeste was the chairperson of our first Urban Forestry Institute we held at Central Florida. The speakers and the program were outstanding and a very hard act to follow. Her ability to organize and keep board members on task is remarkable. I still see her accomplishing this on the Florida Chapter ISA. Celeste served as President of the FL Chapter ISA.
and during her stint the International Conference was in Orlando. Being the host city of the conference she was integral in being a part of that very successful conference. Both organizations she has been not only a leader but a worker bee behind the scenes ensuring the successes of both organizations.

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<th>Organization</th>
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<td>Florida Urban Forestry Council</td>
<td>Past President (2007-2008) and Executive Committee Member</td>
<td>1989 - 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture</td>
<td>Past President</td>
<td>2016</td>
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<td>President</td>
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<td>President Elect</td>
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<th>Year</th>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>Florida Association of Extension 4-H Agents</td>
<td>Excellence in Urban Programming</td>
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It is with my great pleasure to nominate Celeste White for the Lifetime Achievement Award.
October 20, 2016

Ms. Julie Iooss
City of Orlando
1206 West Columbia Street
Orlando, FL 32805

Re: Letter of Support for Celeste White

Dear Julie,

It is my understanding that Celeste White, Orange County Extension Service – Commercial Landscape Management Agent, is being nominated for the FUFC Lifetime Achievement Award. I would like to take this opportunity to voice my enthusiastic support for Celeste to receive this award.

I served on the FUFC Executive Committee from 2005 to 2011; Celeste was an active member of the EC during this entire stretch. Throughout that period, I was much impressed with the leadership and counsel that she brought to the FUFC Executive Committee. Celeste served as the FUFC President in 2006-2007. Celeste set the bar appropriately high for the rest of us that followed on the “officer path”. When asked, Celeste always freely provided me critical input and I happily received her advice. In 2010, I served as the FUFC President and continued to have opportunities to work closely with Celeste on the Council - including the development of a new FUFC five-year strategic plan and creation of the Urban Forestry Institute (UFI). Celeste was integral in both of these significant FUFC undertakings. The FUFC Strategic Plan didn’t build on an old plan, but instead, started from scratch with a totally new outline. Celeste provided timely and important contributions throughout the process including moderating much of the initial Strategic Plan – EC Retreat Workshop. In respect to UFI, I remained convinced to this day that the UFI concept might never became reality without Celeste. I had pitched the idea, but it was Celeste that ran with the vision and gave the organizational legs it needed to become FUFC’s signature annual educational event.

In addition to her work with FUFC, Celeste has actively supported Florida Chapter ISA & the Trees Florida Conference. She has served on the FCISA Board and Committees in various capacities including serving as FCISA President in 2015! I have had only limited interactions with Celeste in her position as an Extension Agent, but it is my understanding that she is the consummate professional – I would expect nothing less from someone I hold in such high regard.

Again, I am whole-heartily in support of Celeste White receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. Feel free to contact me if I can be of further assistance in providing support for Charlie in this nomination.

Best Regards,

John

John H Holzaepfel, ACF, CF, CA
Principal / Consulting Forester & Arborist
Association of Consulting Foresters (ACF#1632)
Certified Forester (SAF#630)
Certified Arborist (ISA#1147A)
To: The Committee for the Florida Urban Forestry Council Lifetime Achievement Award

From: Tom MacCubbin
   Extension Agent Emeritus
   University of Florida IFAS

Re: Nomination recommendation for Celeste White

It gives me great pleasure to support the nomination of my friend and colleague Celeste White for the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Florida Urban Forestry Council. Those of us who know Celeste realize her many years of devotion to Trees, Forests and their importance to Florida and the Nation. She has been an effective educator organizing and participating in programs that help spread the knowledge about trees and their importance in our environment.

Celeste has worked closely with Extension Staff, Florida Forestry Service and numerous organization including the Florida Urban Forestry Council, International Society of Arboriculture and Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association. She has taken leadership roles in many of these organizations directing their activities and organizing educational programs. Celeste also works closely with City and County Forestry departments to share her expertise and develop educational programs.

University of Florida professors and staff recognize Celeste for her efforts to help arborist, nurserymen and landscape maintenance companies develop effective plant care programs. She has also been instrumental in promoting the best and most effective tree plantings for the urban environment.

Celeste is a leader in her field and is a Certified Arborist which attests to her tree care knowledge and abilities. Lots of long hard work and devotion to our tree canopy makes Celeste more than worthy of this great Lifetime Achievement Award.
October 26, 2016

The Florida Urban Forestry Council
Post Office Box 547993
Orlando, FL 32854-7993

Dear Council Members,

I’m writing to you today to recommend Celeste White for the Florida Urban Forestry Council’s Lifetime Achievement Award.

Celeste and I met in 2005 at a Trees Florida Conference at The Innisbrook Resort. Over the years I have served with her on many committees and on the Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture. Last year I had the honor of serving under her when she was the President of The Florida Chapter of ISA. We are serving together again this year as she is serving as Past-President. Always the professional, she is a pleasure to know and to work with.

Celeste has been a UF-IFAS Extension Agent, with a passion for trees and their care, since 1987. She is a dedicated leader, educator, and advocate for trees. For many years she has been a supporter and board member for both The Florida Urban Forestry Council and The Florida Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Celeste deserves this award for her contributions and dedication to the field of Arboriculture and Urban Forestry in the state of Florida. It is my pleasure to recommend, my friend, Celeste White for this award.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Bonnie C. Marshall
Florida Chapter ISA - 2016 President
Celeste White