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For Immediate Release

Pollinator Week at The Domes *Array of Pollinating Insects and Animals Are Featured*

Milwaukee, WI (June 12, 2014) – From bees and birds to butterflies, moths, crickets, and bats, the variety of pollinators working on garden flowers and foods will be discussed in children’s programs, family drop-in talks with The Domes educator, and a special adult workshop from Monday, June 16–Saturday, June 21.

The first National Pollinator Week was designated by the Senate in 2007, recognizing the importance of pollinators to ecosystem health and agriculture in the United States. The Senate saw value in increasing public awareness about pollinators in an effort to support, protect, and sustain them for the health of the country.

Children, age 3-7, and their adult caregivers are invited to the Education Center from 10-11 a.m., Monday-Friday, for a storytime and craft relating to the day’s featured pollinators. Afternoons are available for families to stop in for resources.

“With information presented in the programs and the Q&A sessions, families should be well-prepared to create their own garden oasis for pollinators—and themselves!” said Paula Zamiatowski, Interpretive Educator at The Domes. “I’ll be available all afternoon to help families with their pollinator puzzlements!”

Children’s programs are free with admission. Topics are the following:

- Monday, June 16, “Crickets and Their Relatives” – Following Eric Carle’s *Very Quiet Cricket* and John Himmelman’s *Noisy Bug*, children will learn that flies and beetles are common flower pollinators.
- Tuesday, June 17, “Bats Here and There” – By way of Janell Cannon’s *Stellaluna*, children will learn the ways bats help deserts and rainforests.

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- Wednesday, June 18, “Bees and Honey” – Using Time for Kids’ *Bees!* as a guide, children will learn about honey bees, meet a beekeeper, and sample honey.
- Thursday, June 19, “Butterflies and Moths” – Following Eric Carle’s *Very Hungry Caterpillar* and Time for Kids’ *Butterflies!* Children follow the migratory route of the monarch butterfly and plant milkweed seeds to take home.
- Friday, June 20, “Birds in Your Garden” – Through Eve Bunting’s *Sunflower House* and an introduction to bird calls, children will discover the world of birds and will go birding in the Tropical Dome.

The adult workshop, “Grow Your Own Food Oasis...For You and Your Pollinators!” is offered Saturday, June 21 from 1-2:30 p.m. The DIY workshop focuses on creating a sustainable garden oasis. Participants will learn to assess their yards and their lifestyles and will discover ways to adapt surroundings into natural ecosystems beneficial to the garden and the beautiful pollinators that visit. Workshop admission is \$5 for Friends of the Domes Members and \$10 for Non-members. The fee includes admission to The Domes. Class size is limited to 20 people.

Regular admission to The Domes 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 the Education Center at 414-257-5603 or email paula.zamiatowski@milwaukeecountywi.gov.

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