Orchid Show: Fall in Love With Orchids!

Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20

You are invited to enjoy our award-winning exhibits of flowering orchid plants, pottery, photographs and other orchid-related exhibits. After you have enjoyed the exhibits, you will want to go to the sales area and purchase your favorite orchids, pots, books, potting medium, and possibly a T-shirt or two. There will be a variety of items for purchase at reasonable prices.

A list of vendors for this year’s Orchid Show is available at the Wisconsin Orchid Society’s website (www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com). Check out the vendors by following the link to their websites. If you see anything on their website that you absolutely must have, contact them prior to the show and they will try to bring the item for you.

Wisconsin Orchid Society Members will be at the show to help you with any questions you may have. Visit the Society’s table in the sales area. A "Silent Auction" of orchid-related items will take place on Saturday from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. There are many other activities for you to participate in, including informative presentations, videos, and a number of raffles.

The Mitchell Park Conservatory WINS Milwaukee County Historical Society Award

The Milwaukee County Historical Society has honored the Mitchell Park Conservatory by recognizing the successful restoration work of this landmark. The Frederick I. Olson Historic Preservation Award was awarded during a ceremony and dinner event at the Wisconsin Club on April 27th. Several hundred guests attended the ceremony and were treated to a presentation showcasing the new installation of lights in the Domes, along with the updates of the lobby and new Gift Shop location.

Sharing the recognition for best 2008 Historic Restoration was Milwaukee’s City Hall project. Both icons were honored for their place in Milwaukee’s urban landscape and their role in preserving and promoting local history.

Summer Wine Tasting
Thursday, September 10

Mark your calendar and save this date! On Thursday, September 10, the domes will host a Summer Wine Tasting. Still in the planning stages, this special event will include many wonderful elements that will truly make it an evening to remember!

You won’t want to miss this one – make plans now to join us. Bring a friend or loved one, relax, and enjoy a summer wine tasting!

www.milwaukeedomes.org
Summer is here and it’s already time to regroup and begin to strategize and make plans for the next busy Fall season. Looking back it’s hard to believe how much has changed in just these past few months. Attendance has almost tripled. For the first three months of this year, more than 89,000 visitors entered through our doors! Over 10,000 alone, came for the evening Music Under Glass concert series. The success of those concerts certainly insures that they will be staged again starting this October running through March 2010. The concerts brought in many younger people and those who generally don’t come to the Domes on a regular basis. Those same people are now returning during the daytime hours with their friends and family, sharing their excitement at “discovering” the Domes! The restoration of the facility and the addition of a new lighting system have really helped to put us back into the limelight. I can’t express my gratitude enough to all of the “Friends of the Domes” board members and volunteers who have made so much of this possible with their hard work and ongoing support. It is amazing to look back and see just how much has been accomplished over this past year.

The Summer in Provence show opened on June 6th. It is a showcase of a French fabric shop set amid gardens of sunflowers and lavender. Lynn Burke (Parks Artist) has worked closely with the members of the Alliance Française de Milwaukee to supply authentic Provence material and props to realistically depict the display in the cottage shop. We are always happy to connect with our community partners to make our shows the best they can be. And as always, Lynn stepped up to the task of recreating a scene that is of museum quality.

Look for big changes in the front entry plaza this summer. The Domes have been given the distinction of being recognized as the first Milwaukee EverGreen project site. This project will help to change the existing footprint of the plaza along with the addition of more green space and environmentally friendly additions. The Friends of the Domes are committed to supporting these efforts by fund raising through a capital campaign to purchase complimentary hardscapes such as benches and tables.

This summer we will also be staging the artwork of three Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design interns in the Tropical Dome. Look for these unique displays intertwined with the lush plants as backdrops. We are excited about the potential of using the conservatory to stage various art exhibits and complementary displays that continue to make our Domes new and exciting even to repeat customers.

Bon Jour!

Sandy Folaron, Domes Director

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**From the Director**

By Sandy Folaron

**Green Living Festival**

May 2, 2009

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Suzanne Eli Gemaine was one of several League of Milwaukee artists sketching and painting in The Domes.
We are coming to my favorite season – Summer. We have had a Wisconsin Spring, warm, cool, rainy and windy. The Friends had their annual plant sale the last days of May and added a rummage sale. We cleaned out the basement of the Domes including old gift shop merchandise, out of date display fixtures, props that had been used (more than once) over the years in shows in the domes, pictures, etc.

The task seemed overwhelming when we actually went down to sort through items, price them, and prepare them to be taken from the basement to the vestibule on Friday evening (no small job without an elevator). Early Saturday (7 a.m.) we set up tables and displayed the merchandise to be ready for sale at 9 a.m. Since this was a two-day event, we took the merchandise indoors for the night, and then out again to start the sale on Sunday morning. The plants and bulbs had been sorted and prepared in the weeks prior to the sale. How did we do it? Volunteers helped to make this event a success by donating approximately 250 hours of their time. It was a wonderful success.

This was an excellent opportunity to meet people from the neighborhood, as well as those who love plants, and of course the bargain hunters. We were fortunate to have plant experts on hand to help answer questions for planting and care of the plants. This year Jung Seed Company donated premium bare root roses for our sale. What a great addition to our event. Thank you.

Was this hard work? Yes. Was it fun? Yes. You may want to consider participating in future events and/or becoming a member of the Friends' Board of Directors. We are dedicated to supporting the Domes. The proceeds from events we sponsor, as well as sales in the gift shop and membership fees, are the main sources to raise funds for the Domes. Give me a call (414) 525-0198 or visit our website: www.milwaukeedomes.org to get in touch.

Joe Ackermann decided to pursue pottery after he first witnessed an artist behind the pottery wheel. It appeared to Joe that the pottery was forming itself – with very little assistance from the artist. The way it took shape was seemingly effortless, and Joe was so thoroughly intrigued by this experience he decided to take lessons in sculpting. Although still for the most part self-taught, Joe did take night classes. Eventually, he began teaching the very classes he had once taken.

Joe named his Glendale studio after what he believes to be the foundation of what he does – “Playin’ in the Mud.” After almost three decades, Joe still believes in this same artistic approach… “just playin.” Come visit the shop to check out Joe’s pottery masterpieces, as well as work from all the local artists featured at the Domes Gift Shop. Take some beautiful, original artwork home with you, and in doing so you support The Domes!

Note: Admission Fees have changed. Please see back cover for details.

New Newsletter Editor

Our new freelance editor for Friends of the Domes newsletter is Bridget O’Donnell. If you have story ideas, suggestions or questions you would like answered in future issues, contact Bridget at (414) 541-2369 or via e-mail at bridgetodonnell@me.com.
Show Dome
Spring in Yorkshire
Summer in Provence
Easter

Photo Credits: Top Left: Chris Sommerfelt, Bottom Left: Bridget O’Donnell, Top and Bottom Middle: Bridget O’Donnell, Top Right: Bridget O’Donnell, Middle and Bottom Right: Chris Sommerfelt
Get Fit by Gardening!

Gardening may be one of the best-kept secrets to getting in shape and staying that way. Gardening provides all three types of exercise: endurance, flexibility and strength. And, gardening can be a great workout, and a boost for body and soul -- if you do it right.

On a recent visit to www.webmd.com we found some helpful information on gardening as a way to gain and maintain fitness and health. The information is provided there as a feature article, reviewed by a physician. Always check with your own personal physician before beginning any new and/or vigorous physical activity!

Start small. A 4-foot by 6-foot bed can produce a lot of tomatoes or cut flowers. Or you can garden in containers, just be sure they are large enough that they don’t dry out too quickly. Containers are great for city yards and patios.

Be realistic. You need to learn about your growing region zone number. Choose plants with the best chance of survival. Constantly killing inappropriate species can get on your last nerve.

Stretch first! You’d stretch before going to the gym, wouldn’t you?

Don’t over do it. Exercise 30 to 60 minutes, then quit, whether everything is planted and weeded or not.

Don’t do one single activity for an extended period of time. Switch every 30 minutes to avoid overuse injuries and sore muscles.

Take regular breaks. Set a timer if you’re likely to lose track of time.

Lift heavy bags carefully. Lift with your legs. Use your biggest, strongest muscles for the heavy stuff. Watch the twisting. Often we tend to lift a shovel of dirt, and then twist to the side to dump it. Move your feet instead.

If you have allergies, talk to your doctor. Allergy medicine might help take the edge off of your symptoms. Did you know that plants pollinated by bees tend to have heavier pollen that doesn’t fly around as much? Wind-pollinated trees and plants tend to cause more pollen-related reactions.

Don’t throw poison everywhere. This seems so obvious, but when people see a bug, they grab a can of bug spray. Usually a squirt of water will get bugs off the plant. It’s better for you and the environment!

Don’t flip for fertilizer, either. Fertilizers are like vitamins. What you have naturally in your garden soil may be enough. Better for you and the environment to feed the soil with natural compost.

Check out all the new tools. There are new implements for people with arthritic hands or carpal tunnel syndrome, for example. Certain gloves can help improve your grip.

If you are getting off the couch and into garden, take it slowly. Sedentary people who suddenly start exercising vigorously risk injury.

Ask your doctor about a tetanus shot. According to the CDC, 31% of tetanus injuries occur in the yard, garden, or farm and 23% happen at other outdoor locations.

Take a nice hot bath after gardening. It will relax your muscles. You’ve earned it!

Don’t forget to relax in your garden whether the work is finished or not. Garden benches are meant for sitting on – and gardens are best when you take time to enjoy them.

Garden Wisdom

Those who dwell among the beauties and mysteries of the earth are never alone or weary of life. ~Rachel Carson
Children's Corner

Did You Know?

Little Creatures Make Their Home at the Domes

Twenty wildlife species including birds, lizards, frogs, toads, fish and turtles make their home at the Domes. These loveable little creatures need support from people like you. When you or your family sponsors an animal, you provide funds for food, medical care, and maintenance of Dome animal habitats. For your sponsorship, you receive not only the satisfaction of helping your selected animal, but also a “thank you pack” that includes an animal fact sheet, certificate of sponsorship, and color photo of your sponsored animal.

To learn more, go to www.milwaukedomes.org.

Ants and Ladybugs in Your Yard and Garden

Here are a few interesting facts about ants and ladybugs:

- There are at least 14,000 different kinds of ants.
- Ants are found all over the world, except in Polar Regions.
- Ants have the longest life span of any insect – 8 years on average.
- Ants can lift up to 50 times their own body weight.
- Ants have no ears, but “hear” by feeling vibrations through their feet.
- Ladybugs are popular with gardeners because they help control pests.
- Ladybugs eat aphids, whiteflies and other bugs that destroy plants.
- A hard wing covers and protects the ladybug’s fragile wings.
- A ladybug beats its wings 85 times a second when it flies.
- The life cycle of the average ladybug is between four to six weeks.
- Ladybugs make a chemical that smells and tastes terrible so predators won’t eat them.

Learn more interesting nature facts, have fun with experiments and be creative with Nature Log, a child’s journal filled with great ideas, games, crafts and ways to help the earth!

This wonderful little book is just one of many special items available for children of all ages in the Gift Shop at the Domes. We’d love to help you choose the perfect gift for that special child in your life. Come see us today!

Easy, Green & Meaningful

Learning ways to “live greener” was one of the objectives of the second annual Green Living Festival held at the Domes in May. It doesn’t take a lot of time, effort or money to make small, meaningful changes to help improve the environment.

Wisconsin Water Partners join us in suggesting a few simple, safe and effective options for use in caring for your home:

- **Slow Drain?** Add ½ cup baking soda to your drain, then slowly add ½ cup vinegar – let stand 2-8 hours and rinse with hot water. For clogged drains, use a drain snake.
- **Furniture Polish** ¼ cup olive oil and ¼ cup lemon juice – buff to shine.
- **All Purpose Cleaner** In a spray bottle, combine 2 tbs. washing soda, ¼ cup vinegar, a few drops of dish soap and water to fill remainder.
- **Weed Killer** Corn gluten is a great natural weed killer and source of nitrogen for your lawn. Contact a local feed store for this product.

Do what you can. Start today. Even small changes can lead to a healthier community!

Mitchell Park Domes is proud to share easy ways to “live greener.”
The “staghorn” or “elkhorn” ferns are named for their antler-like fronds (leaves). They belong to the genus Platycerium, which includes about 20 different species. Staghorn ferns are native to tropical areas of Africa, Australia, New Guinea, South America, and Southeast Asia.

These ferns are epiphytes, which means that they grow on other plants rather than on the ground. In tropical environments, organic materials such as old leaves accumulate and rot in the crotches of branches to produce a moist soil. This is the natural habitat of staghorn ferns and other epiphytes including many orchids. Epiphytes contribute to the amazing biological diversity of tropical forests by living at many layers between the soil and the tree tops. Epiphytes produce all of their own food by photosynthesis and absorb water and minerals through their roots. They are not parasites and do not harm the plants they live on.

Staghorn ferns actually have two kinds of fronds. The plain leaves are green and round. They eventually turn brown and form a base for the plant under which are found the roots. The spore-bearing leaves are longer and branch. The spores are produced in irregular brown patches (see image) on the underside of these antler-like leaves.

As with other ferns, the spores do not grow directly into new staghorn plants. A fern produces two completely separate plants to complete its life cycle: the sporophyte and the gametophyte. The sporophyte plant produces the spores. These spores germinate to form small, green gametophyte plants. The gametophyte produces sperm, which fertilize the eggs by swimming through a layer of water. This water requirement is why most ferns grow in moist environments. The fertilized eggs develop into the larger sporophyte. Therefore, ferns actually produce two very different plants, the gametophyte that grows from a spore, followed by the sporophyte, which grows out of the fertilized egg in the gametophyte. Most people notice only the larger spore-producing sporophyte.

You can see staghorn ferns scattered throughout the Tropical Dome. They are growing as epiphytes on the larger trees and on some artificial frames. How many can you find?
2009 Calendar of Events

September 10 ..................Summer Wine Tasting (FOD Fundraiser)
September 14 ..................Summer In Provence Show Closes
September 19-20 ...............Wisconsin Orchid Society Show
September 26 ..................Fall Haunts Show Opens
October 1-March 18, 2010 ...........Music Under Glass Concert Series
(Thursday evenings from 6:30 – 8p.m. – except for December)
October 8 ..................Rain Forest Night
October 17-18 ..................Ikebana Show
October 30 ..................Halloween Event
November 9 ..................Fall Haunts Show Closes
November 21 ..................A Children’s Holiday Show Opens
November 22 ..................Holiday Party and Fundraiser
December 3 ..................Asian Culture Fest
December 31 ..................New Years Eve Family Event

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Admission Rates: Adults $6.50, Children 6-17 $5.00, Under 5, Free
Milwaukee County Seniors $5.00, Students $5.00, Handicap $5.00

Adult group rates $6.00, Child group rate $4.50.
Milwaukee County Residents free on Mondays
(excluding major holidays) 9 a.m. – 1 a.m.