milwaukee domes art festival

August 19-21, 2011

www.Milwaukeedomesartfestival.com

A Friends of the Domes Event In a Gold Medal Winning Milwaukee County Park

Artist: Colleen Kwong ‘best of’ MDAF Plein Air 2010
High Resolution Digital Scan: TNB Designs
The Milwaukee Domes Art Festival 2011
Our Second Annual!

Steven R. Libbey, FOD Board Member,
Milwaukee Domes Art Festival Director

Come and see what has some of the finest contemporary artists buzzing about our Gold Medal Winning Park and our Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory Domes.

Shelby Keefe, Pfister Artist in Residence 2011, said of the inaugural Milwaukee Domes Art Festival, “We have something special happening here, a true fine art festival of the highest level in an amazingly beautiful park with one of the most amazing backdrops of any art festival anywhere.”

Summer will never be the same after the first ever Milwaukee Domes Art Festival 2010. If you missed our first annual, as a FOD member you owe it to yourself to attend our second annual.

At the art festival, sample something delicious from one of Milwaukee’s finest restaurants, sip a refreshing beverage while strolling through six acres of Mitchell Park directly behind the Domes. You will meet incredibly talented artists from Wisconsin and across the country as they display the products of their creative genius.

If you are so inclined, have a seat and listen to one of our many performing artists. You will very likely meet plein air painters. Meeting a fine art painter at work, talking to them about their motivation for the painting and then having the opportunity to literally buy the painting you watched them create is a pretty cool experience.

New for 2011: Full integration of the art festival and the Domes. For just an $8 admission you have access to the entire festival grounds and the AIR CONDITIONED Domes. There will be ten featured fine artists inside the Domes pavilion. Parking is free with paid admission and a whole lot more. Check out the MDAF website, www.milwaukeedomesartfestival.com for updates and details all the way up to and through the festival.

Volunteers welcome, sponsors needed, supporters appreciated. Please tell a friend.

I’ll see YOU there!

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I’ll see YOU there!
From the Friends of the Domes

By Phil Rozga, Acting President

Weather-wise, this Spring was a disaster. The temperature was between 10 to 20 degrees below normal and the sun was a stranger. The front entrance of the Domes has been under construction most of the time. However, if you ventured into the Domes, things changed dramatically. The Tropical Dome was warm and lush. The Show Dome was glorious with color.

If you visited the Domes on a weekday, you may have found school children learning the wonders of nature from Paula Zamiatowski. They were oblivious to the bad weather.

On another subject, one of the events I look forward to each winter is the annual sale at Orchids by Hausermann in Villa Park, Illinois. Villa Park is a western suburb of Chicago, about 90 miles from Milwaukee. Hausermann is the largest and oldest orchid grower in the Midwest. They have 3½ acres of orchids under glass. (This is beginning to sound like one of their commercials.) At the sale they passed out the following garden recipes you might find useful. The first comes from the USDA agriculture research service. To control white flies, aphids, spider mites and other like pests, spray plants with a mixture of one cup of vegetable oil (any kind) and one tablespoon of liquid dish washing detergent. The second recipe will get rid of scale and mealy bugs in addition to the pests mentioned above. Spray plants with a mixture of one cup of rubbing alcohol, ½ teaspoon liquid soap, one teaspoon of Tabasco sauce and one quart of water.

I hope these garden tips will be of some help. I also suggest that when you are discouraged by bad weather, come to the Domes where the weather is always good.

Orchid Show and Sale

September 17 & 18

Come and enjoy award-winning exhibits of flowering orchids, including some very exotic varieties that you have perhaps never seen before. Also on display will be pottery, photographs and other orchid-related exhibits. You can purchase a favorite orchid (or two!), buy books, pots, potting medium, t-shirts, etc. A list of vendors for this year’s show is available at the Wisconsin Orchid Society’s website, www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com. Check out the vendors and follow the link to their website. If you see an item you hope to buy at the show, contact them and they will try to bring it for you. Wisconsin Orchid Society members will be at the show to answer your orchid-related questions. Informative talks, videos and plant raffles will also be available. Show admission is free, but regular Domes admission applies.

Green Living Festival

Paula J. Zamiatowski, Interpretive Educator

Thank you for coming to Green Living Festival 2011! Attendance was 1,685, up more than 400 over last year! Next year will be a milestone fifth year for this event. We want to keep the family friendly components and add others relating to local sustainability, “green” and water topics and speakers. I would like your thoughts about this event. Contact me at Paula.Zamiatowski@milwcnty.com. Once I have everyone’s comments, I will send an event summary to your email along with exhibitor resource information. If you have not attended Green Living Festival, it’s time you did! The 2012 date is Saturday, April 7th. It’s great fun, so save the date!
Beautiful Orchid!

The beautiful orchid featured here and at the top of page 2 can be found in the Tropical Dome. According to Patrick Kehoe, Tropical Dome Curator, this orchid is a *Grammatophyllum scriptum* var. *citrinum* ‘Hihimanu.’ It won an award at the last orchid show. See more about the Tropical Dome in the Children’s Corner on page 6.

Education Center Workshops Update

*Paula J. Zamiatowski, Interpretive Educator*

On Saturday, May 7th, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful (KGMB) and the Mitchell Park Domes Education Center conducted a workshop called “Beauty and the Beast.” Participants learned how beauty products have a negative impact on our health and the environment. We explored the cosmetic industry and their well-kept secrets. All participants learned how to make their own safe and effective, plant-based products from items already in their kitchen, and as a bonus got to take home samples.

If you have ideas of the type of workshops you would like to see in the future, please contact me at Paula.Zamiatowski@milwcnty.com!

Thank You to Volunteers

*Liz Fehring, Volunteer Coordinator*

On behalf of the Friends of the Domes, I would like to thank all of our volunteers who helped us this year. Your dedication and commitment to the Domes has been outstanding. Every event was properly staffed because of your willingness to participate. When the request goes out, you step up and really come through for us. Because of you, our events are very successful allowing us to raise more money that directly goes back into the Domes for education programs, repairs and promotion. We couldn’t possibly do all this without you. Thank you for your time, talent and passion. (Photo: Volunteer Recognition Dinner, May 1)

Garden Wisdom

“Look deep into nature… you will understand everything better.”

-Albert Einstein
By Sandy Folaron

As in nature, spring and summer bring us a sense of renewal and the opportunity to recreate and start over again with new ideas and plans. Those plans, whether they are for our gardens or our lives, all evolve and become in most cases, bigger and better. The Domes follows suit. As the weather warms up outside, we take a collective "deep breath" and focus our energies on planning for the next winter season in which we stage our ethnic festivals, nighttime concerts, special events and most of the Friends’ fundraising efforts. This past year brought us many changes in both our staff and increased FOD volunteer efforts. We could not have accomplished and continued to provide our visitors with a great experience if not for the efforts of Liz Fehring (Volunteer Coordinator), Mary Phillip (Gift Shop Manager), Richard Risch, Diane Lindsley and Jeff Shaffer (FOD Horticultural Committee) and a host of others who donate their time and talents to the Domes. I can’t thank them enough for the support and hard work on our behalf. It makes a tremendous difference.

Our front entry plaza is close to completion. This project gives us the opportunity to showcase "green" sustainable development and educate people about permeable surfaces, reuse of "gray" water and how plants help the environment. It also provides our visitors a great place to have lunch or just linger before or after their tour of the Domes. And look for our new brass sundial at the entrance to the plaza. It puts the last one to shame!

The Conservatory Plant Inventory and Restoration Project is fully underway thanks to the efforts of our horticulturists and the FOD committee that is working with them. We are referencing the original planting and collection plan in the Desert (Arid) Dome and determining what has gone missing from that original inventory and what could be brought back to enhance the collection. This cross referencing has taken hours and hours of work and research, but we are confident that we are headed in the right direction to provide our visitors with the very best and extensive collection of cacti and succulent specimens around.

The Hank Aaron Trail is coming to our park and will connect the Menomonee River Valley to the Domes! Look for signs of a new trailhead west of our parking lot close to the 2nd Street Viaduct (design is forthcoming) and an additional pathway behind the Domes near the back access road. This new section of the trail will link us with many biking destinations including a new Urban Ecology Center, the Harley-Davidson Museum and Miller Park.

Have a great summer season! Happy gardening, vacation traveling and don’t forget to spend some time in our great Milwaukee County parks and facilities. There is so much to be proud of!

By Sarah Philipp

Mary Heuer began designing jewelry in 2003 after being inspired by her training in interior design. While experimenting with color, texture and shape combinations, she thought to try these concepts with jewelry. Mary’s jewelry is characterized by unique combinations of metals, gemstones, natural and man-made materials, as well as recycled objects. These materials come together to create unusual shapes and vibrant color and texture combinations. These are, truly, one-of-a-kind pieces of art. Mary’s customers have described her jewelry as bold, dramatic, playful, and elegant.

In addition to the Domes, Mary’s jewelry can be found at Belle Fiori in Milwaukee, and at the Picture This Gallery on Hilton Head Island, South Carolina. She also exhibits at art fairs. Visit: www.heuerdezine.com.

Visit the Domes’ Gift Shop to experience Mary Heuer’s creative and wearable art in person and, as always, the work of other local artists. Take their art home, while doing your part to support the Friends of the Domes.
**Did You Know? You Could Feel Like An Ancient Explorer!**

Humid air and the smell of warm earth are some of the first things you notice when you enter the Tropical Dome. This collection of plants, birds, small reptiles and insects is sometimes called a “micro-cosm” or miniature version of the Rainforest. Like the “bird of paradise” flower pictured here, there is much to discover in this amazing display. When you come to visit, try to imagine how the ancient explorers might have felt when they first visited the exotic rainforests of the world!

You will see a beautiful waterfall and an 85-foot tall “kapok” tree – one of the largest trees under glass anywhere in the world. You will see tropical fruit trees, like star fruit, banana, avocado and guava. Discover the source of chocolate and cocoa, as well as flavorings like vanilla from the vanilla orchid. Learn about familiar spices from the rainforest like black pepper, as well turmeric and cardamom, which may be new to you.

You will see ferns growing overhead on tree branches. Vines scramble up tall trees to get more exposure to light. And, notice brightly colored flowering plants with names like hibiscus, amaryllis and crinum. Imagine learning how to spell the names of these plants!

There are so many wonderful things to see and learn in this mini-rainforest. Come spend an hour or stay the whole day. Maybe you will be inspired to write a story about the day you became an explorer!

**Be sure to join us for Rainforest Night! See page 2 for exciting details.**

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**Macaws of the Rainforest**

The rainforests of Central and South America are home to Macaws, beautiful members of the parrot family. Many have brightly colored feathers and their graceful tails are often very long. Their coloring is well suited to life in the rainforests where they live surrounded by lush green trees, and colorful fruits and flowers. In the wild, Macaws live an average of 60 years. They have large, powerful beaks that easily crack nuts and seeds. Their dry, scaly tongues have a bone inside that makes it easier to break into fruits.

Macaws are intelligent, social birds that often gather in flocks of 10 to 30. Their loud calls, squawks and screams echo through the forest treetops as they communicate, mark their territory and identify one another. Some species can even mimic human speech.

Macaws sleep in the trees at night. In the morning they often fly long distances to feed on fruit, nuts, insects, and snails. These playful birds are popular pets, and many are illegally trapped for sale. There are 17 species of macaws, and several are endangered and disappearing at an alarming rate.

Source: National Geographic. “Mel,” (featured in the photo) is a Shamrock Macaw from the Center for Avian Rehabilitation & Education in Hubertus. According to Laurie Drew, Founder and President of the Center, Shamrock Macaws are a hybrid of the original rainforest species.
Spices have played a significant role in history as people from temperate countries looked for the plants that add so much flavor to various cuisines. Cardamom originated in India and Sri Lanka and is still grown in that part of the world. The pungent, eucalyptus-like flavoring comes from its seeds and is an important ingredient in curries and other Indian dishes. It also is used in Arab and Turkish coffee. Unlike many spices, cardamom was not widely adopted by Europeans, although it is an ingredient in Dutch windmill cookies and German stollen recipes. The Vikings brought cardamom back to Scandinavia more than 1,000 years ago. It is common in Scandinavian recipes for bread, cookies, and coffee cakes. Although it is a very expensive spice, only small quantities are used in baking because it is so aromatic. The ground cardamom sold in stores lacks the intensity of freshly ground cardamom.

Cardamom is in the ginger family. In the wild, it grows as an understory, perennial bush in tropical rainforests. Cardamom has long green leaves and can grow to ten feet high. In plantations, it is often grown in partially cleared rainforests because it needs the shading of the taller trees. Cardamom can be grown from seed or rhizomes. Today, Guatemala is the largest commercial producer of cardamom.

Flowers are rarely seen except in true tropical conditions with 150 inches of rain per year. The small, attractive flowers have white petals with pink to purple veins. The fruit are small, three-sectioned capsules that contain the seeds. In the image, cardamom capsules and seeds are on the right and compared in size to a kidney bean. The larger capsule and seeds on the left are from another member of the ginger family, black cardamom (**Amomum subulatum**). Black cardamom also is used as a spice, but it has a stronger, different flavor and is not a substitute for cardamom. Look for cardamom growing under the banana plants in the Tropical Dome.


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**International Year of Forests!**

**Paula J. Zamiatowski**  
**Interpretive Educator**

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2011 as the International Year of Forests to raise awareness of sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of all types of forests. The website, http://www.un.org/en/events/iyof2011/ is a global platform to celebrate people’s action to sustainably manage the world’s forests. You will also find information regarding events organized throughout the year as well as interactive web tools and resources to promote dialogue on forests. Here are some interesting facts about forests… and please visit the site!

- Forests cover 31% of total land area.
- Primary forests account for 36% of forest area.
- The livelihoods of over 1.6 billion people depend on forests.
- Forests are home to 80% of our terrestrial biodiversity.
- Trade in forest products was estimated at $327 billion in 2004.
- Forests are home to 300 million people around the world.
- 30% of forests are used for production of wood and non-wood products.
**2011 Calendar of Events**

Through September 11 ...................................................... Up, Up & Away Summer Show
August 19 - 21 ..................................................................... Milwaukee Domes Art Festival
September 17 – 18 ............................................................... Orchid Show & Sale
September 24 – November 6 .............................................. Little House on the Plains (Mum Show)
October 7 ................................................................................ Rainforest Night
October 15 - 16 ................................................................. Ikebana Show (The art of Japanese Floral Design)
November – March .......................................................... Music Under Glass Concert Series**
November 19 – January 1, 2012 ...................................... Holly, Jolly Holidays (Holiday Show)
December 4 ........................................................................... Gifts Under Glass Art Fair
December 31, 2011 ............................................................. New Year’s Eve Family Celebration*

*Sponsored by the “Friends of the Domes.”
Special admission rates apply.

**Thursday Evenings from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Visit our website www.milwaukedomes.org for more information and events scheduled after publication of this newsletter.