



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

January/February 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Election of Officers and Directors:

Spring Valley Nature Club held our annual business meeting January 4, 2023 and elected the following board members. President Donna Johnson, Vice President Nancy Mamsen, Treasurer Phil Skultety, Secretary Karen Mueller. Directors: Pete Justen, Jay Johnson, Rich Wysocki, Karin Klima, and Wayne Slover.

Thank you all for volunteering another year of service to the Nature Club.

We are looking forward to a year full of great programs, interesting speakers, fun activities, and productive fund raisers!

Spring Valley Volunteers will resume having programs during their **February, May, and September** get togethers all Nature Club members are invited to attend the Spring Valley volunteer meetings.

We are working on our Nature Club monthly program topics and currently have entertaining and educational programs on the horizon.

March 1, 2023 7:00pm "Care and Feeding of our Backyard Birds" by Dave Brooks

Find out about the wild birds expected to be visiting our gardens throughout the year. He will have information about the care of our birdfeeders, bird baths and bird houses. Find out about the best feed and what plants would be of benefit to attracting and feeding our feathered friends.

April 5, 2023 7:00pm "Heirloom Vegetables & Herbs" by Donna Johnson. Your behind-the-scenes way to find out about the new items available and find out about the attributes of our long-standing favorites that will be available at the Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Sale in late May. You'll have the opportunity to find the best choices for home growing in the garden or even in containers. There will be displays of some unique veggies and herbs and some samples of goodies to try. You'll find that there is no reason not to grow some fruits of your labors to grace your table!

Log onto www.springvalleynatureclub.org to view our plant offerings for 2023.

Our website ordering system will be up and running by late February.

Spring Valley Update for January/February Newsleaf – 2023

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'winter' hours until April 1. The Nature Center will 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-5pm.
- NOTE: the parking area at St. Matthew's Catholic Church will be CLOSED during the winter months.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings are closed during the winter months. The Farm does offer limited programs during winter (see below).
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-4:00pm, only when temperatures are above 32 degrees and no rain, snow or ice are present. During the winter months, there is no admission fee to use the playground.
- The Merkle Cabin is available for private events when not scheduled for programs. 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 events and programs. If you are willing and able to assist with projects, please contact Spring Valley's Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Severson at saseverson@parkfun.com.

Snowshoe Rentals!!

Snowshoe rentals will once again be offered anytime there is 4 inches or more of snow on the ground. Rentals are available between the hours of 10:00am and 3:00pm. The cost is \$5/pair for one hour of use. Call the Nature Center for more information on snow conditions.

Spring Valley App

Staff has developed a Spring Valley 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.

Winter Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for many of the programs listed below, which have limited capacity; however most special events have walk-in registration. More information and on-line registration are available within the Park District's virtual **Winter Program Guide** found at www.parkfun.com. You can always call the Nature Center during business hours, and staff will be happy to assist you with registration.

Spring Valley Winterfest – Sat. & Sun., Feb. 11 & 12, 12:00-3:00pm

Spring Valley is here to help everyone appreciate the beauty of nature in winter! This event will feature both indoor and outdoor games and activities, snowshoe walks (if snow is available), ice fishing demonstration, dogsled demonstrations, and warm food and beverages by a warm campfire. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Sugar Bush Fair – Sat. & Sun., March 18 & 19, 9:00am-12:00pm

Spring Valley's popular maple syrup festival is back! The event features historical demonstrations of maple syrup making, a demonstration sap boil down, hands-on activities for the kids, AND a popular pancake breakfast featuring real maple syrup. Event attendance is free. Reservations for the pancake breakfast are \$6.50/person if made prior to March 17. Day-of breakfast admission will be \$8/person. Visit parkfun.com to make your breakfast reservations!

Family Full Moon Hikes – Fridays, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, & March 10, 6:00-8:00pm

Bundle up and enjoy a winter night hike during the full moon. A naturalist will guide you and reveal the secret to survival for local nocturnal wildlife as you move through the woods at night. This family experience is best suited to children ages 5-12. Pre-registration is required, and fee is \$6/resident or \$8/non-resident.

Family Winter Tree Hunt – Saturday, Jan. 14, 10:00-11:30am

Bring the family out to learn about local trees and their unique features while following the clues to solve a puzzle. After the walk, we'll sample a sweet gift from the trees. Pre-registration is required, and fee is \$5/resident or \$7/non-resident.

Great Backyard Bird Count – Saturday, Feb. 18, 1:00-3:00pm

Participate in a global event by helping the Cornell Lab of Ornithology gather data on bird populations. Kids and adults will learn about local birds, their habits, migration, and tips for ID. After creating a unique bird-themed craft while observing birds at the feeders from the comfort of the Merkle Log Cabin, we'll venture out for a short hike to meet the birds on their own turf. Pre-registration required for this family program; fee is \$4/resident or \$5/non-resident.

How-To Series:

How to Build a Butterfly Garden – Saturday, March 11, 10:00-11:30am

Learn about what butterflies need to thrive and how we can create habitats for them in our backyards. Participants will be able to create a unique craft and then enjoy a butterfly-themed treat. Pre-registration required for this family program; fee is \$12/resident or \$15/non-resident.

How to Build a Fairy Garden – Saturday, March 25, 10:00-11:30am

Participants will create a mini fairy garden to add to your home or outdoor landscape and learn what fairies require to thrive. The group will enjoy a fairy-themed treat and then head out for a short hike to search for signs of fairies in the woods. Pre-registration required for this family program; fee is \$12/resident or \$15/non-resident.

Harper College Adult Continuing Education Classes

Spring Valley staff is collaborating with Harper College to offer unique series of online classes exploring the theme of 'rewilding' your home landscape! Rewilding is a trend that allows homeowners to return their yards to a more natural state, benefiting wildlife and native plants while helping to mitigate the climate crisis. A series of four classes can be taken independently or register for the entire series! All registration is through Harper College. Please visit www.ce.harpercollege.edu to register. Participants will be sent a Zoom link prior to each class.

Rewilding: Rain Gardens & Bioswales – Thursday, Jan. 12, 7:00-8:00pm

Rewilding: Backyard Birdscaping – Thursday, Feb. 9, 7:00-8:00pm

Rewilding: Prairie Gardens – Thursday, March 9, 7:00-8:00pm

Rewilding: Creating Backyard Wildlife Habitats – Thursday, April 13, 7:00-8:00pm

Coming in Spring!!

Weather permitting, Spring Valley's popular **Sunset Fire & Picnic on the Prairie** will return on Saturday, April 1 from 5-7pm. Learn about the value of controlled fire in managing natural areas and witness the drama of a prairie fire at sunset!

Earth Day Party returns on Sunday, April 23 from 12:00-4:00pm with a host of activities, games, and demonstrations designed to get you thinking about your environmental footprint and simple ways you can have a positive impact on the environment.

Plan to place your order early for native plants and heirloom herbs and vegetables, as the annual **Native Plant & Heirloom Vegetable Sale** will return in late May. Pre-ordering is the only way to ensure that you get the plants you want for the 2023 garden season. Look for an upcoming announcement!

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

Seems almost everyone I know started a garden of some sort. Maybe you should too!

What flavors do 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 20 & Sunday May 21, 2023, at the Spring Valley Nature Center.

Click www.springvalleynatureclub.org to view available plants and place your 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.

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 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)

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