

## Burns Water Gardens Receives 'Green for Life Award'

Friday, Oct. 30, 2009, 6:30 p.m., EDT

Rowena Burns (center), co-owner of Burns Water Gardens, received the Green for Life Award at the 10th Anniversary Garden Party & Floral Expo, held in Toronto on Oct. 20. The Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association created the Green for Life award this year to promote, recognize and reward environmentally-responsible retailers and growers in the horticulture and floriculture industries.

The Green for Life Awards judging committee selected the Green for Life Award winners from retailers and growers that completed an environmental scorecard and scored above 80 percent. According to the Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association, about 10 businesses scored above 80 percent.

Burns Water Gardens, which has specialized in water gardening and aquatic plants for 18 years, received the Green for Life Award in the retail garden center category. The Landscape Ontario Horticultural Trades Association recognized Burns Water Gardens for placing an emphasis on minimizing its environmental impact.

"We encourage wildlife, and our growing ponds have become reservoirs for wildlife," said Rowena Burns, owner of Burns Water Gardens. "We also teach our customers natural ways of maintaining their ponds — creating a reservoir in their gardens for wildlife and nature and a natural source of beauty in their gardens."

Other Green For Life Award winners included Green Thumb Garden Centre of Nepean, Ont., also in the retail garden center category, and West Kootenay Plants of Winlaw, British Columbia, in the growers category. "We are extremely pleased that Burns Water Gardens, Green Thumb Garden Centre and West Koontenay Plants are the first recipients of the Green for Life Award," said Nathan Helder, chairman of the Green for Life Awards judging committee. "They are great examples of the positive shift in the industry toward better environmental stewardship."