

Meet the
**Green
Team**

Newfields Horticulture Staff



Chad Franer

The Tom and Nora Hiatt Director of Horticulture

“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

“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

“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

“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!”



Leah Coughlin

Assistant Horticulturist

“My favorite part of spring is the changing of the energy. I love how the landscape intensifies from various browns and grays to greens and rainbow colors. Everything happens in a matter of weeks, and it feels like there are different flowers blooming every couple of days.”



Marian Keith

Horticulturist

“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.”



James Brown

Horticulturist

“The trees are my favorite part of spring. Watching the progression of emerging blooms and fresh foliage is something I look forward to every year.”



Ian Wilhite

Greenhouse Horticulturist and Orchid Specialist

“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

“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.”



Sonya Ogdén

Greenhouse Assistant

“I like searching for spring ephemeral blooms since they don’t last very long. When I notice them, it’s like a little secret I get to enjoy.”



Lisa Milton

Manager of Natural Resources

“During *Spring Blooms*, I love being in the Park and hearing the sounds of the emerging birds.

The tiny plants growing into a layer of lush, spring ephemerals covering the forest floor are a sure sign of warmer days to come.”



Paul Hilton

Horticulture and Natural Resources Coordinator

“For me, the best part of spring is the green. The first greens of the year are always bold and are a great kickoff to the season.”



Jaime Frye

Assistant Curator of Living Collections

“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.”



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