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For Immediate Release

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

Milwaukee, WI (June 2, 2015) – From bees and birds to butterflies, moths, crickets, and bats, the variety of pollinators working on garden flowers and foods will be discussed in morning programs and drop-in talks, from Monday, June 15–Friday, June 19, at The Domes. The Domes, “Milwaukee’s Living Landmark,” is located at 524 S. Layton Blvd.

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. Pollinator Week at The Domes is part of the North America Pollinator Protection Campaign to promote and protect pollinators and the services they provide.

During Pollinator Week at The Domes, families, schools, and camps are invited to the Education Center from 9 a.m. –noon, for stories, games, and activities relating to the day’s featured pollinators.

Also in the morning Wednesday–Friday adults may drop in the Education Center for information and handouts. Visitors may meet with the Domes Educator to discuss ways to assess their lifestyles and their yards for a garden of a size and location that can be maintained for optimal health.

“A healthy garden attracts a diversity of pollinators, so the garden becomes a food oasis for the pollinators—and for you!” said Paula Zamiatowski, Domes Educator. “With more pollination, your garden will have an increased yield, making the most of your labor.”

In the afternoons, The Domes Educator and volunteer staff will be available as a resource on pollinators. Adults or families can stop in the Education Center for answers to their questions.

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Pollinator Week at The Domes topics are the following:

- Monday, June 15, “The Unusual Pollinator Suspect” – Pollinating activities of lemurs, lizards, geckos, skinks, and mosquitoes will be explored. From 9:30–10 a.m., an animal ambassador will make a special appearance. In addition, Domes Park Artist, Burt Gross, will be available to help children draw their favorite unusual pollinators. Drawings will be on display in the Education Center for others to enjoy during Pollinator Week at The Domes.
- Tuesday, June 16, “Bats Here and There” – Groups will enjoy hourly readings of Janell Cannon's *Stellaluna* as they learn the ways bats benefit deserts and rainforests. A visit to the Desert Dome will feature plants pollinated by bats. A game of Bat-Moth, similar to the Marco Polo water game, will lead to discoveries of plant pollination. To honor tropical bat pollinators, the program will have samplings of bat-pollinated treats.
- Wednesday, June 17, “The Champions of Pollinators and Their Impersonators” – Master beekeepers will show tools of the trade and answer questions. Participants may don the uniform of a beekeeper too. From a demonstration, participants will learn a way to build a home for Mason bees and other bees native to Wisconsin. A trip outside to the flower beds will reveal bees and their relative pollinators. The program ends with a honey tasting.
- Thursday, June 18, “Beautiful Butterflies and Marvelous Moths” – Participants will follow the migratory route of the Monarch butterfly and will plant milkweed or butterfly-bush seeds to create a “way station” and “warming rock” to take home. While working on their projects, participants will enjoy *Wings of Life!* a Disney documentary about flying pollinators, featuring the time-lapse photography of Louis Schwarzberg.
- Friday, June 19, “Birds in Your Garden” –From 10-10:30 a.m., participants will join The Domes Educator for a guided, outdoor bird walk and will discover the pollinating work of birds. From 11 a.m. –11:30, visitors will take a bird walk and tour in the Tropical Dome to see resident birds and the way they help keep plants pest-free. Throughout the morning, participants will have the opportunity to make a simple hummingbird feeder from a Solo cup. Handouts for making syrup and instructions for a more advanced birdfeeder will be available to take home.

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, \$5. Children 5 and under are admitted for free. Groups of 10 or more are asked to register.

For registration or more information, call The Domes at (414) 257-5600.

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