



hortie

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Bringing the Exotic to the Northwest

by Jeff Gustin

Eamonn Hughes may not be a Pisces, or born under any water sign, but he is such a natural when it comes to water features, water plants and animals that you might think he's related to Neptune.

A native of Ireland, Eamonn is the owner of Hughes Water Gardens and has been designing and building water features for over 30 years. Since moving to Oregon in 1987, he has become well known for his naturally beautiful designs. In fact, you may have seen some of his work if you have traveled around the area. The Oregon Garden entrance, the Clackamas Town Center and the Claremont Community Golf Course have all showcased some of Eamonn's award winning designs. Eamonn has built hundreds of water features around the northwest for businesses and individuals.

Eamonn started Hughes Water Gardens as a retail business to share that love of water with everyone. At his nursery in Wilsonville you can wander through large displays and ponds and be soothed by the sound of water, everywhere!

It is that sound of water that is lacking in many gardens. Eamonn has even written books and articles to get people excited about water gardening. As he says, *"once you have a garden with a water feature in it, you will never want a garden without one."*

Eamonn is fun-loving and laid back. He is a true believer in letting nature be his inspiration and has become known for his creative, natural way of using plants in his designs. Water in nature creates a different type of atmosphere. It causes the most stressed of us to slow down and relax. Flowing water in the garden also creates microclimates that will expand your choice of garden plants.

His love of everything beautiful extends to a love of art as well. His nursery has become the home of one of the largest art shows of the summer. Hughes Water Gardens Annual Waterlily Festival and Invitational Art Show, July 25 - August 2, is a must see for lovers of plants and art. The showcase of the Festival is the giant Victoria Lily. All events are free, but they will be holding an Oregon Food Bank - Food Drive during the Festival, a 2 can donation is suggested.

If you have a moment, take some time to stop by the nursery and say hi to Eamonn and shake hands with an artist who creates with water.

<http://www.hugheswatergardens.com/>

