

Gaia Founder Has SOUL

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Sponsored by Gary Hunt, Terra Link Horticulture (left), the Educator of the Year Award was presented to Heide Hermary for her pioneering work to educate professionals and the public on organic land care practices.

Author and Gaia College founder, Heide Hermary, was celebrated for her extensive work toward sustainable landscaping with the Educator of the Year Award. Her program has led to countless home gardeners and professional landscapers adopting organic and natural land care practices, and her speaking engagements, classes and book, *Working With Nature: Shifting Paradigms*, have received rave reviews.

Hermary strives to keep abreast of the latest wisdom to share with her students, having pursued certification in arboriculture, irrigation, and other specialties to add to her Graduate Diploma and Master's Degree of Sustainable Agriculture, her Diploma in Horticulture, and her industry experience in landscape design and construction.

To maintain a connection from student-to-professional-to-homeowner, Hermary established the Society for Organic Urban Land Care (SOUL). The society has been extremely successful in fostering and educating people in why and how to move toward organic land care, establishing guidelines and certification for such, and creating a means of exchanging information and ideas on the topic.