

December 2010

# Friends of the Domes

## New Year's Eve Party Under Glass December 31



Our traditional family New Year's Eve event will be held on Friday,

December 31, from 6-10 p.m. Enjoy the Frosty Fables Holiday Floral Show and live music, magic and comedy shows. Witness the unique beauty of the Domes lit up at night! Food and beverages by Zilli's will be available for purchase. Bring the whole family – and remember the newly paved path around the Show Dome makes it even easier to walk and use strollers and wheelchairs. Adults \$15; children \$5; No Friends of the Domes discounts or coupons accepted.

For more information and ticket prices, call 649-9830 or visit our website, [www.milwaukeeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeeedomes.org).

## Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser



Friends of the Domes

Invites You To

**Frosty Fables**

Holiday Dinner & Fundraiser



Sunday, December 5, from 6 to 8 p.m.

At the Mitchell Park Domes

Catered by Zilli Hospitality, Our Menu Includes

Lasagna and Pasta Primavera

Fresh Green Beans, Caesar Salad, Fresh Fruit and Dessert

Coffee Station and Full Cash Bar

Raffle Tickets \$1 each available on line and at the event

\$35 per person (\$15 is tax deductible)

RSVP by November 29

Questions...please call Friends of the Domes at 414-383-7769

Make your reservation online at [www.milwaukeeedomes.org](http://www.milwaukeeedomes.org).

Or mail your check a reservation form (from the website) by November 29 to Liz Fehring (Event Coordinator), 638 N. 79th St. Wauwatosa, WI 53213

Give the Gift of the Domes this Christmas! See Page 5.



## FROM THE DESK OF THE FRIENDS OF THE DOMES

*By Deanna Andre  
President*

Here we are again. It's late fall and the rapidly approaching winter season is almost upon us. I think it's been a wonderful fall. As I write this, the grass is still green and many of my perennials are hanging in there, even though most of the leaves have fallen off the trees (November in Hales Corners). I have put my gardens to bed and picked up the branches that came down during the storms. I prefer the

time of year when there is more daylight and we can enjoy the outdoors, and obviously the plants and trees do too.

We are fortunate to have the Domes to visit, especially during the long and sometimes dreary winter months. The Domes are a great place to enjoy an incredible variety of plants that thrive in this unique environment. The lovely fragrance of plants and warm earth are especially pleasing in the wintertime. In addition, there are many events that are sponsored by the Friends of the Domes in conjunction with the Milwaukee County Parks Department. We are a great team.

I encourage you to come to the Domes and bring your family and friends to

this great venue. You can find upcoming events in this newsletter as well as online ([www.milwaukeehomes.org](http://www.milwaukeehomes.org)). This year we have a beautiful calendar for 2011. A wonderful photograph of the Domes lit up at night is featured on the cover. You can keep up with the events that will occur through all of 2011 in the various Milwaukee parks, and make plans accordingly. The calendars are available for purchase in the gift shop. I already have one, and hope you get one as well. I also think they make a great gift. Don't miss out on the many offerings in the Milwaukee County Parks.

I hope to see you soon at the Domes. Have a happy holiday season. It's just around the corner you know.



Photos by Bridget O'Donnell

## Restaurants Under Glass

**SAVE THE DATE! Friday, January 21, 2011**

*By Gail Schumann*



This is the event you've been waiting for all year. Join us on Friday, January 21, from 6:30-9 p.m. for the 5th Annual Restaurants Under Glass. January can be cold and dreary, but the Domes are warm and beautiful with colored lights and delicious food from 17 of Milwaukee's best restaurants. You can also enjoy the

very popular train show. This year's show theme is "Story Book Tales." The new pavers complete a comfortable walking surface around the entire Show Dome.

Admission is \$15 for adults, \$5 per child (This special event fee also applies to FOD members – it's a fundraiser.) Food tickets are \$1, and raffle tickets are \$1. Each restaurant will donate a gift certificate for the raffle. Advanced ticket sales at the Gift Shop and online: [www.milwaukeehomes.org](http://www.milwaukeehomes.org).

No early entry allowed while the restaurants are setting up; No strollers, please.



## From the Director's Chair

By Sandy Folaron

Winter and the holidays are just around the corner. Everyone's seasonal outdoor

activities and lifestyles are beginning to change. Here at the Domes we look to the upcoming season as one of our busiest times with increasing visitor counts and special events that draw both visitors and funding to the Conservatory!

The very popular "Music Under Glass" concert series begins and runs weekly

on consecutive Thursday evenings through March 31st. A wide range of local talent will perform in the Show Dome from 6:30-8:30 p.m., and these extended hours will allow visitors to see the Domes in a whole new perspective at night.

Our *EverGreen* entryway project is "full steam ahead" with plans that incorporate a perennial garden, shade trees and the inset of a brass sundial in tinted concrete. Next year this initiative will be complemented by a "green roof" project and attention to the reconfiguration of the existing side ponds. It has been another good year of improve-

ments and projects that continue our mission and service to the public. It's really made a difference!

So, please join us for a concert or two, take your holiday family pictures here, sponsor a train car, the in-house care of our animals, or volunteer a few hours for one of our upcoming fundraising events. With your support and interest, we can continue to grow and refresh this amazing facility and all the value it brings to the community.

Happy Holidays from the entire staff here at the Conservatory!

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

By Sarah Philipp

Artist, Faith Givings begins each of her "ceramic watercolor" pottery pieces with a lump of white earthenware clay and a handful of real leaves, flowers or a hand carving of one of her sketches. She then flattens the moist clay, while carefully pressing in the carving, flowers or leaves. These slabs are cut and formed into food-safe tiles and trays.

Faith works hard to produce these handmade pieces with attention to detail that she believes would make her own mother and grandmother smile. She even uses her grandmother's wooden rolling pin to work the clay. Faith combines her years of watercolor and pottery experience with flowers



and foliage native to the Upper Great Lakes, making her the Domes' Gift Shop featured local artist.

Visit the Domes' Gift Shop to experience Faith Givings' ceramic watercolors 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.

## We Want You!

By Richard Risch, Board Member

These are exciting times at the Domes. The Friends of the Domes have become more involved than at any time in the past. Successful fundraising events have given us the ability to help the Domes as never before. What we need are more people to help oversee these new programs. We need people to serve on our Board. We need people to serve on various committees, including Social, Education, and Membership. We need your input. We need your skills, your objective opinions, and your energy and enthusiasm. Many of us often think our ideas are not worthy or useful, that no one cares what we think. That's just not true. Contact us and let us know what you think you can contribute. We welcome your input and cannot wait to hear from you.

# How Are Seasonal Floral Shows Planned and Prepared for the Show Dome?

By Sandy Folaron, Director

Great question! The planning for each show starts at least one year in advance. The planning staff includes myself, our Parks Artist (Lynn Burke), our landscape architect (Jim Ciha), our Greenhouse grower (Kathy McMahon), the Show Dome horticulturist (Mary Braunreiter), who orchestrates the plant orders and layout for

each show. A myriad of carpenters, electricians, forestry staff, horticulturists and sometimes outside community groups (who provide us with one-of-a-kind props and materials from their own private collections) all help to make these shows a reality!

We first, by consensus, determine a theme for each show. Our themes are inspired by props that are available to

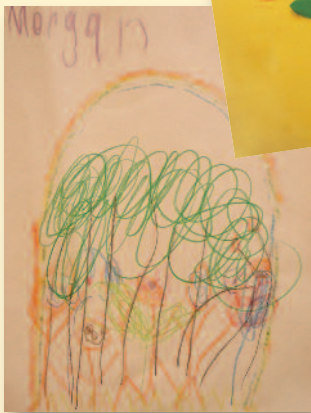
us, a sponsor who may contribute materials for the show (JUNG Seed Company for example), a suggestion from a patron, or just good ole fashioned brainstorming! We always try to make the shows fresh and original in order to keep our visitors coming back.

Once the props and theme are determined, a plan is initiated and put on a *continued on page 7*

## From the Interpretive Educator



Artwork by Austin, Audrianna, and Morgan



By Paula Zamiatowski

Last July in this newsletter, we asked children to draw a picture of their summer gardens and send them to us at the Domes. We thought we would share three of these pictures with you. Morgan's mother said that her daughter loved drawing their garden, a rainbow and her cousins and brother. Special thanks to all these young artists for their beautiful pictures!

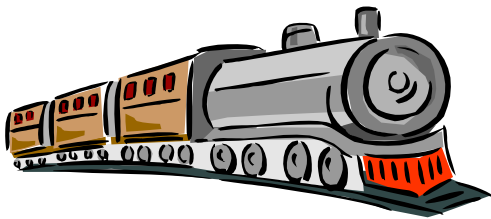
**Rainforest Night** in October was a great success. We were joined by many visitors of all ages.

Top Right: Jake and Katie break out the puzzles in the Ed Center. Center: My favorite ladies from the Fillipino American Heritage Society. Bottom Right: Special thanks to Jade Watring for the "Pollination Partners Mural" in the new Ed Center.



## 2011 Train Car Sponsorships Great exposure, Nominal Cost!

Do you work for, or know of, a company that would be interested in sponsoring their own corporate train car for the 2011 "Story Book Tales Train Show" running January 15th through April 3rd?



We do all the work and specifically design the cars to display your company's logo or any graphics provided to market your business. The train cars run on the tracks throughout the three-month show *daily*, so these "ad"

cars potentially reach almost 90,000 visitors. The cost is \$500 per car and the proceeds will go to continue the restoration of new pathways in the Tropical Dome.

The cars are a fun way to advertise a business and add to the great collectible cars that run on all three tracks. Join Usinger's Sausage, George Webb Restaurants, Time Warner Cable and Leon's Custard in our corporate lineup and get great exposure at a nominal cost! Please contact Sandy (Domes Director) at 414-649-9830 or [sandy.folaron@milwcnty.com](mailto:sandy.folaron@milwcnty.com) for more information or an application. All Aboard!

## Garden Wisdom

Each moment of the year  
has its own beauty...

-RALPH WALDO EMERSON



Photo by Bridget O'Donnell

## Give the Gift of the Domes for Christmas!

### Friends of the Domes Memberships at discount prices.

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

As a member of Friends of the Domes, purchase new memberships at half the normal price, when you choose gift memberships at a level up to and including the level of your own. Memberships include a discount on the beautiful, unique items in the Gift Shop!



Photo by Bridget O'Donnell

### Commemorative Pavers a Great Gift, too!

The Show Dome now has a smooth, paved path, perfect for strollers and wheel chairs.

Engraved pavers will be available for purchase to help fund a new greenhouse and community meeting center (construction to begin in 2011). Honor a special person or event with a commemorative paver at the Domes!

For more information on discount memberships and commemorative pavers, visit our website: [www.MilwaukeeDomes.org](http://www.MilwaukeeDomes.org), or call 414-383-3818.

# Children's Corner



## Polar Bears and the Arctic

When polar bear cubs are born, they are no bigger than a guinea pig. Cubs cannot see, and depend on their mothers to keep them safe, and warm. The mother's milk feeds the cub through the long Arctic winter.

When full grown, the polar bear will be the largest hunter on land. If he stood on his hind legs, his head could reach the ceiling of your living room! Full-grown polar bears weigh as much as three tigers, and each footprint in the snow will be wider than a dinner plate.

Winter temperatures outside the polar bear's den can drop to fifty degrees below zero. And from October through February, the sun never rises. The land is covered in snow as far as the eye can see.

The Arctic, where polar bears live, is around the North Pole. Some of the Arctic is land, but there are also cold, frozen, rocky islands. Under the ice is cold, dark water, filled with seals, fish, crabs and shrimp. Seals eat the fish,

crabs and shrimp. The polar bears survive by hunting seals to eat.



Milwaukee County Zoo Polar Bear  
Photo by Chris Sommerfelt

By spring, even though there is still snow and ice everywhere, the cub and his mother are ready to leave the den. The cub is now the size of a cocker

spaniel. The cub will grow stronger, as he learns to walk on the ice and snow. The mother will hunt and feed the cub until he is old enough to hunt for himself.

You can learn more about the Arctic and polar bears in the book Where Do Polar Bears Live, by Sarah L. Thomson. This children's book and many others are available in the Domes' Gift Shop. Enjoy a wide selection of fun, interesting toys, games, books, etc. Learn about birds, animals, nature, weather, gardening, the solar system – and much more! These items make great Christmas gifts!

## Did You Know? Cottontail Rabbits Might Live Nearby

Cottontail rabbits are one of the most often seen mammals in the Milwaukee area and the state. They are fun to watch and photograph because they let you get pretty close before running away. If another animal (or a person) approaches, the cottontail will "freeze," sitting perfectly still to avoid being noticed.

If this doesn't work, the rabbit will take off, hopping away in a zig-zag pattern.

It is fun to track rabbits in snow. Rabbit tracks are pretty easy to spot. "Leaps" between sets of tracks are just few feet apart.

In winter, rabbits chew on tender parts of trees like apple, blackberry, birch, maple and willow. Look for signs of rabbits feeding three feet up on young trees when snow is deep.

Rabbits live in a variety of habitats...even your neighborhood. They love escape routes and protection from winter in wood lots, rock or brush piles, hollow logs and shrubs.

Cottontails can be seen year-round at any time of day or night, but are most active during dawn and dusk. If you want to attract rabbits, just make a loose pile of brush or logs, get out your binoculars, and wait. It won't be long before one of these fluffy-tailed critters comes hopping by.

Source: [www.dnr.wi.gov](http://www.dnr.wi.gov) (click on Environmental Education for kids or EEK!) Excerpted from the article, Cottontail Rabbit. ©Herbert Lang



Photo by Bridget O'Donnell

# Featured PLANT: Bunny Ears in the Arid Dome

## Seasonal Floral Shows

*continued from page 4*

calendar for the team. There are five seasonal shows, the Train Show, the Spring Show, Summer Show, Fall Mum Show and the Holiday Show. It takes two weeks to take down one show and replace with another. The Train Show is the most complex and labor intensive. Plants are changed out, as needed, which can mean daily in some cases. So ordering, growing and maintaining a plant inventory for a seasonal show can be particularly challenging especially if a crop fails or doesn't produce a healthy number of plants. It's a fine balance to grow just enough, but not too much!



Photo by Bridget O'Donnell

The installation of a new show takes hundreds of hours of work and we depend heavily on many other Parks Department workers who come in to help us with this project, so downtime is never more than two weeks.

It's a fun and rewarding experience especially when you step back and see an entirely new layout that showcases the many talents involved. And of course, the real reward is when our visitors recognize our efforts and compliment us on how much they love each new show!

*By Gail Schumann*



The bunny ears cactus is a prickly pear type of cactus. The flattened green pads or stems grow into clusters to form a shrub several feet in height. It is so named because new pads form in pairs which look a little like the ears of a rabbit. Each pad is dotted with areoles (or areolae)

which are the equivalent of side branches in other kinds of shrubs. The areoles form a pattern of closely-spaced whitish dots that give this cactus another common name, the polka-dot cactus. The green, flattened pads store water and conduct photosynthesis to make food for the plant.

Unlike many cacti, this cactus (*Opuntia microdasys*) does not have spines. Instead, it has tufts of very short, barbed hairs called glochids on the areoles. The glochids can vary in color depending on the variety, but they are very white on the plant in the Arid Dome. These delicate clusters on the pads look soft and tempting to touch, but the glochids are barbed. They come off easily, are very irritating to skin, and are difficult to remove because of the barbs. This is definitely a "look but don't touch" kind of plant!

The bunny ears cactus is native to central and northern Mexico, so it can be grown in areas where temperatures don't fall too far below freezing. A number of different varieties are available for purchase from cactus websites. In the spring, the cactus forms yellow blossoms on the edges of the green pads. Later, purple to red fruit form. Both flowers and fruit are one to two inches long. Prickly pear cacti have edible fruit, but care must be taken to remove the barbed glochids on the outside before eating. The inside of the fruit is sweet and gelatinous and is used for juices and jellies. Sometimes the green pads themselves are eaten, again with care to remove the external glochids.

Cacti have many adaptations that allow them to survive in deserts. Look at the variety of areoles, glochids, and spines next time you visit the Arid Dome.

*Photo used by permission of Cal Lemke.*

## 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

December 5.....	Annual Holiday Party**
December 31 .....	New Year's Eve Under Glass *
January 15 – April 3, 2011 .....	Story Book Tales Train Show
January 21 .....	Restaurants Under Glass*
January 22 .....	Poland Under Glass (Polish Cultural Event)
January 29.....	Chinese New Year's Celebration
February 12 .....	Turkey Under Glass (Turkish Cultural Event)
February 14.....	Valentines Event*
February 19 .....	501st Rebel Legion Day (Star Wars Event)
February 26 & 27.....	Collectible All-Scale Train Exhibit
March 13.....	Irish Family Day
April 2.....	Green Living Festival
April 9 .....	Dare to be Aware Holistic Health Fair
April 16 – May 8 .....	Rocky Mountain Spring Show
May 14 – September 11 .....	Up, Up and Away Summer Show
June 4 & 5.....	Plant & Bulb Sale*

\*"Music Under Glass Concert Series" with live music and concessions, Thursday nights through March 31, 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](http://www.milwaukedomes.org) for more information and events scheduled after publication of this newsletter.

**2011 Train Car**  
**Sponsorships Available!**  
 Join Usinger's Sausage, George Webb Restaurants, Time Warner Cable and Leon's Custard in our great corporate lineup.  
 Great exposure, Nominal Cost!  
 (More details inside. See Page 5.)



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