



Press Release Contact Information:

Michael O'Loughlin
Blue Ocean Events
Vice President
12878 SW Village Park Lane
Tigard, OR
US, 97223
Voice: 503-880-3642
E-Mail: [Email us Here](#)
Website: [Visit Our Website](#)

Michael O'Loughlin named Oregon's Top Horticulturist

Michael O'Loughlin received the 2008 Horticulture Award from the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs for his work with school gardens.

/24-7PressRelease/ - WILSONVILLE, OR, June 18, 2008 - A Tigard man won the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs top Horticulture Award for 2008 for his continued contribution to garden clubs around the state and school gardens. Michael O'Loughlin was given the award at the state convention in Wilsonville.

O'Loughlin spends most of his days running his company and building school gardens. He was responsible for the building of a three-acre garden in Tigard at Mary Woodward Elementary School called Woodward Gardens. This garden has been featured in many publications and television shows because of its commitment to excellence. Woodward Gardens has 16 raised beds with themes such as 'Tops and Bottoms', Three Sisters, Salsa, Thai, Five Senses, Pioneer and many more in which the children plant and raise crops that are distributed to the community.

The Garden funds its activities with monies from the sale of plants that the students raise in the two greenhouses on site. The garden has an outdoor classroom with rainbarrels and a bioswale. There is a huge composting demonstration site with signage, a weather station and a boardwalk over the wetlands adjacent to the garden. Teachers use the garden to teach about science, literature, social studies and more.

O'Loughlin has also consulted with other schools on gardens including Vose Elementary School in Beaverton, where he attended as a child. He is working on a master plan for a new school garden in Tigard at Alberta Rider Elementary School

He was instrumental in helping the Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs build one of the largest Standard Flower Shows in the country. On several occasions it was named the number 1 flower show in the United States. His dedication to details and knowledge of horticulture we key to this.

Currently, O'Loughlin is producing the Energy Trust Better Living Show (www.betterlivingshow.org) in March at the Portland Expo Center. It is the largest sustainable lifestyle event in the Northwest and one of the most successful events in the city. The show highlights many sustainable gardening techniques as well as other products.

The Oregon State Federation of Garden Clubs is one of the original charter state garden clubs of the National Garden Clubs, Inc. (NGC) which is recognized as the largest volunteer gardening organization in the world. Since 1929, it has provided garden club members with educational opportunities in all aspects of gardening and floral design. NGC aids in the protection and conservation of natural resources, promotes civic beautification and encourages the improvement of roadsides and parks.

Blue Ocean Events produces the largest sustainable lifestyle event in the Northwest.