



[www.springvalleynatureclub.org](http://www.springvalleynatureclub.org)

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**September/October 2021  
Letter from the President, Donna Johnson**

**We're Back!**

Our monthly in person meetings are returning to Spring Valley. "We're Back". To maintain the health and safety of our members, friends, and the community we ask that you stay home if you're not feeling well, and we will continue to wear masks at our indoor meetings.

**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 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!

**September 1, 2021 "Feeding Birds in Autumn and Winter"**

Tim Joyce, of Wild Birds Unlimited will cover feeding Hummingbirds in September, to feeding winter Finches. Tim will also discuss squirrel-proof feeding, dealing with Grackles and Starlings shell-free bird feeding and more! He will show examples of feeders, suggestions of seed varieties and recommend ideal sites to place feeders for your best viewing and enjoyment.

Bring a friend and have some fun getting reacquainted with friends, meet new friends and other nature lovers from the community. Refreshments will be served beginning at 6:30pm, come early!

**October 6, 2021 7:00pm "Discover Pollinating Bees"**

Discover the importance of pollinating bees. Steve Klima will show a video of their activities and explain the value of this essential species. Now is the time to prepare for introducing and preserving Pollinating Bees for your garden. Fall and winter is the perfect time to build your own bee houses and to order your dormant bees for Spring! What fun it is to have a rearing experience of building your own Bee House to protect and attract essential pollinating bees! It will make the dreary days of winter spark the excitement of looking forward to the long-awaited spring and have the joy of knowing you are making a difference in the pollinator's community. Then he'll have directions on building your own "bee house" and have contacts for ordering your dormant bees and any other supplies you may need.

## Spring Valley Update for September/October 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! Due to recent spikes in COVID infections, and in line with state of Illinois mandates, the Park District is once again requiring all visitors to wear a mask when inside our facilities regardless of their vaccination status. Some facility hours were changed this summer, 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 auxiliary parking at St. Matthew's Church is available every day. The gate leading onto Heritage Farm's walking paths is opened every morning and locked at night.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors every day from 10am-6pm., including the restrooms, drinking fountain and vending.
- **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 19<sup>th</sup> century farm life.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-6:45pm in September and 10am-5:30pm in October, except during inclement weather. We are continuing to staff the playground in order to maintain appropriate visitor capacities. 1-hour play sessions are scheduled throughout the 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. Admission is \$2/resident or \$3/non-resident.
- The **Monarch Rearing Program** resumed in early August, with daily butterfly releases behind the Nature Center. Volunteers have been helping to rear limited numbers of monarchs, while many people continue to raise them at home. Butterfly releases take place (dependent on weather and availability of butterflies) at 11:05am and at 2:50pm. every day until the end of September.
- A number of other programs and special events will be offered throughout the autumn (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](mailto:brkorecky@parkfun.com).

### Autumn Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for all of the programs listed below, and pre-registration is available but not required for some 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 **Fall Program Guide**, found at [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com).

### **Hop & Vine Fest – Sat., October 2, 4:00-7:00pm**

*A night of wine, brews and food – sponsored by the Schaumburg Park Foundation and Schaumburg Bank & Trust.* This popular adult evening event returns to Spring Valley this year as an early autumn fundraiser in support of Schaumburg park projects and program scholarships for families in need. Tickets are \$60/person and can be purchased online at [www.SchaumburgParkFoundation.org](http://www.SchaumburgParkFoundation.org). Attendees will receive wine, beer and food sampling tickets that can be redeemed at the various vendor tents – all outdoors! Live music will also be provided. Parking for the event is at Conant HS, with a shuttle bus transporting attendees to the Nature Center. Must be 21 or older to attend.

### **Concert at the Cabin – Sat., September 11, 4:00-7:00pm**

The Spring Valley Community Concert Band will be back this year for an evening of wonderful music under the shelter next to Merkle Log Cabin. Bring your own picnic dinner – Ravinia-style – or purchase grilled food and beverages from our vendor. You may also bring your own seating or blanket; however, there will be some picnic table seating provided. Park at the Nature Center and take the wagon shuttle to the Cabin or make the short walk from St. Matthew’s Church parking lot to the Cabin area. The music begins at 5:00pm. Admission fee is \$3/person or \$12/family.

### **Trails & Ales – Sat., September 25, 4:00-7:00pm**

This popular adults-only offering is back this year with a new format. Small pre-registered groups will depart at different start times, following the ‘ale trail’ to sample a variety of craft beers paired with tasty hors d’oeuvres, breads, and dessert items. Wear comfortable walking shoes and prepare for a culinary adventure! Pre-registration required! Fee is \$20/resident or \$25/non-resident.

### **Harvest Celebration – Sun., October 17, 12:00-4:00pm**

This down-sized version of Spring Valley’s popular Autumn Harvest Festival will feature demonstrations of 19<sup>th</sup> century farm life, kid’s crafts and games, live music, food, and more. Parking is available at the Nature Center or at St. Matthew’s Church. Admission fee is \$4/person or \$16/family.

### **Trick or Treating at Spring Valley – Sat., October 30, 12:00-4:00pm**

Dress in your Halloween best and bring the kids out to trick or treat along the trails at Spring Valley! Pre-registration is required for this special event, with limited capacities for each start time during the day. Park at St. Matthew’s Church and begin your Halloween adventure at Heritage Farm. The trick or treat trail will then head out into the woods, eventually bringing you back to the Farm. Registration deadline is Oct. 27! Fee is \$4/resident or \$6/non-resident.

### **Heritage Farm Monthly Themes**

Heritage Farm will continue hosting a different theme each month. Every Saturday and Sunday in September, stop by the farmhouse to learn about the amazing, shape-shifting pretzel. Then, visit the Farm’s Museum Shop to purchase a warm pretzel! In October, the versatile apple will be showcased with demonstrations in the farmhouse and apple treats available in the Museum Shop.

### **Farm to Table Series**

For an in-depth dive into traditional cooking and unique recipes, these instructional programs provide you with all of the tools and know-how to create delicious dishes at home. **Hand Twisted Pretzels** will be offered on Sat., September 11 from 10:30am-noon; **Apple Everything** will be offered on Sat., October 9 from 10:30am-noon. Pre-registration is required; fee is \$16/resident or \$20/non-resident.

### **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.

**Forest Playschool – Wed. & Fri., Sept. 10 through Dec. 17, 9:00-11:00am**

**Autumn Nature Playdates – Wed., Sept. 8 & 22, Oct. 6 & 20, 1:00-2:00pm**

**Dino Tracks – Sat., Sept. 25, 10:00-11:00am**

**Saturday Campfire Stories – Sat., Sept. 18 & Oct. 2, 1:00-2:00pm**

**How a Spider Spins Its Web – Sun., Oct. 24, 10:00-11:30am**

**Morning Glories – Each Friday morning, 10:00-11:30am**

## 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. Now is a great opportunity to plan ahead for your own garden adventure!

What flavors did you like best? A favorite tomato, a unique pepper, tender crisp carrots, bush beans, celeriac? Looking for something new? You'll find it in Baker Creek Seeds Catalogue online at [www.rareseeds.com](http://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. Be sure to write down the varieties you'd like to get and send an email to [springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com) with your desired selections, you can remit payment through PayPal. Don't dwell on images of wonderful things to come, act on it! Do a quick plan for your veggie garden and prepare.

Baker Creek offers Spring Valley Nature Club a unique opportunity to receive a benefit from our group 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.

### 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](http://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; Schaumburg Park District; Platt Hill Nursery discount coupon at their garden centers; Holistic Art Studio discount coupon; Skincare by Carmela discount coupon; Sweetland Bakery 20% discount on Mondays; 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.

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### Yearly Memberships Begin February 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>.

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** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_ **St** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_