



**UPCOMING FLORAL SHOWS**

- Jan 16 — March 21 Train Show: All Aboard-Games!
- April 3 — May 31 Seasons of Legend
- June 12—September 12 Love Your Parks
- September 25—November 7 Mushrooms, Mosses, and Mums

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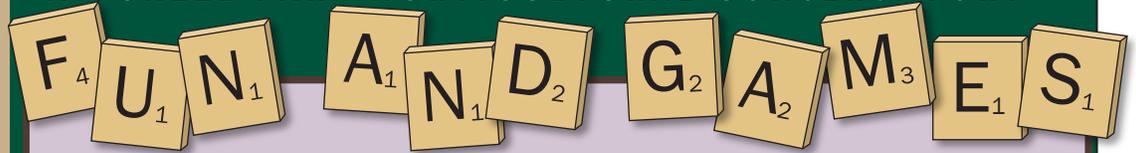
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# Inside the Domes

MITCHELL PARK HORTICULTURAL CONSERVATORY



In honor of this year's board-game themed Train Show in the Show Dome, we have a smorgasbord of Domes themed games and puzzles to cozy up to. Grab a pencil and get ready to challenge yourself!

In between puzzles and games, be sure to go to our website to make a reservation to see the Train Show "All Aboard-Games!" in the Show Dome before it leaves the station on Sunday, March 21. The Domes are open to visitors with reservations Wednesdays through Sundays. Masks and social distancing required.



## Letter from the FOD Executive Director



Hello Friends,  
Despite the restrictions due to the pandemic, things at the Domes remain lively, beautiful, creative, and restoring to our well-being – in a way that only plants and nature can deliver. We hope you have a chance to enjoy the whimsical train show, "All Aboard-Games!" You'll find classic fun for all ages.

As we look forward to the year ahead, the FOD has several goals for expanding education at the Domes. We are working on plans to renovate the Education Center to increase class space; create exhibits and activities for kids and families; and to enhance the student field trip experience. Another goal is to

expand Wi-Fi into the Domes themselves to allow our educators to actually teach from inside each Dome rather than only from the Education Center, making virtual education more meaningful.

In this Spring issue, we take the opportunity to thank members who have been with us for 10 years or more. Every year this list grows and **we are sincerely grateful for the long-term, faithful support of the Domes from our community.** We are honored that we have earned your trust and continued support.

We held our first online auction this past year. It was great fun to see all of the participants and to

watch the lively bidding on so many great donated items. The auction exceeded our fundraising goal. We also launched an ambitious annual appeal, and again, exceeded our fundraising goal – thanks so much to our members and the Milwaukee area community. We know that 2020 was full of asks, and now in 2021 we are full of thanks and gratitude.

Thank you for all of the ways you support the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory.

Best wishes,

Sally Sullivan  
FOD Executive Director

## Let's Reclaim Earth Day!

By Julie Merck, FOD Newsletter Editor

Buried in the chaos of last spring, April 22, 2020 marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Earth Day. Wisconsinites should take special pride in Earth Day as Wisconsin's own Senator Gaylord Nelson was its founder. He was inspired by the natural beauty of northwestern Wisconsin where he was raised. He served as a Wisconsin state legislator, governor, and then senator. A dedicated conservationist, he helped to preserve many natural American treasures including the Appalachian Trail, the St. Croix Wild and Scenic Riverway, and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore.

In 1969, Nelson suggested dedicating one full day each year to teaching and learning about the environment. **Nelson believed that if people only knew more about the environment, they would demand better protection.** Earth Day was born out of this idea for a national teach-in to increase public awareness about the rampant environmental problems of that era. He truly modeled that each person can make a difference.

In 2021, when we need conservation education more than ever, if you search for Earth Day activities, you will find a wide range of projects and events, mostly geared for young children. Sadly, many of these projects and events just create more garbage. The internet is full of Earth Day worksheets to print off; blue and green "Earth Day Slime" recipes; crafts that require glitter and 15 sheets of construction paper to build a nature scene—all kinds of projects that simply produce more waste, providing no real educational value or quality family time.

In honor of its 51<sup>st</sup> anniversary, let's take Earth Day back. Let's commit to real learning and teaching; to choosing one small, real change that we can make; and to making that change a habit in our lives.

### Step 1: Commit to Real Learning and Teaching

Inspire and motivate yourself and your family by spending time in nature and by learning about issues facing our environment. When you find (or create!) an especially inspiring video, image, or quote, be sure to save it or save a link to it to re-energize yourself if your motivation slips. Here are a few examples of ways to get started:

#### Take a Hike

No matter where you are in Wisconsin, there is a great park or hiking trail nearby. Observe the coming of spring with trees budding, spring flowers poking up, and animals excited to prepare for summer. Take pictures or even videos of what you experience. Maybe your kids notice trash or pollution. Take the time to observe and talk about what you see. That family picture in the woods may motivate you on your conservation commitment!

#### Virtual Tours

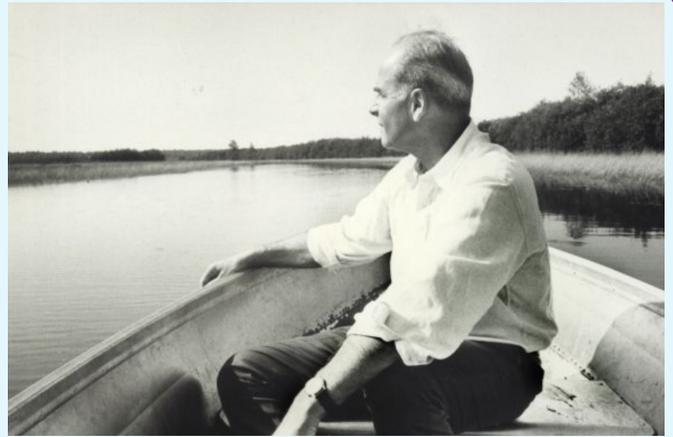
Virtual Tours can ignite an initial first spark to inspire action. There are many amazing, free tours of parks and natural areas online, offering a totally safe way to explore the outdoors and learn about our environment. A simple image or video can be a powerful tool to motivate change and build empathy.

The Domes @ Home webpage features several video tours and educational videos, including videos by Mr. Pete, the Friends of the Domes Educator.

The "Travel Wisconsin" website contains many excellent virtual tours of Wisconsin Parks and other natural areas as does the YouTube channel "Discover Wisconsin." The long-running PBS series "Outdoor Wisconsin" is popular for its coverage of Wisconsin's beautiful natural areas; episodes are available online and on PBS. If you would like links to some of these resources, go to the Domes@Home page and open the "Virtual Tours and Other Earth Day Resources" PDF.

#### Research Conservation Issues and Initiatives

If you are planning an Earth Day activity with kids or any other group, sit down and discuss conservation issues each person cares about. Is it clean water? Eliminating plastic waste? A specific endangered species? Maybe you want to learn more about where our garbage really ends up or the carbon footprint of the food we eat. If you have kids, they probably already have ideas



Let's Reclaim Earth Day continued on Page 8

# BEGINNING GARDENING SERIES

## ADULT EDUCATION SPRING WORKSHOPS

<b>FEB</b>	Garden Bed Mapping <i>*Available at milwaukeedomes.org/domes-home</i>
<b>MAR</b>	Seed Starting
<b>APR</b>	Wild Gardening
<b>JUN</b>	Beginning Vegetables
<b>JUL</b>	Rain Gardens
<b>AUG</b>	Pests & Diseases
<b>SEPT</b>	Food Preservation



New to gardening? Plan your garden from start to finish with us. Friends of the Domes and our amazing community partners bring you a beginning gardening series. Workshops are for adults with 0-2 seasons of gardening experience or for those wanting to get back to the basics.



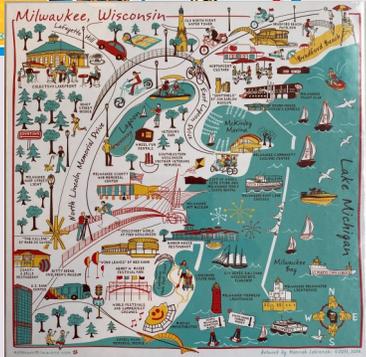
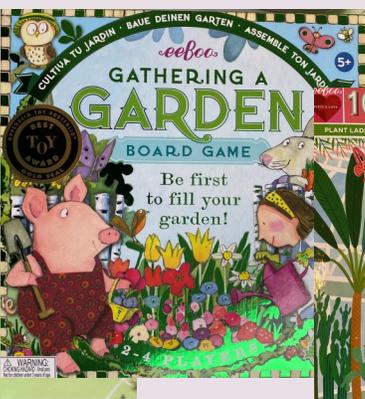
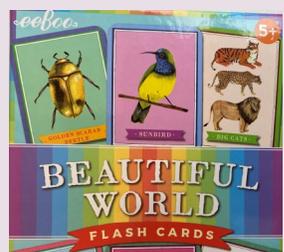
**TICKETS & MORE INFO:**  
Available ~1 month before program date at  
[milwaukeedomes.org/adult-programs](http://milwaukeedomes.org/adult-programs)



### Be Sure to Visit ~~Gifts Under Glass~~ Games

With so many unique games and puzzles, you might wonder if we should change the name of the gift shop! Board games and puzzles are more popular than ever for everyone from kids to great-grandparents. When you come to see the train show, make sure you make a stop at the gift shop and take the fun home with you! Remember, Friends of the Domes members always get 10% off purchases at the gift shop, and your purchases help us in our mission to support the Domes. Here are a few of the titles in stock at the production of this newsletter issue:

- ♣ Milwaukee-Opoly
- ♣ Plant Ladies Puzzle
- ♣ Gathering a Garden
- ♣ Wisconsin-Opoly
- ♣ Garden-Opoly
- ♣ Beautiful World Cards
- ♣ Milwaukee Map Puzzle



## Make it a Parks-Themed Game Night!

We reached out to the board game experts at Milwaukee's own Board Game Barrister to see what new games are on the market with park and nature themes. Board games have been experiencing a renaissance over the past decade and the themes, game play, and beautiful artwork have become creative masterpieces of fun! Andy from Board Game Barrister sent us these recommendations:

### Trekking the National Parks (Recommended for ages 10+)

Visit the National Parks in a fun and competitive way, from Yosemite to the Everglades! Plan out your treks to collect trail stones and claim park cards, each of which features an incredible photo from the park.

### Barenpark (Recommended for ages 8+)

Build your own Bear Park! Assemble spacious enclosures and neatly piece together the Tetris-like areas of your park - it won't be easy to fit all of your plans within the space you've been given, so some thoughtful puzzling is key.

### Sonora (Recommended for ages 10+)

The Sonoran Desert features a series of vibrant and distinct landscapes, not unlike a trio of domes we know... In Sonora, you'll flick wooden disks onto the various areas of this Arizona desert. Each area represents a different dexterity challenge, so you'll need to aim carefully to play in the region of your choosing!

Board Game Barrister is your friendly local game store, bringing toys, puzzles, and board games to the Greater Milwaukee Area since 2005. Visit [boardgamebarrister.com](http://boardgamebarrister.com) for purchase details. In addition to helping with this article, they donated the prize for our Scavenger Hunt Scramble on page 7. Thank you Board Game Barrister!



## The Friends of the Domes present Virtual Science Live!

Educators, Troop Leaders, Parents:

Join Mr. Pete on a virtual adventure! We make virtual learning enjoyable while meeting Wisconsin Science Curriculum Standards.

45 minute programs with optional follow-up activities.

Cost: \$85 for groups up to 15 students.

\$125 for groups 16 to 35 students.

Full or partial scholarships available.



## Four Available Programs:

### Pollinators, Unite!

Explore the importance of pollinators in your backyard and around the world!

**K5-2nd**

### The Science of Magic

Explore the scientific method and test hypotheses with magic and fairies.

**2nd-6th**

### From Sun to Sugar

Discover how energy and matter flow through an ecosystem.

**1st-6th**

### So Close Yet So Far:

Team-building activities for relationship-building and positive communication.

**K5-6th**



[www.milwaukeehomes.org/childrens-programs](http://www.milwaukeehomes.org/childrens-programs)

# Seasons of Legend

## Spring Floral Show in the Show Dome

The folklore of cultures across the globe is rich with explanations of natural phenomenon. Most cultures have or had stories about how and why the sun rose, the snow fell, and the bird flew. One natural event that folklore frequently addresses is the changing of the seasons. People wanted to understand why the weather would change so dramatically every few moons. The Spring Floral Show will explore the changing of the seasons as represented in five different legends:

- “Why the trees lose their leaves” (Cherokee)
- “The Blue Corn Maiden” (Hopi)
- “Zhulong the Candle Dragon: The Chinese Ruler of the Seasons”
- “Persephone and Demeter: The Greek Story of Spring”
- “Amaterasu: The Shinto Sun Goddess and Bringer of Light” (Japan)

The Floral Show will have a section for each legend. The color pallet of the plants selected will complement the theme of each legend. For example, in the section featuring the story of Persephone, visitors will see dark tulips contrasting with Red ranunculus to represent the underworld (see image 2 and 3, from left, below). If the story features specific plants, like the yucca (Hopi legend, see image 1 below) or the pine tree (Cherokee legend), they will be featured in the display. In addition, the plants will include spring show staples like hydrangeas, tulips, hyacinths, stock, myosotis, azaleas, and digitalis in an array of refreshing spring colors.



A sparrow takes refuge in a pine, as in the Cherokee legend

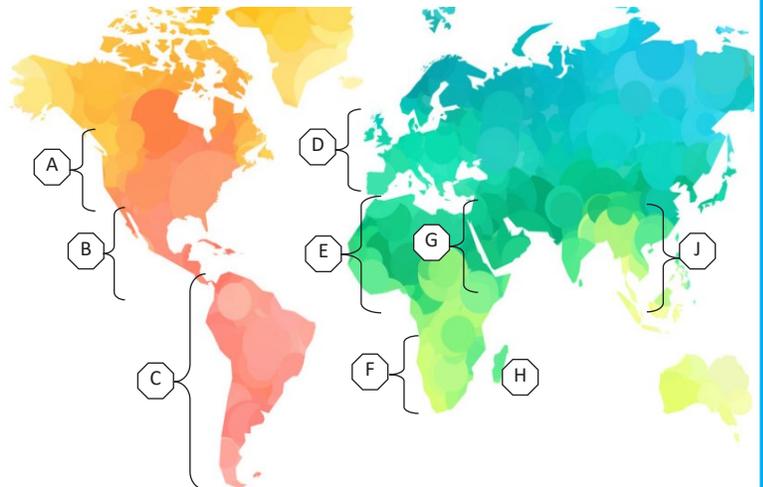


Zhulong the Candle Dragon is credited for the changing of the seasons and the transition of day to night

## We've Got the Whole World in Our Domes!

With three distinct climates, plants from all over the world are able to thrive in the Domes. Can you identify where in the world the following plants originated? Letters on the map correspond to approximate regions. *Answers at the bottom of page 6.*

- |                            |             |  |     |
|----------------------------|-------------|--|-----|
| 1. Poinsettia              | ___         | 9. Date Palm                                     | ___ |
| 2. Tulips                  | ___         | 10. Living Stones (Lithops)                      | ___ |
| 3. Cardamom                | ___         | 11. Silver torch cactus (Cleistocactus strausii) | ___ |
| 4. Crown of Thorns         | ___         |  |     |
| 5. Vanilla                 | ___         |  |     |
| 6. Ebony                   | ___ and ___ | 12. Boojum tree (Fouquieria columnaris)          | ___ |
| 7. Black Pepper            | ___         |  |     |
| 8. Prickly pears (Opuntia) | ___ and ___ |  |     |





*“A More Meaningful Perspective on Managing Wealth”*

*We care for the well-being of families and our community. The trust and gratitude our clients display inspires us daily in our role as trusted wealth leaders. We invite you to come in and let us help you on your path to true wealth discovery.*

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## A NATURE MOMENT WITH MR. PETE

Did you know that we're on Youtube?! Check out this and many more FREE nature-focused activities for children, adults, and families on our Domes @ Home website



### FRIENDS OF THE DOMES



**Make A Rain Stick Part 2 - A Nature Moment with Mr. Pete**  
Friends of the Domes  
39 views • 8 months ago



**How to Build a Raised Bed Garden Part 2 - with Erica!**  
Friends of the Domes  
189 views • 8 months ago



**Meet Mr. Pete**  
Friends of the Domes  
875 views • 9 months ago

### Make a Rain Stick Part 1

Learn multiple ways to make your own rain sticks at home! Turn paper towel tubes, beans, and rice into a soothing and special craft. Subscribe now for more fun nature-inspired activities.

[milwaukeehomes.org/domes-home](http://milwaukeehomes.org/domes-home)

# Scavenger Hunt Scramble



## Explore the Friends of the Domes Website and Win a Great Prize!



- Visit [www.milwaukee domes.org](http://www.milwaukee domes.org) to hunt for the missing words in the phrases below. Be sure to visit the **Plant Information** page. Print one letter in each space or square.
- Unscramble all of the letters in the boxes to solve the puzzle at the bottom of the page.
- Print your name and email address **or** phone number at the bottom of the page.
- Send a digital image or printed hard copy of your completed page to the address at the bottom of the page.
- One entry will be selected from all of the complete, correct scavenger hunt scrambles received by April 30, 2021.  
**Winner will receive a \$25 gift certificate to Board Game Barrister! More about the store on page 4!**

1. The mission of the Friends of the Domes to \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory.
2. No \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ are used on our plants.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ is a page on our website filled with virtual tours of the Domes, activities, and videos for children and adults.
4. The Domes are the world's only \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ (not geodesic) glass houses; the unique shape allows a better angle for solar heating and more height for tall trees.
5. The Friends of the Domes continues to provide educational opportunities to school groups, home schooled students, scout troops, and any other groups of students with their \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ Live workshops.
6. Totalling one \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ under glass, each Dome is 140 feet across and 85 feet high, that's 7 stories!
7. The plant described as "Poison in the Tropical Dome" is the \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ .
8. The tallest trees of the rainforest are called \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ because their canopies rise above all others.
9. The dragon blood tree, \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ of the Canary Islands was so named because its red sap was marketed as "dragon's blood" during medieval times.
10. The Conservatory's collection of plants from \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ , including *Euphorbia milii* (crown of thorns) and *Catharanthus roseus* (Madagascar periwinkle), is one of the largest in the United States.
11. Found in the Desert Dome, the \_\_\_\_\_  \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ cactus is a prickly pear type of cactus. Its new pads grow in pairs, which look a little like the ears of a rabbit.

	L	W					R				A		N
A				X					E				

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address OR Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

COMPLETE AND MAIL TO: FRIENDS OF THE DOMES • 524 S. LAYTON BLVD. • MILWAUKEE, WI 53215  
 OR EMAIL A PHOTO OF YOUR COMPLETED HUNT: [NEWSLETTER.FOD@MILWAUKEEDOMES.ORG](mailto:NEWSLETTER.FOD@MILWAUKEEDOMES.ORG)

### Let's Reclaim Earth Day continued from Page 2

and questions they would like to research. Head to the library or reliable internet sites like *The National Geographic Kids* website, [americanforests.org](http://americanforests.org), and [globalstewards.org](http://globalstewards.org). (Other reliable sites include those maintained by universities, state and local governments, state and national parks, and other trusted community organizations). Research, learn, and discuss together as a family.

### Dig into History

Use the internet or public library to research some of the leaders who promoted natural conservation in America. Why not start with those who have roots in Wisconsin: Native American groups, Aldo Leopold, Gaylord Nelson, and John Muir. The Wisconsin Historical Society website is an excellent place to start (and is the source of the information about Senator Nelson in this article).

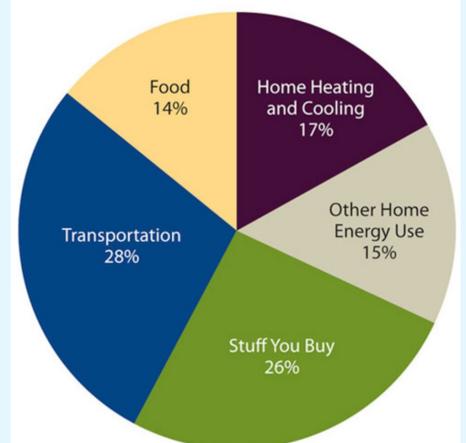
### Step 2: Choose One Small, Real Change that You Can Make

Decide which issue you and your family feels most strongly about and determine one small change that you can put in place to make a difference. Here are a few examples:

- Concerned about litter and the state of our natural areas? Pull on your gloves, grab a bag, and pick-up some trash. There are plenty of parks and playgrounds, maybe even along the sidewalks in your neighborhood, where families can safely clean up trash. It's not glamorous, and it will require parents watching to make sure kids don't pick up anything sharp, but the benefits are real. Kids learn to notice how much trash there is and become interested in recycling. Kids who have picked up trash are less likely to litter. It's free to do and gets kids outside and exercising.
- Concerned about plastics ending up in lakes and oceans? Ditch straws, zip-top bags, and all single-use plastics. Make a plan for how everyone in the family can help to use re-usable lunch containers, utensils, and water bottles.
- Concerned about climate change? Go car-free for day or week. Challenge yourself and your family to walk, bike, and/or use public transportation for a day or a week—how long can you do it? Maybe you can commit to one day a week. Even one day can change your thinking!
- Concerned about plastic bags? Plan to get back into the habit of using your re-usable grocery bags. What can you do to get those re-usable bags with you when you are headed to the store and into the store so that you have them at check-out time? Can kids help make sure they get back in the car and help to carry them in to the store? Can you use them for all of your shopping, not just groceries?
- Concerned about reducing your carbon footprint? Read the packages of the food in your home and consider how far your food traveled to get to you. Did you know that some common brands of apple juice are produced in China? Can you commit to eating one dinner per week or month made from ingredients grown or produced in Wisconsin? It is easier than you might think!
- Concerned about the environmental impact of factory farming? Plan your garden. Draw out your planting area and research flowering plants and vegetables that will thrive with the amount of sunlight the area will receive in the summer.
- Concerned about what corporations and other groups are doing? Contact your state and local leaders. Write letters, call, and email. Make sure that your leaders know which conservation issues you care about. Contact the businesses themselves. Commit to supporting businesses whose values you support.



Where the Average American's Carbon Emissions Come From



Union of Concerned Scientists

### Step 3: Commit to Make your Change a Habit

One small change can become a positive habit if you stick to it. If you feel yourself starting to slip, find that video or image that motivated you in the first place. Hold yourself and your family accountable to make the time to keep your commitment. Last summer, my kids and I committed to pick up 10 pieces of plastic every time we left Bradford Beach or any other beach that we visited. It is now something that each of us does automatically when we pack-up to leave a beach.

**This April 22, let's reclaim Earth Day!** Let's be proud of our state's senator who created this special day for learning and teaching. Let's ditch the fake, shallow, and cutesy. Let's care enough to do the work and opt for an experience that could change your family and the environment for the better. Visit the [Domes@Home](mailto:Domes@Home) page for links and other resources!

## A Sincere Thank You to the Members Who Have Supported Us for 10 Years or Longer!

### 35+ Years

Karen Dabbert

### 30+ Years

Richard & Carol Bayerlein  
James Bonnett  
Lynn Butenhoff  
Marilyn De Both  
Mitzi Dearborn  
Donna Drafz  
Margaret Gebhard  
James Grunow & Maria Midgal  
Margaret & Paul Gugg  
Kathleen Kaminski  
Pamela Knackert  
Roger Krawiecki  
Susan Kurtz  
John Machulak  
Barbara Mangold  
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James Mayr  
Al Salzstein  
Barbara Schacht & Lillian Wiegel  
Carolyn Schloemer  
Mary Ann Stueber  
John Thomas  
Virginia Topitzes  
Judy Van Till

### 25+ Years

Deanna Andre  
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& Gisela Zelenka-Drysdale  
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Margie Vehrenkamp  
Todd Voros  
Linda & Donald Yorde  
Gertrude Zauner

### 20+ Years

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Kathryn & Chester Barbasiewicz  
James Baumgartner  
Kent & Barb Bavery  
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Bonnie Beeck  
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Sandra Braun  
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Cynthia Chovelak  
Janis & Don Crego  
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Diane Prom  
Claudette Robinson  
Virgil Rokicki  
James Roth & Judith Huf  
Mary Kay Schroeder  
Karnell Sell  
Catherine Starck

### 15+ Years

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William Bowen  
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Anthony Busalacchi  
Tom Calvy  
Michael Chovonec  
Margaret Ciurlik  
Gloria Drenzek  
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Patrick Knapp  
& Kristi Tolzman-Knapp  
Eric & Lucy Korbitz

### 15+ Years (Continued)

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William Marcek  
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Bill Miller  
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John Ohm  
Kathy Palmer & Mike Rehorst  
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& Michael Switzenbaum  
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Linda & Richard Stevens  
Shirley & Nick Todor  
Erika Voss  
Louise Weare  
Jason & Laurel Weber

### 10+ Years

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& Nora O'Connell Adams  
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Sylvia Aranda  
Pam & Mark Ariens  
Kris Bate  
Rob Beisenstein & Teresa Wetzel  
Diane Bennett & William Joseph  
Claire Berndt  
John Bielinski & Megan Walsh  
Kathryn Bielinski & Jerome Dropik  
Chris Bitz & Ann Delaforest  
Ellen & Robert Bladorn  
Connie Blair & Alexis Camacho  
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Terrence Christopherson  
& Christopher Thomas  
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& Jennifer Deuster-Hoesch  
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Collette Evans  
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Kim Heimsch  
Monique Hewitt  
Helga Hoffmann & Jeff Raddatz  
Ron Irwin & Laurie Kovacic  
Dennis & Nancy Jaeger  
Robin & James Janiszewski

### 10+ Years (Continued)

Barbara Johnson  
Rachel Jones  
Susan Kellogg & Meril Caceres  
Maryann Kniep  
Don & Mary Beth Koneval  
Kim & Ellen Krueger  
Dilia & Kevin Kuschel  
Diane Lembeck  
Dale & Barbara Lenz  
Sarah Diane Lubbs-Fairchild  
Karen Luedke  
Beverly Mahloch  
& Deborah Mahloch-Dempsey  
Barb Martzahl  
William McDonald  
Ray & Rhonda McKenna  
Wyn Mecherly  
William & Eileen Meinecke  
Carol Michels & Alan Holverson  
Janice & Ronald Morrison  
Lonnie Mueller & Mara Fox  
Melinda Myers & Nevada Myers Wesley  
Dave Nelsen  
Mary O'Leary-Michalski  
& Stephen Michalski  
Joelyn Olen  
Sara & Scott Pagliaroni  
Donna Pasternak  
Andrew & Beth Pesch  
Marlene Povolo  
Marie Pronschinske  
Daniel Rambo  
Lisa Schlenker  
James & Carol Schroeder  
Donna Seda  
Susan Seeling  
Naomi Sehloff  
Betty & Erika Siemsen  
Rosa & Thomas Spellman  
Carolyn Strueder  
Sally Sullivan  
Barry Szymanski  
Wendy Tarachow  
Lloyd Ter Maat  
Tim Teske  
Arhontisa Theoharis  
Elizabeth & Brad Thiel  
Pam & Tim Tyson  
Mary Kate & Mario David Uy  
Thomas Uyehara  
Sara Watts  
Beverly & Richard Weeden  
Sue & John Wehnes  
Mary Wieckowicz  
Janice Wilberg  
Margaret Wunsch  
Cathrine Zoulek



FRIENDS  
OF THE  
DOMES

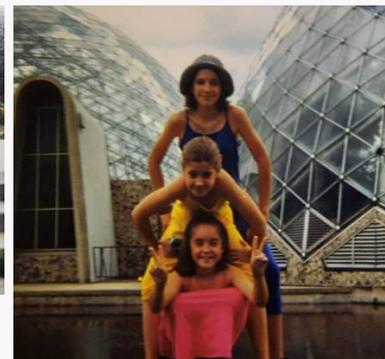
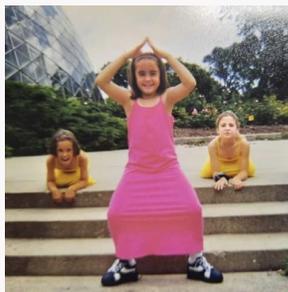
## Celebrating a Shared History...

In 2015, in celebration of our 50th Anniversary, we introduced a column for members to share stories and photos of memorable moments celebrated in the Domes. We are always happy to share them in the newsletter when we get them! **This memory comes to us from Blair Benes:**

My very Polish/Norwegian family grew up in South Milwaukee. The Domes, Museum, Milwaukee County Zoo, and House on The Rock were staple destinations for family day trips with our Grandma Carol. She would wrangle us girls and take us for the day to one of these four SE Wisconsin cornerstones. We went to the Domes several times a year for most of my childhood. The bright solidly colored dresses were an easy way to keep track of us! We loved going from one climate experience to another and were always excited to see what new theme was featured in the Show Dome.

Because the Domes were so much a part of my childhood, when preparing for my wedding, I actually took my husband there as part of a relaxing pre-wedding day off of work. It is still one of my favorite places to bring my cousins when they are back in town and to introduce to new children in the family. I am filled with a cozy and nostalgic feeling every time I visit, and it amazes me to think we've been visiting for over 30 years!

*If you have a special memory or photos that you would like to share, please email your story to [newsletter.fod@milwaukeehomes.org](mailto:newsletter.fod@milwaukeehomes.org).*



*Blair is in the yellow dress in the photo above from 1998*

## A Wordsearch as Delightful as a Walk Through the Domes...

- ARID
- BROMELIADS
- CACTUS
- CONSERVATORY
- COQUI
- DATE
- DIVERSITY
- DONATE
- DOVE
- EBONY
- ECOSYSTEM
- EDUCATION
- FRIENDS
- KOI
- MADAGASCAR
- OASIS
- SHOWDOME
- STEVE
- TOAD
- VISIT

N C I V B C N G V W S Z V D S B I H T O Y W W V N  
 N O K D U O T P R Z Z U W E O D R J B Y K Z U J R  
 T O I F H Q D A T E K L B R L N O O G O E N D S  
 I N L T V U W U U S N O D B L J A V M V K S A A W  
 Q J R B A I W R T S N I J F M U O T E E Q P P U Y  
 X I Y N A C Q K N Y R T L Q Z H S D E O L S K C E  
 O P C L X E U U P A F O M U E Z V Y F M D I P B X  
 S I S A O N L D X N O A Y M P F N M N N S J A F C  
 A T L E M T U S E P T D D Z H P B D E H O U G D Y  
 S F T M Q J K X B Q B Q B L M P N I L O T A I I S  
 Y M B O N Q B U E I H O V R A E R D Q U R V K Q P  
 Y X S D Z M E T S Y S O C E D F J A H U E M D T I  
 P F T W V U O Z O O U D U A A D B H A R Z G W B O  
 N K C O N S E R V A T O R Y G T A Z S V F Q G Q B  
 M X M H K Z C C F A R H W H A G Q I B S S T R D V  
 M J M S K X A B G S O X W X S A T O Y R Y H L N Y  
 D R P L O Y N W C B A X N L C Y E H D Y E H T M Q  
 I C A C T U S V V Y C L P H A R J V E S Z W P T X  
 L V B R U Z D B H Q U L E I R G A B E Z J M D I H  
 Z D C G Z T O Y W L U S O A O H I C F T T E K S D  
 W G Y J Q R Z P F M W A V B G C K J M W S Q B I M  
 C M D N G O O M Y C N I O X G V F V D L U F X V O  
 K V E Z Z V C O G F Q F U H N C K Q B C X A R L V  
 U Z S Q O D C F X G T J J G O T C U B A B P R H D  
 Y D R B L F D U A Q W B F H J G R U I M B Y J V S

THE FRIENDS OF THE DOMES

# Green Sheet

Spring 2021

## Plan for Success!

By Julie Merck,  
FOD Newsletter Editor

Last year many of us invested time and energy to beautify our outdoor spaces. Don't let last year's investment go to waste. This article will help you to think through what your yard needs this spring and to make a plan to get it done.

### March

You can start yard clean-up in March, but since the weather is still unpredictable, focus your energy on preparing for the work ahead. Have your plan and all of the tools ready for that nice day when you can get out there and get started.

Create a plan for your yard

- If your yard needs major changes, consider how you want to use your outdoor space and what you need to change. Research online, at the library, or visit garden centers to start to collect ideas. Draw out your yard and create a plan you can get excited about. Some yard plans may take several years to be realized. In that case, figure out what you can and need to do first and get that done this summer.
- If your yard is established, you may just need to plan your annual planting areas. Where do you want to add or replace perennials? Where do you want to plant vegetables and annuals? When should they be planted? Do you want to add garden boxes – if so can you start building them?

As the snow melts, if you notice bare spots in your grass research which grass seed will be best for your soil and the amount of sun the areas receive in the summer. A quality garden center can help you choose the right seed. Planting the wrong variety will waste time and money.

Be sure your lawn mower is ready for the season. Don't wait until you need it to check it out! Some hardware stores will sharpen mower blades and even offer tune-ups. Dull mower blades can rip grass and kill it. If you do need a new mower, you may want to consider an electric lawn mower with rechargeable batteries. The technology has improved while prices have come down, so they are very

good, low maintenance alternatives to gas lawn mowers.

Organize other tools and supplies like pruning shears, hoses, and fertilizer. Clean or replace rusty and broken tools.

### April

Rake and remove debris from your grass. Remove last year's annuals and leaves from planting areas. Some bushes and shrubs take a while to get started, so don't rush to remove them unless you are sure they are dead.

Prune your shrubs and trees before they leaf out in the spring, except for lilacs, forsythia, and viburnum as pruning them in early spring could result in removing the flower buds.

If you found any dead spots in your grass, early spring is a good time to seed those spots. Fall is the best time, but if you missed fall seeding, seed in the spring. Waiting until late spring might not give the seed enough time to germinate and get established.

In the Milwaukee area, the average last frost date is April 29. Some seedlings and annual plants can handle a frost but many cannot. Be sure to plan your planting dates based on specific plant varieties and avoid planting too early.

If you use herbicides (weed killers), apply pre-emergent herbicides to your lawn in spring to tackle weeds before they germinate.

### May

Before all of the perennials (like tulips and hyacinths) pop up, mulch with a hardwood mulch. Plants will be able to grow through the mulch and



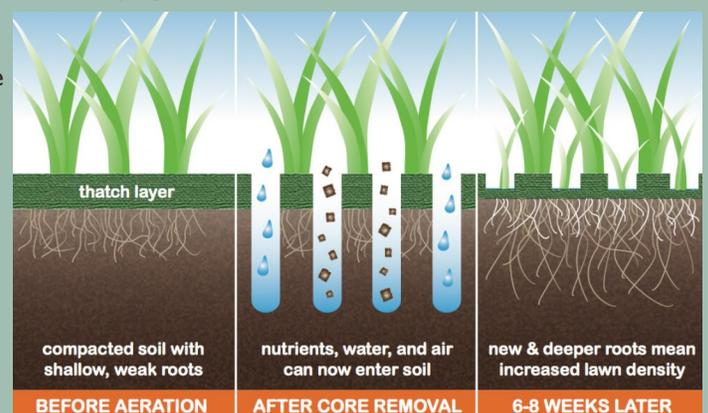
mulching before they grow will save you from having to work around them. It will help keep weeds away, protect your soil and plants, and can even help keep CO<sub>2</sub> out of the air. [Not convinced? Our Summer 2019 Newsletter Greensheet Article "How Mulch Do you Know About Protecting Soil" will give you even more reasons to mulch!]

Once it starts growing for the season, grass should be mowed to 2 - 3 inches long. Never cut off more than a third of the height at one mow. Cutting it shorter than 2 inches (called "scalping") can weaken your lawn and make it more susceptible to disease.

After at least one mowing, apply a light layer of slow-release fertilizer. Shady areas will require less fertilizer.

Thatch is the layer of dead grass on the top of your soil, at the base of your grass. If you remove grass clippings after mowing, you won't have a significant amount of thatch. If thatch gets more than one inch thick, you may want to aerate your lawn. Aeration creates holes that allow air and water to reach the roots of the grass. Research aeration techniques. You can rent or purchase core aerators or have this done professionally by lawn care companies. After, you will see little plugs of soil all over your yard.

A great yard requires a good plan for spring yard prep and a few sweaty Saturdays. Put the work in now and you can enjoy the rewards all summer long!





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