

Friends of the Domes

Current and Upcoming Events

St. Patrick's Family Day at the Domes

Saturday March 17th,
Noon-4: 30 pm

Celebrate the day and take in a bit of the Irish with food, dance, presentations and live music.



Green Fair

Mid-May 2007 (date to be announced)
"Keeping Greater Milwaukee Beautiful" staff and the Domes will sponsor a Fair highlighting green initiatives and programs. Conservation tips, products and new ways to help our environment clean will be available.

Summer Show in the Show Dome – "Past Times in the Park"

June 9th – Sept 9th

Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Milwaukee County Park Commission. See how historically the parks have added value to our lives and communities and how that legacy continues today in the many memories we cherish.

Special Show Dome Preview Night for FOD members

Friday March 30 5-8pm

Come and view the Spring show before the general public. Free for members.

"Cinco de Mayo"

May 5th- a cultural celebration of our many diverse communities and neighbors. Look for upcoming details!

Desert Night

Thursday June 21st 6-9 pm

Celebrate the summer solstice with exhibits that showcase the culture and art of those communities that have called the desert their home. Tour the Arid Dome and find out about the relevancy and healing powers of particular plants in other cultures. Special Event Fee applies. (to be announced)

Spring Show in the Show Dome – "Miss Spider's Garden Party"

March 31st – May 28th

Explore this beloved classic tale and see the important role insects and other animals play in planning a successful garden.



Mother's Day at the Domes

Sunday May 13th

Treat your mother or grandmother to a visit to the Conservatory and use the springtime backdrop to take a family photo for the memory book! Take time out for a cup of tea or coffee and something sweet to celebrate her day. Nominal fee for food and drink.

Fall in Love with Orchids – Fall Orchid Show

Sept 15th & 16th

The Wisconsin Orchid Society will offer advice and orchids for show and sale.



The Gift of Reading/Community Day

Sunday April 22nd 11-4 pm

The focus is on reading. Join our guest celebrity and others in a children's reading session and receive a free book!



Special Show Dome Preview Night for FOD members

Friday June 8 5-8pm

Come and view the Summer Show before the general public. Free for members.

Continued on page 4

The Tropical Scoop

By Tanned Tammy & Coco Carl

Hello Friends! Here's an early February report on the happenings in the Tropical Dome. As many of you may have noticed, the Amaryllis bulbs have been in bloom, providing a beautiful display of assorted colors ranging from deep scarlet to orange with white stripes. We have two types of amaryllis, the early set of bulbs are South African grown, the later set are Dutch grown, blooming in that order. The staff would like to thank the Friends for purchasing these beauties, which have long been a tradition in the Tropical Dome. Without your support, these horticultural treasures would have gone by the wayside and one more important layer in our tropics would be missing. As an aside, the Friends ordered enough of these plants to sell some in the Gift Shoppe, which helped offset part of the purchase costs. Thank you!

Regular visitors will have enjoyed the many tropical orchids blooming

throughout these dreary winter months. We've had great success in regional orchid shows, thanks to the efforts of Bil Nelson, resident orchid expert. On his own time, Bil participates in various events throughout the mid-west and kindly enters our plants in the competitions. Due to his efforts, we now have a wall of ribbons ranging from third place all the way up to Best Species in Show! Some of you may recognize Bil as the past president of the Wisconsin Orchid Society. He is also the Regional Director of the International Phalaenopsis Alliance, and an Accredited American Orchid Society Judge. In March 2007, Bil will be traveling to Japan and Taiwan for the Japan Grand Prix and The Taiwan International Orchid Show! Way to go Bil! Next time you see him, be sure to let him know how much you enjoy the orchid collection that he is so dedicated to.

As the days get longer Mother Nature is triggering the tropical plants to begin a new growth cycle. We can see

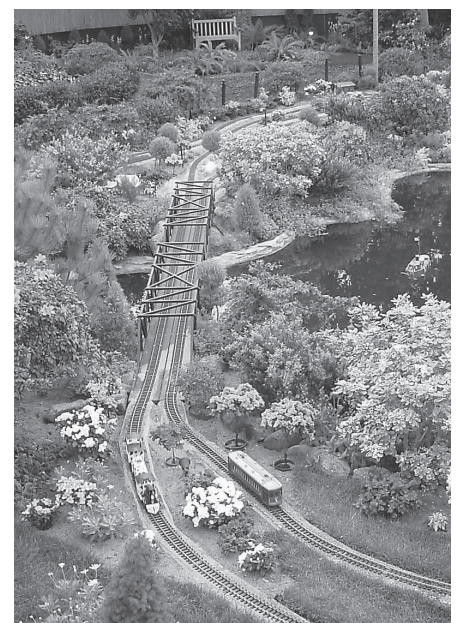
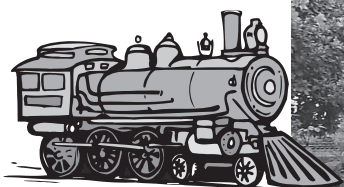
this by new leaf buds forming as well as flowers appearing. For growing under glass, this is the perfect time to start pruning for shape and size as well as to open up the crowns to allow more sun down to the understory (or forest floor). To do this, we will rent a platform lift and meander over the paths, eventually pruning both sides of the dome. It's quite a production that requires about 2 weeks to complete. Visit soon so that you can see the drastic difference between the 'before and after'!

In conjunction with the longer days, we will be increasing the fertilizing frequency of the tropical plants. We use a higher nitrogen formula in a diluted solution combined with micro-nutrients for best results. We've noticed that the micro-nutrients have made a big difference in the growth habits of many plants.

Well Friends, that's the tropical scoop for this newsletter. Visit soon and often -see you here!

"LAST TRAIN TO TOWNTOWN"

Photos by Kathy Weber



**FROM THE DESK OF
THE FRIENDS OF THE
DOMES PRESIDENT:
Roger Krawiecki**



Wednesday December 6, 2006 is a day to remember. On that day the Domes were rattled by the Falk Corporation explosion that occurred in the valley. The explosion occurred a little bit after 8:00 AM. On that day was scheduled a senior health fair. That event had to be pushed to Thursday because the Domes were closed along with the 27th street viaduct. Luckily only one pane of glass in the lobby shattered due to the vibrations from the explosion. The Domes have been structurally checked and nothing was found. That's a very good sign for a 40 year old structure.

Welcome Sandy Folaron! In January,

Sandy officially became the Director of the Domes. Sandy has jumped right into her new job. It seems she is at the Domes all of the time. She has set up some short term fixes and long term goals. She even rearranged the lobby furniture and planters to give the place a whole new look and feel. Sandy has some great ideas.

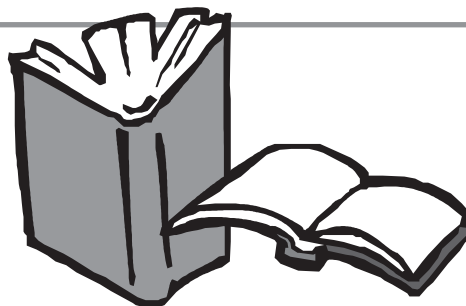
Good-bye Kathy Weber! Kathy has been the Administrative Assistant to the Board of Directors since March 9, 2001. Kathy has consistently taken care of our membership database and all of the renewals and new memberships. Kathy has also edited the newsletter and mailed out all of the correspondence to our members. She attended our board meetings in order to document our minutes. She has been very important to the stability of our organization. The Board will miss her.

The Social Committee has been doing a great job planning events with the Domes. We just celebrated a wonderful Valentine's Evening at the Domes. It feels so good seeing all of the happy people. The lights in the tropical dome were turned down low so that the candles could light the way. I am sure there was a lot of kissing going on along the darkened paths.

It is time to start thinking about Spring. It is time to start thinking about melting snow and Spring bulbs. Again this year we will be selling plants from the Spring Show. The sale will take place on Saturday June 2nd.

Do you have ideas for the Domes that you want to share? I can be reached by phone, 414-384-0161, mail, Roger Krawiecki, 1020 S. Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee, WI 53215-1633, or by email, rkrawiecki@sbcglobal.net.

The Gift of Reading Community Day at the Domes



Sunday, April 22, 2007, 11-4:00 p.m.

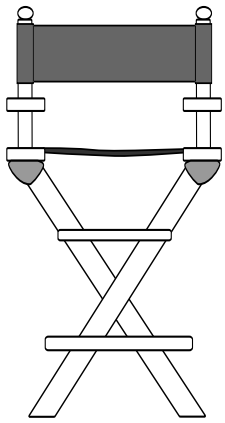
Mitchell Park Domes
524 South Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215
\$ 1.00 per person

The Gift of Reading Community Day is an event for children and their families to spend time together at the Mitchell Park Domes. While in the Domes, children can explore different worlds through reading, listening to stories read by community members, creating crafts and other activities. Each child between birth and 5th grade age will receive a book to keep.

Please mail, fax or hand-in form to:
Laura Deall (Student Coordinator)
Domes Education Center
524 S. Layton Blvd. (27th Street)
Milwaukee, WI 53215
Fax: (414) 649-8616
Phone: (414) 649-8375

THE GIFT OF READING REGISTRATION FORM	
Parent Name:	_____
Number of Children:	_____
AGES OF CHILDREN:	
Birth-2years: ____	Pre-Kindergarten (3years): ____
Kindergarten (K4-K5): ____	First: ____
Second: ____	Third: ____
Fourth: ____	Fifth: ____

Please return form to the Domes by March 7, 2007.



DIRECT FROM THE DIRECTOR

Sandy Folaron

A Letter of Introduction..

I am sure many of you are surprised to find a new director at the helm. I know I am! But it sure feels like a good fit. The potential here is tremendous and the many “Friends” and volunteers that I already have met bring a dynamic presence and energy to these Domes and the value they bring to the lives of our visitors.

My work is certainly cut out for me. There is so much to do to connect and

bring about more private/public partnerships and collaborations that will help us to bring the changes that are needed to attract a whole new generation of users. Events, sponsorships and engaging community and corporate support will all play an important part in moving this facility ahead. And I am asking for your help. Everyone has connections; your job, your friends, your neighbors and the contacts you make in your daily lives. Those connections can help us whether it is in the form of volunteers, donations and company matching funds or more members. With a membership base that’s 1,000 members strong, just think how many connections can be made! Even volunteering for just one of the “Friends” sponsored events will help make a difference in the bottom line and the viability of this Milwaukee icon.

I found out that I am not the only one with ideas! Everyone has a vision and a new plan to see these Domes reach

their full potential. But all of these ideas require some very hands-on involvement to make it a reality. As I move ahead with several initiatives this year I will need and ask for your support. Signage to better market our events and Seasonal Shows, creating a night-time presence with additional lighting, working to update and restore this one-of-a-kind structure and connecting to nation wide green initiatives that relate to today’s issues and headlines. What a difference we can make! It certainly falls on our shoulders to “pass the torch” to another generation of Dome users. Let’s use this opportunity to work together and make this Conservatory reflect the face of the future, not just a memory for reminiscing.

I look forward to meeting you and promise to keep you updated as we move ahead in 2007.

Sandy

Current & Upcoming Events

Continued from page 1

“Italian Night” at Mia Famiglia’s Restaurant *

Monday September 17 6-9pm

An evening of fun, food and raffles.

Special Show Dome Preview Night for FOD members

Friday September 21 5-8pm

Come and view the Fall Show before the general public. Free for members.

Fall Show in the Show Dome – “School Days”

Sept 22nd – Nov. 4th

Green Career Day

Oct 2007 (tentative)

Rainforest Night

Friday Oct. 12th 6-9:30 pm (details to follow)

Ikebana Show, Japanese flower arranging

Oct. 19th – 21st

Winter Show in the Show Dome – “Holiday on Village Square”

Nov. 17th – Jan 6th 2008

Balloon-a-Palooza

Nov. 17th – 25th

Come see and experience the largest balloon art exhibit in the USA.

Cartoon characters, mazes, and unbe-

lievable balloon creations await you and your family here at the Domes. **Friends of the Domes Holiday Dinner Party ***

Thursday November 29 6-9pm

Enjoy a fun filled evening with cocktails, dinner, and a raffle. Sit in the Show Dome for an elegant and colorful setting for your holiday meal.

Senior Health Day

Dec. 2007 (tentative)

New Year’s Eve at the Domes *

Monday Dec. 31st 6-10 pm

Join us at the Domes as we usher in the New Year with live music, magic, comedy and food at this family oriented event.

* indicates reduced admission cost for FOD

Featured PLANT

Welwitschia- Most bizarre plant on Earth?

by Gail Schumann



Welwitschia mirabilis grows in southwestern Africa. You may have walked by it in the Arid Dome without even noticing. It consists of only two strap-shaped leaves, up to six feet long, growing out from the crown of the plant across the ground. Despite this strange growth form, typical life spans range from 400 to 1500 years! The leaves may shred apart over time until it looks like there are more than two. Animals, such as antelope and rhinoceros, sometimes chew on the leaves, but the meristem near the crown of the plant allows the leaves to just keep growing. This is the same way that grass grows again after being mowed.

Welwitschia grows in the Namib desert where there are frequent fogs. The long, downward drooping leaves help collect condensation from the fog to water the roots. The long tap root also absorbs water from the infrequent rains. Plants adapted to desert life, (cacti, succulents and

Welwitschia) must keep their stomata (air exchange pores on the leaf) closed during the day to conserve water. They use a special form of photosynthesis to produce their food. Carbon dioxide gas is absorbed in the cooler dark hours, when the stomata are open, and is stored as 4-carbon organic acids. During the daylight, these acids break down and release CO₂, so photosynthesis can proceed without water loss from open stomata.

It takes two *Welwitschia* plants for reproduction: a male plant and a female plant. The male cones produce pollen which must travel to the female cones. Cone-bearing plants are typically wind pollinated, but both male and female *Welwitschia* cones produce nectar to attract insect pollinators. The seeds have a papery coat and are wind-dispersed.

Welwitschia is named for an Austrian explorer, Friedrich Welwitsch, even though he wanted to use the native Angolan name, Tumboa. The species name “*mirabilis*” comes from the Latin for “marvelous.” *Welwitschia* is a gymnosperm, distantly related to conifers, ginkgos and cycads. It belongs to the gnetophyte subgroup- all quite different from each other and from other plants. *Welwitschia*'s close relatives have all become extinct, but you can see another desert-adapted gnetophyte in the Arid Dome- *Ephedra*, also known as Mormon tea.

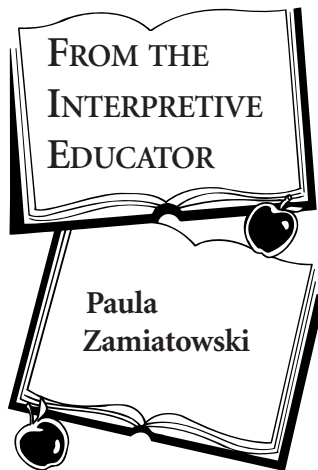
Fundraising Items Needed for FOD Events!

We have two fundraising events scheduled for fall 2007. One is a new and very different, off site event, held at Mia Famiglia Restaurant on September 17th. The other is our annual Friends of the Domes Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser on November 29th.

We are looking for fundraising items for these two events and are looking for your help. Its never too early to think about items you may be able to donate! We could use items such as event tickets, gift certificates, new gift items, etc. If you have anything to donate, please call Mary Philipp at 414-332-2115 or email: mhphilipp@kp4law.com. Thanks in advance!

Emails Recently Sent to Members

In an effort to notify our members of upcoming events between newsletter publications, we normally send out approximately two emails per month. If you have not received at least two in February announcing our Valentines events, then perhaps we don't have an updated email address for you. Also, when we do an email blast, we normally get 20-30 messages back, indicating that our email address was blocked.. Please take note if you have not received anything from us lately and be sure our email address is not blocked on your computer. Our address is: domesgs@sbcglobal.net. We hope to send out more and more email notifications so we want to be able to get through to you! Thanks for your help!



Every Wednesday (12:30 – 3:30 p.m.), three high school students from MMIB work on educational material in the Education Center, greet visitors and care for the plants in the gift shop. Here is an article by my students about their experience this school year...so far!

Out of the Classroom, Into the World

*Maxwell Alexander, Colin McNeely,
Zachary Castillo
Marshall Montessori International
Baccalaureate (IB) High School
work-study students*

Stepping off the city bus, feeling the sharp bite in the chilly air, we walked, three in a line, towards the great expanse of horticulture that is the Mitchell Park Domes. Coming from MMIB High School, much of our education is based on and around hands-on learning techniques, one of these being volunteer work at student-chosen locations, also known as “Staging Areas.” The other students in attendance at MMIB chose such locations as Luther Manor Retirement Home, Craig Montessori School, or Milwaukee Art Museum; however, ours happened to be the Mitchell Park Domes. Every Wednesday afternoon, the three of us came to the Domes to partake in projects

to learn about and help beautify the world outside of our classrooms. To date, we have undertaken many



Zach, Max and Colin in the Arid Dome

projects, including a “Plant of the Week” series, animal fact sheets for our rescued animals, as well as care sheets for many plants that are commonly found as houseplants that also reside in the Domes. Besides these projects, we also have helped with various tour nights, specifically “Rainforest Night,” a guided tour of our rainforest dome, along with various samples of food that come from the rainforests of the world. Over time, the Domes have not only become a staging area, but a new classroom, a place to learn, truly have hands-on experiences, as well as a preview as to what our lives will look like in the future.

I am always pleasantly surprised at the talented, fun kids that come through the Domes doors daily! Here’s a poem that some of my 5th grade students from Meadowview Elementary wrote for the Education Center. If you get a chance, stop-in and see the collage they created to go with the poem. It is displayed in the Center. Enjoy the poetry!

DOMES

Point, prickly, sticky spines,
Yellows, greens, purples...colors divine.
Cactus blooming.
Who’s to say,
The desert’s not alive every day?

Hot, damp, hard to breathe,
Tough to see the birds in trees.
Smell of the earth,
Green plants growing,
And everywhere water dripping and flowing.

Calm, peaceful, warm and homey,
Dry, sweet smelling, loud water flowing.
Riots of red, pink, green and white.
The show dome is an amazing sight.

*Cody, Hailey, Lani, Nick, Taylor
Meadowview Elementary School*

Join AAA –Receive a Discount!

As a member of the Friends of the Domes, you are eligible to receive a 15% discount off the cost of AAA membership. Call AAA at 414-423-2180 ext 224 or note this when you send in your AAA membership renewal. Mention group number 4026.

The Domes Offer Many New Special Events Just for You!

If you have been an FOD member for awhile, you will notice that the Friends are offering many new and exciting events at the Domes... events very different from those normally held the past few years.

In January the second "Restaurants Under Glass" was held. We had a huge turnout for that event with both members and the public commenting on how wonderful it was to have such a large variety of restaurants to choose from. We had the large Balloon Sculpture display in November, Santa Claus visiting the Domes after the

Christmas parade, and later this year, the first "off site" Friends event to be held at an area restaurant.

In the past year we have tried to keep costs low for members and in some cases, have allowed Friends members free admission for specific special events held in the evenings.

With the rising costs of food and entertainment however, it's not always possible to put on an event and cover these costs without having some fee for Friends members. In the future, we will try to keep your costs as low as possible. If we must charge admission,

there will ALWAYS be a reduced admission cost for Friends of the Domes' members. Watch the newsletters and special mailings you receive announcing upcoming events and their costs.

We value your support and encourage you to visit us often and participate in all our events. Much time and energy is spent on planning these events for our members, and we encourage you to come often and bring your friends and family for many fun "evening" visits to the Domes!

FOD Members... Mark your Calendars for these Two Great Events

"ITALIAN NIGHT!" AT MIA FAMIGLIA RESTAURANT

Monday, September 17
6:00-9:00pm



Located at: 10049 W. Forest Home Ave., Hales Corner 53130
Voted the most romantic garden patio seating...it's perfect for the plant lover in all of us!

Support the Domes mark your calendars and join us for a fun evening of Food, Drink & Raffles. The restaurant will be closed to the public for this event. Relax in the outside paradise garden seating or enjoy the luxurious atmosphere of the restaurant inside and take a chance on winning the raffle baskets!

*Price and reservation form, next newsletter

FRIENDS OF THE DOMES HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY

The Annual Holiday Dinner and Basket Raffle
Thursday, November 29th
6:00-9:00pm

Imagine being seated in the elegant Show Dome Christmas Garden!

While you are there..... refresh your spirit with the serenity of nature. Stop and Relax, awaken your senses with the distinct aromas of a Desert, the brilliant colors of a Christmas Garden, and the gentle rush of a Tropical Waterfall.

Cocktails at 6:00pm - Dinner at 7:00pm
Dinner will be catered by Ellen Zilli's Catering
The Mitchell Park Domes - 524 South Layton Boulevard
Cost of dinner will be announced in August newsletter



Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____ Date _____

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$20 Student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 Student & One Guest |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$30 Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Individual & 3 Guests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$40 Family | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 Contributing |

Make your check payable and mail to:

Friends of the Domes
524 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

Please contact me about volunteering!

A Friends Membership makes a great gift!
If interested in a gift membership call 414-383-3818

Calendar of Events

March 17 (12-4:30pm)St Patrick's Day Event
 March 30 (5-8pm)Spring Show preview night
 March 31-May 27Spring Floral Show "Miss Spider's Garden"
 April 22Community Reading Day
 May 13Mother's Day Event
 June 8 (5-8pm)Summer Show preview night
 June 9-Sept 9Summer Floral Show "Past Times in the Park"
 June 21 (6-9pm)Desert Night
 Sept 15-16Orchid Show
 Sept 17 (6-9pm)Italian Night Fundraiser
 Sept 21 (5-8pm)Fall Show preview night
 Sept 22-Nov 4Fall Show "School Days"
 October 12Rainforest Night
 October 19-21Ikebana Japanese Floral Show
 Nov 17- Jan 6Winter Floral Show "Holiday on Village Square"
 Nov 17-25Balloon - a - Palooza
 November 29FOD Holiday Dinner & Fundraiser
 December 31 (6-10pm)New Year's Eve at the Domes

Admission Rates: Adults \$5.00, Seniors \$3.50, Children 6-17 \$3.50, Free 5 and under. Milwaukee County Residents free on Mondays (excluding major holidays) 9am-11:30am.

Mitchell Park Domes: 414-649-9830 · Friends of the Domes: 414-383-3818
 E-mail: domesgs@sbcglobal.net

FRIENDS OF THE DOMES 2007/2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS	
OFFICERS	
President	Roger Krawiecki
First Vice President	Phillip Rozga
Second Vice President	Clay Ecklund
Third Vice President	Mary Phillip
Fourth Vice President	VACANT
Treasurer	Terrell Ford
Recording Secretary	Susan Ford
Corresponding Secretary	VACANT
BOARD MEMBERS	
Diane Bucher	Barbara Mangold
ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF	
Kathy Weber	Administrative Asst.
Sally Buckland	Bookkeeper



NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MILWAUKEE, WI
PERMIT NO. 2305

ADDRESS
SERVICE
REQUESTED