

Our passion

Some employees have their say.

J.S. Pennings. Vice-chairman Board of Directors

“As a member of the Board of Directors, and as a flower grower, I would like to share my passion for flowers with you. I grew up among the flower bulbs. I was raised with a love for the family business. As a small boy, I worked the land with my father. The way he talked about the business had an enormous impact on me. I always thought it was a small miracle to see the flowers bloom again in the spring. In the autumn, when the weather turns cold, wet and sombre, that’s when you plant new bulbs in the knowledge that nature will take its course and that they will bloom in all of their beauty and glory in the spring. That happens every year. As the flowers grow and bloom in the spring, everyone’s spirits improve, as does the weather. Isn’t nature amazing? What a kick it gives! I think it’s a great honour to be able to share my passion with Keukenhof. Now I can share my enthusiasm for flowers and our wonderful business with everyone involved with Keukenhof, both the organisers and the visitors. I hope that I’ll be able to continue doing so for a long time to come

Esther Kelder – van Rhoon

Has worked in the garden since 2006.

“The change in seasons, each with its own individual magic, really appeals to me.

Every season has its own tasks that need to be done, which makes the work very diverse. I and 30 other gardeners work year-round in the park.

My responsibilities include: during the season, I maintain the park and keep everything neat and clean. After the season we harvest all 7 million flower bulbs, prune hedges and weed the beds. In the fall, we lay out the plant beds and plant the bulbs. Before the season starts, we plant the grass and rake everything smooth, and we’re ready to open.”

Elly Christoffersen, Secretary

Has worked in Keukenhof since 1998.

Every year, I’m impressed by the magnificent beauty of the colours that suddenly appear in the spring. The bulbs are planted in the autumn, nothing seems to happen in the winter, and then it seems like the colours appear overnight.

Sometimes you can go home on Friday and the ground is still just black earth, but when you come back on Monday morning there’s a green film over the ground. The grass sprouts have come up!

The park is beautiful in the spring as well as the rest of the year: every season has its own charm. The trees and shrubs, the animals that live here, the water, the light, everything is just so beautiful.

2010 will be my 13th opening period, but it never becomes monotonous!

All of the people from so many different countries, all of those languages, it is impressive to be able to see around 800,000 visitors enjoy themselves in the park.

Who is lucky enough to have such a job? I’m very proud of Keukenhof!