



Friends of the Burchfield Nature & Art Center
2013 Annual Report
October 2012 – September 2013

The mission of the Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center is to:
*Serve community interests in the areas of art, recreation, music, history
and nature by providing a welcoming and educational facility.*

Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center continue to serve the community with a variety of events, exhibits, classes and activities that fall within the stated Mission. The success of these diverse endeavors is attributed to the many dedicated volunteers, community service workers, organizations, elected officials, town employees and others who share their time, talents and contributions. **The Friends of the BNAC have documented over 6,116 volunteer hours towards meeting our Mission during the past year.**

FRIENDS, MEMBERS & DONORS: Many components go into providing activities and events at the BNAC. Foremost is the ability to cover the expenses of publicity, programs, concerts & other events, office supplies & equipment and gardening supplies. Members and donors provide a large portion of this important revenue. Spring and Fall Festivals are annual fund-raising community events. These fun/family events are planned and carried out by volunteers who provide food, raffle contributions and time.

GALLERY EXHIBITS: The *West Seneca Art Society Fall Exhibit* during October 2012 covered a variety of subjects and media from many artists. The *Annual Photography Contest* in November brought in 120 entries from all over Western New York. During January 2013, the West Seneca Historical Society exhibited photos and artifacts from *Historic Gardenville*. In February, Brendalee Piccione exhibited paintings and artifacts of *Traditional Seneca Lifeways*. The March exhibit included a colorful display of *Fiber Arts* from Western New York artists including lace, books, felted animals, quilts and more. The prolific and ever-popular *West Seneca Art Society Spring Show* was held in April. During the Month of May the Native Roots Artist Guild exhibited *Art with Native Roots* featuring a selection of paintings, wood-burned art, beadwork, carvings and other articles of Native American design. During June, *The Artistic Realism of Dean Vignykan* displayed oils, acrylics, graphites and sculptures depicting people, wildlife and fantasy. The works of *Thomas Rae Wekenmann* in oils, pen and inks, acrylics and watercolors were displayed during July. In August, the *Albright Men 2013* (six graduates from the former Albright Art School) exhibited a variety of media including oils, photographs, watercolors and acrylics. Our third year overseeing the Gallery ended in September with an exhibit titled *Spirit Within VII* featuring landscapes, seascapes and still lifes in oils, pastels and giclee prints, by Judie Pufpaff.

MAJOR EVENTS: The *Fall Festival* began our third year in October 2012 with music, food, craft activities, raffles and fun for all. A **Holiday Open House** was held for two days between Christmas and the New Year to provide a warm place for friends to meet and share activities and refreshments. *Earth Day* was celebrated in April with park clean-up activities and recycling awareness promotions. A popular *Downton Abbey Victorian Tea Party* was held in early June with Victorian-era foods and a presentation about the meaning of flowers. The July *Enchanted Forest at Burchfield* brought hundreds of children and their families into the park to enjoy the magic of nature, build fairy homes, meet baby llamas and

bask in the lovely surroundings on a gloriously sunny day. The *West Seneca in Bloom* garden contest held in July and August included 15 gardens from 12 homes. Pictures and a video of the gardens donated by Cliff Borchert were on exhibit for three weeks. *Free Movie Nights* provided viewings of lesser known movies on Thursday evenings throughout the year. Seven *Tuesday Evening Concerts* were held in the Amphitheatre from July 2 through August 13. At the final concert by the Town Band, the Town Supervisor provided Bandleader Clarence Hopper with a proclamation citing his many years of service to West Seneca.

OTHER EVENTS/ACTIVITIES: During the past year we facilitated events by others including the Native Roots Artists Guild *Vendor Day* and the Seneca Nation *Buffalo Creek Treaty Commemoration* in May; five *weddings* in the Park; a *Book Launching* event directed toward young artists; a late summer *Butterfly Release* under the auspices of the Amana Garden Club and a weekly *Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program*.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES: *Docent tours* were given to several groups who were interested in the flora, fauna and history of the Park. In March, a *Beach Glass collecting* presentation provided an opportunity to view a colorful collection while learning about treasures to be found on our beaches. *Native American classes* in bead-work, corn-husk doll making, painting and wood-burning were held in May. An *Open-Air Bus Tour* of local historic sites was provided in August in cooperation with the West Seneca Historical Society. Town Historian James Pace plotted the route and acted as tour guide for the very popular event. The *Burchfield Woodcarvers* sponsored several classes and seminars.

Children enjoyed nature and craft activities during *Terrific Third Saturdays* during the fall. Nature “Wonders Camps” for grades K through 4 were offered during school breaks. On *Wonderful Wednesdays* during July and August we hosted kid’s crafts and games on the patio at the Center.

GARDENS AND GROUNDS: Garden renovations were completed throughout the park. The West Seneca Woman’s Club tended the patio Rose Garden, bringing it back to full beauty. The Amana Garden Club expanded the Meditation Garden area and included a shade garden. Many hours were spent cutting grapevines to prevent them from killing trees. This effort has increased the number and size of our basswood trees and promoted the growth of oak and maple trees. Eagle Scout projects have provided 15 new bird houses, a picnic area, garbage can enclosures, weather stations, poison ivy signs and containers to use recycled bags as Mutt Mitts. The Treaty of Buffalo Creek commemorative area was cleaned up and replanted to provide a more fitting historical site. Many groups and individuals help keep the park clean and safe.

BNAC COMMUNITY: The organizations and groups that gather at the Center on a regular basis have made it a home for their varied interests and activities. The Amana and South Towns Garden Clubs provide creative arrangements and gardening projects. The Crosstown Quilters and Common Threads yarn spinners bring the color and creativity of fiber arts to life. The tradition of woodcarving is maintained by the Burchfield Woodcarvers who share their intricate works and creativity. The West Seneca Art Society gathers local artists to share and learn about a variety of artistic expression. A pleasantly artistic atmosphere permeates the building. The groups meeting at the Center enjoy the lighting from the many windows in the Gallery, the versatile classroom with easily arranged tables and chairs, and the comfortable roominess of the conference room. The warmth and friendliness of the facility provides a sense of community to all who visit.



Friends of the Burchfield Nature & Art Center
Year End Review
October 2012-September 2013

Major Events:

- Fall Festival & Pie Contest 10/6-10/7/12
- Photo Contest - November 2012
- Holiday Open House 12/29 - 12/30/12
- Historic Gardenville Seminars (3)
- Earth Day 4/20/13
- Spring Festival 5/5/13
- Enchanted Forest at BNAC 7/28/13
- West Seneca in Bloom Garden Contest
- Victorian Tea Party 6/8/13
- 7 Summer Concerts

Other Events/Activities:

- Free Thursday Movie Nights (7)
- Native Roots Artist Guild Vendor Day
- Buffalo Creek Treaty Commemoration
- Book Launch and Signing
- Butterfly Release
- Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program
- 5 Weddings
- 5 Eagle Scout Projects

Gallery Exhibits:

- West Seneca Art Society Fall Exhibit
- Photography Exhibit
- West Seneca Historical Society
"Historic Gardenville"
- Brendalee Piccione
"Traditional Seneca Lifeways"
- Fiber Arts Exhibit
- West Seneca Art Society Spring Exhibit
- Native Roots Artists Guild Exhibit
- Dean Vigyikan Exhibit
- Thomas Wekenmann Exhibit
- The Albright Men Exhibit
- Judie Pufpaff "The Spirit Within"

Educational Activities:

- Wood carving classes
- Wood burning classes
- Beading class
- Corn husk doll making class
- Beach Glass class
- Historic Gardenville Lecture
- Burchfield's Historic Gardenville & Art Presentation (2)
- School and camp groups tours
- Historic Open Air Bus Tour

Children's Activities:

- Wonderful Wednesdays -
Summer Crafts and Games
- Terrific Third Saturdays (3)
- Winter Wonders Camp
- Spring Wonders Camp

Charitable Service:

- Food Collection with Lions Club
- Letters/cards to Veterans Hospital

Volunteer participation:

- Amana Garden Club
- Community Service for Courts / Probation
- Community Service for local students
- Daisy Scout Troop 495
- Eagle Scout projects
- Falk School
- Transit Road Day Habilitation Program
- West Seneca Environmental Commission
- YALT Program from Daemen College
- West Seneca Rotary Club
- West Seneca Y.E.S.
- West Seneca Woman's Club
- South Towns Garden Club
- BNAC Volunteers

Over 6,116 volunteer hours documented

Garden/Grounds care:

- Maintained/improved gardens
- Tree trimming organized
- Woodlands cleared of dead wood
- Grapevine control to preserve trees
- Planters placed on grounds
- Memorial donations coordinated
- Path maintenance organized
- Garden and tree inventory
- Trash receptacle covers, sitting area, weather stations & birdhouses built by Eagle Scouts

Organizations Utilizing Facility:

- Amana Garden Club
- Burchfield Wood Carvers
- Common Threads (yarn spinning)
- Crosstown Quilters
- Erie County Environmental Management Committee
- Neighborhood Watch Groups (2)
- South Towns Gardeners
- West Seneca Art Society
- West Seneca Environmental Commission
- Local Homeowners Associations
- West Seneca Rotary Club
- Junior League Book Club
- 14 Holy Helper teachers/students
- Boy Scout Leaders

Cooperative relationships:

- Beaver Meadows
- Messinger Woods
- Native Roots Artist Guild
- West Seneca Rotary Club
- West Seneca Historical Society
- West Seneca Senior Citizens
- West Seneca Public Library
- 14 Holy Helpers School and Church
- Union Fire Company
- Buffalo Niagara Riverkeepers
- West Seneca Lions Club

Expenditures to enhance/promote facility:

- Digital Camera
- Digital Frame
- Laptop computer
- Chairs for classroom
- Lectern
- Replaced BNAC sign on Union Road
- Printing – brochures, booklets, maps
- Gardening supplies
- Printing of signs, brochures and fliers to promote the facility and events

Visitors from:

- 351 Communities within New York State
- 11 other states

Public relations:

- Quarterly BNAC Newsletter
- BNAC Brochures
- Historic Gardenville Booklet

Promotional Activities:

- West Seneca Night Out
- Reinstein Woods Fall Festival
- West Seneca Middle School Character Festival
- West Seneca Public Library
- WNY Wild Expo

Use of Internet:

- Web site - BurchfieldNAC.org
- Facebook page - The New Burchfield Nature and Art Center

Local media coverage:

- YNN
- The Buffalo News
- Bee Publications
- Penny Savers
- ArtVoice
- Gusto
- Lackawanna – Front Page
- The Metro Source
- Elma/West Seneca Sun

Burchfield Nature and Art Center
Revenue and Expense Report
Fiscal Year Oct. 1, 2012 - Sept. 30, 2013

Beginning Balance	Oct. 1, 2012	\$11,874.45
	Revenue	\$11,017.00
	Expenses	\$9,908.40
Ending Balance	Sept. 30, 2013	<u>\$12,983.05</u>

Revenue Sources		
1	Memberships	\$1,325.00
2	Building & Grounds Use	\$1,750.00
3	Educational Programs:	\$1,376.50
	Historic Tours	
	Kids Camps	
4	Fundraiser/Events/Donations:	\$6,565.50
	Spring & Fall Festivals	
	Photo Contest	
	West Seneca in Bloom	
	Concert Sponsors	
	Tea Party	
	Donations	
		<u>\$11,017.00</u>

Expenses		
1	Printing/Publicity	\$952.50
2	Educational Programs	\$650.00
3	Events/Concerts	\$2,765.00
4	Office Supplies	\$1,628.54
5	Equipment	\$3,025.90
6	Garden Materials	\$328.46
7	Volunteer Recognition	\$558.00
		<u>\$9,908.40</u>

Burchfield Nature and Art Center

Fiscal Year October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013

Expenditures

Summer Concert Series (7)

Advertising (Spree Magazine)

Bookcase

Bus rental – Historic tour of West Seneca

Chairs for classroom

Craft and activity supplies

Digital Camera

Digital Frame for promotions

Garden supplies – (plants, saw, litter grabber, planters, hose reel)

Hospitality supplies – (paper plates, napkins, tablecloths, food)

Lap top computer

Lectern

Memorial markers for trees and gardens

Movie Nights

Office supplies (printer cartridges, paper, postage, filing systems, calculator)

Printing (newsletter, brochures, annual reports, educational booklets, photos)

Safety equipment – (flashlights, vests, gloves, extension cord)

BNAC Sign on Union Road