History of the Domes

Mitchell Park Conservatory in 1904. This glass and iron structure on the west side of Mitchell Park stood until 1955. Learn about the early years of the Conservatory, the park’s sunken garden, the 1930s baseball field and the 1940s boat house – in our wonderful new book about the Domes – covering our past, present and future! (see page 5.)

Friends of the Domes Gift Cards

Friends of the Domes Gift Cards are now available in the Domes Gift Shop! Remember to support the Domes when you do your holiday shopping this year. These cards may be used to purchase items in the Gift Shop, pay admission to Friends of the Domes events, and to buy memberships to the Friends of the Domes.

Let it Snow Holiday Show!

Snowboys and snowgirls keep their cool this holiday season. Sleighing, sledding and having fun, these snowkids play throughout the poinsettia-filled scene. A large tree decorated with snowflakes, icicles, and snowmen is the centerpiece of the show. Bring the whole family. Take a photo for your holiday card. Make memories and get into the holiday spirit! Join the generations of families who make the Domes an annual part of their yearly celebration. The Domes are open 356 days a year! (This show runs through January 6, 2013.)

2013 Floral Shows

January 19 – March 10
Circus Comes to Town (Train Show)
March 23 – May 27
Blue Bayou (Spring)
June 8 – September 8
Milwaukee Yards (Summer)
September 21 – November 10
Fall into the Fifties (Fall Mum)
November 23 – January 5, 2014
Nutcracker Suite (Holiday)

www.milwaukeedomes.org
By Phil Rozga, Acting President

Since this is the last newsletter of the year, it seemed appropriate to review the highlights of the year. Some are obvious, like the exhibit in the Tropical Dome featuring plants that changed the world, or the publication of a book telling the story of the Dome’s history. Others are not so apparent, such as the leveling of berms on the sides of the Domes so that we could use the space for the Art Festival and other activities. All of the programs sponsored by the Friends—Restaurants Under Glass, the Valentine Event, Plant and Bulb sales, the Art Festival and Ghosts Under Glass were successful and well attended.

We are appreciative of the $5,000 grant we received from the Carmax Foundation. Half of the money was used to provide transportation for school children attending our educational programs.

We have maintained a membership of approximately 1,500, and our Treasurer, Terrell Ford, notes that we are solvent.

We are looking forward to the construction of the new green houses and we are planning programs utilizing that new facility. All is well and the future can only get better.

From the Friends of the Domes

Join us for the hottest live music and the coolest light shows!

**November 22, Thanksgiving Day** – Extended Hours ’Till 10 pm. THE WHISKEYBELLES, upbeat melding of country, folk, and Americana.

**November 29** – SOUTHERN TRADITION, gritty down-home country.

**December 6** – TWEED FUNK, soul-drenched sound with an edge.

**December 13** – THE BOOZE BROTHERS SHOW BAND & REVUE, inspired by “The Blues Brothers.”

**December 20** – KT’S UNIVERSAL LOVE BAND, eclectic blend of African and reggae sounds.

**December 27** – MARCELL & PETER DUELING PIANOS, a fast paced, high-energy production.

**January 3** – U2 ZOO, celebrating the U2 concert experience.

**January 10** – THE HAPPY DUTCHMEN, traditional polkas and other ethnic favorites.


**January 31** – THE BARRETTES, rock out as guitar, cello, and melodica collide.

**February 7** – Mardi Gras Celebration
PAUL CEBAR TOMORROW SOUND, fantastic funk, soul and Afro-Caribbean rhythms.

**FEBRUARY 14** – Valentine Sweethearts Night
STREETLIFE WITH WARREN WIEGRATZ, a unique blend of R&B and contemporary styles.

**FEBRUARY 21** – Elvis Tribute Night
TONY ROCK & THE COMEBACK SPECIAL, grab your blue suede shoes!

**FEBRUARY 28** – MT. OLIVE, hear your favorites from Lady Gaga to Van Halen, Michael Jackson and more.

**MARCH 7** – Irish Celebration Night
FROGWATER, intoxicating blend of celtic, bluegrass and ragtime.

**March 14** – Closing Night
R.A.S. MOVEMENT featuring
JAH DWAYNE TAFARI & NAIMA ADEDAPO-TAFARI, Blends of Caribbean, reggae, roots, and rock!

For more concert dates and exciting special event details, go to www.milwaukeedomes.org and www.countyparks.com.

Don’t miss a single one! With the exception of extended hours on Thanksgiving Day, concerts are 6:30 – 9 pm. Food and beverages available for purchase; no “carry ins.”
First, I would like to thank everyone for the generous gifts of time, energy and money given to the conservatory this year. Without the support and goodwill of our visitors and Friends of the Domes members, we could never have accomplished the amazing transformation of the Mitchell Park Domes, continued our mission of education, and provided visitors an amazing experience in this one of a kind facility. It’s been a good year.

The New Year will bring even more improvements. As most of you know, the conservatory has limited space for meetings, classes or special events. With construction of the new County Greenhouses slated for this coming year that will change. We will have access to our actual growing greenhouse space, with the potential of offering gardening classes, seminars and tours, and the ability to host other events relative to local horticultural clubs. This will definitely expand our outreach to local communities and organizations. This is also a good opportunity for you to share your ideas about what events might be offered here that you would be interested in participating in. I would love to hear your ideas as we once again move the Domes in a new direction.

Happy Holidays from my staff to you and your family. Come on down and see our wonderful holiday show featuring a 30-foot holiday tree and a group of jolly snowmen! A great place to visit when the relatives are in town or you are just looking to take a “breather” from the hectic holiday season. See you at the Domes!
New Years Eve Family Celebration

Please join us for our annual New Years Eve Family Celebration, Monday, December 31 from 6-9 pm. This is one of the only indoor family events in the city. There will be live entertainment for the whole family, including a magician, balloon sculptures, interactive music by the Garlic Mustard Pickers, Juggler Gypsy Geoff, children’s crafts, a balloon drop, party favors and so very much more! Zilli’s Hospitality will offer food and beverages for purchase.

Admission prices: $10 for Adults; $5 for children ages 4-17 (children 3 and under free).

For more information, and to avoid the lines on event night, advanced admission can be purchased online at milwaukeedomes.org.

Restaurants Under Glass

The Friends of the Domes is sponsoring its 7th Annual Restaurants Under Glass on Friday, January 25, 2013 from 6:30 – 9 pm. We will feature samples of culinary delights from many of the Milwaukee areas best restaurants.

Invite some friends, enjoy lots of great food and relax to the music while supporting a great cause – The Domes!

In addition to the tastings, you can stroll through the Show Dome, which will feature “A Circus Comes to Town” theme, the Train Show and live Jazz music from Jimmy Madritsch.

Admission is $30 per person, which includes UNLIMITED tastings. Raffle Tickets for gift certificates to the restaurants are $1 each. There will be a cash bar. For more information on the list of restaurants, and to avoid the lines on event night, advanced admission can be purchased online at milwaukeedomes.org.

IMPORTANT NOTE: These are special fundraising events for the Friends of the Domes, therefore all discounted admissions, coupons, passes and Friends of the Domes membership privileges will not apply. Due to the popularity of these events, strollers are not permitted.

$500 Train Car Sponsorships!

Another FUN way to support the Domes! Join the fun and support the 2013 “Circus Comes to Town” Train Show running January 19 through March 10 by purchasing your own unique train car for yourself or your company! We do all the work, design and installation. Your corporate message or logo is seen by 70,000+ visitors to the Domes during this popular show! A great way to market to our visitors and support the restoration of the Conservatory! Call Sandy Folaron, Domes Director at 414-257-5601.
Gifts Under Glass
What’s New in the Gift Shop?

FOD members are invited to shop and enjoy a 20% discount* from December 1-9! It will be a great opportunity to find unique gifts, while enjoying the Let It Snow Holiday Show. Bring your holiday shopping list and choose from an amazing variety of unique items made by local artists, and lots of wonderful books on local history.

The new history book on the Domes, “Gardens Under Glass,” is available as well. A fabulous holiday gift for history buffs and Domes lovers! You will always find fun, educational and memorable gifts for friends and family members of all ages.

(*Please note: 20% discount does not apply to the purchase of any Friends of the Domes membership.)

Engraved Pavers a Great Gift!

Purchase a paver to honor a loved one or celebrate a special event. A wonderful, lasting gift for the upcoming holidays! Your donation of $125 for an 8” x 4” paver includes 3 lines, 13 characters per line.

Go to milwaukeedomes.org for an order form. Donation is tax deductible.

Half Price Gift Memberships!

Looking for the perfect holiday gift? Give a gift membership to the Friends of the Domes! As a member of the Friends of the Domes, you can buy a gift membership (at your membership level or lower) for a new member at half price! Everyone will love the wonderful sights, sounds, shows and events! Go to milwaukeedomes.org for details.

FOD Dues Tax Deductible

Membership dues for Friends of the Domes are tax deductible for all who itemize.

Garden Wisdom

"One must maintain a little bit of summer, even in the middle of winter."
~ HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Photo by Bridget O’Donnell
Children's Corner

There is so much to discover inside the Domes. But there is also a lot to see and learn in the many wonderful parks throughout the Milwaukee area. So, after you visit the Tropical, Desert and Show Domes, enjoy an amazing winter day exploring nature outdoors!

- Start a nature diary, sketchbook or photo album. Each time you take a walk, observe something up close in nature. Many plants look dry in winter – but their shapes and colors can be beautiful. Draw or photograph the item, write down descriptive details and date the entry. Your drawings can be colored or painted later if you like!
- Identify trees. During a walk in the winter, observe the shape and bundling of evergreen needles and look closely at patterns on tree bark. Notice which birds and animals you see living in and around the trees. You could write a story about what you’ve seen!
- Go on a berry hunt. Draw or photograph berries of many colors, and try to identify them (but never eat them!). Use a nature guidebook before or after your search to find clues about what you discovered. You may even observe birds feasting on winter berries!
- Observe the night sky. Before your trip, research the constellations and planets that may be visible on a cold clear night at the “latitude” and “longitude” where you live. Practice picking them out by first tracing the constellations on paper!
- Search for animal tracks. The best time is early morning when snow is fresh and new — you’ll likely find the tracks of “nocturnal” or “night time” animals. Draw and label what you see. It’s a pretty good bet that if you’re looking in your backyard you’ll find squirrel, bird, and maybe rabbit tracks.

Be A Winter Explorer

Sponsor an Animal at the Domes!

Our resident animals live in the education center and Tropical Dome. A one-year sponsorship provides your chosen animal with a higher quality of life. Your help provides tanks, full spectrum lighting, basking lamps, specialty foods, supplements and veterinarian care. This is vital to continuing the best care possible for these animal educators. In return, you receive a thank you packet including a natural history profile of your sponsored animal, a photo and a thank you card from the Education Center.

Learn more at www.milwaukeedomes.org.
During the holidays, our wild chilis (Capsicum annuum var. glabriusculum) help create a festive atmosphere in the Desert Dome, producing their colorful fruits throughout the season. Their bright red, pea-sized chilis hang like little ornaments from the green, shrubby branches, and when eaten they are only slightly less hot than the habenero, chasing away winter’s chill. Chiltepins, as they are also known, can still be found growing wild in parts of the Sonoran Desert, which covers the southwestern United States and northwestern Mexico. These plants are believed to be the closest living relatives to the first chili pepper domesticated by humans. Through centuries of selective breeding, Native Americans increased the size of the fruits, altered the flavor, and even adjusted the level of heat.

It is theorized that the purpose of the chili’s heat is to discourage mammals, such as rodents, from eating the fruit because their digestive tract might destroy the delicate seeds inside. Birds, however, are unable to feel the burn and are attracted to the bright fruits. Their simple digestion does not harm the seeds, and they provide an excellent means of dispersal as they fly great distances across the desert. Interestingly, since humans also became attracted to these fruits, it would seem the chili pepper has found another reliable means of survival through cultivation.

Aside from numerous culinary uses, peppers have been also been grown simply for their appearances. In the Desert Dome you will also find a few varieties of ornamental peppers (Capsicum annuum), which were bred for their wide range of colors and compact growth forms. These peppers provide visual interest in a time when otherwise not much is blooming in the American plant collection. In combination with the chiltepins, these chilis can brighten up even the gloomiest winter day.

Photo credit: Marian French

Featured PLANT: Winter Chili Peppers

By Marian French, Horticulturist – Desert Dome

Thanking Our Donors and Supporters

A very enthusiastic “Thank You!” to the following individuals and organizations for helping to make many of our wonderful programs and special events possible:

Loose Bead Society, Petra Theurich (Germany Under Glass), LisaAnn Haag (Orchid Show), Roy Dublick (Plaza Perennial Garden Design), Bob DuFresne (Train Show Volunteer Coordinator), Emily Heller (Graphic Design Services, Parks), Jon Majdoch (Halloween Express), and Ken Hudak (Canopies Rentals).

Ed Center Thanks Vendors!

Green Living Festival: Center for Avian Rehab and Education, Centro Cafe - Chef Ruth Weil, Cream City Hens, Cream City Rickshaws, Generation Me, Me2, Keep Greater Milwaukee Beautiful, Milwaukee Area Resources for Vegetarianism, Outpost Natural Foods, Pinehold Gardens, US Forest Services, Victory Gardens Initiative, ZCK Solutions, Joseph the Carpenter, Community Development Advocates; and Rainforest Night: Bill Korinek, Center for Avian Rehab and Education, Culver’s - Miller Park, Filipino-American Community, Honolulu Millionaires, Kohl’s Cares, Wild Theater, Lady Poi, Nielsen Massey Vanillas, OKG Deli and Hawaiian Store, Phi Holzbauer, Pick ‘n’ Save Clarke Square, Terre Golembiewski, and the Zoological Society of Milwaukee.
2012 – 2013 Calendar of Events

November 17 – January 6, 2013 ............................................... Let it Snow! Holiday Show

December 31 ............................................................................. New Year’s Eve Family Celebration*

November through March 14 ............................................. Music Under Glass Concert Series**

January 19 – March 10 ....................................................... Circus Comes to Town Train Show

January 25 ..................................................................................... Restaurants Under Glass*

February 1 & 2 ............................................................................. Chinese New Year’s Celebration

February 16 .................................................................................... Poland Under Glass

February 17 .............................................................................. Milwaukee Bonsai Society Winter Silhouette Display

February 23 & 24 ......................................................................... Collectible All-Scale Train Exhibit

March 2 ............................................................................................. Germany Under Glass

March 9 .............................................................................................. Turkey Under Glass

March 9 ......................................................................................... Steam Engine Day

March 10 ......................................................................................... Irish Family Day

March 16 ......................................................................................... Dare to be Aware (holistic health) Fair

March 23 – May 27 ....................................................................... Blue Bayou Spring Show

April 13 & 14 ..................................................................................... Ikebana Show

April 27 ............................................................................................. Green Living Festival

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

** Thursdays from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m.

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE Visit our website

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

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