



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

May/June 2021

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

May is for Monarchs

Currently, 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 the community, our monthly, in person meetings are suspended, until the time that the CDC advises to resume a normal lifestyle.

Spring Valley Nature Club's Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Sale....Huge Success!

I want to thank all our members and friends who worked hard to make this event possible. From the raising and transplanting of all of the tomato, vegetable and herb plants, to the order picking and order delivery, to the manning of the pickup kiosk, the Sale went smoothly! Special thanks go to the members and friends who placed those orders that made the Sale what it was! In the event you may need a few more tomato, veggie or herb plants to fill your empty garden spots or if you would like to have a thoughtful gift for Father's Day or for any day, we do have a number of choice plants remaining for immediate pick up at a convenient Schaumburg location!

The Village of Schaumburg has officially declared that May is Monarch Month! To celebrate the glorious return of the Monarchs we have a limited supply of three of the Monarch's favorite plants...Milkweeds! If you would like to turn your garden or even your patio or balcony into a Pollinator Picnic, we have The Common Milkweed, Marsh Milkweed and the beautiful Orange Milkweed. We are offering the plants for sale at \$4.00 each plant. Just send us a note at springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com and send your payment for how many plants you would like via PayPal. If you prefer to order by mail, send your request with a check to Spring Valley Nature Club, PO Box 68395, Schaumburg IL 60168, we will send you the address of the pick-up location in Schaumburg. You will not only have a beautiful planting to view, enjoy seeing the monarchs visit, you will be helping the Monarchs with food for their caterpillars and nectar for the adults!

To get tips on providing for our pollinators, be sure to register at www.parkfun.com for the Pollinator Picnic which will be held at Spring Valley Nature Center Saturday June 12 from 12:00–3:30. There will be expert presenters on Hummingbirds, Mason Bees, Honeybees, and Monarchs. There will be a virtual visit to the Schaumburg Bee Garden too!

Spring Valley Update for May/June Newsleaf – 2021

Spring Valley's facilities and program opportunities will continue to expand during the next few months! Please visit the Schaumburg Park District website at www.parkfun.com for [up-to-date information on restrictions due to COVID or other factors](#). You may also call the Nature Center at (847) 985-2100. The phones are staffed every weekday and weekend afternoons. 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-8pm throughout the summer. Portable toilets are available near the Nature Center, Merkle Cabin and Heritage Farm; however, no restrooms are currently open for use and no drinking water is available.
- The Nature Center and Heritage Farm Visitor Center are now open for limited capacity visits every Wednesday through Sunday from 12-4pm. The historic farmhouse at Heritage Farm is also open during these times.
- Bison's Bluff Nature Playground is open daily from 10am-8pm, except during inclement weather. Special restrictions on group capacities are still in place, and the playground is staffed. An entrance fee is required (see below).
- Special events are being offered in modified form during May and June (see description below).
- All spring programs continue to be modified to comply with Illinois health and safety guidelines.
- The Heritage Farm will be hosting hogs and cattle again soon and the new poultry flock should soon begin laying eggs.
- 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.

Parking Update

Patrons may now park at St. Matthew's Catholic Church when visiting Spring Valley. An entrance gate at the far south end of the church parking lot leads into Heritage Farm and access to the trails. This gate is opened daily at 8am and locked by 8pm. Please be respectful of church property and drive carefully.

New Visitor Amenities Project Begun

The new picnic and outdoor program areas, restrooms, and a new pollinator interpretive garden near the Nature Center should soon be open and available for use. The Park District was awarded a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) grant in order to complete these new features. They are designed to better serve Spring Valley's many new visitors. During construction, access to the walking paths near the Nature Center will remain open, although walkers will be detoured around the rear of the building. Bison's Bluff patrons are also detoured to a temporary entrance located along the sidewalk leading to Schaumburg Rd. Fencing is in place to keep patrons away from the construction area and parking lot entrance lanes.

Bison's Bluff Nature Playground (through April 2)

- Hours of Operation: Daily, April-October, 10:00am-8:00pm (weather permitting)
- No more than 50 patrons may be inside the play area (includes adults); STARTING May 14, this capacity will go up to 100, per state guidelines.
- 1-hour play sessions begin at 10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:30pm, and 7:00pm.
- On-line reservations through Schaumburg Park District's reservation system – www.parkfun.com – are available for both residents and non-residents up until ½ hour before the start of any play session.
- Entrance fee for one-hour play session is \$2/resident and \$3/non-resident; fee applies to all persons entering the playground.
- Play area is closed for cleaning and sanitation for a half-hour between each play session.
- Main play area entrance is staffed during operating hours
- No Group Use permitted
- Water feature will NOT be operational for safety/health reasons
- No picnics, bikes or scooters permitted inside play area
- Play area will be closed during rainy or inclement weather; cancelled play sessions due to inclement weather can be rescheduled or refunded.

Spring Events & 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 and on-line registration are available within the Park District's virtual **Program Guides** for spring and winter, found at www.parkfun.com.

Pollinator Picnic – Sat., June 12, 12:00-3:30pm

The Village of Schaumburg's annual Environmental Fair will take place at Spring Valley in June this year. This year's theme will help you learn how you can support native pollinators (bees, butterflies, etc.) in the home landscape. Exhibitors representing environmental organizations will be sharing information in the new program shelter located east of the Nature Center parking lot. Starting at 1:00, and each half hour after that, presentations will take place inside the Nature Center on *Attracting Hummingbirds*, *creating Homes for Mason Bees*, *Honeybees*, *Monarch Butterfly Rearing*, and the *Community Bee Garden*. Pre-registration is required for these programs. Admission is free!

June is Rhubarb Month at Heritage Farm!!

Heritage Farm will be hosting a different theme each month during the summer. Every Saturday and Sunday in June, stop by the farm to pick up some fresh picked rhubarb or purchase some plants to take home and plant in your garden. Sweet treats will be available for purchase in the museum store. July will be Dairy Month!

German Beer Garden – Sat., June 26, 4:00-7:30pm

Heritage Farm's German Beer Gardens are back! Each month, the farm will host an outdoor family gathering featuring games, festive music, hot pretzels, and local craft beer! Soda will also be available for the younger crowd. Pack a picnic dinner and join in the festivities! Pre-registration is required and includes one pretzel and one beer (or soda) for each registrant. Additional pretzels and beverages may be purchased. Parking is at St. Matthew's Catholic Church for these events.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

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. 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. Two new programs also explore farm life.

Nature Yoga Storytime – Wed., June 9 & 23, 10:00-11:15am

Summer Nature Playdates – Wed., June 9, 3:00-4:00pm

Mud Pies! – Sat., June 12, 9:00-10:30am

Lil' Insect Trekkers – Tues., June 8, 3:00-4:30pm

Morning Wildflower Ramble – Sat., June 12, 8:00-9:30am

This staff-guided walk will focus on the amazing diversity of late spring wildflowers blooming in our prairies and wetlands. The early morning times are designed to beat the heat and provide optimal light for photography. This program will repeat in July and August.

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

ATTENTION PARENTS – Summer Camp are filling fast!!

Spring Valley will be offering a full range of week-long summer camp programs. Each camp is age-based, includes a full schedule of fun and active outdoor learning, and is designed to be both engaging and safe for your youngster. Registration opened in April, and many sessions are already full. If interested, visit the virtual **Summer Camp Guide** soon!

Eager to Start Your Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden? It is Not Too Late!

The year 2020 had most people secluded at home. Seems almost everyone I know started a garden of some sort. Wound up that seeds and plants were in short supply. Seems that most people had success with gardening for the first time, so this year there is high demand and short supply, don't despair, Nature Club to the rescue!

Nature Club has the best varieties of heirloom and select hybrid plant varieties of anyone! Take a look at the website, you can view the available plants, though you cannot order on line, be sure to write down the varieties you'd like to get and send an email to : springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com with your desired selections, Tomatoes & Veggies \$4.00, Herbs \$4.50, you can remit payment through PayPal. You can make an appointment to view the plants at a convenient Schaumburg location. Don't dwell on images of wonderful things to come! Act on it! Do a quick plan for your veggie garden and prepare your garden for you and your friends! We even have some seeds available for sale. Looking for something new? You'll find it at Nature Club. View Baker Creek Seeds Catalogue online at www.rareseeds.com and see what items interest you. Keep note of things you'd like to try and send your seed orders to the Spring Valley Nature Club so we can place a group order.

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; Schaumburg Park District 1-day Fitness Pass; Platt Hill Nursery discount coupon at their garden centers; Holistic Art Studio discount coupon; Skincare by Carmela discount coupon; Sweetland Bakery discount coupon; and Chick-Fil-A (free sandwich Schaumburg stores only).

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

Spring Valley Nature Club 2021 Membership Rates

To show appreciation for our member support, a discount coupon package is offered for all paid 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), 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.

Your Membership Packet needs to be picked up in person at the Spring Valley Nature Center 9:00 – 5:00 daily. A paying member may have the membership packet mailed to them for a postage and 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

(circle one) Senior - Individual – Family – Supporting -- Life – Sponsor

Name _____

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