Inside the Domes

Hand-Crafted Art Meets Natural Beauty

By Sally Sullivan, FOD Executive Director

Please join us for our third-annual Art in the Green on Saturday, May 5, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday, May 6, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.

This indoor event will showcase artwork of all kinds from up to 36 local and regional artists selling their works in the Conservatory Annex. Choose from jewelry, paintings, woodworking, glasswork, photography, and much more.

To compliment this creative and festive event, there will also be live entertainment in the Show Dome and food vendors throughout the Domes.

When: Saturday, May 5, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday, May 6, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Cost: Free for FOD members; for non-members, regular Domes admission rates apply and will include admission to the art festival, free parking, and admission to the Domes.

Spring Equinox Celebration

By Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Educator

Join us March 18 from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM, for our Spring Equinox Celebration! The March [or vernal equinox] signals the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. It marks that special moment when the sun crosses the celestial equator going from south to north. In 2018, this equinox arrives on March 20.

Attend this family-friendly celebration to discover new ways to prepare for spring while learning about the world around us and what we can do to care for our planet. Before you enter the Domes, take some time to learn about the equinox with members of the Wehr Astronomical Society and look through their telescopes. Inside, enjoy guided tours, demonstrations, family-friendly activities, and various performances. Meet live animals, learn about natural gardening, plant seeds, and go on a scavenger hunt!

To bring sustainability to a personal level, the T’ai Chi Ch’uan Center of Milwaukee will invite event-goers to practice the ancient Chinese art of Tai Chi. Adding to the day’s entertainment will be Dairyland’s Finest String Band, performing old-timey music featuring guitar, fiddle, claw-hammer banjo, bass.

Spring Equinox Celebration continued on page 2

Spring is Here! Spring Equinox Celebration

By Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Educator

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Spring Equinox Celebration continued on page 2
Bay View Printing Co. Creates Inspired New Domes Posters!

Contact with Beauty Every Day of the Year

When talented, passionate people come together, the results are stunning! Nick Miramontes, FOD Social Media Manager, was inspired by a letterpress poster he saw last fall. He discovered that it was created by a 100-year-old small business in nearby Bay View. Nick reached out to owner Ashley and learned about the letterpress printing process. He felt that the community spirit of BVPC and the letterpress process, with its nostalgic feel, its attention to quality, and the beauty of the end product made this a perfect partner for the Domes. Nick shared, “to me, it seemed the perfect pairing for the Conservatory. As we look to the future, we reflect on the past with fondness. These well-crafted, handmade posters reflect the effort and care that each person—from the horticulturalists to the administrative level—takes to maintain the Domes. I really believe that small businesses like BVPC and hard-working people who take pride in what they do are the foundation of communities throughout the city. Places like the Mitchell Park Conservatory are the rewards we achieve together.”

Ashely and designer Danielle came to the Domes for a visit and the project came to life! We have included some photos of the process to create these posters. These beautiful numbered, limited-edition posters are available for purchase from the Domes gift shop, Gifts Under Glass.

A little more about Bay View Printing Co.: We’re a 100-year-old, female-owned, small business that specializes in crafting one-of-a-kind impressions on paper. A design+letterpress print shop by day and a print party by night. Folks come to us for event invitations, posters, and business branding solutions as well as hosting their unique events, parties, and workshops. Our most popular workshop is called Drink&Ink - a BYOB, hands on class where attendees use wood type to create their own posters. There’s a way for everyone to be involved in our community in one way or another. For more, go to www.bayviewprintingco.com

Spring Equinox Celebration from page 1

and vocals. Rounding out the event will be green-living exhibitors, healthy foods and beverages from local vendors available for purchase, and an appearance by Smokey Bear.

When: Saturday, March 18, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cost: Free for FOD members; For non-members, regular Domes admission rates apply.

Dino’s Under Glass returns to the Conservatory this June with new additions to the dinosaur family! See the prehistoric animals that once roamed our world set against a backdrop of the very plants that date back to these periods! More information to come...
The Magic of Very Fairy Princess Day Returns!

Spend a magical day at the Mitchell Park Domes with your family and experience the Very Fairy Princess Day on Saturday, April 14 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Whether you are a princess, a troll, a wizard, or a warrior you will find all sorts of things to experience and enjoy on this whimsical day! Dress up and interact with other favorite well-known characters! Make a fairy garden for your own backyard, go on a scavenger hunt, or listen to fairy tales by the Fairy Godmother. Face painting, balloon twisting, and all sorts of imaginative surprises await you. The Conservatory will set the stage for a memory-filled day for young and old against the backdrop of the newly opened spring floral show “Shakespeare in Love.”

This is one of our most popular events and we strongly encourage costumes and all characters to come and join in the fun!

When: April 14, 2018 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Cost: Free to FOD members; Non-members, regular admission rates apply.

Torii Gate Festival

Torii Gate Festival will celebrate Japanese culture Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, June 3 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM at The Domes. Named for the traditional Japanese gate marking the entrance to a shrine, the Torii Gate Festival will use a classic red wooden gate as the centerpiece to the display area for ikebana floral arrangements. The arrangements are steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness between nature and humanity.

Milwaukee Chapter 22 of Ikebana International, in partnership with Friends of The Domes and the Milwaukee County Parks, will exhibit 30 floral arrangements with the distinctive asymmetrical form and empty space as key components. Chapter members will also strive to create harmony between materials, the container, and the setting.

Visitors will have the opportunity to create their own ikebana floral arrangement at one of the make and take sessions. Chapter members will walk you through a simple design to take home. A donation to cover the material costs is requested.

When: Saturday, June 2 and Sunday, June 3, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM  
Cost: Admission Free for FOD members; For non-members, regular Domes admission rates apply.
From the President

By Roger Krawiecki, FOD President

With this issue we celebrate you, our members. Thanks to all of our members who have stayed with us during the recent closure. We need your support. With you we can grow our organization stronger every year. Please keep talking up the Domes and encourage others to visit.

In January, we held a member appreciation event which was well received. It was the premier of the annual winter train show. We had more people than we had anticipated. Special thanks to Sandy for putting together the historical display including a model from 2000 that showed what the Domes could look like with an addition on the front of the building. Visitors also enjoyed the historical slide shows running that evening.

I reminded the members that evening how lucky we are. Our horticultural conservatory still has 5 changing floral shows each year with minimal downtime between shows. I am not aware of any other conservatory that can match that. Our Madagascar collection in the Desert Dome is truly a rare and valuable treasure. The seeds were collected in Madagascar and started at the Domes. Nowhere else in the US will you see such a collection. In the Tropical Dome, we have the kapok tree that requires constant pruning. I wonder how tall it would be if it was outside. It is the tallest tree I have seen inside of a conservatory.

I am so thankful that we have such a facility in Milwaukee.

The Domes Advisory Task Force continues to meet. This is a slow process. We have not even gotten to the point where we can review options. We will need to closely review the cost of the options to come up with the best recommendation for the County Board. The meetings are open to the public. Please attend if you can to show your support that you care about our plant collection.

Domes attendance is absolutely critical to the survival of the Domes. Admission fees collected help to offset the operating costs of the Domes. Even small increases in attendance help. The Milwaukee County Parks has increased their promotion of the Domes through social media. The Friends has also invested in social media and the number of followers is growing. On Instagram, I am following #mkedomes and #milwaukeedomes. It is fun seeing pictures that people post while visiting the Domes.

I am looking forward to the spring show. You could come every week, and it would look very different. One weekend the tulips might be closed and the following weekend they could be fully open. Please try to make it out more than once.

Thanks again for being a Friend.
Welcome Carrie Kelroy!

The Friends of the Domes is very happy to introduce you to our new Volunteer Coordinator, Carrie Kelroy. Carrie comes to us with great deal of experience and knowledge for this job. Carrie is married with three school age children and two dogs. They all love living in Wauwatosa and being close to everything Milwaukee has to offer. Her recent volunteer work includes being president of the Cashel Denneyh Irish Dancers Parent Booster Organization and treasurer of the Home & School Association for her children’s school. She is looking forward to learning the ropes at the Domes and meeting the volunteers!

Gifts Under Glass
Celebrating with the fairies!

In honor of spring and Very Fairy Princess Day, we are excited to offer a variety of new items in the gift shop! From jewelry to pottery and even lamps, they’re perfect for gift giving or just bringing a little spring cheer home. When you are there, don’t forget to pick up your copy of the new poster! There are heavy, numbered letterpress versions or lighter poster versions available and ready to take home and frame. Remember, Friends members always save 10% on gift shop purchases!

Prefer to shop from home? Visit our shop online at www.milwaukeedomes.org!

Help Wanted

Work in a place you love to visit! We have another opening for a part-time employee in the Domes Gift Shop. If you enjoy interacting with people and have computer skills and register experience, please email or call Gift Shop Manager Mary Philipp to set up an interview. This position would include primarily weekend hours and some weekday hours totaling 15-20 hours per week. Hours are flexible.

Our non-profit gift shop focuses on horticultural items related to the Conservatory and carries many works from local artists, authors, and vendors. Many products are fair trade. Please contact Mary at maryphilipp@gmail.com or 414-257-5607 for more information.

Thank you Friends!

By Sandy Folaron
Mitchell Park Domes Director

I would truly like to thank the Friends of the Domes for their financial support and assistance that made the installation of the Kooky Cooky House this past holiday season possible. This restored iconic 1960’s gingerbread making experience brought an additional 8,500 more visitors to the Domes than last year’s show. The efforts by both the Discovery World staff (who loaned us this exhibit) and the Parks carpenters and Domes staff to put this all together on such short notice was greatly appreciated as well. I hope, as members, you were able to stop by and enjoy this addition with your family and friends. We couldn’t have done it without you—thanks!
From the Director’s Chair

Save Our Domes Campaign “setting the record straight”!

By Sandy Folaron, Mitchell Park Domes Director

As we continue our journey engaged in the final phase of defining and looking at options for the future of the Conservatory, it is evident that there is confusion about the connection to the “Save Our Domes” campaign. Many people assume that this initiative and solicitation for support and donations is sanctioned and coming from the Friends of the Domes as well as the Conservatory staff here. It is not. This campaign is managed through the Milwaukee Preservation Alliance (who have a representative on the Task Force) in partnership with the National Trust for Historic Preservation located in Chicago. The Friends of the Domes (who also have a representative on the Task Force) have pledged to be open-minded and not take a definitive stand until all the facts and options are on the table. In other words; working through the strategic planning process put in place by the County Board of Supervisors.

The Task Force was commissioned to be “objective” and to look at a wide range of options that encompass a variety of ideas for a sustainable future for the Domes. Certainly, preservation is ONE of those options, but as with any other alternative, you must also take in account additional facts and details that address structural integrity and status, operating costs, the life span of projected temporary “fixes” and the implications of ongoing facility inspections and maintenance to name just a few! There is so much more to be considered and understood before taking a position on the future course of action for the Conservatory.

So yes, ask anyone if they would like to “save our Domes” and you will get a loud and affirmative, YES! Who doesn’t love the Domes? But that discussion needs to go beyond just the building aspect and include the work of the Conservatory and the value it brings to the community through horticulture, education, tourism, family-oriented events, and programming. How can we do that better and make sure what we are passing on to the next generation is something that is not temporary and that they will use and treasure as we have?

Stay tuned, get informed and ask questions. Our future depends on it. And of course, Happy New Year!

Make a Difference at the Domes! Sponsor an Animal

Please consider sponsoring one (or more) of the animals that live in the Domes! From birds to fish, frogs and even a bearded dragon, many animals call this special place home. Your one-year sponsorship will provide your chosen animal a higher quality of life. Your support will provide specialty foods, supplements, and veterinary care. Your help enables us to continue to provide the best possible care for our animals.

Sponsorship is just $20 for most animals or $30 for Steve, our bearded dragon. In return, you will receive a Certificate of Sponsorship and a natural history profile of your sponsored animal. Sponsorship makes a great gift for any animal lover in your life! If your sponsorship is a gift, we will contact you for information about who you would like to receive the thank you packet.

Visit our website at www.milwaukeedomes.org and click Get Involved from the top menu, then select Adopt An Animal OR call 414-257-5608.

We have three beautiful new birds that would love to be sponsored.

“Star” Star Finch

“Sunny” Gouldian Finch

“Blue” English Parakeet
We’re Getting Excited for the Spring Floral Show:  
Shakespeare in Love!

English Gardens

By Peter Smiley  
FOD Board Member

If you imagine an English cottage, you likely picture a small house and colorful garden. Gardens in England (as well as elsewhere) originally developed as miniature farms, tended by a family or families to provide vegetables, herbs, and medicinal plants. As England prospered in the Age of Exploration, its gardens shifted focus from utility to ornamental.

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In addition to native plants to the English isles such as hyacinths, daisies, and dianthus, the Elizabethan garden demonstrated the ever-increasing flow of international trade. During this time roses from the near east; peonies and tulips from Asia; and sunflowers from America all became staples of the well-appointed garden.

Along with an increased selection of flowers available to gardeners, the Elizabethans established rules of how gardens should be set up. Formal gardeners increasingly attempted to create gardens that “idealized nature” by focusing on the interaction between the landscape, buildings, and the plantings to make large estates into works of art (in what became known as “landscaping”). Cottage gardeners instead began to focus on eclectic plantings of colorful and easy to grow plants that can fit in the smaller lots these homes were on (or what we would call “gardening” today).

When visiting our upcoming show, keep a lookout for both of these developments.

The Bard’s Blooms

By Julie Merck, FOD Newsletter Editor

You won’t need to turn many pages to find mention of blooms in a Shakespeare play. Over 50 different types of flowers—from garden plants to wild flowers and herbs are referenced across his works.

Flowers paint the lush, verdant setting of A Midsummer Night’s Dream. Queen Titania sleeps

Where oxlips and the nodding violet grows,  
Quite over-canopied with luscious woodbine,  
With sweet musk-roses and with eglantine  
[Act II Scene I Line 249]

You can picture and even smell the scene.

In addition to setting the scene, flowers add layers of symbolic meaning. In Hamlet, Ophelia extols the symbolism of rosemary and pansies,

There’s rosemary, that’s for remembrance:  
pray you, love, remember: and there is pansies,  
that’s for thoughts.  
There’s fennel for you, and columbines:  
there’s rue for you...  
[Act 4, Scene 5, Line 175].

Fittingly, the word pansy comes from the French word for thought and rue represents regret and sorrow.

Gather your rosemary and remember to visit the spring floral show in the Show Dome to see a variety of tulips, hydrangeas, violas, ranunculus, forget-me-nots, Easter lilies, daffodils, lavender, digitalis, and more of Shakespeare’s favorites—no regret or sorrow to be found!
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Upcoming Events

Saturdays through April 14 .......................... Winter Farmer’s Market*
March 3 .......................... Gardens and Gears Steam Punk Wonderland Faire
March 18 ............................................ Summer Equinox Celebration
April 14 ............................................. Very Fairy Princess Day
May 5-6 .................................................. Art in the Green
June 2-3 .............................................. Torii Gate Festival
June 18-22 .......................................... Pollinator Week

* Saturdays in the Greenhouse Annex, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM through April 14, 2018