Inside the Domes
M itchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

Celebrating All Pollinators
A Week of Events in the Education Center

By Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Educator

Our 7th annual Pollinator Week kicks off on Monday, June 18! Join us as we celebrate the unsung heroes responsible for pollinating plants that provide about one-third of the food we eat. Pollinators enable 80% of the world’s crop species to set seed. Each day of pollinator week will have a different theme with a video about pollinators and activities generally geared to school-age children.

- Monday, June 18 “Madagascar’s Unusual Pollen Carriers”
- Tuesday, June 19 “Pollinators of the Amazon”
- Wednesday, June 20 “Bats, Bees, Beetles, Birds, and Butterflies”
- Thursday, June 21 “Our North American Neighbors”
- Friday, June 22 “Night-time Flyers”

When: Daily: Monday, June 18 through Friday, June 22, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM
Cost: Free for FOD members; for non-members, regular Domes admission rates apply.

Bike or Walk the Hank Aaron Trail!

Looking for a great way to spend a summer afternoon? Why not take the Hank Aaron Bike Trail to the Mitchell Park Conservatory! Get friends together, round up the family, or head out on your own for a relaxing ride past some of Milwaukee’s best landmarks.

The Hank Aaron Trail was extended to the back of the Conservatory in 2013. A bridge now connects the trail to the Domes and a new 24-acre park, Three Bridges Park, was built. The beautiful bridge right outside of our back door offers a connection to the Menomonee River Valley and all that it has to offer including access to the Urban Ecology Center with its outdoor science programs; bike and pedestrian trails following the river corridor; and the natural beauty of this recently restored historic land. Check out the sculptures and artwork along the way! Stop for a pizza at Palermo’s and a beer at one of the new breweries in the valley! There’s even free parking behind the Domes if you prefer to begin your day with family and friends on the HAT.

Visit the Hank Aaron State Trail website for details, photos, and maps: www.hankaaronstatetrail.org
Moth Week

This new event highlights the often beautiful, generally underappreciated pollinator found in most parts of the world—the moth. Moths are considered to be the insect version of the “canary in the coal mine” as their species’ health provides us valuable information about the health of the ecosystem.

Join us in the education center for an informative video and to learn more about moths and why they are so important to a healthy ecosystem.

When: Daily: Monday, July 23 through Friday, July 27, 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM
Cost: Free for FOD members; for non-members, regular Domes admission rates apply.

From the President

By Roger Krawiecki
FOD President

Some of you have already heard the exciting news that the Friends of the Domes has received a $2,000,000 bequest. A Milwaukee-native included us in his will in honor of his parents. We are grateful for his generous donation to our organization.

The Friends of the Domes Board of Directors has allocated the funds to our Endowment Fund. We wanted to see the money grow and use the proceeds towards educational programming at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. The following press release (from May 2018) shared the good news:

The Friends of the Domes is pleased to announce it has received a $2.0 million bequest from an individual donor. These funds will be added to the Friends of the Domes endowment in support of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the “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. This program will complement the excellent student education offerings already provided by the Conservatory. This large gift continues the strong and growing monetary support we’ve seen through donations to the Friends of the Domes in support of the Conservatory and highlights the community’s commitment to having a world class horticultural conservatory in Milwaukee.

Roger Krawiecki, Board President of the Friends of the Domes, stated, “We are thankful for the generosity of the individual who has made this lasting contribution in support of one of Milwaukee’s iconic cultural institutions, the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. This gift to the Friends of the Domes will be instrumental in providing ongoing funding of projects and programs that enhance the horticultural significance of this institution and benefit the citizens of the Milwaukee area who are able to enjoy everything the Conservatory brings to our region.”

This is a major milestone towards the continued growth of our organization. I am looking forward to the additional educational programming this will allow us to have.

Wishing everyone a wonderful summer.
Save the Date
Plant Power: An Evening with Essential Oils
Thursday, November 1, 2018 — 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Check the fall newsletter or visit our website for more details as November approaches.

Interested in essential oils? Be sure to check out the new Mediterranean-themed perimeter garden in the Show Dome featuring rosemary, lavender, and other plants that produce popular essential oils [see pages 6 and 7].

Volunteer Appreciation Event
Check your email for an invitation if you have volunteered in the last year!
The Friends of the Domes Volunteer Dinner will be held on Sunday, June 24 at 5:00 PM. If you have volunteered during the past year to help with an event or with administrative tasks, you will receive an email with an invitation.

The dinner will be held in the Show Dome, catered by Zilli’s Hospitality Group. We are very pleased to announce that our guest speaker this year will be Melinda Myers. Melinda is a nationally recognized gardening expert; TV/radio host; author; and columnist with over 30 years of horticulture experience. She has written over 20 gardening books.

Her topic for the evening will be “Gardeners say the darnedest things - a fun look at common plant problems.”

We have a great group of volunteers, and we appreciate all the help they give us at our events, in the office and gift shop, and many other areas. If you would like to sign-up to volunteer in the future, please contact Carrie Kelroy at domesvolunteer@gmail.com.

When: Sunday, June 24 at 5:00 PM
Cost: By invitation only; complimentary event for our volunteers (no charge).

Gifts Under Glass Fun for Kids!
The Domes Gift Shop is here to help you get the kids to turn off the TV and get outside this summer! We’ve got kids’ garden tools, binoculars, books, and games. Plus, accessories for their own fairy gardens.

Bring them to visit Dinos Under Glass and shop the gift shop for dinosaur books and toys to keep the fun going after your visit!

Remember, Friends of the Domes Members always receive a 10% discount in the gift shop!
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: Ghosts Under Glass, 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!

Saturday, June 9, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM. Enter through the Greenhouse Annex Doors.

Registration is required. Please contact domesvolunteer@gmail.com to register.

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!
Volunteer Corner

The Friends of The Domes relies on dedicated, hard-working, reliable volunteers. Our volunteers make so much of what we do to support the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory possible. We are introducing a new newsletter feature “Volunteer Corner” to highlight special volunteers.

In this issue, we would like to introduce you to Patty Leonard, a long-time FOD member and volunteer. When asked why she volunteers for the Friends, Patty simply stated “I love the Domes!” She has been visiting the Domes since childhood when she came every Easter Sunday with her mom and has continued to visit with her own children and grandchildren.

If you have shopped the Winter Farmers Market, you undoubtedly have met Patty. She has been a staple in directing the volunteer team for that event. She also works educational events at the Domes and most recently joined the Events Committee allowing us to draw on her valuable input on event planning and improving the volunteer experience at the Domes.

Patty is a retired project manager, now living out her retirement bucket list – adopting her Standard Poodle (Rose) and volunteering at places she loves. We are fortunate to be at the top of that list.

Thank you Patty!

For information about how you can become a volunteer, contact Carrie Kelroy, our Volunteer Coordinator, at domesvolunteer@gmail.com.

Amazon Smile: You Shop, Amazon Gives!

One of the easiest ways to support the Friends of the Domes is through Amazon Smile. Go to smile.amazon.com and select the Friends of the Domes as your organization of choice. Always start your shopping at smile.amazon.com, and Amazon will make a donation for each purchase you make! The donations will really add up if we all take a few seconds to do this before our usual shopping!
A Mediterranean Make-over for the Perimeter of the Show Dome

By Maria Telikiozoglou
Show Dome Horticulturist

The Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory's mission is to act as a living museum, showcasing exotic plants not found in our lovely Wisconsin continental climate. Our conservatory boasts a rich variety of plants whose native range spreads from the warm, humid tropics to the dry, arid deserts of the world. In addition, the center area of our Show Dome is completely transformed five times every year to display impressive floral shows with themes ranging from hopelessly romantic (such as the ‘Shakespeare in Love’ Spring show) to entertainingly bizarre (like the ‘Railroad to Wonderland’ Winter Train Show). Although the Show Dome perimeter area includes some interesting plant specimens, the space was not being used to its full potential.

I am excited to announce that this is about to change! We are redesigning the perimeter collection in a Mediterranean theme!

The slow but sure process of revamping the Show Dome perimeter will result in a garden that celebrates plants grown in Mediterranean type climates characterized by moist, cool winters and hot, dry summers. The result will be a memorable mosaic of color, texture, and fragrance that will reach its peak during the winter months, just when we need it most!

I really admire Mediterranean plants because they have adapted over thousands of years to cope with extreme climatic conditions, poor soils, and the effects of fire. As they evolved around the Mediterranean Sea, they grew rich with aromatic oils, which take the place of water keeping the plants alive through long months without rain. Many species have silvery or gray foliage which reflects sunlight to keep the leaves cooler. Some even have a leaf surface covered with fine hairs known as “pubescence” that actually shade the skin of the leaf.

Thanks to the Friends of the Domes financial support and assistance, I am pleased to share with you a few of the many plant specimens that you can look forward to seeing and smelling in your upcoming visits to the conservatory.

**Mediterranean Fan Palms – *Chamaerops humulis***. This striking medium-sized palm is the only palm native to Europe. It is prized for its unique multi-trunk vertical growth, fan-shaped fronds, and aesthetically pleasing growth pattern.

**Fig trees - *Ficus carica***. We will have 4 different varieties of these iconic plants that will all produce delicious fruit.

**Fruiting olive - *Olea europaea***. Olive Trees are my personal favorites as they are extremely tough and can withstand searing heat, drought, fire, and temperatures as low as -7°C (about 19°F) for short periods. They have the capacity to regenerate from the base when damaged by fire – that’s how the olive came by its name ‘tree of eternity.’ Many are more than 1,000 years old! Our tree is about 7 years old—just imagine all the things that it will witness in its long life!

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**Chamaerops humulis, Mediterranean Fan Palm**

**Lavandula stoechas, “French Lavender”**

**Olea europaea, “Fruiting Olive”**

**Fruit and leaves of the *Ficus carica* “Fig Tree”**

www.milwaukeedomes.org
French Lavender—*Lavandula stoechas*. With its striking silver foliage and richly-scented, continuously-blooming flowers, this plant is a Mediterranean garden essential.

**Tuscan Blue Rosemary—*Rosmarinus officinalis***. The unmistakable sight and fragrance of Tuscan Blue Rosemary evoke images of the sunny Mediterranean and will be the crowning touch in our herb garden.

As you may have noticed, scent is vital to this style of garden. The revamping results will tie in beautifully with a special upcoming Domes event, “Plant Power: An Evening with Essential Oils,” which is centered on the Conservatory collection and the essential oils they produce. This event will take place on Thursday, November 1st from 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM, so mark your calendars and visit our website for more details!

**Did you know that the Conservatory ‘rescues’ endangered plants?**

The Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory has long been a rescue site for plants that are protected from becoming extinct due to unlawful international trading or illegal exporting and importing. This multinational agreement; the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) was put into force in 1975. The Domes are one of over 75 institutions in North America that volunteer as a depository for confiscated and protected specimens taken at borders, airports, or through any type of mail delivery service. The plants are kept and cared for until the U.S. Department of Agriculture decides whether or not they should be returned, destroyed, or simply kept by the depository site. This process generally takes 30 days. If it is decided that the plants are not to be returned, the Conservatory has the option of incorporating the inventory into its own collection. Recently, our Desert Dome horticulturist Marian French was able to rescue a *Euphorbia milii* from Thailand and add it to our collection through this program.

Just one more way that the Conservatory is an integral partner in local and international efforts to preserve and safeguard plant life!
**Upcoming Events**

June 2-3 .............................................................. Torii Gate Festival
June 9 ............................................................... Volunteer Orientation
June 18—22 ......................................................... Pollinator Week
June 24 ......................................................... Volunteer Appreciation Dinner*
July 23—27 ............................................................ Moth Week
September 15 &16 .............................................. Orchid Show & Sale
October 26 .... Ghosts Under Glass & Dia de los Muertos Celebration**
November 1 .......... Plant Power: An Evening with Essential Oils**

*By Invitation, please check your email if you have volunteered in the past year.
**Special event; see website this fall for details and event cost.