UPCOMING FLORAL SHOWS
- Show dates to be determined — Garden Impressions
- June 11—September 11 Summer on Olympus

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:
Guest Artists 2 from H.W. Longfellow School
Public Hearing 3 Held on the Future of the Domes
Domes 6 Trivia—Just for Fun!
Green Sheet—7 Every Cactus Has Its Spine

When Will the Domes Reopen?
And your other important questions answered
Since the closure of the Domes in February, many members have reached out to the Friends of the Domes’ staff with questions. We found that people had similar questions, so we wanted to answer them for all members.

When will the Domes reopen?
At the time of the printing of this newsletter, the information we have is that the County is trying to have the Show Dome and Gift Shop open by May 1.

What will happen to the plants?
They are all staying—at least they are enjoying the Domes this spring! All plants continue to enjoy the care they receive from our team of world class horticulturists.

How will my Friends’ membership be impacted?
To compensate for time the Domes were closed, your membership will be extended four months. For example, if your membership would have expired July 1st, it will now expire November 1st.

What is being done to the structure while they are closed?
The Domes are being carefully inspected. Recommended safety precautions will be taken to ensure that visitors can enjoy the Domes without any concerns when they reopen. Several possible safety precautions are being discussed.

How I Can Help?
Here are several easy ways you can help the Domes:

Renew your membership: Your continued membership shows your support for the Domes and the Friends of the Domes.

Make a donation: Funds raised by the Friends of the Domes are allocated by the Friends of the Domes Board of Directors and will be used towards enhancements to the facility and to help get the facility reopened to the public so everyone can continue to enjoy the wonderful environment the Domes has provided our community for the past 50 years.

To donate: If you have in—

Join Us for a New Art Festival May 21—22!
By Sally Sullivan
FOD Financial Manager
Membership Coordinator
Art in the Green — a two day art fair featuring up to 60 primarily local artists located in the Conservatory Annex selling paintings, photography, jewelry, ceramics, glasswork, and much more. Food and entertainment will be plentiful all weekend. Admission to Art in the Green will be free and includes parking.

When: Saturday, May 21, 9:00 AM to 7:00 PM
Sunday, May 22, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Cost: Free admission to the art fair
Guest Artists from H.W. Longfellow School

By Deb Schiel, Friends’ Resource Development
Thanks to a very generous grant from the Zilber Family Foundation we were happy to welcome a 4th grade class to exercise their art eye at the Domes early this year. The students, teachers, and helpers were invited to attend an educational presentation and a tour led by Conservatory Educator Paula Zamiatowski. Each student was provided a "toolbox" — a canvas bag donated by the Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative containing a sketch pad, a set of washable markers, and a set of colored pencils. The students were invited to go into any dome to draw and create whatever appealed to their art sense. “My favorite part was when we were drawing and looking at the plants” reflected one student.

After an hour, the end result was 34 pieces of original, beautiful art. Each student had the opportunity to meet Domes’ Artist Burt Gross and review their artwork. Burt was quite impressed with their attention to detail and color. One student even asked for a critique! The artwork was professionally matted and will be displayed in the lobby of the Domes along with a "gallery night" showing for the students and their families. Each participating student’s family will receive a 1 year membership to The Mitchell Park Domes.

In Memory of Phil Rozga

We have some especially sad news to share, Friends. On February 21, 2016 we lost longtime leader and member, Phil Rozga.

Phil was a member of the Friends for over 15 years. In that time he led our organization as president and vice president. Phil was devoted to the Domes. He served patiently and thoughtfully as an officer on the board. This always gave him the ability to achieve consensus on issues and programs that came before the board. He was open to new ideas for programs, technology, and innovative ways the community could use the Domes. His wise leadership will be missed.

How Can I Help? Continued from page 1

ternet access and want to donate with a credit card, just go to www.milwaukeedomes.org and click Donate. You can also mail a check to: The Friends of the Domes, Attn: Sally Sullivan, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215. You can also donate via our Go Fund Me site. You can access our Go Fund Me site on our Facebook page or go to the Friends of the Domes website and click “Save the Domes Go Fund Me.”

Share your memories and photos of your memories at the Save the Domes Facebook page. Go to Facebook and search Save the Domes. Let others know how important the Domes are to you! There is also a link to our GoFundMe site on the Facebook page!

Let others know the Domes are important to you: Be vocal in your support of the Mitchell Park Domes and the future of a horticultural conservatory in Milwaukee.
On February 24, 2016, Milwaukee County officials hosted a public hearing to discuss the future of the Domes. Parks Director John Dargle Jr. and Friends’ President Roger Krawiecki and were among the speakers to over 250 attendees.

The Director said that the Domes are “naturally showing the effects of the ravages of time” and that “anything short of full repair or complete replacement would lead to greater costs in the future.”

Friends’ President Roger Krawiecki called the Domes a “living landmark” and called for the County to fully repair the Domes. We wanted to share the highlights of his speech here.

Roger began with a bit of his own background including 29 years of Friends’ membership, including 25 years serving on the board, living nearby, and considering the Domes a “second home.” He then shared a the history of the non-profit group the Friends of the Domes and a little about the demographics of our 1,600 members.

Roger described events the Friends hold, like the New Year’s Eve Celebration and Ghosts Under Glass, that raise money for the Domes. He talked about the gift shop—Gifts Under Glass—and explained that funds raised benefit educational programs and the staff and volunteers act as ambassadors to those who visit the Domes.

Roger stressed that the Friends of the Domes do not believe that the Domes are a dying plant conservatory. The Friends have shown their commitment by continuing to invest in the Domes. He supported this by citing several improvements the Friends have sponsored recently, including:

- A new outdoor digital sign
- New Interior doors that make the Domes more easily accessible to people with disabilities and help to control the temperatures in the Domes
- Plant purchases to enhance our collection

Then his speech took us back in time, back to when many of us first visited the Domes…

“How many of you remember coming here on a field trip? The bus pulls up in front of this massive structure that looks like something you have never seen before. You enter the lobby and go through orientation, teased by the plants you see through the glass doors. Finally you are set free to explore the Domes. The humidity of the tropical dome, the birds chirping, the water fall in the distance. The dryness of the desert dome, the fear that one of the cacti will poke you. The show dome with brightly colored flowers calling you to smell them.

“For many people this may be their only opportunity to ever experience being in a rainforest or desert environment.

“I have been fortunate enough to be able to travel and see other conservatories. I can tell you that I have never seen a tree as tall as the kapok tree in the Tropical Dome anywhere else. The Desert Dome features a Madagascar plant collection unlike anything you will see at another conservatory.”

Roger talked a bit about the changes and improvements that have been made since the first time he visited the Domes, from moving the gift shop and the education center to adding the new fountains in front of the Domes.

“Mitchell Park was the first park in the system created in 1889. Nine years later, the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory was opened on this site… In 1955, after a 57 year life span, the facility was deemed unsafe. It was decided to demolish the facility; however, some of the plants were saved and still reside in the Domes.

“I was not around during that time; but, some of our members have told me that there was a great deal of debate in the community regarding replacing the old conservatory. A national design competition was held. Can you imagine what the community thought when this design was selected? In the 1960’s it was considered extremely futuristic. In 1963, the new Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory was dedicated, 10 years after the closing of the first conservatory.

“Let’s not repeat history. Our community cannot go 10 years without an important facility like the Domes…We need to focus on getting the Domes open, then we can start planning for the future.”

Thank you to those who attended and to Roger for his powerful, eloquent call to action.
Celebrating A Shared History

To continue our celebration of the Domes’ 50th year, we will be featuring stories of members’ special memories at the Domes. Send your stories and pictures to us at friendsofthedomes@gmail.com or mail them to The Friends of the Domes, Att: Sally Sullivan, 524 S. Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215

This story comes from members Peter and Carolyn (Schieffer) Gopinski...

We were married August 18, 1979 at Mary Queen of Heaven church in West Allis. Because the mass was at 10:00 AM and the reception didn’t start until about 5:00 PM, we went to the Domes for photos and lunch. The Domes’ staff were very accommodating, allowing the church and family to bring food in for our guests, to hold them over until the reception. We treasure this wedding party photo from the Tropical Dome. Peter and I are in the middle, with my five sisters who all stood up in the wedding and Peter’s brother, who was his best man.

What Do You Think About Our Newsletter?

Thank you so much to those of you who participated in our second Friends’ survey! Your feedback provides us valuable information that we will use to make decisions and plan for the future. No decisions have been made about changes to the newsletter. We will keep you informed about any changes we are considering.

If you did not receive an email with a link to the survey and would like to participate in future surveys, please contact us at friendsofthedomes@gmail.com to verify that we have your email information.

Results of Survey Number 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>Responses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>If you could have the Friends’ newsletter emailed to you electronically, would you prefer to:</td>
<td>Still receive only a paper version 22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Receive both a paper and electronic version 22%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Receive only an electronic version 56%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What are your favorite parts of the newsletter? [Respondents could select multiple answers]</td>
<td>Letter from the Director 18%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Letter from the President 13%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Calendar of Events 86%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Green Sheet 19%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kids’ Corner 15%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles About Upcoming Events 77%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Articles About Upcoming Ed. Center Programs 38%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What would you like to see more of in future newsletters? More articles and photographs about: [Respondents could select multiple answers]</td>
<td>Upcoming/ future events 67%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The Plants at the Domes 71%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The People who Work at the Domes 30%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Volunteer Opportunities 33%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The history of the Domes 48%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Activities for Kids 24%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
From the President

By Roger Krawiecki  
President, Friends of the Domes

It is our spring issue so that means it is time to review how we did in our last fiscal year. Inserted in this newsletter you will find the audited financial statements for our organization. Our asset balance is still very strong after the major expenditure for the new domes entrance doors. The handicapped accessibility has really made a difference for people with disabilities. The doors have also been a big help for people pushing children in strollers. Our capital campaign brought in additional donations to help fund future projects. The gift shop sales and profit increased over 2014. Our membership level remained strong. On the flip side of the insert is a thank you to our members. We have a new record to share—Mr. and Mrs. Dabbert have become the first Friends of the Domes members to reach 30 years of membership! Thank you so very much for supporting us for 30 years. What an accomplishment! I also want to thank all of the other members listed for remaining members with the Friends for all of these years. It is the ongoing membership dues that pay for the day to day operation of our organization. I also would like to thank the volunteer board of directors for guiding our organization into the future. We have restructured the board to place greater emphasis on our defined committees. This will focus the board members’ efforts to keep the Domes such a wonderful attraction. Our mission is to provide the Domes with as much help as we can.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Friends or the Domes please reach out to me. You can contact me at 414-384-0161 or rjkrawiecki@gmail.com.

Conservatory Volunteer Orientation Sessions

For ALL Volunteer Opportunities—Required General Orientation

The Domes may be closed, but we are very busy and still looking for volunteers to assist with events, fundraising, greeting, and other activities. In addition to supporting the Friends, volunteers have the opportunity to learn more about the Domes and meet great people. Any current volunteers who have never attended a Domes’ Volunteer training session are required to attend as well. The orientation will include an exclusive film with interviews from Donald Grieb [Domes’ architect]; the former Domes’ director; and Sandy Folaron [current Domes’ director]. The training will end with an exclusive Greenhouse Complex Tour!

Length: One 3 hour session (includes breaks, refreshments, and tour of the Greenhouses)  
Dates: Wednesday, April 27, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM OR Saturday, May 7, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM  
Registration is required. Please contact Liz Fehring at volunteer@milwaukeedomes.org to register.  
Co-facilitators: Liz Fehring, Paula Zamiatowski, and Darlene Winter

When Will the Domes Reopen? Continued from page 1

Among them are covering the concrete joints with metal mesh to prevent any further debris from falling. Another is to wrap each concrete joint with strips of canvas. The second solution would keep the Domes open a few years longer but could cost much more.

Visit county.milwaukee.gov.domes for more frequently asked questions, updates, and other information.

We will also share information about the selected solution as we know what will be done.

An example of the debris [above]

Two of the possible solutions being considered—wrapping the joints in canvas [left] or covering the concrete areas with metal mesh [right]
Fun Domes Trivia

By Paula Zamiatowski
Conservatory Educator

How much do you really know about The Domes? Let’s find out! [Answers at the bottom of the page.]

Easy! Most of our regular visitors will know these!
1. What is the official name of The Domes?
2. The Domes is located in ___________ Park.
3. How many domes are there?
4. What is the environment or theme of each dome?
5. What type of fish can you find in one of the Domes?
6. Where is the waterfall located?
7. What is the name of the Domes gift shop?
8. What do we call specialized succulents that live in the desert?
9. What event takes place each Saturday morning from November – April in the Annex?
10. In which dome would you find the most wildlife?
11. What is the name of the science and art of growing plants?

A little tougher Ok smarty pants, the first eleven were too easy for you? Try these!
12. What is a desert?
13. How old is each Dome?
14. What is the official term that describes the shape of the domes?
15. How many panes of glass are in each dome?
16. What feature makes the Domes a one-of-a-kind facility in the world?
17. What is the name of the orange and black bird you might see in one of the domes?
18. Who designed the Domes?
19. How tall are the Domes?
20. In which Dome is the rarest collection of plants found? Where are these plants from?
21. Who dedicated the Domes to the people of Wisconsin in 1965?
22. How many acres is the park where the Domes are located?
23. What is the tallest plant in our collection? In which Dome will you find it?
24. How many horticulturists work at the Domes?
25. Where is the green roof located on the complex?

Expert Level! Get these right and you can declare yourself a real expert. If there was a Domes edition of Jeopardy, you would go home with all of the money!
26. Who was Jacque Vieau?
27. What makes up the Domes structure?
28. Who were Alexander, John, and Billy?
29. How many gallons of rainwater can the greenhouse complex store for watering?
30. What was the name of the conservatory on the site before the Domes?

BluTender Night Benefitting the Mitchell Park Domes

Join us for cocktail hour at Blu Lounge on top of the Pfister Hotel for a unique and fun way to raise money for the Domes. It’s a battle of the bartenders, most of whom many of us may know. The Domes will receive 10% of the bar revenue and 100% of the tips. The more people who attend, the more money we raise. Bring your family and friends for an evening of FUNdraising!

When: Thursday, May 12, 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM
Cost: Free admission; beverages and food available for purchase
Where: Blu Lounge at the Pfister Hotel; 424 E. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53202

Trivia Answers:

1. Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory
2. Mitchell Family
3. Three
4. The Rhipsalis, Madagascar
5. 80,000 gallons
6. The Desert Dome
7. 200 pounds
8. 197
9. 1965
10. The Tropical Dome
11. 2,200 panes
12. Conoidal
13. 51 years old
14. A region that receives very little rain and experiences high evaporative losses
15. B. C. Mitchell
16. The Kapok Tree; the Tropical Dome
17. Donald L. Grieb
18. 85 feet
19. The rarest collection of plants found in the Desert Dome; Madagascar
20. (First Lady) Mrs. Lady Bird Johnson
21. 1965
22. 62 Acres
23. 80,000 gallons
24. 5 horticulturists work in the Domes and the Greenhouses
25. Above the Education Center
26. The first European settler and fur trader who settled the land that is today Mitchell Park
27. Concrete, steel, and glass
28. The Mitchell Family
29. 80,000 gallons
30. The Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

Trivia Question:
1. The Deserts and the Eucalyptus
2. The Great Barrier Reef
3. The Rhipsalis
4. The Tropical Dome
5. The Kapok Tree
6. The Desert Dome
7. The Tropical Dome
8. The Show Dome
9. Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory
10. The largest indoor greenhouse complex in the world
11. The most famous cacti
12. The Rhipsalis
13. The most famous butterflies
14. The most famous birds
15. The most famous fish
16. The most famous plants
17. The most famous flowers
18. The most famous turtles
19. The most famous reptiles
20. The most famous amphibians
21. The most famous mammals
22. The most famous birds
23. The most famous fish
24. The most famous butterflies
25. The most famous cacti
26. The most famous succulents
27. The most famous ferns
28. The most famous orchids
29. The most famous bromeliads
30. The most famous cycads

www.milwaukeedomes.org
Every Cactus Has its Spine

By Marian French
Horticulturist—Desert Dome

Seeing the large cacti in the Desert Dome can make visitors take a step backward. These prickly plants can look very ferocious indeed, but there is much more to cactus spines than simple intimidation.

Botanically speaking, a spine is an extremely modified leaf. When fully formed, however, spines have no living tissue and are composed of tough fibers encased by thick-walled, protective cells.

Spines grow on cacti in clusters called areoles. An areole consists of one central spine that sticks straight out, surrounded by several radial spines. It’s a trait unique to the cactus family, meaning no other plant has spines in this pattern.

Whole groups of cacti can be identified just by their signature spine formations, such as the fish-hook cacti (*Ferocactus*). They are known for long, hooked spines (like fish-hooks!) that are usually some shade of red, making these plants well-loved for their texture and color.

The severity of the growing environment can determine the intensity of the spines. For example, a cactus in the desert, in the 110 degree sun, might have spines so robust that its green stem would barely be visible. The same plant brought under cultivation in Wisconsin, in a greenhouse, would have much weaker, thinner spines, and look much greener. This illustrates how the spines provide protection from the elements. They prevent water loss and sunburn by keeping the plant’s stem shaded, and a buffer against intense temperatures, hot or cold. When the weather is less extreme, the stem is more exposed to get the right amount of sunlight.

Spines can be a real pain. Of course, when the spines are large, they are obvious and mostly avoidable. But when dealing with prickly pear cacti (*Opuntia*), beware of the spines you can’t see. Members of this group of cacti have areoles, just like all their relatives, but amongst the spines they also produce tiny, hair-like needles called glochids. These are hard to see, but easy to feel and can cause a lot of irritation and pain, especially when there are several of them (and there usually are.) While only a few millimeters long, glochids are covered in barbs. They are so sharp that they easily pierce the skin of any passerby, and so fragile that they can break off at the skin’s surface.

So what should you do if you have painfully crossed paths with a cactus? With simple spines, usually a tweezers and a magnifying glass will suffice. However, if there are glochids involved, they look so much like regular hairs that they are difficult to pull out one by one. Very sticky duct tape, pressed on top of the afflicted area and ripped off quickly, should help get them out. Sometimes a few tries are needed.

So remember, cacti have fascinating shapes and textures, but admire from a distance for your safety.

Looking Forward to Spring!

As we look forward to spring in our yards and parks, the Horticulturists in the Desert Dome will enjoy the desert blooms this April and May in the Domes!

*Right: Gymnocalycium saglionis in bloom*
Upcoming Events

Saturdays through April 9, 2016 ........................ Winter Farmer’s Market*
May 8 ................................................... Jewelry is Fun! Mother’s Day Show
May 12 ........................................ BluTender Fund Raising Event at Blu Lounge
May 21-22 ................................................. NEW! Art in the Green
June 4-5 .................................................. Torii Gate Festival

*Saturdays 9:00 AM to 12:30 PM

OFFICERS
Roger Krawiecki President
Tim Teske Vice-President
Beverly Smiley Treasurer
Susan Ford Recording Secretary

BOARD MEMBERS
Leticia Melendez Alverez V. Shrinivas Murthy
Connie Blair John Ohm
Sally Buckland Mary Philipp
Terrell Ford Jeff Shaffer
Elise Libbey Peter Smiley
Barbara Mangold Michael Solovey
Diane Miller Sally Sullivan
Krista Mulholland

FRIENDS OF THE DOMES STAFF MEMBERS
Robin Adams Gift Shop Financial Manager
Liz Fehring FOD Event & Volunteer Coordinator
Mary Philipp Gift Shop Manager/ Buyer
Deb Schiel Resource Development
Sally Sullivan FOD Financial Manager/ Membership Coordinator
Darlene Winter Volunteer and Event Assistant