From the Directors Chair

Ever remodel a home, put in a new bathroom or fix up your basement? Well, then you might have some idea of what the Domes are like this summer during our shutdown for our restoration projects! It’s exhilarating, crazy busy, lots of last minute changes and project add-ons and yet, knowing the end result of these great updates to this incomparable Milwaukee icon somehow makes it all so fun and worthwhile.

As we move ahead and reconfigure traffic flows and a plan to better accommodate our visitors and our rental parties alike, we are cognizant of the historical nature and architecture of the Domes and their 40-year legacy. I have spoken with the original architect, Donald Grieb, several times over the course of these past weeks, to share the plans and vision of the construction and installations that are now on the table. Mr. Grieb has been invaluable and a very dynamic voice in defining the potential for this facility. He hopes to join us in October for our grand reopening ceremonies and I hope that many of you will join us as well (date still to be announced) for a momentous and historical gathering.

This is just the beginning folks! As we head into a new Domes era, we look to the future and plan to reenergize and refocus our efforts on bringing our facility back into the limelight! We need your help in creating these new programs and initiatives and ask that you, too, step up to the plate and support the Friends Board by becoming a volunteer, committee member or a resource for community partnerships and fundraising. Next year we begin the new Greenhouse installation. That will also offer all of us opportunities to connect to our members and all visitors with botanical programs and the creation of an Urban Agriculture project here in Mitchell Park.

So when you are all done “fishin” this summer, think of us! We count on you to make the difference and be part of the change that keeps us always moving forward.

Sandy Folaron
Domes Director

Current and Upcoming Events

Domes Opening
September 20, 2008
The Domes will reopen September 20 with its new face lift. Come see what we have done.

Orchid Show
September 20–21
Orchids shop has won awards. What a site to see. Come in and buy an orchid for your home or take some pictures.

Enchanted Autumn
Opens September 27th
When I hear enchanted it takes me to the forest of Hansel and Gretel.

All Dates subject to change.
Welcome New FOD Members!

We welcome all the new Friends members who have joined since the last newsletter was published. We appreciate your support and hope you enjoy frequent visits to the Domes! Remember, your membership allows you to visit the Domes as often as you like during business hours, and free admission to many special evening events as well.

Margaret Berner
Tracy & Josh Borzick
Cynthia Briselden
Nicole & Louis Bruner
Laura Clark
Lynne Cole
Dorothy Diggs
Cathy & Scott Dizack
Tim Dunne
Kristin Frandsen
Traci Gondek
Jeremy Guth
Judith Haga
Stephen & Janice Hauser
Veronica & Gary Heaney
Judith & John Hintzman
Felicici Holzem
Virginia Karlovich
Shivaji Kaul
Ronald A. Korpal
Steve & Amanda Krull
Ronald & Lynn Kuhl
Camathe & Linda Lee
Steve & Draga Libby
Ben & Katie Liesch
Carolyn Mello
Peggy & Roger Mroczenski
Annette Pegele
Jeffery Shaffer
Terrence Sierra
Kaur & Sakinder Singh
Erik Tangen
Roy & Shelly Underhill
Melvin Washington
Mike & Mati Winter
Jeffery Ziebelman

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 the Friends. This is a great and simple way to contribute towards our educational and cultural programs offered here at the Domes.

Volunteers Requested

For Greeters, Gift Shop, and Special events, etc...
This also applies for those that would like to help on regular days and times
Smiles always welcome!

CONTACT:
Debbie LaDue (414) 546-4661
Volunteer Coordinator
Friends of the Domes
E-mail debidazzle@aol.com

Catleya Princess Bell: The majority of these plants will thrive under warm to intermediate conditions and have varying bloom seasons. For a true sense of nature try species for the grace, and wonderful links to a lush jungle and a craggy mountainside.
I would like to thank all of our members for your support during this period while the Domes are closed. Your support of this Milwaukee icon is much appreciated. Without your support over the years some of these changes may not have occurred. These upgrades will hopefully bring some new attention to the Domes. I am especially looking forward to the new lighting. It will be using similar light effects that were placed on the Performing Arts Center. Every time I drive by the PAC at night it has been lighted up in different colors. The lighting really draws attention.

It has been over a month since I have been at the Domes. I think I have been going through withdrawal. Fortunately I get to pass the Domes almost every day since I live in the neighborhood. It is sad not seeing the big circle planted. There is also a chain link fence across the front, not very inviting. The good news is that the all clear has been given. That means that the old lobby ceiling has been removed. Now work can begin on electrical, lighting, air, and the fire system. A lot of work still needs to be done. There are also other initiatives that are still in a state of flux. I do not have any details to provide you at this time.

I would like to say a few words about weeds. They do say beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I have just come back from a Mediterranean cruise. In Mykonos, Greece there was a beautiful fig tree growing next to a building. There was cement right up against the trunk. Most of the plants grew confined like this. I spoke with a shopkeeper. They stated that they had poured acid on the plant and they still could not kill it. They mentioned how hardy fig trees are. When I returned to my garden after two weeks I could not believe how much the weeds grew. But are they really weeds? Someone else may find them very attractive. My company has a lot of India associates that come over. I remember hearing a story about a group asking to stop by a park to get their picture taken. The dandelions where in full bloom. They thought the blanket of yellow was the perfect photo opportunity. So the lesson learned is not to get upset over too many weeds. Just learn to appreciate them, just a little bit.

The other thing from my trip that impressed me was the Oleander bushes in Spain and Italy. They were in full bloom. Many different colors. And the bushes were huge. This brought back some childhood memories. When I was a little boy many years ago. The neighbor next door had some Oleander plants in pots. Every spring the plants would be dragged out of the house. Every year they would bloom for a pretty long time. Then in fall they would disappear until spring. This is a container plant you may want to give a try. For more information you can check out www.oleander.org the International Oleander Society’s web site. I am not sure if there are any plants in the Domes. It may make a nice addition to the show dome.

If you need to reach me you can contact me by phone, 414-384-0161, mail, Roger Krawiecki, 1020 S. Layton Boulevard, Milwaukee, WI 53215-1633, or by email, rkrawiecki@sbcglobal.net.

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**Appalachian Spring**

Photos by Darlene Dorsett
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.

Remembering Days of Ole

Say hello to Great Grandma Branski (Olszewski)! Although this photo is not dated it obviously was taken in front of the old original conservatory in Mitchell Park during a picnic. If you look carefully, you notice a flag, which leads me to believe that it’s a 4th of July picnic outing. This Park has a long track record of celebrating the 4th in the grandest of traditions. A family member, Carol Graham, shared this memory with me. It reminds me of my own grandmother who lived here on the south side for most of her life and reminds all of us of the generations of people that used and loved our Mitchell Park Conservatory site.

Sandy Folaron, Director

From the Gift Shop

Mary Philipp

The Friends of the Domes gift shop is open for business at http://www.milwaukeedomes.org/. Look for new merchandise as we grow.

The shop in the Domes will open with a feel of the Tropical and Arid Domes, and will feature new logo items, and more books. We will also have a shipping center on site for your convenience.

We look forward to seeing you when we re-open on September 20th.

On May 5th, 2008, a Friend of the Domes wrote:

Just a note to say how much I enjoy our Domes! Every time I visit them I marvel at what is done. I stopped in just today and found the SHOW DOME to be exceptional- beautiful. How refreshing!

Every visit I go through each of the Domes twice, and often three times through the Show Dome, as I did today. I hope the people in this area appreciate what a Gem we have…. They Should!

Vic Larson

If you have a note or small article you would like to see in the newsletter, mail it to: Darlene Dorsett % the Domes 524 S. Layton Blvd Milwaukee, WI. 53215

From the Friends Corner

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Black pepper (Piper nigrum) originated in Southern India. It has been cultivated there for millennia and is now grown in many tropical areas. Columbus sailed across the Atlantic in hopes of finding a faster route to spice sources. Black pepper was one of them. In fact, it is the one spice that most people have on their tables in shakers along with salt, although freshly ground peppercorns have a stronger flavor.

People use spices such as pepper to enhance the flavor of foods, to mask bad flavors such as rotten meat, and possibly to help reduce bacterial contamination. The spice plants themselves probably have their own reasons for producing the pungent chemicals. These chemicals might deter animals from eating them, although this defense fails when humans develop a taste for the essential oils and alkaloids found in spices.

Black pepper is a perennial, tropical vine. The leaves have smooth edges and are produced on alternate sides of the stem. Spikes of small flowers are produced that grow to 6-8 inches. Each flower produces a fruit called a drupe containing a hard pit or stone containing a single seed. Long spikes of fruit hang down between the leaves. Although the common name of the plant is “black” pepper, the color of the fruit or peppercorns depends on how people prepare them. Black pepper is produced from green, unripe fruit that are washed in hot water and allowed to dry. The fruit turn black and shrink around the pit. If you look closely at a whole peppercorn, you can see the shrunken fruit skin on the surface. Green pepper also is made from unripe fruit and is used fresh, dried, or pickled. White pepper is usually just the pit with the ripe fruit removed. Black pepper and white pepper have about the same flavor and both are ground for use in foods. Black pepper has a stronger flavor, but white pepper is used in white sauces to avoid the specks of black pepper.

Chili peppers and their relative the bell pepper are in the genus Capsicum and belong to the same family as potatoes, eggplant, and tobacco. Chilies originated in the Americas and now are widely used to add hot flavor to foods. These New World peppers are common in Wisconsin gardens. You can see the Old World black pepper, Piper nigrum, growing in the Tropical Dome.

WE NEED YOUR EXPERTISE. The Board of Directors of the FOD has several positions available at this time. As members of the Friends you have an interest and love of the Domes. We are looking for a few good people in the following areas:

- Experience in the financial aspect, with special regard to making recommendations to help us continue to be an asset to the Domes;
- Leadership in event planning and management;
- Recruiting and managing a corps of volunteers for special events;
- Developing sponsorship affiliations to support the Domes and FOD community outreach programs;
- Leadership in other areas of interest or needs that you have identified to support the Domes.

This is a volunteer Board and meets once a month, currently on Saturday mornings. We need your commitment to help make the Friends group an integral part of the Domes success.

Please contact Deanna Andre at 414-525-0198 if you would like more information and application to become a member of the Board.
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

Visit our new Website:
www.milwaukeedomes.org

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.

Calendar of Events

Sept 20.................................................................Domes Opening
Sept 20 – 21.............................................................Orchid Show Opens
Sept 27.................................................................Enchanted Autumn Opens

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

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