



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

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July/August 2021
Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

Happy 4th of July

Currently, the guidelines outlined by the Schaumburg Park District 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 such time that the Schaumburg Park District advises resumption of normal operations.

Spring Valley Nature Club's Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Sale:

I want to thank all our members and friends who worked hard to make this event possible. From the raising and transplanting of all the tomato, vegetable, and herb plants, to the order picking and order delivery, and 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!

It seems that everyone has caught the gardening bug. So many people started their Covid gardens. Due to lockdowns and so many out of work the logical recourse was, start a garden! Our sales last year were surprisingly good, and apparently most had success in their attempts and this year the sales were even better. I hope you had the chance to view our new web ordering system, it made ordering the plants much easier. We are looking forward to 2022 to being another great Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Sale!

Missing, Attending Nature Club Meetings?

We are hoping to start live meetings later this fall, we will let you know by September if this comes to fruition.

Missing, Your Discount Coupon Packet?

Discount coupon packets are now available to all Spring Valley Nature Club members who paid their dues this past year to date. Packets will be available for pick up Friday 7/16/21 at Spring Valley Nature Center.

Missing, Your Opportunity to Donate to Spring Valley Nature Club?

Use Amazon to make purchases online, you can make your purchase using "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.

I want to thank all of you for hanging in there and continuing to support our efforts. Stay well and keep gardening!

Spring Valley Update for July/August Newsleaf – 2021

Spring Valley's facilities and programs officially opened on July 1 with regular hours and little to no restrictions in regard to numbers of visitors! The Park District is still asking any unvaccinated visitors to wear a mask when inside our facilities. Some facility hours have changed, and these changes will be permanent. See below.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails remain open for walkers every day from 8am-8pm throughout the summer. Portable toilets are available near Merkle Cabin and Heritage Farm; the new restrooms near Bison's Bluff Nature Playground are now operational and open every day until 8pm. New picnic shelters are also open for use near the Nature Center.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is now open to visitors every day from 10am-6pm. Restrooms are open, and the drinking fountain is operational.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** is open to visitors every Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm. The historic farmhouse at Heritage Farm is also open during these times. NOTE that livestock returned to Heritage Farm back in May. There are two cattle, four pigs and a large flock of poultry. Staff is once again dressing out in period clothing any day the farmhouse is open, and interpreting late 19th century farm life.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-8pm, except during inclement weather. Although the COVID restrictions are no longer in place, we are continuing to staff the playground in order to maintain appropriate visitor capacities. There are eight scheduled 1-hour play sessions per day, and an admission fee is being charged for all children between 2 and 12 years of age. Reservations are not required but available online to ensure admission on busy days.
- The **Monarch Rearing Program** is anticipated to resume in early August, with daily butterfly releases behind the Nature Center. Volunteers are needed to assist with this. Trainings will be conducted in late July. Let us know if you can help!
- Other programs and special events will be offered throughout the summer, and staff is planning fall as well (see descriptions below).
- 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 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 was completed in late May. Although landscaping is ongoing (and challenged, due to our hot, dry summer), these beautiful new features are already getting rave reviews from visitors and being used.

Summer Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for each of the programs listed below, and pre-registration is available but not required for the special events. 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 **Summer Program Guide**, found at www.parkfun.com.

Buzzin' About Insects – Sun., July 11, 12:00-3:30pm

This family event focuses on helping children (and all of us) develop both a respect and appreciation for the fascinating world of insects. Games, crafts, and hikes to discover the diversity of insects at Spring Valley are on tap for this event. Pre-registration available or register on the day of. Admission fee is \$4/person.

July is Dairy 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's Visitor Center to sample some homemade ice cream! August's theme is Garden Month! Fresh produce from Heritage Farm's kitchen garden will be available in limited quantities during weekends in August.

German Beer Gardens – Sat., July 31 & Sat., Aug. 28, 4:00-7:30pm

Heritage Farm's German Beer Gardens are back! The farm will host monthly summer outdoor family gatherings 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 available, but walk-ins are welcome. The admission fee of \$8 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.

Back to School Family Campfire – Fri., Aug 13, 7:00-9:00pm

End your children's summer vacation with a family campfire at Heritage Farm. Enjoy roasting marshmallows or making s'mores while playing some campfire games. Then, hop on the tractor-drawn hayride for a short ride before heading home for the night. Admission fee of \$4/person applies to all family members attending. Pre-registration is required!

Star Party – Sat., Aug. 14, 8:00-10:30pm

Enjoy a star-studded party to celebrate the beautiful summer sky! The Perseid meteor shower can be seen from July 17 through August 24, with the peak occurring on August 12. Enjoy star-related activities, including telescope viewing of planets and summer constellations and roasting marshmallows around a campfire. Pre-registration is available or come as a walk-in. Admission is \$4/person.

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., July 7 & 21, Aug. 4 & 18, 10:00-11:15am

Summer Nature Playdates – Wed., July 21 & Aug. 18, 3:00-4:00pm

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

Lil' Insect Trekkers – Tues., July 13 & Aug. 10, 3:00-4:30pm

Teddy Bear Picnic – Sat., July 10, 1-2:30pm

Monarch Migration Magic – Sat., Aug. 7, 1:00-2:30pm

Morning Wildflower Ramble – Sat., July 10 & Aug. 14, 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!

COMING IN AUTUMN!!

Concert at the Cabin will be returning on Sat., Sept. 11

Harvest Celebration will be replacing Autumn Harvest Festival for this year on Sun., Oct. 17

Trick or Treating at Spring Valley will be back on Sat., Oct. 30

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), 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 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**

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