

WINTER 2022

INSIDE THE DOMES

Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory



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NEWS FROM THE DOMES



Things are hopping at the Mitchell Park Domes, and we are pleased to provide you with this amazing update!

Membership

- The new membership structure took effect November 1st. What does that mean for you? When you next renew, you will use the new system, which has similar levels. However, every member automatically receives a digital membership card that can be kept on their smartphone. Don't have a smartphone? No problem! You may purchase a printed card for just \$10 (you get two so you have a spare!). If you have your previous card, it will still work.
- The member lane is now operating during peak hours, staffed by volunteers. When you see the sign, skip the line by accessing The Domes through the automatic door.

- The new Friends of the Domes Video Vault is now live with great educational videos and activities! If you are a Bronze Fennel or higher member, watch your email for access information.

Education

- The new lineup of Spring workshops and programs is out! See page 7 for more info.

Plants and Facility

- There are 1,000 poinsettias in the *Calm & Bright* holiday show that surround a glorious pine tree that took three days on an aerial work platform to decorate. Thank you to Ms. Adeline Zobrack for donating the tree, which is nearly 30-feet tall! The holiday show runs through January 1, 2023.

Events

- The next member-only event

is Friday, January 13, 2023, from 6-8PM. You will have an opportunity to be the first to see the new train show, *Plant-itary Orbit*.

- See page 5 for all 2023 events.

Other

- The new website is live. Visit www.MilwaukeeDomes.org to learn about the history and future of the Mitchell Park Domes. There are virtual tours as well as dozens of free resources!
- Friends of the Domes kicked off our year-end campaign last month, and we are asking our members to consider making a gift. We know that you already give—through your membership dues, volunteer hours and other support—but our annual appeal is a special time when we all come together to show our love of The Domes. ■

FRIENDS OF THE DOMES MISSION IMPACT REPORT

JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2022

EDUCATION CENTER

11,900 Community Members

...visited The Domes Education Center to engage in hands-on learning and exploration!

DOMES FIELD TRIPS

2,200 Youth

...participated in a field trip at The Domes. Nearly 85% of these youth were from economically-disadvantaged households.

ADULT EDUCATION

425 Adults

...participated in an educational program such as the first annual Symposium.

VOLUNTEERS

1073 Hours

...were donated by our wonderful volunteer corps, totaling more than \$29,905 in donated labor.

GIFTS UNDER GLASS

25 Local Businesses

...sold artwork and gifts to our visitors through the Gifts Under Glass Gift Shop, an important way that we help support the local economy.

FACILITY & PLANTS

104,000 Community Members

...visited The Domes to enjoy our world-class plant collection. Friends donated \$36,363 for facility and plant enhancements.

Welcome Fund Development Manager Maddie Mueller

My name is Maddie, and I work as the Fund Development Manager for Friends of the Domes. I have the privilege of working with our wonderful donors and members (shout out to all of you rock stars!). In addition to our individual donors, I also work to engage foundations and corporations throughout Milwaukee. I love that my work is so diverse!

I attended the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point (go pointers!), and received a degree in arts management, with a minor in museum studies. Many of my friends studied natural resource management, and I learned a lot about the beauty and resilience of our planet from them.

I have loved The Domes since I visited for the first time as a little tot. The wonder and beauty of the Tropical Dome made me never want to leave! My poor mother had to cart my frizzy head out of there kicking and screaming. Now, more than 15 years later, I get to experience the magic of The Domes every day. It has truly been a dream come true! When away from The Domes, I find serenity in knitting, napping and a good margarita.

The team at the Friends of the Domes is a true force! I have never worked with such dedicated, passionate people before. Working in a nonprofit can be tricky. The hours can be long



and the work can be challenging. However, being on this team makes my work not only possible, but truly enjoyable!

Thank you for joining the Friends of the Domes team, Maddie! ■

Introducing Domes Horticulturist Justine Miller

Justine Miller has been a horticulturist in the Desert Dome since 2021.

1. How did you become interested in horticulture?

I have always liked art and science. I started out professionally as a baker, but I became attracted to the way that horticulture let me use flowers, plants and other natural elements as a color palette to create a living work of art.

2. How did you prepare to be a horticulturist?

I attended Milwaukee Area Technical College for 2 years and earned an associates degree in horticulture. We spent a lot of class time on the campus grounds, learning about and maintaining the plants and trees. The teachers were all wonderful, working professionals. After graduating, I worked for a landscaping design and ecological stewardship firm. Now I take field station classes through University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee to continue to learn about plants and plant communities of Wisconsin.

3. What is your favorite thing about working at The Domes?

Before working at The Domes, I primarily worked with plants from Wisconsin. In the Desert Dome, I get to work with species from deserts located all over the world. I enjoy learning about all of the plants and their adaptations. I also enjoy the challenge of keeping them all happy when



their native habitats are very different.

4. Which parts of your job are the most challenging?

Maintaining a desert climate in Wisconsin, even inside The Domes, is definitely challenging. We also navigate the physical challenges of working with species with very sharp adaptations! Just getting around them requires caution.

5. What are your favorite things to grow at home?

I live near an area with a mesic forest (similar to Grant Park), and that is inspiring my own yard's landscape design. I am most excited about the yellow birch that I added to my backyard. Yellow birch have a wintergreen scent and beautiful gold or copper peeling bark. I started a vegetable garden, but it turns out my dogs like to eat vegetables, so that is on hold until we can build a fence! ■

Upcoming Shows

Holiday Show: *Calm & Bright*

Nov 19, 2022-Jan 1, 2023

Gather your family in the warm glow of elegance and the timeless beauty of hundreds of velvety poinsettias.



Train Show: *Plant-itary Orbit*

Jan 14—March 26, 2023

Come on an adventure like no other: trains in space! Space trains will be orbiting our solar system in the Show Dome, passing through the unusual plant orbits of a 'Starry Night' Petunia and into the deep blues of the Pansy matrix. Make it your mission not to miss this wild enterprise of plants, planets and trains!



GIFT SHOP GALORE

Unique, local gifts for everyone on your list! Friends of the Domes members always receive 10% off at the Gifts Under Glass Gift Shop, but on Thursday, December 15th, we are celebrating the holidays and showing our appreciation of you by giving an additional 10% off! Join us on **December 15th from 5:00-7:45PM** to save 20% off all purchases!



Silver Wear by Darlene
Elegant, up-cycled jewelry



Good Earth Products
Pure botanical skin products



James Steeno Products
Ornaments, cards and more

ALL THINGS MEMBERSHIP

Save the Dates: 2023 Events Calendar

We don't want our members to miss a single event in 2023!

Jan 13, 6-8PM: Train Show
Preview Night—Members Only

Jan 14-March 26: Train Show:
Plant-itary Orbit

Feb 2-5: Growing with the
Thymes Online Auction

April 8-May 28: Spring Show:
Metamorphosis

April 29-30, 9AM-4PM: Art in
the Green

June 10-Sept 10: Summer
Show: *DinoDomes*

Sept 14, 3:30-5:30PM: Sympo-
sium: *Why Water Matters*

Sept 23-Nov 5: Fall Show:
eARTh—Art of Nature

Oct 27, 6-9PM: Día de los Muer-
tos (Day of the Dead)

Nov 17, 6-8PM: Holiday Show
Preview Night—Members Only

Nov 18-Jan 7, 2024: Holiday
Show: *Glaciers, Cool Climate,
Penguins*

FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE

Orchid Growing Tips from The Expert

The orchid family, *Orchidaceae*, has 28,000 species. The collection at The Domes includes almost 200 varieties, housed in a special greenhouse when not on display in the Tropical Dome. This allows us to control the amount of light, air flow, humidity, heat and water the plants receive.

We asked our award-winning orchid expert Horticulturist Mary Braunreiter to share some tips for the novice orchid grower.

Like all plants, orchids prefer an environment that mimics their natural habitat. Here are a few general tips that will help ensure you have the same beautiful blooms you see at The Domes.

When purchasing an orchid, be sure it has a label identifying the variety so that you can research its specific care requirements.

Environment: Orchids love humidity, but the pot should not sit in water. Pots can be kept on a humidity tray where pebbles keep the bottom of the pot out of the water. The evaporating water humidifies the air around the plant. The leaves also appreciate a morning misting. This allows the leaves to dry before nightfall, preventing fungal spots. Orchids also need airflow and can benefit from a ceiling fan.



Mary and The Domes won 7 awards at the 2022 Wisconsin Orchid Society Show

Growing Medium: Most need a well-draining bark mix prepared just for orchids. Re-pot every two years in a terracotta pot.

Watering: Check the potting medium to see if it is dry. If the medium is dry, water thoroughly, but under-watering is better than over-watering.

Feeding: Use a fertilizer specifically made for orchids and follow the label directions. Generally, fertilize at half strength with a balanced (20-20-20) fertilizer twice a month during the growing season, March through October. Fertilizing

at half strength monthly from November through February is sufficient.

Sunlight: A bright, east facing window is ideal. Direct sun from a south facing window can scorch leaves.

Phalaenopsis (Moth Orchids) are the easiest orchids to grow in a home environment and are widely available. Their flowers will last a month or more. After the blooms fade, remove the flower stalk all the way to its base. Be patient, it will take several months for a new flower stalk to form. ■

EDUCATION AT THE DOMES

Learn From Local Experts

Many exciting classes and programs are scheduled for this winter! Scan this QR code for details including the date, time and cost. Or, visit the new website www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/Education.



- Houseplant Hospital: Winterizing Your Houseplants *with Dulce Duran, Chelotzin Plant Store*
- Succulent and Tropical Plant Propagation *with Erica Veto, Friends of the Domes*
- Yoga in the Show Dome *with Dietrich Hunter*
- A Domes-Inspired Cocktail Class (Ages 21+) *with Bittercube*
- Organic Chocolate Taste and Make *with Tabal Chocolate*

VOLUNTEERING AT THE DOMES

Volunteer Spotlight: Meet Mary Belvoir

Mary has been volunteering at The Domes since October 2021. In just one year, she has donated over 50 hours to Friends of the Domes!

As a retired Milwaukee Public Schools Speech Pathologist, Mary knew she wanted to stay involved with children. She staffs the Education Center at least once a month and especially loves her interactions with children.

The Education Center has also allowed Mary to share her quilting skills in a unique way. You may have noticed a beautiful quilt featuring various forest animals hanging in the Ed Center. Mary created this!

This donation sparked an idea for an exciting new exhibit for kids. It is a matching game featuring quilted squares with animals, artificial animal scat (made by Mary), and the book *Whose Butt?* (This book is a best-seller in our gift shop!) Stop in the Ed Center and see if you can complete the matching game!

Thank you, Mary, for helping The Domes to be an exciting place to visit for ALL ages!

Interested in volunteering? Visit www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/Volunteer. ■





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MITCHELL PARK DOMES HOLIDAY AND EVENING HOURS

*Light Shows in the Show Dome
During all Late Nights!*

| | |
|---------------|---|
| December 1st | 9AM-8PM |
| December 8th | 9AM-8PM |
| December 15th | 9AM-8PM Gift Shop Special: Members receive 20% off from 5-7:45PM |
| December 22nd | 9AM-8PM |
| December 24th | 9AM-2PM |
| December 25th | Closed |
| December 29th | 9AM-8PM |
| December 31st | 9AM-4PM |
| January 1st | 9AM-4PM |



JUST IN TIME FOR VALENTINE'S DAY!

February 2-5, 2023

The Growing with the Thymes online auction offers one-of-a-kind items and experiences: a catered dinner in the Show Dome for 10, a Curt Crain signed print, \$1,000 in landscaping, a starter wine cellar, and so much more! Watch for more information in your email box.

Interested in donating an item or experience? Contact Maddie at: Maddie.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org