



CHRIS ABELE, MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE
JOHN DARGLE, JR., DIRECTOR OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CULTURE

Contact: Jeff Baudry
(414) 257-4575
jbaudry@milwcnty.com

For Immediate Release:

Steampunk Faire Comes to The Domes

Milwaukee (Feb. 12, 2014) – “Gardens & Gears: Steampunk Faire,” a gadget-filled garden party with creative artists, craftsmen, and fashion designers, will fill The Domes Sun., Feb. 16 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. The Domes, “Milwaukee’s Living Landmark,” is located at 524 S. Layton Blvd.

Unique visions of an alternate past link the various exhibitors. Designs draw on the past while having a futuristic vibe. Jewelry artists incorporate gears, old keys, and assorted industrial components in their pieces. Fashion designers use materials ranging from cotton sateen, custom-printed with Victorian paintings, to handcrafted leather in creating alternative high fashion of the kind seen at gatherings such as TeslaCon. Milliners and other designers complete a look with hats or accessories true to the Victorian era or Steampunk movement.

Also showing and selling his work is sculptor Michael Nolte. Nolte reimagines old tools and transforms them into insects and other creatures. Nolte knows the sculpture works when the old identity and the new are visible at the same time. Nolte exhibited at the 2013 Milwaukee Domes Art Festival, where he won an honorable mention.

For the do-it-yourself visitors, American Science and Surplus will have a booth featuring bags of gears and “not-really-welding goggles.”

The event is rounded out with theatrical face painting.

While at the steampunk fair, visitors are welcome to view the most popular show of the year—the garden train show, “Gas Lamp Express.” The show celebrates the industrialized world in the age of steam-powered technology. G-scale trains wind their way along 600 feet of track, traveling through a Victorian landscape. The steampunk theme stretches the celebration to include the retro-futuristic ideas of H.G. Wells, Jules Verne, and others who envisioned a post-apocalyptic future in which steam power regains mainstream use.

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ADDRESS
9480 Watertown Plank Road
Wauwatosa, WI 53226-3560

PHONE/FAX
ph: **414 / 257 PARK** (7275)
fax: 414 / 257 6466

EMAIL
parks@milwcnty.com

WEBSITE
countyparks.com

The on-site caterer, Zilli Hospitality Group, will offer both bar and concessions. Bloody Marys, dark beers, and regular bar offerings, along with “hobo stew,” beef sandwiches, hot dogs, and macaroni and cheese will be available for purchase.

Volunteers from three state-wide train clubs–WI Garden Railroad, Kenosha Railroad and Wisconsin Illinois Train Club–will run their collectible trains. Among the trains running will be Thomas the Tank Engine, his friends, and specialty trains that run on steam.

The show runs through March 30.

“Gardens & Gears” and “Gas Lamp Express” are included with regular admission. Admission for adults age 18 and over is \$7; Milwaukee County Seniors with ID, persons with disabilities, students of any age with ID, and youth age 6-17 are \$5. Children 5 and under are admitted for free.

For more information, call (414) 257-5600 or visit countyparks.com

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