

Meet the  
**Green  
Team**

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Newfields Horticulture Staff



# Chad Franer

The Tom and Nora Hiatt Director of Horticulture

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“One wonderful element of *Spring Blooms* is experiencing the new growth emerge from the ground and the trees. It is that same renewal that I see in our guests’ expressions as they walk The Garden and smell the freshness of green.”





# Irvin Etienne

Curator of Herbaceous Plants and Seasonal Garden Design

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“After that long Indiana winter of gray sky and brown garden, I love all that color! I also enjoy seeing each horticulturist’s designs and their interpretation of what *Spring Blooms* means to them.”





# Patty Schneider

Horticulturist

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“I love seeing all the spring ephemerals emerge and add perennial context to our annual bulbs.

*Trillium*, mayapple, bloodroot, Dutchman’s breeches, Virginia bluebells, and eastern shooting star, to name a few, provide a surprise addition to our woodland borders for a short window before the tree canopy fills out. The diversity of leaf and flower shapes for ephemeral plants are fascinating, and it’s great fun to design spring beds with that in mind.”







# Katie Booth

Horticulturist

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“My favorite part of *Spring Blooms* is watching the changes happen throughout The Garden.

Every day there is something new. Is this *Hamamelis* fragrant? Is the bloodroot up yet?

What’s next in that bed? The anticipation is killing me!”







# Matt McNeer

Horticulturist

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“One thing I love about *Spring Blooms* is the dazzling colors after many months of cold and gray weather. It’s very refreshing to see everything around you coming back to life and it always inspires me.”





# Rodrigo Jordy

Horticulturist

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“As the spring equinox returns the balanced diurnal photoperiod, we once again elate in the chorus of life, vigor, and growth. *Spring Blooms* is a time to imbibe in the floriferous theater that is nature’s act 1, scene 1.”





# Jaime Frye

Assistant Curator of Living Collections

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“I think the most rewarding piece of the *Spring Blooms* experience is watching my friends’ designs come to life. I’m fortunate enough to see the entire progression, from their inspiration collages to the procurement of the plants, getting them all in the ground, and finally being rewarded with an explosion of color eight months after the process began.”





# Ian Wilhite

Greenhouse Horticulturist and Orchid Specialist

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“The best thing about *Spring Blooms* at Newfields is the botanical diversity. We have plants from all over the world, from old garden favorites that are comforting and nostalgic to new exotic species that intrigue and inspire. Each day is new and exciting, inside and out.”





# Sue Nord Peiffer

Greenhouse Manager

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“My favorite thing about *Spring Blooms* is watching the unfolding of the season. It can start with tiny wildflowers and bulbs in the frost and finishes with a floral spectacle in the warm sunshine.”





# Marian Keith

Greenhouse Coordinator

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“All spring bulbs are special, but my favorite ones by far are the tulips. Their broad range of sizes, shapes, and colors offers an endless array of design possibilities, and their vivid, joyful hues are just what’s needed after a long, gray winter.”





# Greg Butts

Art and Nature Park Coordinator

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“I love the waking of the woods, a reminder of how beautiful change can be. The spring wildflowers emerging from their winter nap and animals returning to the park brighten my day.”



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A PLACE FOR NATURE & THE ARTS