Nanette and Rick O’Hara, South Seminole Heights, have been named the City of Tampa Water-Wise Award Winners. The Hillsborough County award winners are Janean Reschlein and Daniel McMahon, Golf Club Estates II.

Both landscapes feature many positive examples of Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ practices. These include drought-tolerant trees and plants, self-mulching areas under trees, pervious materials for paths and walkways, grouping of plants with similar water and maintenance needs, use of alternative mulches that are environmentally-friendly, downspouts directed into mulched or planted areas or into rain harvesting devices, and creation of landscape beds that serve to retain stormwater runoff on the property.

The Community Water-Wise Awards program identifies examples of outstanding Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ for homeowners, businesses, industry and government and promotes these principles within the community. Winning landscape entries combine water-conservation, environmental protection and aesthetics.

The selection process involves an on-line application completed by those entering the award contest and an on-site evaluation typically during July by a team of judges. This contest also occurs in Pinellas and Pasco Counties. The Community Water-Wise Awards Program is sponsored by Tampa Bay Water, City of Tampa Water Department and Hillsborough County and University of Florida Extension.

Mark your calendar for this annual contest so you, too, can enter. For more information on Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ go to:  http://hillsborough_fyn.ifas.ufl.edu or http://floridayards.org.