

FALL 2024

INSIDE THE DOMES



Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory



NEW ITEMS IN OUR ONLINE GIFT SHOP!



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IN THE GIFT SHOP: PAGE 4



FAMILY FUN FEST "WINTER IN
THE TROPICS": PAGE 5

THE NATURAL
PLACE TO
RECONNECT WITH
SELF AND
FRIENDS



ENDANGERED HAWAIIAN
HIBISCUS BLOOMS: PAGE 6



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DOMES: PAGES 7 AND 8

NEWS FROM THE DOMES



FALL into event season at the Mitchell Park Domes. So many wonderful programs and events planned just for you. Here's the inside scoop!

Education

- ◇ Our new Community Engagement Program allows you to bring a group of clients to The Domes for a unique wellness program. Imagine offering your clients an exclusive yoga opportunity at The Domes!
- ◇ Just a reminder that all educational programs—including field trips—are offered in English, Spanish, or bilingually.

Plants and Facility

- ◇ The installation of the new Asian plant collection is now complete in the Desert Dome (that makes the sixth desert represented). Your membership fee helped make this addition possible. Thank you!

- ◇ The biannual pruning in the Tropical Dome will commence soon. Portions of the dome will be closed to maintain staff and visitor safe.

Events

- ◇ See page 7 for a list of many upcoming programs and events.
- ◇ *Holidays at The Domes:* Watch your email for info about holiday activities such as Santa, musical performances, late nights, and so much more! You can always find a list of activities at MilwaukeeDomes.org/calendar.
- ◇ Thank you to everyone who got their groove on at Grooving Under Glass, which took place Sept. 26th. With 498 attendees, we raised more than \$11,000 in critical funds.

Annual Campaign Kick Off

- ◇ Speaking of critical funds, the

Friends' annual year-end campaign will be launching soon. Every gift counts as we work to ensure a future for The Domes. Thank you in advance!

Future of The Domes

- ◇ Hopefully, you have seen the news about the exciting Domes Reimagined plan. We were picked up in more than 20 news articles! If you missed the webinar we did for members, email us for the link.
- ◇ We have an exciting new plan, but we need your help! Email your County Supervisor and the County Executive to voice your support of the Domes Reimagined plan. Need information about how to do that? Email us!

*Interested in learning more?
Email FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org. ■*

Join the Greenhouse Guild Today



With a monthly commitment of \$25 or more, select a free Domes-themed item, pictured above.

For 60 years, The Domes has been a vital cultural icon and portal to the natural world. It offers a healing refuge for those weary of winter's grasp and an inspiring classroom for young minds on school excursions. These moments of discovery, restoration and joy

are only possible with the support of friends like you.

Give monthly and join our "Greenhouse Guild." This is one of the most impactful ways to support the Mitchell Park Domes and its world-class plant collection. Your consistent con-

tributions provide a reliable and predictable stream of income, and enable us to invest in long- and short-term projects.

For more information, visit www.MilwaukeeDomes.org or email FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org. ■

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: PAULINE WERKMEISTER



Thank you for your dedication, Pauline!

We have so many wonderful volunteers who are generous with their time and pitch in with smiles on their faces. One in particular stood out this past year, giving more than 130 hours of her time to support our mission and work at the Mitchell Park Domes.

Meet Pauline Werkmeister, the volunteer who donated the greatest number of hours to help The Domes in fiscal year 2024! You may have seen her volunteering in the Education Center, assisting with the monthly

SPARK! program, or keeping our outdoor flower beds and grounds looking their best.

She especially loves volunteering at Art in the Green, with her strong personal interest in art and love of connecting with the artists. She enjoys the opportunity to learn about our programming while meeting wonderful people, and she encourages others to volunteer at The Domes.

Thank you, Pauline, for helping Friends of the Domes connect our guests to nature! ■

Welcome Samantha Bronson, Operations Director

Meet Samantha Bronson, Operations Director at Friends of the Domes. In this role, she works to ensure the seamless functioning of all organizational areas, from strategic planning to day-to-day operations.

Samantha was born and raised in Wisconsin. She earned her bachelor's degree from University of Wisconsin-Madison, then dedicated two years to AmeriCorps.

She moved to the Bay Area to pursue a master's degree in cultural anthropology and social transformation, where she explored how societies and systems intersect. In California, she also grew to love plants and sustainable practices.



Her journey in the nonprofit sector has spanned roles in operations, fundraising, program management, and policy research and advocacy.

She appreciates most the welcoming and joyful atmosphere of The Domes and can't wait for the revitalization project to restore and renew this important cultural institution for Milwaukee. ■

GIFTS UNDER GLASS

We are excited to partner with Fazio's Chocolates in Elm Grove to offer three new chocolates, one to celebrate each Dome: Tropical Dome Treat, Desert Dome Delight, and Show Dome Great Garden Surprise.

All are available in our Gifts Under Glass Gift Shop and at their shop in Elm Grove. Purchasing these unique treats supports the Friends of the Domes' mission.

In Time for the Holidays—New Items in the Online Gift Shop!
Our updated online gift shop is

open 24/7 at MilwaukeeDomes.org. Use the QR code or visit our website to shop for locally made goods with new items being added all the time!

Supporting the important work of the Friends of the Domes has never been more convenient! Treat yourself to something special or wrap up your holiday shopping with the good feeling that you are helping Friends. ■



FROM THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Three members of the Education team attended enrichment conferences this summer.

Education Director, Erica Veto, attended the American Public Garden Association's Education Elevated Symposium at Red Butte Garden in Salt Lake City.

Bilingual Interpretive Educator, Sergio Magaña, and Lead Interpretive Educator, Pete Stobie, attended the conference on Green and Healthy Schools at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where they were able to showcase the wonderful bilingual field trip options available at

the Mitchell Park Domes.

Sergio also attended the American Horticultural Society conference in Chicago thanks to a full scholarship.

Pete also took part in a virtual conference hosted by the National Association of Interpretation in early August. He hosted a 90-minute session titled "Gadgets and Gimmicks for the Interpretive Naturalist."



Education Director, Erica Veto, at the Symposium at Red Butte Garden in Salt Lake City

Experiences like these improve the quality of the programs we offer and help us to retain exceptional staff. ■

Family Fun Fest "Winter in the Tropics," Dec. 27

Join the Friends of the Domes education team this winter break for family fun in the sunny Domes!

Fri., Dec. 27, from 9AM to noon, families will enjoy tropics-inspired activities, crafts, games, a tropical fruit tasting, a special presentation at 10:30AM, and so much more!

Visit www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/calendar for more details and to register.

Cost of \$10 per child (\$5 for neighbors) does not include admission to The Domes, which is always free for Friends of the Domes members. ■



Endangered Hibiscus Species Blooms in our Tropical Dome

From Madagascar to Hawaii, the diverse and unique roots of our world-class plant collection makes The Domes an exceptional horticultural oasis.

For example, take *Hibiscus clayi*, also known as Clay's Hibiscus or Koki'o 'ula. It is a hibiscus species that produces bright red flowers with long, delicate petals. It has round and toothed leaves that grow in a decussate (or x-shape) pattern.

This rare species is only found naturally one place in the world, Kaua'i, an eastern island of Hawaii. There are many species of hibiscus in Hawaii, but *Hibiscus clayi* is critically and federally endangered. Scientists are working to repopulate this species in its native habitat.

Visit the Tropical Dome to enjoy this rare, special Hawaiian beauty! ■



Hibiscus clayi in the Tropical Dome

Día de los Muertos Celebration at The Domes, Oct. 25

It's time for beautiful fall colors and celebrating loved ones. Join Friends of the Domes for our annual Día de los Muertos

(Day of the Dead) Celebration on Fri., Oct. 25th from 6-9PM.

Enjoy Mariachi music, Día de los Muertos and Aztec dancers,

storytelling, local food, and art vendors throughout the Mitchell Park Domes.

Students from Escuela Verde and Cristo Rey Jesuit High School will be creating traditional ofrendas (offerings made in honor of loved ones), and the entire Desert Dome will be decorated in celebration!

The community's annual "Caminata de los Recuerdos" (Walk of Memories) will take place immediately preceding the event. Community members are invited to participate in a candlelight walk from Urban Ecology Center of the Menomonee Valley to the Mitchell Park Domes.

This popular event will sell out and advance tickets are required! Visit MilwaukeeDomes.org/DDLM to purchase tickets today. ■



Traditional Decor Transforms the Desert Dome for one Special Night

A Night in Bloom

AT THE MITCHELL PARK DOMES

FEBRUARY 22, 2025, 6-10P.M.

A STARLIT EVENING
BENEFITING THE DOMES

Join the Gala Committee for a Starlit Evening at The Domes

For the past 60 years, the Mitchell Park Domes has been a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration in our community. Year after year, visitors experience a journey of excitement, tranquility, and wonder within these iconic structures.

Nestled in Milwaukee's skyline, the Conservatory has become an enduring symbol of what it means to be a Milwaukeean.

Friends of the Domes is dedicated to ensuring this legacy endures for generations to come. With a clear vision and a determined path forward, we now seek your crucial support.

Our second annual gala, "A Night in Bloom," is taking place on Sat., Feb. 22, 2025, at the most beautiful venue in Milwaukee (The Domes, of course!). There will be great food, music, and

cocktails—and many fun ways to support our beloved Mitchell Park Domes.

We are pleased to offer a variety of sponsorship opportunities. Your generosity will be recognized not only by the hundreds of auction participants but also by our 4,500+ members.

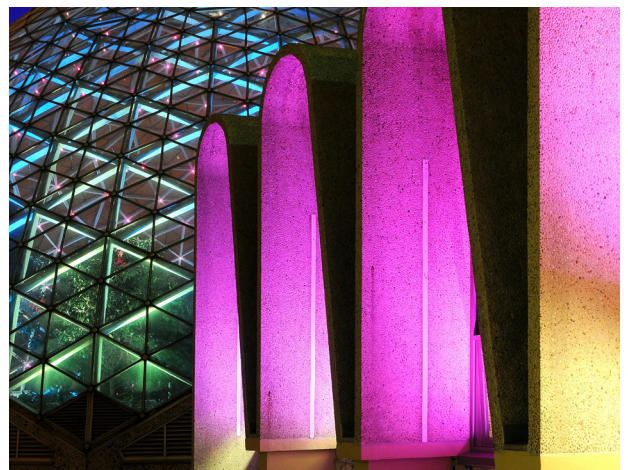
If you have an auction item that you would like to donate, we are accepting gift certificates, wine and specialty beverages, tickets to games and performances, and experiences (travel, behind-the-scenes opportunities, etc.).

This year's Gala Committee, chaired by Roger Krawiecki and Liz Fehring, has nearly 40 members. They are working hard to ensure a spectacular

event, but they need your help!

Consider attending, donating an auction item, and sponsoring the event.

Interested in learning more? Email Maddie Mueller at Maddie.FOD@MilwaukeeDomes.org or visit www.MilwaukeeDomes.org/gala. ■



Celebrate The Domes at the 2025 Gala



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FALL FLORAL SHOW: GARDENS OF REFLECTION

Sept. 21-Nov. 10, 2024

Asian gardens and chrysanthemums set a tone of reflection and calm for the fall floral show with more than 1,500 mums, including 'Saga Nishiki' (a unique golden variety) and several varieties of delicate dianthus and aster.



HOLIDAY FLORAL SHOW

Nov. 23, 2024-Jan. 5, 2025

The holiday show will once again feature special events such as light shows, singing elves, Storyteller Santa, and holiday folk music for all to enjoy! The member sneak-peek event is the evening of Nov. 22.



ANNUAL TRAIN SHOW ARRIVING SOON

Jan. 18-April 6, 2025

All aboard for model railroad fun! Our annual train show will take place in the Show Dome, Jan. 18-April 6, 2025. As part of that program, enjoy a weekend-long all scale train show in the lobby and greenhouse, Feb. 1-2, 2025.