



"Voice of the BC Landscape Horticulture Industry"

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**2007 Educator of the Year Award
Passion leads to Educator of the Year**

Surrey, BC, November 19th, 2007 – The BC Landscape & Nursery Association (BCLNA) 2007 Membership Awards Award recognize members for their outstanding achievement in the nursery and landscaping industry. The awards were presented on November 2nd at the BCLNA President's banquet held at the Ramada Convention Centre in Abbotsford.

Heide Hermary of the Cowichan Valley is the winner of the 2007 BCLNA Educator of the Year award.

Author and Gaia College founder, Hermary, was celebrated for her extensive work in sustainable landscaping. Her passion has led to countless home gardeners and professional landscapers adopting organic and natural land care practices. Her partnerships with the continuing education departments of Burnaby School Board, Douglas College, and Royal Roads University ensure that Hermary's programs are accessible to a wide audience. In addition, she speaks at countless public events to promote chemical-free options for the garden, and her book, *Working With Nature: Shifting Paradigms* has received rave reviews.

Hermary shares her wisdom with her students, having pursued certification in arboriculture, irrigation, and other specialties. She also holds a Graduate Diploma and Master's Degree in Sustainable Agriculture, a Diploma in Horticulture, and has many years of experience in landscape design and construction.

To maintain a connection from student-to-professional-to-the public, Hermary established the Society for Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL). The society has successfully educated people in how to move toward organic land care.

Formed in 1953, the BCLNA is a vibrant, non-profit organization with nearly 800 member companies, representing nursery, landscape, retail, education, supply, service, and government organizations working in the landscape horticultural industry. The BCLNA provides members with leadership, information, and services, in the development of more knowledgeable and responsible landscape practices.

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