



**UPCOMING FLORAL SHOWS**

- September 23—November 5 Flower Power
- November 18-January 7, 2018—Naughty or Nice Holiday Show

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# Inside the Domes

MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

## Fine Dining and Fun with a Surprise Twist—All in support of the Conservatory!

By Liz Fehring, Events Coordinator

Reserve your seat at the table for our second annual **Mystery Chef Dinner** on Thursday, September 28, 2017.

The evening will begin with a garden cocktail hour at the Domes. Enjoy cocktails and a silent auction offering valuable sports themed items, wine, entertainment opportunities, beautiful items for your home or office, jewelry, and much more.

At the end of the hour, the mystery will end but the excitement will continue when you receive the envelope containing the name of the restaurant where your party will dine.



Each restaurant will prepare a multi-course meal with paired beverages, valued at a minimum.

*Continues on page 3*

## The City's Best Indoor Halloween Event!

By Liz Fehring, Events Coordinator

Mark your calendars for the annual Ghosts Under Glass on Friday, October 27, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.



Ghosts Under Glass is a one-of-a-kind indoor addition (or safe alternative) to trick or treating for kids.

Start planning your costumes early, but please hold the blood or gore to keep it fun for all.

The trick-or-treating begins right as kids walk through the door. Every child will receive a starter bag of candy and will have more opportunities to collect candy as they explore the Domes.

Visitors will enter right into a carnival in the Annex with games and prizes, children's crafts, magician, balloon twisters, a bounce house, and much more. Dare to visit the Dome of Doom—our Tropical Dome transformed into a spooky adventure for children and adults. For something festive and less

*Continues on page 2*

## A SPECIAL DISPLAY DURING GHOSTS UNDER GLASS DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



By Marian French, Horticulturist—Desert Dome During Ghosts Under Glass, the Desert Dome will be filled with cheerful candlelight, orange marigolds, and colorful decorations for Dia de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead. While this Mexican celebration occurs around the same time of year as Halloween, it is a completely different holiday with rich symbolism and traditions that appeal to people young and old.

During Dia de los Muertos, the dead are believed to return to visit the living for one special day. Instead of being mournful, or frightening, however, it is meant to be a party for those who have died, and a time to

*Continues on page 5*

*Ghost Under Glass from page 1*

spooky, visit the Dia De Los Muertos exhibit in the Desert Dome. Zilli's Hospitality will be on hand with food and beverages for purchase.

For more information, visit our website at [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org). Advance admission sales will begin October 1<sup>st</sup> online and in the Domes gift shop. Tickets will also be available at the door the night of the event.

This is a special fundraising event sponsored by the Friends of the Domes. Membership passes and Mitchell Park Coupons are not valid for this event.

**When:** Friday, October 27, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Cost:** \$8 for adults and children over 3; children under 3 free.



## 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 Mystery Chef Dinner, 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 includes a historical film about the Domes and ends with an exclusive Greenhouse Complex tour!

Choose one of the following 2-hour sessions (includes refreshments)

Thursday, October 12, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM **OR**

Saturday, November 18, 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Registration is required. Please contact Darlene Winter at [domesvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:domesvolunteer@gmail.com) to register.

## Wisconsin Orchid Society Annual Show

Beautiful flowers, astounding fragrances, and unusual sex lives (yes, really) only compound the allure of orchids! Come and see for yourself as we host our annual Fall in Love with Orchids Show on Saturday, September 16 (9:00 AM – 5:00 PM) and Sunday, September 17 (9:00 AM – 4:00 PM). Hosted by the Wisconsin Orchid Society (WOS), additional attendees will include other regional orchid societies as well as local, regional, and national orchid vendors.

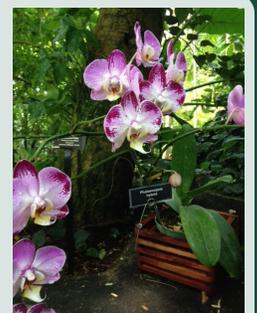


- Meet representatives of five Midwestern orchid societies, orchid growers, and vendors and see their award winning plant displays
- Attend demonstrations of orchid care and corsage making
- Ask the experts all of your orchid growing questions
- Access vendors with thousands of flowering orchids, supplies, fertilizer, pots, potting material, jewelry and books all for sale

Take advantage of this unique opportunity to learn about orchids, including Wisconsin's native orchids, their conservation, and their role in ecology. Learn more about the organization and become a member at [www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com](http://www.wisconsinorchidsociety.com). Come and see why this show is so popular!

**When:** Saturday, September 16, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM and Sunday, September 17, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM

**Cost:** Friends of the Domes Members FREE; Regular admission rates apply for non-members



## Skip the Mall this Holiday Season! Two Special Events to fill all of their stockings

By Sandy Foloran  
Director, Mitchell Park Domes

Get a head start on your holiday shopping and take advantage of two very special opportunities here at the Domes Greenhouse Annex. Both events focus on the local talent and industries of Milwaukee's creative small business community. Shop local, buy local, and support both of these organizations as well as the Conservatory. See you there!

The **Buy Local Gift Fair** will be staged once again in the Annex on November 19, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

This year's event will feature over 40 local vendors dedicated to making your holiday shopping simple. From apparel to art to jewelry, edible products to dishes and serving-ware, plants, wreaths, soap, and even gift certificates, you're sure to find the perfect gift for everyone on your list - all under one roof! Plus you're supporting our local economy and all of the makers and businesses who will be exhibiting - bonus! On top of great shopping, you'll be able to grab coffee, Bloody Marys,

and delicious food offerings from local restaurants and caterers. So make a day of it, invite your friends and family, and join us for an incredible, local shopping experience. For more information, go to [www.localfirstmilwaukee.com](http://www.localfirstmilwaukee.com)

**When:** Sunday, November 19, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

### Christmas Fun Facts

**FACT:** Friends of the Domes members are known for their exceptional taste.  
**FACT:** The best Christmas gifts aren't mass produced and can't be found at the mall.  
**FACT:** Shopping in a place you love, with tasty foods and beverages has been proven to increase your enjoyment of shopping by 800%. Give it a try!

On **November 25 and 26**, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the annual **Urban Garage Sale** will showcase a community of artists, makers, and local retailers at the Annex offering an alternative to your usual holiday shopping experience in Mil-



waukee. This year's event will bring together 65 local vendors, sound providers, and foodies to create an eclectic array of specialized and one-of-a-kind gift items for friends and family alike! Vendors offer a great mix of vintage items, artwork, wood working, jewelry, apparel, and lifestyle goods. Most items are moderately priced in the \$10-\$40 range. Add in live music and food and beverages for sale and you have it all! Adults, \$5 Donation at the door; kids admission FREE. Check out their website for a current list of participants. For more information, visit [www.urbangaragesale.com](http://www.urbangaragesale.com)

**When:** Saturday, November 25 and Sunday, November 26, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Cost:** \$5 donation at the door; admission for children 10 and under FREE.

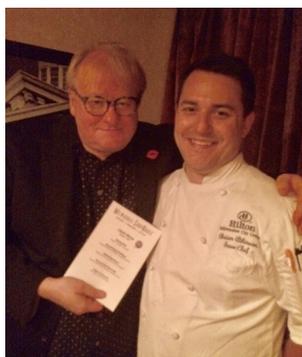
Mark your calendars: the holiday floral show "Naughty or Nice" opens November 18 in the Show Dome

We attended the Mystery Chef Dinner last year and had the best time. We were sent to the Chop House for dinner with a group of 8 people. The food was amazing, just a wonderful evening for a wonderful cause! - Sue Thelen

Mystery Chef Dinner from page 1

imum of \$75 per person. Diners will receive special attention throughout the evening.

Sue Thelen and her husband who attended last year with a group of friends said, "We attended the Mystery Chef Dinner last year and had the best time. We were



sent to the Chop House for dinner with a group of 8 people. The food was amazing, just a wonderful evening for a wonderful cause!"

**As of mid-August, participating restaurants include:** Braise, Maxie's, Milwaukee Chop House, Mason Street Grill, Kil@wat, Lake Park Bistro, Doc's Smokehouse, Envoy, Morel, and Story Hill BKC.

Make your reservation today -

only a limited number of tickets are still available. Sign up with a friend, a group of friends, or sign-up for yourself and meet great new people. Tickets are \$100 per person. To see an updated list of participating restaurants, go to [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org).

**When:** Thursday, September 28.

**Cost:** \$100 per person. Please reserve your tickets today at [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org)

## Two Tours Offering a Sneak Peek Behind the Scenes

By Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Educator

As Friends members, you get the first chance to sign-up for two exciting behind the scenes tours! This fall, the Education Center is excited to offer two guided tours. The cost is \$10 for non-members and \$2 for FOD members. Each tour runs from 9:30 AM to 11:00 a.m. Meet in the center lobby area 10 minutes before tour time. Each tour is limited to 30 participants, so registration and prepayment are recommended.

**Saturday, October 7, 2017, 9:30 AM – 11:00 AM** “A Celebration of Color.” Take a guided tour through the colorful fall show, fragrant tropical and stunning desert dome with our Conservatory Educator, and learn all about our amazing plant specimens and our stunning trees south of the complex. There will be time for questions throughout the tour. Register in the Domes gift shop or at [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org) before October 5.

**Saturday, November 18, 2017, 9:30 – 11:00 AM** “Behind-the-Scenes: Naughty or Nice Holiday Show.” This guided tour will take you through the show dome transformation from fall to holiday show with interesting information about the past and present collections with time for your questions. The tour will end just as the Saturday Winter Farmer’s Market is in full swing for the day, so we encourage you to visit after the tour. Register in the Domes gift shop or at [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org) by November 15.

### A Great Big Thank You!



...to the group of volunteers from Empower Retirement for your hard work!

### In Need of Terra Cotta Pots

If your yard and garden clean-up this fall leaves you with unwanted terra cotta pots, please bring them to us! We are looking for pots 6 inches in diameter or larger, any condition. We will even clean them! Bring them to the admission desk anytime during business hours.



## Celebrating a Shared History...

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary last year, we asked you to send us your favorite pictures and stories of memorable times at the Domes. These snapshots came to us from brothers passionate about the Parks, the Domes, and the outdoors...

*Top photo taken in 1985:*

This photograph was taken on April 11, 1985, by our mother, who loved taking us to the Domes when we had a day off from school. Most likely this was taken during Jim's spring break as Jonathan would've been too young to be in school. We all enjoyed visiting the different climates of the three domes, particularly because spring-time in Wisconsin can sometimes feel like winter! The show-dome was a favorite because each time we saw it, it was always different.



*Lower photo, 2017:* Jonathan Brugger currently splits his time teaching in MPS and working for Milwaukee County Parks in the summer. Visiting places like the Mitchell Park Domes, Boerner Botanical Gardens and the Wehr Nature Center as a child inspired his love of nature and the outdoors. Jim Brugger works

for Marquette University as a Technical Support Specialist. Visiting the Mitchell Park Domes and previously working part time at Boerner Botanical Gardens taught him a great deal about plants and landscaping techniques which lead to his love of the outdoors.



## Get the Most out of your Friends of the Domes Membership: Visit Reciprocating Gardens

One of the great benefits to membership in the Friends of the Domes is receiving reciprocity benefits to fantastic conservatories, gardens, and even some zoos around the country! This means reduced or free entrance fees and other discounts. For a full listing of participating organizations, go to:

[www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org)

To inspire you to visit some of these great gardens and other facilities, we are starting a new feature we're calling Reciprocating Gardens. Please share with us pictures and stories of your trips to any other facilities. We will print some of them in future newsletters! Send pictures to [friendsofthedomes@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthedomes@gmail.com) or mail them to the return address found on the back of the newsletter.

Friends member John Ohm saved \$40.00 with his FOD membership when he and his wife Nedra visited the Phoenix Desert Museum recently. We are excited to share his beautiful pictures here!



*Dia de los Muertos from page 1*

poke fun at death and have a laugh.

Traditionally, many Latino families use the month of October to begin building ofrendas, or altars, dedicated to their deceased loved ones, so some examples of ofrendas will be displayed amidst the cacti and moonlight of the Desert Dome. Educational stations along the path will reveal the meaning behind the holiday and hand out tasty Mexican treats.

Throughout the Desert Dome, you will also notice the use of colorfully decorated skulls and skeletons in much of the décor, but they are not meant to be creepy. In fact, many forms of Mexican folk art feature skeletons doing daily chores, dancing, and generally having a good time. The bones you see are meant to tickle your funny bone!

**When:** October 27, during Ghosts Under Glass (see page 1), 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Cost:** Included with your \$8 admission to Ghosts Under Glass

May 2017

Dear Friends of the Domes,

The Domes is an awesome place to have fun. There can be ponds with fish you can look at. There were goldfish swimming around a stone frog when I was there! In addition, there was cool scavenger hunt papers. You have to find cool plants and some had funny names!! There was an awesome souvenir shop. When I went inside, my mouth was wide open! There were cool different color pendants. I got a bright orange pendant. They looked so cool! The domes is 1 of the best places on Earth! Just to tell you, you don't want to miss out on the best place ever!!

Sincerely,

Aubrey

We were so touched by this young fan of the Domes, we just had to share!

## Save the Date: New Year's Eve Celebration

As your holiday events calendar is beginning to fill, put a big silver star on December 31—for New Year's Eve at the Domes! It's the ONLY indoor event and the best kid-friendly party in the city.

Be part of our new and improved balloon drop. This year, the shindig will be even bigger! A DJ dance party, live entertainment, kids crafts, balloon artists, face painting, and much more fun for the whole family.

Look for more information starting early November on our website, [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org)

Special Admission rates apply – membership passes and Mitchell Park Coupons are not valid for this event.



NEW YEAR'S EVE **CELEBRATION**



## Winter Farmer's Market is Back!

The Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market runs every November through April in the Greenhouse Annex at the Mitchell Park Domes. Each Saturday from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM customers find the best variety of local food in the region, including produce, meat, cheese, eggs, bakery, canned goods, herbs, prepared food, and more! The market helps people eat local longer in the season and also helps individuals with federal nutrition benefits shop for local, healthy food for their families. The Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market is run by the Fondy Food Center, whose mission is to connect neighborhoods to fresh, local food – from farm, to market, to table.

## Gifts Under Glass

The Gift Shop is excited to carry two children's books by a local artist and author pair. "Together, We are Family" and "I Love You Unconditionally" by local author Kelly M. Condon and illustrated by local artist Pat Dobrinska are in stock. They would make perfect holiday, back-to-school, or "I love you" gift for a special child in your life.



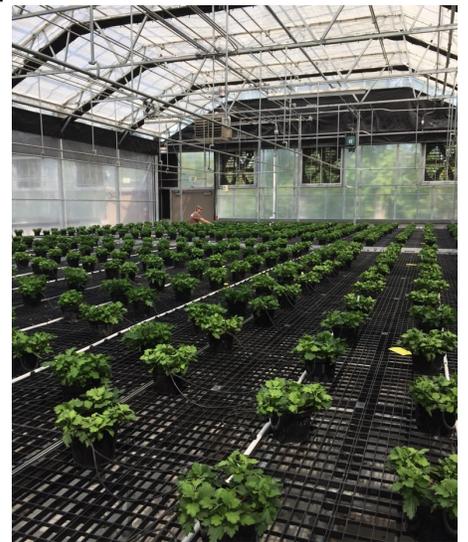
## Kids Corner: Weekly Storytime

Every Monday (except major holidays) our Conservatory Educator hosts a 30 minute (10:30 AM – 11:00 AM) story time in the Education Center. Children ages 4-7 are invited to attend (with their parents) to participate in activities and sound games and listen to two to three stories related to the topic of the day (activities vary from week to week). Topics range from trees and leaves to planting and harvesting food. Each child will also be able to take at least two activity sheets to do at home. Please leave all food, drinks, water, and loud voices behind in the lobby area.

**Please bring your listening ears and quiet voices!**

## Groovy Fall Floral Show in the Show Dome: Flower Power—September 23 through November 5, 2017

Relive the days of peace, love, rebellion, and flower power! The upcoming fall show entitled *Flower Power*, will capture all those groovy feelings from that tumultuous decade of change—the 60's! Set against a backdrop of colorful flowers and a psychedelic mural, we invite you to check out the familiar political slogans, famous faces, and even a Volkswagen Camper Bus ready to hit the road in search of the next "happening." So dig out that tie-dye T-shirt and head on over to the Conservatory for a trip back in time!



Mums in the Green Houses growing for the Fall Floral show, photo from July 2017

## From the President

By Roger Krawiecki, President, Friends of the Domes

The Domes Advisory Task Force met August 9. Milwaukee County contracted with the Milwaukee office of HGA Architects and Engineers. We met the key team members. Starting in October, we will meet monthly. We will communicate the meeting dates and we encourage members to attend and speak at meetings. We need your support to keep the focus on our outstanding plant collection. Estimated timeline presented at the meeting:

- Phase I: Feasibility Study—completed by December 15, 2017
- Phase II: Public Outreach Program—Completed by March 2018
- Phase III: Implementation Planning—Completed by June 2018

A special thank you to all those who donated during our annual appeal. Your support helps us do even more for the Domes.

Our Friends Annual meeting is rapidly approaching. Our auditor has been busy reviewing the books and the gift shop inventory has been completed. Again this year we will combine annual meeting with the preview of the holiday show "Naughty or Nice." **Annual meeting is Friday, November 17, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.** We will not be able to open the doors before 6:00, so we recommend that you don't arrive early, The delivery of the annual report begins at 6:30; refreshments and opportunity to be the first to see the holiday show from 7:00 to 8:00 PM.

Please encourage your friends to visit the Domes! Gift memberships are available in the gift shop and make great holiday gifts.

## Gifts Under Glass

Visit the giftshop for great holiday gifts! Support the Domes and, remember, FOD members always receive 10% off of purchases!

# THE DOMES' HORTICULTURISTS Green Sheet

Fall 2017

## Delicious Mexican Desert

By Marian French

Horticulturist—Desert Dome

After walking through the Desert Dome, most visitors come away with two observations: most things are very spiny, and it's very dry. The real arid regions of the world are much the same if not more extreme. Despite the obvious obstacles against life, human beings have not only survived in deserts, they have thrived in them by relying upon their local flora. In Mexico alone, countless tribes have called the deserts home. Many of the plants they used can be found in the Desert Dome.

The wild chili pepper, or chiltepin, ranges from the southwestern United States south through much of Mexico, and was an essential part of native diets. The chili was domesticated over 6,000 years ago, and it plays an important role in at least one Mexican tribe's creation myth, where it is ranked along with salt in importance.



Wild chili pepper or chiltepin

Even today, the chili remains a staple ingredient in Mexican cuisine. From tiny, pea-sized fruits, peppers have been bred into all shapes and

sizes, with different heat levels for different uses. Besides adding spice and flavor to food, chili peppers are known to aid digestion and trigger perspiration, cooling the body overall. Several chiltepin plants can be found growing year-round throughout the Sonoran Desert area of the Desert Dome, and this summer a few notable chili pepper varieties were planted in the oasis garden.

The prickly pear cactus, with edible pads known as *nopales*, is a widely consumed nutritional vegetable. It might seem impossible, but even the spiniest cactus pads can be cut up, cooked, and eaten in salads, as pickles, or in tacos. Their flavor is said to be somewhat a mixture between asparagus and green beans. The fruits, or *tunas*, and flowers can also be harvested and eaten. These cacti have been a vital food source for people in Mexico for at least 20,000 years, since the first hunter-gatherers moved to the desert. In the Desert Dome oasis, you can find a large, mostly spineless prickly pear that was bred for *nopales*, and several other species can be found in the dome that could be edible if their spines were removed.

One of the spikiest-looking plants in the Desert Dome, the agave, also has a long history in Mexico. Many different species were foraged and cultivated by ancient peoples thousands of years ago, and sometimes they are still eaten today. The main edible part of the agave is the heart of the plant, where it stores its starches and sugars, so harvest starts by chopping off all of the leaves. The rounded core then has to be baked for a few days,



Prickly Pear Cactus, source of nopales



is ready  
Other

treats that come from agaves include the fermented beverage called pulque, and the distilled spirits mescal and tequila. As of this spring, there is a miniature tequila "farm" growing on a hillside near the Desert Dome oasis, and several of the agave species grown in the oasis can be used for food and alcohol production.

Look for these imports from the Mexican desert in your local produce aisle as well!



Agave plant

usually in a stone-lined pit full of hot coals, before it to eat. Mexican



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Deb Schiel	Resource Development
Darlene Winter	Volunteer Coordinator

## Upcoming Events

September 16 & 17 ..... Orchid Show and Sale  
 September 28 ..... Mystery Chef Table\*  
 October 7 ..... Behind the Scenes Tour\*\*\*  
 October 27 ..... Ghosts Under Glass \*  
 November 4 ..... Winter Farmer's Market Begins\*\*  
 November 17 ..... Annual Meeting with preview of the Holiday Show  
 November 18 ..... Behind the Scenes Tour\*\*\*  
 November 19 ..... Local First Holiday Fair  
 November 25 & 26 ..... Urban Garage Sale  
 December 31 ..... New Year's Eve Family Celebration\*

\*Sponsored by Friends of the Domes. Special admission rates apply.

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

\*\*\*Requires participation fee. Please see page 4 for registration fees and registration deadlines.