milwaukee domes
Art Festival

August 15-17, 2014
Fri 12-7 Sat 10-7 Sun 10-4

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

milwaukee domes art festival 2014

Poster Art: “Red Bridges” by Jason Prigge
High Resolution Digital Scan: TNB Designs

MILWAUKEE COUNTY PARKS milwaukeedomesartfestival.com
Dinosaurs Return to the Tropical Dome

Experience what it was like to walk with the dinosaurs in the tropical world. Stand in a dinosaur footprint, learn about fossils, find the dinosaur nest, and see plants that were part of the dinosaur landscape millions of years ago! Daily through November 2. Regular Domes admission applies. Free to Friends of the Domes members.

A Food Oasis for You & Pollinators

By Paula Zamiatkowski, Interpretative Educator

Celebrate the longest day of the year with a short DIY workshop on creating your own sustainable garden oasis! It’s not too late to begin the transformation! Learn how to assess your yard and your lifestyle. Find out how to adapt your surroundings into a natural ecosystem that will benefit your vegetable garden and create a stopover for some of the most beautiful migratory birds and monarch butterflies!

Saturday, June 21, 1 - 2:30 pm
Friends of the Domes: Free!
Non-members: $10
Limit: 20
Questions: Contact Paula Zamiatkowski, 414-257-5603.

2014 Floral Shows

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)
By Phil Rozga, Acting President

This is the silver anniversary year of the official beginning of the Friends of the Domes. The date of incorporation was March 30, 1989. Before that time there was a loosely framed group of volunteers, which grew into the group of 1,500 members that exists today. The Friends have certainly had a significant impact on the Domes’ appearance and projects. The Friends opened the Gift Shop in 1996. In addition to enhancing and prolonging the experience for visitors, the profits from sales have helped to support many other endeavors. The Friends helped to fund construction of the educational space in the lobby in 1998, and have made annual financial contributions to ongoing educational programs, which are offered to school groups and other visitors. The dues from the membership base have also helped to develop many programs offered to the general public, as well as to members. Events such as “Music Under Glass,” “Restaurants Under Glass,” New Year’s Eve festivities and other special attractions are possible because of the sponsorship of the Friends.

Dues and profits from events have enabled minor and major repairs to the facility to be done promptly. The illuminated sign on 27th Street was donated by the Friends and continues to alert passers-by to ongoing activities. The Art Festival is one of the newer events, which has helped to generate interest and attendance at the Domes.

In reviewing the accomplishments of the organization, two long-time members stand out as they continue to offer their talent and ideas. Roger Krawiecki was a volunteer even in the pre-incorporation days, since 1987; he continues as an active and trusted member of the Board. Also still on the Board is Barbara Mangold, who has been working with the organization since at least 1997.

Since you are receiving this newsletter, you, too, deserve recognition and thanks. Your membership is a factor in the strength and the growth of the organization. I believe that with the new greenhouses, the next 25 years will provide many more horticultural opportunities and events. See you at the Domes!

From the Director’s Chair

By Sandy Folaron

As I write this, spring has finally sprung! After a relentless winter, no one is looking forward to spring-time more than staff at the Domes! Already the plaza gardens are trimmed and in bloom. The entrance garden to the greenhouse is planted and provides a new and welcoming way into the facility. The circle planting bed is crawling with ants bringing an artistic dimension to the conservatory entrance. The plaza fountains are on and running, and the bicyclers are making their way up from the Hank Aaron Trail into the park and to our front door. The new summer show, Plant-tastic Voyage, is ready to wow our summer visitors with larger than life plants and the amazing world of beneficial and harmful insects that populate our world. The Education Center has a new set of doors to allow more privacy and better acoustics for classes and meetings. Also in progress is the final design and installation of our Desert Dome Expedition Exhibit. The dinosaurs are back, bigger and better, providing another dimension to the Tropical Dome this summer and fall.

Oh, and did I mention that we have new greenhouses? Yes, finally, and with great pleasure, I can say we have taken ownership of these state-of-the-art greenhouses and are learning all we can about managing the new systems and cultivating crops for our conservatory displays. It was well worth the wait and we plan on introducing our Friends and visitors to the new facility with tours and classes as we expand our mission and outreach. It is another chapter in the history of Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory that started in 1898 and continues today because of the support and partnerships that sustain its mission and value to the community. Join me as we turn the page and create a new future and mission for the Domes and the next generation. Have a great summer, and see you at the greenhouses!
The Friends cherish the wide variety of exotic plants from around the globe that are supported by the Domes, but did you know that the Domes also support local Wisconsin producers and artists? By stocking our Gift Shop full of local products, we offer members and visitors the opportunity to help sustain and grow local businesses. Members also get 10% off all items in the Gift Shop, which makes shopping local a great deal for Friends as well as our community.

From candles to toffee to jewelry, Wisconsin artists and artisans produce quality products. These products make great gifts, but can sometimes be hard to find. Some of these products can be found at local farmer’s markets, such as Karen’s Toffee sold at the popular Dome’s Winter Market and in the Gift Shop. You can also satisfy your chocolate craving whenever you like by visiting the Gift Shop for Indulgence Chocolate!

By Julie Frey

Gifts Under Glass
What’s New in the Gift Shop?

By Paula Zamiatowski,
Interpretive Educator

Revive Yourself!
The Inner Oasis

Connect to the healing power of yoga and plants in the Desert Dome. Join us for a special offering at the Domes. We begin our Sunday morning practice of yoga, breathing, meditation and communion with the plants. Then we finish with a tour of medicinal plants and a sampling of the healing juice of aloe. All are welcome! Bring your own mat and props for your comfort.

Sunday, June 22, 7:30 - 9:30 am
Friends of the Domes: $8
Non-members: $10
Limit: 12 (Pre-registration required, call 414-257-5603.)

By Mary Braunreiter,
Show Dome Horticulturist

A Magical Day!

In April, we held our first Very Fairy Princess Day at the Domes. There were over 100 fairy gardens made that day! The event was such a great success that we will do it again next year. We are collecting little items to help our visitors create fairy gardens at that event.

Items needed for the fairy gardens: polished and fancy rocks, shells, small plastic toys (lizards, frogs, animals etc.), glass and plastic decorative stones, marbles, and pinecones. Items needed for fairy crafts: feathers, tiny shells and stones, beads, buttons, ribbon, sequins, gem stones, lace, tulle, and sparkly material. Donate your items at the fee booth the next time you visit the Domes.

Garden Wisdom

“What makes the desert beautiful is that somewhere it hides a well.”

~ANTOINE DE SAINT-EXUPERY

By Mary Braunreiter

Photo by Mary Braunreiter

Photo by Bridget O’Donnell
Milwaukee Domes Art Festival

By Steven R. Libbey, FOD Board Member & Art Festival Director

Something magnificent is looming on the horizon—something so big, you'll want the whole family to experience it—the 5th Annual Milwaukee Domes Art Festival. Mark your calendars for the festival of the summer, Friday, August 15 – Sunday, August 17. Located at Mitchell Park, the Festival will feature an array of fun, entertainment, and food for the whole family—a true sensory masterpiece.

See: Watch Plein Air Artists create works of art before your eyes. No studio, no painting from a photo, just plein air brilliance. Bid on your favorite piece in our art auction, and maybe even take one home (all proceeds support the mission of the Domes).

Touch: Visit the Future Artist Pavilion where children make their own works of art. With tons of fun arts and crafts your child is sure to find the inspiration to create their own artistic masterpiece.

Smell: Familiar scents fill the air: popcorn, delicious craft beers, and—is that funnel cake?

Taste: Plenty of mouthwatering food and drinks from your favorite restaurants—your taste buds will be singing!

Hear: Experience a diverse range of live music from local Milwaukee bands.

The Milwaukee Domes Art Festival is only here for one weekend. Don’t miss out! For updates on artists, food, music sponsors, volunteer opportunities, and more, visit www.milwaukeedomesartfestival.com.

Pollinator Week!

June 16 - 20, 9 am - 5 pm

By Paula Zamiatowski, Interpretative Educator

In celebration of Pollinator Week the Education Center will be open all day with special morning activities for kids from 10 - 11 am, and in the afternoon, for families needing resources for creating their own garden oasis.


Tuesday, June 17, 10 – 11 am, Bats Here and There. Meet a bat with a very special family in Janell Cannon’s book, Stellaluna.

Wednesday, June 18, 10 – 11 am, Bees and Honey. Learn how amazing honeybees are in the Magic School Bus! The honeybee alone contributes to the production of many billions of dollars worth of crops in America every year! Come try some honey!

Thursday, June 19, 10 – 11 am, Butterflies and Moths. Follow the migratory route of the monarch butterfly and plant your own milkweed seeds to take home.

Friday, June 20, 10 – 11 am, Birds in Your Garden. Discover the world of birds in Wisconsin and take a walk through the Tropical Dome looking for the resident birds that help our plants.

Did you know? A world without pollinators would be a world without apples, blueberries, strawberries, chocolate, almonds, melons, peaches or pumpkins? I could go on and on! Come join us!
I learned it at the domes!

An “ecosystem” is a group of plants, animals and smaller organisms that live, feed, reproduce and interact in the same area or environment. Some ecosystems are very large, like an ocean. Others can be as small as a meadow at the edge of a forest, a coral reef in the ocean – or even a puddle or patch of dirt in your backyard!

Damselfly
Another Kind of Dinosaur!

When you think of dinosaurs, you might think of those in the movie *Jurassic Park*, but there were many other prehistoric animals that are still around today. And some even lived before dinosaurs first appeared, including dragonflies and damselflies!

These two insects look similar, but dragonflies generally have a thicker and shorter body than damselflies, which are very slim. Damselflies have legs that are located out in front of their body for grasping prey, while dragonflies have strong, biting mouthparts to eat with.

Both have very large compound eyes, but damselflies have a separation between the eyes, while the eyes of a dragonfly are close together. Their “compound eyes” can be made up of 30,000 lenses, providing them with excellent vision.

The damselfly (pictured here) can be found worldwide, except in Polar Regions. Their natural habitat includes rivers, streams, lakes, and ponds. Dragonflies and damselflies help to tell us about the health of an ecosystem because their young can be severely affected by changes in water flow and pollution. More dragonflies in an area may indicate a healthier water ecosystem!

Exotic Birds
Amaze & Educate

Buddy, a 20-year-old *Mealy Amazon Parrot* (pictured here), was at the *Green Living Festival* along with several “human” members of the *Center for Avian Rehabilitation and Education (CARE)*. Visitors of all ages enjoyed meeting these educators and learning more about the rescue and rehabilitation of these beautiful exotic birds.
By Marian French, 
Horticulturist – Desert Dome

Ferns and their relatives, called fern allies, were growing on this planet long before the dinosaurs existed. It was 360 million years ago that the first ferns appeared, and after 40 million years of diversifying, this group of plants became the dominant ground cover on land. At the same time there were vast swampy forests comprised of primitive conifers, or cone-bearing plants, huge tree ferns, and giant clubmosses and horsetails towering over 130 feet. The plants from this period, known as the Carboniferous, would be fossilized and pressurized underground over the eons to become coal and oil.

As time went on, ferns played a major role in many prehistoric ecosystems, blanketing sunny, open spaces much like the grasslands of today. When the dinosaurs started stomping around, from the Triassic period through the Jurassic and into the Cretaceous, forests were still crowded with lush ferns and other primitive plants, including cycads. The earth’s overall climate was warm, wet and tropical – just the sort of conditions the majority of ferns enjoy today. Toward the end of the Cretaceous period, and the end of the dinosaurs, flowering plants were beginning to take over the landscape. Ferns and the fern allies were now living in the shadows of other species, specializing in habitats that remained shaded and moist.

For a taste of prehistoric times, take a stroll through our new fern planting in the Tropical Dome, nicknamed “Fern Grotto.” While they may not have the same gigantic proportions as their ancestors, these ferns can transport you to another era.

Photo credit: Marion French

---

Volunteer Program Orientation Session

By Paula Zamiatowski, 
Interpretative Educator

The Friends of the Domes and the Conservatory Education Center are joining forces to present a three-hour session including, but not limited to, the following activities for new and current volunteers:

- Welcome and Introductions
- Volunteer Interests and Talent Survey
- Presentation of Mitchell Park and the Domes Complex
- Volunteer Opportunities
- Domes Tour and Helpful Docent Information

Learn more about the history, plant collection, and future of the Domes, while sharing customer service experiences and helpful tips for working with the public.

Saturday, June 21, 9 am – Noon, or Wednesday, June 25, 9 am – Noon. One 3-hour session is required (includes breaks, refreshments and tour of the Domes). Co-facilitators: Liz Fehring, FOD Volunteer Coordinator and Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Conservatory Interpretive Educator. Registration is required. Please contact Paula at 414-257-5603.
Calendar of Events

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, re-scheduled or cancelled after publication of this newsletter.