

*Friends of the Burchfield
Nature & Art Center*

NEWSLETTER



Spring 2018



A Walk in the Park

Carol Yetter

It has been a long winter. Trails in the park have been snow covered or waterlogged for many weeks. The Buffalo Creek has been ice covered at times and full of roaring rapids at other times. The winds blew through the trees leaving branches scattered. Visitors continue to take in the beauty of the park and the marvels of a winter in the woodlands. Frank O'Connor's sculpture and the beautiful painted Friendship Rocks add a spark of color to brighten the landscape and the spirit.

Now we begin planning for Spring. On Saturday morning April 21st, we will be holding our Earth Day spring clean-up. There will be branches to haul, litter to pick-up, paths to rake and gardens to weed. Everyone is welcome to join in the effort. Watch our web page for details.

Plans are being made to renovate one of the gardens into a Butterfly Meadow. This will promote efforts to save the pollinators and will provide a lovely area to enjoy the butterflies. A garden like this can take a couple years to establish so we will be waiting patiently. There will also be various repairs made around the park like fixing the cemetery fence, putting new gravel on the paths and renewing gardens.

The turbulent water in the creek always causes erosion. The erosion has caused the loss of trees and can change locations where you can access the creek. This has been a concern for many years. This year we will partner with the West Seneca Environmental Commission and the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeepers to evaluate the erosion and determine if there are any possible interventions that can be pursued. Check out bnwaterkeeper.org to find out more about their efforts to protect, restore, connect and inspire in regard to local waterways.

Spring will arrive and everyday will bring something new. Plan to visit frequently starting in March. The birds and other wildlife will emerge and you will see the plants begin their journey into nicer weather.

Volunteer Hours

Nancy Pufpaff

The BNAC volunteers are busy planning activities for the spring and summer. Since Oct. 2017 they have put in 524 hours. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer please call 677 – 4843 or contact us at burchfieldnac@gmail.com.

Coming Soon

Paula Minklei

The Burchfield Nature and Art Center building has been closed for a year. During this time we have been unable to host the usual art exhibits and public receptions. We have not had the opportunity to share the classroom for K-4 Wonder Camps. Many artists and environmentalists such as quilters, woodcarvers, garden clubs, environmental commission members, Water keepers, fly fishermen, art society members, and others, have missed using the classroom and conference room for their meetings and seminars.

However, some activities continue.

The **West Seneca Art Society** continues to meet at the Senior Center and when weather permits, has painting sessions in the BNAC Park. Their **Spring Art Show**, usually held at the BNAC building, will take place for the second time at the **West Seneca Senior Center, 4620 Seneca Street, Friday, April 13th with an Opening Reception from 7 to 9 PM, through Thursday, May 3rd**. We miss the West Seneca Art Society meetings, demos, and exhibits at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center building. We hope the Town will soon begin to repair and reopen this beautiful space!

Another **K – 12 WNY school student Poster Contest** has been planned by Friends of Burchfield Nature and Art Center; **Save the Pollinators - Butterflies and Bees**. Students will have an opportunity to exhibit their work, compete for an award, and provide an educational service to the community. Posters will be **on display at the Senior Center, 4620 Seneca Street Monday, May 7th through Friday, May 18th. Awards will be presented at a Public Reception at the Center, Sunday, May 20th, 2 - 3:30pm**. Seeing this compelling exhibit and congratulating the students for their posters to encourage saving these important pollinators is a must!

Note: below in this newsletter is the line-up for our **Summer Concert Series. Beginning July 10th we will have a free concert in Park Tuesday evenings through the month from 6:30 to 8pm and at least one Sunday afternoon concert.**

We are also planning a **Burchfield Enchanted Forest** for *Sunday, July 15th*. Stay tuned for details!

Keep up to date on all the upcoming activities at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center by checking our website **BurchfieldNAC.org** or our facebook page at Burchfield NAC.

2018 BNAC Summer Concert Series

The BNAC Summer Concert Series is in the planning stage. This year we will feature:

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Tuesday 7/10/18 at 6:30 | Doug Yeomans Band |
| Tuesday 7/17/18 at 6:30 | My Cousin Tone' |
| Tuesday 7/24/18 at 6:30 | Carnival Kids Steel Orchestra |
| Tuesday 7/31/18 at 6:30 | The Pyramid Band |
| Sunday 8/19/18 at 3:00 | West Seneca Town Band |

If you, or someone you know, are interested in sponsoring our concert series, please e-mail the BNAC at Burchfieldnac@gmail.com. This is a great way to promote a business or organization and contribute to your community.

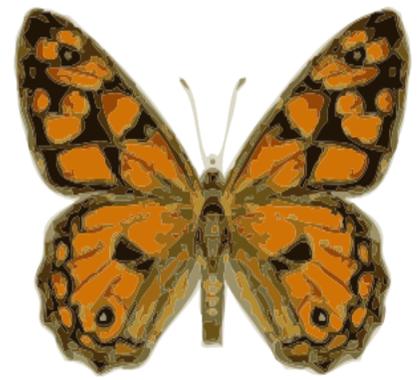
Membership

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.



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The Foundation of Ecosystems: Wings At Work Wild Pollinators Face Extinction

Doreen Panzarella

Bees and Butterflies are **Pollinator species** in jeopardy of **Global Extinction**. Bees and Butterflies – wild pollinators- have declined in the United States and around the world. Their decline has been caused by changes in landscapes, agricultural practices, pesticide use, alien invasive species, diseases, pests and climate change factors. Pollinators play a key role in ecosystems, food production and the global economy. Nearly 90% of wild plants depend on pollination for functioning ecosystems, habitats and resources for many animal species.

The **decline in Bees** is directly linked to habitat loss from urban/suburban development. Pollinators cultivate our landscapes as they fly from flower to flower in a hum of...Wee Wings at Work! Farms, homeowners and communities can protect pollinators by creating **Pollinator Forage Sanctuary Habitats**.

Individuals can boost the health and survival of Bees and Butterflies using **pollinator friendly practices** such as:

- * Use **native plants** rather than exotics. Native plants are adapted to the local climate and soil.
- * Keep a **variety of flowers** blooming from spring through autumn in various shapes and colors.
- * **Plant Milkweed** for Monarch Butterfly caterpillars and adults. Plant a **Butterfly Bush**.
- * Build or buy a **Bee Condo** to offer a habitat for many Bee species and other pollinators.
- * **Provide bare ground** – 70% of bees dig nests in the ground.
- * **Avoid using pesticides**, practice safe, natural plant pest reduction.
- * Become involved with **Pollinator Conservation Organizations** promoting pollinators and their habitats.

June 18-24, 2018 has been designated – **Natural Celebrate Pollinator- week**. Events will be hosted at parks, gardens, libraries, schools etc. to **promote the beneficial effects pollinators** have on mankind and wildlife. Citizens can take action and crusade for natures' Wee Wing Warriors – the Pollinators.

"If the Bee disappears from the surface of the Earth, man will have no more than four years to live" (Albert Einstein).

"I turned to the teeming small creatures that can be held between the thumb and forefinger: the little things that compose the foundation of our ecosystems, the little things as I like to say, who run the world" (E.O. Wilson)



