Cyril Colnik’s Iron Gate

Cyril Colnik (1871 – 1958) is often called the “Tiffany of the wrought iron masters.” He achieved national fame as one of the foremost metal craftsmen of his time. Mr. Colnik was commissioned to fabricate these iron gates for the original conservatory that was open from 1898 until 1955 when the structure was raised to build the current conservatory. The artistry of Colnik is synonymous with the history of Milwaukee. Like his beautiful gates now featured in the Show Dome, the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory is itself a treasured “work of art” that enhances our community and the lives of countless visitors who appreciate the wonders within. Your Mitchell Park Domes are truly something to appreciate and celebrate! Learn more about the history of our fabulous Domes in the book “Gardens Under Glass,” available in the Gift Shop. Buy a copy for yourself, your family, and your holiday visitors.

Nutcracker Suite Holiday Show!

Join us in a fanciful land of snowflakes, snow fairies, toy soldiers, mice, a sugar plum fairy, candy decorations, and a scene from the Nutcracker Suite. There will be lots of poinsettias, a tree decorated with nutcracker-colored lights in red, blue, white and gold, as well as beautiful colored ornaments. Visitors of all ages will enjoy this magical land of snow, sweets, and enchanted characters! Join the generations of families who make the Domes an annual part of their yearly celebration. This show runs through January 5.

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

Through April 3, 2014
Complete schedule on page 5

With the exception of extended hours on Thanksgiving Day, concerts are 6:30 – 9 pm. Food and beverages available for purchase; no “carry ins.” Go to www.milwaukeedomes.org and www.countyparks.com for any changes to this schedule that may have occurred after this newsletter went to print.
From the Education Center

By Paula Zamiatowski, Interpretive Educator

You’re invited to join me in the Education Center or perhaps on an early morning walk every week at the start of the New Year. This offering is for individuals and small groups with five or less people.

Mondays, 10 a.m. – Story Time for Kids! Each week, stories are read to all Education Center guests. Afterwards, children draw what they see in the Show Dome or Desert Dome, and remember from the stories – from chrysanthemums to trains to desert life.

Tuesdays, 9 a.m. – Meet Our Animals! Stop in to the Education Center and meet Terra Turtle, Uri Lizard and Henderson Snake up close. During your visit, you can help feed Terra and hold Henderson.

Wednesdays, 9 a.m. – Show Me Some Flowers! Take a 15-30 minute walk through the Show Dome and learn how we change over the floral shows as well as maintain the plants and props.

Thursdays, 9 a.m. – Thirsty Thursday! Take a 15-30 minute walk through the Desert Dome. Find out how long some of these amazing plants can live and why this Dome is cooler than the rest. Afterwards, try a sample of aloe juice in the Education Center. Please let us know you’re joining us so I know how much juice to have handy.

If you’re interested in helping as a volunteer or intern, please email me at Paula.Zamiatowski@milwcnty.com or call me at 414-257-5603. See you soon!

What’s New in the Gift Shop?

By Mary Philipp, Gift Shop Manager/Buyer

My Kids Lids are whimsical fleece hats handmade with love. Designer and maker Katie Segel Liban has exquisite attention to detail making these products durable, high-quality pieces. Each design comes in an assortment of colors and dimensions as well. From cherries, flowers, birds, swirls, puppies, lobsters, frogs, monsters and more, you can pick which unique hat bests fits your little one’s personality. In addition to the more than 30 styles of hats in four different sizes, now Katie has added children’s coats and scarves to her growing collection.

Katie Segel Liban gets plenty of feedback from her two children. Josie is only five years old, but the little “fashionista” knows great flair when she sees it. She adores wearing her fleece hats so much, she insists on wearing her colorful caps year round! Her older brother Owen is nine, but he’s already helping inspire mom. He gets very excited about new styles and ideas and has even come up with a few new designs all by himself!
By Phil Rozga, Acting President

The dictionary defines autumn as “A time or period of maturity verging on decline.” Maybe a Dickens quote defines it more completely, “the best of times and the worst of times.” Early Fall with the colorful landscapes, the lush gardens, the warm days and cool nights cannot be beat. Wisconsin is justly renowned for its beauty during this time. However, it doesn’t last long. As I am writing this, the weather forecast includes a hard freeze warning. This triggers the “worst” part of Fall. It means taking in plants from their outdoor summer placements, taking down awnings, and putting up storm windows. But remember, as Shelley said, “If Winter comes, can Spring be far behind?”

At the Domes, we are looking forward to the completion of the new greenhouses. They certainly are imposing structures. We had hoped to hold our Annual Members Meeting when the work was finished, but the opening has been delayed. As of this writing we cannot establish a definite date of completion.

We remain concerned about the condition of the Tropical Dome and hope that the required maintenance can be completed in the near future.

One bit of good news. If you have been to the Domes recently, I hope that you noticed the new chairs and tables in the lobby, which were purchased by the Friends of the Domes.

On behalf of the Board and Staff, I wish you a joy-filled Holiday Season. Make sure you include a visit to the Domes as part of your “memory building” family plan.

Winter Farmers Market

The Milwaukee County Winter Farmers’ Market is held at the Domes every Saturday through April 19. Market vendors offer high quality fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, poultry and dairy products. Local food vendors also offer a wide variety of delicious, fresh baked goods, pasta, oatmeal, granola, artisan cheeses, jams, cider, honey, maple syrup, sorghum, sauces and soups, as well as enticing ethnic cuisine. Bring the whole family and find delightful treats for your holiday celebrations, tailgate parties as well as everyday family meals. See website below for dates and times.

SAVE THE DATES!
Don’t miss our Events Calendar on the back page or visit www.milwaukeedomes.org.

Garden Wisdom

“…each tree…holds summer’s secret…deep down within its heart.”
~ Charles G. Stater
Fantastic Fund Raising Events
Mark Your Calendars!

New Years Eve Family Celebration
Please join us for our annual New Years Eve Family Celebration, Tuesday, December 31 from 6 - 9 pm. This is one of the only indoor family events in the city. This party will be packed with live entertainment for the whole family, including Kohl’s Wild Theater, a magician, balloon sculptures, interactive music by the Garlic Mustard Pickers, Juggler Gypsy Geoff, David Drake, Happy Hooping, Brewers Sausages, face painting, 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 www.milwaukeedomes.org.

Restaurants Under Glass
The Friends of the Domes is sponsoring its 8th Annual Restaurants Under Glass on Friday, January 31, from 6:30 – 9:30 pm. We will feature samples of culinary delights and wine tasting 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! The Friends of the Domes has made some new and exciting changes to this year’s Restaurants Under Glass, which will make this year the best yet. In addition to the tastings, you can stroll through the Show Dome, which will feature Gas Lamp Express Garden Train Show. 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 www.milwaukeedomes.org.

Valentines Day
Remember Valentine’s Day at the Domes. Bring someone special for dinner and drinks and take a romantic stroll through the Domes, while relaxing to some great music. More information will be available soon on our website, www.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 2014 “Gas Lamp Express” Train Show running January 18 through March 30 by purchasing your own unique train car or your company building that becomes part of the train show layout itself! We do all the work, design and installation. 70,000+ visitors to the Domes see your corporate message or logo 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.
Join us for the hottest live music and the coolest light shows!

November 28 .............................. Valarie B and the Boys, R&B, Funk
(Thanksgiving Day – Hours extended to 10 p.m.)

December 05 .............................. Tom Brusky Polka Band, Polka-Variety Band

December 12 .............................. De La Buena, Jazz that explores the textures of diverse cultures

December 19 ............................. "Santa Get's Rocked Night," The Cheap Shots, Party-Rock Cover Band

December 26 .............................. Holiday Show, The Kal Bergendahl Project, Jazz, Christian, pop, originals

January 02 .............................. Semi Twang, Roots-based with lead singer/songwriter John Sieger

January 09 .............................. The Neil Diamond and Nostalgia Show, Ebert (aka "Eric Diamond")
and Alper (SHOW IN LOBBY)

January 16 .............................. Johnny Cash Tribute, Liam Ford Band, playing Johnny Cash's 20 greatest hits

January 23 .............................. Almighty Vinyl (formerly Stoneship Eden), 70s Classic Rock

January 30 .............................. Star Wars Night: Tribute to Outer Space, Sigmund Snopek & David Woods

February 06 ............................ The R Country Gals, Good Old Country Bluegrass” with 5-part harmonies

February 13 .............................. Valentine's Celebration, Vivo featuring Warren Wiegratz,
Contemporary Jazz, Pop, Bossa, Samba

February 20 .............................. Beatles Tribute, The BriTins

February 27 .............................. The Test 1…2 Band, A full mix of semi-acoustic songs

March 06 .............................. Marcell’s Matrix, Blues, Rock and Funk

March 13 .............................. Irish Celebration Night, Tallymoore, Energizing Celtic and Folk Classics

March 20 .............................. Jake Paul Band, Reggae, Jam, Rock

March 27 .............................. The Noyz Boyz & Girls, 10-piece Horn band with 3 vocalists. Rock and R&B

April 03 .............................. Beach Party Night: Elvis in Hawaii
John Van Thiel sings Elvis with backup by the Ocean Rush
Band and dancers from Hale O Malo

From the Director's Chair
Construction Zone

By Sandy Folaron
I will have a regular update From the Director’s Chair in our next issue.

Happy Holidays from my staff and I, to you and your family. See you at the Domes!

FOD Dues Tax Deductible
Membership dues for Friends of the Domes are tax deductible for all who itemize.

Sponsor an Animal
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.milwaukeeedomes.org.

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

Happy Holidays from my staff and I, to you and your family. See you at the Domes!

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Peppermints, Penguins and Pine Trees!

Peppermint candy has been linked with holiday festivities for years. This red and white-striped treat brightens up the Christmas season. Peppermints and candy canes get their distinctive spicy flavor from the oil found in the leaves of the bright green perennial herb known as peppermint. Peppermint, a cross between spearmint and wintermint, is America’s most popular mint flavor. Peppermint flavor can also be found in seasonal favorites like hot chocolates, teas, cookies and cakes. Children and adults enjoy this cool and refreshing flavor that farmers work year-round to produce.

Penguins like the Humboldt penguins at the Milwaukee County Zoo are extremely social animals, often found in groups. Great swimmers, they can reach speeds up to 20 miles per hour. These penguins are native to costal regions of Peru and Chile. Penguins are flightless birds with black and white plumage that serves as camouflage while swimming. They spend almost half their time in water and the other half on land. Penguins can drink seawater and eat a range of fish and other sea life that they catch underwater. Most penguins live in the Southern Hemisphere. Large penguin populations can be found in New Zealand, Australia, Chile, Argentina and South Africa. Did you know that no penguins live at the North Pole?

Pine trees are just one member of the tree family known as conifers. Conifers are trees that produce cones, which contain the seeds that grow more trees. Pine trees have long needles that help them retain water. This helps pine trees grow where other trees can’t, because they don’t need watering as often as other trees. Pine trees are called evergreens, because their needles stay green all year. Many bird species eat the seeds inside pine cones, and the pine branches are ideal locations for nesting. Because the needles remain on the tree throughout the winter, the snow piles up on the outside of the tree, providing an ideal haven for birds, protecting them from weather and predators.

I LEARNED IT AT THE DOMES! French-Canadian fur trader Jacques Vieu established a trading post in 1795 by building a cabin on a bluff that would later become Mitchell Park.

~Gardens Under Glass (a history of Mitchell Park Domes)
By Marian French, Horticulturist – Desert Dome

While its Latin name may be a mouthful, you may be familiar with this plant by sight – it is also called flamingo flower, wax flower, and... little boy flower. Its vibrant red “flower” is actually a modified leaf, called a spathe. The “tail” that sticks straight out of the middle is called the spadix, and it’s covered with tiny flowers.

There are a few species of anthurium that are grown for their decorative blooms and they are often hybridized to create new colors and forms. However, one of the first species discovered and grown commercially was Anthurium andraeanum. It grows on trees as an epiphyte in the wet mountain forests of Ecuador and Colombia. In 1876 a botanical explorer named Edouard Andre collected the first known specimen and sent it to a nursery in Belgium. While some of his contemporaries disagreed at first, calling the anthurium “one of the gaudiest plants,” the majority of Europe fell in love with this heart-shaped blossom, growing and selling it throughout the continent.

Today, anthuriums are a wonderful addition to the household, where they thrive in most bright windows. They hold their flowers for a long time without fading, and they can bloom year-round, making them especially cheery in the dark winter months.

Combined with richly colored poinsettias, anthuriums are helping to make the holidays bright in our Show Dome this year!

Photo by Bridget O’Donnell

2014 Floral Shows

January 18 – March 30
Gas Lamp Express (Trains)

April 12 – May 26
Irish Spring (Spring)

June 7 – September 7
Partners & Pests (Summer)

September 20 – November 9
Over the Rainbow (Fall Mum)

November 22 – January 4, 2015
Mele Kalikimaka (Holiday)

Volunteer!

New volunteers are always welcome. You choose the hours you want to volunteer and at which events. Volunteers can be as young as high school age; volunteer hours can even be reported to a student’s school for credit. In addition to working at special events, you could be a volunteer Phenology Recorder and walk the paths to look for and record plants as they bloom. Or be a volunteer Resource Keeper and assist with management of the Ed Center’s library, photo collection and other informational resources. Perhaps you would like to volunteer at an upcoming event noted in this issue!

For more information, go to www.milwaukee-domes.org and click on Volunteer, or contact Liz Fehring at 414-322-7600.
November 23 – January 5, 2014....................................Nutcracker Suite (Holiday Show)
December 31...............................................................New Year’s Eve Family Celebration*
January 2 – April 3, 2014 ....................................................................Music Under Glass**
January 18 ..............................................................................................Poland Under Glass
January 18 – March 30, 2014 ..........................................Gas Lamp Express (Train Show)
January 25-26 ...................................................................Chinese New Year’s Celebration
January 31....................................................................................Restaurants Under Glass*
February 14 ........................................................................................V alentines Night Out*
February 16 .........................................................................................G ardens & G ears Steam Punk Faire
March 1 ..............................................................................................G erm any Under Glass
March 9 ........................................................................................................Irish Fam ily D ay
March 15 ...................................................................................................T urkey Under Glass
April 5......................................................................................................D are to be A w are Fair
April 12 ...................................................................................................V ery Fairy Princess D ay
April 26 .......................................................................................................G reen Living Festival
May 11 .....................................................................................................Mother’s Day Jewelry is Fun

* Sponsored by the “Friends of the Domes.” Special admission rates apply.
** Thursday nights, 6:30 – 9 p.m.

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