



## UPCOMING FLORAL SHOWS

- November 18, 2017-  
January 7, 2018—Naughty  
or Nice Holiday Show
- January 20—March 18  
Railroad to Wonderland  
Train Show
- March 31—May 28  
Shakespeare in Love

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# Inside the Domes

MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY

## An Unforgettable New Year's Eve for the Whole Family!

By Liz Fehring, Events Coordinator

This year, when you are making plans for the holidays, remember the New Year's Eve Family Celebration at the Domes! One of Milwaukee's only indoor, family-friendly event in the city takes place Sunday, December 31 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

Last year we dazzled visitors of all ages with an awesome new balloon drop. This year's balloon drop will be even bigger! Exciting entertainment throughout the night will include a DJ Dance Party with DJ Mike Sherwood, live entertainment with The Garlic Mustard Pickers, Magician Rick Allen, Fire Dancers and A Drum Circle, a give-away at the door, balloon artists, face painting, and lots more fun for the whole family. Food and Beverages will be available for purchase from Zilli's Hospitality Group. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit our website at [www.milwaukeehomes.org](http://www.milwaukeehomes.org). Tickets can also be purchased at the Domes gift shop, Gifts Under Glass.

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## In Honor of You: EXCLUSIVE Member Appreciation Night January 19

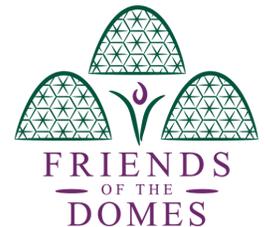
By Sally Sullivan, FOD Executive Director

You, our FOD members, are very important to us, and we want you to know how much we appreciate you! On Friday, January 19 from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM you are invited to the Friends of the Domes Membership Appreciation Night.

Jus for you:

- Get an exclusive sneak peak at the Train Show: Railroad to Wonderland
- Enjoy complimentary food and beverage
- Receive special discounts on Domes merchandise
- View the premier of a historic slide show on the Domes through the years.
- Enjoy live music in the Show Dome along with several exciting light shows

- Tour the Conservatory Greenhouses – rarely open to the public
- Meet your Friends of the Domes Board of Directors
- Renew your membership that night and receive two months free
- Bring a friend who may want to join the Friends of the Domes. Your guest will be entered into a drawing for a free membership!



**When:** Friday, January 19, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM

**Cost:** Complimentary for Friends members.  
**Please RSVP** to the FOD by January 12; call 414-257-5608 or email [friendsofthedomes@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthedomes@gmail.com)

## From the Director's Chair

By Sandy Folaron, Mitchell Park Domes Director

In the last few months, it has been my pleasure to work with our Educator, Paula Zamiatowski, on sorting and categorizing archival files that had been in storage for quite a while at the Mitchell Park Pavilion. This discovery not only verified some of the information we had believed to be true, but filled in details about the history of the Park and creation of the old Victorian style Conservatory built in 1898 that we had only guessed at! The record keeping was generally hand-written or typed and the photos filled in a lot of details as well as captured a moment in time that the words could not.

Looking at the history and the evolution of Mitchell Park really made it clear how important parks have always been to the welfare and quality of life that we enjoy here in Milwaukee County. Mitchell Park was home to a French fur trader; Jacques Vieau who used the Menomonee River to connect to his customers traveling through the Valley. Ownership of this land was held by some of Milwaukee's first founding families like the Mitchells and the Burnham's that later donated or sold the acreage for public use as a park. Development included a lagoon excavation with rowboats to rent, a lily pond and bog garden, a rock grotto with a matching fountain, not one but two dance pavilions which were quite popular, tennis courts, toboggan slide, several boathouses and concession stands and, of course, the old Conservatory equipped with its own greenhouses and formal gardens. From these photos, it is clear that people came in droves to use these amenities and that this park was dearly loved and taken care of!

It is not as clear right now as to how much of that legacy and history will be carried forth as we try and reach a consensus of the next step in the role and life of this Conservatory and the park it resides in. But just as those residents saw a bright and viable future in the past century, so should we! There will always be monetary constraints, differences of opinion, and political hurdles that will challenge that vision. But a compromise must be reached in order to keep moving forward and serve the generations that follow us. That is our task and our legacy. So stay connected, be vocal, and be informed.

Happy Holidays and New Year's wishes from our Domes family to yours!



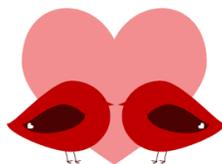
## Hearts Under Glass -Valentine's Evening at the Domes

Add the romantic atmosphere of the Domes at night to your Valentine's evening plans. The Domes will be open on Wednesday, February 14 from 6:00 PM until 9:00 PM to compliment your evening out with someone special. Cocktails, small plate dining selections, and desserts will be available for purchase. Stroll the softly lit Domes, take a walk in the moonlit Desert Dome, spend a romantic moment in the Tropics, enjoy a spectacular light show amid the *Railroad to Wonderland Train Show* in the Show Dome. If you are looking for a fun, unique memento of the evening, a caricature artist will be on hand.

Admission is \$10.00 per person. For more information or to buy tickets, please go to our website at [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org).

**When:** Wednesday, February 14, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Cost:** \$10 per person



## Looking to Go Greener in 2018? Opt to receive your FOD newsletter electronically

If you would prefer to receive future issues of this newsletter electronically, please email Sally at [friendsofthedomes@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthedomes@gmail.com) to indicate your preference.

If you do not periodically receive emails from us, we probably do not have your current email address on file. Please know that we will **never** sell your email or use it for anything other than FOD updates. Email [friendsofthedomes@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofthedomes@gmail.com) if you need to update your email address or any other contact information.

Thank you for helping us to keep you informed of everything happening at the Domes in a format that suits your needs and makes the best financial use of the funds you entrust to us in our mission to support the Domes.



## Holiday Show in the Show Dome

Everyone—naughty or nice—will want to visit the Show Dome until January 18 to enjoy the Holiday Show this season. Santa usually puts FOD Members on his “Nice” list, so you will find yourself in good company!

Visitors to the show get a behind-the-scenes view of the elves at the North Pole. Some elves are making toys in the workshop or creating havoc in the wrapping department, while others are hiding in the flower-filled displays, keeping an eye on the girls and boys who visit. Young guests have the opportunity to write letters to Santa and mail them at the special holiday mailbox.

The focal point of the show is the 25-foot holiday tree, encircled by a paper garland. On closer look, visitors see that the garland is actually Santa’s list of who’s naughty or nice. The tree is decked in red, green, blue, and white ornaments and lights.

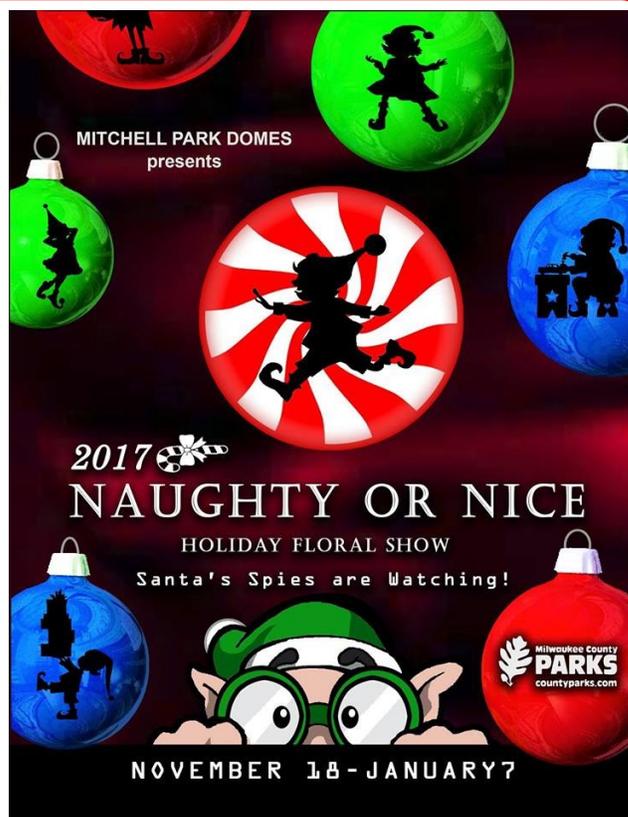
## Santa Under Glass

Bring the kids to the Domes to meet the official first couple of Christmas and their helpful reindeer Rudolph! This is a perfect opportunity to take fun, memorable holiday photos!



**When:** Sunday, December 3, Saturday, December 9, and Saturday, December 16, 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Cost:** Free to FOD members; Non-members, regular admission rates apply.

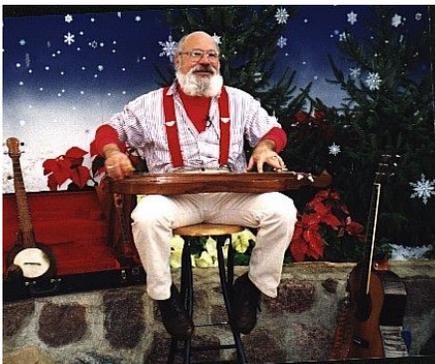


## Holiday Performance by Troubadour David HB Drake

Celebrate the holiday season with David HB Drake, a troubadour from Wisconsin. He will perform his *Let There Be Light* concert at the Domes for visitors to enjoy. The concert offers a seasonal collection of little-known folk songs played on handmade instruments.

**When:** Sunday, December 17, 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM

**Cost:** Free to FOD members; Non-members, regular admission rates apply.



## Winter Farmer's Market

The Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market is open in the Greenhouse Annex every Saturday through April 14! **Parking and admission to the market are free.** This popular market brings together about 50 vendors each week. There, agricultural vendors offer high quality fruit, vegetables, meat, eggs, poultry, and dairy products. Local food vendors also bring a wide variety of freshly baked goods, jams, cider, honey, maple syrup, sauces, and soups, as well as prepared hot food and coffee.

The Friends of the Domes will also be there each week with a selection of items from the gift shop – Gifts Under Glass. Shop for holiday gifts while you support the conservatory!

The Milwaukee Winter Farmers Market is operated by the Fondy Food Center. The mission of the Fondy Food Center is to connect neighborhoods to fresh, local food - from farm to market to table.

**When:** Saturdays, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Cost:** Free admission to the market located in the Annex

## Gifts Under Glass

### Find Unique Holiday Gifts!

From fine chocolates to puzzles, ornaments, games, plants, books, and jewelry the gift shop has something for everyone on your list! We also have great new tote bags—**Go green and give your gifts in Domes totes this season!**

Every purchase benefits the Domes—speaking of benefits, Friends members always save 10% on gift shop purchases!

Prefer to shop from home? Visit our shop online at [www.milwaukeehomes.org](http://www.milwaukeehomes.org)!



## Purchase a Personalized Paver Before the Cost Increase!

Make a permanent statement! Commemorate a loved one or special occasion with a paver in the Show Dome.

Pavers currently cost \$125 each, but the cost will go up to \$150 after January 1, 2018.

To access the order form, click <https://milwaukeehomes.org/engraved-paver> OR

go to [www.milwaukeehomes.com](http://www.milwaukeehomes.com). Click Get Involved at the top menu, then select Engraved Paver. Click Mail-in Order Form to download the form, print the form and mail it to us with your payment.

*Note: Not to worry, these pavers will be included in any future plans for the facility.*



**WOW! What an amazing holiday gift!**

## Celebrating a Shared History...

In celebration of our 50th Anniversary, we asked you to send us your favorite pictures and stories of memorable times at the Domes. Just in time for the holidays, we're delighted to share Elizabeth Simpson's warm holiday memories...



Thank you to FOD member Elizabeth Simpson for sharing photos of her family's cherished holiday tradition to visit the Domes! This multi-generational tradition began in the mid-80s when she was a child. Elizabeth visited the Domes with her family every Christmas Eve then they all went home for Christmas brunch. She carries on that tradition with her husband and her two young daughters. She and her husband, Dave, had their engagement pictures taken at the Domes as well.

## From the President

By Roger Krawiecki, FOD President

Task Force meetings are held in the Domes lobby from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM. The next meetings will be December 12 and January 16. Please plan on attending a meeting. I would appreciate having as many members as possible attend meetings to get involved and show your support of the process. If time permits, there are also opportunities for members or the public to speak at the end of the meeting. We really need member support to keep the focus on our outstanding plant collection.

You can stay informed on the progress of the Task Force on our website. <https://milwaukeehomes.org/domes-future>

We just completed our financial audit for fiscal year 2016/2017. Donations increased over last year. As a result, we were also able to increase our financial support. Our membership stayed about the same as last year. Our net assets increased by \$113,138. The Friends of the Domes organization is in a very healthy state.

During the fiscal year, the Friends held several fundraisers: Mystery Chef, Dinner Ghosts Under Glass, New Year's Eve, Hearts Under Glass, and Art in the Green. We raised \$23,171 with an attendance of 4,276. This means we averaged a revenue of \$5.42 per person. I would like to thank all our members that attended these events and paid admission. These are our only fundraisers and your support of them is appreciated.

We also would not be able to hold these events without our dedicated staff, volunteers, and Milwaukee County Parks support.

Please keep talking up the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory and encourage your friends to visit, especially during the holidays.

Wishing everyone a magical holiday. Thanks for being a Friend.

## 2018 Train Show in the Show Dome—Railroad to Wonderland



## Gardens & Gears: Steampunk Wonderland

Join us for our 4th annual Gardens & Gears Steampunk Wonderland Faire Saturday, March 3 from 9 AM to 5 PM. This one-day family-friendly event celebrates the eclectic life styles of the steampunk genre, including everything from the Victorian era to an alternative past with a "wonderland twist"! The event, set against the backdrop of the themed "Railroad to Wonderland" Model Train Show, offers a variety of experiences and vendors including makers, artists, clothiers, and collectors of gadgets and innovative creations!

Dress up in your best steampunk outfit or as your favorite wonderland character and enjoy food, music and all that comes with "falling down the rabbit hole" at the Domes!

**When:** Saturday, March 3, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

**Cost:** Free to FOD members; Non-members, regular admission rates apply.



# Brighten Up Your Winter—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 New Year’s Eve, Valentine’s Day, Art in the Green, and Ghosts Under Glass
- 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.

**ALL 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)

Tuesday, January 16, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM **OR**

Saturday, January 27, 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

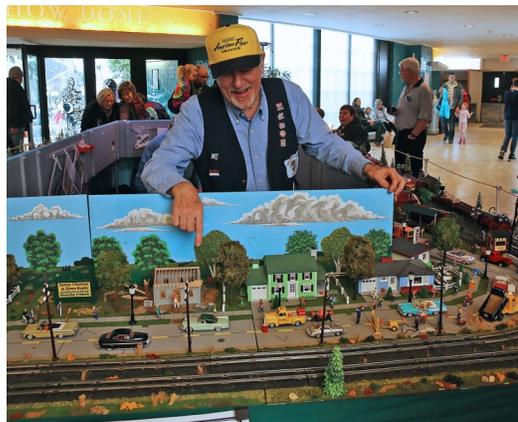
Registration is required. Please contact Darlene Winter at domesvolunteer@gmail.com to register.

## All Scale Train Lobby Exhibit

A delight for train enthusiasts of all ages! A wide variety of train layouts in various scales will fill the Domes lobby while the Train Show steams along in the Show Dome.

**When:** February 10-11, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Cost:** Free to FOD members; Non-members, regular admission rates apply.



*New Year’s Eve from page 1*

**When:** Sunday, December 31, 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

**Cost:** \$10 for adults and children over 2; children under 2 are **free**. Special fundraising event: Membership passes and Mitchell Park coupons not valid for this event.



## 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, perfect for children ages 4-7 to attend with parents. Please leave all food, drinks, water, and loud voices behind in the lobby area.

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

Date	Theme
12/11/2017	Penguins and Polar Bears
12/18/2017	Winter and Snowflakes
1/8/2018	<i>The Mitten</i> by Jan Brett
1/15/2018	Plants and Animals in Winter
1/22/2018	Trains

Date	Theme
1/29/2018	Ground Hogs
2/5/2018	Plants Underground
2/12/2018	Trains
2/19/2018	Deserts
2/16/2018	Rainforests

## Gifts Under Glass

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

# THE DOMES' HORTICULTURISTS Green Sheet

Winter 2017

## Amaryllis: A Stunning Perennial for the Holiday Season

By Peter Smiley  
FOD Board Member

A perennial favorite of the holiday season is the gorgeous Amaryllis. There are over 700 different hybrids of these South American relatives of the daffodil. Their enormous flowers are always a show-stopper and can regularly reach 10 inches in size. To see them in a naturalistic setting, look for them along pathways in the Tropical Dome!

To grow your own, plant the bulbs upright (pointed-end up) in a peat based potting mix 4 to 6 weeks before you want the blooms to open. The pot should be large enough to allow for 1 to 2 inches of potting mix around the bulb. Use a heavy pot, as a lightweight pot may tip over under the heavy weight of the blooms.

Water when the soil feels dry; the soil should not be too wet. Indirect sunlight and cool household temperatures will ensure long bloom times.

Turn the pot each day to keep the stem straight. You may need to add a support stake to support the stem and keep the blooms upright. If conditions are good, you can expect almost a month out of the flowers. As the flowers start to fade long, strap-like leaves will appear.

Where these plants differ from daffodils is that they don't need a dormant period to rebloom. You can just move the plant to a sunny window, and in a few months, you will see another flower stalk begin to emerge. If you want to make sure the next blooms coincide with next year's holidays, move the plant to a cool dark place and let it dry out for 10 weeks before bringing it out of dormancy.

*Amaryllis bulbs can be ordered from online retailers or purchased at most gardening centers.*



## Bonsai Silhouette Show

The Milwaukee Bonsai Society's *Winter Silhouettes*, an exhibit focusing on the form of intricately pruned dwarf trees, will be on view 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM **February 4, 2018**.

Bonsai resemble very old trees as part of a natural landscape. This exhibit gives the visitor the opportunity to view that stark beauty in the 'raw,' that is, without the dressing of buds, leaves and flowers. Only deciduous trees will be on display. Species may include maple, hornbeam, elm, hawthorn, apple, crabapple, pomegranate, crape myrtle, ginkgo, larch, and swamp cypress.

Members of the Milwaukee Bonsai Society will be on hand to answer visitors' questions.





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Diane Miller	Sally Sullivan

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Sally Sullivan	Executive Director
Mary St. John	Gift Shop Financial Manager
Liz Fehring	Events Coordinator
Mary Philipp	Gift Shop Manager/ Buyer
Deb Schiel	Resource Development
Darlene Winter	Volunteer Coordinator

## Upcoming Events

Saturdays through April 14 ..... Winter Farmer's Market\*\*  
 December 12 ..... Domes Task Force Meeting (5:30 PM)  
 December 17 ..... Troubadour David HB Drake Performing  
 December 31 ..... New Year's Eve Family Celebration\*  
 January 16..... Domes Task Force Meeting (5:30 PM)  
 January 19..... Friends of the Domes Member Appreciation Night  
 February 4 ..... Bonsai Silhouette Show  
 February 10-11 ..... All Scale Train Lobby Exhibit  
 February 14 ..... Hearts Under Glass\*\*  
 March 3..... Gardens and Gears Steam Punk Wonderland Faire  
 March 18 ..... Spring Equinox Celebration  
 April 14 ..... Very Fairy Princess Day  
 May 5-6 ..... Art in the Green\*

\*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