

A Special Spring Issue Dedicated to Birds Everywhere!



Inside the Domes

MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

In honor of the new birds in the Tropical and Desert Domes, we are dedicating this issue to birds of all kinds!



UPCOMING FLORAL SHOWS

- Now through April 2—Great Train Robbery (Train Show)
- April 15—May 29 —For the Birds

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Celebrate the Coming of Spring through Green Living: Spring Equinox Celebration

Join us to celebrate the coming of spring! Through guided tours, demonstrations, performances, activities, and kid-friendly crafts, visitors can explore healthy sustainable, fun ways to prepare for spring.

Experience demonstrations and hands-on activities covering topics like: Beepods, recycling, composting, and natural gardening for pollinators, and Tai Chi. Bring your bike to the bike clinic. Enjoy family-friendly themes and activities like: animals up-close, desert and rainforests, seed planting, crafts, games, and a scavenger hunt with prizes.

When: Sunday, March 19, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

See page 6 for a full schedule of events!



Order Wisconsin Native Plants for your own yard!



Events include: Ms. Kim's Amazing Desert and Tropical Animals; Dairyland's Finest String Band; live demonstrations; and a bicycle clinic. See page 6 for full schedule of events and activities

Art for Every Palette—Art in the Green



Our Second Annual Art in the Green will take place Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7 at the Mitchell Park Domes. This is a two-day, indoor, event showcasing local and regional artists.

Choose from paintings, photography, ceramics, woodwork, glasswork, jewelry, and much more—truly something for everyone. Up to 40 artists will have work for sale in our new Conservatory An-

nex. Food and entertainment will be plentiful throughout the Domes. Once again we are proud to be hosting several of our neighborhood artists sponsored by the Clarke Square Neighborhood Initiative.

When: Saturday, May 6, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Sunday, May 7, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cost: Admission \$5 includes admission to the Mitchell Park Domes.



Very Fairy Princess Day—A delightful, enchanted day for kids and characters of all ages!

Fairies, wizards, princesses, princes, and their families are invited to spend a magical day at the Mitchell Park Domes on Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Dress up and interact with your favorite mystical, magical, royal, characters! Learn how to do the Cinderella promenade and dance, make a fairy garden for spring, go on a scavenger hunt, and enjoy fairy treats and punch. Kids can enjoy

face painting, balloon twisting, and winning prizes from the grand Wizard! The

Conservatory will set the stage for a memory filled day for young and old. In addition, see the spring floral show “For the Birds” and meet the newest family members of our feathered friends!



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

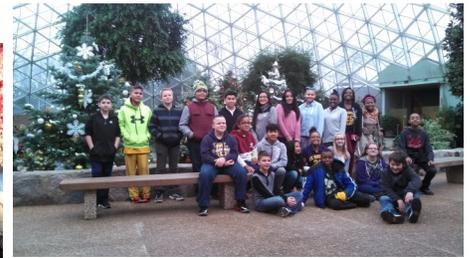
When: Saturday, April 22, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cost: Regular admission rates apply for non-members; Friends of the Domes Members **free**. Additional charges for some activities including building a fairy garden to take home..

Introducing the Dr. and Mrs. John Thomas Education Scholarship Fund

The Friends of the Domes would like to acknowledge the generosity of Dr. and Mrs. John Thomas for establishing and funding the **Dr. and Mrs. John Thomas Education Scholarship Fund** supporting education programming at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. This scholarship helps to underwrite fieldtrips for many area schools that lack funds to bring students to the Conservatory. Our education programs offer children an unforgettable learning opportunity. This unique living classroom experience highlights the importance of tropical rain forests to the health and welfare of the Earth and its inhabitants and the importance

of deserts to indigenous desert cultures, plants, and animals of the world. If you would like to contribute to this worthwhile education scholarship fund, you can donate on our website or mail a check to Friends of the Domes, 524 S Layton Blvd., Milwaukee, WI 53215. Thank you for your support.



From the Director’s Perch

By Sandy Foloran
Director, Mitchell Park Domes

In the last few months, many of our members, visitors, and partners have been concerned and in some cases even alarmed about the future of the Conservatory. I know they are generally optimistic but feel threatened by some dialogue or discussion they overheard that makes them uncomfortable or in other cases, just unhappy about some of the changes (such as no concert series this year) that had to be made. OK, I don’t want to turn this into a Dear Abby column, but I need you to be strong and continue to engage in this process! We are at

an important and pivotal point this year and the future depends on US. Now is not the time to bow out or bemoan the frustration many of us might feel. Let’s look at this as setting the stage for the next 100 years! There is always a little pain in change! So, let’s turn that corner like the last generation did and feel good about this amazing opportunity!

The Domes staff keeps moving forward! We hired two new (and I might add young) horticulturists earlier this year. They bring with them the hope, inspiration and passion to continue all the good work

here. We’ve added to our plant collections, introduced some feathered friends to our Domes family and look forward to this year as we reenergize and plan our special events. I don’t know why this little bird icon spoke to me: looks a bit apprehensive, a bit scared, but also you can see he’s willing to make that jump and fly! At least that’s how I see it—although maybe again, it’s too much coffee!



Plan those summer gardens, introduce yourselves to our new staff members, keep engaged with the progress of the Task Force, and most importantly, come on down and enjoy this wonderful place!

Saturday, May 27: Our Feathered Friends Event

By Paula Zamiatowski
Conservatory Educator

Join us to learn all about the birds in our community through activities, displays, games, and demonstrations. Topics will include: bird watching, migration, binoculars, anatomy, bird banding processes, Cornell University Ornithology Lab, peregrine falcon recovery and conservation, sand hill cranes, neighborhood owls,

wildlife first aid, hidden bird hazards, bird-friendly landscaping practices, and proper feeder and bird bath cleaning.

Kid Bird Banding – Children 5 and over are invited to stop near the front lobby table to be banded like a migratory bird. Each band will have a number related to a species, location, and date of banding. This interactive experience will help teach participants how we know

where our migrating (and neighboring) birds travel and live.

Learn about the Conservatory



Birds – guided tours of the tropical and desert dome offered from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

Schlitz Audubon Nature Center Birds of Prey – Lindsey Obermeier and her raptor handlers will be joined by their animal ambassadors. Shows at 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.

When: Saturday, May 27, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

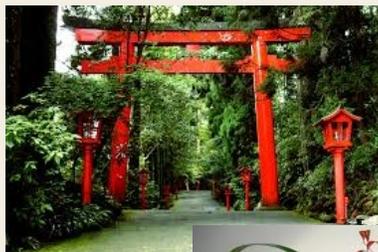


Cysco Harris Hawk and Tallulah Turkey Vulture will take flight in the Show Dome – a first and a must see!

Friendship through Flowers—Torii Gate Festival, June 3—4

Roger Krawiecki
President, Friends of the Domes

Torii Gate Festival returns to the Domes to celebrate Japanese culture



A torii—traditional Japanese gate. Our Japanese festival features floral arrangements by Ikebana International Milwaukee Chapter 22.

Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4
from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

Named for the traditional Japanese gate marking the entrance to a shrine, the Torii Gate Festival will use a classic red wooden gate as the centerpiece to the display area for ikebana floral arrangements. The arrangements are steeped in the philosophy of developing a closeness between nature and humanity.

Milwaukee Chapter 22 of Ikebana International, in partnership with Friends of the Domes and the Milwaukee County Parks, will exhibit 30 floral arrangements with their

signature asymmetrical form and mindful use of empty space. Chapter members strive to create harmony between the materials they choose, the container, and the setting.

Make-and-take one on one sessions will occur throughout the day for a donation to cover material costs. Chapter members will walk you through a simple design that you can take home.

When: Saturday, June 3, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM; Sunday, June 4, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

For The Birds—Summer Show in the Show Dome April 15-May 29

"For the Birds" will be a peaceful garden show dedicated to the native birds of Wisconsin. Guests can stroll through fields of 'Early Bird Blue' Forget-Me-Nots; 'Midget Red' heavenly scented Stock; mixed colors of Primula; orange, red, purple, and pink tulips; plus a variety of colors of Ranunculus, Salpiglossis, and Gerbera Daisies. Completing the theme, visitors will see a variety of bird houses and feeders.





SPONSOR AN ANIMAL AT THE MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

YOUR ONE-YEAR SPONSORSHIP WILL PROVIDE YOUR CHOSEN ANIMAL A HIGHER QUALITY OF LIFE. YOUR SUPPORT WILL PROVIDE SPECIALTY FOODS, SUPPLEMENTS, AND VETERINARIAN CARE. YOUR HELP IS VITAL TO CONTINUING THE BEST CARE POSSIBLE FOR OUR ANIMALS.

SPONSORSHIP IS JUST \$15 PER ANIMAL. IN RETURN, YOU WILL RECEIVE A THANK YOU PACKET THAT INCLUDES A NATURAL HISTORY PROFILE OF YOUR SPONSORED ANIMAL, A PHOTO, AND A THANK YOU CARD FROM THE EDUCATION CENTER. IF YOUR SPONSORSHIP IS A GIFT FOR SOMEONE SPECIAL, WE WILL CONTACT YOU FOR INFORMATION ABOUT WHO YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE THE THANK YOU PACKET.

FILL OUT AND MAIL THIS FORM TO THE ADDRESS BELOW WITH YOUR PAYMENT OR SPONSOR ONLINE AT [HTTPS://STORE.MILWAUKEEDOMES.ORG/CATEGORY/ANSP](https://store.milwaukeedomes.org/category/ansp)

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ GIFT SPONSORSHIP?: YES NO

ADDRESS: _____

PAYMENT: \$15 PER ANIMAL SELECTED. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO **FRIENDS OF THE DOMES** OR PROVIDE CREDIT CARD INFORMATION. YOUR PURCHASE IS A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION UNDER IRS 501(C)3.

NAME ON CARD: _____ CARD NUMBER: _____

EXPIRATION: ____/____/____ CSV: _____

Please Check Box(es) to indicate animals you would like to sponsor:

Frogs:

- American Toad—All Domes (Native to North America)
- Coqui Frog—Tropical Dome (Native to Central America)
- Greenhouse Coqui—Tropical Dome (Native to North and Central America)
- Blue and Green Poison Dart Frog—Tropical Dome (Native to Central America)



Fish:

- Koi—Tropical Dome (Native to Asia)



Birds:

- Bishop's Weaver—Tropical Dome (Native to southern Africa)
- Bourke's Parrot—Desert Dome (Native to Australia)
- Green Singing Finch—Tropical Dome (Native to Africa)
- Pekin Robin—Tropical Dome (Native to Asia)
- Red Crested Finch—Tropical Dome (Native to South America)
- Ring-neck Dove—Desert Dome (Native to Asia)
- Society Finch—Tropical Dome (Native to Asia)
- Border Canary—Desert Dome (Native to Canary Islands)
- Zebra Finch—Tropical Dome (Native to Australia)



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www.milwaukeedomes.org

Welcome Our New Feathered Residents!

By Paula Zamiatowski
Conservatory Educator

If you haven't heard, we (the Domes Staff) are in the process of introducing additional birds into the tropical and desert domes. Why? It is a great way to protect our plants from harmful insects. The birds were carefully chosen based on their ancestors' natural habitats from either tropical or desert environments. Hopefully our friends will eat any pests or at least disturb the area around the plants making it difficult for these pests to attach to the plants. For the health

of the birds, their main diet will consist of a diverse variety of seeds, pellets, salad, and selected fruit.

Updates on the progress of our new residents will be posted on the FOD website, milwaukeedomes.org and will appear in future newsletters so that you can be a part of this very exclusive bird watching group.

Read more about our new birds in the Green Sheet article "Flying

through the Desert Skies" [page 7] and at the event Our Feathered Friends, May 27 [see page 3]!



Serinus canaria, from the Canary Islands, one of several birds introduced into the Desert Dome early this year

From the President

By Roger Krawiecki
President, Friends of the Domes

Spring greetings to members as well as our new birds in the Desert and Tropical domes. The Domes are open Thursday evenings through March during the annual winter garden scale train show. The Domes look completely different during the evening hours. If you have never been to the Domes during the evening, you should experience it. Your support by attending events like this is critical to their continuation. Please help us by encouraging friends and family to attend – what a great reason to

get out of the house and get together on a chilly spring evening!

The Domes Advisory Task Force continues to meet. The best way to keep informed is through Milwaukee County's website. county.milwaukee.gov/Domes. The task force currently has a Request for Proposal open regarding the Future Path & Feasibility Study of the Domes. We are working to gather information so we can narrow down the options that are currently on the table.

Keep up-to-date on all of the great events taking place at the Domes by liking the Milwaukee County Parks Domes Facebook page. On

Facebook, search for Mitchell Park Domes @MitchellParkDomes.

The theme of the spring show in the Show Dome is "For the Birds." When you come to see the show, be sure to meet the new birds that have been introduced into the Desert and Tropical Domes. Their vocalization really adds to the experience and benefits the ecosystem.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the FOD or the Domes, please reach out to me. You can contact me by phone, 414-384-0161, or by email, rjkrawiecki@gmail.com.

Volunteer Orientation Sessions

For ALL Volunteer Opportunities—Required General Orientation

Join our great group of volunteers to help with events like Art in the Green, fundraising, greeting, and other activities. In addition to supporting the Friends, volunteers have the opportunity to learn more about the Domes and meet great people. Any current volunteers who have never attended a Friends' volunteer training session are required to attend as well. The session includes a historical film about the Domes and ends with an exclusive Greenhouse Complex tour!

Length: Choose one of the following 3 hour session (includes refreshments)

Date: **Saturday, April 1, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM OR**

Tuesday, April 4, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

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

Co-facilitators: Liz Fehring, Paula Zamiatowski, and Darlene Winter

Jewelry is Fun! Mother's Day Jewelry Show and Sale

Bring mom, grandma, or any other special ladies in your life to the Domes for the "For the Birds" floral show and pick up a special yet very affordable jewelry gift! Or just treat yourself!

When: Sunday, May 14, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

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

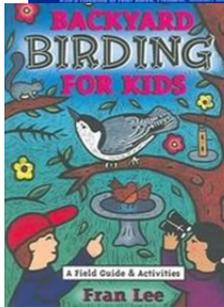
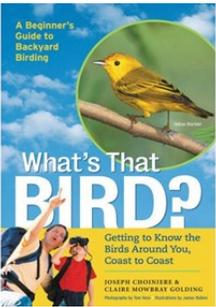
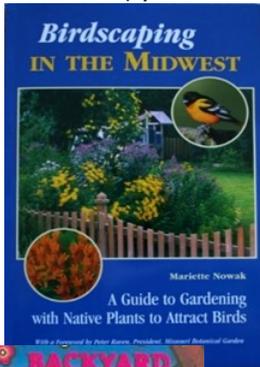


Kids Corner: Wild About Birds

By Paula Zamiatowski
Conservatory Educator

In spring, many of us anticipate seeing migrating birds return. Keep in mind that bird-watching is exciting all year round! Many of Wisconsin's winged residents stick around all year, including some native species that we might take for granted like: robins, blue jays, crows, turkey, owls, cardinals, woodpeckers, nuthatches, house finches, kestrels, some hawks, and grackles.

To begin a bird-watching journey with your family, start with the birds



that are right out your back door [or in the Mitchell Park Domes]. Approximately 60 million Americans use bird feeders to attract more species. Remember, if you put out an invitation for dinner, you may be surprised who accepts your offer...like hawks! Instead, think of providing food with native plantings, supplementing with bird feeders in the lean winter months. To learn more, please go to Audubon.org or pick up a book by a local author who really know Wisconsin birds

A few tips to jumpstart your bird-watching:

- **Start in your own backyard:** Create a bird-friendly backyard. Plant native, bird-friendly plants. Hang bird feeders during the lean winter months and have a birdbath during dry times. Keep cats indoors or on a leash.
- **Improve the view:** Invest in a kid-friendly pair of binoculars to help bring the birds into closer view.



- **Listen** to the sounds of the birds and then try to mimic them. Remember to be quiet, be patient, and try to avoid moving, and you'll see the birds.
- **Invest in a field guide:** Check out a few different guides to local birds from your library to find the one that's right for you.
- **Create your own bird book:** Keep track of what you see. It's the best way to get to know them.
- Make bird watching fun – and safe. Have kids spot the color of the bird's beaks and feet – both key details in identifying birds. Create a bird watching scavenger hunt to turn bird watching into a game.

Enjoy the memories you will make, but leave the stale bread at home. Feeding it to wild birds is strictly prohibited!

March 19 Spring Equinox Celebration-Full Schedule of Events

9:00 AM to 9:30 AM	Healthy Food, Healthy Eating: A Table Talk and Sampling	Tours every 20 to 30 minutes from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Guided Tours of the Desert Dome— Learn about foods, and medicines from the deserts around the world (including aloe and agave) with some samples
9:30 AM to 10:00 AM	Healthy Home, Healthy You: A Table Talk with Andy Pace		Guided Tours of the Tropical Dome— Learn about chocolate and other tropical foods
10:00 AM to Noon	Ms. Kim's Amazing Desert and Tropical Animals	Tours every 20 to 30 minutes from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM	Family friendly exhibits and activities
Noon to 12:30 PM	Tai Chi Ch'uan Center of WI – Tai Chi for Beginners. Everyone is welcome!	All Day	
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM	Laughing with the Animals—Award-winning naturalist, educator and entertainer, David Stokes and his Animal Neighbors.	All Day	Help local birds, bees, and butterflies by ordering plants native to Wisconsin. Plants will be available for pick-up in May at Wehr Nature Center
1:30 PM to 2:00 PM	Tai Chi Ch'uan Center of WI – Tai Chi for Beginners. Everyone is welcome!		Food available for purchase from local food trucks
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Open Mic - Earth Poetry – Welcoming in spring!	All Day	Vendors and exhibitors presenting information and offering products for sale
3:00 PM to 4:00 PM	Dairyland's Finest String Band – Old-timey music at its best with Ted, Heather, Bradley, and Matt		Plus, the Wild West train show will still be in the Show Dome!



For the latest news and information about events, please visit the Friends of the Domes completely redesigned website at www.milwaukeedomes.org

THE DOMES' HORTICULTURISTS Green Sheet

Spring 2017

Flying through the Desert Skies

By Marian French

Horticulturist—Desert Dome

Visit any arid landscape and likely the first animal you encounter will be a bird, whether scratching at the ground or soaring through the sky above. Because they are able to cover long distances and move quickly to find food and water, birds are well adapted to survive in dry ecosystems. The Desert Dome now has a few representatives of these avian desert dwellers – Angus, the Bourke's parrot; Fernando, the canary; and Shafi, Ishaq, Khalil, and Fazil our ring-neck doves.



Bourke's parrot (*Neophema bourkii*)

Native to central and western Australia, the Bourke's parrot (*Neophema bourkii*) is no stranger to arid landscapes. Because this species lives on sandy plains and savannas where days are hot, it has a habit of sleeping or otherwise acting sluggish

when the sun is high. Instead, they are most active in the morning and evening. In the wild, Bourke's parrots usually live in pairs or small family groups, traveling together across the land in search of water and food.

Contrary to popular belief, the Canary Islands are not named after the canary birds that live there, but the large dogs (canines) kept by the natives. Wild canaries (*Serinus canaria*) inhabit the islands, from the forests to semi-desert areas. 17th century Spanish sailors captured some of these pretty birds and brought them back to Europe, where they became popular in the royal courts. Because they have been bred in captivity for centuries, there are many breeds with wide variations in color and singing ability.

Ring-neck doves (*Streptopilia risoria*) have been domesticated for so long no one is sure when or where they were first tamed by people, but it is thought to have been somewhere in the Middle East. Their wild counterparts are native to dry savannas from Saudi Arabia through northern Africa. Because they are normally so gentle and tame, doves are known as a natural symbol of peace. However, males will fight each other over territory, so we have made sure that each of our boys has his own space in the dome.

While these three species are from different continents, they all enjoy a



Ring-neck dove (*Streptopilia risoria*)

similar diet including treats and purchased birdseed. Some of the cacti in the collection, like the wax cactus (*Neobuxbaumia polylopha*), produce nutritional seeds that are accessible to the birds after their fruits split open in late summer. And as they forage through the Desert Dome, they will pick aphids and other pests off of the trees and succulents, contributing to our natural management of plant health.

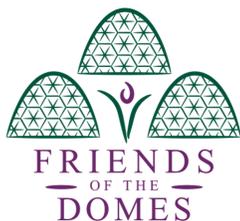
Just by flying through the conservatory, or perching high in the palm trees, our new desert birds add flashes of color and action to the garden experience. In the quiet of the morning, the cooing of the ring-neck doves can bring up images of early Arizona sunrises in the wilderness. The cheerful yellow of the canary and the red and blue of the Bourke's parrot can just as easily transport visitors to an exotic country far away. With these new inhabitants, the Desert Dome ecosystem feels a little more complete.

Gifts Under Glass

This spring at the Domes, we're celebrating all that birds bring to our world. Shop Gifts Under Glass at the Domes or online to bring the celebration home—bird gifts will also make great Mother's Day gifts for any special lady in your life! Remember FOD members always receive 10% off of purchases from the gift shop.

Remember, members may still purchase gift memberships for 50% off—until April 2.





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Upcoming Events

Thursdays through March 30 Conservatory open until 9:00 PM
Saturdays through April 8 Winter Farmer's Market*
March 4 Gardens and Gears Steampunk Event
March 19 Spring Equinox Celebration
April 22 Very Fairy Princess Day
May 6-7 Art in the Green**
May 14 Jewelry is Fun! Mother's Day Show/ Sale
June 3-4 Torii Gate Festival
June 19-23 Pollinator Week

*Winter Farmer's Market Hours: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Friends of the Domes fundraising event. Admission rates apply.