



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

Contact: Jeff Baudry
(414) 257-4575
Jeffrey.Baudry@milwaukeecountywi.gov

For Immediate Release:

8th Annual Green Living Festival at The Domes

Milwaukee, WI (April 9, 2015) – The eighth annual Green Living Festival will feature a “fashion experience,” music inspired by Aldo Leopold’s *Sand County Almanac*, do-it-yourself demonstrations, table talks, and activities for the kids—all centered on healthy strategies and sustainability—Saturday, April 18, from 9 a.m.–4 p.m., at the Mitchell Park Domes, 524 S. Layton Blvd.

Many of this year’s activities will celebrate soil. From 9 a.m.-noon, hands-on learning will include composting and vermiculture (worm composting). From 1-4 p.m., children and adults can select from a variety of seeds for vegetable or pollinator gardens and plant them in a small container. (Seeds in the pollinator blend, attract butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds.) Experts will also provide information on conditioning the soil as the foundation of successful gardening and ways to prevent soil erosion.

“We’re inviting the community to take a walk on the sustainable side of life,” said Domes Interpretive Educator Paula Zamiatowski. “We cover a wide variety of topics—everything from the benefits of fermented foods, to community-supported agriculture, to healthy green alternatives to everyday living. And the return of the ‘fashion experience’ is a must-see!”

To sustain a more balanced life, event-goers are invited to experience the stress-reducing effects of yoga. A free, one-hour Yoga for Beginners class will be offered at 10 a.m. Participants are encouraged to bring their own mats.

At noon, the “fashion experience” of fiber artist Timothy Westbrook will be more than a fashion show. As a former Project Runway contestant, artist in residence at the Pfister Hotel, and presenter at GreenBiz Forum and the Chicago Green Festival, Westbrook will again bring his high fashion with low impact to the Green Living Festival. His Christian-Dior-inspired fashions, made exclusively of repurposed materials, were produced using non-electric equipment. His models will walk among the crowd, giving visitors the opportunity to see the fashions up-close.

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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

At 1 p.m., Tim Southwick Johnson will perform Sand County Songs, vocal and instrumental pieces with themes and lyrics inspired by *Sand County Almanac*. The ballads, spirited bluegrass, and finger-style blues relay a respect for Leopold's land ethic. Johnson has performed throughout the United States and has provided music for video and film, including Wisconsin Barns: A Touchstone of the Past, aired nationally on PBS.

Ongoing activities at the festival will include do-it-yourself demonstrations on making yogurt, facial products, and cleaning supplies, and planting pollinator-supported plants. All supplies or samples are free of charge.

Over 25 organizations will be participating and exhibiting at the festival. Always popular with young families, exotic-bird and other live-animal exhibits will give children the opportunity to see critters up close. Other exhibits include fair-trade and eco-friendly items, repurposing items, using energy in creative ways, eating a plant-based diet, growing food using organic techniques, and growing environmentally-conscious children by connecting them to the natural environment.

Throughout the day, kids' activities will include papermaking with embedded seeds for one-of-a-kind Mother's Day cards, a scavenger hunt, and making souvenir Green Living Festival buttons.

Visitors completing an exit survey will be entered in a drawing for door prizes, which include a one-year membership to the Mitchell Park Domes.

While at the Green Living Festival, visitors are encouraged to tour the current floral show, "That's Amore!" featuring hydrangeas, lilies, and tulips.

Healthy food and beverage items will be available for purchase.

The Green Living Festival is included in admission. Regular admission rates apply; Adults, \$7; Youth, age 6-17, \$5; Children, age 5 & under, free; Seniors with proof of Milwaukee County Residency, \$5; College Students with school ID, \$5; and Friends of The Domes member, Free. For more information visit countyparks.com or call (414) 257-5600.

Volunteer opportunities are available for ages 16 and up. For details on volunteering, call Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Education Center, (414) 257-5603.

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