Inside the Domes
MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

The Lovely Indulgence of Cupcake Fest MKE!
By Sandy Faloron
Horticultural Services Director
Cupcake Fest MKE 2015 makes its debut at The Mitchell Park Domes on Saturday, October 17, 2015, 9 AM to 4 PM. This new event is sponsored by local Milwaukee bakery Classy Girl Cupcakes, the Friends of the Domes, and the Milwaukee County Parks Department and features attractions and fun for kids of all ages. Activities include a cupcake scavenger hunt throughout the Domes, community cake decorating, an interactive cupcake request form, and a stage area.

A Sweet Part of your Sweetest Day
By Liz Fehring
Events and Volunteer Coordinator
Stop in before or after dinner and add the romantic atmosphere of the Domes at night to your Sweetest Day plans. The Domes will open at 5:30 PM and stay open until 9:00 PM. This is an indoor evening of safety trick-or-treating, costumes, lots of candy for all ages for the kids, prizes, crafts, and more. Zilli’s Hospitality will offer food and beverages for purchase. For more information visit our website at www.milwaukeedomes.org. Advance admission will go on sale online and in The Domes Gift Shop beginning October 1st. Tickets will also be available at the door on the night of the event. No strollers please.

When: October 30, 2015 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Cost: Special Admission rates apply – membership passes and Mitchell Park Coupons are not valid for this event.

Upcoming Events
- September 26—November 8 “Clueless” (Fall Show)
- November 21—January 3, 2016 Gingerbread Land (Holiday Show)
- January 16—March 6, 2016 Attack of the Giant Monsters (Train Show)

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- Fall Show: Clueless
- Fall in Love with Orchids—2015 Orchid Show
- From the Newly Elected President
- Green Sheet—Poisonous Plants

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In the Show Dome

The Clueless Fall Show explores the sinister side of the plant world. Loosely based on a famous crime-solving board game, the Show Dome’s fall theme will be a first ever, murder-mystery whodunit! Take a walk through Mitchell Park Manor—a roaring twenties-style, lavishly-decorated mansion where six sinister socialites are suspected of murder. Guests can stroll through the gardens and learn about a variety of poisonous and very dangerous plants. They can also peek into various “rooms” to find clues and hidden weapons that point to which suspect is guilty and solve the mystery. All of this mystery will be surrounded by a bright, multi-colored mum display. The scene will be open for visitors to investigate and enjoy from September 26th through November 8th.

The Dark Harvest

Greenhouse Horticulturists Clay Gosse and Christopher Gaar with mums in the Greenhouses for the Fall Clueless Show taken July 30

Cycas revolute, or sago palm, growing in the Show Dome, fortunately uneaten.

By Marian French Horticulturist—Desert Dome

Because our fall show Clueless is a murder mystery, it features plants that can kill. While horrifying, it can also be fascinating to learn how dangerous some species can be, and this information could even save your life. If you enjoy a good scary story, read on and learn about a few poisonous profiles.

Datura is a genus of plants found worldwide. Several different species grow wild in the US, including Datura stramonium, which is a weed in our area commonly called jimson weed or thorn apple. Daturas have large, white or purple flowers that can be very fragrant. But even a beautiful flower can hide a vicious poison. In this case, the danger lies within the entire plant and is especially concentrated in the seeds, which are found in a spiny pod. The unfortunate person who eats any part of Datura will experience seizures, coma, convulsions, and respiratory failure. The victim may also experience disturbing hallucinations and delusions, which many have described as evil ghosts and demons.

Most people who have both pets and houseplants try to find a way for them to co-exist, and in most cases there is nothing to fear. But never trust a nibbling animal around a sago palm (Cycas revoluta). This cycad, a distant relative of conifers, has been labeled one of the most toxic plants a pet may encounter. Every part contains carcinogens and neurotoxins. Just consuming a few seeds from the sago palm can cause gastrointestinal problems, liver damage, and death. This warning is not just for animals. When food shortages have occurred in tropical regions, communities that relied too heavily on flour made from ground sago palm seeds saw high rates of lethal nerve degeneration, with symptoms of both Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s disease.

The poison of Nicotiana tabacum is well-known across the globe, and it kills approximately 5 million people every year. The tobacco plant, also known as henbane of Peru, can cause health problems before it is even harvested. Workers with prolonged contact suffer “green tobacco sickness.” If the leaves are eaten, the result is stomach cramps, sweating, difficulty breathing, weakness, seizures, and sometimes death. Of course, if the leaves are cured and then smoked, or chewed, the well-known side-effects of lung damage, cancer, and a host of other diseases can follow. This plant is so bad that it can even be blamed for the start of the slave trade in America, when the colonists wanted more profitable tobacco plantations.

Visit the Show Dome soon to see these and other terrifying plants. You’ll be safe if you resist the urge to touch…

By Marian French Horticulturist—Desert Dome

An adventuring scientist, Dusty Barstow, has recently taken up residence in the Desert Dome. She might not actually be on the payroll, and she might just be an imaginary character, but visitors are welcome to come see her anytime at her field office, under the project name Desert Expedition. Ms. Barstow studies all branches of science, which is evident to anyone who takes a look at her workspace—she has geological samples, pressed plant specimens, and even insects, all collected from different deserts of the world. She has also been on several archaeological digs and is still studying artifacts from various ancient cultures.

We invite you to read the clues and try to help her find some elusive treasures hidden in the Desert dome!
The Milwaukee County Winter Farmers’ Market is proud to begin its 7th season, once again at the Mitchell Park Domes Conservatory Annex. The market debuts on Saturday, November 7 and runs on consecutive Saturday mornings (except for November 28, the Thanksgiving holiday weekend) through April 9, 2016. The market is FREE and open from 9:00 AM until 1:00 PM and showcases forty local vendors.

Load up on fresh locally grown winter produce, eggs, meats, bakery, and everything from soup (WI Soup Company) to nuts (WI Hickory Syrup)! In addition to all of the great vendors, educational sessions for both kids and adults with valuable information regarding the nutritional, social, and economic benefits of local food sources will also be available. Make this market and the Domes a regular part of your winter weekends. Find us on Facebook or at mcwfm.org.

Gifts Under Glass

Meet Katie Netti, one of the artists whose creative, beautiful creations are available at the Dome’s gift shop! Katie grew up in Cincinnati and spent her summers at her uncle’s farm in Tennessee. Katie describes idealistic her summers at her uncle’s farm in Tennessee. Katie describes idealistic her summers at her uncle’s farm in Tennessee. Katie describes idealistic. Katie describes idealistic. Katie describes idealistic. Katie describes idealistic. Katie describes idealistic. Katie describes idealistic. Katie describes idealistic.

In college, she majored in art glass. The combination melded a love of glass and nature. She is currently a high school art teacher who has also operated Urban Oil Ceramics outside of Chicago for the last four years. Urban Oil Ceramics (whose name originates from the indoor/outdoor ceramic oil lamps that she makes) sells Katie’s creations and also provides a venue for classes she teaches, ranging from book binding, ceramic glazing, print making, embroidery, and jewelry making.

You will find her beautiful, unique bottle stoppers, ceramic birds, and other creations at the Domes Gift Shop. Friends’ members receive 10% off of all gift shop purchases! To see more of her work, visit www.urbanoilceramics.com or one of the Logan Square boutiques that feature her work.

In a beautiful, fun setting, the popular Milwaukee County Winter Farmer’s Market will once again offer a wide variety of local products and produce. The market will feature over 50 local, independent retailers offering goods including apparel, accessories, food, housewares, and many other gift items. Food, coffee, beer, and bloody marys will be available. You don’t want to miss this one-day-only opportunity to shop local under one roof! Follow Local First on Facebook and Twitter for more information.

When: Sunday, November 29
Cost: Free for Friends’ Members; Regular Domes’ admission prices for non-members

Buy Local Gift Fair

Local First Milwaukee will be hosting the annual Buy Local Gift Fair on Sunday, November 29. The show will feature over 50 local, independent retailers offering goods including apparel, accessories, food, housewares, and many other gift items. Food, coffee, beer, and bloody marys will be available. You don’t want to miss this one-day-only opportunity to shop local under one roof! Follow Local First on Facebook and Twitter for more information.

When: Sunday, November 29
Cost: Free for Friends’ Members; Regular Domes’ admission prices for non-members

Fall in Love with Orchids—Enjoy the Elegant Sophistication Here, then Bring a Beauty Home!

Beautiful flowers, astounding fragrances, and unusual sex lives (yes, really) compound orchids’ allure. Come and see for yourself as Fall in Love with Orchids 2015 fills the Show Dome of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory on September 19 and 20. Hosted by the Wisconsin Orchid Society (WOS) and Milwaukee County Parks System, five Midwestern orchid societies and two local growers will feature plant displays. There will be demonstrations of orchid care and making orchid corsages. Need orchid growing help? Assistance will be available. View orchid photography and sales. Eight vendors of orchids will have thousands of flowering orchids for purchase, as well as orchid supplies, fertilizer, pots, potting material, jewelry, and books. You will learn about orchids, including Wisconsin’s native orchids, their conservation, and their role in ecology and understand why this show is so popular each year!

When: Saturday, September 19 and Sunday, September 20
Cost: Free for Friends’ Members; Regular Domes’ admission prices for non-members

Mark your Calendar for the Winter Show

Gingerbread Land

By Burt Gross
Parks Artist

Have you ever wondered where we get all of the exotic ingredients to make delicious gingerbread cookies? Learn all about them at our “Gingerbread Land” Holiday Show. We will exhibit a sugar plant Saccharum officinarum, a vanilla vine Vanilla planifolia, a ginger plant Zingiber officianale, and a cinnamon tree Cinnamomum zeylanicum. The show will also feature a giant Gingerbread House, a Holiday tree decorated with all sorts of holiday treat, and gingerbread folk playing among the glittering poinsettias.

The popular Milwaukee County Winter Farmer’s Market will once again offer a beautiful, fun setting.
Celebrating A Shared History

To continue our celebration of the Domes’ 50th year, we will be featuring stories of special memories of times at the Domes – were you married or engaged here? Did you come to the grand opening and see Lady Bird Johnson at the official ribbon cutting? Send your stories and pictures to us at friendsofthedomes@gmail.com or mail them to The Friends of the Domes, Act: Sally Sullivan 524 S. Layton Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53215

The next story we are sharing comes from Director Sandy Falorin...

Yes, even I was a sweet young thing! Our family always visited the Domes to take group pictures and this one taken on Mother’s Day 1975 in the Desert Dome represents four generations of my lineage: all of us moms with our first born daughters! Little did I know that 31 years later, I’d be the Director here! There was a fifth generation present as well that day but my great grandmother was in the Gift Shop shopping for plants so she missed out on this Kodak moment!

Sally Sullivan
FOD Financial Manager and Membership Coordinator

Our Beautiful at 50 Fundraising Campaign continues through 2015. We are working with many area foundations and companies to raise awareness about the needs at the Mitchell Park Domes and to promote the amazing educational work done here. If you have visited the Domes, you may have noticed that new doors to each dome have been installed providing access to people with disabilities while maintaining the unique temperature and humidity of each Dome. There are many more things we need to accomplish but this is a great start.

Our efforts to reach our goal continue through 2015 to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Domes. Many of you have responded generously and your support is very much appreciated. Will you continue to offer your support through donations, renewal of memberships, and spreading the word about this unique Milwaukee treasure?

Please use the envelope provided in this newsletter to show your support. Did you know that the Mitchell Park Domes is a one of a kind facility in the world? And we have it right here in Milwaukee! Let’s not take it for granted.

Help to keep our “Domes” vibrant for the next generation!

Sally Sullivan
FOD Financial Manager and Membership Coordinator

Walk The Mitchell Mile

Join us for an educational one mile walk inside of the domes!

9:00 AM every Monday morning from October 5th through December 26th, the Conservatory Educator and/or Ed Center Specialist (Volunteers) will lead participants around a designated path inside the Domes’ complex. Five laps total one mile.

When: October 17, 2015 5:30 PM to 10 PM
Cost: Free

More information about incentives for walkers will be available from the Domes Education Center as the program gets started.

What a fun, safe way to stay active as the weather gets less pleasant!

When: 9:00 AM Mondays from October 5 through December 26.
Cost: Free for Friends’ Members; Regular Domes’ admission prices for non-members

A Special Thank You

A big thank you to Sally Buckley for 20 years of service to the Friends of the Domes! We have valued all of your time and hard work over the past two decades! Your smile and dedication will be missed, and we hope to see you at the Conservatory as a visitor often!

To view a list of gardens that honor your Friends of the Domes membership, please go to our website www.milwaukeedomes.org and select the “Membership” tab. Remember this too when traveling. I was in Jacksonville Florida earlier this year and used my membership to get into a beautiful estate garden. Close to home, your membership is good at Boerner Botanical Gardens in Hales Corners. If you have not been there in a while go check them out to see their new Rotary Walk. It is an ADA-accessible path leading from the Herb Garden to the Bog Walk.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Friends or the Domes please reach out to me. You can contact me by phone, 414-384-0161 or by email rjkrawiecki@gmail.com. Enjoy the fall and get ready for winter.