Inside the Domes

MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

A Warm Welcome to Two New Directors!

NEW Director of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory
Doris Maki
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NEW Director of Friends of the Domes Adult Education
Erica Putman
Meet Erica on page 2

UPCOMING FLORAL SHOWS

• September 21 — November 10
  Welcome to 100 Acre Woods

• November 23 — January 5
  Classical Christmas Holiday Show

• January 18 — March 29, 2020
  Attack of the Giant Monsters Train Show

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Fall Workshops and Events

Green Sheet:
Ashdown Forest—The East Sussex Inspiration for the 100 Acre Wood

Dia De Los Muertos Celebration Returns!

By Noel Marsha, FOD Events Coordinator

The Friends of the Domes is excited to host another lively and colorful Day of the Dead (Dia de los Muertos) Celebration at the Domes. Purchase your tickets before the event, then join us Friday, October 25 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM for traditional Day of the Dead merriment.

Despite the holiday’s name, Day of the Dead is not scary, and it is not related to Halloween. The holiday has been celebrated for hundreds, possibly even thousands, of years in southern and central Mexico. Family and friends gather to pray for and remember friends and family members who have died and to help support their spiritual journey. In this culture, death is accepted as a natural part of the cycle of life. Mexicans who celebrate this holiday do not view it as a day of sadness but as a day of celebration because their loved ones awake and celebrate with them.

Dia de Los Muertos continued on Page 2

This Event sponsored by:

For the teacher in you.

College students looking for volunteer opportunities — Please see page 7!

Save the Date:
Annual Meeting See page 6!
In fitting with tradition, our Day of the Dead Celebration will be very family friendly, joyful, and beautiful! There will be face painting, crafts, and activities that celebrate Mexican culture. Enjoy festive mariachi music and stories told through dance. Characters from the movie Coco will be joining us too. Traditional foods, drinks, and sweets will be available for purchase from local establishments.

The Desert Dome will be decorated with marigolds, skulls, and candles. Marigolds are known as the traditional flower of Day of the Dead. Their vibrant color and scent are believed to guide the spirits of the deceased. Visit decorated ofrendas throughout the Domes during our Day of the Dead event. Ofrendas (altars) are an essential part of Day of the Dead. They serve as tributes and celebrate those who have departed.

Visit our website for more details and updates: milwaukeedomes.org or follow us on Instagram: milwaukeedomes or Facebook: The Milwaukee Domes

This is a Friends of the Domes fundraising event so special admission rates apply. **We would like to extend a special thank you to Educator's Credit Union for sponsoring Day of the Dead at the Domes!**

**When:** Friday, October 25, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Cost:** $10 (children 2 and under are free). Tickets will be available mid-September in the gift shop or on our website and must be purchased in advance. **Tickets will NOT be available at the door the evening of the event.**

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**Meet Erica Putman**

New Director of Friends of the Domes Adult Education

Hello all! Nice to meet you!

I’m joining the Friends of the Domes team after many wonderful years in the environmental education field. I have a degree in Biological Sciences and Environmental Science from Virginia Tech (go Hokies!), and I’m thrilled to use my background and love of the natural world to build the Friends of the Domes Education Program. Here are some of my favorite job highlights from over the years:

- Leading staff at Nature’s Classroom Institute in Mukwonago, Wisconsin: coordinating over 3,000 students to attend our nature programming
- Managing a summer camp and patrolling for bears in Anchorage, Alaska
- Educating, water sampling, and wrangling snakes in Botswana
- Educating, assisting, and wrangling middle schoolers at Maryland Avenue Montessori School

Outside of the Domes, you can find me exploring new places in Milwaukee, building ANOTHER raised bed for the garden, or trying not to fall off the climbing wall.

At FOD, I will be planning new Adult Education workshops, building curriculum, and working to improve the visitor experience at the conservatory through hands-on learning. I’m interested in meeting you all and hearing what you would like to see for our growing education program. Come in to the Education Center and say hello!

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**Thank you Liz!**

As we welcome new staff at the Domes we now also say farewell to Liz Fehring, FOD Special Events Coordinator for the past 11 years. Liz is retiring after having been instrumental in developing, running, and growing Restaurants Under Glass, Ghosts Under Glass, Dia de los Muertos, New Year’s Eve Family Celebration, Hearts Under Glass, and Art in the Green. Some of these events started as a one person operation and have grown to now require a team to pull them off.

Liz leaves quite a legacy of fun and creativity, all of which have greatly benefited our mission of support for the Domes. (We hope to see you back as a volunteer!) Noel Marsho will step into Liz’s shoes as Special Events Coordinator. Holly Brockman has been hired to be the Assistant Events Coordinator—you can learn more about Holly in the Winter newsletter! Look for more great events in the works for this coming season.
Meet Doris Maki
New Director of The Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

The Friends of the Domes extend a warm welcome to Doris Maki who comes to the Domes this summer as the new Director following Sandy Folaron’s retirement in June.

Doris was born in Argentina where she graduated with a degree in English/Spanish Translation from the School of Languages. She came to the United States in 2001 to visit a friend in Madison and ended up staying for an extended visit. She met and married her husband and moved to Milwaukee where they are raising their family. She now affectionately calls Milwaukee home, and the Domes have had a special place in her heart since her first visit.

Doris has been working for Milwaukee County Parks since 2008, starting out as Senior Executive Assistant to the Parks Director. For the past 6 years, she has been the Public Services Manager. When you meet her, it is clear that she loves working with people. She brings wonderful customer service skills to her new position.

When asked about her vision for the Domes, she worries that there may have been too much attention intensely focused on the future of the Domes over the past few years with the spotlight on the Task Force. She wants to shift the focus to things that will maintain a “wow factor” in the present, ensuring that visitors walk away with a great experience and lasting memories. She wants all Conservatory visitors to have memorable experiences, just as she enjoyed before she ever even considered that she might one day be the Director.

Another focus she would like to shift is from the Conservatory as a cultural institution to her vision of the Domes, first and foremost, as an educational institution. Doris wants the Domes to capitalize on what we can teach and share with the community by expanding educational programming for adults, families, children, and students.

Whatever form the future conservatory takes, Milwaukee has right now, in the present, a “living plant museum with a valuable plant collection.” She wants to bring together all the resources of the Domes horticultural staff, County Parks Natural Areas Team, the Friends of the Domes, and Zilli’s Hospitality Group to achieve the potential this conservatory can bring to the people of Milwaukee and beyond.

Fall In Love with Orchids

Join us for Wisconsin Orchid Society’s annual show and sale, showcase flowering orchid plants, pottery, photographs, and other orchid related items. After you have enjoyed the exhibits, visit 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 14, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM and Sunday, September 15, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

Enjoy Your Own Personal Tour of The Domes with the Updated GrowIt App

The app has been updated and offers even more information about all of the plants in the Domes. Follow the signs in each Dome to know where to begin your tour!
Volunteer-led, weekend

POP-UP DISCOVERY STATIONS

DETAILS
• These are volunteer-led, experiential activity booths about exciting topics!
• We believe that experiential, hands-on education develops a deeper and more meaningful understanding of our natural world.
• Domes visitors can engage with an instructor and dive more deeply into a topic.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
What do YOU know?!
• We are seeking volunteers to run these booths
• Use one of our topics or come up with your own
• Shifts will be 3 hours on Saturdays and Sundays,
• NO EXPERIENCE IS NECESSARY - we will teach you everything you need to know!

PERFECT FOR: LOVERS OF THE DOMES, FORMER EDUCATORS, HIGH SCHOOL OR COLLEGE STUDENTS SEEKING VOLUNTEER HOURS, OR ANYONE WHO WANTS TO TEACH!

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO SIGN UP, VISIT: milwaukeeedomes.org/adult-programs
New in the Gift Shop

Jewelry that makes a difference! Gifts Under Glass is now carrying 4Ocean bracelets. Each bracelet funds the removal of one pound of trash, and a percent of those materials are made into beautiful jewelry. 4Ocean has removed 6.3 Million pounds of plastic from oceans and coastlines since 2017. Your purchase supports their mission and also supports the Domes!

Kids and the young-at-heart alike will enjoy forest themed gifts after visiting the Fall show Welcome to the Hundred Acre Woods in the Show Dome.

Remember FOD members always receive 10% off purchases in the gift shop!

Save the Date: New Year’s Eve Family Celebration at the Domes, December 31! Mark your calendar and don’t miss Milwaukee’s best indoor, family friendly New Year’s Celebration! More information will be available in our Winter newsletter and on our website.

Letter from the FOD Executive Director

By Sally Sullivan,
FOD Executive Director

Hi Friends,

We’ve had big changes over the summer welcoming two new Directors here at the Domes. Welcome Doris Maki, the new Director of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. We also welcome Erica Putman, our new Director of Friends of the Domes Education. You can read more about them in their own words in this newsletter. We are thrilled to have their talent and skills at work in the Conservatory.

The Task Force has been busy over the summer working with the Phase Three consulting firm, Arts Market. Arts Market has worked with the recommendations coming out of Phase 1 & 2 and expanded on those ideas. Their vision would incorporate much of Mitchell Park to include more types of gardens, event venues, dining options, and sporting fields, as well as larger education and retail space with the goal of increasing attendance, generating revenue, and making the Conservatory self-sustaining. This is a very ambitious and comprehensive vision for the future of the Domes and Mitchell Park. The Task Force approved the plan on August 13 and will submit it as its recommendation for consideration at the September County Board meeting. Implementation would require quick action on the part of the County and would require quite extensive buy in from the Milwaukee business and philanthropic community. If you would like to read more and see conceptual images, please visit our website at www.milwaukeedomes.org and click on the Domes Future tab.

If you haven’t downloaded the GrowIt app on your smart phone, do this for your next visit. It will enhance your conservatory visit with information about each dome, updated information on each Show Dome theme with changing plants, and identification of many of the plants you see on your walk through each dome. There are signs at the entrances to each dome letting you know where to begin your tour to follow the app.

Thank you for your support!
sallysullivan.fod@milwaukeedomes.org
Fall Workshops and Events

By Erica Putman, Director of FOD Adult Education

This fall, learning isn’t just for kids! Here is a sampling of the workshops and events that we are planning. Visit https://milwaukeedomes.org/adulteducation for more information, dates, and times.

**Teacher Appreciation Day—October 10, 2:30 PM**

Teachers and school staff get in free! We want to show our support and appreciation for all you do by offering free entry into the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory with a staff ID badge. Please pre-register at www.milwaukeedomes.org. Warm up in the Tropical and Desert Domes and explore the Fall Floral Show “Welcome to Hundred Acre Woods” in the Show Dome; relax to the folksy jams of local musician (and MPS school social worker) Pete Freeman; enjoy a snack or beverage (beverages available for purchase).

Learn about incorporating environmental education into your curriculum when you visit our **Showcase of Field Trips** (Representatives from the Domes and other local parks will be showcasing opportunities for school-age field trips) and **Teacher Presentation** (MPS teachers review ways that they incorporate hands-on environmental learning in their classroom).

**Plants and their importance to Milwaukee small businesses**

In this workshop series, we will visit local businesses and hear why plants are important to them. Distilleries, breweries, restaurants, chocolate shops all require plentiful and healthy plants. Learn about what goes into your food and sample some amazing local faire!

**Fall gardening and winterizing your garden**

I know, we don’t want to think about it yet, but colder days will soon be upon us! Find out what can be grown into the cooler months and how to best winterize your garden.

**A Call for Workshops**

**What are YOU interested in LEARNING?**

What adult or family education workshops are you interested in attending? Maybe you’re interested in painting, or cooking, or tree identification! Maybe you’re interested in learning a musical instrument or yoga in the Domes! Submit workshop requests to ericaputman.fod@milwaukeedomes.org

**What are YOU interested in TEACHING?**

We are seeking talented instructors to lead workshops on environmental topics such as gardening, sustainability, fermentation, arts, technology, green infrastructure, and more! If you are interested in leading a workshop, contact

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**Annual Meeting—**

**Save the Date—November 22**

**Invitations to be Mailed in October**

Mark your calendar for **Friday evening, November 22** for our Annual Membership Meeting. We’ll update you on Friends of the Domes operations for the past fiscal year and what’s in the works for the upcoming year. Board nominations and voting will also take place, so watch for your notice coming in October. Be sure to send in your proxy if you can’t make the meeting. There will be light refreshments for members as well as a sneak preview of the Classical Christmas Holiday Show in the Show Dome.

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Volunteer at the Domes!
Volunteer Training Session

We always need volunteers to help in a variety of different capacities. This fall, we want to extend a special invitation to college students. Need volunteer hours or just looking for a study break that will make a positive difference in your community? We would be happy to find a volunteer opportunity that fits your schedule. Join our wonderful group of volunteers to help:

- At fundraising events like: New Year’s Eve, Hearts Under Glass, Día de los Muertos, 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.
Saturday, September 14, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM
Enter through the Conservatory Annex Doors.
Registration is required. Please contact carriekelroy.fod@milwaukeedomes.org

Fall Floral Show—Welcome to Hundred Acre Woods

In the Show Dome, September 21 through November 10, 2019

Bring your favorite stuffed animal with you to the Domes this fall and re-live your childhood in our Hundred Acre Wood-themed garden. Travel along with your best-est friends through a variety of colorful flowers and plants with a special commonality. You can meander through the Durango Honey Chrysanthemums and bounce by Tiger Ferns. Colorful Craspedia and Sunflowers will lead you to a little fall vegetable garden complete with tomatoes, Swiss chard, basil, and ornamental peppers. When it’s blustery outside, gather the grown-ups, kids, silly old bears, piglets, tigers, kangaroos, and donkeys all together for autumn fun and memory making!

www.milwaukeedomes.org
Continuing from our Summer Issue...

Meet the Amazing Horticulturists Who Care for our World Class Plant Collection

Introducing the horticulturists who care for the plants and animals in the Domes every day, prepare for the amazing seasonal shows in the show Dome, and work tirelessly to keep the Conservatory healthy and beautiful.

Heidi

Transitional Greenhouse, focusing on plants for the Tropical Dome and Outdoor Plaza

Do you remember your first visit to the Domes? Milwaukee-native Heidi was in elementary school when she came to the Domes for a class field trip. She remembers walking through the Tropical Dome, “I got rained on! It must have been recently watered.”

Now, Heidi is a horticulturalist at the Domes. She joined the team in 2018, working in the transitional greenhouse maintaining and caring for the flowers and plants. She also focuses on the Tropical Dome and the Domes’ outside entrance area. Improving and maintaining the entrance area is one of her goals.

In 2003, Heidi joined the Milwaukee County Parks as a seasonal landscape worker at Brown Deer Park where she discovered her love for horticulture. She also worked with the County Forestry Department where she learned about tree care, working primarily with Ash trees. Heidi’s journey to horticulture included changing majors four times before she decided on Conservation and Environmental Science – just the right fit. She is currently one class away from earning her Associate Degree in Horticulture Maintenance. She loved working at Brown Deer Park, but her desire for more stable work led her to David J. Frank Landscaping and as a gardener at UWM until her dream position opened-up at the Domes.

In the Transitional Greenhouse, Heidi focuses on planting, potting, and preparation work for plants for the Show Dome. She is increasingly focusing on the Tropical Dome; plants for the outdoor Plaza; and the trees near the entrance to the domes. She puts the knowledge she acquired at the Forestry Department to good use in caring for trees in Mitchell Park and controlling invasive species.

Although Heidi doesn’t have a specific favorite plant, she is drawn to those with vibrant colors and particularly likes the Tropical Dome. Heidi looks forward to each of the five annual floral changes in the Show Dome. She enjoys the process of designing and planting for each new theme and values this special time when all the “Horts” work together as a team.

Her future plans include travel to gardens around the country, including the Missouri Botanical Garden and Como Park in Minneapolis.

At home, Heidi has a perennial garden and loves the low maintenance it requires. She also grows vegetables, adding new ones each year including corn, beets, cucumbers, and pumpkins. Her mother was an avid gardener and passed on her love of gardening to Heidi. We love this photo from 1985 of Heidi as a child gardening at her mother’s side.

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!
Mary

Tropical Dome

I became interested in horticulture as a child because my mother loved houseplants and had them growing in every room of our house. Since my friends in high school knew I had experience with houseplants they started asking me how to grow them. It just seemed like natural progression when I made plans for higher education to go into horticulture. When I got my own apartment it was filled with houseplants just like back at home. Before transferring to the Domes I was a horticulturist at The Boerner Botanical Gardens for fourteen years.

As part of my work in the Tropical Dome, I enjoy researching new plants to add to the collection. Because we have many large trees, sunlight is at a premium. New plants have to be able to perform in part shade. That is why we have a large collection of Bromeliads. They thrive in our temperature, humidity and shade. They have brightly colored exotic looking flowers with a variety of foliage patterns and colors. Some are epiphytes that can be attached to the crotch of a tree and some prefer to be in the ground.

My favorite specimen at the Conservatory is the Vanilla Vine. It is fun to hand pollinate the flowers and watch the beans grow. I am currently experimenting with making homemade vanilla extract from one of the beans that grew last year. It is interesting to know that vanilla is an orchid native to Mexico but most vanilla that is sold in stores is grown in Madagascar. The only insect that pollinates the flowers is the Melapona bee that is native to Mexico and it is nearly extinct. Vanilla is the second most expensive spice after saffron because all vanilla is hand pollinated.

The most challenging part of my job is pruning the large trees in the Tropical Dome. Even though it is challenging, I still enjoy it. Not everyone gets to go 45’ up in the air in a lift and look down at the tops of the trees. It can get very uncomfortable since the temperature increases dramatically the higher you go. Tropical trees grow very fast so it must be done at least once per year, usually in April.

My favorite plants to grow at home are native perennials. I have a lot of shade in my garden, so I plant a lot of spring ephemerals native to Wisconsin. Virginia Bluebells, White and Red Trillium, Mayapples and Merrybells are a few examples. I also have a koi pond at home and enjoy sitting by the pond drinking coffee with my husband on weekend mornings.
RIVEREDGE NATURE CENTER AND FRIENDS OF THE DOMES PRESENT

A Fall Workshop Series
TICKETS? Visit milwaukeeedomes.org/adult-programs

SEPTEMBER 21, 10AM | NATURAL PEST CONTROL | DOMES
Tell backyard pests to Bug Off (safely)!! How can preventative natural controls for our modern gardening lifestyle stabilize our pollinator populations and contribute to a more successful gardening experience?

OCTOBER 12, 9AM | NATIVE SEED COLLECTION | RIVEREDGE
Join a Naturalist for a stroll through our fall prairies, collecting seeds, and discussing how they can be incorporated into your backyard landscape. Sprout your own patch of wild Wisconsin!

NOVEMBER 9, 12PM | LOVE YOUR MOTHER: KOMBUCHA 101 | DOMES
What’s the deal with this fizzy fermented tea? Learn the steps and science behind brewing your own ‘booch and sample yummy flavors like Lemon Ginger and Strawberry Basil. Take home a SCOBY starter from a successful “mother” and a list of items you need to get started!

DECEMBER 7, 10AM | HOLIDAY BOUGH TRIMMING | RIVEREDGE
Create festive and unique holiday decorations and gifts! Learn to properly trim your evergreen trees and weave our materials into a table wreath. Slow down in this busy time of year to enjoy the scenic outdoors and learn a new skill for holiday seasons to come.

Cost of each class: $9 for members of either organization, $12 for nonmembers. Pre-registration required.
Ashdown Forest: The East Sussex Inspiration for the 100 Acre Wood

By Julie Merck, FOD Newsletter Editor

The fall show in the Show Dome “Welcome to Hundred Acre Woods” is an unofficial nod to the childhood classic Winnie-the-Pooh. For licensing reasons, you won’t see references to the official Disney characters, unless a visitor to the Conservatory brings one of his or her own. The theme is a fitting one for us this fall. Our two new directors are both focused on education and the exciting future of the conservatory. Just like the Hundred Acre Wood referenced in A.A. Milne’s Winnie-the-Pooh books, the Domes are a place of refuge for young and old, a natural escape from the busy world. Like Milne’s books, the Domes inspire kids and help many to develop an appreciation for nature, but what inspired Milne?

After serving in World War I, Milne and his wife Dorothy had a son who they named Christopher Robin. Five years later they purchased a country home in Hartfield, East Sussex, England, about an hour and a half south-east of London. The country home, named Cotchford Farm, was located on the edge of Five Hundred Acre Wood in Ashdown Forest. This forest would become the inspiration for the Hundred Acre Wood. E.H. Shepard, who illustrated the Pooh books, also took his inspiration from Ashdown Forest. Christopher Robin, as an adult, recalled that Pooh’s forest was identical to Ashdown Forest.

Ashdown Forest consists of lowland heath and woodlands areas. Despite its name, the majority of this 10 square-mile park consists of heath. The lowland heath that the real Christopher Robin would have hiked through included: marsh gentian (gentiana pneumonanthe) an annual wildflower with showy purple to lavender (or sometimes white) flowers; ling or heather (calluna vulgaris) a low growing perennial shrub that flowers in late summer with flowers ranging from white, to purples, pinks, and even red, depending on the variety; purple moor-grass (molina caerulea) a herbaceous perennial bunchgrass topped with a dense tussock and narrow purple spikelets. The heathland area of Ashdown Forest includes very few trees.

The woodland parts of the forest where the real Christopher Robin played with his favorite stuffed bear and other animals are mainly populated with sweet chestnut (castanea sativa) trees that can live to an age of 600 years; hazel (corylus) with its popular, delicious hazelnuts; alder (alnus) a moderately sized tree with distinctive catkin flowers, as well as silver birch, oak, and Scots pine.

For more information and even a guided tour of Ashdown Forest, visit www.ashdownforest.org

We hope the Fall Floral show inspires kid of all ages to explore and imagine, just as Ashdown Forest inspired A.A. Milne!
Friends of the Domes
2019 Board of Directors

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Roger Krawiecki
President
Jeremy Guth
Vice-President
Beverly Smiley
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Barbara Mangold
Sally Sullivan
John Ohm
Tim Teske
Mary Philipp
Karen Von Rueden
Marianne Schmid
Margaret Wittig
Terrell Ford (Director Emeritus)

Upcoming Events*

January 5 - March 30 .................Winter Farmer’s Market in the Annex**
September 14 & 15 ..............................Orchid Show & Sale
October 25 ............................ Dia de los Muertos Day of the Dead Celebration
November 22 ................................. FOD Annual Meeting
December 31 ............................... New Year’s Eve Family Celebration

*Events subject to change. Please visit our website and click Events.
**Saturday Mornings. 8:00 AM to Noon