

*Friends of the Burchfield
Nature & Art Center*

NEWSLETTER



Spring/Summer 2016

A Walk in the Park

Carol Yetter

As visitors walk through the park in spring, they will notice several improvements at the BNAC. There is now a "Gallery" sign on the outside of the building making people aware of the wonderful art that can be found within. We are grateful to the Eagle Scouts for several improvements. The park benches have been leveled and the gazebo has been repaired. The area around the pergola in the center of the park is undergoing a make-over. Plans are in place to re-gravel the pathways soon.

To preserve the woodlands, we plan on planting many new seedlings this summer. Although small now, they will be the future of this urban forest. With spring comes the gardens and with gardens come the weeds. We have quite a gathering of invasive weeds taking over. Lesser celandine and garlic mustard are the main culprits, but the gardens always seem to survive the invasion and are lovely to behold with the daffodils, trillium and iris blooming early. There is more to follow as the summer evolves, if the deer and rabbits don't make them in to a meal.

It's hatching time and baby birds, ducklings and goslings are soon to arrive. Along the creek, the heron population is expanding. Remember to check the sky as you wander. An eagle has been spotted flying along the creek several times. If you are interested in learning more about the birds or trees in the park, stop in the gallery and **ask about our brochures**.

We want everyone to enjoy the beauty and peace of the park. Please remember that there are ways to make the experience more pleasant for all. Dog lovers can keep their dogs on a leash and clean up after them. Bike riding is prohibited in the park, but there is a bike rack to store the bike while you take a walk. **We ask visitors to PLEASE not pick the flowers** so more people can enjoy them. Come to see. Come to hear. Come to share. **Leave it as you found it.**

2016 Summer Concert Series at BNAC

The Summer Concert Series kicks off on 7/5/16. Concerts are held on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 – 8:00 PM in the amphitheater. Performances can be moved to the patio or into the gallery if weather threatens. Bring a chair and enjoy a relaxing evening.

7/5/16	Stone Row
7/12/16	Doug Yeomans Band
7/19/16	My Cousin Tone'
7/26/16	Carnival Kids Steel Band
8/2/16	Pyramid Band

Want to know what is happening at the BNAC? Join the over 1,450 people who **Like us on FACEBOOK**.
Go to – [Facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC](https://www.facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC)

Volunteer Hours

Nancy Pufpaff

Volunteer hours as of the end of April are 2,619. Earth day volunteers came out in great numbers giving us 332 hours of their time and hard work. Our thanks to them all.

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS SUMMER?

Paula Minklei

Many activities will be taking place at the Center and in the Park. For additional updates or information visit our web site at BurchfieldNAC.org and our facebook at [facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC](https://www.facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC).

During **May** we honored **Native American history and art** with a Native American art exhibit on display in the Gallery. It featured a variety of works including sculptures, paintings, bead-work and baskets. On May 13 artists had vendor tables on the grounds during Gallery hours and in the evening we hosted a reception for the artists. Two experienced Seneca Basket Makers, Penelope Minner and Holly John demonstrated the traditional art of splint basket making.

Also on Friday May 13, **the Seneca Nation commemorated the Buffalo Creek Reservation Treaty of 1842.**

Beginning with a Color Guard procession, the ceremony featured comments from officials followed by Native American dancers in traditional dress. After the ceremony, the Senecas invited attendees to join them for a delicious luncheon. It is always enjoyable sharing Seneca customs and hospitality!

A Sunday, **June 5 reception** from 2-4:pm in the Gallery, will mark the opening of the **Mike Taylor Art Exhibit**. Mike's work will feature approximately thirty oils and acrylics. The reception will be catered by another artist, Judie Pufpaff who exhibited in the BNAC Gallery in September 2013.

On Father's Day, **June 19** from Noon to 4:pm, the BNAC will host a **family-fun Sunday in the Park**. This is our annual fundraising event but **admission is free!** The event will feature **Mark Carra** with his FasciNature critters, **Messinger Woods** with feathered friends and possum, **Sue Phillips** and a beautiful **llama** friend (or two), Several groups with **adoptable rescue pets**, and on the patio great **music by the popular Jazz Band My Cousin Tone'**. There will be **Kids Crafts and Face Painting, Basket Raffles, a Fifty-Fifty Drawing, Book & Treasure Sale**, Informational Displays, a **Baked Goods Sale, Food Trucks**, and more! Grab Dad and bring him over for a family picnic to celebrate Fathers Day! We guarantee he will enjoy it! You don't even need to pack food – you can use the Food Truck services.

July 3 –July 31, the Fiber Interest Group of WNY Exhibit will be on display in the Gallery. Featuring a diversity of **mixed media wall hangings, wet & needle felted items, fiber & polymer clay jewelry, soft cloth dolls and knit items.**

July 5 – August 8, every Tuesday evening from 6:30 to 8:pm we will enjoy the sound of music in the park amphitheater. Be sure to attend our **Summer Concerts Series**.

August 3 – August 28, Conrad Borucki will exhibit highly **realistic acrylic paintings** in the Gallery. The paintings we have seen are very **"Americana"** and will be a wonderful counterpoint to the Americana Music Festival: This Land is Your Land on the last Sunday in August.

Sunday, August 7, 1–4:pm - Burchfield's Enchanted Forest will be filled with children and their families & friends. Some will be dressed as fairies, elves, wizards and favorite super heroes. All will be enjoying the **music of 4 Way Street, building fairy houses, making wands, having refreshments in the Fairy Tea Room and enjoying other park activities**. Be sure to attend with your children, your grandchildren, and your youngest friends! It's happening rain or shine!

Sunday, August 28, Noon - 6:pm – Americana Music Fest: This Land is Your Land. This is the last Sunday before Labor Day. It will be a perfect time for one last summer picnic in the Park. We will celebrate America's heritage with music, friends and neighbors. There will be hot dogs and other food & beverages available for a reasonable fee, so you won't even need to pack the picnic! **Veterans will be here with a Color Guard presentation. Music will be provided by several groups of musicians** and attendees will be encouraged to participate. The West Seneca Environmental Commission will be helping us to appreciate our land and all it has to offer. **The Guitar Factory** will be on hand to provide and manage a sound system for the musicians. **The WNY Federal Credit Union and Fourteen Holy Helpers are also co-sponsoring the event.** Come and help us celebrate our country and its heritage through the sharing of songs that represent American history, culture and our great land.

Membership

Nola Stutz

The Friends of the BNAC would like to applaud your continual support and invite you to join our organization. Memberships provide us with the resources to continue with activities at the center. 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 or call the office@ 677-4843.

Burchfield in Bloom ~ The Force is Strong:

Doreen Panzarella

Summer Buzz ~ The Pollinators ~ Natures Singing Insects... Charles Burchfield's paintings reflected his response to the **force of nature**. Sensory reactions to light, sound, weather, wildlife and water. He rarely used oils but preferred the fluidity of watercolor being superior to oil.

The Force is strong in summer. The Force is an energy field surrounding all life. Trees and plants have the ability to absorb the light of energy. They depend on the light for most of their nourishment while water and earth minerals make up for about 30% of their nutritional intake.

Pollination is how plants sexually reproduce. Pollen travels from the anthers (male) to stigma (female) reproductive organs of the flower. A flower must receive pollen from the same species for successful fertilization of its ovules. The fertilized ovules become seeds – seeds become new plants and the cycle begins again. **Self pollinator** plants only need pollen to be moved from anther to stigma of the same flower or plant. **Cross pollination** plant species requires the pollen to make its way to the stigma of flowers on a different plant. Plants are stationary so they seek wind, water and animals to vector pollen between flowers. Animal vectors are called **pollinators**. Most pollinators visit flowers for food and pollinate in the process. Flowers provide **nectar** and pollen. **Nectar** is a sugary liquid sought by most pollinators.

Bee activity collects pollen. Pollen is protein rich and bees feed it to their young. Bees have electrostatic branched hairs and pollen baskets especially adapted to collect as much pollen as possible. **Bees move more pollen than other pollinators**. The bees of New York State comprise over 400 species of bees. The European Honey Bee is declining due to disease and stress from pesticides and inadequate food supplies. **Join the alliance to protect pollinators**. The rapid wing beats of bees create wind vibrations people hear as buzzes. Bumble bees (genus *Bombus*) can vibrate their wing muscles and thorax while visiting flowers, which shake the pollen off the flower's anthers and onto the bee's body. Honeybees are usually quiet when foraging on flowers.

The singing insects of summer make all sorts of noise. Some insect noise is information communication by rubbing body parts together. Male cicadas, katydids and crickets create quite a racket. The song of the insects grow slower as temperature decreases ~ eventually silent by October.

Painted Music ~ Synesthesia (joining of the sense) color and sound is evident in Burchfield's works. He was obsessed with sound and its visual representation. He saw the sounds of insects – crickets and cicadas.

Insect chorus 1917 (watercolor on paper) depicts the sound of garden insects. This is an example of Burchfield's view of **en plein air painting** (painting outdoors). **His artistic approach is a unique blend of naturalism, emotion and imagination**. Charles Burchfield felt the sound of the natural world, painting this world with his trademark watercolors and artistic symbolism. Burchfield stated on *Insect Chorus* – "vegetation seem possessed of unknown forces". Vermin you cannot see of the dark side – a silent chorus of ticks, fleas, mosquitos – with them the possibility of disease. **Burchfield acknowledged the dark and light – power of nature**.

This summer – take a walk on the wild (flower) side. Bring along your sight savers (sunglasses) and wildflowers/insect guide. Beware of In-vader poison (sith) ivy. Step aside for mini chewbaccas (dogs), Jabba toads, dagabahs (snakes) and insect aliens. Tread lightly...**May the Force be with You!**

"Come into the light of things ~ let nature be your teacher" William Wordsworth

Burchfield contact information

Address:	2001 Union Road West Seneca, New York 14224		
Phone #:	716 677 4843		
Web site:	BurchfieldNAC.org		
Summer hours:	Monday – Friday	10 AM to 4 PM	
(Apr 1 – Oct 1)	Sunday	1 PM to 4 PM	