

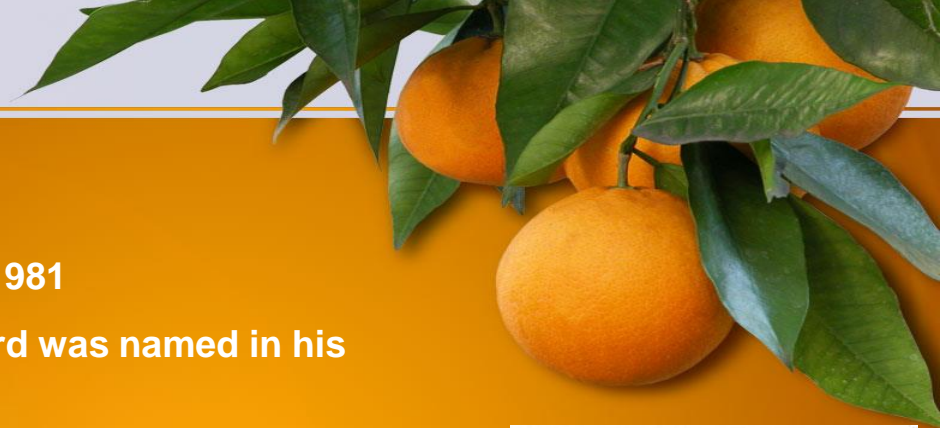


2024

John T. Lesley

Award of Excellence

John T. Lesley Award



- Award first presented to John T. Lesley in 1981
- As a special tribute to Mr. Lesley – the award was named in his honor
- He was a force for fresh Florida citrus, representing Haines City CGA, Citrus Exchange and later Seald Sweet.
- It is presented in recognition of an individual/individuals for outstanding leadership and service on behalf of the Florida fresh citrus industry
- It is awarded by peers, which enhances the value and significance.



Different approach this year



- The recipient is traditionally a well-kept secret.
- This year's recipient was scheduled to be out of state at this time. It was important to inform the recipient that they had been selected.
- The recipient decided to travel back to Florida for this event.
- So, in this case, the recipient is aware, but not the audience.
- Let's proceed



2024

Recipient

“The Person”

A bit of a personal resume

- Born in Lakeland FL
- Raised in Winter Haven
- Graduated from Winter Haven High School in 1978
- Graduated from University of Colorado in 1983, Geography
- Married, three children



His Early Career Included Stints as

- A surveyor in Maryland
- Working for FDACS as a Canker inspector





Our Recipient Enjoys

- Adventure Travel
- Backpacking
- Trail and Ultra Running
- Has completed five 100-mile races, four 100k races
- Builds model trains and has built a 2.5" scale live steam locomotive

Professional Engagement



- Florida Citrus Mutual
- Florida Citrus Packers
- Citrus Administrative Committee (Chair, Vice Chair, and more)
- Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
- Florida State Horticultural Society
- Florida Farm Bureau
- Polk County Farm Bureau (Director, Vice President)
- Florida Citrus Production Managers Association
- Florida's Natural Growers (Director)
- Florida Citrus Commission (Vice Chair)
- Wedgworth Leadership Institute – Class 1
- FL Citrus Hall of Fame Selection Committee (President, Treasurer)
- Polk County Citrus Advisory Committee
- Polk County Task Force on Farm Labor Housing



A CLOSER LOOK AT THE 2024 RECIPIENT

In the Grove with wife Michelle



In the
Packinghouse
with Steven



Inspecting Fruit on Arrival in Japan





Enjoying all
that life has
to offer

A Completed Steam Train Project





2024 John T Lesley Award Recipient

W. Lindsay Raley Jr.

