Celebrate the Coming of Spring!
Spring Equinox Celebration, March 17
By Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Educator

The Spring Equinox (called the Vernal Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere) is the special day each spring when the sun shines directly over the equator, so day and night all over the world are of equal length. In our part of the world it is the first day of spring. Each year, it falls anywhere from March 19 through March 21.

Come to Mitchell Park Conservatory to celebrate the coming of the Spring Equinox with us on Sunday, March 17. Get up-close to nearly 100 live animal friends from llamas and chickens to reptiles and arthropods. Learn about natural earth care as well as tree care, gardening, composting, and planting seeds for home. Outside the Conservatory, use our telescopes to view sunspots and flares. Members of the Wehr Astronomical Society will be on hand to answer your astronomy questions.

Inside the Conservatory, enjoy guided tours in the Tropical and Desert Domes. The Show Dome will feature painting with Farmhouse Paint. Yoga and talks will be offered in the Ed Center. The Honolulu Millionaires will perform with their special guests, fun singing animatronic parrots! Everyone loves the birds, especially kids! Complete our special event scavenger hunt and return it to be entered into a drawing to win a springtime basket of surprises. Don’t miss the llama wool spinning...
New this year, for the young at art, the FOD is creating a children’s area in the lobby. Children will have opportunities to enjoy arts and crafts, and even have their faces painted. The children’s area will also feature a Lego building space, provided by Tosa Block Party.

For more exciting details and updates about Art in the Green please follow the Friends of the Domes on social media (Facebook and Instagram) and visit our website.

BIG Thanks to Kevin and Sue Hanley for Twenty New Pairs of Binoculars!

A great big THANK YOU to members Kevin and Sue Hanley (Kevin is also our FOD Adult Education Photography instructor) for securing a donation of 20 pairs of binoculars for use by both the Domes and FOD Education Programs.
Friendship through Flowers - Torii Gate Festival

By Roger Krawiecki, FOD President

The Torii Gate Festival returns to the Domes to celebrate Japanese floral arranging on Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Named for the traditional Japanese gate marking the entrance to a shrine, our Torii Gate Festival will display 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 the Milwaukee County Parks, will exhibit 20 floral arrangements with their signature asymmetrical form and mindful use of empty space. Chapter members strive to create harmony between the materials, container, and setting they choose.

After enjoying the beautiful ikebana displays, plan time to enjoy the Japanese Zen Garden Spring Floral Show in the Show Dome!

**When:** Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Cost:** Free for FOD members; non-members, regular admission prices apply
Letter from the FOD Executive Director

By Sally Sullivan
FOD Executive Director
Dear Friends of the Domes Members,

Happy 2019 to everyone! I am confident you have found a wealth of ways to enjoy the Domes this winter. The Holiday and Train Shows were particularly stunning this year. The New Year’s Eve Celebration sold out, providing guests a most wonderful celebration to welcome 2019. Hearts Under Glass and Picnic in the Park were great ways to chase away any winter blues. The FOD Adult Education programming is growing weekly in number and diversity of offerings—all making your membership more valuable than ever.

On December 28, 2018 the Domes Task Force recommended to the Milwaukee County Board two options:

Option 1 Targeted Investments—This option includes the repair of the existing structure and adds some amenities onto the existing facility such as more education and meeting space, food service, more retail space.

Option 2 Destination Attraction—This option includes everything in option one and converts the show dome into an attraction in order to draw more visitors. Changing floral exhibits would occur in a new area added onto the facility. The Domes Task Force also requested a funds transfer to support Phase Three of the Future Path and Feasibility study. They also pointed out that governance changes will be necessary to take the Domes into the future. Milwaukee County has already scheduled a concrete study to occur in February. They are also working on a glazing study to be done. The task force is making progress, however there is still a lot of work to be completed.

We are very excited to have launched our Grow It Tours Mobile App for your smart phone, allowing visitors to take a tour of the Domes right from a smart phone. You can find instructions for downloading and using the app in this newsletter (see page 7). Instructions will also be available at the Domes, just ask the friendly staff the Fee Booth when you enter or the Domes Gift Shop. We know this will greatly enhance your visitor experience. A very big thank you goes out to Lin Jennewine and Todd Huffman for underwriting the development of this mobile tour. They have been valued donors to the FOD in honor of Todd’s father, Larry Huffman, who was a Project Manager for the original Domes skylight construction in the 1960’s. Their generosity has made several of our recent projects possible.

As always, thank you for your support of the Friends of the Domes and the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. You help make everything we do possible.

sallysullivan.fod@milwaukeedomes.org

Spring Into Something New—Volunteer at the Domes!

Required Volunteer Training Sessions

Nothing chases away the winter blues like helping friends in a warm place, full of lush plant life! We always need volunteers to help in a variety of different capacities. 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, April 6, 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM OR Thursday, April 11, 9:00 AM – 11:30 AM [This Thursday session ends with an exclusive Greenhouse Complex tour!]

Enter through the Conservatory Annex Doors.
Registration is required. Please contact carriekelroy.fod@milwaukeedomes.org

www.milwaukeedomes.org

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!
Earth Day Essentials
What better way to spend Earth Day than visiting the Domes and learning about the restorative and healing powers of essential oils! Learn about plant sourcing, extraction methods, and how these therapeutic grade oils can be used for a healthier life. Wellness advocates from doTERRA will be on-hand for questions and samplings. Take a global trip around the world and see just how many plants in the Conservatory have more to offer than just a "pretty face"!!

When: Monday, April 22, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Cost: FREE for FOD Members; Non-members, regular admission rates apply.

World of Dance—Delighting Visitors with Energy and Music
By Peter Lepkowski
Marketing Manager, Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory
On April 7, we welcome you to the World of Dancing at the Mitchell Park Domes from 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM. Take a voyage of dance and music through the heartbeat of the world’s cultures. From Irish hard shoe to high energy dance steps performed by some of the best ethnic dance groups in Milwaukee, we are sure you will enjoy performances including:

11:00 AM Dance Academy of Mexico
1:00 PM Trinity Irish Dancers
2:00 PM Tradizone Vivente

Entertainment will also include the music of Dolan at 11:30 AM and Garlic Mustard Pickers at 1:30 PM, providing the perfect backdrop for this global event. This kaleidoscope of furious footwork, live ethnic music, and authentic costumes from across the globe showcases the multiethnic community we live in! Schedule subject to change; food and beverage will be available for purchase.

When: Sunday, April 7, 11:00 AM to 3:30 PM
Cost: Free for FOD members; non-members, regular admission prices apply

Spring Equinox continued from cover
Demonstration and display by the WI Museum of Quilts and Natural Fibers creating an end product to take home!

Visitors will even receive a plant to take home as a Spring Equinox souvenir! Healthy food will be available for purchase. We are also looking forward to an appearance or two by Smokey Bear. How’s that for something different on Saint Patrick’s Day!

When: Sunday, March 17, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Cost: FREE for FOD Members; non-members, regular admission rates apply.
A true friend is one who you can count on through the years...

A Special Thank You to Members Who Have Supported the Friends of the Domes for Ten Years or More

30+ Years
Richard & Carol Bayerlein
James Bonnett
Karen & Milton Dabbert
Mitzi Dearborn
Pamela Knackert
Roger Krawiecki
Sue Muntz
Al Salzstein
Barbara Schacht & Lillian Wiegel
Carolyn Schloemer
Virginia Topitzes

20+ Years
Deanna Andre
Kathy & Chester Barbasiewicz
James Baumgartner
Kent & Barb Bavery
Bonnie Beeck
Craig Bodoh & Mark Ranum
Jerome & Bernie Brandl
James & Judy Brandt
Sandra Braun
Sally Buckland
Cynthia Chovelak
Katie & Kevin Delahunt
Davis Donars
Douglas Drysdale
& Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale
Marcia Ferguson & Kent Velde
Daniel & Kristen Fox
Susan Fricker
Mary Lou & John Gefler
Helene Giese
William & Jodi Goell
Cherie Gravies & Lori Pippa
Kathleen Hansen
David & Vicki Henning
Kathy Hermans
Patricia Ann Hessler
Earl Hintz
Scott & Allison Joffe
Sharon & Scott Karstenson
Karen Kasza
Steve Kauth & Ruth Gutowski
Joy & John Kelley
Ann Kesting
J Paul Knap
Lori Korbhum & Bruce Semon
Jeanne Krause
Gary Krawiecki
Kristie Kurtenbach
Louise Lambert
Victor Larson
Scott & Susan Linton
Susan Kay Malik
Catherine M. Markwiese
Dorothy Molling
William D O'Keefe
Michael & Elizabeth Prevetti
Tony & Juli Ricchio
Claudette Robinson
Virgil & Betty Rokicki
James Roth & Judith Huf
Mary Kay Schroeder
Beth Shepard
Kim Sonnenberg
Nita Soref
Catherine Starck
Jean Stern
Becky Thorpe
Marcel Trautwein
Todd Voros
Linda & Donald Yorde
Gertrude Zauner

25+ Years
Debbie Andreen
Kathy & Chester Barbisiewicz
James Baumgartner
Kent & Barb Bavery
Bonnie Beeck
Craig Bodoh & Mark Ranum
Jerome & Bernie Brandl
James & Judy Brandt
Sandra Braun
Sally Buckland
Cynthia Chovelak
Katie & Kevin Delahunt
Davis Donars
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& Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale
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Kim Sonnenberg
Nita Soref
Catherine Starck
Jean Stern
Becky Thorpe
Marcel Trautwein
Todd Voros
Linda & Donald Yorde
Gertrude Zauner

15+ Years
Thomas & Kathryn Anderson
Mary Ann Beaumont
Jonathan & Elissa Berkoiff
Bonnie & John Bruhn
James Buchanan & Maria Nagueroen
Anthony Busalacchi
Judy Calvy
Michael Chovonec
Margaret Ciurlik
Janis & Don Crego
Gloria Drenzek
Joann Eversdyk & Connie Arnold
David Fenner
Cletus Fleming
Larry Graff
Bill Halat
James Hardy & Diane Dei Rossi
Cynthia Heck
William Heinzelman
Lisa Heisler & Troy Felsing
Shirley Helinski
Conrad Kaminski
Julia Kleppin
Patrick Knapp
& Kristi Tolzman-Knapp
Sally Kubash
Alex & Diana Kunz
Sandy Laedtke
Charlene Larsen
Carolyn Lawrence
Betty Lolkes
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald Mainman
Mary Beth & John McCormack
Helmut Meyhoefer
Bill Miller
Mark & Joyce Nordbeck
John Ohm
Ralph & Eugenie Olsen
Kathy Palmer & Mike Rehorst
Margaret Patros
Fred Pernerstorfer
Mary Philipp
Susan Pledger
Betty Price
Diane Prom
Ted Romberg
Mike & Sue Rudolf
Leslie Sager & Jan Weiler
Gail Schumann
& Michael Switzenbaum
Karnell Sell
Jean & John Starr
Linda & Richard Stevens
Alan & Lynn Stied
Shirley & Nick Todor
Erika Voss

10+ Years
Sylvia Aranda
Kris Bate
Rob Beistenstein & Teresa Wetzel
Diane Bennett & William Joseph
John Bielinski & Megan Walsh
Kathryn Bielinski & Jerome Dropik
Connie Blair & Alexis Camacho
William Bowen
Michael & Judith Broderick
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Karen Luedke
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& Deborah Mahloch-Dempsey
William Marcek
Janice & Ronald Morrison
Doug Payerl
Alex & Kirsten Pezewski
William & Judith Pomes
Bimal Sarma
James & Carol Schroeder
Russell Sorensen
Sally Sullivan
Thomas Uyehara
Louise Ware
Jason & Laurel Weber
Sue & John Wehnes
Mary Wieckowicz
Janice Wilberg & Howard Snyder
Cathrine Zoulek
Our New *GrowIt!* Mobile App Tour is Now Live!

Enjoy a free, personal tour of the Domes any time you visit

What is it?
GrowIt! is a free app for your smart phone that lets people and organizations—like the Friends of the Domes create digital tours of their gardens. The GrowIt! app was created to bring together the social community of gardeners, helping people to identify plants, enabling people to share information about plant care, and offering a way for garden enthusiasts to connect and communicate.

A very big thank you goes out to Lin Jennewine and Todd Huffman for underwriting this project and enabling us to create these mobile tours of the Domes. They have been valued donors to the FOD in honor of Todd’s father, Larry Huffman, who was a Project Manager for the original Domes skylight construction in the 1960’s. Their generosity has made this (and several other) recent projects possible.

What does it cost?
It is **free** from the Apple App Store or Google Play store. You will need a smart phone to access GrowIt!

Setting-up GrowIt!
Note: While it is a good idea to download the app and create your login while you are at home, you will not see the tour or be able to access it until you are inside of each Dome.

1. Go to the Apple App Store (on iPhone) or Google Play store (Android and other devices that are not Apple brand).
2. Search for GrowIt! and look for the logo.
3. Download and install the application.
4. Create a login and password.

Using GrowIt! to Tour Each of the Three Domes at Mitchell Park

Be sure that location services are enabled and Bluetooth is turned on to experience the tour to the fullest (no worries, the app will remind you as well).

1. Locate the All feed in the top left corner of the Home page. (If you don’t see All, click the Home icon at the bottom of the screen to navigate to the Home page.)
2. Locate the Domes Tour Card and click to open.
3. Walk around to different parts of the Domes to unlock areas on the map that display as locked. There is a beacon in each Dome that lets the app know where you are and what is relevant for your current location.
4. Once an area is highlighted and pulsating, click View Plants (bottom of the screen).
5. For more detailed information about a plant, click on the plant and go to the information section.

If you already have the GrowIt! App Installed

Quick steps to find the Domes tour.

1. Click on the Tour Card in the All feed and follow the steps above
   OR
1. Click the magnifying glass in the top left corner.
2. In the search bar at the top, type in “friendsofthedomes” then click the People tab.
3. Click on the username “friendsofthedomes”
4. On The Domes page, click Take This Tour.
5. The map will display. Follow the directions above to operate the tour.

www.milwaukeedomes.org
Spring Gardening Checklist

By Kelsey Simon, Director of FOD Adult Education

Aren’t you excited to start gardening again? If you are like me, you are itching to shake the dust from your wide-brimmed straw hat and get some dirt under your nails. Here is a checklist of items I have planned for this gardening season:

March:
- Find a nice journal to start tracking your garden’s progress from year to year. This is invaluable!
- You can begin to start seeds indoors for long-season crops like brussels sprouts as early as February, so this is a good time to get going on seeds. See our Starting from Seed class with Wisconsin Garden and Pet Supply on March 10th!
- March 17, St. Patrick’s Day, is traditionally when potatoes or other root veggies like radishes are planted, but this is a bit too early for our area. Try later in the month.
- If you didn’t get a chance to remove plant litter from your garden last fall, clean up now to allow some sunlight on your soil for warmth.
- If you are looking for lots of wildlife this year, be sure your bird feeders (including hummingbird feeders) are out and filled at all times!

April:
- Once your soil is thawed enough to work with your hands, add some compost to your soil before you start planting, and be sure to fertilize fruit-bearing perennials, especially trees.
- Reduce your mulch in beds with early spring emerging bulbs.
- The Old Farmer’s Almanac says the 29th of this month is our average last frost date for the Milwaukee area. Most if not all plants, flowers and vegetables need to be planted after this date; just check the tags or seed packets. It’s time to get your hands dirty! Of course, use this date with caution, and keep a close watch on the weather. If you’re willing to risk early planting, keep your plants covered in case of a late frost or even snow. Many people play it safe and wait until Memorial Day weekend.

May:
- Many cool season plants [i.e., lettuce, spinach, chard, parsnip, onion sets, beets, carrots, kohlrabi, mustard, turnips, radishes, peas, parsley, and potatoes] could be planted.
- As it warms, pests are prevalent, but food sources are not as abundant. Check your plants for bugs or disease.
- Fruit-bearing plants like strawberries should be planted mid-month and blossoms on new plants should be picked to support stronger growth next year.
- Trim back fading flowers from your early-season plants like bulbs and flowering bushes. This helps energy storage for next year.

“A weed is a plant that has mastered every survival skill except for learning how to grow in rows.” - Doug Larson

Trains and Spring T-Shirts at the Domes Gift Shop!

Spring in Milwaukee means TRAINS in the Show Dome and TEES on everyone! We are all excited to get some sun on our skin after a long winter bundled in layers! The gift shop has just what you need to bring some locomotive love home and a few new Domes t-shirts for your wardrobe, while supporting the Friends of the Domes. FOD Members always receive a 10% discount in the Gifts Under Glass gift shop.

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Celebrating a Shared History...

In celebration of our recent 50th anniversary, we asked you to send us your favorite pictures and stories of memorable times at the Domes. This story comes to us from FOD member Stephen K. Hauser...

“My father, Karl A. Hauser, had a lifelong love of flowers and plants. Born in the rural Midwest, he gravitated naturally to an interest in horticulture and was an avid backyard gardener. In 1965, he was the retired manager of the bond department at the City Bank & Trust Company on North 2nd Street downtown. He closely followed the construction of the Domes that year. I can recall watching the dedication ceremony with him on the local news on September 21, 1965. “This will be a special place,” he told me.

“When the Tropical Dome opened to the public in February 1966, he insisted that I accompany him on a Saturday afternoon to be among the first to see it. As a teenager who thought I had better things to do with a Saturday, I resisted. He won me over by promising that I could listen to WOKY, Milwaukee’s Top 40 station in the car. I still remember hearing the Beatles’ new release “Nowhere Man,” Petula Clark’s “My Love,” and other big hits of the day. This music was not my father’s cup of tea, but it got me to join him.

“On arrival at the Domes, I was immediately impressed. The level of warmth and humidity in the new Tropical Dome was unexpected in February in Milwaukee, as was the visual experience of being placed literally in the midst of plants, flora, and vegetation. By the time we left, I had to tell my dad that I now agreed with him, ‘This IS a special place!’ I did not need further encouragement to attend with him again.

“In 1980, when I was dating my future wife, Janice, I insisted that we visit the Domes. Since she was not from the area, she had never been inside. Our favorite was the Desert Dome. When we left, she told me, ‘you were right. This IS a special place.’ Indeed, it is!”

If you would like to share a story and photo for this feature, please email it to Sally Sullivan at sallysullivan.fod@milwaukeedomes.org

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Friends of the Domes Financials for Year Ending June 30, 2018

The fiscal year of the Friends of the Domes runs from July 1st through June 30th. Here are the audited financial numbers for the fiscal year 2017 - 2018. These numbers represent both the Friends of the Domes and the Domes Gift and Plant Shop.

### Statement of Assets, Liabilities, and Net Assets - Modified Cash Basis

<table>
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<th>ASSETS</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Current Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Cash and Cash Equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments - as cost (Mutual Funds)</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<td>Payroll and Sales Tax Payable</td>
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<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
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<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<td><strong>Unrestricted Net Assets</strong></td>
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<td>Undesignated</td>
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<td>Designated for Specific Purposes</td>
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<td><strong>Total Unrestricted</strong></td>
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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
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| **Total Liabilities and Net Assets** | $2,333,716.00 |

### Statement of Support, Revenue, and Expenses - Modified Cash Basis

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<td>Donations</td>
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<td><strong>Total Support Collected</strong></td>
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| Revenue                       |          |
| Gift Shop and Other Sales     | $229,918.00 |
| Program Service Fees          | $1,144.00  |
| Investment Income             | $11,969.00  |
| Other Income                  | $2,100.00   |
| Member Activities             | $60,061.00  |
| **Total Revenue Collected**   | $304,192.00 |

| **Net Assets Released from Restrictions** | $15,775.00 |

| **Total Unrestricted Support and Revenue Collected** | $2,393,767.00 |

### EXPENSES

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<td>Domes Projects</td>
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<td>Membership Communications</td>
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<td>Gift Shop and Other Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Program Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$305,914.00</td>
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</table>

| General and Administrative   |          |
| Payroll                       | $65,979.00 |
| Professional Services         | $12,634.00 |
| Printing and Postage          | $285.00    |
| Membership Solicitation and Mailings | $8,338.00 |
| Other Expenses                | $19,345.00 |
| **Total General and Admin Expenses** | $106,581.00 |
| **Total Expenses**            | $412,495.00 |

| Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets | $1,981,272.00 |

### TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS

| Restricted Revenue            |          |
| Gift Shop and Other Sales     | $9,119.00 |
| Member Activities             | $9,004.00 |
| **Total Revenue Collected**   | $18,123.00 |

| Net Assets Released from Restrictions | $(15,775.00) |
| Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | $2,348.00 |

### CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

| Net Assets at Beginning of Year | $339,009.00 |
| Net Assets at End of Year       | $2,322,629.00 |

---

**Save the Date** New Event—September 21
Rhythm and Brews! See the summer newsletter and our website for more details!
Bring on the Shorter Nights!

By Julie Merck, FOD Newsletter Editor

In anticipation of the Domes’ Education Center’s Spring Equinox Celebration, we wanted to explore the impact the changing length of days and nights on plants. It makes many of us humans very happy, how exactly does it impact plants?

Photoperiodism is the developmental response of plants to the relative lengths of light and dark periods. In the early 20th century, scientists experimenting with red light (present during the day) and far-red light (present in the shade and at night) began to understand photoperiodism and its impact on plant flowering and growth.

Contrary to what many people believe, it is the length of the night that actually triggers the photoreceptor proteins that cause flowering. These proteins in the plant sense seasonal changes in night length (or photoperiod) which they take as signals to flower. Some plants (obligate photoperiodic plants) require long or short nights to flower, while others (facultative photoperiodic plants) are just more likely to flower with shorter nights.

Other proteins are triggered by the red light of day to grow rather than flower.

Modern biologists believe that the active forms of photoreceptor proteins (created by light during the daytime) and the rhythms of the circadian clock allow plants to measure the length of the night. Other than flowering, photoperiodism in plants includes the growth of stems or roots during certain seasons and the loss of leaves.

Relative to photoperiodism, plants fall into three types: short-day plants, long-day plants, and day-neutral plants.

Long-day plants typically flower in the northern hemisphere during late spring or early summer as days are getting longer. Long-day plants include:
- Carnation (Dianthus)
- Henbane (Hyoscyamus)
- Oat (Avena)

Long-day facultative plants:
- Pea (Pisum sativum)
- Barley (Hordeum vulgare)

Lettuce (Lactuca sativa)

In general, short-day (i.e. long-night) plants flower as days grow shorter and nights grow longer (after mid-June in the northern hemisphere). Short day plants include:
- Cotton (Gossypium)
- Rice (Oryza)
- Soybeans (Glycine max)
- Marijuana (Cannabis)

Understanding when different plants bloom may help you plan your garden or better understand the plants you love at the Domes. Join us at the Equinox celebration, to learn more and to celebrate the coming of shorter nights with us!

Gardening With Your Kiddos

By Kelsey Simon, Director of FOD Adult Education

Despite what Pinterest may tell you, you don’t need to make an elaborate “mud kitchen” for your kids to get them involved this spring and summer. Here are some tips to remember to keep them interested.

✍️ You may have plenty of gardening tools that your kids are perfectly capable of using, but having their own gives them some pride and sense of ownership in their tools and therefore their creations. My child has a small shovel and basic gloves with some minions on them, and he needs to use them every time we garden. It helps keep him interested and involved.

✍️ Does it really matter if the basil is planted around the tomatoes like master gardeners suggest? Probably not much. I know your garden is your other baby, but try to be flexible with your kids and what they would like to do. Make your garden the whole family’s baby! Everyone will enjoy a feeling of pride and satisfaction at the end of the day.

✍️ If your child wants to plant something you simply cannot bear, like planting corn in your front flower bed, suggest a great idea: He gets his own garden! Find a spot that he can call his own, and let him plant whatever he wants there. If he dumps the entire contents of your mixed greens seeds in one little spot, a few dollars for the seeds is not worth the argument with a persistent toddler. In a few weeks, you can kindly show him the results, and maybe he’ll have learned something. Plus, now you’ve learned to make seeding a counting game rather than handing a small child a full packet of seeds.

✍️ Finally, weeding all day or reminding to regularly water can be quite dull for a small child. If she only helps you for one day, its ok. Be patient. Even just one hour can be a special bonding experience that helped to instill appreciation for wildlife, plants, and the food we eat.
Upcoming Events*

January 5 - March 30 ............. Winter Farmer’s Market in the Annex**
January 19 - April 7  .................. Train Show: Miniature Milwaukee
March 2 .............................. Gardens & Gears Steampunk Faire
March 17 ............................... Spring Equinox Event
April 7 ................................. World of Dancing
April 27 & 28 ............................... Art in the Green
May 11 & 12 ............................. Torii Gate Festival
June 17 –21 .............................. Pollination Station
September 14 & 15 ..................... Orchid Show & Sale
September 21 .......................... Rhythm & Brews

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