

## A Walk in the Park

*During any season, the BNAC park is filled with beauty and wonder.*

The gardens started their bloom in March and continue through the fall. Thanks to volunteers, Nancy and Connie, the Meditation Garden was given new life this summer as invasive species were removed and the perennial beds returned. The garden in the center of the park was a shade garden until many trees in the area fell and so it is adjusting to the full sunlight it now receives. Gardens closer to the building contain a variety of perennials and wild flowers that are inviting to our pollinator friends. **While many see WEEDS in the gardens... butterflies and bees see a WELCOME sign.**

Ash trees continue to fall due to the Emerald Ash Borer. Those dead trees have to be cut and hauled out of the park. Just when we think we are making progress, more trees fall. Some can remain on the woodlands floor to become part of the habitat, but we want to make sure there is room for new growth and that the woodlands are not becoming a tinderbox. When you go for a walk, look for the many new growth trees that are now finding their place in the woodlands.

The trails attract many walkers (2 legged and 4 legged). Keeping the trails safe requires a lot of raking and trimming. Making the trails educational is also a priority. An Eagle Scout project placed new QR codes throughout the park so visitors can learn about trees, birds and the history that is part of the park and the surrounding area. The deer cove picnic area was restored and a new Deer Brochure was added. The BNAC web site now has an EXPLORE section that has over 15 informational guides, maps and family activities.

An Eagle Scout project installed 2 additions to the Little Library. One of these extra storage areas allows children's books to be closer to little eyes and hands. The second addition is being used to hold *Take It and Make It* craft kits on bad weather days. The craft kits continue to be popular, with over 3,000 given away this year. The volunteers will make crafts available through the holiday season.

Many people have stepped up in the past 6 months to enhance and improve the park for visitors and the wildlife who call the park home. Much of the labor needed is provided by local groups that volunteer to take care of gardens, rake paths, haul dead wood, mulch, trim vines, pull weeds and pick up litter. **We would like to thank: Hunt Realty West Seneca, the Kiwanis Club, SASI Day Services, Ebenezer United Church of Christ, YMCA Togetherhood, Life Church of Buffalo, the Boy Scouts, Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper, West Seneca Woman's Club, Girl Scouts, Pathways To Employment (OPWDD), People Inc. and students from local schools doing community service.** The West Seneca Building and Grounds and Highway department make sure the grounds and restrooms are taken care of on a day-to-day basis and respond as needed to the unplanned emergencies like downed trees.



The BNAC  
brings out the  
Best in our  
Community.

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## *What We Have Been Up To!*

The year 2022 has been a busy year so far. Without the use of the full building, the BNAC volunteers have relied on the beautiful natural surroundings for most public activities. We long for the building restoration to be complete so that we can plan more inside activities, and when necessary, bring outside events inside.

On Earth Day in April, many community residents and organizations came together and helped to clean the park of debris and fallen branches left from winter storms. They left the park spruced-up and ready for the daffodils and other blooms to follow.

In mid-May, the Buffalo Creek Treaty Commemoration by the Seneca Nation of Indians, was threatened by rain. The Town of West Seneca invited the commemoration to be held in the West Seneca Community Center. It was a beautiful sharing of history, thanksgiving, and culture. Songs and dances in traditional Seneca garb were highlighted, and a delicious meal was enjoyed by attendees. The Seneca were welcoming and thoughtful hosts.

Drum Circles were held on two Tuesday evenings a month from May through August. They were enjoyed by children, adults and families. Sponsored and led by Kenneth Belote of KP Percussion, it was welcomed like a Rock Concert!

Wonderful Wednesdays, returned to the park on July 13<sup>th</sup> with bubbles, games, crafts and sidewalk chalk art. The popular and well-attended Wonderful Wednesdays continued every Wednesday through August 10<sup>th</sup>.



Rain forced the cancellation of *Sunday Funday* in May and July. June, August and September *Sunday Funday* events included a variety of scavenger hunts, crafts, games, fairy house creations, story-telling and more. The final *Sunday Funday* included a dog parade with judging and prizes from Pet Supplies Plus. It was held in the classroom due to rain. Naturalist Mark Carra and his "critters" were on hand, Kiwanis volunteers assisted with games. We also drew the winner in our JUG of JOY raffle which was worth over \$400.

Friends of Burchfield Nature and Art Center volunteers plan to help Santa answer letters mailed to him at the BNAC from November 20<sup>th</sup> to December 20<sup>th</sup>. If there is no major Covid-19 surge, we would like to hold a Holiday Open House at the BNAC building on Wednesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>.

Volunteers are in the classroom Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am-2pm. They are focusing on making craft packets and working on their Annual Report before plans begin for 2023. Anyone interested in joining as a volunteer is welcome to call or stop in.



BNAC volunteers engage in a variety of activities all focused on assuring the facility is valued and used to its full potential. Office work, craft projects, event planning and gardening are just some of the things volunteers do. If you are interested in becoming a BNAC volunteer or would like more information call 716-677-4843 or email us at [Burchfieldnac@gmail.com](mailto:Burchfieldnac@gmail.com). You can also stop in during office hours Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 11-2.

*Make your community a better place – VOLUNTEER!*



## Repairs In Progress



West Seneca Building and Grounds and Highway staff have been working since February to restore the building. Materials for the repairs are being purchased through a New York State grant obtained by Assemblyman Patrick Burke. It is difficult to predict when the building will re-open because work can only take place when the men are not committed to mowing, plowing, cleaning, repairing and caring for other town properties. We appreciate their efforts and dedication to the project and look forward to welcoming everyone back to the Gallery.

## Bright and Beautiful

In the spring, artist Frank O'Connor and his assistant Jennifer went back to work on the Sinisteria limb sculpture. They have added new sections that draw viewer attention to the many facets of the structure and the nature that surrounds it. Colorful paint on the limbs is constantly refreshed. As the seasons change this sculpture will shine through even the dreary days of winter.



CHECK IT OUT - The BNAC volunteers will be decorating a Christmas tree for the Chamber of Commerce Annual Christmas Tree Auction. Our theme will be "Grandma's Craft Closet". You can view trees in the West Seneca Community Center Atrium (outside the library) from December 1- 15

COME  
TOGETHER  
AT  
THE  
BNAC



*Create*



*Play*



*Dream*



*Lend a Hand*



*Imagine*