Celebrate New Year’s Eve with Us!

By Liz Fehring
Event & Volunteer Coordinator

Please join the Friends of the Domes as we sponsor our annual New Year’s Eve Family Celebration at the Mitchell Park Domes on Wednesday, December 31 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Don’t miss this fabulous event—one of the only indoor family events in the city! The fun includes music from the Garlic Mustard Pickers (performing traditional acoustic Irish and Scottish music), magician Rick Allen, balloon twisters, face painters, children’s crafts, a balloon drop, party favors, and more! Zill’s Hospitality will offer food and beverages for purchase.

When: December 31, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Cost: $10 for Adults; $5 for children ages 4-17; children 3 and under are free.

For more information call the Domes at 414-257-5608. To avoid waiting in line on event night, advanced admission can be purchased starting December 1st online at www.milwaukeedomes.org or at the Domes gift shop.

Note: This special event funds educational programs and projects at the Domes, so passes and special FOD membership rates DO NOT apply. Also, no Strollers please!

Music Under Glass Returns in January

By Liz Fehring
Event & Volunteer Coordinator

Longing for those relaxing summer evenings enjoying music in the park? The Domes brings the music inside with the return of our popular Music Under Glass concert series. Music Under Glass will be held every Thursday, 6:30 to 9:00 PM, from January 8, 2015 to March 19, 2015. Join us for this unique event which combines live music, incredible light shows, food and beverage service, and nighttime access to all three Domes. Enjoy a break from winter with family and friends.

When: Every Thursday from January 8, 2015 to March 19, 2015 from 6:30 to 9:00 PM
Cost: Free to Friends’ Members; Regular Domes admission prices for non-members

Inside the Domes
October.

$500,000 Capital Fund Campaign in the Domes kicked off their 2015! To maintain the beauty and Mitchell Park Domes beautiful as pend on your support to keep the members.

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Cost: Free

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When:

Dome.

jollier than ever surrounded by the tropical flowers of the Mele Kalikimaka Hawaiian Christmas Show in the Show Event & Volunteer Coordinator By Liz Fehring

Actually, it's no secret—We de- pend on your support to keep the Mitchell Park Domes beautiful as they near their 50th birthday in 2015! To maintain the beauty and functionality of this incredible facility, the leadership of the Friends of the Domes kicked off their $500,000 Capital Fund Campaign in October.

The funds raised will finance many needed improve- ments in the Domes, en- hance our educational programs, and sponsor special exhibits. We would like to thank the members who have stepped up already with donations. We hope to receive the support of all of our nearly 1,500 Friends of the Domes members. The first im- provement is nearly com- pleted as new doors to each dome have now been installed, still fram- ing the beautiful etched glass me- morials donated several years ago. The new doors will be able to withstand the varied climates of each dome as well as provide easy access to individuals with disabili- ties.

There are several easy ways to make a donation.

• You can donate online at our secure website by visiting www.milwaukeedomes.org
• You can visit our website at www.milwaukeedomes.org and download our brochure then mail in your donation
• You can donate at the Domes using the donation box in the lobby
• You can return the donation card you received in the mail.

The Capital Fund Campaign will continue through 2015. Look for a variety of fun 50th Birthday cele- bration events throughout the year. We appreciate your support of the Mitchell Park Domes!

Our secret to staying beautiful at 50?

Who’s making a special stop at the Domes?

By Liz Fehring Event & Volunteer Coordinator

Santa himself will be visiting the Domes! Bring your camera to capture a special moment with Santa. Santa will be jollier than ever surrounded by the tropical flowers of the Mele Kalikimaka Hawaiian Christmas Show in the Show Dome.

When: Santa will be available for visits and photos the following dates and times:

• Saturday, Dec 6 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM
• Saturday, Dec 13 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM
• Saturday, Dec 20 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM
• Special Appearance of Mrs. Claus & the Christmas Tree—Saturday, Dec 20 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

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

THE DOMES’ HORTICULTURISTS

Green Sheet

Winter 2014

America’s Favorite Holiday Plant

By Marian French Horticulturist—Desert Dome

The wild Euphorbia pulcherrima, or poinsettia, is native to tropical re- gions of Central America, where it grows as a shrub up to ten feet tall. The Aztecs of ancient Mexico cul- tivated it for use as both medicine and a dye as well as for its beauty. In their language it was known as cuetaxochitl, meaning “mortal flower that perishes and withers like all that is pure.” Montezuma, the last king of the Aztecs, liked to decorate his palace with them.

Despite their popularity in Central America, these winter-blooming plants were vir- tually unknown to anyone out- side of Mexico until 1825. Dr. Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first United States Ambassador to Mexico, brought some plants home to North Carolina after a visit to Mexico. He shared the plants with friends and botanists. Poinsett, a pas- sionate botanist himself, went on to found the institution that became the Smithsonian Institution.

After Poinsett’s death on Decem- ber 12, 1851, Congress declared De- cember 12th poinsettia day to honor Poinsett and to encourage people to enjoy the beauty of poinsettias.

Poinsettias in the Show Dome for last year’s Holiday Show

Poinsettia Trivia Answers at the bottom right corner of the page.

1. Are poinsettias poisonous to children?
2. Are poinsettias toxic to cats or other animals?
3. Do poinsettias have red or white flowers?
4. How many poinsettias are sold each year in the United States?

Poinsettias in the Show Dome for last year’s Holiday Show

Trivia Answers:

1. NO—No deaths resulting from poinsettia ingestion have ever been document- ed. They do taste so bad that consuming them may lead to nausea or vomiting.
2. NO—As with children, they may irritate pets, but are not toxic.
3. Neither red nor white—The beautiful red or white components are not flow- ers. They are modified leaves called bracts.
4. 30 Million—In 2013, Americans spent about $133 million on poinsettias!
Perfect Holiday Gifts Under Glass

Friends’ members receive a 10% discount* on gift shop purchases!

’Twas the week before the holiday and all through the Domes, Dormant plants slept away, warm in their glass homes. I awoke in the morning and realized with a start, I didn’t have gifts for Aunt Bea or Uncle Art! No orchid, no t-shirt, no locally made art, no delicious fair trade coffee. To warm their dear hearts. Then I thought of the Domes! No orchid, no t-shirt, no locally made art, no delicious fair trade coffee.

For those gifts under glass

Then I thought of the Domes

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Annual Domes Membership

Available in a variety of levels including individual and family memberships

Children’s toys and books

Fun and educational gifts for kids of all ages from books to garden discovery tools from stuffed animals to science kits!

Books

Many books to choose from on topics ranging from garden care to Wisconsin travel and history to cookbooks

Plants

From traditional holiday poinsettias to exotic orchids to succulents—bring a bit of the Domes home!

Jewelry

Earrings, pins, pendants, and bracelets to fit every style and budget

Candies

Era-egravely delicious, fresh, locally made Indulgence chocolates and Karen’s toffee

Sponsor an Animal

Sponsor one of the fish or birds that call the Domes home—The perfect gift for the animal lover on your gift list!

T-shirts

High quality shirts feature quotes, advice, and wisdom inspired by nature.

Body Care Products

Treat your family and friends to organic, locally made products from Habib, Brew City, and Good Earth.

Save the Date: Restaurants Under Glass

Mark your calendars for Restaurants Under Glass, Friday February 27, 2015. We will feature approximately 20 to 25 of the top restaurants in the Milwaukee area. Plenty of food samples, a raffle of participating restaurant gift certificates, and music by Sound By Design make this event a fantastic night out! This event sold out last year, so order your tickets online or in the gift shop one month prior to the event.

When: Friday, February 27 from 6:30 PM to 9:00 PM
Cost: $35 Advanced tickets can be purchased online or in the gift shop starting January 27, 2015

From the Director

Ethnic festivals back with gusto in 2015!

By Sandy Folaron
Director
From the Director’s Space Ship…...

As far as events go, don’t forget our two newer additions, the Very Fairy Princess Day (a must for little girls) and the Gardens and Gears/Steampunk Day. There is something for everyone—all staged within the conservatory and the amazing backdrop it provides.

As an added note, we are thrilled to be in the final stages of many projects that have evolved from proposals to fruition including the new greenhouses, the Tropical Dome glass replacements, the wonderful addition of new lobby doors to all 3 of the Domes (funded in part by the Capital Fund Campaign that just kicked off), the addition of an outside butterfly garden to our greenhouses, the return of the Winter Farmer’s Market, the new format for our Educational classes and tours, and finally looking at the long range future and what that means for the Conservatory and the next generation of patrons.

2015 finds us celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Domes. We appreciate your continued support and your attendance at the ethnic festivals and all of the 50th year celebrations planned for 2015. Happy Holidays and the very best in the New Year to come.
Kids’ Corner

Getting the kids outside for a hike provides more benefits than you might have guessed!

By Paula Zarnowski
Interpretive Educator

When the cold days of winter start getting you down, just bundle up and take a trek through the nearest woods with your family. Medical research has shown that spending time in nature can provide us with a variety of healing effects. In addition to the health benefits and stress relief exercise provides, exercising in nature also exposes you to helpful phytoncides—the airborne chemicals that plants emit to protect themselves from rotting and from insects and which also seem to benefit humans. Phytoncides have been shown to help lower blood pressure, decrease stress hormones, and boost the immune system, including increasing the number of cancer-fighting white blood cells. The trees that release the most phytoncides are pine and oak trees which are plentiful right here in Wisconsin. One weekly hike with your children will create new memories and a healthier family. The park system includes many wonderful local parks with great places to walk and hike, including:

- Seven Bridges Hiking Trail in Grant Park along Lake Michigan
- Wehr Nature Center Franklin Hales Corners
- Lake Park Downtown Milwaukee
- Greenfield Park Greenfield Avenue
- Visit county.milwaukee.gov/parks for maps, hours, and other visitor information.

On those days when it’s not possible to take your walks in the woods, come to the Mitchell Park Domes and walk the Tropical Dome for some added oxygen, relaxation and recreation!

After your invigorating hike, curl up with your little one and a good book. Here are a few winter reads we recommend:

- The Mitten by Jan Brett
- The Great Kapok Tree—A Tale of the Amazon Rain Forest by Lynn Cherry
- Rachel Carson—Preserving a Sense of Wonder by Thomas Locker and Joseph Bruchac
- Sunflower House by Eve Bunting
- The Snow Tree by Caroline Repchuk

Every week at story time—Mondays 10:00 to 10:30—we’ll share other great kids books!

www.milwaukeeedomes.org

From the Friends of the Domes

By Phil Rozga
Acting President

This is the time of year when we evaluate the 2014 programs at the Domes and look forward to planning our 2015 events.

While the New Year’s Eve Family Festival started the year with a bang, the delay in the completion of the greenhouses meant that the Winter Farmers’ Market had to be moved to the inside of the Domes. This resulted in the usual ethnic festivals and some other events having to be cancelled. However we did welcome capacity crowds for Restaurants Under Glass and the Very Fairy Princess Day. The Art Festival has been a beautiful event, but every year it faces stiff competition with Irish Fest, Milwaukee a la Carte at the Zoo, and an established Art Show in Oconomowoc. Attendance at the Domes’ Art Festival has declined each year. Consequently, the Board has decided to discontinue the event and replace it with another art themed event—to be determined.

On a positive note, we are looking forward to a more extensive Green Living festival in April. In addition, Ghosts Under Glass continues to draw families thanks to the work of John Folaron, Liz Fehring, and a host of volunteers. I volunteered at the event and handed out bags of candy and pumpkins to the children. I was impressed that the parents made sure that the kids said “thank you”.

What about the future? First of all, we are counting on you and the business community to contribute to our fund raising campaign. We will be celebrating our 50th anniversary in 2015 and are planning programs in the new greenhouses. We also look forward to new events to attract crowds and new faces to the Domes.

All in all, the past gives us much to celebrate and we anticipate that our future—with our major anniversary year coming—will offer even more opportunities to celebrate!

In the Show Dome—2015: A Space Odyssey Train Show

By Mary Bauwetter
Horticulturist

This year’s model train show, 2015: A Space Odyssey, is going to be a blast! The show will delight visitors from January 17th through March 15th. Come aboard for a ride into another world of fantasy landscapes and aliens driving trains.

It is a gratifying job to be able to choose the miniature plants that are in scale with the trains and related props but it is also a challenge to grow these plants in the dead of winter. Most of our regular plant choices refuse to germinate. Thankfully, we can use impressive, colorful mini azalea trees. The dwarf conifers are optimal for their size as well. Burt Gross, our Parks Artist, will once again capture your attention with his awe inspiring art work as he will build all of the astonishing cosmic vignettes for the show.

Each year, the Train Show is our most popular show with visitors of all ages. You definitely will not want to miss it!