Inside the Domes
MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

A Special Celebration at the Domes this October!
Dia de los Muertos—Day of the Dead

By Liz Fehring, Events Coordinator

The Friends of the Domes is introducing a new event this year to celebrate Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) on Friday, October 26 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. While this Mexican celebration occurs around the same time of year as Halloween, it is a completely different holiday with rich symbolism and traditions that appeal to people young and old. This is a holiday for family and friends to join in prayer and remembrance of those who have died and help support their spiritual journey.

The Desert Dome will be filled with cheerful candlelight, orange marigolds, and colorful decorations. View traditional ofrendas located throughout the Domes. Guests will enjoy a mariachi band and dancing in the Show Dome. Children can enjoy crafts, such as building a skull garden for $5 a piece or free crafts including making tissue paper marigolds and decorating sugar skulls. Children can interact with and have photos taken with characters in costume. The evening will be infused with edu-

Plant Power: An Evening with Essential Oils

Come experience the restorative and healing power of plants at the Mitchell Park Domes new essential oil event. Sponsored by the Friends of the Domes and in partnership with doterra (the well-known international essential oil company), this event offers a unique opportunity to submerge yourself in the world of essential oils and learn about their significance in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Pick up your passport at the door and begin your travels as you visit stations throughout the facility to learn about various aspects of and uses for essential oils: aromatic, topical, and internal uses; extraction methods; plant sourcing; the most popular essential oils and how to use them—all under the guidance of specialists, horticulturists, educators, and wellness advocates.

The evening will also include guided tours through the Conservatory’s global botanical collections and your own personal goodie bag with a customized essential oil rollerball, a rosemary plant from our very own Greenhouses, a drink ticket for an essential oil infused beverage, and a chance to win a door prize!

Lava bead jewelry vendors and the eclectic Friends of the Domes Gift Shop may even inspire you to kick-start your holiday gift shopping early!

Bring along your friends and make it an evening to de-stress and prepare yourself for the upcoming holiday and winter season. Great girl’s night out with live music, cash bar, and food available for purchase from Zilli’s Hos-
A Warm Welcome to our New Director of Adult Education

The Friends of the Domes is thrilled to introduce our new Adult Education Program and welcome the Director and new member of our team, Kelsey Wallisch Simon. We intend to create a fun and inviting atmosphere for our plant-based courses with a variety of topics. Medicinal and edible wild plants, seasonal gardening, and regular garden walks are just a few of the many courses and workshops we plan to cover, and we cannot wait to get our members and community involved.

Kelsey graduated from Montana State University in Bozeman, Montana studying land rehabilitation, environmental science, and soil science. She is a student of the nature around her giving her a strong background in plants and the science of whole ecosystems. Kelsey has experience teaching children and adults alike and truly enjoys working for nonprofits like our own. She has hit the ground running since joining our team in July and is already planning multiple courses including our first class, Controlling Pests with Biological & Natural Controls in partnership with Wisconsin Garden and Pet Supplies held on August 26th.

Stay tuned to our website, https://milwaukeedomes.org/adult-programs, to find our upcoming courses and registration, and we look forward to learning with you!

Unique Holiday Shopping!

Urban Garage Sale

Get a head start on your holiday shopping and support local businesses by attending the annual Urban Garage Sale on the weekend of November 24 and 25. A community of artists, makers, and local retailers will set up shop showcasing the creative community of Milwaukee. This year’s event will bring together 65 talented local vendors selling vintage pieces, artwork, woodworking, apparel, jewelry, and lifestyle goods. Sound providers and foodies will add to the ambiance of this alternative holiday shopping experience in the city of Milwaukee. What better home could this local Milwaukee event have than the Mitchell Park Domes? Live local musicians performing and, of course, food and beverages available to round out your shopping day!

When: Saturday, November 24, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Sunday, November 25, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: The Conservatory Annex

Cost: $5 Donation at the door; kids free

Thank you to our advertisers! By purchasing ads in this newsletter, they have helped to underwrite its production costs. This frees up more resources for us to support the Domes!
Endowment Creates an Option for Lasting Support of our Conservatory

As the Friends of the Domes begins a new fiscal year of supporting the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the “Domes”), we want to thank you, our members, for your continued support of our mission. The impact of your support through your membership and donations to our organization goes far beyond your financial commitment and truly impacts the lives of people throughout Southeastern Wisconsin. Because of you, all who visit the Domes experience a connection to the three unique, diverse, global environments at the Conservatory. The Domes are an oasis in an urban environment!

Over the past year, gifts to the Friends of the Domes from generous supporters like you have touched the lives of thousands of children in our region through educational programming and have supported the world-class plant collection. This support compliments, but is separate, from the support provided by Milwaukee County, and as such is critical to maintaining and improving this horticultural treasure making Milwaukee a healthier, happier community.

As a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, the Friends of the Domes counts on membership dues and charitable giving to provide much needed support to the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, but membership dues only provided 4% of the Friend’s revenue in fiscal 2018. Driven by the large bequest of $2 million we received this past year, eighty-three percent of our cash receipts were thanks to the generosity of thousands of small and large gifts from Milwaukee Domes friends who believe that Southeastern Wisconsin deserves a world-class conservatory.

The earnings from the endowment will help fund projects and programs that benefit the Conservatory, with the initial and primary focus on expanding the adult education program administered by the Friends of the Domes. With this year’s annual appeal, you have the option of helping us to grow that endowment for the long-term support of the Conservatory, or donating for the specific, short-term needs of this treasure.

Please consider providing your support to the Friends of the Domes today. Your donation will help us to continue our mission of supporting southeastern Wisconsin’s premier horticultural conservatory. We are so grateful to you for sponsoring the Friends of the Domes work at the Conservatory!

Yours sincerely,

Roger Krawiecki
Friends of the Domes Board President

Sally Sullivan
Executive Director, Friends of the Domes
Thank You to Everyone who Donated to the Friends of the Domes During Fiscal Year 2017—2018

A very special thank you to the ROS Foundation for a donation of $50,000 for facility improvements

Thank you to all the following donors:

**$5,000 Donation**
Dr. & Mrs. John Thomas
Hamilton Family Foundation
Todd Huffman & L. Lemmewine
Jack & Caryn Lawler
(in memory of Claude VanderVeen)

**$1000-$4,999 Donation**
Double B's Restaurant
Educators Credit Union
Habush, Habush & Rottier Charitable Foundation
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**$500-$999 Donation**
Kendra Scott
Roger Krawiec
Gail Schumann
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**$250-$499 Donation**
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Garth Wangemann

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**Thank you Mystery Chef Auction Donors at $100+**
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Heifer Dezine
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Luce Lighting & Design
Bluegills Garden Center
The Green Team

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Patty Leonard
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& Christopher Bauer

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Blissful Bakery
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County Perks
Jeanneke Hotel
Heifer Dezine
Atrio Jewelers
Kendra Scott
Indigo Blu Boutique
Habush, Habush & Rottier
Hilbros Farms
Urban Serve
Luce Lighting & Design
Bluegills Garden Center
The Green Team

**Thank you Members who Doubled their Donation Through an Employer Match**
Amy Burns
Roger Franek
Jill Hass
Michael Johnston
Ted Palmer
Jodi Punke
Dulcie Shoemaker
Gary Smieja

www.milwaukeedomes.org
Share Your Time and Talents
Volunteer at the Domes!

Required Volunteer Training Sessions

So many of the benefits the Friends of the Domes is able to provide to the Conservatory depend on great volunteers—people like YOU! We always need volunteers to help in a variety of different capacities. Join our wonderful group of volunteers to help:

- At fundraising events like: Dia de los Muertos, New Year’s Eve, Valentine’s Day, and Art in the Green
- Greet visitors
- In the gift shop
- With clerical tasks or other activities
- In the education center. Additional training may be required for some education center volunteer opportunities.

In addition to supporting the Friends, volunteers have the opportunity to learn more about the Domes, meet great people, and know that they are using their talents to benefit the Domes.

Any current volunteers who have never attended a Friends’ volunteer training session are required to attend. The session ends with an exclusive Greenhouse Complex tour!

Thursday, September 6, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM OR
Saturday, September 8, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM.

Enter through the Conservatory Annex Doors. Registration is required. Please contact domesvolunteer@gmail.com to register.

Friends of the Domes Annual Campaign: There are so many ways you can help!

Check a box below to direct your donation or leave unchecked to let us determine where it can do the most good. Check with your employer for a gift matching program. Please contact us directly if you are able to make an in-kind donation or can donate one of the items listed here.

- Animal support – food and veterinary care
- Plant Collection maintenance and expansion
- Facility Improvements
- Education Center improvements (currently needed is a large screen tv monitor to enhance instruction and presentations)
- Donate to our Endowment Fund and help it grow
- FOD Adult Education Programming: underwriting supplies, instructor fees, and other class costs.
- Dr. & Mrs. John Thomas Education Scholarship Fund – underwrites class field trips to the Domes for at-need schools.
- The big item: Articulating Boom Lift (Telescopic) for use in Conservatory pruning, and greenhouse and Annex maintenance. (Estimated cost $55,000)
- Help to underwrite the costs of FOD Fundraising Events (Day of the Dead, New Year’s Eve Family Celebration, Hearts Under Glass, and Art in the Green) so more of the proceeds earned can be put back into our mission of support for the Conservatory.

Please mail this form with credit card information or check to:

Friends of the Domes
524 S. Layton Blvd.
Milwaukee, WI 53215

OR

Donate at www.milwaukeedomes.org
Fall In Love with Orchids!

Join us for the annual Wisconsin Orchid Society’s award-winning exhibits showcasing flowering orchid plants, pottery, photographs, and other orchid related items. After you have enjoyed the exhibits, check out the numerous vendors and purchase your favorite varieties of orchids, books, and potting medium, all at reasonable prices.

Wisconsin Orchid Society members will be at the show to answer questions. Be inspired by the displays and the wonderful world of this exotic and beautiful plant. For more information on vendors and presentations, visit www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com.

**When:** Saturday, September 15, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday, September 16, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Cost:** Free for FOD members; for non-members, regular Domes admission rates apply.
From the Director’s Rocking Chair...

By Sandy Folaron
Conservatory Directory

Let’s talk about conservatories. Let’s talk about the part they play in our lives and what the expectations are for the kind of experience, education, or venue they can provide visitors (like you!) Do you come here to see the plant collection, attend a class, stage a wedding or celebrate a special occasion? Is it a place to send your relatives during their visits to Milwaukee or to bring your kids to work off all the energy they have during the cold Wisconsin winters? Is it a backdrop for a photograph with grandma or a family reunion, a place to contemplate nature or to learn about conservation and green initiatives? Is it nostalgia that brings you here or the unique structure of the Conservatory itself?

The Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (aka the Domes) as well as the Victorian Conservatory built in 1898 that it replaced, were created out of a desire to add value and provide a better quality of life for the residents of Milwaukee County. This is what your tax dollars provided and supported: zoos, museums, parks, libraries, and other social venues that families could enjoy and be proud of in their city. It was a great idea! Admissions were free or greatly reduced and always family friendly. That began to change as the years went by. Lack of funding, budget limitations, political challenges, and scandals all have had a huge impact on these cultural institutions and their ability to stay current and relative to each new generation that came afterwards. Public institutions find themselves competing in a virtual world of limitless options and experiences that are seldom matched by a more passive experience like a Conservatory. Unfortunately, outdated facilities that are not energy efficient, that continually operate at a loss or are not operationally sustainable get left behind!

So what does the future hold? It’s anyone’s guess. Stay the same and you run the risk of becoming obsolete and non-essential to the next generation. Recreating yourself takes money, initiative and political will. Does Milwaukee have that passion or vision for the future?

My hope is that it does.

Charitable Giving in the Time of Tax Reform

By Peter Smiley, FOD Board Member

We know many people give to nonprofits out of the goodness of their hearts and belief in their mission, regardless of tax benefits. However, there are strategies for giving that may be tax-beneficial to you while ensuring that your favorite nonprofits continue to get the support they need. Several strategies can benefit donors. Two that apply to the most people are “Bunching” and the use of IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions (or “QCD”).

Bunching is a strategy that raises your itemized deductions. It is done by donating a greater amount

Continued on Page 7

Save The Dates! Two Exclusive Events for FOD Members

November 16, 2018: Save the date for the Friends of the Domes Annual Meeting. Vote in your board members, hear the latest updates on the Domes, and get a sneak peak at the holiday floral show Scrooooge!

January 18, 2019: Membership Appreciation Night—To show our appreciation for the amazing support of our FOD members, we are hosting another Membership Appreciation Night. Enjoy food and beverages and be the first to see the 2019 train show in the Show Dome! Check the website and Winter newsletter for more details. RSVPs will be required.

www.milwaukeedomes.org
Letter from the President

By Roger Krawiecki
FOD President

The Domes Task Force work is still ongoing. We recently met to review Phase 2 which involved obtaining feedback on six options. Five focus group meetings and a public meeting were held. Some key feedback collected from different groups:

Adjacent Neighborhood Groups: “Let go of the past and what the Domes used to be.”
- Improve and/or add existing programming to enhance the Dome’s experience.
- Funding the project and maintaining the improvements are a concern. There needs to be a private partnership to assist in implementing the improvements. Planning should also include operational and maintenance costs.

Preservation Groups: “Mid-Century Modern is popular right now. PLAY THIS UP!”
- What is the Domes? What does it offer? A branding campaign should be developed to encourage visitation.
- A non-profit organization should maintain the governance and mission of the Domes. Possibly Friends of the Domes could take this responsibility.

Similar Cultural Groups: “No static exhibits… Always ‘What’s Next?’”
- Request a study option for Demo/Replacement of the Domes with a state of the art, sustainable, and energy efficient new facility.
- Changing exhibits with combination of Dome’s Mission a key for the success of the Domes.

Horticultural & Educational Groups: “There is a severe isolation from the community. Giving an option that will create enthusiasm for the site. A welcoming presence!”
- Knowledgeable and effective staff will improve programs and attract visitors. Some visitors may return because of the informative staff.
- Be true to the mission of the Domes in the development of the project.

Greater Milwaukee Community Groups “We [should] renovate & maintain the historic; not all new; have a mix of New & Old”
- A funding feasibility report should be done to understand the capabilities of the Domes.
- Changes in governance will assist in maintaining the Domes. Consider a non-profit.

Public Meeting “Whether from a cultural, historical, or ecological standpoint the Domes should be preserved in their current form.”
- Phasing the improvements could assist in funding and success of the Domes.
- Maintain the horticulture mission of the Domes.

Two things stood out from the feedback. First is the mission of the Domes and the lack of branding. What does the Domes strive to be? Why do people want to come to the Domes? A clear mission will help provide the future direction of the Domes. Second is the governance. The Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the parks department. This restricts funding and the ability to raise donations. The Friends of the Domes keeps coming up as the organization that should govern the Domes.

The next phase of the task force is Phase 3 which will take a deeper look at a narrowed listing of options. The task force needs to narrow the list down to three options. We are also waiting for a structural engineering study to be completed that will include testing the cement framework.

I would like to thank all of our members for your continued support of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory during this transitional period. Please visit the Domes often.

Thank you to advertiser Heritage Printing! Heritage has printed our newsletter and other materials for many years and has underwritten events. We are grateful for their service and their partnership with the Friends!

Kendra Scott Fundraiser

Just in time for the holidays—Beautiful jewelry for gift giving or treating yourself! Join us at the Kendra Scott store at the Corners of Brookfield or shop online on Thursday, October 11 from 5:00 PM to 8:00 PM. A percent of all sales will be donated to the Friends of the Domes!

The Education Center is Looking for Volunteers!

Kelsey, our new FOD Education Director, hit the ground running and held her first class at the end of August. She has big plans for upcoming classes and will be looking for helping hands. Maybe working the FOD special events isn’t your cup of tea? Helping Kelsey with her education classes may be a great fit for you! She will be looking for assistants during her classes, helpers for prep work, and maybe even educators interested in sharing their knowledge. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator Carrie Kelroy at domesvolunteer@gmail.com if you are interested in more information.
Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

The Friends of the Domes is fortunate to have dedicated, enthusiastic, smiling volunteers throughout the year! We took the time to celebrate their hard work and show our gratitude on Sunday, June 24 at the Volunteer Appreciation Dinner. Volunteers, staff, and board members enjoyed each other’s company at a dinner catered by Zilli’s followed by a funny, yet informative presentation by Melinda Myers. Melinda is a nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author, and columnist that calls the Milwaukee area home. The group laughed, learned, and discussed everything from slime mold to Japanese beetles. Thank you again to our volunteers.

Your excellence drives our success!

Gifts Under Glass

The Domes gift shop is pleased to offer many products from small businesses. A wide variety of these products are local, organic, and fair-trade! Please support the Domes and these great businesses by purchasing their products the next time you visit the Domes. Remember, Friends of the Domes members always receive 10% off purchases in the gift shop.

Charitable Giving, Continued from Page 6

in one year to take advantage of the tax benefits, then taking a year off before doing it again. This lets you take advantage of the itemized deductions in one year and the standard deductions in the next (thus potentially lowering your overall taxes paid compared to a smaller gift annually).

QCDs, on the other hand, lower your taxable income by directing part of your required distribution from your IRA to a nonprofit. The individual then does not have to pay income tax on the portion directed to the nonprofit. This strategy is only available to individuals over 70 and ½ years old, but can be a very effective way to lower your taxes while still providing for a nonprofit.

If you have any questions regarding these strategies, and how they may apply to you, please consult a tax or legal professional.

Peter Smiley is a tax and estate planning attorney with Willms, S.C. in Thiensville. The information in this article is not legal advice, and is not a substitute for it. Please consult an attorney or tax professional before proceeding with any tax planning strategy.
Cultivate 18

One of our Horticulturists shares what he learned at an exciting recent FOD Funded Conference

By Clay Gosse
Show Dome Horticulturist

Cultivate, an event put on by AmericanHort, is one of the country’s largest conferences pertaining to greenhouse and nursery crop production. I was fortunate enough to be sponsored by the Friends of the Domes to attend the event this year and experience all that it had to offer.

Every aspect of the greenhouse industry related to products and services is covered by exhibitors in the trade show portion of this event. It attracts some of the biggest names in the industry like Ball Seed Company, Proven Winners, Argus Controls, and Syngenta. With such a wide variety of companies participating, I was able to talk to representatives and compare products first hand. There were two companies that stood out at the trade show: Dramm Corporation (a local Wisconsin company that designed the automated drip irrigation systems that I currently work with in the new greenhouse facility) and Mycorrhizal Applications (a forward thinking company that produces mycorrhizal fungi which forms a symbiotic relationship with plants roots resulting in enhanced nutrient and water uptake).

I also really enjoyed the day-long biological controls workshop. This workshop was presented by Suzanne Wainwright-Evans, the owner of Buglady Consulting, a biocontrol company, and also on a more technical level by John Sanderson, a professor of entomology at Cornell University. The key focus of the day was learning how to identify and differentiate between major greenhouse pests and what biocontrol products can be used to combat them. With biocontrol agents such as beneficial insects, it is important to be able to identify the pest down to the exact species. Knowing that a pest is an aphid is not enough when trying to select the correct predatory biocontrol - you need to be able to differentiate between the Peach, Cotton, Potato, and Foxglove aphids to choose the correct predatory biocontrol. When diving into the microscopic differences between insects, things can get complicated, but the reward of being able to plan a more accurate and cost effective beneficial insect program is well worth it.

Fall Floral Show

Where the Coleuses Grow

The fall floral show 'Where the coleuses grow' will display more than 30 coleus varieties all with different colors, patterns, and shapes! Coleus have some of the most stunningly colored foliage—in combinations of green, yellow, pink, red, maroon, etc. Coleus also have a wide variety of leaf sizes and overall shapes. Interesting grasses and vines will also make an appearance and of course the beautiful fall floral staple—chrysanthemums (commonly mums).
The Plant Power of Frankincense

By Maria Telikozoglou
Show Dome Horticulturist

In rocky, dry, desolate corners of eastern Africa and the Middle East, the rare frankincense tree (Boswellia sacra) makes its home. Its preferred habitat is usually eroding, precarious cliffs and mountain slopes.

The resin and oils from this plant (and its close relatives) have been used in sacred ceremonies, medicine, and perfumes since ancient times. For the Hebrews, the closest one could get to the divine was to smell the divine, which in most cases was the scent of frankincense. In ancient Egypt, the sap was believed to be the fallen sweat of the gods. It led Queen Hatshepsut to order 32 of the plants to be dug up from Somalia and brought back to her temple. This was in 1495 BC, a time when the only available containers were wicker baskets and there was no one-day shipping, but it was said that all but one of the plants made it through the journey and survived being planted at the Egyptian temple.

In the modern day, frankincense is still used religiously and still burned as incense, but there has also been a sharp rise in popularity for its use as an essential oil. It’s commonly used to treat skin blemishes and dryness, stress, and negative moods, among other things. There are recipes all over the internet for blending the oil into ointments, lotions, and perfumes. Because of its rich history and current high demand, however, the strain on the wild populations of frankincense may soon take its toll.

These plants are so slow growing, and so difficult to start from seed, that they are not, nor have ever been, planted commercially. The sap and resin of frankincense is wild collected in the natural habitat by making cuts in the tree trunks, but in recent years there have been concerns about the sustainability of the practice. In eastern Africa, there is virtually no oversight on the tapping of the trees, allowing for overharvesting. Studies have shown that taking too much sap greatly diminishes the seed production and seed viability of frankincense trees, making regeneration of their forests very difficult or even impossible. Sometimes frankincense forests are cleared entirely to be used as firewood and to make way for other crops. In the Middle Eastern frankincense groves, there is also grazing pressure from herds of goats that have been known to consume any understory growth, including precious seedlings.

In light of all these threats to an essential part of the essential oils world, there have been efforts in recent years to produce hybrids of different Boswellia species. These new plants will hopefully have greater vigor and produce higher amounts of resin, leading to more efficient harvesting and planting. If all goes well, Boswellia sacra seedlings will also be added to the Desert Dome collection this year, helping contribute to keeping this species alive around the world.

It seems that frankincense, though in danger today, will more than likely remain an integral part of our natural world. Hopefully, this magical, sacred, and medicinal oil doesn’t just disappear off the face of the earth. Instead of loving it to death, mankind will have to love it, sustainably, for long life.

Interested in learning more about other essential oils? Join us for an Evening with Essential Oils—see cover story for more details!
Upcoming Events

Now through October 21…………………………..Dinos Under Glass
September 15 &16 ………………………………….Orchid Show & Sale
October 11 ……………………………..Kendra Scott Fundraiser Event**
October 26 ……………………………..Dia de los Muertos Celebration*
November 1 ……………………Plant Power: An Evening with Essential Oils*
November 16 ………… FOD Annual Meeting and Preview of Holiday Show
November 24– 25 ……………………..Urban Garage Sale***
December 31 …………………………..New Years Eve Family Celebration*
January 18, 2019 ……………………FOD Member Appreciation Night

*FOD fundraising event, admission rates apply
**See page 8 for details
***Special event in the annex, admission rates apply