

SUMMER 2020

***For the past several years, we have encouraged people to “Come Together at the Burchfield Nature and Art Center”. Covid 19 has forced the BNAC Volunteers to cancel all of the activities that we typically sponsor from spring through fall to avoid situations where large groups of people are coming together. The volunteers turned their attention to providing activities that allowed people to enjoy nature and art safely. Although we can’t come together in large groups we can still share a mutual appreciation for this wonderful little corner of West Seneca and all it has to offer.***

### **A Walk in the Park**

The long cool spring was perfect for the thousands of daffodils that bloom in the park. The fields of yellow were on display for almost 3 weeks. We could not bring in the many groups and individuals who usually help clean up the park and prepare the gardens. It took until May to start working on gardens and planters. Then it was individual BNAC volunteers working at a distance who started the work. They were racing against the heat of summer that brought out weeds and invasive species.

Park improvements this year have slowly taken shape. A new Information box was installed by Eagle Scout Gavin Sheehan. This box allows sharing of brochures, maps and activity sheets. It is located near the Little Free Library. Gavin started a path graveling program last fall. In July, Eagle Scout James Cycon continued the gravel project by finishing the Gathering area and the path closest to the Gallery building. James also built a new picnic table that is child friendly and sits by a tree near the building. Eagle Scout Matthew Shneggenburger reset the park introduction sign and created a Woodlands Adventure by installing concrete pads with nature symbols in them in the center of the park. Boy Scout Troop 416 from Queen of Heaven has been a great support to the BNAC and the community.

Frank O’Connor returned to brighten and add to his tree limb sculpture. Many people don’t realize that Frank repaints those branches to keep this dominant park feature looking its best. The West Seneca Woman’s Club has been working on the rose garden near the building. The patio tent was not put up this year to avoid the area from becoming a gathering area for large groups and to leave room for workmen should repairs begin on the building.

The Town of West Seneca building and grounds department has been trying to keep up with mowing, cleaning the restrooms, repairs and litter pick up. With so many people in the park, mowing is confined to early morning. To help cut back on the litter, we have asked visitors to “Bring It In – Take It Out”.

As summer rolls into fall, we encourage everyone to visit the park and enjoy all it has to provide. Take a little extra time, walk a little slower, listen a little closer and find a new wonder in nature.

**REMINDER: The park can get very crowded. Many paths are less than 6 feet wide. It is impossible to sanitize tables, benches and playground equipment. Visitors are asked to keep the park safe for everyone. WEAR A MASK. KEEP A 6 FOOT DISTANCE FROM OTHERS. WASH/SANITIZE YOUR HANDS OFTEN.**



## Remembering Kenn Morgan

The BNAC lost a good friend this year in Kenn Morgan who passed away on May 31, 2020.

If you ever went to an art opening in Buffalo, it's a very good chance you saw Kenn Morgan there. He believed in art as a *cause célèbre* and championed the practice at every opportunity. Kenn was that rare type of person who finds excitement in everything he encounters, whether meeting new artists or talking with old friends, always with a generosity of spirit which he shared so easily. His motto was simple: "In all things, listen, learn and laugh."

Kenn knew his photography and to prove it he could always be seen with a camera around his neck. He was old-school, preferring film to digital (which he derided as "digitalis"). Beside his day job, he taught photography at Locust Street Art on Buffalo's East Side for many years and still found time to teach photography at the BNAC, assist with planning our annual photo contest, and was a judge at the photo contest each fall. It's hard to accept that he won't be seen at art openings anymore, or teaching students at Locust Street school or at BNAC photography sessions.

He was a lovely and big-hearted man, among the kindest and gentlest of friends. Here's to you, Kenn. Hope you're listening. I know you're laughing wherever you are.



## Summer Fun at the BNAC

Activities that include the gathering of large groups had to be canceled this year, but the BNAC volunteers have found ways to create safe, fun and educational activities.

With the BNAC building and playground closed in March, April and May, BNAC volunteers worked from our homes to enhance our Facebook offerings. Park features to look for were highlighted. Craft ideas and activity sheets were posted. Beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>, we partnered with the West Seneca Youth and Recreation to develop Discover West Seneca. This is a series of activities that encourage people to explore and learn about their neighborhood, local parks, area nature features and historical facts. All the activities are posted on Facebook ([Facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC](https://www.facebook.com/BurchfieldNAC)) and on the website ([BurchfieldNAC.org](https://www.BurchfieldNAC.org)). The Recreation Department also posts them on their social media and web sites.

When the classroom at the building was opened in June, the volunteers began putting together Make It and Take It Arts and Crafts packets. Visitors can stop in the classroom Monday, Wednesday or Friday from 11-2:00 to pick up the kits. They were very popular, so the program was expanded. A clothes line was placed between the Little Library and the Information Box near the building and the packets are placed on the line 7 days a week. A basket of Make It and Take It projects was also delivered to the Youth and Recreation Department at the Community Center (see pictures on page 1 of newsletter).

Available activity sheets and brochures encourage a variety of activities while in the park. Scavenger Hunt type activities, quiz sheets and tree and bird brochures have been attracting visitors of all ages. The new Woodlands Adventure sheets send visitors into the center of the park to find nature symbols. BNAC volunteers plan to continue making activities available through the fall. We hope that these simple ideas and activities entertain, educate and keep us Together in thought and spirit.

## **Dear Members & Volunteers,**

We have been missing you! Our last volunteer meeting was March 2nd and our last official BNAC event was February Fun Days on February 19th. Since then, some members and volunteers have been stopping by the park and classroom, social distancing and wearing masks, to say "hi" or to help out with grounds keeping and craft kits.

Leadership officers have met occasionally, utilizing social distancing and masks, to discuss how best to continue to provide beneficial service to the community until we can all come together again in the building to enjoy art and nature activities, and our shared company.

Meanwhile, you are deeply valued and missed!

## **BNAC PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST**

After reviewing the amount of contact and interaction necessary to hold the BNAC annual photo contest, the volunteers have decided to try something new. We are still working out a way we can share photos on-line. We welcome any ideas or suggestions.

**Burchfield Nature and Art Center -                      2001 Union Rd. West Seneca                      677-4843**

**Email – [Burchfieldnac@gmail.com](mailto:Burchfieldnac@gmail.com)**

**Classroom Open - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

**Park Open - Dawn to dusk daily**

**[BurchfieldNAC.org](http://BurchfieldNAC.org)**

**[Facebook/Burchfieldnac](https://www.facebook.com/Burchfieldnac)**

## **Burchfield Nature & Art Center**

## **Mission Statement**

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