Thanking Donors and Supporters

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

Music Under Glass Sponsors
Friends of the Domes
Village of Manor Park
Waterstone Bank
Park People
501st Midwest Garrison Legion
All of our Nonprofit Partnerships for MUG (too numerous to mention!)
Zilli’s Hospitality Group

Train Car Sponsors
Wisconsin Illinois Trains LLC
Kalmbach Publishing, Garden RR Magazine
Jung Seed
Puhl’s True Value Hardware
Skylark Automatic Vending Inc.
Walther’s Train Supplies
Sommerfelds
Canopies Rentals
Milweb Banners
WI Humane Society
Glacier Railroad Club
Kenosha Railroad Club
WI Garden Railroad

Other Partners
Winter Farmers’ Market Board
Tri City National Bank
Amelia’s Restaurant

New Year’s Eve Celebration & Restaurants Under Glass
See page 4 for event sponsors.

2014 Floral Shows

Open now – March 30
Gas Lamp Express (Train Show)
April 12 – May 26
Irish Spring (Spring Show)
June 7 – September 7
Plant-tastic Voyage
(Summer Show)

September 20 – November 9
Over the Rainbow
(Fall Mum Show)
November 22 – January 4, 2015
Mele Kalikimaka
(Holiday Show)

Irish Family Day

Enjoy a little slice of Ireland with your family!
Sunday, March 9, 2014
9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Dancing • Music • Demonstrations • Displays
Arts • Crafts • Activities • Food

www.milwaukeedomes.org
From the Friends of the Domes

By Phil Rozga, Acting President

As you know, several unexpected events in recent months have caused Sandy, the Domes Director, all sorts of scheduling problems. The Winter Farmers’ Market, originally scheduled to be in the greenhouses, was moved to the Domes, so the planned ethnic festivals and other activities had to be cancelled. As they say, every cloud has a silver lining. The Farmers’ Market has been very successful, bringing back many visitors who have not been in for years. The Gift Shop has had an increase in business and we have added many new members. While some of the Friends events had to be cancelled, the New Year’s Eve Party and Restaurants Under Glass were sellouts. We had to turn people away for both events. We look forward to celebrating the grand opening of the greenhouses, so stay tuned.

I hope your indoor plants have survived this brutal winter. I try to save my geraniums, either by putting them in a south window or in a dark basement cellar. Those in the basement are a challenge. In the past, some looked good all winter but decided to “end it all” in April. They haven’t yet decided which way to go this year. The ones in the window are doing well, but it’s still early. As T.S. Eliot said, “April is the cruelest month.” If you have forced spring bulbs, I’m sure that you are enjoying their color and fragrance. They are always a signal that we should have hope. Spring is coming.

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Green Living Festival

APRIL 26, 2014
9:00AM – 3:00PM
AT THE DOMES

Find ways to save your green while helping people and our planet!

JOIN THE FUN
Pedal-Powered Rickshaw Rides
Live Chickens and Exotic Birds
Green Vendors, Demos, Samples and Info
Enter to Win the Green Living Festival Drawing

CRAFTS FOR KIDS
Homemade Mother’s Day Cards
Cool T-Shirt Headbands
Green Living Festival Buttons

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
10:30 a.m.  Talk - Living a Nontoxic Lifestyle
12:00 p.m.  The Fashion Experience
High-Fashion Reinvented Materials
1:30 p.m.  Talk - Easy, Earth-Healthy Eating
3:00 p.m.  Kohl’s Wild Theater
Kids’ Jamboree

REGULAR ADMISSION RATES APPLY
COUNTYPARKS.COM
The 5th Annual Milwaukee Domes Art Festival is overtaking the city once again from August 15 – 17, on the historic grounds of Mitchell Park. Every square foot will be crafted with sensory overload, featuring entertainment for the entire family. Witness our Plein Air artists creating masterpieces right before your very eyes. You’ll take home your favorite piece with the Altruistic Art Auction. Live music from a variety of Milwaukee bands will set a jubilant tone all weekend long. There will be a giant kid’s section filled with fun arts and crafts sure to draw out the inner artist in your little ones. They’ll be having too much fun to realize they’re learning.

Let’s recap: you’re in Milwaukee, you love festivals, and your entire family is taking advantage of gorgeous summer weather. Plenty of food and drinks to indulge in, and a good time will be had by all. Mark your calendars now for August 15 – 17. Milwaukee Domes Art Festival is like a stroll through your favorite painting – there is absolutely nothing about this to be missed! For updates on artists, music, food, sponsors, volunteer opportunities and more, go to www.milwaukeedomesartfestival.com.

What a winter! Now that the Tropical Dome has finally reopened after extensive months of inspections, life is good again! The disruption of that closure, along with the present Desert Dome closure for the same type of work, really took a toll and forced us to cancel some of our winter events due to occupancy guidelines and limited available space. Rest assured, next year we will once again fill the calendar with these special festivals and weekend events.

As I write this, access to our new greenhouses is right around the corner. Our staff is so excited and anxious to move into our new home. Once we get settled in, we will begin to look for ways to engage our Friends of the Domes in programming, tours and volunteer opportunities. This state of the art facility will offer us so many more options and space to plan and stage bigger and better events. We are really making history here and all of you are part of that support system that has made so many of these changes possible.

From the Director’s Igloo

By Sandy Folaron

A few updates to share:

The Winter Farmers’ Market has drawn record crowds for their weekly Saturday morning markets. Make sure you stop by before their last day here on Saturday, April 19. It’s a great partnership and a perfect fit!

The last Music Under Glass Concert is scheduled for April 3. Our Elvis Beach Party is a great way to wrap up the concert season and celebrate the end of the season. Bring the whole family for a night of fun!

Very Fairy Princess Day is another new event that reflects our Irish Spring Show theme. A special day is planned for our guests, including fairy gardens to make and take home, magic, dance, fairy and fantasy costumed vendors set against the backdrop of an Irish countryside filled with leprechauns and urchins! Mark your calendar for April 13 and share the day with your daughters, granddaughters and all the princesses in your life.

Well, back to packing!

Milwaukee Domes Art Festival
August 15-17
Community Support for the Domes
New Year’s Eve Celebration and Restaurants Under Glass

Liz Fehring, FOD Event & Volunteer Coordinator

New Year’s Eve was a big success and sold out one hour after we opened registration. We had fire dancers, live music and magicians, face painters, balloon twisters, kids’ crafts and much more. We were very fortunate to have Tri City National Bank join us as our event sponsor. We are very grateful for their support.

Restaurants Under Glass was enjoyed by a sellout crowd of 800 people. Our sponsors did a great job getting the word out and our restaurants provided delicious samples.

We hope you will patronize our participating restaurants and sponsors: Anodyne Coffee Roasters, Antigua, Ball ‘n Biscuit, Bartolotta’s Lake Park Bistro, Braise, Clock Shadow Creamery, Honey Pie Café, Great Lakes Distillery, Indulgence Chocolatiers, Kil@wat, Mason Street Grill, Milwaukee Ale House, Milwaukee Brewing Co., Milwaukee Chop House, Millioke, Miss Katie’s Diner, Pizza Man, Purple Door Ice Cream, Purple Feet Wines, Transfer Pizzeria, Via Downer, Zak’s Café, Heritage Printing, Milwaukee County Winter Farmers’ Market, MKEfoodies, Slow Food, 88nine Radio, Edible Milwaukee, Slow Food and Auburn Supply Co.

We encourage everyone to make reservations for future events online to ensure a spot. A big “thank you” to our sponsors, the participating restaurants, our valuable volunteers and all the people who came to our events to help support the Domes! We are surrounded by a wonderful, supportive community.

Garden Wisdom

“Gardening is an instrument of grace.”
~ May Sarton

Very Fairy Princess Day!
Sunday, April 13
9 am - 4 pm

Join us for an enchanted visit to the Domes and experience the magical wonder of these mystical creatures.

Learn secret dances and the folklore of the flower fairies, and how to build a miniature garden that draws the "little folk" to your own yard or home.

Wear your best fairy wings or costume and win a prize! Enjoy music, food, activities and crafts to celebrate this amazing world of fantasy and fun!

Enjoy Irish Spring in the Show Dome. Regular Domes admission applies.
By Sarah Philipp, CNC

I was blown away by the Winter Farmers’ Market at the Domes. Not only did I find fresh, seasonal produce, but also farm fresh eggs, organic and grass fed meats, mushrooms and even sauerkraut! All of my favorite local and nutrient-dense foods, as well as herbed butter, adaptogenic soaps, and hydroponically grown micro greens. This girl was in serious local foodie hippie heaven.

Even if none of the above is your cup of fair trade, organic herbal tea, what could possibly beat enjoying a cup of coffee while taking a stroll through the Tropical Dome? Not sure what to do with all of this magnificent food? There are plenty of great books in the gift shop to show you the way. The gift shop also has a table conveniently located among all these fabulous farmers. Be sure to stop by!

Do yourself a favor and check out the Winter Farmers’ Market this Saturday, 9 am – 1 pm. I know I’ll be there!

(Sarah Philipp is Owner of Abundelicious, LLC, www.abundelicious.com, Holistic Nutrition Consulting.)

Animal Sponsorship

A visit to the Domes would not be complete without seeing our beloved Koi fish, lizards, turtles and birds. Many play a key role in our educational programs for children. They also require special environments and maintenance, including veterinary care, food, enclosures, full spectrum lighting and basking lamps. You can help them survive and thrive! As an animal sponsor, you become a partner in providing the best care for the animals living in the Domes. You receive a thank you pack that includes an animal fact sheet, certificate of sponsorship, and color photo of your sponsored animal. To learn more, go to www.milwaukeedomes.org and click on “Sponsor an Animal.” Thank you on behalf of our amazing little residents!

Gas Lamp Express - Garden Train Show

through March 30

G-scale trains wind their way along 600 feet of track though a Victorian landscape, in celebration of the industrialized world in the age of steam-powered technology. (Many thanks for the continued support of our sponsor, Jung Seed Company.)
Bunny Ears Cactus

This prickly pear type of cactus has flat green pads that grow in pairs, and look like the ears of a rabbit. The pads store water and conduct photosynthesis to make food for the plant. Very short, pointed hairs look soft and tempting to touch – but they come off easily, hurt the skin, and are difficult to remove. Look but never touch! Bunny ears cactus is native to central and northern Mexico. In the spring, it has yellow blossoms and later, purple to red fruit. In some cultures, the sweet edible fruit is used for juices and jellies, once great care is taken to remove the barbed hairs on the outside!

Old Man Cactus

It is obvious how this cactus got its name – the whole plant is covered in gray-white whiskers! Even though sunlight is how most plants obtain energy, too much can be harmful as overheating can cause cell damage. This “beard” actually shades the plant from intense sunlight and scorching temperatures that bake the deserts of Mexico. The fuzzy appearance of this cactus is also very desirable for collectors. The most common use for its hair is in the making of wool-like sweaters in southern Mexico. The fluffy hair can be an alternative to cotton used in commercial sweater production.

Bats Pollinate the Desert

Some desert flowers attract bats that are drawn to the strong melon scent of night-blooming flowers. They reach deep into the bloom for nectar, and their hairy heads become covered with pollen that drops onto other flowers as they fly from cactus to cactus, allowing wasps, bees, butterflies, and birds to pick up any remaining nectar or pollen left behind. Bat pollination of cacti helps to maintain the health of fragile desert ecosystems!
By Marian French, Horticulturist – Desert Dome

Chocolate is such a common element in our modern diet that it can be hard to imagine where it comes from, or even how it is made. In fact, chocolate, or cocoa, is derived from the seeds, or beans, of the cacao tree (*Theobroma cacao*). It is native to the tropical rainforests of Central and South America, where it grows up to 40 feet tall in clumps on riverbanks, thriving in the shade of much taller canopy trees. Year round it produces tiny whitish flowers that are closely held along its trunk and branches and, also year round, it grows football-shaped fruits that can be yellow, red, or brown.

When the fruits are harvested and broken open, the cocoa beans are removed and piled beneath a layer of banana leaves, outside, to ferment for about a week. It is this fermenting process that is essential to creating the compounds that give chocolate its signature flavor. Then the beans are dried, shelled, and roasted before being ground up. The resulting paste is pressed to separate out the cocoa butter, or fatty oil, from the dry cocoa powder. Both are used, along with other ingredients, to make chocolate, as we know it.

Next time you stroll through the tropical dome, be sure to look for those funny yellow pods that hold the origin of deliciousness.

Photo by Bridget O’Donnell

Mother’s Day Message

The Victorians practiced the “language of flowers,” with homegrown bouquets to convey messages of love and friendship. Author Susannah Seton (*Every Garden is a Story*) shares a few of her favorites below. Pick yours for a special Mother’s Day message…and bring your mother for a relaxing visit the Domes on her special day!

Apple Blossom: Preference
Azalea: First love
Rosemary: Devotion
Ivy: Friendship
Lavender: Devotion
Lamb’s Ear: Gentleness
Lily of the Valley: Return of happiness
Daffodil: Regard
Cornflowers: Healing, felicity
Mint: Warmth of feeling
Pansy: Loving thoughts
Violets: Faithfulness
Zinnia: Thoughts of absent friends
White Clover: Good luck
Thyme: Courage and strength
Coreopsis: Always cheerful

*This lovely book was purchased several years ago in the Gift Shop at the Domes. See what special treasures you will find when you visit.*
Calendar of Events

Thursdays Through April 3 ...............................................................Music Under Glass**
Through March 30 .................................................................Gas Lamp Express (Trains Show)
March 9 ........................................................................................................Irish Family Day
March 29 ......................................................................................................Steam Engine Day
April 6 ......................................................................................................Dare to be Aware Fair
April 13 ......................................................................................................Very Fairy Princess Day
April 12 – May 26 ................................................................................Irish Spring (Spring Show)
April 26 ......................................................................................................Green Living Festival
May 11 ................................................................................................................Mother’s Day Jewelry is Fun
June 7 – September 7 .................................................................Plant-tastic Voyage(Summer Show)
August 15-17 ........................................................................Mitchell Park Domes Art Festival*
September 13-14 .........................................................................Orchid Show & Sale
September 20 – November 9 ..............................................................Over the Rainbow (Fall Mum Show)
October 10 ......................................................................................................Rainforest Night
October 31 ......................................................................................................Ghosts Under Glass Event*
November 6 – December 25 .................................................................Music Under Glass**
November 15-16 ................................................................................Jewelry at the Domes
November 22 – January 4, 2015 ......................................................Mele Kalikimaka (Holiday Show)
December 31 .............................................................................................New Year’s Eve Family Celebration*

* 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.