

*Friends of the Burchfield
Nature & Art Center*

NEWSLETTER



Summer 2017



A Walk in the Park

Carol Yetter

This writer remembers walking through the park at the BNAC about 8 years ago and running into about 4 people in the course of an hour. I wondered why more people were not enjoying the beauty of the woodlands, the meadow and the creek. What a difference a few years can make. The park is now filled with people from dawn to dusk. They are taking a daily stroll, walking the dog, cooling off in the shade of the trees, splashing in the creek, meditating along a trail, taking photos, getting married, watching the deer, listening to the birds, reading books, painting pictures, listening to music, playing in the playground, having picnics, jogging, exploring the gardens, reading the plaques to learn about the park and even looking for Pikachu. They come for a solitary moment alone, to meet friends or to share time with family. Strangers stop and chat, sharing common interests or discovering that their paths have crossed before. Stories are shared and discoveries are made.

There is no way to document the number of visitors, but what is remarkable, is the respect that most of them show for this special place. Wildlife move freely in the park. They are watchful, but comfortable in their home. This peaceful coexistence demonstrates that visitors are respecting nature's creatures. Any public place is bound to have litter. There are the days when a bag can be filled with litter on a simple walk, but on most days the garbage cans are full and the paths are clear. The sounds of children playing or people talking can be heard throughout the park, but the sight of a butterfly or sound of a woodpecker brings silence. Those who walk with attention to their surroundings usually find a moment that captures their attention and makes them aware that they are part of something larger than themselves.

This article usually lists the updates on the gardens and trees, improvements and plans for the future, but in recent months the true beauty of the park has been in the people that visit. We thank the visitors who: smiled at a stranger, shared a thought, picked up a piece of litter, stopped to listen, pulled a weed, planted a flower, brought a friend, made a new friend, watched in awe, laughed with joy and took the time to enjoy the moment. In a world where the latest news can baffle or frustrate, it is wonderful to know that in an urban forest in the Town of West Seneca there are good things happening every day. A line from William Shakespeare comes to mind – ***“One touch of nature makes the whole world kin.”***

Building Update

The Town has served a Notice of Claim to the building's architectural and engineering professionals for deficiencies in the design. Until the litigation is completed and responsibilities are specified, the Town Board will not make a decision about how to remediate the building's defects.

Wonderful Wednesdays

Wednesday afternoons at the BNAC this summer included crafts, games and fun for all. Children enjoyed making butterflies, bracelets, banners and pompom creatures. Rocks were painted, beads strung and puppets designed. It is always a treat to see young and old use their imaginations and talents to make something special. There was also time to toss a beanbag, practice putting and catch a few bubbles. The volunteers were happy to see so many people look forward to these afternoons and make it a part of their family summer plans.

BNAC Summer Concert Series

The Summer Concert Series was a big success again this year with hundreds of people enjoying music in the amphitheater set along the Buffalo Creek. Thanks to our performers: the West Seneca Town Band, the Carnival Kids Steel Band, My Cousin Tone', the Doug Yeomans Band, Mama Earth's Kitchen Band (as part of the Enchanted Forest Event) and the Pyramid Band.

The concerts were funded through the generous support of the West Seneca Rotary, Town Councilman Gene Hart, the West Seneca Woman's Club, DMD Builders, the West Seneca Federal Credit Union, Dolores Mendolia and M&T Bank. We are also thankful to the Arts Service Initiative of Western New York for the generous grant that is helping to make these concerts possible. The ASI is funded by the New York State Council on the Arts. The Musician's Union Music Performance also provided a grant. Thanks to all who performed, supported and attended.

Annual Photography Contest

The volunteers at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center are planning their Annual Photography Contest. This event has been a favorite for local amateur photographers for many years. Because the BNAC gallery is closed, arrangements have been made to stage the exhibit at the West Seneca Senior Citizen's Center.

Categories for this year's contest will include:

Family Celebrations
Funny Animals
Clouds in the Evening Sky
Trees
Still Life – a Study.

There will also be a category for Youth entries (photos on any subject taken by children ages 12 and under)

First, Second and Third place prizes will be given in each category after judging by a team of professional photographers. Photos will be judged on relevance to category, originality, composition and overall impact. There will also be an opportunity for people visiting the exhibit to vote for their favorite photo. The photo receiving the most votes, will receive the People's Choice Award.

Entry forms and detailed rules of the contest will be available in September at the BNAC website

BurchfieldNAC.org and in other locations throughout town. In the meantime, photographers are encouraged to start clicking, look through their photo files and enjoy the art of photograph.

Volunteer Hours

Nancy Pufpaff

Our volunteer hours from October (start of the new year) until the end of July were a total of 2,498. There were very few hours recorded for January thru March. We had a large pick up in hours thanks to Enchanted Forest with 494 Hours and General office work in June and July. Next newsletter will include August and September.

What Has Been Happening and What's Coming Up?

Without our building we managed, with the hospitality of the Senior Center and with a "field office" in the BNAC parking lot; to carry on many of the favorite BNAC activities.

On **May 19**, the Seneca Nation held their **Buffalo Creek Treaty Commemoration** with officials, veteran color guards, dancers, singers, and a historic review of how and why the treaty came to be. It was both enjoyable and educational.

May 30 through June 4 we gave **WNY school students** the opportunity to enter a **poster contest depicting the Importance of Trees**. Sixty entries from students in grades K through 12 were exhibited at the Senior Center. A local artist, an art teacher and a tree specialist from the Botanical Gardens judged the posters. All entries were outstanding. The Awards went to students from a variety of public and private schools from Elma, Hamburg, South Buffalo and West Seneca – a tribute to the reach of BNAC events!

Paper Cuts, an exhibit of twelve local and out-of-town artists, unable to exhibit as scheduled at the BNAC Gallery, was welcomed at the **Gyda Higgins Art Gallery** at Fox Run in Orchard Park. It continues on display through **September 1st** and should not be missed.

The West Seneca Art Society had a successful Spring Show in April at the Senior Center in lieu of using the BNAC Gallery.. The Art Society will host its **Fall Show** at the Senior Center from **October 13th to November 2nd** at 4620 Seneca Street in West Seneca

In the park, **The BNAC Summer Concert Series** managed to hold all but one planned concert. **The West Seneca Town Band** has been rescheduled for **Sunday, September 3rd at 3pm** at the amphitheater.

It has been a great season for the park with the **concerts, Wonderful Wednesdays** crafts & games and the **Enchanted Forest** July 30th with fairies, crafts, face painting, fairy house construction, and more

The annual Photography Contest will be our next event held at the **West Seneca Senior Center** in **November**.

More details available on our website: www.burchfieldNAC.org and facebook.com/BurchfielsNAC.org

Membership

Nola Stutz

The Friends of the BNAC would like to applaud your continual support and invite you to join our organization. **Your support is especially important now as we await news of progress toward getting access to the BNAC building.** Memberships provide us with the resources to continue with activities on the center's grounds. Hop on board and enjoy our holistic approach to life embracing nature, the arts, education, relaxation and exercise. A "get away vaca day" at the BNAC will make you smile. Check out our beautiful park and bring a friend. Please check our website and facebook postings.

If you are interested in becoming a member, applications are available on our website BurchfieldNac.org

BNAC office

Now located across Union Road at the Metz House 4 School Street (corner of Union Road and School Street).

Office hours are Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11AM to 2 PM.

Phone # 716 677 4843