

SPRING 2023



# INSIDE THE DOMES

Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory

22,206—DOMES VISITORS IN DEC 2022!

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# NEWS FROM THE DOMES



**W**elcome to the first *Inside The Domes* newsletter of 2023! We have a lot of great content for you. Here are a few updates:

## Membership

- Membership is at an all-time high at nearly 4,000 members. Our goal is 5,000 by June 30, 2023. Help us by purchasing a gift membership for someone you love! Learn more: [www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/membership](http://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/membership)
- The member lane is operating during peak hours. When you see the sign, skip the line by going through the automatic door. If no sign, go to the fee booth to check-in.

## Education

- Yoga, houseplants and tea, oh my! Registration for the spring workshops and programs is now available. Many

of our workshops sell out quickly so register early.

## Plants and Facility

- It is the final days of the winter Train Show, *Plant-itary Orbits*. Be sure to visit before it closes on March 26, 2023.
- The Spring Show, *Metamorphosis*, is set to bloom on April 8, 2023, with a celebration of the transition from winter to summer.
- The Domes is now open on Mondays from 9AM-5PM. Come visit us on this calm day of the week to soak up some nature!
- Resolution Update: As you may remember, the Parks Committee of the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors is exploring various options in terms of the future of The Domes. They will be hosting community discussions

over the next 6 months. Stay tuned for more information!

## Events

- Thanks to our bidders and donors, the Growing with the Thymes auction raised nearly \$12,000!
- Save the date for Art in the Green as it returns to the Mitchell Park Domes, April 29-30, 2023. The year's event will feature more than 30 artists plus food vendors and bloody marys!

## Other

- The Friends Year-End Campaign raised nearly \$16,000 to support our mission. Thank you!
- The new online Domes gift shop provides a fun way to support The Domes. Learn more at: [www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/shoponline](http://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/shoponline) ■

**F**riends of the Domes is excited to host 34 local and regional artists for Art in the Green 2023. Join us for this two-day, indoor art festival April 29-30, 2023, 9AM-4PM. Artwork will be on display and for sale in The Domes greenhouse, with music and food throughout The Domes. With Mother's Day on May 14, this is a perfect opportunity to get your shopping done. Mediums include ceramics, jewelry, woodwork, paintings, photography and more!

Admission to Art in the Green is FREE to Friends of the Domes



members; \$9 for nonmembers (children 2 and younger are free). Proceeds support the educational programs of Friends of the Domes.

This unique event brings together more than 5,000 people

who appreciate the arts and The Domes.

Interested in sponsoring this event? Contact Maddie at (414) 257-5608 or [Maddie.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:Maddie.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org). ■

## Meet Visitor Experience Coordinator: Eric Levin

**W**hen you arrive at The Domes, Eric Levin is sure to greet you with a warm smile and answer any questions you may have. Eric sat down with us for an interview so that our members could get to know him a bit better.

### Describe Your Role at The Domes

I work for Milwaukee County Parks as the Visitor Experience Coordinator, which involves what the title implies, plus some marketing efforts. I manage the visitor-facing “front half” of The Domes, answering questions and making sure people have a great experience. If I can't answer their questions, I guide them to the right people to talk to, whether it is the Friends of the Domes or Parks staff.

### Tell Us About Yourself

My background is in entertainment, owning and managing

movie theaters in Milwaukee and elsewhere. Starting this position at The Domes felt natural to me, as it is a place of entertainment and enlightenment. This background, and my love of architecture, really connect me to the structure of The Domes, especially the interior spaces. Buildings are empty shells without people. The interior represents the potential for assembly and communing with other people. Like a theater, this space needs visitors.

I remember coming to The Domes in 1967 when all three domes were finally open. Having something as modern as The Domes, a nod to the very popular Buckminster Fuller design, was really exciting and special for Milwaukee.

### What is the best part of the work?

I love working in a setting where



nature is enclosed in three very fascinating structures and seeing the absolute joy and serenity that it brings to people. I value working with a group of very talented, dedicated people. I personally have found it very rewarding working with Christa and the entire Friends organization. I hope that more people become members! ■



## GIFT SHOP GALORE

The Friends of the Domes new online gift shop features T-shirts, prints and mugs with a beautiful new mosaic design (created by a local artist). This unique mosaic artwork incorporates everything we love about The Domes, including Steve, our bearded dragon. Spend your morning coffee admiring its design and searching for another fun find. The acrylic art comes with suction cups for placement on windows.



**Sip, Display and Wear**



Both the online and onsite gift shops feature many great finds—perfect for a special mother in your life. We also offer gift memberships and gift certificates.

To shop online, visit [www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/shoponline](http://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/shoponline) (or use the QR code above). ■

## EDUCATION AT THE DOMES

Get out of the house and into learning at The Domes. We have a variety of adult workshops and family-friendly programming.

### Adult Education Workshops

The spring lineup features programs about houseplants, candle making, herbal tea, yoga, honey, and cocktail making!

We are always adding programs, and some sell out quickly so visit our registration page often!



### Family-Friendly Activities

Registration is not required for these free programs (regular Domes admission fees for non-members apply).

#### Discover The Domes: Education Center Public Hours

Wednesdays	11AM–2PM
Thursdays	12–2PM
Saturdays/Sundays	9:30AM–2:30PM

#### Weekly Wednesday Family Program

Storytime, puppet shows and other activities!

Wednesdays in the Lobby	10AM
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# GIFT SHOP GALORE CONTINUED

## Gifts Under Glass Artist Lucas Alamo

One of the artists whose works you may have seen in our gift shop is Lucas Alamo. He has created, screen-printed and dyed several different shirt designs exclusively for The Domes.

Lucas is a very local artist—he grew up in the Clark Square Neighborhood, just blocks away from The Domes. He and his family still live nearby, and take pride in living in the neighborhood. He speaks about The Domes in the way one describes a close friend. “When I look up, I am in awe.” He loves the design of the space itself, as well as the thought put into the plant displays. He marveled at how intuitive the walkways through The Domes are, as though you are walking outside on a natural path.

Lucas embodies mindfulness and creativity. He has an innate interest in fine arts and talents that were encouraged from a very young age by his teachers and family. He participated in pre-college art classes starting in 5th grade and later became interested in a variety of other mediums. Home repairs and do-it-yourself work with his family taught him the value of taking care of things and skills he applies to his artistic techniques.

Music and musicians inspire Lucas and his art. He mused, “music, like visual art, has the power to make you feel something immediately.”

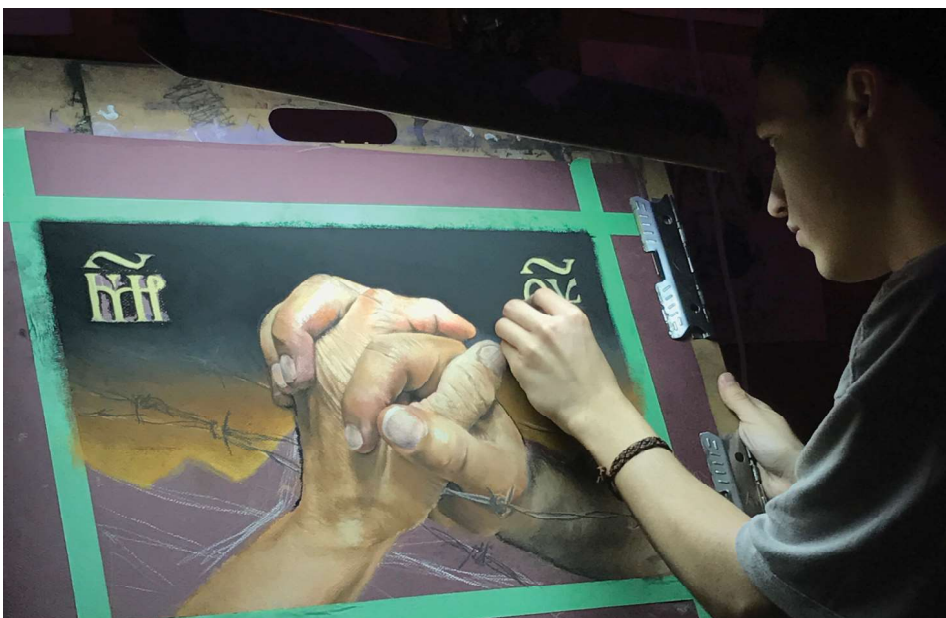
As a student at MIAD he discovered his interest in screen printing and textile dyeing. In



his thoughtful way, he describes dyeing fabrics with different natural dyes (like indigo and cochineal), and how temperature and water chemistry impact the outcomes. The result is wearable art!

Wearable art gives people the visceral opportunity to interact with art and own something unique that they find beautiful. This leads people to value their clothing and keep it, which benefits the environment.

Lucas worked with partner KC Harrison to design some of the pieces you will find at Gifts Under Glass (including the vibrant Tropical Dome shirt pictured on this page). We are delighted to be able to offer wearable art for sale at Gifts Under Glass. For more information about Lucas, visit [www.invisual.group](http://www.invisual.group). ■





# FOR THE LOVE OF NATURE

## Botanical Buddies

By Paula Zamiatowski, Parks Naturalist

Companion planting is the practice of choosing which crops to plant together to deter pests, attract beneficial insects and stimulate growth. The concept of companion planting is an ancient one. Evidence exists that it has been practiced in China and Egypt for more than 1,000 years.

In North America, one of the best examples of companion planting is the “Three Sisters Method,” where American Indian tribes planted crops of beans, squash and corn together.

The corn stalk provides a support for the pole beans to grow up, reaching toward the sun for light. The beans pull nitrogen from the air and enrich the soil for the benefit of all three plants. The prickly leaves of the squash plants growing around the corn protect the corn and the beans from raccoons and other animals. The large leaves also shade the soil, keeping it moist and cool, in the same way mulch protects soil.

A fourth sister, either sunflower or amaranth, may be added to attract pollinators and lure birds away from the other seeds.

Gardeners who use this method often choose heirloom varieties

and research when to plant (e.g., plant corn a few weeks before the beans so that it is strong enough to support the beans).

### Other Botanical Buddies

Lettuce is popular with vegetable gardeners. Planting lettuce near root vegetables that grow deeper in the ground maximizes the use of your garden space—carrots, beets, onions and parsnips have roots that grow deep, leaving plenty of soil near the surface for lettuce’s shallow roots. Cabbage family member plants and fennel, however, can inhibit the growth of lettuce and should not be planted nearby. If pests are damaging lettuce, turnips, chives or garlic can help deter aphids.

Many herbs are powerful companion plants. Mint or chervil repel slugs. Herbs, like German chamomile are believed to benefit their ailing neighbors so well they are called “nurse plants.” Eggplants like tarragon. Marjoram, basil and summer savory may enhance the flavor of a variety of vegetables.

Though the scientific “why” on some of these benefits has not yet been explained, the wisdom of generations of gardeners is powerful.

This spring, before planting the first seed, spend some time researching the botanical buddies that will help you have your best garden yet. ■



# VOLUNTEERING AT THE DOMES

The Art in the Green art festival is back, and on-site volunteers are indispensable to the success of our event. Donate your time and energy to support the arts and The Domes April 28-30, 2023.

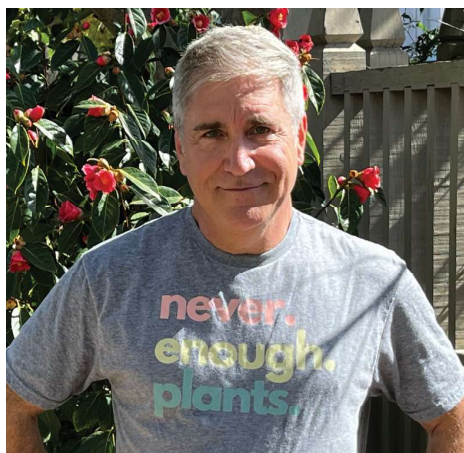
Energetic, friendly volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks including monitoring artist booths, admissions, Friday night set-up and more. Even just a few hours makes a big difference!

Contact Carrie, our Volunteer Manager, for more information: [CarrieKelroy.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org](mailto:CarrieKelroy.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org). ■



## ALL THINGS MEMBERSHIP

### Meet One of Our Fabulous Friends of the Domes Members



Meet Mark Kolbe, Friends of the Domes Member Since 2019

Most cherished plant: *Zamia pseudoparasitica* (a rare member of the cycad species)

You might assume, given more than 40 years raising top-winning champion Havanese, that Mark Kolbe's great passion is dogs.

But after just a few minutes with Mark, listening to him describe

his plant friends fluently using their Latin names, it is easy to see that it was a species of the *flora* persuasion that stole his heart nearly five decades ago.

Mark recounts his first memories of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory, telling of the magnificence of the Show Dome, the humidity of the Tropical Dome, the grandeur of the facility itself. Mark was just 5 years old on a school field trip.

In the moment, he didn't realize the lasting impact of that visit. But as he sits in his Southern California home surrounded by hundreds of plants, he knows that his first trip to The Domes forever changed him. Indeed, he loves tropical plants so much that he bought a 3-acre property in a forested area in the Caribbean so he would have more

room to expand his collection.

An urban family without even one houseplant, Mark's parents were not "plant people." Mark was in fifth grade when he purchased his first plant, using his hard-earned allowance.

Now in his late 50s, Mark sees plants as more than a pastime; they are part of his identity. He loves the challenge of keeping his "exploding" plant collection happy.

Mark became a Friends of the Domes member in 2019 when he was back in Milwaukee for a funeral. As he looks back at the course of his life, he sees how small moments impacted him significantly. "Thanks to The Domes, I am a plant person," explains Mark. "I have never met a plant I don't like." ■



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## PLANT-ITARY ORBITS 2023 TRAIN SHOW

Now through March 26, 2023

An extraordinary exhibit of plants with trains and planets in the Show Dome.



## METAMORPHOSIS SPRING FLORAL SHOW

April 8-May 28, 2023

Witness the white shell of winter transform into the soft caterpillar greens of spring. With the “Changing Color” daffodils, the garden morphs into a vivid tapestry of hyacinths, pansies and hydrangeas of every color.



## SAVE THE DATE EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

September 14, 2023,  
3:30PM–5:30PM

The focus of this year’s symposium will be regional, statewide and local factors that impact our access to safe fresh water.