



Inside the Domes

MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

UPCOMING FLORAL SHOWS

- June 10—
September 10
Ultra Violet
- September 23—
November 5
Flower Power



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Celebrating our Pollinator Super Heroes!

By Paula Zamiatowski
Conservatory Educator

National Pollinator Week is a time to celebrate pollinators and share practical information about what we can do to protect them. Mitchell Park Domes Education Center's Pollinator Heroes Week is an open camp kids can attend for regular Domes admission rates. Kids can participate in activities including hikes, tours, demonstrations, and crafts each day from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM from June 19 through June 23. Visitors are invited to explore pollination, ask questions, and to find out how they can help hard-working local and global pollinators. Come one or all days, no registration required!

Daily themes: **Monday-** The Unhuggables; **Tuesday-** Butterflies/Moths; **Wednesday-** Birds; **Thursday-** Bees; **Friday-** Mammals.

Understanding the flowering plant-pollinator relationship is vital to life as we know it. Most often, flowering plants cannot live without their pollinating partner. Plants need pollinators to transfer heavy pollen and produce the next generation of that plant species.



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Around the World with Bats in a Day— The Wisconsin Bat Festival

By Paula Zamiatowski
Conservatory Educator

We are very excited to announce that the Wisconsin Bat Festival is coming to Mitchell Park Domes on August 26. The WI Bat Festival has travelled to other locations in the past and this year it's here! Celebrate the unique and vital role of bats in ecosystems as pollinators, seed-dispersers, and insect eaters. Join us in the fight against the misinformation and baseless fear which end up threatening bats and their habitats around the world.

The festival features activities for children, families, educators, and conservation professionals everywhere. Presentations, speakers, live animals, hands-on activities, games for kids, and interactive exhibits provide a full day of fun, environmental education. There will be guided tours in the tropical and desert Domes to learn about bat-dependent plants at the Domes and around the world.

Our featured speaker, Rob Mies, executive director of the Organization for Bat Conservation, will present *Bats of the World*. This



presentation provides a unique opportunity to get close to bats from around the world! See the world's largest bat, a Malayan flying fox that has a wing span of six feet as well as fruit bats from Africa and Asia, vampire bats, and Wisconsin's native bat species. During the festival, the Bat Science Symposium will feature bat and WNS experts from USGS National Wildlife Health Center, US Forest Service, universities and Wisconsin DNR. Presenters will address a variety of topics, including the latest white-nose syndrome research and the state's response to the recent arrival of this devastating bat-killing invasive fungus. Finally, to round out your day, you can join the bat experts for a Science Night where we

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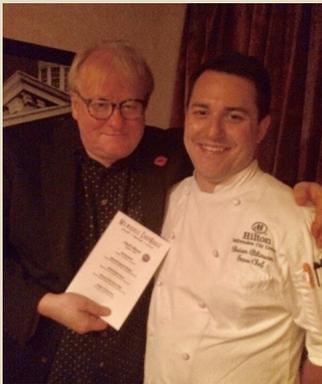
Save the Date— September 28

Mystery Chef Dinner

Our second annual Mystery Chef Dinner will be held the evening of Thursday, September 28. The fall issue of the Friends of the Domes newsletter will contain more details and an invitation. Please RSVP with the number of people (up to 10) you would like to bring.

The evening will begin at 5:30 at the Domes for a cocktail hour and Silent Auction offering fun, decorative, and exciting items on which to bid. At the end of the cocktail hour, the mystery will be solved! You will receive an envelope with the name of one of Milwaukee's best restaurants where you and your party will be dining with red carpet treatment at a chef's table.

Don't miss this unforgettable night of fine dining in support of the Domes!



From the President

By Roger Krawiecki
President, Friends of the Domes



The Domes Advisory Task Force has been working hard to review proposed plans for the Conservatory. We have been in the news lately, but want to assure you that any numbers you have heard have been very preliminary estimates. We are not even close to making any decisions about the future of the Domes.

This spring, a six-person steering committee reviewed and scored the plans that were submitted by seven local and national engineering teams. After scoring the submissions, the committee narrowed the list to four teams and invited them to the Domes for interviews. Additional scoring occurred during the interview process. Two submissions ended up with the highest scores. The committee recommended the team led by the Milwaukee office of HGA Architects and Engineers. The task force accepted this recommendation and has started efforts to engage this team to start the process.

Funding for the next 2 phases needs to be allocated. Then the work begins to review the facility, define what the community needs, and refine the construction estimates. Please be patient because this will take time to complete. In the meantime, the Domes will remain open for everyone to enjoy.

With this issue of our newsletter, we are kicking off our annual appeal. Without your donations and support of our fundraisers, we cannot continue to provide the Domes the additional support the facility needs. Anything you can do to help is appreciated. Ways to help include: sponsoring an animal to cover food and medical costs, purchasing a show dome paver to fund plants for the show dome, donating a raffle item for one of our fundraisers, volunteering your time, making a cash donation to help support educational programming, and buying gift memberships. Everything adds up. The Friends of the Domes can't do what we do for the Domes without your support.

We will see you at the summer show—Ultraviolet. If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Friends or the Domes, please reach out to me. You can contact me at rjkrawiecki@gmail.com or 414-384-0161.

Pollinator Week from page 1

Imagine a world without pollinators. Many of the foods and traditions that are part of our daily lives as human beings would be gone. No more morning cups of coffee, nibbles of chocolate, sips of wine with dinner, or gum to chew during baseball games.

Over 75% of the world's food crops depend at least in part on pollination by insects and other animals. There are thousands of species that pollinate flowers with more than 20,000 species of wild bees alone involved in pollination along with butterflies,



flies, moths, wasps, beetles, birds, bats, slugs, frogs, and other animals. Many of these species are currently threatened with extinction, presenting a serious risk for plants around the world. This threatens food, medicines, and raw materials, impacting every facet of our lives.

According to several recent reports on threats to pollinators worldwide, an estimated 16 percent of pollinators are threatened with global extinction. So, have a substitute pollinator, right? Not quite. The pollinating partners tend to be species-specific just like a lock and key where there is only one match or fit. Pollinators are often keystone species, meaning that they are critical to an ecosystem. The work of pollinators ensures full harvests

of crops and contributes to healthy plants everywhere. Join us and learn how you and your family can help pollinator species around the world.



When: Each day from June 19 through June 23, 9:00 AM to noon. Stay the whole time or for just part. Activities can be done with our group or at your own pace. Different activities each day—join us for one or more days.

Cost: FOD Members **free**; Regular admission rates apply for non-members;

From the Director's Lawn Chair

By Sandy Foloran
Director, Mitchell Park Domes

Summer is finally here! We are preparing for the seasonal change with a new floral show in the Show Dome: Ultra Violet. A mix of lavenders, purples, and eclectic artwork will produce a lovely backdrop for our visitors and summer events. Look closely at the artwork and you'll see our parks artist's handiwork in the creative reuse of recycled materials!

On the long awaited strategic planning front, Phase 1 & 2 have been

awarded to HGA and ConsultEcon Inc. This welcomed news arrives as we begin the year-long process of determining the future of our Conservatory and the various options that might be considered. The interaction, feedback, and continued dialogue with our supporters will help to create a vision and future for our operations here. Please stay involved and engaged to make sure that your voice is heard and counted!

New faces at the Domes! This year



will have brought 3 new horticulturists to our team! With that also comes new perspectives, changes, and projects. We have begun to stage a station called the *Kid's Spot* for our younger visitors. This gives them an opportunity to interact with a horticulturist, educator, or the parks artist during their visit. It will provide a hands-on experience that will enhance their time here and create memories and a connection to our mission.

Happy gardening! When you are ready for a break, the Ultra Violet show will provide a perfect escape!

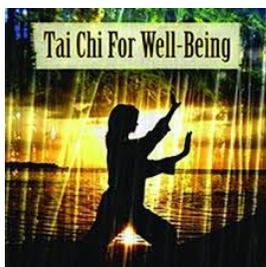
Introduction to T'ai Chi

T'ai Chi Ch'uan is a traditional Chinese exercise practiced for health, relaxation, meditation, and self-defense. The instructors at the T'ai Chi Ch'uan Center of Milwaukee have been offering training for over 40 years. If you would like to try it without committing to an entire series of classes, join us for a special Conservatory Introduction on Thursday, June 29, 2017 or Thursday, August 24, 2017. Register on our website.

- 5:30 PM – 6:00 PM Check in and tour the conservatory
- 6:00 PM – 6:30 PM Introduction and Video of Practice
- 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM Presentation
- 7:30 PM – 8:00 PM Hands-on Practice

When: Thursday, June 29; 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM
OR Thursday, August 24 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

Cost for each session: Friends of the Domes Members \$10; Non-members \$17



Kendra Scott Jewelry Event to benefit the Domes

Kendra Scott, a local Wisconsin jewelry designer whose beautiful work is dazzling customers of Nordstrom's and other major retailers, is holding a fundraising event for the Domes! Join us at her Brookfield location for sips, sweets, and jewels—20% of proceeds benefit the Domes!

For more details, call (608) 709-7250

When: Tuesday, June 20 5:30 PM to 7:30 PM

Where: Kendra Scott at the Corners of Brookfield, 237 High Street, Brookfield, WI



From the Ed Center: Microgreens Workshop

Grow delicious nutrient powerhouses in your own home! Microgreens are the tender, tasty seedlings of edible plants including basil, sunflower, and kale. Fine-dining chefs started the trend which has spread to home kitchens everywhere! This two-hour workshop includes: an array of samples and a presentation on techniques, tools, seed, and soil choices. A final hands-on segment will allow you to start your own microgreens to enjoy at home. Please register on our website.



When: Friday, June 9 1:00 PM 3:00 PM OR Wednesday, August 23, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Cost: FOD Members \$10; Non-members \$17

A Special Thank You

By Deb Schiel, Resource Development

The Friends of the Domes would like to thank the Dan and Sheila Vander Sanden Family Foundation Fund. Their support provided Friends of the Domes memberships to three local organizations: the Ronald McDonald House, VA Medical Center-Fisher House, and Clement J. Zablocki VA Hospital. Thanks to their generosity, families and individuals served by these organizations will have the opportunity to visit the Domes and experience the healing, calming, rejuvenating powers of the plants, trees, animals, and sunlight that fill our conservatory.



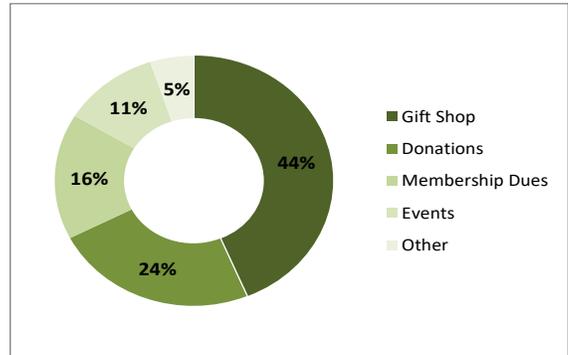
New Beginnings



As the Friends of the Domes begins a new fiscal year of supporting the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory (the “Domes”), we want to thank you, our members, for your continued support of our mission. The impact of your support through your membership and donations to our organization goes far beyond your financial commitment and truly impacts the lives of people throughout South-eastern Wisconsin. Because of you, all who visit the Domes experience a connection to the three unique, diverse, global environments at the Conservatory. The Domes are an oasis in an urban environment!

Over the past year, gifts to the Friends of the Domes from generous supporters like you have touched the lives of **thousands of children** in our region through educational programming, have supported the world class plant collection, and have funded facility upgrades to enhance visitor experience. This support compliments, but is separate, from the support provided by Milwaukee County, and as such is critical to maintaining and improving this horticultural treasure making Milwaukee a healthier, happier community.

As a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, the Friends of the Domes counts on membership dues and charitable giving to provide much needed support to the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, but membership dues only provide 16% of the Friend’s operating revenue. **Twenty-four percent** of our annual cash receipts are thanks to the generosity of thousands of small and large gifts from Milwaukee Domes friends who believe that Southeastern Wisconsin deserves a world-class conservatory.



Your past donations to the Friends of the Domes have provided nearly a million dollars in support to the Conservatory through:

- Educational programming for adults and school aged children though wellness and horticultural classes, as well as continuing education classes for the horticultural staff
- The care and expansion of the world class plant collection
- Support for the animals that live within the Domes to control insects and bring the color and sounds of their native environment alive
- The maintenance and enhancement of this magnificent conservatory, most recently through new audio and video equipment in the lobby and annex, signage throughout the Domes, and the new digital sign at the entrance to the facility
- Sustainable gardening and landscaping at the facility

Please consider providing your support to the Friends of the Domes today. Your donation, no matter how large or small, will help us to continue our mission of supporting southeastern Wisconsin’s premier horticultural conservatory. We are so grateful to you for sponsoring our work at the Conservatory and beyond!

Yours sincerely,

Roger Krawiecki
Friends of the Domes Board President

Sally Sullivan
Executive Director, Friends of the Domes



When you donate to the Friends of the Domes, do you wonder where your money goes?

Here is just a sample of what the FOD has accomplished in recent years with the help of our donors:

Supporting amazing plants and animals



Horticulturist Marian French with Steve the Bearded Dragon and her favorite strange, wonderful desert plant "Mr. Boojum"

Adding to our world-class plant collection

Several exciting Mediterranean plant additions are coming to the Show Dome perimeter thanks to generous donations from the Friends. I am especially excited to start growing grapevines and honeysuckle under glass!

Maria Telikiozoglou,
Show Dome Horticulturist.

A new digital outdoor sign



Communicating information about events and floral shows to everyone!

New doors to each Dome



Accessible, energy efficient, and beautiful

A butterfly garden



The beautiful butterfly garden outside Conservatory Annex.
Welcome pollinators!

Educational experiences

The Education Center could not operate without the support of the Friends of the Domes. Everything except the salary of the Conservatory Interpretive Educator is funded by the Friends.

Paula Zamiatowski,
Interpretive Educator

Thank you for your support!

___ \$15 Support an animal for a year ___ \$125 Support our plant collection ___ \$250 Underwrite a class field trip for 50 students

\$_____ Other amount. You may designate where your donation will be directed:

- ___ Conservatory plant collection
- ___ Education Center programming
- ___ Dr. & Mrs. John Thomas Education Scholarship Fund
- ___ Facility Improvements
- ___ Animal Support

Mail this form with check or CC information to:
Friends of the Domes
524 S. Layton Blvd.,
Milwaukee, WI 53215
or

Donate on our website: www.milwaukeekeedomes.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____ CVC Code: _____

Wisconsin Bat Festival, from Cover page

will watch bats emerge at sunset and talk about more amazing aspects of the bat world, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM at the Mitchell Park Domes.

When: Saturday, August 26, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM; Science Night 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Cost: FOD members **free**; Regular admission rates apply for non-members;



A Dragon in the Domes!

By Sally Sullivan, FOD Executive Director

Thank you to all of the members who are sponsoring our new Animal Educators here at the Domes!



Bearded Dragon, species "Pogona"

We are pleased to announce the addition of another very special resident. Meet Steve B. Dragon, a bearded dragon who was recently adopted from a reptile rescue. His ancestors are from Australia so you can find him in the Desert Dome in the oasis area near the sitting area. He is named after Steve Irwin. You have to admit – he's pretty cute – and he seems to know it. Help provide Steve food and medical care by sponsoring him for only \$30.

For details, go to <https://milwaukeehomes.org/animal-sponsorship>

Citizen Science: Evening Bat Walks

Mitchell Park has been selected as one of ten Urban Bat Project partners by the Organization for Bat Conservation (OBC). The objectives of this initiative are to address the needs of bats in ten major city centers and to educate the public about our local ecosystem, increase scientific literacy, and create a meaningful connection between humans and wildlife.



In the wake of the invasive fungal infection causing White-nose Syndrome (WNS), many of the once-abundant, North American cave-hibernating bat populations have been significantly re-

duced. In addition, habitat loss has long been a major threat to bat populations globally and remains a major cause of population decline.

This study provides an opportunity to better understand why native and migratory species seem to be less affected by WNS in urban areas. Join us for one of the three bat-monitoring walks that will be conducted in Mitchell Park this summer. Each evening will begin with a presentation and an up-close look

at live native Wisconsin bats that have been rescued by WHS Wildlife Center. Workshop participants will learn how to conduct an acoustic monitoring survey using an innovative combination of hardware and software that lets you listen to, record, and identify bats in real-time using your iPad or iPhone. Register on our website for all walks—each limited to 40 people so sign up early. Each of the 3 days will have roughly the same presentation, but we may see different bats.

June Walk: Friday, June 30 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM; register by June 20

July Walk: Friday, July 28 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM; register by July 18

August Walk: Friday, August 25 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM; register by August 15

Cost per walk: Friends of the Domes Members \$8; Non-members \$15

Kids Corner: Bat Reads

Add a few bat books to your summer reading list! All are available for purchase at the Gifts Under Glass giftshop and remember FOD members always get 10% off gift shop purchases!

- **Bats in the Library:** Join the free-for-all fun at the public library with these book-loving bats! Shape shadows on walls, frolic in the water fountain, and roam the book-filled halls until it's time for everyone, young and old, to settle down into the enchantment of story time.

- **Nightsong:** *Sense is the song you sing out into the world, and the song the world sings back to you.* With these words, Chiro's mother sends him off into the night for the first time alone. It's an adventure, but how will he find his way? And how will he find his way home? As the young bat discovers, navigating the world around him is easy as long as he uses his good sense.



- **Stellaluna:** Stellaluna is separated from Mother Bat and taken in by a family of birds where she must put aside her bat habits to fit in with her new family. But one fateful flight when she is separated from her adoptive siblings, Stellaluna is reunited with her bat family and learns that even though we're different, we're very much the same.

You'll find books about other pollinator heroes in the gift shop too!

Gifts Under Glass

Visit the giftshop for all of the bat books featured in Kids Corner and other great gifts! Support the Domes and, remember, FOD members always receive 10% off of purchases!

THE DOMES' HORTICULTURISTS Green Sheet

Summer 2017

Nighttime Floral Visitors



By Marian French

Horticulturist—Desert Dome

Most outdoor gardens practically buzz with bee activity during the long, hot days of summer. But in some parts of the world, particularly tropical forests and deserts, many plant species open their flowers at night for nocturnal visits...from bats.

Flowers that attract the attention of bats tend to share certain characteristics. Their blooms are large and sturdy to support a bat's weight. The flowers are either dull and darkly colored or pale white. They drip with lots of extra nectar as a food reward and emit scents of fermented fruit. The pollen is usually arranged in a brush-like structure to catch on fur. The petals are usually cupped into a deep bell shape that reflects back echolocation sounds, making the flower's position obvious to a hungry bat.

Prime examples of chiropterophilous [bat-loving] species whose flowers can be observed in the Domes include the sausage tree (*Kigelia africana*), the cannonball tree (*Couroupita guianensis*), bananas (*Musa sp.*), the queen of the night cactus (*Hylocereus undatus*), and the woolly torch cactus (*Cephalocereus*

palmeri). And, while they are not usually visible blooming, many agaves found in the Desert Dome, including the tequila agave (*Agave tequiliana*); the saguaro (*Carnegiea gigantea*); and the kapok tree (*Ceiba pentandra*) in the Tropical Dome are bat-pollinated in their native habitats.

Because of the variety of pollen that these species would receive from bat visitors in the wild, many of them do not produce fruit in the Domes, at least not on their own. Several attempts to hand-pollinate the cannonball tree and the queen of the night failed because it seems they require pollen from other individuals. The sausage tree used to be fruitless until several years ago when a partnership was formed between



Flower from the Cannonball Tree (*Couroupita guianensis*)

selfes without help, as is the case with the banana plants in the Tropical Dome. Both the 'Ice Cream' and 'Raja Puri' cultivars are known as "self-fruitful" meaning no pollinators are required for them to fruit. However, wild bananas in their native habitat of southeast Asia are dependent upon bats for reproduction. Because commercial banana plantations consist of plants that are essentially clones of each other, and thus very vulnerable to disease. If a virus infected one field, it would spread quickly since each clone has the same weaknesses. This is the scenario that led to the historical potato blight that ravaged Ireland. Maintaining a wild, genetically diverse population, and also preserving their pollinators, is vital to future breeding operations for bananas and other important species.

While the bats that live near Mitchell Park in Milwaukee are out each night eliminating mosquitos and other pesky insects, their cousins down in Mexico, Africa, and beyond are slurping nectar and making fruits happen. Though most of it happens out of sight, we certainly enjoy the benefits.



The Sausage Tree (*Kigelia africana*)

the Domes and the Garfield and Lincoln conservatories in Chicago. At least once a year flowers are swapped between the facilities so hand-pollination can be performed. Because the pollen is genetically different, the sausage tree is able to form the impressively huge sausage fruits that so enthrall visitors.

Sometimes, cultivated varieties can be bred to simply pollinate them-



Flower from the Sausage Tree

