



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

July/August 2022

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson Happy 4th of July!

Our roller coaster weather has finally settled down to a searingly hot Summer! Seems that the memory of the Heirloom Vegetable Sale is slowly fading in our thoughts, but there are so many of us that never got around to deciding what we wanted to do about gardens, so as the saying goes, “too much analysis leads to paralysis”; so, nothing gets done! Our program is sure to put the fuel in your rockets!

Spring Valley Nature Club meeting July 6, 7:00PM at the Vera Meineke Nature Center Donna Johnson presents “Nature’s Bounty”

A unique display of 3 different ways to create nature’s bounty in a container.

We have frittered away a couple months of growing season, now we are left with the remorse of what kept me from doing it? So many people say, “the ground is too wet, I don’t have a spot in the sun, I don’t know what I want to accomplish” so nothing gets done!

Our program will feature examples of three different themed “gardens”. All of which can be attained in the comfort of our own home! No tillers, no fencing, no worries! I will guide you through the adventure of container gardens! Not just flowers or a lone veggie plant; I’ll show how you can achieve a themed garden, to grow your own. Choose a topic; butterflies, hummingbirds, pasta/salsa, salads, choices are unlimited! You can have a beautiful arrangement to grace your patio, balcony, entryway or anywhere you’d like to see some life on your doorstep! I will have extra material available for purchase if you’d like to bring home some supplies and try your hand at making your own creation!

The program is free, bring a friend and enjoy the art of containers! You do not have to be a member to attend! Refreshments will be served. Door prizes! You must be present to win.

August 3, Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting 7:00 pm Brian Winkleman Freedom Foodscapes

You may have heard of Permaculture or Food Forests. Here is your opportunity to learn about how to create a sustainable landscape that will conserve water and resources and allow you to be able to grow a good portion of your own foods. You’ll learn how to accomplish this within your own suburban landscape and not have your neighbors up in arms thinking you’ll be growing a cornfield in your front yard. With the onset of escalating prices and shortages of so many of our necessities this is the step into the future we should all be interested in. Brian will have model plans available and will offer consultations for off site visits.

August 5th, 2022, Spring Valley Volunteers and Nature Club picnic at the Spring Valley Nature Center.

You will receive a post card explaining details, you must RSVP if you wish to attend.

Spring Valley Update for July/August Newsleaf – 2022

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 outdoor conservation projects, trail maintenance, and with some of our events and programs. If you are willing and able to assist with projects, please contact Brenda Korecky at brkorecky@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 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 summer, 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.

Buzzin' About Insects – Friday, July 10, Noon-3:00pm

Help children develop both an appreciation and healthy respect for insects through games, crafts, 'bug searches' of the prairie, and other activities. Cool, 'buggy' treats will be available for purchase as well. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Summer Concert at the Cabin – Saturday, July 23, 5:00-8:00pm

Spend a summer evening near the Cabin enjoying the outstanding guitar picking and musical harmonies of *The Corner Boys*! This musical trio will impress with their interpretations of popular songs, from Bruce Springsteen, Michael Jackson, Lyle Lovett, and more. 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 10, when the Spring Valley Concert Band will return!

German Beer Gardens – Sat., July 30 and August 20, 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, local craft beer and soda, bratwurst, pretzels, and dill pickles will be available. Admission includes one food item and one beer or soda. Additional beverages will be available for purchase. Park at St. Matthew's Church, following signs to the Heritage Farm entrance. Event runs rain or shine. Admission is \$8/person.

Star Party – Sat., August 13, 8:00-11:00pm

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.

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. Pre-registration is required for these programs.

Nature Yoga Storytime – Sat., July 2 & August 6, 10:00-11:15am

Nature Playdates – Wed., July 13 & August 17, 3:00-4:00pm

Lil' Insect Trekkers – Tues., July 26 & August 16, 3:00-4:30pm

Garden to Glass – Wed., July 6, 7-9pm & August 3, 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 on the farmhouse front porch. 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 \$17/resident or \$20/non-resident.

Learning Garden Series!!

I've Got 99 Problems, but a Bean Isn't One of Them – Sat., July 23, 10-11:15am

Tea-apalooza – Sat., August 27, 10-11:14am

Two different programs will be offered to help new and experienced gardeners learn new tricks and strategies for not only growing productive and beautiful gardens but spending time enjoying the fruits of the harvest. Pre-registration required. Fee is \$14/resident or \$18/non-resident.

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

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

Nature's Bounty. A unique display of 3 different ways to create nature's bounty in a container.

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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 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