

*Friends of the Burchfield  
Nature & Art Center*

**NEWSLETTER**



**Spring 2017**



## **A Walk in the Park**

**Carol Yetter**

**Spring is in full bloom at the BNAC.** The daffodil display was the best in years. As the daffodils fade, the trees and shrubs are flowering and early spring flowers like trillium, trout lily and blue bells are leaping up. The dogwood and lilacs are full of blossoms. The peonies and hydrangeas we planted in the fall have made themselves right at home and will be flowering soon. Most of the new trees planted in 2016 have made it through the winter and are ready to take their place in the woodlands.

The chipmunks, squirrels and deer are already making daily appearances. Bird migration is coming to a peak. Some of our feathered friends (like the blue birds) seem to simply pass through for a few days, but others are settling in for the summer months. We have not seen the eagle that swoops through the creek corridor yet this year, but hear it has been spotted further down the creek. The creek is filled with ducks, geese and heron.

The beauty and upkeep of the BNAC park is highly dependent on a community of caring people who are willing to give their time and efforts to make good things happen. **On Earth Day** Saturday April 22, we **partnered with the Buffalo-Niagara Riverkeepers to bring 65 volunteers in to the park** for a day of cleaning up and clearing out. The ladies from **Sacred Heart Academy** got an early start on Earth day on April 21 and spent hours raking and clearing gardens and paths. April 29<sup>th</sup> brought an **Eagle Scout project** to the park. **Historical signs were repaired** and remounted, **dog bag holders were repaired and gravel was put down** in sitting areas and along paths. Volunteers have taken to the gardens to start weeding and preparing for mulching. **The West Seneca Woman's Club** is once again tending the rose garden on the patio. Although the building is closed, the tent will go up on the patio and the surrounding garden will make it a lovely place to sit in the shade.

**Artist Frank O'Connor** is returning this year to continue his work turning dead tree branches into artistic displays throughout the park. Frank is usually around on Sunday. Stop by and talk to him if you have a chance. He may even need your help. Spring 2017 seems to be running at an accelerated pace. We are used to the park gradually changing as the weeks go by, but this year, every day brings something new to appreciate. The rain is adding a challenge by creating puddles, ponds and even streams that are not usually a part of the park. Walkers have to navigate a little more carefully, but it is worth the effort.

Although we (volunteers and the public) are all missing access to our beautiful building; meetings, classes, exhibits, and other activities planned for the BNAC are being welcomed at the West Seneca Senior Center – Thank you Mary and staff! Even though we don't have our building from which we stage activities and work together on the coordination involved, **friends of Burchfield continue to plan, assist, and implement activities for the public.**

On **Friday, May 19** beginning at approximately 10:30am, the Seneca Nation will **commemorate the Buffalo Creek Reservation Treaty of 1842** at the BNAC Park. Beginning with a Color Guard procession, the ceremony will include featured comments from officials followed by Native American dancers and singers in traditional dress. It is always interesting to review the historical and dramatic story of this important treaty. It is also fascinating and enjoyable to share Seneca customs and hospitality. Attend the event if you can. Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately, as the ceremony will take place on the park grounds.

**Tuesday, May 30 – Friday, June 2** 9:30 – 4:30, A poster contest on **The Importance of Trees** by students in grades K-12 will be on display at the West Seneca Senior Center, 4620 Seneca Street,. An Awards **Reception**, public invited, will be held **Sunday, June 4** from 1-4pm. **Cash prizes** will be awarded to first, second and third places in each of four divisions at 3:30. Come to observe the creative expressions of art, nature and environmental understanding of the entries!

**Paper Cuts**, an exhibit scheduled for the BNAC Gallery this August, was cancelled due to the building closure. It has been re scheduled at the **Gyda Higgins Art Gallery** at Fox Run, 5689 Big Tree Road in Orchard Park, **June 27 – September 1**. The exhibit organizer, Dave Reichard, is one of the twelve artists of the Paper Cuts show, and also a volunteer at the BNAC. I have seen pictures of some of the work. It is an exhibit that should not be missed! **Hours at the Gyda Higgins Gallery are 8am-8pm daily.**

The **Summer Concert Series**, providing enjoyable music in the relaxing setting of our park, will take place on four Tuesdays, one Wednesday and two Sunday afternoons. See schedule in this Newsletter for dates and times.

**Enchanted Forest, Sunday July 23, 1-4pm is a free family event.** Bring the whole family. The event is geared to appeal to the younger folk but **all can work and play together.** Our **free activities** include building fairy houses, creating wands and crowns, coloring nature pictures, having a snack from the Fairy Tea Room, getting art painted on faces or hands, listening to and watching Mama Earth's Kitchen Band, sitting for a spell and listening to a magical story, making butterfly wishes while enjoying nature in the BNAC Park! (Rain date, Sunday, July 30.)

Follow us on Facebook and our website at [BurchfieldNAC.org](http://BurchfieldNAC.org) for updates.

## 2017 BNAC Summer Concert Schedule

**The Summer Concert Series kicks off on 6/27/17.** Bring a chair or blanket and enjoy the music in the beautiful amphitheater set along the Buffalo Creek. This year not all concerts are on Tuesdays. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday and a desire to make more concerts available on different days has led to some changes. Please note the scheduled times and dates.

<b>Tuesday 6/27/17 6:30</b>	<b>West Seneca Town Band</b>
<b>Wednesday 7/5/17 6:30</b>	<b>Carnival Kids Steel Band</b>
<b>Tuesday 7/11/17 6:30</b>	<b>My Cousin Tone'</b>
<b>Tuesday 7/18/17 6:30</b>	<b>Doug Yeomans Band</b>
<b>Sunday 7/23/17 1:00</b>	<b>Mama Earth's Kitchen Band (as part of the Enchanted Forest Event)</b>
<b>Tuesday 7/25/17 6:30</b>	<b>Pyramid Band</b>
<b>Sunday 8/13/17 3:00</b>	<b>West Seneca Town Band</b>

**The West Seneca Rotary, Town Councilman Gene Hart, the West Seneca Woman's Club, DMD Builders and the West Seneca Federal Credit Union** have stepped up to become sponsors of the series. **More sponsors are still needed. If interested, contact us at [Burchfieldnac@gmail.com](mailto:Burchfieldnac@gmail.com).**

We are 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 Art

## Want to know what is happening at the BNAC?

Join us on FACEBOOK. Go to - [Facebook.com/ BurchfieldNAC](https://www.facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC). The page is updated frequently and shares all the wonders that occur.

Our **Web site – BurchfieldNAC.org** provides information about upcoming activities and many facts about the facility including the history of the area, park brochure, maps and photos.

## Roots: "Mother Trees"~ Mycorrhizal Fungi Network~ White Pine Medicine Doreen Panzarella

"Mother Trees"...large, strong, tall, older trees are connected to a tree/plant forest ecosystem by a mycorrhizal fungi communication super highway. A sustainable tree/plant community which consists of threads of bright white and yellow fungi in the forest floor. The fungi transport carbon, water and nutrients between trees based on need. The internet of fungi manages the resources of the whole plant community through electrochemical signals sent down into the roots of neighbor trees to increase defense against disease and pests. Conserving fungal networks plays a vital role in supporting trees of North America Forests,, especially their offspring.. The "Mother Trees" have greater connection to other trees because they have more root systems. Forest floor seedlings near the "Mother Trees" link into the fungal network, accessing the vast resource web which promote the entire tree/plant ecosystem to flourish.. It is important to leave older trees intact to foster regrowth.

### **The Iroquois ~ Tree of Peace -**

The Great White Pine or "Tree of the Great Long Leaves" has 4 symbolic roots-- The roots radiate North, South, East and West...symbolizing peace, unity, creativity of the Iroquois 5 Nations Confederacy. Native Americans practiced a sustainable way of living - **a need-based lifestyle with great reverence for trees**. Trees were a source of food and medicine. Pine trees produce Pine nuts. The Adirondack ("Bark Eaters" in Iroquois) tribe of Upstate New York consumed Pine bark. Indigenous people of America met most of their Medicinal needs with herbal remedies including use of leaves, bark and other parts of trees.. White Pine was included in the Medicine Mans' Collection: as a cold/flu remedy. Pine Tea used for treating sore throat, chest congestion and lung infection..

Sustainable Lifestyle lessons from "Mother Trees", fungi, the White Pine Tree ~ **teach support for Community...to Conserve.....stay grounded ....connect with your roots and keep growing...  
.Peace---Hug/Adopt a tree today!**

## Volunteer Hours

Nancy Pufpaff

The closing of the Burchfield building has not deterred the BNAC volunteers from their mission of promoting our wonderful park.

### **BNAC volunteers are currently:**

- Tending the gardens and grounds.
- Scheduling weddings
- Responding to people/groups who want to use the park for school outings, birthday parties and tours
- Planning seven concerts in the park
- Preparing for the Enchanted Forest family event 7/23/17
- Working with the Riverkeepers, scout troops, the Seneca Nation, the Environmental Commission and schools
- Organizing a poster contest promoting the importance of trees.
- Promoting the BNAC and the town through our Facebook page and web site
- Providing community service opportunities.
- Scheduling volunteers to be in the park to provide information and guidance.
- Writing and providing documentation for grants

**As you know our building has been closed due to structural problems.** Thanks to the generous hospitality of the **West Seneca Senior Center**, our volunteers and many of the groups and classes that usually meet at the Center are continuing their activities and meetings at the Senior Center. Now more than ever your support inspires and strengthens our efforts. Although we are unable to continue gallery art exhibits, **we are focusing on park activities including our Summer Concert Series, the popular Enchanted Forest event, and maintaining the gardens. We are also sponsoring a student poster contest on the importance of trees.**

## **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.

**The BNAC no longer has phone service, so if you would like to reach us, contact us through our email at [Burchfieldnac@gmail.com](mailto:Burchfieldnac@gmail.com)**