

Friends of the Domes

GET GREAT HOLIDAY GIFTS!

Gift Shop Art Fair, Saturday, November 27

By Sarah Philipp



The Domes Gift Shop will be holding an art fair on Saturday, November 27th. The show will feature ten local artists. Fairgoers are invited to explore the pottery, ceramics, photography, jewelry, and many other items, visit one-on-one with the artists, and have your copy of Brian Wolf and Judith Dancing's award winning book "Lingering... Soulful Reflections" signed.

Fair Trade herbal tea and chocolate will be available for sale, as well as Cheese Jerky® from Milwaukee's own Snack Patrol, LLC. This is the perfect opportunity to get your holiday shopping done and out of the way, while enjoying tasty treats! The fair will be held in the lobby of the Mitchell Park Domes from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Take part in this special event, while doing your part to support the *Friends of the Domes*.

Portrait of Jalen Allen Volunteer, Teenager, Guardian

By Bridget O'Donnell

Jalen Allen, a student at Menomonee Falls High School, has been volunteering at the Domes for two years. According to Deanna Andre, President of the *Friends of the Domes*, the 16 year old, eleventh grader has been described by staff and volunteers as a hard worker who is "absolutely delightful, charming, respectful, dependable and a joy to work with."



Photo by Bridget O'Donnell

When told of this high praise regarding his demeanor and work ethic, Jalen simply responded that he was proud to hear it, and hopes to always live up to his good reputation. Those who know Jalen, who aspires to perhaps one day be a veterinarian or join the United States Air Force, feel certain that he will.

A neighborhood teen, Jalen chose the Domes as a good place to volunteer because he likes animals, and learning about nature and the environment. He has worked at many different events, enjoys meeting new people and always learns something new at the Domes.

On a very hot, humid weekend in August, Jalen was volunteering at the Domes' first annual Art Festival. There he caught the eye of Kay Eaton, an artist from Menomonee, Michigan, who traveled to Milwaukee to participate in the "Plein Air" portion of the festival.

It was there she painted Jalen's portrait, after watching him guide people from their cars, helping them into the event. Kay said she was honored to meet Jalen
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FROM THE DESK OF THE FRIENDS OF THE DOMES

*By Deanna Andre
President*

As I look out my window and begin to write this article, it is the start of the Labor Day weekend. There is definitely a feel of autumn in the air. The temperatures are in the 60s, it's a bit grey and there is quite a wind blowing. The summer was a hot and humid one, though I don't think it set any records. The *Friends of the Domes* (FOD) sponsored a beautiful art festival in late August. iNET provided many of their employees for months of planning, the

online silent auction, and the chairman of the art festival, Steven Libbey, a member of the FOD Board of Directors. Thank you all.

The Milwaukee County Parks Department worked very hard to prepare the grounds of Mitchell Park for the festival. It was very nice. I overheard several people comment that they never realized how huge and beautiful the trees are. Thank you.

The chairs of the various committees: festival layout, children's area, parking, hospitality and volunteers worked many months and managed their areas during the festival. Without the volunteers this would have been impossible. On Saturday, during the art festival, one artist who had recent cataract surgery needed help quickly so that she

could see her surgeon. Almost immediately, volunteers arrived to help close her exhibit so she could leave. She was able to come back the next morning to finish the show. Thank you.

As we approach the fall and winter seasons, the activities of the FOD at the Domes increase. Please check our calendar (online and in this newsletter) to see what's happening and when. To help keep abreast of events for 2011, the "Park People" (Friends of Milwaukee County Parks) have prepared a calendar that includes Milwaukee County Parks and their offerings. It is available in the gift shop, Gifts Under Glass, at the Domes. The cost is \$9. The FOD shares in the profits from the sale of this calendar.

Hope to see you soon at the Domes.

Gifts Under Glass What's New in the Gift Shop?

By Sarah Philipp

Jean Smaglik Wells has been making pottery since 1994. Her designs are decorative, functional, lead free and all inspired by nature. She draws and carves leaves, reptiles, monkeys, and turtles by hand without the use of stamps or stencils.

Jean carves her stylized designs into each piece using a process called "slip-carving" or "sgraffito." After the piece is thrown on the wheel and trimmed, a layer of colored clay called slip is brushed on to the surface. Once the slip has been allowed to dry slightly, Jean draws the design through the slip



and carves the background away.

Visit the Domes' Gift Shop to experience Jean's pottery in person, and, as always, the work of other local artists. Take their art home, while doing your part to support the *Friends of the Domes*.

Portrait of Jalen

Continued from page 1

and have an opportunity to paint him and get to know him. She called his portrait "The Guardian," after watching how he looked after, and took care of, the guests at the Domes. Jalen enjoyed the experience, and thought the painting was something very special.

Kay has graciously donated the portrait to Jalen as an extraordinary gift. Kay's work appears in galleries and exhibitions throughout the mid-West.

If you would like to volunteer at the Domes, call Liz Fehring, at 414-322-7600, or e-mail her at volunteer@milwdomes.org.



From the Director's Chair

By Sandy Folaron

Hard to believe that summer is behind us and we are now

heading into what are traditionally the Conservatory's busiest seasons.

Although, with increasing visitor counts and the staging of the first Friends of the Domes Art Festival, the summer has hardly been a quiet one!

One of the amazing things about being the director of this Milwaukee icon is that people often share their own personal histories, stories and connections

to the Domes. Whether it's a story about how they met their spouse, or how they were married here, or stories about childhood memories, some of my personal favorites always include stories about how family members were involved in the actual building of the Domes!

Recently I had the pleasure of meeting a gentleman whose father oversaw the construction, working along side the architect, Donald Grieb. He shared with me the original architectural working plans from 1959-62 complete with notes and comments about this one-of-a-kind building project. It's an

incredible inside look at the vision Mr. Grieb had for this conservatory and some of the very sustainable design elements that put him way ahead of his time. How many of you know that there were plans for a fourth dome? Or that the rings of light that cap each dome, which were reintroduced a few years ago, were actually part of the original design? How wonderful it's been to see that history and know that as we continue on with our own capital improvements and renovations, we can stay true to the vision and path set for us over four decades ago.

See you at the Domes!

First Annual Art Festival: Enjoyable, Profitable and Ready to Grow!



By Steven Libbey

Our first annual Milwaukee Domes Art Festival included many of the regions finest artists in a gold medal winning Milwaukee County Park. The Festival, in the shadow of the Domes, was the greatest weekend Mitchell Park has seen in years.

If you didn't make it, you missed a spectacular weekend. Some said it was, one of the most "incredible," "accessible," and "enjoyable" art festivals they had ever attended. Artists expressed gratitude for being included in such a high quality field of artists. It was a glorious day in the park with delicious food, live music, kid's activities and world-class art. The park around the Domes has never been filled with so much visual appeal – paintings, sculptures, even the opportunity to watch as master works of art were painted



Sculpture by James Sauer
Photo by Bridget O'Donnell

right before your eyes.

The festival awarded \$10,000 in prize money to artists through a jury process. "Best of Show" went to Ray Hartl; "Best of Plein Air" went to Colleen Kwong. The books are still

open, but the festival will have raised approximately \$20,000 for use in accordance of the *Friends of the Domes* mission. While it is a nominal sum for the stature of the art festival, the event was self-funding and turned a profit year one. Year two we are hopeful we will crack the six-figure mark, with 100% of the proceeds directly supporting the Domes and Mitchell Park.

As with any first year event, attendance was lower than we hoped. Just over 2,500 people attended. Even so, excitement is growing; expectations are high. Word is spreading, and artists are already clamoring to be part of next year's Milwaukee Domes Art Festival. Exciting upgrades are already in the plans for year two! Watch for updates in future issues of this newsletter and at www.milwaukeedomesartfestival.com.

A Short History of Mitchell Park

By Sandy Folaron, Director



You cannot look at the history of the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory without mentioning the very park it has called home since 1898. John L. Mitchell, a Senator from Wisconsin, sold 25 acres of his south side property to the city park board in 1891 (Mitchell Park was one of the original six tracks of land that made up the very first park system for Milwaukee) and donated an additional six acres to create Mitchell Park. It was noted then that this “gem of the south side” had many “old trees in a fine state of preservation.” Soon afterwards a lake was excavated and a pavilion built to

accommodate boat rentals and winter skating that by all accounts made Mitchell Park a popular year-round destination. In 1898 the Victorian-style conservatory was built complete with adjoining green-

houses and in 1903, sunken gardens added to the south of the conservatory’s site. Ironically, the sunken gardens were located in the very area in which a farmer’s truck garden had operated for almost a decade!

Funny how things can go full circle now that we are talking about the addition of an Urban Agriculture project that could be part of the landscape again, 107 years later!

The park continues to be popular with

the community and has hosted generations of celebrations (4th of July festivities), events (Mexican Independence Day) and special family gatherings (picnics, pavilion rentals) not to mention the continuous use of various sports fields, basketball courts, playgrounds and a wading pool that serve as the *summer vacation* spot for many neighborhood children. The history and value the park brings to Milwaukee is an important one. We must all continue to work to protect and maintain this “green” asset and see that it provides the next generations with the many amenities we have been privileged to enjoy. They are irreplaceable.



Give the Gift of the Domes This Holiday!

By Gail Schumann

Give the gift of the Domes this holiday season. If you know someone who would love everything the Domes has to offer, including seasonal shows, flower displays, wonderful events like Music Under Glass, and a discount on the beautiful and unique items in the Gift Shop, this membership discount

is for you.

As a member of *Friends of the Domes*, you can purchase new memberships at half the normal price, when you choose a gift membership at a level up to and including the level of your own current membership.

For membership information, please visit our website: www.MilwaukeeDomes.org, or call 414-383-3818.

Your family and friends of all ages will love the sights, sounds, scents and special events offered by the Mitchell Park Domes throughout the year!

Plants Add A Breath of Fresh Air Indoors

By Paula Zamiatowski

Many houseplants come from the tropical rainforest and, in addition to being decorative, can serve a valuable tool in eliminating indoor air pollution. NASA scientists find them to be surprisingly useful in absorbing potentially harmful gases and cleaning air inside modern buildings.

Commemorative Pavers... a Great Gift!

By Gail Schumann

We now have a wonderful, smooth paved path around the entire Show Dome, which is great news to those pushing strollers and wheelchairs.

Help the *Friends of the Domes* begin a fund raising project for a new greenhouse and community-meeting center to begin construction in 2011. These structures will be attached to the Domes.

Engraved pavers will be available for purchase. The pavers are approximately 8"x 4" and will accommodate three lines with 13 letters per line. The donation is \$125 per paver. The installed pavers will be replaced with engraved pavers in batches.

What special person or moment do you wish to permanently honor at the Domes?

Some examples:

Bill and Mary Smith
Married 6/5/10

Mary Smith
Gardener

"Pal"
Best Dog Ever
2010

Scout Troup 42
2010

Many houseplants can be toxic to children and pets. If you have concerns the National Poison Control Center website is a helpful resource, or call them at 800-955-9119 for advise.

Bamboo Palm (*Chamaedorea sefrizii*): Also known as the reed palm, this small palm thrives in shady indoor spaces and often produces flowers and small berries. It tops the list of the best plants for filtering out both benzene and trichloroethylene. They're also a good choice for placing around furniture that could be "off-gassing" formaldehyde.

Chinese Evergreen (*Aglaonema Crispum 'Deborah'*): This plant is easy to care for, and can help filter out a variety of air pollutants. It removes more toxins as time and exposure continues. Even with low light, it will produce blooms and red berries. Be

careful with the berries!

Peace Lily (*Spathiphyllum 'Mauna Loa'*): Shade and weekly watering are all the peace lily needs to survive and produce blooms. It topped NASA's list for removing all three of most common volatile organic compounds (VOCs) – formaldehyde, benzene and trichloroethylene. It can also combat toluene and xylene.

Spider Plant (*Chlorophytum comosum*): Even if you tend to neglect houseplants, you'll have a hard time killing this resilient plant. With lots of rich foliage and tiny white flowers, the spider plant battles benzene, formaldehyde, carbon monoxide and xylene, a solvent used in the leather, rubber and printing industries.

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Garden Wisdom



Photo by Bridget O'Donnell

Now is the time of illuminated woods...every leaf glows like a tiny lamp.

~JOHN BORROUGHS

Children's Corner



Monarch Butterflies Go South in Autumn

Every autumn, monarch butterflies by the millions flutter up to 2,000 miles to reach forests on a few small mountain peaks of the Mexican highlands that serve as their winter retreat. Nearly all North American members of the species come together in this tiny region. They move only slightly to change elevation as temperatures change.



Photo by Chris Sommerfelt

Scientists believe that the monarchs have been repeating this cycle and making their annual pilgrimage for thousands of years. The monarch is choosy about its habitat and will spend the winter nowhere else.

For scientists, this annual migration is one of nature's greatest mysteries. Only monarchs born in late summer

Did You Know? Pumpkins, Pumpkins Everywhere!

- Pumpkins are actually a fruit.
- Pumpkins are part of the gourd family, like cucumbers and water-melons.
- Pumpkins can be green, red, white, orange, blue – even multi-colored with stripes.
- Pumpkins take from 85 to 125 days to grow, depending on the variety.
- Antarctica is the only continent where pumpkins cannot grow.
- Most pumpkins contain about one cup of seeds.
- Pumpkins have been grown in America for over 5,000 years
- Eighty percent of the pumpkins grown in the U.S. are available in October.
- Pumpkins can be tiny, huge, flat, short, tall, round, pear-necked, rough or smooth.
- Pumpkins have names like “Cinderella,” “Baby Bear,” “Cotton Candy,” “Rock Star” “Full Moon,” “Aladdin,” “Big Max,” “Jack-be-Quick,” “Iron Man,” and “Hooligan.”



Photo by Chris Sommerfelt

or early fall make the migration, and they make only one round trip. By the time next year's winter migration begins, several summer generations will have lived and died. Four to five generations separate the monarch populations that make the migration, so the butterflies that make the trip to Mexico are the great, great grandchildren of the previous generation to have made it.

The miracle of the monarchs' migration lies not only in the distance that the fragile creatures cover, but also in the fact that no single butterfly knows the way from experience. The ones that fly south have never been to Mexico before. They get there by pure

instinct and then by pure instinct they come back. Scientists have spent years trying to unravel this mystery.

Source: National Geographic News and nationalgeographic.com

RAINFOREST NIGHT

Rainforest Night
Friday, October 8
6:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Featured PLANT:

Round and Round in the Tropical Dome: Spiral Flag Ginger



By Gail Schumann

The spiral flag ginger (*Costus mageritoides*) is an amazing plant in the Tropical Dome that you may have passed by without noticing. Instead of growing upward as most plants do, the exotic foliage grows on stems that form a distinct spiral. The stems look very much like bamboo. If you are visiting at the right time, you might also see the beautiful flowers. Again, you'll have to look closely to really appreciate

what you are seeing. The "flower" is really a group of flowers called an inflorescence. The red bracts grow in the form of a cone, and the individual flowers, often yellow, emerge out between the bracts. These attractive structures are grown for the floral industry because of their interesting form and long life after cutting.

The spiral flag ginger in the Tropical Dome is from Africa, but other species come from other tropical regions in South America and especially in Southeast Asia. The coat of arms of Nigeria features flowering spiral flag ginger plants because they are common and popular wildflowers there. The common name "spiral flag ginger" is used for a number of different plant species whose stems grow upward in a spiral. None can tolerate cold weather, so these plants are found only in greenhouses or tropical gardens. They are perennial plants that can grow 3 to 6 feet tall. The tubers or rhizomes that grow underground have been used for flavoring in cooking, but this is not the same plant that most of us know as "ginger." True ginger that is found in supermarkets is a different, but related plant, *Zingiber officinale*, native to China. Until recently, spiral flag ginger and true ginger were even in the same plant family, but the taxonomists have now separated them. The spiral flag ginger is worth looking for in the Tropical Dome at any time of the year.

The photo is *Costus productus*, a different species than we have in the Tropical Dome, but it shows the spiral shape of the bamboo-like stem and young inflorescences.

Photo used by permission: Peter Goltra for the National Tropical Botanical Garden.

Jewelry Inspired by the Domes!



Artist Irina Miech created this necklace when *Bead Style Magazine* asked an artist from each state to choose one inspiration from their state and design a piece around it. A bracelet and earrings by Irina complete the lovely set. The article was featured in the magazine's July issue

Houseplants

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All of these plants are in the Tropical Dome at the Mitchell Park Horticultural Conservatory. Some are also available for purchase in the *Friends of the Domes* gift shop!"

*A full list of helpful houseplants is available on our website www.MilwaukeeDomes.org.

FRIENDS OF THE DOMES 2010 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Sally Buckland	Bookkeeper
Darlene Dorsett	Administrative Asst.

2010 – 2011 Calendar of Events

- September 25 – November 7American Ghost Stories (Fall Show)
- October 8Rainforest Night
- October 16 & 17Ikebana Show (Japanese Floral Arranging)
- November 20 – January 2, 2011Frosty Fable Holiday Show
- November 27Gift Shop Art Fair
- December 5Annual Holiday Party**
- December 31New Years Eve Family Celebration *
- January 15 – April 3, 2011Story Book Tales (Floral and Train Show)
- January 21Restaurants Under Glass*
- January 22Polish Fest (New Event!)
- January 29Chinese New Years Celebration
- February 12Turkey Under Glass (Turkish Cultural Event)
- February 14Valentines Day Celebration*
- February 19Star Wars Event (New Event!)
- February 26 & 27Collectible All-Scale Train Exhibit
- March 13St. Patrick's Day Family Celebration
- April 2Green Living Festival
- April 9Dare to be Aware Holistic Health Fair
- April 16 – May 8Rocky Mountain Spring (Spring Show)

Music Under Glass Concert Series;
Live music and concessions, Thursday nights,
November 2010 through mid-March 2011.



*Friends of the Domes Event

**Friends of the Domes annual fundraiser, an evening of entertainment and camaraderie!

DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Visit our website www.milwaukedomes.org for more information and events scheduled after publication of this newsletter.

Great Holiday Gift Ideas!

Something Wonderful for Everyone...
More details inside.

- Gift Shop Art Fair, Saturday, November 27
- Commemorative Pavers for Show Dome
- Friends of the Domes Membership Discount



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