

# INSIDE THE DOMES

Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory



NEWS FROM THE DOMES Pg 2

11,900

Education Center visitors  
this past year

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE Pg 10  
The Art and Science of Getting Flowers to Bloom



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# NEWS FROM THE DOMES



**H**ello to our wonderful members (all 3,301 of you!). Here is your quarterly *News from the Domes* report created exclusively for Friends of the Domes members:

## Membership:

- The Friends of the Domes is releasing a new membership structure that will take effect the next time you renew. Although many of the changes are minor, be sure to read more about that on page 5.
- The Friends member-only lane will start back up during the holiday show (weekends only). This is a wonderful member-only benefit that allows you to skip the line during peak periods. Watch for the sign and enter through the handicap door.

## Education:

- Storytime at the Domes is now offered once per month in Spanish with an English translation. ¡Qué bueno!
- Field trips are available at The Domes for youth and young adults. See page 12 for more information.

## Plants and Facility:

- We are sad to report that the second large Candelabra Tree, which is an original Desert Dome installation, was removed for safety concerns. Recently, it began to shift causing an unsafe situation for the other plants and visitors. Friends of the Domes is raising money to add a new desert collection to the location where the tree was once located. If you would like to contribute, be sure to write "Plant Collection" on your donation form.
- The poinsettias for the holiday show have arrived and The Domes horticultural team is hard at work getting them ready for installation.
- The Domes reglazing study will start this month with the removal of several glass panels from the Desert Dome. This is a key step in helping Parks leadership know the best way forward for The Domes.

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- The new donor sign will be installed in September in the lobby of The Domes; all annual gifts of \$1,000+ will be recognized for a period of one year.

#### Events:

- The Wisconsin Orchid Society Show will be at The Domes September 17-18, 2022. Come fall in love with orchids at this spectacular show that is free for all Friends of the Domes members!
- The Rhythm & Brews event will be September 29, 2022, from 6-9PM. See page 7 for more information.
- The Day of the Dead celebration, Día de los Muertos, will be Friday, October 28, 2022, from 6-9PM. Watch for more information.
- Friends member-only events will take place from 6-8PM the night before the holiday and train shows: November 18, 2022, and January 13, 2023. Save the dates!
- The annual Symposium took place on June 16, 2022, and was a wonderful success. We had 125 people in attendance for this inaugural event. ■

## Welcome to the New *Welwitschia* Plants in the Desert Dome

If you have visited the Desert Dome recently, you might have noticed a new small bed in the South African section. We are happy to share that we have acquired some new *Welwitschia mirabilis* plants to replace those that did not survive last winter's building maintenance inspection. The new plants are very small, but over time their two true leaves (the only two they'll ever have over the course of their lives) will continue getting wider and longer, and the woody caudex will grow along with them.

*Welwitschia* is a unique and fascinating plant, the only species in its family Welwitschiaceae. According to the journal *Nature*, its fossil record goes back 112 million years. There is still a lot to learn about this species. Scientists are currently studying the plant's genome to discover the secret to its longevity, which can last thousands of years. Be sure to stop by and watch these new plants grow! ■



## Introducing Domes Horticulturist Emily Lambrecht



Emily Lambrecht is the lead horticulturist in the Show Dome, and is responsible for the various theme changes. We sat down with Emily to learn a little about her approach.

### 1. How did you become interested in horticulture?

Growing up, my mom gardened every summer and had a lot

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of houseplants (including a *Philodendron cordatum* that grew down our entire banister from the second floor to the first.) She had houseplants in every room except for mine because she said it was too dark. It made me long for plants and to learn more about them.

## 2. What's your favorite thing about being a horticulturist at The Domes?

My favorite thing about working here is that I'm surrounded by and get to play with plants all year round. I am constantly thinking about what to do with the plants that we already have, thinking about layouts of plants for upcoming shows, and what plants I want for the future. Also, there's nothing better than working with tropical plants during a frozen Wisconsin winter!

## 3. What college and/or other training did you receive?

I went to the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, majoring in urban forestry and minoring in soil sciences. My first job in the field was a climbing arborist (an arborist that specializes in climbing tall trees!). I then moved on to diagnosing and treating trees and shrubs for insect and disease damage. In the winters, I professionally decorated businesses and homes for the holiday season.

## 4. What are your favorite things to grow at home?

Very tough question! I always have an herb/vegetable garden every summer (there's nothing like cooking with fresh herbs!). I also have quite a few houseplants—probably over a hundred at this point. My husband jokes that I'm not allowed to bring home plants

anymore (but I always sneak them in). I guess if I had to pick just one, I am very partial to my *Begonia maculata* (also known as Polka dot begonia).

## 5. Do you remember your first visit to The Domes?

It wasn't my first time at The Domes, but definitely my most memorable visit. I was about 9 or 10 years old, and I had my spring piano concert in the Show Dome. They had a piano set up on the overlook and chairs set up on either side on the ramps. I remember I was terrified but looking out at the sea of hydrangeas and tulips calmed me down, and I was able to perform. Plants have a way of tapping into our souls, calming our emotions, and connecting us with nature. They make you think beyond yourself and about the world around you. Plants can heal us in more ways than one. ■

# ALL THINGS MEMBERSHIP

## Member Spotlight: Sergio Magaña



### Why Did You Decide to Become a Member?

"The Domes is such a special place! We are so fortunate to have this facility in Milwaukee. I decided to become a member to contribute to supporting the institution so that we can enjoy it for a long time. I enjoy visiting The Domes to spend time with my kids. No matter how many times we go, we always see something we hadn't noticed before. We especially enjoy going for warm walks inside during the colder months."

In addition to being a member, Sergio is a Storytime at the Domes volunteer. He reads nature-based children's books in both Spanish and English. ■



# New Membership Structure: What You Need to Know

After more than 10 years of having the same membership levels and fees, Friends of the Domes is streamlining and updating our membership levels. The new membership structure has all of the same great benefits:

- Free admission to The Domes
- Member appreciation events

- Access to reciprocal gardens
- 10% discount in Gifts Under Glass
- Use of the member-only lane during peak periods

In addition, we are now offering digital membership cards that can be used on any smartphone.

Never be without your membership card again! A physical

membership card will be available for purchase for \$10 (or free upon request at all Conservatory Circle levels). If you currently have a Friends membership card, it will continue to work as long as you renew your membership.

A few of the membership level changes:

- Senior memberships start at age 60 rather than 62.
- Household memberships (previously called Family memberships) will now allow you to bring all members who reside at your residence, rather than limiting it to minor children.
- The new Conservatory Circle provides enhanced benefits to those who support as a donor.

To renew using the former membership structure, email Deb at [DebSchiel.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:DebSchiel.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org) or call (414) 257-5608. After October 31, 2022, all renewals will be at the levels indicated in the chart to the left. ■

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL	ANNUAL COST	BENEFITS
<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$50</b>	Includes entrance for member plus three guests.
<b>Senior (60+)</b>	<b>\$30</b>	Includes entrance for member and one guest.
<b>Student</b>	<b>\$30</b>	Includes entrance for member and one guest.
<b>Household</b>	<b>\$65</b>	Includes entrance for all members of same household.

CONSERVATORY CIRCLE THANK YOU TO OUR DONOR-LEVEL MEMBERS!		
<b>Bronze Fennel</b>	<b>\$125</b>	Individual member benefits for two cardholders; access to the Friends video vault.
<b>Silver Sage</b>	<b>\$250</b>	All Bronze Fennel benefits, plus Domes Animal Sponsorship.
<b>Golden Geranium</b>	<b>\$500</b>	All Silver Sage benefits, plus VIP access at select events.
<b>Platinum Beauty</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	All Golden Geranium benefits, plus five free workshops or family programs annually. One-year recognition on The Domes donor sign located in the lobby.
<b>Gardener's Guild</b>	<b>\$5,000</b>	All Platinum Beauty benefits, plus name on a train car during the train show.
<b>Founder's Alliance</b>	<b>\$10,000</b>	All Gardener's Guild benefits, plus a catered dinner for up to 10 in the Show Dome (Mon-Thurs) once per year.

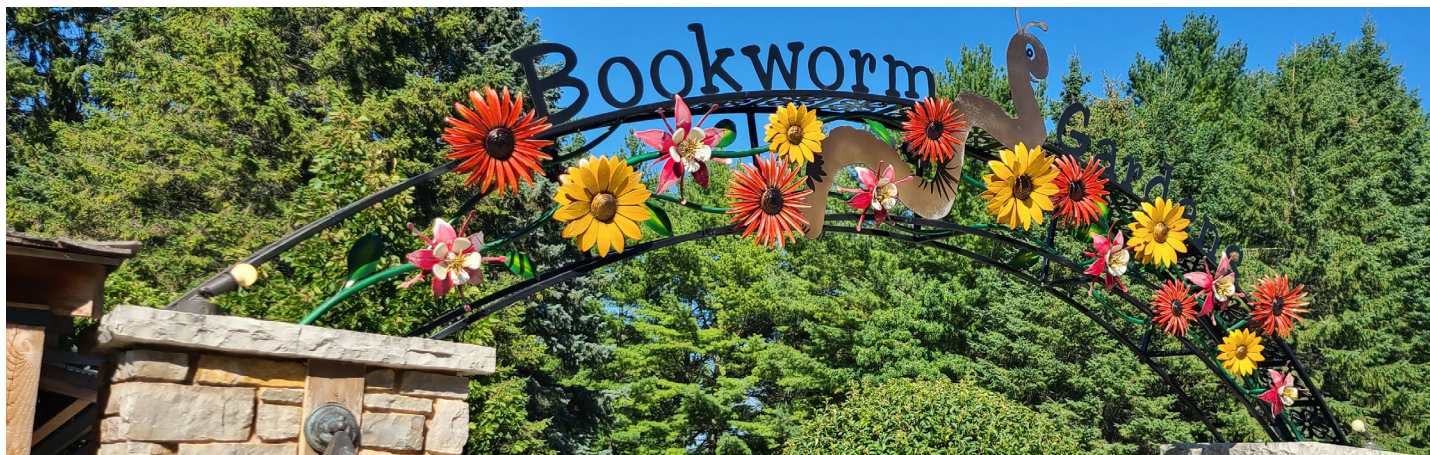
Join Today!





# ALL THINGS MEMBERSHIP CONT'D

## Reciprocating Gardens



Your Friends of the Domes membership provides you free or discounted access to reciprocating gardens across the country, including the magical Bookworm Gardens in Sheboygan. Explore 2 acres of beautiful, manicured gardens themed around specific children's classics including *The Little Blue Truck*, *Magic Tree House*, and *Harry the Dirty Dog*. Pack a lunch as kids and adults will want to spend a full day reading and exploring. For a complete list of reciprocating gardens, visit [www.ahsgardening.org](http://www.ahsgardening.org). ■





# UPCOMING EVENTS

## UPCOMING SHOWS

### Fall Show: *Once Upon a Mum*

Dates: Sept 24, 2022-Nov 6, 2022



### Holiday Show: *Calm & Bright*

Dates: Nov 19, 2022-Jan 3, 2023

Gather your family in the warm glow of elegance and the timeless beauty of hundreds of velvety poinsettias. Capture photos of lasting memories and reunite in the spirit of the holidays.

### Train Show: *Plant-itory Orbit*

Dates: Jan 14-Mar 26, 2023

Come explore our solar system at the 2023 train show.

## Enjoy some of Milwaukee's Best Music and Beer in the Beautiful Domes at Night

Join us September 29, 6:00 to 9:00PM, for Rhythm & Brews, the first music-focused event to take place at the Mitchell Park Domes



in several years. Acclaimed Milwaukee singer-songwriter Trapper Schoepf will headline the event with other Milwaukee-area musicians performing throughout the evening. Schoepf has published music with Bob Dylan and toured the world with artists like The Wallflowers, Old 97's and The Jayhawks. There will

also be a dazzling light show in the Show Dome.

Discounted admission is \$25 per person for Friends members and includes two drink tickets. Additional food and drinks will be available for purchase. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the Domes.

This event is limited to attendees 21 and over. No tickets will be available at the door, and admission is limited. Don't delay! To purchase your tickets, visit [www.MilwaukeeDomes.org](http://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org), call (414) 257-5608, or use the QR code below. ■



**Purchase  
Tickets  
Here!**

## Celebrate Día de los Muertos with Music, Food and Marigolds

Join us for our family-friendly Día de los Muertos celebration on October 28, 2022. We are excited to partner with the community once again and invite you to celebrate Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos) in The Domes.



Marigolds are known as the traditional flower of Day of the Dead. Their vibrant color and scent are believed to guide the spirits of our deceased loved ones.

The evening will be full of opportunities to explore The Domes and enjoy traditional music and food. For information about becoming a sponsor for this event, contact [Maddie.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:Maddie.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org). ■



# VOLUNTEERING AT THE DOMES

## We Couldn't Do It Without You!



*LEFT: Friends of the Domes volunteer during storytime in the Education Center  
BOTTOM: Friends of the Domes volunteer helping with event preparations*

**F**riends of the Domes has grown this past year, and we were excited that the volunteer program was able to return after many Covid protocols were lifted. The Friends is thrilled to report that our fantastic volunteers donated 752 hours between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022!

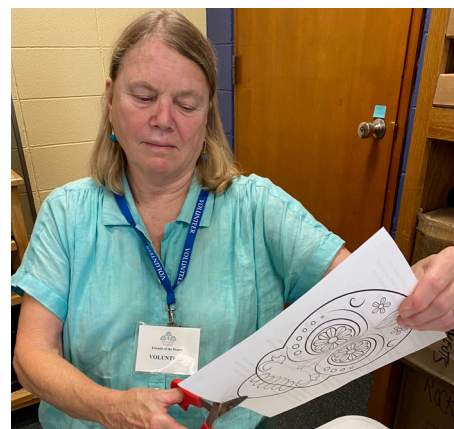
Our volunteers supported every area of our mission: staffing the Ed Center, gardening with the horticulturists, running the trains in the Show Dome, assisting with membership mailings and calling lapsed members, supporting special events, and so much more! Volunteers are not often in the spotlight, but they are

the backbone of our programs. Their dedication is essential to the work we do. The Friends and Domes staff enjoy their positive energy, smiling faces and smart ideas.

We know that putting a value to the time volunteers give to the Friends of the Domes does not do it justice, but it is one way to quantify the value of our volunteers' contributions. For 2022, the Do Good Organization estimated the value of a volunteer hour in Wisconsin to be \$27.87. This means that the Friends volunteers donated \$20,965 worth of labor this past year alone!

Would you or someone you know

like to help further the mission of the Friends of the Domes? We have a wide variety of volunteer opportunities year-round, and we could really use your help. Email Carrie at [CarrieKelroy.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:CarrieKelroy.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org) for information on how to get started. ■

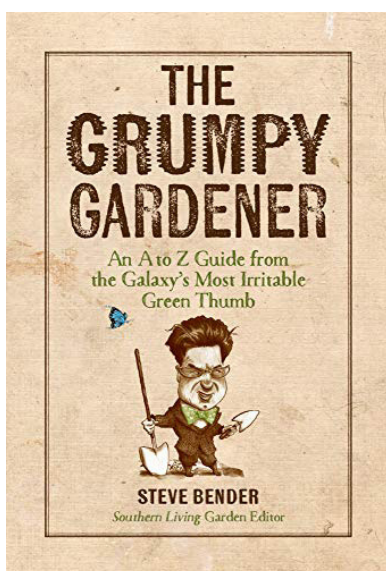
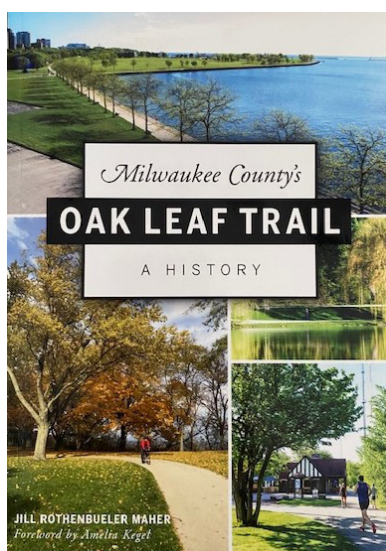
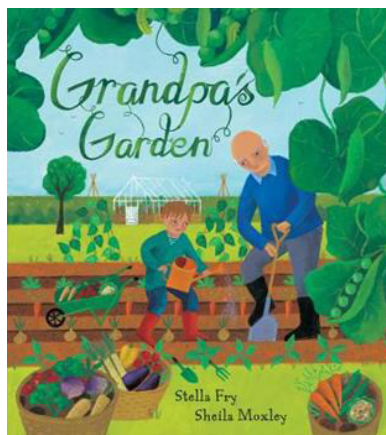
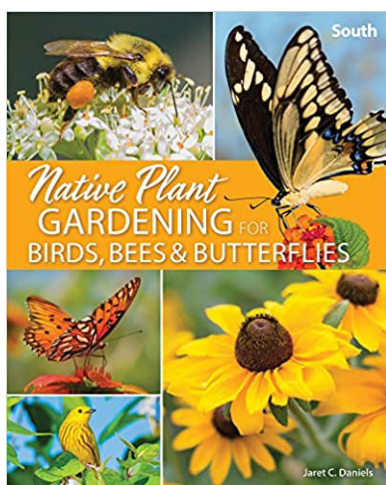




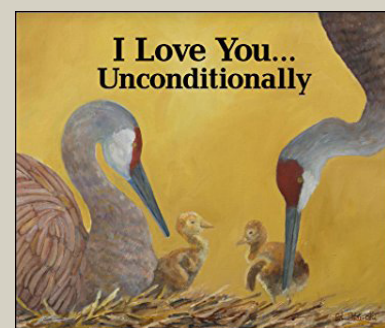
# GIFT SHOP GALORE

## Support the Plants. Shop Our Books.

The 2022 fall floral show, *Once Upon a Mum*, celebrates both colorful mums and books. Help support our plant collection and grow the readers in your family by purchasing books from our gift shop. We have fiction and non-fiction books for readers of all ages, and don't forget, Friends members always receive a 10% discount off of books and all other purchases from the gift shop. Pictured are some of our featured books. ■



## FEATURED GIFT SHOP AUTHOR: KELLY M. CONDON



Support the conservatory and your love of reading by purchasing a book with a local connection, like *I Love You... Unconditionally* by Kelly M. Condon, illustrated by Pat Dobrinska. Dobrinska is an award-winning illustrator who studies all manner of local plant and wildlife on her 160-acre Wisconsin farm and also teaches art. She especially loves sandhill cranes, the stars of this beautiful, heart-warming story. *Together, We Are Family*, the second book written and illustrated by the pair, celebrates love and togetherness in the context of a family of wolves. Visit Gifts Under Glass to purchase your copy of these two publications (members receive a 10% discount). ■



# FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE

## The Art and Science of Getting Flowers to Bloom

By Rory Petry, Domes Horticulturist



As you may have noticed, the floral displays in the Show Dome often do not align with the typical bloom schedule of the plants. Think about the many beautiful Hydrangeas in the spring show, which happens months before we see the blooms in our own gardens.

As we prepare for the fall floral show, *Once Upon a Mum*, you might be wondering what is happening behind the scenes to get the Chrysanthemums ready. As you know, the typical bloom schedule for the mum is fall, months after our display will open to the public.

To ensure a spectacular and bewitching display of autumn colors, The Domes horticultural team does some “human meddling.” Here is a little about the art and science of ensuring the mums bloom at the right time.

Mums are short day obligate plants, meaning they require long night periods (at least 12 hours) to start setting their buds for bloom. We achieve this by blacking out the greenhouses and forcing a longer night. This is easily achieved by The Domes state-of-the-art greenhouses, as their smart technology makes the blackout happen with the push of a button.

The process takes eight weeks from when we begin blacking out the greenhouses to when the mums show color. At the start of our crop cycle, we pay particular attention to desired growth forms and fertilization routines. For example, for the tall single stem show mums, we pinch off the side buds to force as much energy into one single giant bloom. With our traditional mums, we wait until their roots

develop toward the edge of the pot, then we remove all but about five of the nodes (the stem where buds are located). The result is the full bushy “pot mum” that we typically associate with fall décor.

Chrysanthemum care is all about timing. We can manipulate many aspects of their growth and the environment, but factors out of our control still impact our plants and their blooms. Sometimes that’s a premature blind bud and other times they create a bloom so perfect and beautiful that only the foolish would try to take credit for those gratuities of nature. ■





# EDUCATION AT THE DOMES

## Can a Puppet Really Change the World?

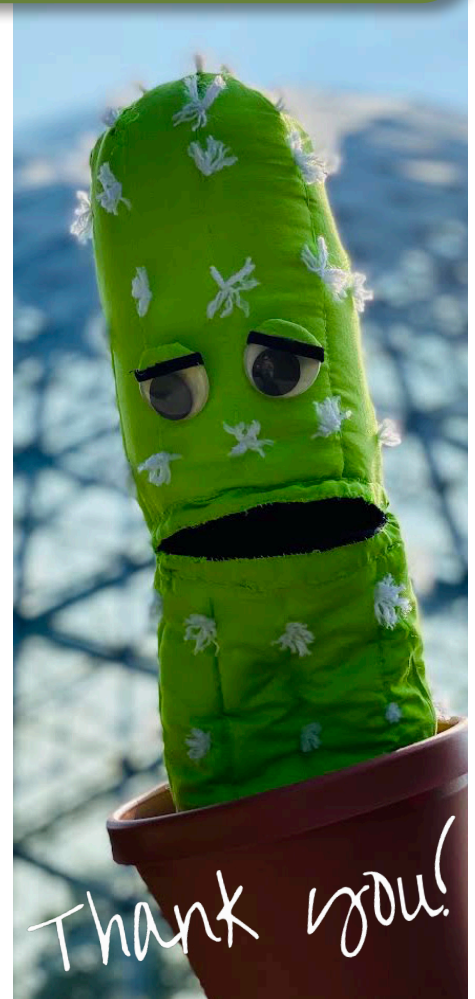
**W**e know education is important, *really important*. As we gain new skills and knowledge, our horizons expand—as does our quality of life.

And when the focus is nature-based education, that impact is tenfold. According to public health researchers, connecting to nature is not just a fun pastime, it is critical to our emotional and physical well-being. In fact, being in nature reduces anger, fear and stress and increases pleasant feelings.

Having a connection to nature matters—something that you,

as a Friends of the Domes member—know better than most. But what you might not realize is that it also helps strengthen the community as a whole. You see, it is human nature to protect what we love. So when we teach our community about nature, they *naturally* (excuse the pun) want to protect it. In a world with limited natural resources, we need earth ambassadors. People who want to ensure that our green and blue spaces are here for generations to come.

This is at the heart of the Friends of the Domes Education Program:



healing the community through plants. This past year, we did just that.

- 2,200 youth field trip participants
- 364 adult education program participants
- 11,900 Education Center visitors

This is thanks, in large part, to you—our members. Because of you, our fantastic educators—including our puppets—are able to change the world: One child, one person, one plant at a time. ■





524 S. Layton Blvd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53215

**Phone:** (414) 257-5608

**E-mail:** FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org

**Website:** www.MilwaukeeDomes.org

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----- (Pass along to a teacher) ✂

## Field Trips at The Domes Cultivate a Lifelong Love of Nature



**A**re you looking for a one-of-a-kind field trip for your class, troop or camp? Look no further! A field trip at the Mitchell Park Domes allows children and young adults to experience the magic of three unique ecosystems all in the course of a few hours. Many science-focused programs and options are available (puppets, scavenger hunts, teen programs, and so much more!).

To learn more and sign up, email Erica Veto at [EricaVeto.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:EricaVeto.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org), call (414) 257-5608, visit [www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/childrens-programs](http://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/childrens-programs), or scan the QR code below. ■

*P.S. If you are looking for other ways to support the Friends Education Program, consider passing along this information. Help us achieve our goal of serving 3,000 children through field trips this year!*

Learn  
more  
here!

