Art and Design Met Natural Beauty at the Domes Art Festival

By Julie Merck
Newsletter Editor

With over 40 artists, over 80 volunteers, and perfect weather, the Milwaukee Domes Art Festival this August was a beautiful event! In addition to viewing and purchasing art ranging from traditional painting and photography to abstract jewelry, functional art, floral design, and metal sculpture, Festival attendees also had the opportunity to meet and talk to the artists.

From left: Metal Sculpture Artist Robert Farrell won Best in Show for his silver art and jewelry; Mary Ann Redfearn won Honorable Mention for her unique, intricate leaf print sculptures; Aaron Laux won Honorable Mention for his elegant designs crafted from wood and re-claimed materials.

Get your costumes ready!

By Liz Fehring
Event & Volunteer Coordinator

Looking for a fun, safe place to take the kids on Halloween night? Ghosts Under Glass at the Domes will be held Friday, October 31 from 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Dress up in fun costumes (no blood or gore, please) and enjoy a spooky adventure through the Tropical Dome and a fun adventure through the Arid Dome. Kids can trick & treat and have their costumes judged. There will also be face painters, balloon twisters, crafts, lots of entertainment, give-aways, and fun for the entire family!

This event does tend to sell out; we recommend purchasing tickets early. Ticket sales begin October 1 at the Domes Gift Shop or on the Dome’s website.

Food and beverages will be for sale through Zilli’s Hospitality.

When: October 31, 6:00 to 9:00 PM
Cost: Adults $8; Children 4-17 $5; Children 3 and under free
Rainforest Night at the Domes

By Paula Zamiatowski
Interpretive Educator

To take your family on an amazing journey to an exotic rainforest, you could spend thousands of dollars, suffer through several painful vaccinations, and fight off mosquitoes as big as turkeys.

—OR—

You could bring your family to Rainforest Night at the Domes! Rainforest Night has been an all-ages family favorite for 18 years. Enjoy a fun, educational tour of the Tropical Dome guided by the glow of your flashlight and Tiki torches.

When: October 10, 6:00 to 9:00 PM
Cost: Free to Friends’ Members
Domes’ admission prices for non-members

What:
- Rainforest Tours 6:30 to 8:30 PM
- Sample rainforest products like exotic fruits, chocolate, ice cream, and juices in the lobby.
- Meet exotic birds, insects, and reptiles
- Create your own button featuring a tropical animal or plant
- Enjoy Authentic African food from Afro Fusion Cuisine served by owner Yollande Deacon
- Browse through the fair trade and handcrafted items for purchase from local vendors.
- Listen to KT Rusch’s Universal Love Band perform African music in the Show Dome and Sound Alchemists in the Tropical Dome with music played on indigenous instruments.

Revive Yourself! The Inner Oasis

By Paula Zamiatowski
Interpretive Educator

Please join us for a special offering at the Domes—Connect to the healing power of yoga and plants in the Desert Dome. We will begin our Sunday morning with yoga and meditation and finish with a medicinal plant tour and a sampling of agave and aloe juices.

Bring your own mat and any prop you may need for your comfort like a blanket, towel, and/or water bottle. All levels are welcome.

When: Sunday, October 26th, 7:30 AM-9:30 AM
Cost: Friends’ Members $5; Non-members $10
Registration: Pre-register at the Domes’ gift shop. Limited to 10 people.
Greenhouse Construction Update

By Sandy Folaron
Director
A new Chapter begins....

The new Milwaukee County greenhouses boast systems that are both environmentally friendly and energy efficient. The business of growing plants has come a long way since our ancestors’ time. New techniques not only save time and labor, they ultimately produce healthier plants. The main “brain” behind all of the operational components is the Argus System. This system monitors and controls tasks that were often done manually by horticultural staff. Many of these new systems are now considered to be industry standards as greenhouses become an important part of the renewed interest in sustainable ways to grow plant material. Some of these components include; radiant floor heat; computer programmed crop irrigation and fertilizing; cooling pads; automatic shade and blackout cloth; automatic weather monitoring for ventilation programming; and water reuse through a system called the Sky Harvester.

As a primary example of a great green initiative, the Sky Harvester can provide over 80,000 gallons of water for reuse. This is accomplished with the 1.25 acres of roof area that drains storm water into gutters which empty directly into an underground storage system. The water is first pre-treated through a system of filters to make sure that it is not contaminated. This “gray water” is now our first source of irrigation water. Staff can use it to directly water plants or chose to mix in fertilizers and then use the water.

If the Sky Harvester tanks are full, the excess water enters a bypass detention system with has three different tiers; buried 5’ pipes, an overflow pond, and the Mitchell Park Lagoon. Amazing, and just one of the unique systems in place to help us grow crops efficiently!

As we continue to “move in” our new facility, begin to grow our very first crops of mums and poinsettias for our upcoming shows and learn where all the light switches are located (!), we will keep you informed about our progress. We still keep pinching ourselves that we have these greenhouses and the opportunity to better and more efficiently serve our visitors and the Milwaukee County Parks Department.

Stay tuned...

[Art Festival… continued from Cover]
even craft beer as they strolled through the festival.

Over $10,000 was awarded to artists during this juried show. To see the names of all of the award winners, please visit www.milwaukeedomesartfestival.com.

Thank you Steven Libbey for organizing this beautiful event and to all of the volunteers who made it possible!

Clockwise From left: Floral Design; Glasswork by Margaret Crahen; Henna-style Painting by Bala Thiagarajan; Scarves and Fabric designs by Nicole Tupesis; Tile Art by Kirsten Walstead; Metal Art by Michael Noite.
In the Show Dome—Fall Mum Show

By Mary Baunreiter
Horticulturist

Mum plants in a rainbow of colors will fill the Show Dome this fall. They will be joined by statue versions of the characters from “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz” by L. Frank Baum. Wander through the cornfield with the scarecrow to the forest with the cowardly lion on your way to the fabulous Emerald City. There you will encounter the scary woods with a wicked witch. —Oh, never mind, that’s just Mary watering the plants!

The mums were the first crop grown in the new greenhouses. They were shipped here in July in two deliveries, two weeks apart. When the little mums arrived they were 2” tall rooted cuttings. We purchased 6,750 cuttings and planted 5 per 6 1/2” pot. That’s 1,350 pots of mums!

The greenhouses are equipped with black-out cloth that we use to trick the mums into blooming. The extra darkness makes them think it is later in the year. When the first batch of mums is finished blooming, the horticulturists can remove them and replace them with the second batch.

So this fall, when the wind is blowing, let your troubles melt like lemon drops high above the chimney tops and come to see the magic we perform in the beautiful Fall Show, September 20 through November 9. There’s no place like the Domes!

Kids’ Corner

By Paula Zamiatowski
Interpretive Educator

Autumn in Wisconsin brings colorful images that you can capture with your children. In fall, there’s an amazing world beneath your feet as well as overhead—enjoy it before the snow falls!

Collect your favorite leaves for fun leaf print art. All you need is blank paper, leaves, crayons, and your imagination!

How about thinking forward to next spring? While you’re outdoors this fall, ask a friend if you can collect seeds from flowers that you have been admiring all summer long. Take a paper bag and mark the name of the plant on it and store in a cool place until spring when you can plant the seeds with your child.

On those days you need to stay indoors, choose a fall-theme book or two and plan your next adventure together. One of your adventures could be to the Mitchell Park Domes where you can tour the magical Over the Rainbow mum show; search for dinosaurs in the tropics and unusual-looking plants in the desert; or maybe stay for Story Time Monday mornings at 10:00 AM. Here are some of the books we recommend.

❖ It’s Fall by Linda Glaser
❖ Leaf Man by Lois Ehlert
❖ Chrysanthemum by Kevin Henkes
❖ Sunflower House by Eve Bunting
❖ Little Apple by Brigitte Weninger and Anne Moller
From the Friends of the Domes

By Phil Rozga
Acting President

This is an exciting time at the Domes. We are preparing to celebrate our 50th Anniversary with a $500,000 fund raising campaign. What will the money be used for? The Board has committed more than $100,000 for six new doors for the three Domes. They will allow access to individuals with disabilities. Funds have also been ear-marked for a new pedestrian pathway in the Tropical Dome, along with energy efficient landscape lighting. We hope to expand our educational programs incorporating the new greenhouses. These are just a few of the things needed to repair and enhance our 50 year old structures.

In the past 10 years the Friends organization has spent $675,459 on various projects, including the digital sign for the Domes entrance, lobby furniture, plants, and many other building needs. The money came from dues and various fund raising events, including Restaurants Under Glass, the Art Festival, and Ghosts Under Glass.

We hope to raise the campaign funds from our members, other groups, and from corporations. The Friends Board has pledged to contribute $5,000. We are confident that our loyal members will do their part. We will be sending solicitation letters in October.

We are also excited to share that our horticulturists have begun to use the new greenhouses. They are starting the mums for the Fall Show and poinsettias for the Holiday Show. We hope to be able to arrange a tour of the facilities for our members in the near future.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting with John Dargle, the Parks Director. He outlined the Parks Department plans for Mitchell Park concerning the various athletic fields. He assured me that there will not be a soccer field in the former sunken gardens.

Other accomplishments by the board include instituting a training program for volunteers; moving the Friends staff offices from the cramped quarters at the back of the Education Center to the space that had been used by the horticulturists; and selecting a new editor and new name for our publication.

See what I mean about excitement?

Conservatory Volunteer Program

Orientation Session for all Conservatory Opportunities

Would you like to become more knowledgeable about the history, current plant collection, and the future of the Domes? Are you looking for a way to share your customer service skills while working with the public at the Domes? If so, this is the event for you!

The Friends of the Domes and the Conservatory Education Center are joining forces to present a 3 hour session that will cover the following topics for new and current volunteers:

- Introductions
- Volunteer interests and talent survey
- Presentation of Mitchell Park and Domes Complex
- Domes tour and helpful docent information
- Information about volunteer opportunities

When: Wednesday, October 15th
Length: One 3 hour session (includes breaks, refreshments and tour of Domes)
Dates: Wednesday, October 15, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
OR Saturday, October 18th, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Registration is required. Please contact Liz Fehring at (414) 332-7600
Co-facilitators: Liz Fehring [FOD Volunteer Coordinator] and Paula Zamiatowski [Conservatory Interpretive Educator]
Save the date—Jewelry Show, November 15-16

One-of-a-kind jewelry pieces hand-crafted by local artisans will be for sale at the 4th Annual Jewelry at The Domes show presented by the Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee.

About 30 artists will sell their unique handcrafted jewelry, accessories, and decorative items—just in time for the holiday gift-giving season.

Artists dazzle with a variety of techniques and materials, including:
- Bead stitching, bead weaving, bead embroidery, and kumihimo beaded braiding
- Wirework and simple metalwork
- Resin, polymer clay, precious-metal clay, and epoxy clay
- Torch-firing borosilicate glass to create the tiny bumps on lampworked beads.

The Loose Bead Society of Greater Milwaukee was formed in 1999 as a fellowship of kindred spirits with the purpose of sharing and promoting the creation of beautiful beadwork and are proud to partner with the Domes and the Milwaukee County Parks Department to present this amazing show!

When: November 15 and 16, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM

Cost: Free to Friends’ Members; Domes’ admission prices for non-members

Gifts Under Glass—Meet the Artisan

By Julie Merck
Newsletter Editor

To achieve health and well-being, author Michael Pollan advises “avoid food products that contain ingredients that a third-grader cannot pronounce” -- In other words, choose natural, simple, real ingredients. Shouldn’t this advice apply to what you put on your body as well as what you put in your body?

Local artisan Kaleigh Atkinson produces fresh, natural body products with real ingredients including local Kallas beeswax and raw honey and Anodyne coffee beans. She also uses organic shea butter and coconut oil.

I met with Kaleigh in Bay View, where she produces her addictive body butter and other Habit products. Kaleigh started Habit less than a year ago. She was hooked on organic, fresh products, like those made by Lush cosmetics but found them to be a bit pricy. Not willing to sacrifice quality, she researched and found the highest grade, fair trade ingredients on the market and perfected her recipes.

Kaleigh’s passion for creating high quality, nourishing products shines through when she describes her process and her products. In addition to body butters and luscious lip balms, Kaleigh produces exfoliating and moisturizing Shower Scrubbies in three scents, including Lavendar + Pink Salt. She also has solid scent sticks and a delightful coffee infused Under Eye cream.

I tested the Calm body butter on my dry hands, and they felt instantly nourished and calmed. Even on my face, it felt much lighter than I expected and I love the light lavender scent. I’m happy to ditch my stale, mass produced lotions!

Habit products make great gifts and are available in the Domes’ gift shop as well as Hometown Established in Walker’s Point and on Etsy. Come test them today!

Feel free to test Habit products at the Domes’ Gift Shop!
Why Are They All Dead?  
A Lesson in Dormancy

By Marian French  
Horticulturist—Desert Dome

This time of year many of the outdoor plants in Wisconsin start to turn colors and lose their leaves. A very similar process occurs under glass, in the Desert Dome. During fall and winter most of the species housed here will slip into a period of dormancy.

A dormant plant loses its leaves, stops actively growing, and, to the untrained eye, may look like it’s dead. In fact, it is much like animal hibernation, with the plant’s metabolism slowing to a crawl until it wakes up, so to speak, when growing conditions improve. Dormancy is usually triggered by a combination of dropping temperatures and less daylight hours. Accordingly, starting in October, the daytime temperature of the Desert Dome is kept at a chilly 60 degrees, and at night it can drop to around 55 degrees. The dome will be kept at this setting until spring begins in March.

While it’s true that the dome could just as easily be kept at a steady, warm temperature year-round, this would only make chilly visitors happy, while many of the plants would suffer. Most species in the dome come from deserts that have very seasonal weather, often with a period of cool, if not downright cold, temperatures. If they are taken out of their natural rhythm they will not grow healthy and will not bloom.

Interestingly, while most plants from the American deserts will wait until after dormancy to flower (sometime in spring), many of the African desert plants will flower just before they go to sleep for the year. This show of much needed color comes chiefly from jade plants (Crassula ovata) and numerous aloes starting at the end of November. So as you tour the “sleepy” Desert Dome this fall, remember that falling leaves and shriveled cacti are simply part of the seasonal cycle. They are not dying, but ensuring that they will stay alive for many years to come.

Milwaukee County Winter Farmer’s Market Begins Soon!

Saturdays* from November 1st through April 11th, shop the farmer’s market for high-quality, local fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs, poultry, and dairy products. Local food vendors also bring a wide variety of freshly baked goods, jams, cider, honey, maple syrup, sorghum, sauces and soups, as well as delicious ethnic cuisine.

Starting this year, the market will be located in our new Greenhouse #7!

*Farmer’s Market will not be held on the Saturdays after Thanksgiving and Christmas

Dormancy is a kind of armored sleep that plants go through. A plant, bud, or seed that is “dormant” is not visibly active. It is in a waiting state, a kind of suspension of life until conditions are right for active growth. “Actively growing” is the opposite of “dormant.” —Jonathan Landsman What is Plant Dormancy? [Web article]
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Sally Sullivan       FOD Business Manager/ Membership

Upcoming Events
September 13-14.............. Orchid Show and Sale
September 20—November 9....... Over the Rainbow (Fall Mum Show)
October 10......................... Rainforest Night
October 31....................... Ghosts Under Glass Event*
November 1............... Saturday Morning Farmers’ Market begins**
November 15-16.................... Jewelry at the Domes
November 22– January 4, 2015 ....... Mele Kalikimaka (Holiday Show)
December 31 ...................... New Year’s Eve Family Celebration*
January 8—March 19............. Music Under Glass (Thursdays)***
February 14......................... Hearts Under Glass
February 27....................... Restaurants Under Glass
March 29.......................... Very Fairy Princess Day

*Sponsored by the Friends of the Domes. Special admission rates apply.
**Farmer’s Market will not be held on the Saturdays after Thanksgiving and Christmas
***Thursday nights, 6:30—9:00 PM