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Images available upon request.

Two Newfields horticulturists receive high honors

Chad Franer and Gwyn Rager have been recognized for important achievements

INDIANAPOLIS, Oct. 10, 2017—Newfields horticulturists, Chad Franer and Gwyn Rager, have been recognized for important achievements within the garden industry.

The Arts Council of Indianapolis has selected Chad Franer, director of horticulture at The Garden at Newfields, as a 2017–2018 Creative Renewal Arts Fellow. Launched in 1999, the fellowship program allows artists and arts administrators the opportunity to reinvigorate their work by renewing and refreshing their creativity. Fellows are awarded a monetary grant to use toward activities that they believe will refresh their creativity and recharge their work. With this generous grant, Franer will travel to Japan to study garden design in iconic Japanese gardens, while also studying plants in the wild. Through this trip he plans to bring back garden and plant inspiration for The Garden at Newfields.

This is the first time that the Creative Renewal Arts Fellowship has gone to a horticulturist. By awarding Franer, the Arts Council of Indianapolis said it was also recognizing horticulture as a true art form. The fellowships are awarded on a biennial basis and funded through a grant from Lilly Endowment Inc.

Franer has worked at The Garden at Newfields for nearly 20 years. Over the years he has managed The Garden's restoration and expansion, and facilitated the opening of The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art and Nature Park: 100 Acres at Newfields.

Last month, the Chanticleer Foundation Board of Directors named Gwyn Rager as the latest recipient of the prestigious Chanticleer Scholarship in Professional Development. This scholarship promotes creativity and leadership by providing professional development opportunities for staff at public gardens. Since 2008, the scholarship has supported 47 public garden professionals from gardens of all types and sizes. The program focuses on two core components: academic study to improve leadership skills and travel support to meet with industry leaders.

With this scholarship Rager will attend the *Art of Gardening at Great Dixter Symposium* in East Sussex, England to study garden design and maintenance, as well as visiting gardens throughout the UK and Europe. Her scholarship recently supported her participation in a four-day garden design workshop presented by Chanticleer and led by British garden designer, Annie Guilfoyle.

Rager has worked as a horticulturist at The Garden at Newfields for 16 years. She started working in the Rapp Family Ravine Garden as an assistant horticulturist. Most recently, Rager designed and implemented the popular Alice's Garden, the unique pop-up garden featured in *Spring Blooms: Celebration of Color*. Rager is also known for her container designs around Garden Terrace and the Richard A. and Helen J. Dickinson Four Seasons Garden.

"The Garden at Newfields is lucky to have such talented, knowledgeable and dedicated members on its horticulture team. We are so proud that they have been recognized for their artistry, hard work and dedication," said Jonathan Wright, Ruth Lilly Deputy Director of Horticulture and Natural Resources. "I am very excited about their upcoming study and travels and look forward to the inspiration they will both bring back to Newfields."

About Newfields

Newfields offers dynamic experiences with art and nature for guests of all ages. The 152-acre cultural campus features art galleries, lush gardens, a historic home, performance spaces, a nature preserve and sculpture park. From inspiring exhibitions in the IMA Galleries, to concerts in The Toby, to a stroll through The Garden with a glass of something cold, guests are invited to interact with art and nature in exciting new ways. Newfields is home to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, among the ten largest and ten oldest general art museums in the nation; the Lilly House, a National Historic Landmark; The Garden, featuring 40 acres of contemporary and historic gardens, a working greenhouse and an orchard; and The Virginia B. Fairbanks Art & Nature Park: 100 Acres, one of the largest art and nature parks in the country. The Newfields campus extends outside of Indianapolis with Miller House and Garden in Columbus, Ind.—one of the nation's most highly regarded examples of mid-century Modernist architecture. For more information visit www.imamuseum.org.

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