



Friends of the Burchfield Nature & Art Center
2015 Annual Report
October 2014 – September 2015

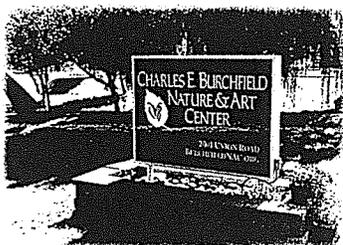
Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center mission statement:
*Serve community interests in art, recreation, music, history and nature
by providing a welcoming and educational facility.*

During the past year, the Friends of the Burchfield Nature and Art Center have enriched the visitor experience by providing a welcoming environment and a variety of activities, events, grounds improvements and artistic experiences. The Burchfield Nature and Art Center has become a Western New York “destination”. Local residents and visitors from outside the Western New York area enjoy the park almost daily. The major attraction was the parklands which provide the opportunity to walk, play, relax and explore. The gallery continued to gain popularity as people became aware of the changing exhibits and variety of talent on display.

Art Community interactions have expanded in the past year. Cooperative relations with the Burchfield Penney Art Center, the New York State Council for the Arts and the Albright Knox Art Gallery Community Art Program have allowed the BNAC to expand the public’s exposure to art and music. Artist Frank O’Connor has been working on a creative sculpture in the park that incorporates nature and art. The West Seneca Art Society holds monthly meetings and demonstrations in the classroom and sponsors two gallery exhibits a year that allow many artists to show samplings of their work. The BNAC gallery exhibits from October 2014 through September 2015 included local painters, carvers, photographers, Native American art, fiber artists and a display on the history of churches in West Seneca. Even in the gardens, artistic talent was on display. The gallery is now booked through 2017.



Facility Improvements were a major focus this year. The new sign on Union Road is highly visible day and night. The Griffis sculpture, Tula Star, was refurbished and now brightly welcomes visitors. Hundreds of hours were spent seeking permission and information to restore the Charles Burchfield informational placards throughout the park. Eagle Scout projects provided 2 new picnic tables, stained the Creekside wooden walkway, painted placard posts and added 4 new garbage can enclosures. Volunteer gardeners assured that garden areas were picture perfect, weed friendly and wildlife tasty. The Town of West Seneca built a new Comfort Station that was much needed and is now much appreciated by park visitors. The Town improved access to the center by installing steps from the parking lot to the sidewalk. Town workers also saved the Native American wood sculpture and reinstalled it in the rose garden.



Events at the facility have all been well attended. The Fall Festival (October), Sunday in the Park (July) and the Enchanted Forest (August) offered a variety of demonstrations, activities, entertainment and refreshments. The bi-annual Tea Party sold out quickly. The Tuesday evening Summer Concert Series attracted record numbers. Concert sponsorship and grants enabled the addition of two Sunday afternoon performances at special events. In June, a special reception welcomed visitors from the Burchfield Penney Art Center and local officials to unveil the Charles Burchfield placards.

Learning Experiences come naturally at the BNAC. Wonders Camps offered children fun learning experiences. Wonderful Wednesdays on the patio during the summer treated kids to creative art activities and games. Classes and presentations on woodcarving, floral design, gardening, photography, art techniques and history attracted many participants. BNAC docents provide tours of the grounds that focus on history and nature. The annual Seneca Nation Treaty Commemoration Ceremony brought home the importance of local history and cultural awareness.

Public Relations were improved with the re-design of the web site *BurchfieldNAC.org*. The site now provides easy access to photo albums, events listings and educational information. A significant increase is noted in the number of people exploring the web site. Local TV stations and newspapers have covered events and done special features about the artists and events. The *BurchfieldNAC* Facebook page now has over 1,330 friends. Both the Facebook page and the web page are referenced and shared by other groups and organizations.



Sharing and Caring is what really makes the BNAC unique. The BNAC is home to the Burchfield Wood Carvers, the South Towns and Amana Garden Clubs, the West Seneca Art Society, the Crosstown Quilters, the Common Threads yarn spinners and the West Seneca Environmental Commission. Each of these groups shares their knowledge, talent and efforts to build awareness of and interest in art and nature. The West Seneca Woman's Club, West Seneca Rotary, West Seneca Chamber of Commerce, scout troops, Day Habilitation programs, school students

and many local businesses contribute to the mission of providing the community with an attractive and evolving center for art, nature and history.

Volunteers are at the heart of all this past year's accomplishments. The BNAC volunteers organized or facilitated the activities highlighted in this report. They greeted visitors, weeded gardens, prepared materials, raised funds, manned the phones, wrote press releases, maintained social media accounts, improved the web site, kept the financial records, created the documents, worked the events, imagined the projects and made it all happen. In the past year, this labor of love led to 6,270 hours of volunteer time.

The Friends of the BNAC would like to thank the Town of West Seneca for their invaluable support. The Highway Department and Buildings and Grounds staff have maintained the building and grounds and assisted our efforts to make improvements at the facility. The Town Supervisor and Councilmen have joined in meetings and made time to hear our concerns and plans. The finance office patiently provided assistance in managing accounts. The West Seneca Police Department's oversight and response to concerns has kept the park safe for visitors.





**Friends of the Burchfield Nature & Art Center
Year End Highlights
October 2014 -September 2015**

Major Events:

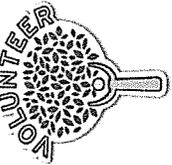
- o Fall Festival October 2014
- o Pie Contest October 2014
- o Holiday Open House December 2014
- o Earth Day April 2015
- o Treaty Commemoration Ceremony May 2015
- o Burchfield Tea Party May 2015
- o Sunday in the Park July 2015
- o Enchanted Forest August 2015
- o 6 Summer Concerts
- o Photo Contest
- o Charles Burchfield Placards in the Park Reception

Gallery Exhibits:

- o West Seneca Art Society Fall Show
- o Photography Contest
- o Historical Society West Seneca Churches
- o Cheektowaga Art Guild
- o Fiber Arts
- o West Seneca Art Society Spring Show
- o Native Roots Artists Guild
- o Tom Dalbo
- o Carol Coniglio
- o Thomas Rae Wekenmann
- o Two Artists Roberta Bolt/Glenn Kroetsch

Children's Activities:

- o Wonderful Wednesdays (7) Summer Crafts/Games
- o Winter Wonders Camp
- o Spring Wonders Camp
- o 3 group tours for schools and camps
- o Presentation to WS Schools art teachers



Activities at BNAC:

- o Wood carving and burning
- o Yoga
- o Photography Classes with Kenn Morgan
- o Haiku of Flowers/Poetry & Art Class
- o Native Roots Art Guild Vendor Day
- o Quilting
- o Free Thursday Movie Nights (7)
- o Weddings (8)
- o West Seneca Church History by Jim Pace

Community Service:

- West Seneca Community Veterans Gardens
- Collection of Box Tops for Education
- Donations to Food Bank
- West Seneca Garden Walk
- Hosted 3 Eagle Scout Projects
- West Seneca Art Society class presentations
- Community seed station from Albright Knox
- Community service for Students/Courts

Cooperative Relationships:

- o Beaver Meadows
- o Reinstein Woods
- o Messinger Woods
- o Native Roots Artist Guild
- o West Seneca Historical Society
- o Buffalo Niagara Riverkeepers
- o Burchfield Penney
- o Albright Knox
- o West Seneca Chamber of Commerce

Garden/Grounds:

- o Maintained/improved gardens
- o Grapevine control to preserve trees
- o Stick Sculpture by Frank O'Connor
- o Renewed Placards in Park
- o 2 New Picnic Tables
- o 5 Garbage Cans (covered)

Involved Organizations:

- o Amara Garden Club
- o Burchfield Wood Carvers
- o Common Threads (yarn spinning)
- o Crosstown Quilters
- o Community of Churches
- o Local Homeowners Associations (3)
- o Neighborhood Watch Group
- o Oxbow Club
- o South Towns Gardeners
- o Transit Road Day Habilitation Program
- o West Seneca Art Society
- o West Seneca Environmental Commission
- o West Seneca Rotary Club
- o West Seneca Board of Education
- o West Seneca Y.E.S.
- o West Seneca Women's Club

Guestbook entries include visitors from:

- o 28 Communities within New York State
- o 44 other states as well as several international visitors

Promotional Venues:

- o Quarterly BNAC Newsletter
- o The Buffalo News /Gusto
- o Bee Publications
- o Penny Savers
- o Lackawanna Front Page
- o South Cheektowaga Source
- o West Seneca & Elma Sun
- o TV coverage on Channel 2 and Channel 4
- o Redesigned BurchfieldNAC.org web site gained viewers.
- o Burchfield Nature and Art Center Facebook page has over 1,340 followers

All made possible by the 6,270 hours donated by dedicated BNAC volunteers.

Burchfield Nature and Art Center

Revenue and Expense Report

Fiscal Year Oct. 1, 2014 - Sept. 30, 2015

Beginning Balance	Oct. 1, 2014	\$16,341.59
Revenue		\$15,579.70
Expenses		\$7,938.36
Ending Balance	Sept. 30, 2015	<u>\$23,982.93</u>

Revenue Sources

1 Memberships	\$950.00
2 Building/Grounds Use	\$2,050.00
3 Fund Raisers/Events	\$3,468.00
4 Concert Sponsors	\$2,300.00
5 Donations	\$6,135.00
6 Other - Kids Activities/Photo Contest	\$676.70
	<u>\$15,579.70</u>

Expenses

1 Concerts	\$2,050.00
2 Office/Receptions/Garden	\$1,374.74
3 Printing/Publicity	\$486.44
4 Photo/Pie Contest Prizes	\$435.00
5 Other Major Purchases	
a. Tula Star Refurbish	\$315.21
b. Burchfield Plaques	\$900.00
c. Lighted Sign	\$1,000.00
d. Keyboard/DVD	\$187.98
e. Volunteer Christmas Party	\$449.02
f. Computer Tower/Camera	\$739.97
	<u>\$7,938.36</u>