

WINTER 2019



A Walk in the Park

Carol Yetter

It was a glorious autumn in the park. The colors were late in arriving, but when they did it was a dynamic display. It was also noisy in the park many days. As the bird migration began, there were many feathered visitors singing their songs. Squirrels prepared for the winter by gathering up a bounty of nuts. We used the pleasant fall weather to plant a couple trees, protect trees with snow fencing and to make improvements near the Treaty Commemoration area. Visitors were able to enjoy the trails and gardens on a daily basis through October and into November.

Snow and colder weather didn't pose much of a problem initially. Many people enjoy the park in the winter. When heavier snow, ice and wind hit in November, several trees that were weakened by the emerald ash borer lost limbs or were felled. January and February brought snow, extreme cold, wind and an ice jam on the Buffalo Creek. On February 2nd, flood waters rushed through the park. The park and the restroom building were under water for several days. That length of time led to extensive damage. Equipment in the restroom building was damaged and walls and floors will need work. Paths throughout the park were damaged. The flow of the water caused drainage gullies to form, washing away sections of paths to depths of a foot or more. This will take time, better weather, expertise and some significant work to repair. The town of West Seneca will be planning for and completing the repairs. It should also be noted that when the creek comes in to an area it brings more than water. A layer of slippery sludge was left everywhere. Additional snow and rainfall will cause most of it to settle in. **It is dangerous on the trails now and the town has closed the park until further notice.**

Amidst the damage, there are signs of better things to come. Daffodils are peeking up. There are some buds forming on shrubs. The deer and ducks weathered the storm well and seem to enjoy having the park to themselves. Plans are in place for projects in the summer of 2019. There will be new trees, natural sitting areas and bat houses. It has been uplifting to get calls, emails and messages from a variety of groups and individuals offering their help in cleaning up the park. We are hearing what an important role the park plays in the lives of people in this community. Unfortunately, there is nothing that can be done right now. The town is still evaluating the situation and they have to handle the major damage. We are planning our EARTH DAY event on May 11th. That is a day to clean up the park. There will be lots of litter to pick up and limbs to haul out. Make plans to join us that day. If there is an opportunity to get in to the park and start sooner, we will use Facebook and our Web site to let everyone know.

The Volunteer hours for the months of October, November, December and January:

October 371 hours November 277 hours. December 190 hours. January 403 hours **Total 1241**

Come Together 2019

at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center



Beach Glass Class
Sunday 3/24/19 1-3:00



Thursday 2/21/19
February FUN DAY
Family Fun Day
12:30 - 3



BNAC Poster Contest
Reduce, Reuse, Recycle
West Seneca Community Center
April 8-28

Saturday 5/11/19
EARTH DAY
Park Clean-up



Seneca Nation Treaty Commemoration Ceremony May date TBA

5/29/19 7:00-8:00
West Seneca Historical Society presentation:
Civil War Encampments

7/9/19 & 7/11/19
Painting in the World of Charles Burchfield
class for high school students and young adults

Sunday 6/23/19
BNAC Discover the Park

Wednesdays 7/17/19-8/14/19
Wonderful Wednesdays
Crafts and Games on the patio



SUMMER CONCERT SERIES BNAC
6:30 - 8:00
July 2nd - West Seneca Town Band
July 9th - Doug Yeomans Band
July 16th - My Cousin Tone'
July 23rd - Carnival Kids Steel Band

Burchfield's
Sunday 7/21/19
Rain date 7/28/19
ENCHANTED FOREST

Sunday 10/6/19
Sunday in the Park and Raffle

October - November 2019
BNAC
Photography Contest & Exhibit

Holiday Open House December date TBA

Additional information on each activity will be available on website BurchfieldNAC.org or Facebook/[BurchfieldNAC](https://www.facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC)
716-677-4843 2001 Union Road West Seneca, NY

What Has Been Happening and What is Coming Up?

Paula Minklei

Everyone had a great time at our October BNAC Tea at St John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in October. In November we held the Annual Photography Contest at the new West Seneca Community Center. Many enjoyed the excellent photos and the media covered the well-earned awards. We ended the year with two afternoons of Holiday Open House in the classroom where children & family members delighted in stories, games and crafts with a bit of warm cocoa and cookies on the side.

Looking ahead, we have enclosed a *Come Together* page of upcoming activities and events. There will be more information about each on our Facebook/[BurchfieldNAC](https://www.facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC) and website BurchfieldNAC.org.

A program that didn't make the page is called *A Gardenville Walk with Charles Burchfield*. Share a Sunday pictorial walk with Charles Burchfield and neighbor Nancy Barlow on Sunday 4/6/19 at 2pm in the BNAC classroom. Using the parade route, see how Burchfield and friend JJ Lankes use the neighborhood as inspiration for their American experience. The power point presentation will remind us of the beauty of life in Gardenville. Seating is limited. Call 677-4843 to reserve a space.

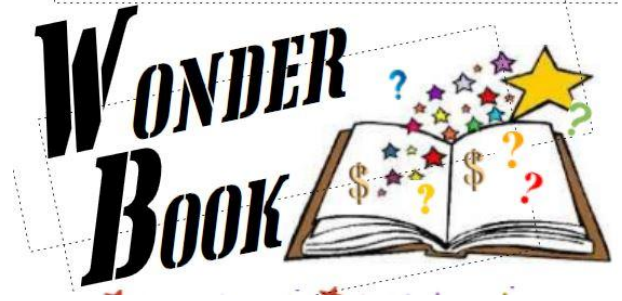
Summer & Fall Fundraiser

Jean Schenck

STOP in at the Burchfield to buy a raffle ticket for a book containing lottery tickets and gift cards. Guaranteed \$300.00 in cards and or tickets.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00

Hey your never know, you could be the lucky winner of this **fabulous book**.



Do YOU think it is time to restore the BNAC building?

Paula Minklei

Having access to the classroom has given our volunteers space for meetings, preparation for programs and more. The rest of the building including the gallery & conference room has been closed since January 2017. During this time the community has missed more than eighteen art exhibits and receptions and numerous community group meetings. The artists and environmentalists that used to meet here have had to find other places to convene. They are missed.

Activities continue in the park as you see in our *Come Together* page. In addition to those activities, there are also weddings, school group visits, family organizations and picnics, Boy & Girl Scout projects, gardening, community service endeavors, and more. However, the building and its art gallery has been an integral part of the Charles E. Burchfield Nature and Art Center and the Town of West Seneca.

The West Seneca Town Board has announced a public hearing regarding the future of the building. It is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5 at 6pm in the Community Center. If you believe the entire building should be restored, please attend and tell the Town Board. Funding should be sought to repair this valuable community asset and the Town Board should commit.

An appeal to the West Seneca Town Board for restoration of the BNAC building

Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center are circulating an appeal to garner signatures of supporters for the building's restoration.

Since the building was closed in January 2017, the art & nature center has missed over eighteen art exhibits and receptions, numerous meetings of nature lovers, artists and groups who come to tour the park and building. It has not been open to greet those residents of West Seneca and others from near and far who have come to view exhibits in its intimate gallery, learn more about the center's namesake Charles E. Burchfield and enjoy the beauty of the building and the surrounding grounds.

The appeal states: ***The BNAC building has been an integral part of West Seneca and Western New York. It has provided art exhibits, family activities and educational programs. We the undersigned would like officials of the Town of West Seneca to commit to restoring this valuable community asset.***

Copies of the appeals are available at the Center and on the BNAC Facebook and website. **Volunteers will be collecting signatures and passing them along to town officials on a regular basis until a commitment and restoration plan has been made.**

Appeal forms may be picked up at the BNAC on Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays, 11am to 2pm. Use the south (driveway) entrance .They are also available on our website at BurchfieldNAC.org. The signed appeals should be returned to the BNAC for a signature count and delivery to the Town Board.

Check in for Updates

To find the latest BNAC news check into our Facebook or website.

[facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC](https://www.facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC) or BurchfieldNAC.org

To stop by & say hello to pick up forms, come into the South Entrance of the building (driveway side).
2001 Union Road West Seneca, NY 14224. 716- 677- 4843

Mondays, Wednesdays or Fridays from 11AM to 2PM. Volunteers will be on duty.

Burchfield Nature & Art Center Mission Statement

Serve community interests in art, recreation, music, history and nature by providing a welcoming and educational facility.

The BNAC has been nominated to receive charity funds from the West Seneca Woman's Club. The amount of money received will depend on the proceeds of their annual **Scholarship & Charity Luncheon** which will be held on April 6 at 12PM at the Grapevine Banquets on Dick Road in Depew. Tickets are \$25 and must be purchased by March 25.

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 vacs day" at the BNAC will make you smile. Check out our beautiful park and bring a friend. Please check our website and facebook postings.