

[www.springvalleynatureclub.org](http://www.springvalleynatureclub.org)

[springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com)

**Editor: Al Larson**

**November/December 2020**

## **Letter from the President, Donna Johnson**

### **A Time for Thanksgiving**

Though the programs and activities of the Nature Club have been curtailed, we are still looking forward to having our Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations Sale. This year there is an easy and exciting opportunity to view what is available and order your Holiday décor from the comforts of your home. Simply press on the link or copy and paste the following in your browser: <https://go.wreathsaleapp.com/springvalley> Nature Club will coordinate everything for you, after placing your order, come to Spring Valley Nature Center Saturday November 28, 2020 between the hours of 12:00 PM – 2:00PM and pick up your order under the canopy at the main entrance.

If you prefer, paper forms are available (attached) for those folks that may not have internet access. Please share this information and forms with your friends & neighbors.

**HURRY SALE DEADLINE NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>**

The guidelines outlined by the CDC make the prospect of having our monthly live meetings, not possible. To maintain the advised guidelines and to ensure the health and safety of our members, friends, and members of the community, we have determined that the monthly Nature Club meetings will be suspended for the balance of 2020 and also the year 2021 until further notice.

Thank you, stay well and be safe.

## Spring Valley Update for November/December Newsleaf – 2020

Here are the latest updates on winter operations at Spring Valley during the COVID pandemic. As state requirements for public recreation programs and facilities may continue to change, sometimes quickly, please visit the Schaumburg Park District website at [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com) for up-to-date information. You may also call the Nature Center at (847) 985-2100. The phones are not always staffed; however, if you leave a message, we will reply within a day or two at most.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails remain open for walkers every day from 8am-5pm. Portable toilets are available near the Nature Center and Merkle Cabin; however, no restrooms are open for use and no drinking water is available.
- The Nature Center and Heritage Farm remain closed.
- Bison's Bluff Nature Playground is open daily from 9am-4pm, on any day when dry conditions and temperatures above 40 degrees exist. Special restrictions on group gatherings still exist; however the playground is no longer staffed and there is no fee for entrance.
- All scheduled special events and walk-in programs for the remainder of 2020 as well as the first three months of 2021 have been cancelled. The Park District will be offering a modified version of **Christmas in the Valley** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of December (details to be determined).
- Our fall and winter programs continue to be redesigned to comply with group maximums and social distancing guidelines, in accordance with Illinois health and safety guidelines.
- With on-going restrictions on group gatherings, all scheduled meetings are cancelled until further notice.
- The Heritage Farm's programming has been mostly paused for the year. All livestock have been moved offsite. We have recently begun reestablishing the poultry flock and anticipate getting pigs back in spring. Some winter programs are planned for Heritage Farm.
- Volunteers continue to assist with outdoor conservation projects, trail maintenance, and with some of our modified events and programs. If you are willing and able to assist with projects, please contact Brenda Korecky at [brkorecky@parkfun.com](mailto:brkorecky@parkfun.com).

The Schaumburg Park District continues to closely follow the State of Illinois guidelines and additional recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Decisions are also heavily based on finances. Since the Schaumburg Park District relies so much on program and user fees to fund its operations – 50% of all operations are funded by user fees, with resident taxes making up the rest – the district continues to take a heavy hit financially due to the lengthy shut-down and reduced programming. For that reason, facilities that are unlikely to pay for themselves via program or entrance fees are being kept closed for now. Due to the austerity measures in place to reduce expenses, the Park District has made the difficult decision over the past several months to cut its workforce by over 20%. Spring Valley has unfortunately lost five valued full-time staff members to layoffs. The five staff remaining are wearing many hats and will be endeavoring to rebuild Spring Valley's programs and services over the next year or two, after the pandemic abates.

Be safe and well, everyone, and take advantage of Spring Valley's beauty whenever you can!

### **Spring Valley 2021 Wall Calendars Now Available!**

Spring Valley's attractive and popular annual wall calendar is available now for ordering. Photos feature our own natural beauty from season to season, month to month. They are available by ordering over the phone and can be mailed to your residence or by scheduling a pick up at the Nature Center. Calendars are \$8 each.

### **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground**

- Hours of Operation: Daily, November-March, 9:00am-4:00pm
- Playground is CLOSED any day on which rain, ice, snow or temperatures below 40 degrees exist. Winter maintenance activities may also result in closures.
- No fees required
- No more than 50 patrons may be inside the play area (includes adults)
- No Group Use permitted
- Water feature will NOT be operational for safety/health reasons
- No Picnics permitted inside play area

### **Late Fall & Winter Programs**

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for each of the programs listed below. Nearly all classes have limited capacity and will be held outdoors whenever possible. More information is available within the Park District's **Virtual Program Guide**. This, and on-line registration can be found at [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com).

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS**

Several newly designed programs for young children are being offered. Based on the premise that outdoors is the healthiest place to be, these are outdoor programs for children ages 2-6 (varies by program) accompanied by a parent. Some are multi-week programs, and all seek to immerse young children in nature, providing them with a basic understanding of the world around us while also teaching about cooperation, helping and sharing, and resiliency.

**Autumn Nature Playdates – Wed., Nov. 4 and 18, Dec. 2 and 16, 11:00am-12:00pm**

**Saturday Campfire Stories – Sat., Nov. 7 & Dec. 5, 1:00-2:00pm**

### **YOGA PROGRAMS**

Yoga programs are being offered at the Nature Center to provide sufficient spacing of participants. These are classes for either beginners or those experienced with the physical, mental and emotional benefits of yoga. They are evening classes, scheduled over several weeks. Look for winter session yoga classes to begin in January.

**Spring Valley Winter Break Camp – Mon.-Wed., Dec. 21-23 OR Dec. 28-30, 10:00am-2:00pm**

Looking to get your 7-12 year-old out of the house over winter break? Let them spend time at Spring Valley exploring! Campers will walk to the Merkle Cabin each day for adventures in tracking wildlife, experiments with snow, snowshoeing (if there's enough snow), and more. Fee is \$65 for residents and \$75 for non-residents.

**Fall Nature Scavenger Hunt – Sat., Nov. 14, 1-2pm, 2-3pm OR 3-4pm**

Bring the family out for a walk along the trails while participating in this Thanksgiving-themed scavenger hunt! Three different times available. Register as a family, paying one fee. Fee is \$7/family; all ages.

**Mighty Acorns Family Stewardship Day – Sat., Dec. 5, 10:00-11:30am**

Experience this award-winning environmental stewardship curriculum at this special family program. The program will focus on stewardship, exploration and educational activities to get everyone working to improve the natural world for native plants and wildlife. Activities are most appropriate for ages 5 and up. Please register as a family. Fee is \$15/family.

**Winter Solstice Sunrise – Sun., Dec. 20, 7:00-8:30am**

Greet the first day of winter and join a naturalist for a sunrise walk through the woods and prairies. Dress to be outdoors and bring a mug for tea or coffee, which we will provide, along with a simple warming breakfast to enjoy on the hike.

**Stone Soup – Mon., Dec. 21, 3:00-5:00pm**

Help us celebrate the winter solstice on this first day of winter break! This family program involves a hike from the Nature Center to the Merkle Cabin fire pit, where you will hear the short story, *Stone Soup*, followed by enjoying some hot soup around the fire. Please register as a family. Fee is \$20/family.

**Family Wishing Tree – Wed., Dec. 30, 10:00am-12:00pm**

Start an optimistic new family tradition by creating a wishing tree and adorning it with everyone's wishes for the New Year. Participants will help to improve the environment at Spring Valley by removing invasive buckthorn, then gather together to create a wishing tree to take home. Please register as a family. Fee is \$12/family.



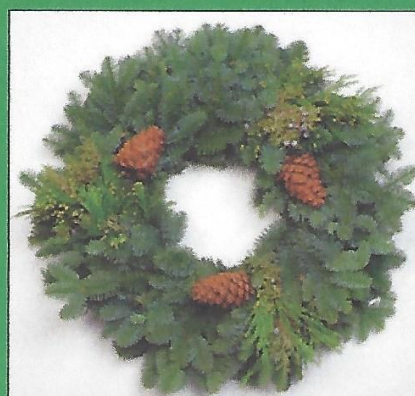
# Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



*Single Face Balsam Outdoor Wreath 26", 36", 48", 60", 72"  
Double Face Balsam 36"*



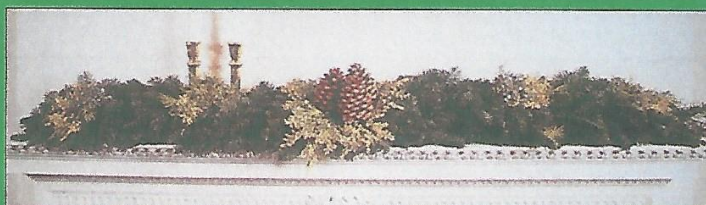
*12" Pinecone Chandelier Hanging Decorator*



*Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20", 36" & 48"  
Indoor/Outdoor*



*Evergreen Planter Regular 32"  
Supersized 42"  
(Outdoor)*



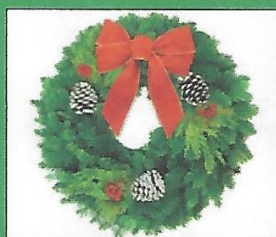
*4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece*



*'Balsam Swag*



*12" Candle Ring Wreath with 4" Candle*



*24" Boxed Decorator Wreath*



*Holiday Yule Log 12"*



*25' Balsam Fir Garland  
Mixed Cedar & Noble also Available*



*Firestarter Basket*



*Fallen Hero Wreath  
Delivered to a National Cemetery*



SPRING VALLEY NATURE CLUB  
HANDCRAFTED WREATHS AND DECORATIONS PAPER ORDER FORM

DESCRIPTION	COST	QTY.	TOTAL
12" MIXED NOBLE CANDLE RING WREATH 4" CANDLE	\$23.00	_____	_____
12" PINECONE CHANDELLIER HANGING DECORATOR	\$32.00	_____	_____
4' NOBLE MIX MANTELPiece/CENTERPIECE	\$44.00	_____	_____
12" HOLIDAY YULE LOG	\$20.00	_____	_____
OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (32")	\$33.00	_____	_____
SUPERSIZED OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (38")	\$47.00	_____	_____
FIRE STARTER BASKET	\$21.00	_____	_____
DOOR SWAG WITH VELVET RIBBON	\$18.00	_____	_____
20" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$25.00	_____	_____
36" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$45.00	_____	_____
48" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$68.00	_____	_____
24" DECORATOR WREATH BOXED W/ VELVET RIBBON	\$40.00	_____	_____
26" FALLEN HERO WREATH	\$25.00	_____	_____
26" SINGLE FACE BALSAM WITH VELVET RIBBON	\$20.00	_____	_____
36" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$32.00	_____	_____
36" DOUBLE FACE BALSAM	\$44.00	_____	_____
48" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$45.00	_____	_____
60" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$55.00	_____	_____
72" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$75.00	_____	_____
25' BALSAM GARLAND	\$33.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM CEDAR-DOUGLAS MIXED GARLAND	\$40.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM NOBLE GARLAND (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$54.00	_____	_____
CEMETERY STANDS	\$6.00	_____	_____
INDOOR/OUTDOOR VELVET RIBBON FOR 20" WREATH	\$3.00	_____	_____

**GRAND TOTAL**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Paper order forms must be received by 5:00PM Wednesday November 18, 2020 at Spring Valley Nature Center or  
Send your order by email to [springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com)

New this year, electronic order form for your convenience. <https://go.wreathsaleapp.com/springvalley>

Pick Up Your Order at Spring Valley Saturday November 28, 2020 12:00 PM – 2:00PM

Questions? Call Spring Valley (847) 985-2100

Proceeds benefit the Spring Valley Nature Club. Please make checks payable and deliver to:

Spring Valley Nature Club 1111 E Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60194

## 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 and Sweetland Bakery for their purchase discount.

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(c3) organization and contributions may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

## Spring Valley Nature Club 2020 Membership Rates

To show our appreciation for our members' loyalty, we have come up with special benefits for all members.

**"Discount Coupon Packet"** This packet will include certificates and coupons for various merchants, i.e. Holistic Health Studio (massage discount), Schaumburg Park District (1-day Fitness Pass), Roselle Ace Hardware (discount on purchase), Platt Hill Nursery (discount on purchase), Chick-Fil-A (Free Sandwich - Schaumburg Stores only), Skincare by Carmela (Discount on Services), Sweetland Bakery (discount on purchase).

**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 or all ten 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. Donations appreciated and help our cause.

**Family Fun Membership:** In addition to all the standard items above, this membership category includes a Spring Valley Annual Family Pass (\$120.00 value) to be used for a 15% discount on most Spring Valley Programs; 10% Discount on Summer Camps and Birthday Parties; 15% discount on Honey & Gift Shop purchases at Spring Valley and free admission to all Spring Valley events. **Including the Pancake Breakfast!** (The discounts do not apply to the Solstice Hop & Vine or the Haunting in the Valley.)

Your Membership Packet needs to be picked up in person at the Spring Valley Nature Center 9:00 – 5:00 daily. Any member may have the membership package mailed to them for a handling fee of \$2.00

### Yearly Memberships Begin February 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>

Senior 55 Plus	\$10.00
Individual	\$15.00
Family	\$25.00
Supporting	\$35.00
Family Fun Membership	\$120.00
Life	\$150.00
Sponsor	\$1000.00

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**Senior - Individual – Family – Supporting - Family Fun - 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