



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

July/August 2023

**Happy 4th of July
Let's go on a Hayride!**

What a special day, A HAYRIDE! From the Nature Center to the Heritage Farm.

July 5th 6:30 – 8:30 Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting and Program.

We will board the hay wagon beginning at 6:30PM and it will leave at 7:00PM. Upon arriving at the Heritage farm, we will enjoy some refreshments.

Our featured speaker will be Spring Valley's own Monique Ingot, Supervisor of Farm Programs. Monique will start an orientation and take us on a walking tour of the Heritage farm. She will tell us about the history of the farm and why there are the unique animal species housed there. After our tour and any questions that we may have are answered, the hay wagon will depart from the farm and return us to the Nature Center.

Dress for the weather and wear comfortable shoes. See you there!

August 4th Spring Valley Nature Club Picnic and Meineke award presentation.

Our regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday August 2nd will be combined with the Spring Valley picnic on Friday August 4th. You will receive an invitation please RSVP.

Looking into the future...

September 6, Spring Valley Volunteers & Nature Club Program...To be announced.

October 4, Spring Valley Nature Club Program....Putting up the Harvest

November 1, Spring Valley Nature Club Program....Creating Eco Friendly Fresh Holiday Décor!
This has been a much-anticipated enjoyable session where we learn how to make beautiful fresh holiday floral arrangements with homegrown greens, florals and found objects. You can bring your own mug or planter and you'll have access to pinecones, silk flowers etc. to enhance your handmade treasure. You'll learn how you can transform your Thanksgiving arrangement into a winter wonderland or Holiday décor item! Any extra decor you may bring will be appreciated!

Spring Valley Update for July/August Newsleaf – 2023

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'summer' hours from May through October. We continue to offer a full schedule of family, youth, and adult programs and unique events.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails are open for walkers every day from 8am-8pm.
- Additional parking at St. Matthew's Catholic Church will be available throughout the summer months. The gate leading onto Heritage Farm's walking paths from St. Matthew's will be opened each morning at 8am.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors daily from 10am-6pm.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings are open Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** will remain open daily from 10am-8:00pm throughout the summer, except during stormy or rainy weather. Admission for all children ages 2-12 entering the nature playground is \$2 for residents or \$3 for non-residents. Play sessions are one hour long and maximum capacities will be maintained by staff in order to ensure a quality play experience for all.
- Spring Valley has three picnic shelters available for private rental. These are located just east of the Nature Center parking lot, near Merkle Cabin, and at Heritage Farm. Requests for rentals need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance. Rates are based on residency.
- Volunteers continue to assist with many outdoor conservation projects, trail maintenance, monarch butterfly rearing and programs, and with other events and programs. If you are interested in enrolling as a Spring Valley volunteer and helping out, please contact Sarah Severson at saseverson@parkfun.com.

NEW – Spring Valley App

There's now an app for Spring Valley visitors! Staff has recently developed an app for use on either Android or Apple smartphones. It features not only information on hours, site features, and facilities, but two guided tours that provide information on various natural history or historical topics as you walk the trails. The app is FREE and available from either the Google Play Store or Apple Store (simply type Spring Valley Nature Center into the search bar). It is also available as a web-app by going to www.springvalley.stqry.app.

Spring Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for many of the programs listed below. Nearly all classes have limited capacity and are held outdoors whenever possible. More information and on-line registration are available within the Park District's virtual **Summer Program Guide**, found at www.parkfun.com.

Monthly Interpretive Themes at the Nature Center and Heritage Farm

Spring Valley's two visitor centers will be focusing on a different theme each month during the spring, summer and fall. Hands-on activities for youth will accompany each month's theme at the Nature Center. At Heritage Farm, the interpretation in the farmhouse will include a focus on that month's theme, and related food items will be available for purchase in the Museum Shop. Be sure to visit each month to experience what's new! The Nature Center will be focusing on *Pollinators-a-Plenty* in July and *'A' is for Astronomy* in August. Heritage Farm's focus will be on *Hooray for Honey Bees* in July and *Gardens Galore* in August.

Monarch Butterfly release programs are once again taking place daily at the Nature Center, continuing through September. Release times (dependent on weather and availability of butterflies) are at 11:15am and 3:00pm.

Summer Insect Extravaganza – Saturday, July 8, 6:30-9:30pm

Help children develop both an appreciation and healthy respect for insects through games, crafts, 'bug searches' of the prairie and wetlands. The event will conclude with wagon rides and firefly walks through the woods near Merkle Cabin. Cool, 'buggy' treats will be available for purchase as well. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Summer Concert at the Cabin – Saturday, July 22, 5:00-8:00pm

Spend a summer evening near the Cabin enjoying the outstanding vocal stylings of *Cheryl & the Down home Boys*! This excellent group of local musicians will provide their take on Americana, a blend of country, folk, and roots music. Grilled food, wine and beer will be available for purchase, or pack your own picnic dinner a la Ravinia! Bring lawn chairs or a blanket. A wagon shuttle will transport you down to the Merkle Cabin area. The music will begin at 6:00pm. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club. Admission is \$4/person or \$16/family. NOTE: mark your calendars for our *Fall Concert at the Cabin* on September 9, when the Spring Valley Concert Band will return!

German Beer Gardens – Sat., July 29 and August 26, 4:00-7:30pm

A hallmark of many German communities in early America was the *biergarten* or beer garden, a celebration of family, community, and ethnic pride. Bring a picnic dinner, play backyard games, and enjoy a relaxing evening outdoors. Festive music, German-style craft beers and soda, bratwurst, pretzels, and dill pickles will be available. Admission is FREE, with food and beverages available for purchase. Park at St. Matthew's Church, following signs to the Heritage Farm entrance. Event runs rain or shine.

Star Party – Sat., August 12, 8:00-10:30pm

Enjoy a star-studded evening at the Nature Center celebrating the beauty of the summer sky! This evening coincides with the peak of the annual Perseid Meteor shower. There will be telescopes for viewing planets visible at this time, star-related games and activities, and a chance to roast marshmallows over a campfire. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Garden to Glass – Wed., July 26, 7-9pm & August 30, 6:30-8:30pm

Adults will spend time at Heritage Farm exploring herbal delights to be found in the heirloom kitchen garden while staff mixes up unique garden-themed cocktails under the picnic shelter. Attendees can then explore the farm's grounds while they sip. Program requires pre-registration. Two different unique cocktails will be featured each month! The fee is \$20/resident or \$24/non-resident.

VIRTUAL PROGRAMS – Landscaping Classes via Zoom! Pre-registration required for all of these programs. The Zoom link will be sent to you a few days prior to each program.

Rain Gardens – Thurs., July 6, 7:00-8:00pm

Learn how to work with nature to create a beautiful and functional rain garden, helping to keep rainwater working on your landscape and much cleaner when it flows into local streams.

Backyard Birdscaping – Thurs., July 20, 7:00-8:00pm

Learn how to transform your home landscape into a haven for local birds with plantings, simple water features, nesting boxes, and carefully placed feeders.

Landscaping with Native Plants – Thurs., August 17, 7:00-8:00pm

Create a garden that captures the magic and beauty of Illinois' original prairies, using native wildflowers, grasses, and discover how sustainable and hardy these landscapes are.

Prairie Ecology Walks – Saturdays, July 22, August 5, August 26, 10:00-11:30am

Take a casual morning walk through Spring Valley's restored prairies, learning to identify some of our most beautiful indigenous plants while you deepen your understanding of the intricate web of life that makes up the prairie ecosystem. Pre-registration required for each of these naturalist-guided walks. Fee is \$12/resident or \$15/non-resident.

Additional programs are being offered through July and August – visit the virtual **Summer Program Guide** to learn more!

Caring for Your Heirloom Vegetable Garden!

The most important thing you can do for your garden this season is to water and fertilize weakly weekly.

Didn't get around to making a garden? Don't have a garden space in ground? No prob! You can have great results planting in containers! Don't want to buy pots and planters? No prob! You can use old tote bins, just drill holes in the bottom for drainage and you can grow a multitude of items! Even 5-gallon buckets will work and can be used as planters for tomatoes, eggplants, peppers and more! Many gardeners include veggie plants in the flower beds. Peppers, eggplant, Swiss chard, and many other plants are beautiful and fit in well to the formal garden! Now is a great opportunity to plan for your own garden adventure!

Watch for the seed racks of Botanical Interests Seeds that will be on display in Spring Valley's and the Farm's Visitors Centers. They are high quality seeds and are organic too! Proceeds benefit the community with programs and activities for all ages!

Please continue your loyalty to our cause, it is with support from our members and friends of Spring Valley that we can assist the Spring Valley Nature Center in its educational and environmental efforts to provide programs and benefits for the community. Thank you.



1974 And Beyond

Spring Valley began as a dream by one of the founders of the Village of Schaumburg, Ellsworth Meineke. Early on he referred to it as “The Spring Valley Dream.” It was he who convinced the Schaumburg Park District and the Village of Schaumburg to work together to acquire and preserve land for Spring Valley. Ellsworth founded the Spring Valley Nature Club in 1974 as a not-for-profit service organization which provides volunteer and financial support for Spring Valley and promotes conservation, nature, and environmental education. The Club sponsors nature programs and teacher field trips, and members volunteer at festivals and fund raisers. We have been working hard since 1974. Won’t you join us?

These words reflect the dedication that the founders felt for the purpose of the Club and the love of the natural world around us. Since the Schaumburg Park District assumed the responsibility of recruiting volunteers, Nature Club’s purpose has evolved to share its love of Spring Valley by offering timely programs that reinforce a more wholesome lifestyle. We have initiated monthly educational programs that instill a comprehension of our ability to lessen our carbon footprint by reducing waste, recycling and reusing our valuable resources. Our monthly programs enlighten us to appreciate our environment and respect its fragile beauty.

We have lessened our impact on landfill waste by eliminating the mailing of our bimonthly News Leaf. We are encouraging members to attend educational programs which teach us the importance of the wildlife around us, the art of using our natural resources wisely and being more self-reliant by advising how to live a more wholesome lifestyle, grow and live more organically and become more self-sufficient.

With the kind donations and assistance from local merchants and organizations, we can exist more ecologically by shopping locally. Some of the wonderful supporters and contributors to the club have been, Roselle Ace Hardware discount coupon on purchases; Schaumburg Park District 1-day Fitness Pass; Platt Hill Nursery for their support and discount coupon at their garden centers; Holistic Art Studio discount coupon; Skincare by Carmela for their discount on services.

Our wonderful supporters have given us a way to lessen our footsteps by offering valued products and services at discounted prices while saving our energy dollars by reducing the number of miles we travel. Please support our supporters. With their help, we have been successful in raising additional funds to sponsor educational programming for our Club members, Spring Valley Volunteers, and school children and teachers from our community. We have supplied funds for books for Spring Valley’s Library and have sponsored various free to the public programs and events that the Nature Center has offered.

Thanks to you all, and especially our valued Members and Supporters of Spring Valley Nature Club!

Please take time to review all the wonderful benefits we are offering to our members with their Nature Club membership. Won’t you join us?

Spring Valley Nature Club is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and contributions may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

Spring Valley Nature Club 2023 Membership Rates

To show our appreciation for our members' loyalty, a special benefit packet is offered to club members.

“Discount Coupon Packet” This packet will include certificates and coupons for various merchants, i.e., Holistic Health Studio (massage discount), Platt Hill Nursery (discount on purchase), Chick-Fil-A (Free Sandwich - Schaumburg Stores only), Skincare by Carmela (Discount on Services), Ace Hardware (Nerge Rd. \$5 off) and Schaumburg Park District one day fitness pass & one day pool pass.

Special Benefit; An invitation to the Spring Valley Volunteer/Meineke Award Picnic on the first Friday in August. A postcard will be sent to current members in good standing by mid-July asking for an RSVP.

Free Entry to the Nature Club Programs: Allows you to attend any of Spring Valley Nature Club monthly meetings and educational programs from February through November where you can enjoy some refreshments and camaraderie with fellow supporters of the Nature Club and the Spring Valley Volunteers.

Membership Card & Bi-monthly News Leaf: Identifies you as a supporter of the Nature Club's efforts.

Life Membership: In addition to the above items, this membership includes a Nature Club Commemorative Fleece Throw (\$35.00 value); this fleece throw is for **New Life Memberships Only**.

Current Life Members are eligible for the Discount Coupon Packet. Any donation is appreciated and helps the Nature Club fulfill its charter to support Spring Valley Nature Center.

Your Membership Packet needs to be picked up in person at the Spring Valley Nature Center 10:00 – 5:00 daily. Any member may have the membership package mailed to them for a handling fee of \$2.00

Yearly Memberships Begin February 1st through January 31st

Senior 55 Plus	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Supporting	\$35.00
Life	\$150.00
Sponsor	\$1000.00

Senior - Individual – Family – Supporting - Life – Sponsor

Name-----

Address-----City-----St.-----Zip-----

Email-----Phone-----

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Spring Valley Nature Club - 1111 East Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, IL 60194