From the Directors Chair

Where did the summer go? In the haze of construction dust and contractors coming and going around the clock, I have lost all perception of a season past. It’s time now to focus on the reopening of the Domes and welcome our regular staff back from a summertime of reassigments. Much has changed, much has been accomplished and much is left to do! The projects that took place these last few months have given me a rare opportunity to learn, understand and re-evaluate how we manage our facility and keep Milwaukee residents, actually all of our visitors, excited and inspired to continue to visit the Domes.

We have been diligently working on upcoming Shows. God Jul, a Scandinavian Holiday Celebration, has been more fun than work! We formed a committee of seven different groups that range from the Nordic Council to the Sons of Norway and the Danish Sisterhood! These volunteers will be providing us with wonderful family collectibles and ethnic decorations to use in our show. Look for the huge “himmeli” and “dala” horses installed alongside a 35 foot spruce tree. Yes, that’s right, we are bringing back the BIG TREE. If I have heard it once, I’ve heard it a hundred times… we want the big tree back! Our committee partners will also be helping us by providing entertainment (music and dancing groups) during the weekend for our visitors. I hope that you will also support the Domes by joining us for the Friends Holiday Dinner and Fund-raiser on November 23rd. The theme of the dinner will tie right into our God Jul Show, so mark your calendars and make sure you get your reservation booked. I have a feeling that tickets are going to go very fast!

That will bring us right up to Lego Land, our 2009 Train Show. Hard to believe, but we have been working on this theme since last spring! Again, outside partnerships have been formed to allow us to do things that we otherwise wouldn’t have the resources to do! The Milwaukee County Historical Society, MSOE students and Lego itself have all pitched in and helped us to lay out...

continued on page 2

Current and Upcoming Events

Enchanted Autumn
October 20 through November 9 in the Show Dome

God Jul
Opens November 22
Annual Holiday Show

Annual Holiday Party
Sunday, Nov. 23 6-8:30 p.m.
Join the Friends of the Domes for the Annual Holiday Party and Fundraiser. A Norwegian dinner will complement the Show Dome's “God Jul” Scandinavian Theme. Details Inside.

New Years Eve Family Night
December 31

Restaurants Under Glass
Friday, Jan. 30, 6:30-8:30 pm
Join the Friends of the Domes to support the Conservatory for our 3rd annual event. Try samples from some of the Milwaukee Area’s premier restaurants.

Lego Land Train Show
Winter Show Opens January 17
Modern Technology for the Domes

The Friends of the Domes have stepped into the technology age. The Friends have constructed an on line resource for members as well as the general public to use. [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org) is an informational wonderland with historical information, technical data, upcoming events, general Milwaukee Domes information, rental/use guidelines, volunteer opportunity postings, gift shop purchasing, a video presentation and much more. Members may now pay for their membership online and new Friends can join with a click of a mouse. Our Friends website even allows philanthropic minded website visitors to donate securely online via credit card or to sponsor one of the Milwaukee Domes fauna residents. Log in and explore today. No website could display the grandeur of our Domes; still www.milwaukeedomes.org is an online showpiece worthy of THE premier showpiece of Milwaukee’s southern skyline. Please log in, check it out and let us know what you think. While you are there, why not get a jump on your Christmas shopping!

*Steve Libbey from INET*

From the Director

*continued from page 1*

a memorable Lego city! The Train Show appeals to all age groups and is one of the most popular shows we host. And I don’t want to forget to acknowledge the horticulturists for all of their hard work in trimming, cleaning and planting in the Domes. Because of the shutdown we were able to tackle some projects that are difficult to do since we are open to the public every day! It has allowed us the luxury of pruning in areas that are usually inaccessible and add plants, stone and soil to our garden beds. (Look for the historical Lion Fountain Head from the old conservatory sunken gardens!)

Good things are happening and a page had been turned for a new chapter in the life of the Domes. Be part of that history and change and support us by volunteering or connecting us with others. The future looks bright!

*Sandy Folaron*
*Domes Director*

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.

We Need Your Support

Volunteers needed... Bring your smiles, and join the excitement of The Domes re-opening. Meet new friends. We are in need of some people to work in the newly relocated gift shop. Meet new friends and become a greeter. Whatever your interest is, we will work with you to utilize your talents to further our mission of supporting and promoting Milwaukee's unique historical landmark. Make a difference and volunteer at “The Domes”.

Debbie LaDue
Volunteer coordinator
414-546-4661
E-mail, debidazzle@aol.com

From the Friends Corner

If you have a small article, you would like to see in the newsletter or a picture of the Domes. You can mail it to: Darlene Dorsett, % the Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI. 53215
FROM THE DESK OF THE FRIENDS OF THE DOMES PRESIDENT:
Roger Krawiecki

Progress is being made on the Domes enhancements. So much has already taken place but there is still more to complete. Unfortunately this has delayed the opening of the Domes. At this time the Domes and fall show are scheduled to open on Monday October 20th. On Wednesday evening November 5th plans for a grand reopening are being made. Before going to the Domes please call the Domes recorded message at 414-649-9800 for the most current information.

Here are just some of the things that are taking place at the Domes. In the tropical dome the path has been repaired, the plants have been trimmed way back, and the Friends are providing financial support to replace the deck in the middle of the dome by the pond. In the arid dome a large palm tree that started leaning has been removed. The globe is being removed in preparation of a new display. The plants have been trimmed back. Major trimming has also occurred in the show dome. A permanent stage opposite the entrance is being designed. A permanent path will be installed when funds become available.

In all three domes the new lighting is being installed. Rings of light at the top of all three domes have been installed. The show dome will have extra lighting that will be computerized for special evening light shows. I have seen the arid dome at night and it just glowed with the framework taking on a look that I have never seen before. I can not wait to see all three domes fully lighted. A special Friends of the Domes evening event will be planned once we know all of the lighting is in place.

The lobby area has seen the most changes. This was necessary to plan ahead for changes that will occur next year. New growing greenhouses will be built behind the gift shop. The current gift shop space will be needed to access the new greenhouses. The decision was made to move the gift shop to the front office and admissions area. Admissions will be inside the vestibule. The Education Center will temporarily be in the old gift shop. The stone wall in the middle of the lobby has been removed in order to open up the lobby. The bathrooms are getting a makeover.

The goal is to get the Domes open. The new gift shop space will not be ready by October 20th. Currently we are shooting for Saturday November 15th to be open. We want to be open for the holiday show. The space will be about half the square footage of the current space. However the new location will have natural lighting and be more visible. It will also be more convenient for people that just want to come to the shop to make a purchase.

This is an exciting time for the Domes. Thank you for staying with us. Your membership support allows us to provide some financial support for some of these capital improvements. As an example we have purchased six new light fixtures to replace the ceiling fan lights that are currently located in the vestibule entrance.

I do have a non Domes item that I would like to discuss. On November 4th Election Day there will be a sales tax referendum on all Milwaukee County ballots. This is a referendum. It is not a vote to raise the sales tax. The referendum is to consider raising the sales tax in Milwaukee County by 1%. The increased revenue would be used for parks, recreational and cultural functions, emergency services and transit. This would then eliminate the support of these services from Milwaukee County property taxes. This shift in how these services are funded would allow for increased financial support. A very informative article titled “Real Property Tax Relief: A case for the sales tax referendum” can be found at www.expressmilwaukee.com. Please get informed on this referendum prior to Election Day. The future of our park system and mass transit depends on the outcome of this vote.

You can contact me by phone, 414-384-0161, or by email, rkr0161@comcast.net.

News from the Gift Shop

The Domes Gift Shop will reopen for Holiday shopping in November. We anticipate the opening to be November 15th and look forward to your visit. Our new location has its entry in the front lobby. We invite you to come in and look around the new shop.

The FOD website is available for information on the Domes, and the online shop is available for your convenience at www.milwaukeedomes.org.
The Wisconsin Orchid Society had a very successful show. No one seemed to mind that the Domes were under construction with a crane in the Show Dome and a couple of strings of construction lights (bulbs on a line enclosed by yellow baskets) helping to light the lobby. I spent the weekend (Friday through Sunday) at the show and had an opportunity to talk to many individuals. Everyone was very impressed at the "size" of the lobby.

The crane was barely mentioned though it was in the middle of the orchid displays. Attendance was a bit lower than last year, but in line with ’05 and ’06 – amazing!

Our own Richard Risch was entered in the show with a great display of postal stamps from around the world that featured orchids. He won the “Best of Show” award in the category of collectibles. He told me that he would like to do something for next year’s show. Even with our limited lighting in the lobby, I noticed many people stopping by his exhibit. Thank you, Richard.

With a glimpse of what’s happening with the renovations at the Domes, we are all looking forward to the opening and what that will bring. The Wisconsin Orchid Society thanks each and every individual who made this event a success.
Sponsor an Animal at Mitchell Park Domes!

Your one-year sponsorship will provide your chosen animal(s) a higher quality of life. Our resident animals live in the education center and our birds live in the tropical and arid domes. The fish tank is located in the lobby. Some of the items you will help provide include full spectrum lighting, basking lamps, specialty foods, supplements, veterinarian care and more. Your sponsorship is vital to continue the best care for these animal educators.

In return, you will receive a recognition certificate acknowledging your donation and a natural history profile of your sponsored animal(s).

HERE IS YOUR CHOICE LIST:

Three-toed Box Turtle ................. $40
Spiny-tailed Lizard .................. $40
White's Tree Frog .................. $30
Anole Lizard Species ................. $30
Green Singing Finch ................. $20
Java Finch ................................ $20
Pekin Robin .......................... $20
Spice Finch .......................... $20
Society Finch ......................... $20
Koi Fish in Tropical Pond ............ $25

Please cut at dotted line and mail to: Mitchell Park Domes, Attn: Gift Shop/Animal Sponsor
524 S Layton Blvd,
Milwaukee WI 53215

ADOPT AN ANIMAL REGISTRATION

Name____________________________________________________________
Address__________________________________________________________
City/State/Zip ____________________________________________________
Phone ___________________________________________________________

Animal Choice(s)
1.________________________________________________________________
2.________________________________________________________________
3.________________________________________________________________

Total Payment Enclosed $____________  Check_____________________
Charge#____________________________

Do you or your family or friends shop at any Pick ‘N Save? If so, you could help contribute to the Friends of the Domes while you shop. Here’s all there is to it. Go to the service desk at the front of the store and ask them to designate our charity code number (#243900) on your Advantage Card. You only have to register once. From then on, whenever you shop, a percentage of your grocery total will be automatically accumulated for the Friends. The more you use your card, the more “Wee Care” dollars for the Friends. This is a great and simple way to contribute towards our educational and cultural programs offered at the Domes.
Holiday Party and Fundraiser

Sunday, November 23, 2008
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Start the Holiday Season with the opening of the Show Dome’s “GOD JUL”, a fish boil dinner in the Norwegian tradition and entertainment to complement the theme of a Scandinavian holiday.

Dinner will include the following:
- Icelandic Cod Fish Boil
- Norwegian Meat Balls and Sauce
- Parsley Buttered Potatoes
- Green Beans Amandine
- Rye Breads and butter
- Flatbread and Lefse
- Jellied Cranberries
- Pickled Beets

Dessert to include: an assortment of Norwegian cookies
- Coffee, tea & milk

Bring your own beverage to the party.

The charge is $35 per person. Fifteen dollars of the fee is a tax-deductible donation to the FOD.

Please invite your friends and family to this Annual Holiday party.

Your contribution will support this Milwaukee landmark.

Send your check made payable to the Friends of the Domes to:
Deanna Andre
6114 South 92nd Street
Hales Corners, WI 53130
Phone: 414.525.1098

Please identify all individuals who are included in your payment.
Deadline for reservations: November 14, 2008
Some animals hide in holes or under rocks to avoid predators, but Lithops plants have figured out how to hide in “plain sight.” They are camouflaged to look similar to small round pebbles so animals are less likely to find and eat them. They are sometimes called “living stones” or “flowering stones,” and you may have walked right by them in the Arid Dome.

There are many species of Lithops, each adapted to a particular rocky area of southern Africa and found nowhere else. The name Lithops comes from a combination of two Greek words that mean “stone” and “face.” They exist in an amazing variety of colors and patterns. Lithops are succulents with a single pair of opposite leaves fused together with a slit in between. There is no real stem; the leaves attach directly to the taproot. Like other succulents, the thick, rounded leaves store water, so the plants can survive months without rain. The small surface area of the leaves also helps minimize water loss. When it is dry for a long period, the plant shrinks down into the sandy soil until it is almost level with the soil. The old leaves eventually dry out and become dry husks that later split open to reveal the new leaves.

A daisy-like flower is produced from between the two leaves and can be yellow or white. The flowers can nearly cover the small leaves. Flowering usually happens in the fall and early winter when rainfall occurs in the native habitat. Lithops are pollinated by insects. Later a capsule filled with seeds is produced. It releases a few seeds with each rainfall to increase the chances that some will germinate and become new plants.

These living “pet rocks” can even be grown in your house. They require almost no attention or water, especially in the winter. Lithops are adapted to intense sunlight, however, so they will need direct sun if grown as houseplants. There are many sources of these interesting plants in stores or on the internet where cacti and other exotics are sold.

Lithops (the same word is used for both singular and plural) are amazing plants. Look for them just inside the Arid Dome entrance that is across from the Show Dome. Some are growing in the ground and others are in pots. They vary from 1-3 inches wide and about 1 inch high. How many can you spot?
Membership Application

Name_____________________________________________________
Address________________________________________________________________________
City _____________________________________________________________________________
Phone___________________________ Date _____________________

❏ $20 Student  ❏ $25 Student & One Guest
❏ $30 Individual  ❏ $40 Individual & 3 Guests
❏ $40 Family  ❏ $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

January 17, 2009 ...............................................................Lego Land Train Show
January 24, 2009 ...........................................................Chinese New Year’s Celebration
January 30, 2009 ...........................................................Restaurants Under Glass
February 14, 2009 ............................................................Valentines Evening
March 15, 2009 .............................................................St Patrick’s Family Day Celebration
March 23, 2009 .........................................................Winter Show Closes
April 4, 2009 ...............................................................Spring in Yorkshire (English Garden)
April 12, 2009 .............................................................Easter
May 10, 2009 ...............................................................Mother’s Day Event
May 24, 2009 .............................................................Spring Show Closes
June 6, 2009 ...............................................................Summer in Provence (French Countryside)
June 21, 2009 .............................................................Father’s Day Event

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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.
www.milwaukeedomes.org

E-mail: domesgs@sbcglobal.net

Friends of the Domes

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