

# INSIDE THE DOMES

Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory



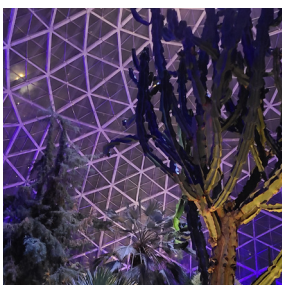
NEW AT THE DOMES Pg 2

340

The number of other gardens you can access with your Friends membership

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE Pg 6

Supporting Pollinators After  
No Mow May

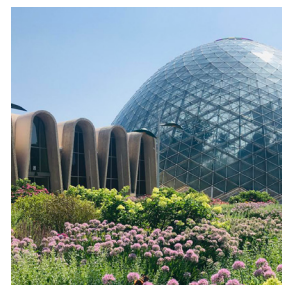


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# NEW AT THE DOMES



## UPCOMING SHOW

**Don't miss our next spectacular show:**



## Faerie Gardens

June 11- September 11, 2022

Featuring: Begonia (Dragon Wing Pink), Heliotrope (Blue Marino), Strobilanthes (Persian Shield), Impatiens (Sun-patiens Carmine Red and Lavender), Gomphrena (Gnome mix), Salvia (Fairy Queen) and much, much more! ■

Welcome to the newly-designed Friends of the Domes newsletter! Each issue contains fun facts, good-to-know content and insider information about the Domes.

This “New at the Domes” article provides a quick snapshot of many of the exciting happenings at the Domes. Enjoy!

- The next show in the Show Dome, *Faerie Gardens*, opens June 11, 2022.
- The number of Friends of the Domes members is about to pass 3,000! This is the highest in our history. Thanks for being a member.
- The new member-only lane is now available on the weekends during peak periods. Watch for the sign and avoid the line!
- We are installing a new donor sign in the lobby of the Domes this summer; all annual gifts \$1,000+ will be recognized.
- Friends of the Domes is launching a new website later this summer, making it easier for you to stay informed. Stay tuned for more information!
- The Gifts Under Glass Gift Shop is overflowing with so many new items—be sure to stop by to see our collection of gifts, many of which are from local artists and vendors.
- The Friends first annual Symposium and Luncheon is June 16, 2022, in Greenhouse #7 at the Domes. See back cover for more information.
- The Friends Summer 2022 lineup of adult workshops and family programs has been released. See page 7.
- The Friends Rhythm & Brews event will be this August, and will feature several Milwaukee musicians—as well as brews and snacks. If you loved Music Under Glass, you won't want to miss this event. ■

## Loss of Loved Desert Dome Resident Presents Opportunity

On Friday, April 15, 2022, one of the large Euphorbias in the Desert Dome uprooted and fell. The Desert Candle, *Euphorbia abyssinica*, was about 20-feet tall. After searching our records, the exact age could not be determined, but the plant had been in the Desert Dome since at least the 1980s. A few broken pieces of the plant were saved, and the Domes staff will attempt to propagate clones of the original plant. Fortunately, there is another Desert Candle *Euphorbia* in the Desert Dome.

The Desert Candle damaged several plants when it fell, leading to many removals. Although unfortunate, this opens up an opportunity to introduce a new geographical region in the Desert Dome.

Research is currently underway on the desert flora of South and Western Asia, and we hope to incorporate some of these plants into the Arid Collection.



If you are interested in making a gift to help replace the plants that were damaged, please donate to Friends of the Domes and indicate that you would like your donation directed to the plant collection.

To donate, visit our website: [www.MilwaukeeDomes.org](http://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org) or mail a check made payable to Friends of the Domes, PO Box 1632, Milwaukee, WI 53201. ■

## SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AT THE DOMES

The Friends is proud to support many initiatives at the Domes that support environmental sustainability. We installed the water bottle filling station in the lobby, which has helped eliminate more than 3,400 plastic water bottles.

We also provided funding to help the Domes horticulturists transition away from harsh chemicals to beneficial insects such as the lacewing. This reduced the amount of pesticides needed in the gardens by as much as 95%. ■



Loss of cherished Desert Candle, *Euphorbia abyssinica*, April 15, 2022.



## Member Spotlight: Stephen Hauser

### MEMBER FOR 14 YEARS

“My dad was an avid gardener who was involved with the Domes before the Friends of the Domes was created. Our family has always felt that the Domes is a very special place. It is so special—so iconic—that the World Book Encyclopedia chose a photo of the Domes as the one photo to represent Milwaukee.”

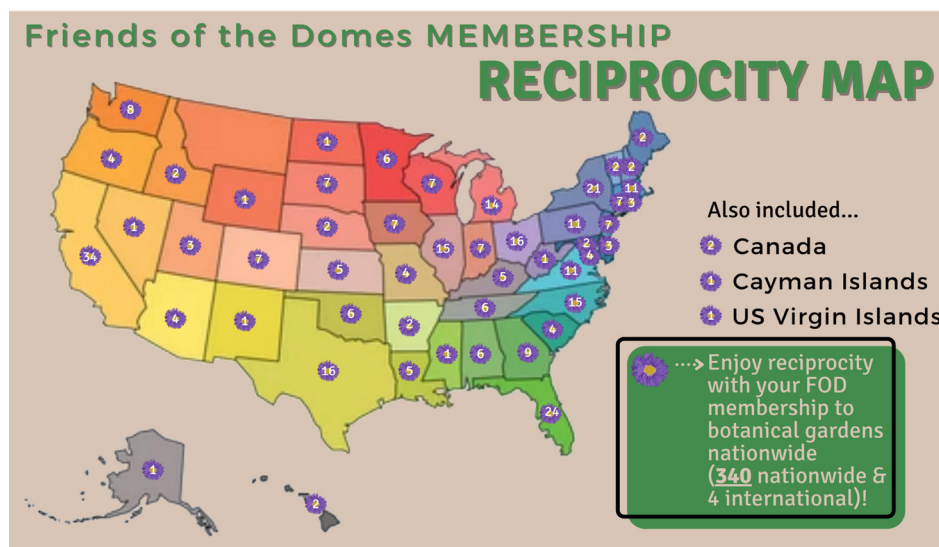
A local historian, Stephen wrote an article about the history of the Domes featured in a local newspaper. ■

## Friends of the Domes Membership Perks

- ❁ Free admission to the Domes and member-only events
- ❁ Discounts in the gift shop and on educational classes
- ❁ Use of the new member-only lane
- ❁ Access to 300+ other gardens!

# ALL THINGS MEMBERSHIP

## Take Advantage of Reciprocity



Your Friends of the Domes membership gives you free access to 340 botanical gardens, arboreta and conservatories across the U.S. Any garden that is a member of The American Horticultural Society is included. For a complete list of participating gardens and benefits, visit [www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org).

Have you visited a garden through the reciprocity program? Send any photos to [FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org), and we will include it in a future newsletter or social media post. ■



# VOLUNTEERING AT THE DOMES

## Volunteer Opportunities at the Domes

**T**he Friends of the Domes offers so many wonderful volunteer opportunities. Whether it is working in the gardens or helping at events, our volunteers are mission critical! Here are two current opportunities:

**Volunteering in the Ed Center** is a great opportunity to engage young minds and enjoy conversation with other visitors. No prior plant knowledge is needed. You will learn a little about plants and nature as you train and spend time at the Domes! Volunteers are scheduled for 3-hour shifts: Saturday or Sunday, 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.; Wednesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Volunteers must commit to at least one shift per month (for multiple months) due to the initial training required.

**Volunteering at an event** is a wonderful way to meet other members and volunteers. We will need several volunteers in August to assist with Rhythm & Brews. Volunteers will help set-up, assist with admissions, and support the bands and breweries.

If you are interested in either of these opportunities, please email Carrie at [CarrieKelroy.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:CarrieKelroy.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org). ■



*Friends of the Domes volunteer helping with the outside gardens.*

# GIFT SHOP GALORE

## Featured Items in Gifts Under Glass

- ✿ Kids gardening tools
- ✿ Fairy garden items
- ✿ Bird feeder



If you haven't been to the Gifts Under Glass Gift Shop lately, you are missing out on some fantastic shopping. Stop in to see these items and hundreds more! ■

# FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE

## Supporting Pollinators After No Mow May



**N**o Mow May is a movement to help pollinators get a successful start early in the season. Originating in the United Kingdom, No Mow May has been gaining popularity in Wisconsin since 2020. Whether or not you participated this May, there's more you can do to support pollinators this summer.

### Why Change Habits?

Many Wisconsin crops, including apples, cherries, green beans, cranberries and cucumbers, rely on bees, butterflies, moths, humming birds and other pollinators. So do our own yards and gardens!

In addition, Wisconsin is home to more than 400 varieties of bees who contribute more than \$6 million to our economy annually through honey production. Our diets, ecological variety and economy depend on pollinators.

### Six Easy Ways to Support Pollinators in Your Yard

1. Research and choose the right flowering species. Maintain at least three plant species that will bloom from early spring into fall. Include vegetables, herbs, native plants and flowering shrubs.
2. Choose a variety of plants to support different pollinators. Coneflowers, black Eyed Susans and New England Asters are popular with Monarch butterflies. Bees in Wisconsin like pussy willow, plum, cherry, blueberry, purple prairie clover, pale purple coneflower, woodland and prairie sunflower, and butterfly milkweed, as well as garden herbs such as spearmint, oregano, basil and lavender.
3. Remove noxious weeds and non-native plants that will crowd out flowering plants and reduce diversity. Replace invasive species with carefully selected native, flowering species. Native species are best suited to thrive in our environment and support our native pollinators.
4. Avoid highly modified, ornamental varieties. They have been bred to look interesting not to support pollinators.
5. Mix up the colors! Attract a variety of pollinators with a variety of colors. Bees are attracted to white, blue, purple and yellow flowers. Butterflies prefer orange, yellow and purple. Hummingbirds are drawn to red flowers. Bees cannot even see red!
6. Limit your use of pesticides and read the label to ensure you are applying them correctly. Avoid applying them near flowering species. ■

*Article Sources: Wisconsin Pollinator Protection Plan, <https://datcp.wi.gov/Documents/PPPCComplete.PDF> and <https://hort.extension.wisc.edu/pollinator-week>; The Monarch Trail Site, <http://www.themonarchtrail.org/>*

# EDUCATION AT THE DOMES

There is always something fun and new happening in the Ed Center. Be sure to check out weekly story time (starts again in July) and the First Friday Featurette, featuring Mr. Pete and his puppet educators! ■



Venus Fly Trap puppets created by Edison, Derek and Jonathan during a recent Ed Center Family Program.

## Upcoming Ed Classes & Workshops



### ADULT EDUCATION PROGRAMS

[www.milwaukeekeedomes.org/adult-programs](http://www.milwaukeekeedomes.org/adult-programs)

#### June

**\*Wildflower Walk with Natural Areas**  
Saturday, June 4  
Members: \$9  
Nonmembers: \$11

**\*History of Menomonee Valley Walk**  
Friday, June 10  
Members: \$7  
Nonmembers: \$9

#### Friends Educational Symposium & Luncheon

Thursday, June 16  
Members: \$40  
Nonmembers: \$50  
includes lunch

#### July

**\*Botany Walk in Three Bridges Park**  
Friday, July 8  
Members: \$7  
Nonmembers: \$9

#### August

**Succulent Propagation**  
Wednesday, August 17  
Members: \$15  
Nonmembers: \$17

**Botany and History Walk in Mitchell Park**  
Friday, August 12  
Members: \$9  
Nonmembers: \$12

All members receive a discount.  
Not a member?



JOIN TODAY!



### FAMILY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

[www.milwaukeekeedomes.org/family-programs](http://www.milwaukeekeedomes.org/family-programs)

#### Free Family Programs

**Story Time**  
Thursdays at 9:30am  
Begins June 16

**First Friday Featurettes**  
First Friday of the Month at 9:30am  
Begins July 8

#### Monthly Programs

Cost: \$10 per child, adults free

#### June

**Whimsical Wildflowers & Interesting Insects**  
Saturday, June 18

#### July

**Basic Birding for Beginners**  
Saturday, July 16

#### August

**Fantastic Faerie Fun**  
Saturday, August 20

PERFECT FOR AGES 3-7, BUT ALL ARE WELCOME!

Email [FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org) to request a scholarship (all programs).

\*These programs will take place off-site. See registration page for more information.



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## FRIENDS EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM AND LUNCHEON

**June 16, 2022, 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**  
**Mitchell Park Domes**

Keeping the “public” in our public spaces is critical to the sustainability of all of our community treasures, including the Milwaukee County Parks.

This engaging educational forum and luncheon will examine the Parks, looking at both their history and future from a sustainability lens. Join a stellar lineup of thought leaders as we dig into this timely topic.

Register by June 10, 2022, at [www.milwaukeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeedomes.org). Click “Friends Educational Symposium and Luncheon.” Registration for Friends members is \$40. Scholarships available. ■

**Learn more  
and register:**



### SYMPOSIUM TOPICS

- The State of the Parks
- Green Milwaukee: A History of Our Parks and Open Spaces
- Milwaukee County Parks: A Visual Tour
- The Future of Parks
- Closing Remarks
- Sustainability Tour of the Domes (Optional)

*Note: Lunch is provided by Zilli Hospitality Group.*