



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

January/February 2022

**Letter from the President, Donna Johnson
Happy New Year!**

**Wednesday January 5, 2022
Annual Nature Club Business Meeting & Election of Officers**

All members in good standing are invited to attend our annual meeting.

On the agenda is the 2021 Nature Club review and discussion of Nature Club plans for 2022.

The slate of Officers and Directors up for election:

President: Donna Johnson, Vice President: Nancy Mamsen, Treasurer: Phil Skultety, Secretary: Karen Mueller, Directors: Pete Justen, Jay Johnson, Rich Wysocki, Karin Klima, Wayne Slover.

No Meeting in February.

Wednesday March 2nd, 2022, Heirloom Tomatoes, Vegetables & Herbs - Donna Johnson, Presenter

Get a look at the Heirloom tomatoes, vegetables and herbs that are available for the 2022 Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Sale. We will discuss the benefits and attributes of these much-loved varieties and introduce you to some veggies you may have never heard of or seen before! There may be time to field some questions, if not email your questions to springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Vegetable & Herb Sale Saturday May 21st & Sunday May 22, 2022, at the Spring Valley Nature Center.

Pick up & sale times 10:00am–2:00pm. Additional plants will be available for sale. Order early for best selections. Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about our pre-order sale, they do not need to be a member of Spring Valley Nature Club to order plants.

Spring Valley Nature Club has a convenient ordering system starting in February. This system will allow placement of an on-line Veggie & Herb order, and payment for your order with PayPal, credit, or debit card. Click www.springvalleynatureclub.org after February 15th, 2022, to view all plants that are available.

Spring Valley Update for January/February Newsleaf – 2022

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities remain open for winter hours (see below). The Park District requires all visitors to wear a mask when inside our facilities regardless of their vaccination status, in accordance with state of Illinois guidelines. District 54 schools are continuing their return to Spring Valley for field trip programs, with all 2nd graders and Kindergarteners visiting this winter and spring. Meanwhile, we continue to offer a full schedule of family, youth, and adult programs. Several popular special events will more closely resemble their pre-pandemic look and feel in 2022.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails are open for walkers every day from 8am-5pm during winter. A portable toilet is available near Merkle Cabin while the Nature Center's restrooms will be opened daily when staff is present.
- The gate leading onto Heritage Farm's walking paths from St. Matthew's Church will remain closed during the winter months, except during scheduled programs or events.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm. The restrooms, drinking fountain and vending will be opened every day for visitor use.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings will remain closed for the winter until the end of March.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** will remain open daily from 10am-4:00pm throughout the winter, except during snowy, icy or rainy weather. Admission is free during winter.
- 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.
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Winter Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for most 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 **Winter Program Guide**, found at www.parkfun.com.

Spring Valley Winter Fest – Saturday & Sunday, February 12 & 13, 12:00-3:00pm – celebrate the beauty of the winter landscape with snowshoeing, dogsled demos, hot cocoa by an outdoor fire, ice fishing demo, games, and more! Admission fee is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Morning Glories – Fridays in January, February and March, 10:00-11:15am. A popular gardening-based program for 3-5 year-olds with parental involvement. During winter, the garden sleeps, but there's plenty of ways to get your hands dirty in the greenhouse. Reservations required; fee is \$8/resident child or \$10/non-resident child.

Pretzel Pals – Wednesday, Jan. 12 & 26, 10-11am. Parents with 3-5 year-olds can help their child learn some basic kitchen skills while making and baking pretzels in this program at Heritage Farm. Reservations required; fee is \$12/resident child or \$14/non-resident child.

Full Moon Hike & Campfire – Saturday, Jan. 15, 5:00-7:00pm AND Wednesday, Feb. 16, 6-8pm. Bundle up the kids and join in a winter evening full-moon hike, finishing up with cocoa and cookies around a campfire. Reservations required; fee is \$6/resident or \$8/non-resident child.

Pancakes & Pajamas – Saturdays, Jan. 29 and Feb. 26, 9:00-10:30am. Parents can bring the kids out to Heritage Farm in their PJs and enjoy a traditional farm breakfast of pancakes and maple syrup prepared on the woodstove. Reservations required; fee is \$10/resident or \$12/non-resident child.

Monthly Mindfulness Hikes – Sun., Jan. 23 and Feb. 29, 9:00-10:15am

Explore Spring Valley's trails through the lens of mindfulness; enjoy the sights and sounds with a fresh perspective and make some nature art along the way. Ages 18 and above. Fee is \$10/resident or \$12/non-resident.

Additional programs will be offered throughout the winter months at Spring Valley – visit the virtual **Winter Program Guide** to learn more!

Snowshoes will be available for rent on a reservation basis again this winter! At least 4" of snow is necessary before snowshoes will be rented. Call the Nature Center for more information.

Coming in Spring!

Sugar Bush Fair on Saturday & Sunday, March 19 & 20, 9am-noon – the pancakes and outdoor maple syruping demonstrations will return! Breakfast tickets will be limited; reservations can be made by visiting www.parkfun.com.

Sunset Fire & Picnic on the Prairie will also return on Saturday, April 9, 5-7pm. Reservations are recommended for this popular evening program exploring the benefits of fire for our Midwestern natural areas. Reservations will be available in early March..

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Longing for an Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden? Now is the Time to Plan!

Now that you've gone to Farmer's Market and have sampled from neighbors harvest you may want to start your own garden in 2022. The years 2020 & 2021 had most people secluded at home. Seems almost everyone I know started a garden of some sort.

What flavors did you like best? A favorite tomato, a unique pepper, tender crisp cukes, bush beans, celeriac? Looking for something new? Don't dwell on images of wonderful things to come, act on it! Do a quick plan for your veggie garden and prepare. Now is a great opportunity to plan for your own garden adventure! Click www.springvalleynatureclub.org to view pictures of plants that are available.

Vegetable & Herb Sale Saturday May 21st & Sunday May 22, 2022, at the Spring Valley Nature Center. Click www.springvalleynatureclub.org after **February 15th, 2022**, to view and place your plant orders.

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.

Do you use Amazon? Donate to Spring Valley Nature Club.

When making purchases through "Amazon Smile" Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your purchases to our club. Shop at smile.amazon.com and make Spring Valley Nature Club your choice for charitable contributions.



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 2022 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)

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 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 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