Sponsorship of Animals in the Education Center

By Paula J. Zamiatowski

Introducing animals to students can foster appreciation and respect for animals, wildlife, nature, ecosystems and conservation. It can also foster a sense of responsibility for living things. Keeping animals in the classroom is also an excellent way for students to learn about general biology and more specific topics, such as habitat conservation, animals’ survival needs and animals’ adaptations to their environment.

There are many problems caused by indiscriminate animal collecting, ranging from the animals’ safety and survival to pressures on wild populations. The most obvious drawback is that classroom animals might not be properly cared for, especially after the novelty has worn off. All too often, in classrooms and in people’s homes, animals are acquired on impulse without planning and consideration of care in captivity.

Consequently, many animals with inexperienced caretakers have shortened life expectancies and a relatively poor quality of life. Or, these animals are abandoned at nature centers, parks or even here at the Mitchell Park Domes. All our animals in the Education Center and in the Tropical Dome are rescue animals that now live here under the careful watch of the educator and horticulturists. Their care is taken very seriously.

Continued on page 7

“Friends” Enjoy Perks at Gardens Around the Country!

By Sally Sullivan

The American Horticultural Society Reciprocal Admissions Program helps to promote horticulture across America by encouraging people to visit gardens while traveling. This program, a network of membership gardens with similar objectives, gives members access to other botanical gardens, arboreta and conservatories by offering special admission privileges and other benefits. This program inspires members to discover, explore and share as a way of making “America a Nation of Gardeners, and a Land of Gardens.”

Your Friends of the Domes membership entitles you as a cardholder to take advantage of these discounts and privileges throughout the nation. You can see and print a list of participating facilities by visiting the website, www.ahs.org or call toll free 1-800-777-7931.

Enjoy this “perk” as part of your Friends of the Domes membership when you travel!
**From the Desk of the Friends of the Domes**

By Deanna Andre  
President

It has become more evident that all of the parks in the county will need a great deal of monetary support to keep them going. The Friends have been able to fill in some of the gaps to assist the Domes. Help for major projects such as a new deck and bridge in the tropical dome, enhancements for the lobby, supplies and educational opportunities for the staff are some of the areas we have supported.

Future projects for the Domes, such as greenhouses on site, hard-scapes (planters, benches, trash cans, etc.) for the Evergreen Project that will transform the outdoor plaza area to be more environmentally and people friendly, an audio-tour system to extend the visitor’s experience, and additions to the Education Center are in the works. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have recommendations regarding these projects.

Where does the money come from? Membership fees; profits from events sponsored by the Friends such as the Halloween party, wine tasting, holiday party, New Year’s Eve family event, Restaurants Under Glass, Valentine’s Day, the annual plant and bulb sale; your purchases at the gift shop (Gifts Under Glass); private and corporate donations. Attendance at many of these events has been increasing. The recent purchase of a wireless credit card terminal and the ability to purchase online advance tickets to special events has helped to cut down or eliminate waiting in lines.

Volunteers make these events possible. More than 600 hours have been donated by volunteers to plan, set-up, collect admissions, take down, and help clean the areas used for the programs. Your attendance at these events sponsored by the Friends Of the Domes as well as special events presented by Milwaukee County help in getting our support to the Domes.

Thanks to all of our members and friends for your continuing support of the Domes and don’t forget the Friends Of the Domes when you do your estate planning.

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**Gifts Under Glass**  
What’s New in the Gift Shop?

*By Sarah Philipp*

Much like the Domes brings the climates of the world to Milwaukee, Henry Kiesow has brought the dessert to Flower Petals Farm in Franklin, Wisconsin where his family has been in the greenhouse business for many years. John Kiesow, Henry’s father, fell in love with the landscape of the American Southwest at a young age, and began growing cacti at the family farm. The plants soon became a favorite at the West Allis Farmers’ Market where the cacti are still sold.

Henry has grown to love the many unique varieties of cacti, and wishes all cacti lovers luck with their own gardens, while offering a few tips. He assures us that caring for cacti can be fun and easy, even during Milwaukee’s long and cold winters, and recommends watering your cactus only once a month during the winter and twice a month in the summer. Watch out for mealy bugs! The most common pest attracted to cacti might appear on leaves or needles. If so, a cotton swab dipped in rubbing alcohol should solve the problem.

Visit the Domes’ Gifts Under Glass Gift Shop to experience Henry’s cacti in person (carefully!) and, as always, the work of other local artists. Take their art home, while doing your part to support the Friends of the Domes.
Why We Love the Domes
What’s Your Story?

By Bridget O’Donnell

Everyone you talk to seems to have a story about why they love the Domes. We’d love to hear your story!

My story has to do with my Mother, Norma O’Donnell. My Mother lived with Alzheimer’s Disease for many, many years. As her full-time caregiver, I constantly looked for ways to improve her quality of life. One of my favorites (and hers) was always a trip to the Domes. In every season, it proved to be both a respite and a source of great pleasure and rejuvenation.

The ever-changing beauty of the plants and flowers, the breathtaking explosion of colors, the comforting smell of the warm earth, the lively sounds of the birds and the waterfall made for a vibrant and animated day filled with the most enjoyable life-affirming stimulation.

It is, in my experience, impossible to overestimate the benefits of such stimulus in the life of a person with dementia. The disease imposes so many devastating limitations on body, mind and spirit. It takes away so much from those it affects, both directly and indirectly. If you could “bottle” the benefits of a day at the Domes, I feel certain you could sell it as the ultimate prescription for lifting your spirits – and improving your mood – with no unpleasant side-affects!

While we lived, always, with the heartbreaking knowledge that there was no cure for the constant, ongoing progression my Mother’s illness, we knew there were things we could do, places to go and ways to improve and enhance her very precious day-to-day experiences. The Domes was always one such place for us.

I know this would have pleased my Father, William, greatly. While he had passed away years earlier, his enduring legacy as a Milwaukee County Supervisor, Chairman of the Milwaukee County Board and Milwaukee County Executive always included a strong and spirited dedication to Milwaukee County Parks and the hope that they would always remain one of this communities most amazing treasures.

If you have a brief story or recollection about the importance of the Domes in your life or the life of your family, please share it with our members. Send it to our newsletter editor, Bridget O’Donnell at bridgetodonnell@me.com.

Restaurants Under Glass
A Great Success

By Liz Fehring

Friends of the Domes held its 4th Annual Restaurants Under Glass on the very frigid evening of January 29th. Things were hot and spicy inside the Domes, however, as 18 Milwaukee restaurants provided an unparalleled culinary experience for 1,200 guests.

Highlights included everything from Asian ribs, sushi, crab, chicken mac and cheese to cream puffs, chocolate covered strawberries and much, much more.

Friends of the Domes would like to thank all of the wonderful volunteers who gave of their time to help make this event possible.

It was a great success, and we hope to see you all at Restaurants Under Glass events in 2011!
Variety & Beauty – Yours to Enjoy!

50% Off – Special Membership Opportunity

By Gail Schumann

You know how much the Friends of the Domes help to support the Mitchell Park Domes every year. And you enjoy the plants, special holiday flower displays, and the many events such as Music Under Glass. You can also use your Friends of the Domes discount at the Gift Shop to find beautiful and unusual gifts including works from local artists.

Please help us increase membership in the Friends of the Domes. For a limited time, you can purchase new memberships for special friends or family members at half-price when you renew your existing full-priced membership.

Here’s how it works:

From June 1, 2010 until June 1, 2011, renew your membership before it lapses.
Purchase additional new memberships at your level or any lower level for 50% off.

Example:

Membership renewal for a family- $50 (regular price)
    New membership for the first year for another family - $25
    New membership for an individual- $20
    New membership for an individual + 3 guests- $25.00
    New membership for a student or senior- $12.50
    New membership for a student or senior + a guest- $15

Your family and friends of all ages will love the sights, sounds, scents and special events offered by the Mitchell Park Domes throughout the year!
By Steven Libbey

On August 20 – 22, experience some of the best art by contemporary artists from Wisconsin, the Midwest and across America. Enjoy acoustic music, good food, beverages and the works of extremely talented artists. The First Annual Milwaukee Domes Art Festival is a must attend cultural event. Mark your calendar. Spread the word. You will find great gifts of art for you and everyone you know. You will see plein air painters throughout the park grounds; this art will be for sale at the festival’s silent auction.

With multi-tier goals of promoting the arts in Milwaukee, putting on a cultural event for the greater community and in accord with our directive, building a major fundraiser for the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservancy Domes, our art festival is a major undertaking. Great people are helping to make our event the first of many.

Our jury is literally a miracle, providing instant legitimacy in the arts and artist communities. Melissa Buchanan is Assistant Curator of 20th-century Design at the Milwaukee Art Museum. Jill Sebastian is a Professor of Sculpture at the Milwaukee Institute of Art & Design (MIAD) and creator of numerous prominent public works. Shelby Keefe is a highly decorated contemporary impressionist painter, teacher and performance artist. These three are incredible talents. If you love our Domes and the greater Milwaukee community you owe them a debt of gratitude for what they bring to this event.

In addition to serving on our jury Shelby is a mentoring artist for the show and designing our logo and poster art. We have met regarding concepts for promotional art, and I am beside myself in anticipation of her final designs and digital art. Shelby was excited get a sneak preview of some of the work submitted by artists, and excited to see the high caliber of art coming in. As a first year show we fully expected to have more unpolished artists apply. It may be our incredible jury, our ‘fabric of Milwaukee venue’ or destiny. Some things are definitely going right for our event.

Volunteers are needed. Visit our website, www.milwaukeedomesartfestival.com, to fill out a volunteer form. Liz Fehring, our volunteer coordinator, will get in touch to lock down your commitment.

We hope to see the entire Friends of the Domes membership at the festival. I personally guarantee that you and everyone you invite to this show will thank you for cluing them in this cultural event that will be unlike anything that has ever happened in Milwaukee!

Sponsors and donations needed. Habush Habush & Rottier, iNET Computers & Web, and 88.9 Radio Milwaukee are already helping make this event a grand one. If your employer might be interested, please send them to our website www.milwaukeedomesartfestival.com (sponsors or donations page).

We are hoping to achieve UPAF sponsorship in the form of performing artists. Benno’s Concessions and Milwaukee Live Bands are helping with the layout of the festival grounds. Milwaukee County Parks regional Operations Manager Susie Devcich and Parks Marketing Director Jeff Baudry have stepped up, increasing our likelihood of a successful event. On behalf of the Friends of The Domes we thank them for working this event into their busy schedule. For anyone who doesn’t already know, Sandy Folaron never stops doing what it takes to make great things happen for the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservancy. We thank Sandy and apologize for the additional work and stress. It’ll be worth it though!

Annual Plant, Bulb and Rummage Sale
Mark your Calendar

Annual Plant, Bulb and Rummage Sale
Mark your Calendar

Saturday, June 12 & Sunday, June 13
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
on the Domes plaza.
Thunder, Lightning and Rainbows

Thunder is the sound of lightning. Whether we hear it or not, lightning always produces thunder. When a lightning bolt occurs, it heats the air around it suddenly, to temperatures over 54,000°F. That’s over 15 times hotter than the temperature of boiling lead! The extreme heat causes the surrounding air to expand rapidly, pushing it away from the bolt in air shock waves. When these shock waves reach our ears, we hear thunder.

We hear thunder as “rumbling,” “cracking” and “clapping,” but the shock waves of thunder are always the same. They only seem to make different sounds, because we hear them at different distances from the storm. These differences provide clues as to how far away a storm is.

When lightning strikes nearby, you hear the shock wave from the top and bottom of the lightning bolt; it sounds like a sharp clap or crack. When lightning strikes at a greater distance, you hear the shock from the bottom of the bolt, which is closer to you – before you hear the top, which is farther away. This produces a rumbling sound – which can be heard for an even longer time if there are hills or buildings in the area.

Did You Know?
Raindrops make a Rainbow!

It takes millions of raindrops to produce a single rainbow. When sunlight enters raindrops, it disperses into a spectrum of color, or wavelengths of light, just as it does in a prism. The spectrum, including red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet, is reflected off of the back of the raindrop and out into the sky as distinct bands of color. It is because of the shape of the raindrops, that the rainbow appears in an arch.

Incredibly, only a single color from each drop comes back to your eye at any moment. Each time you move, even slightly, a new angle is created. A different ray of light from the raindrop enters your eye, and you see a new rainbow. Because of this, the rainbow you see is not exactly the same rainbow that the person standing next to you is seeing. In a sense, every rainbow is a personal rainbow shining just for you!

The next time you visit the Domes, stop in the gift shop, Gifts Under Glass to see all the wonderful books, toys and games to help you to learn more about nature and the amazing world around you! (The information in Children’s Corner comes from the book Nature Smart: A family Guide to Nature.)

Garden Wisdom

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and give strength to body and soul.

~JOHN MUIR
By Gail Schumann

A Hildebrandt’s moringa tree (Moringa hildebrandtii) lives in the Arid Dome. It was named by a botanist named Hildebrandt in 1880. Our specimen was grown from seed by Richard Risch, former director of the Mitchell Park Domes. The seeds came to him from Madagascar where the moringa originated. Since the Disney movie, most people now know that Madagascar is the large island country on the southeast coast of Africa. Until recently, the moringa was thought to be extinct in the wild. The only known living specimens were in villages in Madagascar, in horticultural collections, and in plantings in warm climates such as Florida. In 2007, a report in a British journal described finding a few trees in the wild in Madagascar.

Our moringa tree has a massive, water-storing trunk which is covered by a smooth, light gray bark. Different moringa species have different kinds of trunks, but the Hildebrandt’s moringa belongs to the group called the “bottle trees” because of their bloated shape. A general term for a plant like this is “caudiciform,” which describes plants that have leaves during part of the year and live on food and water stored in the trunk during long, dry spells. Another example of a caudiciform tree in the Arid Dome is the ponytail plant (Beaucarnea recurvata) featured in our Fall 2009 edition of this newsletter.

Hildebrandt’s moringa is adapted to living in arid climates where it may grow as high as 60 feet. The leaves are double compound and composed of leaflets which are small, oval, and smooth-edged. In a compound leaf, such as walnut leaves, there are leaflets along the leaf stem. In double compound leaves, there are leaf stems that branch off the main leaf stem, such as the Kentucky coffee tree. An entire moringa leaf can be nearly three feet long with a leaf stem that is often dark red in color. Each whitish flower produces a capsule fruit that looks like a large bean pod and can be up to a foot long. Each fruit contains six to twelve, large nut-like seeds.

There are thirteen Moringa species, two of which are native to Madagascar. Moringa oleifera, which is native to India, is well known for its economic value as a source of nutritious leaves, high quality oil from the seeds of the plant, and other uses. Little is know about the potential economic value of the other Moringa species which are most closely related to the mustard family and the caper family.

Look for the tall, gray-barked Hildebrandt’s moringa next time you visit the Arid Dome. Horticultural collections such as the Mitchell Park Domes help plants from becoming extinct as they continue to disappear from the wild.

Photo used by permission of Philippe Corm: http://www.cactuspro.com/
### 2010 Calendar of Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Range</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 27 – June 5</td>
<td>“Jung at Heart” Spring Show</td>
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<td>April 3</td>
<td>Green Living Festival</td>
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<td>June 12 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Annual Plant &amp; Bulb Sale and Rummage (*)</td>
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<td>June 19-September 12</td>
<td>“Riverboat Tales Summer Show”</td>
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<td>August 20, 21 &amp; 22</td>
<td>Outdoor Art Festival (*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 18 &amp; 19</td>
<td>Orchid Show &amp; Sale</td>
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<td>September 25 - November 7</td>
<td>“American Ghost Stories Fall Mum Show”</td>
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<td>October 7</td>
<td>Rainforest Night</td>
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<td>October 16 &amp; 17</td>
<td>Ikebana Show</td>
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<td>November 20 - January 7, 2011</td>
<td>“Frosty Fable Holiday Show”</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 5</td>
<td>Annual Holiday Party (*)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 31</td>
<td>New Years Eve Family Night (*)</td>
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*Friends of the Domes

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Visit our website [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org) for additional information and upcoming events scheduled after publication of this newsletter.