

***Sustaining the Islands – Community Stewardship Awards Program***



**Islands Trust**

**2008 Nominee Recipient Profile**

**Nominee:** Tekla Deverell, Pender Islands

**Category:** Individual/Enduring Achievement (identified by nominators)

**Project:** Tree of Life Garden

**Nominator(s):** Michelle Marsden and Ellen Willingham

**Letters of Support:** NA

**Project Description:** Since her arrival on the Pender Islands in 1976, Tekla has dedicated herself to sharing her knowledge, expertise, and passion for sustainable and organic gardening. Her long-term vision has been to develop an active, viable, and supportive organic culture among island growers and farmers.

Tekla has a long history of involvement with the agricultural community on the Pender Islands and has played a significant role in supporting the economic stability of this community in numerous ways. These include: establishing the Pender Islands Farmer's Market (now a signature event on the Pender Islands); conducting outreach and education in the agricultural community; serving as Director of the Pender Island's Farmer's Institute; and helping to establish a scholarship fund for aspiring agricultural students. For over three decades, Tekla has successfully promoted a vision of progressive excellence for farm communities on the Penders and throughout the Southern Gulf Islands.