



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

January/February 2021

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

Happy New Year Looking Forward to 2021

The Spring Valley Nature Club will have its Annual Meeting Wednesday January 6, 2021 at 7:00PM

The meeting will be conducted virtually using Zoom. All Spring Valley Nature Club members in good standing will receive an invitation by e-mail to the annual meeting where we will be voting on our proposed 2021 club budget and Officers and Directors for the Club's fiscal year 2021.

The guidelines outlined by the CDC 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 members of the community, we have determined that the monthly Nature Club live meetings will be suspended. It is hoped that the Covid 19 vaccinations for most people will be completed in time for an anticipated April 7, 2021 meeting (depending on Schaumburg Park District protocols) with a presentation by Donna Johnson of the Vegetable and Herbs being offered at this year's Heirloom Vegetable and Herb Plant Sale.

Vegetable & Herb Sale coming on Sunday May 16, 2021 at the Spring Valley Nature Center.

Pick up times will be from 10:00AM – 2:00PM. No additional plants will be offered for sale, pre-orders only. 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 new ordering format that will start February 1, 2021. This new system will allow placement of an on-line Veggie & Herb order, and allow payment for your order with PayPal, credit or debit card. Click www.springvalleynatureclub.org after February 1, 2021 to view all plants that are available.

For those folks that would rather pay by check, we will continue with the paper order forms that can be found at www.springvalleynatureclub.org along with plant pictures and descriptions.

Thank you, stay well and be safe.

Watch for our **NEW WEBSTORE** beginning on February 1, 2021 click www.springvalleynatureclub.org

Baker Creek Seeds

Spring Valley Nature Club has partnered with Baker Creek Seed offering garden seeds to the many avid gardeners interested in growing their own crops. The Nature Club places group orders periodically and when the seeds arrive, we notify and distribute the seed packets to you. In so doing the Club benefits by receiving a discounted price from Baker Creek this difference in price is the amount the Spring Valley Nature Club gets for its fund raiser.

If you missed the December ordering window or if you have other items you may have omitted in your December order, do not be concerned, we will be placing another seed order by January 29, 2021 and again on February 26, 2021.

The seeds will arrive within 2 weeks of the Club's ordering date.

- 1 Go online to www.rareseeds.com view the Baker Creek catalog, write down the seed Name, Item#, Quantity & Price.
- 2 E-mail your order information to springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com
- 3 When the seed orders arrive, we will verify order quantities and accuracy then notify you, regarding pick up or delivery and the total cost of your order.
- 4 You can remit payment by check to: Spring Valley Nature Club PO Box 68395 Schaumburg IL 60168 or you can pay using PayPal to: springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Tell your family, friends, and neighbors about our seed sale, they do not need to be a member of Spring Valley Nature Club to order seeds.

Thank you very much for your support of the Spring Valley Nature Club.

Spring Valley Update for January/February – 2021

Here are the latest updates on winter operations at Spring Valley. As state requirements for public recreation programs and facilities may continue to change, sometimes quickly, please visit the Schaumburg Park District website at www.parkfun.com for up-to-date information. You may also call the Nature Center at (847) 985-2100. The phones are staffed most weekdays; however, if you leave a message, we will reply within a day or two at most.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails remain open for walkers every day from 8am-5pm. Portable toilets are available near the Nature Center and Merkle Cabin; however, no restrooms are open for use and no drinking water is available.
- The Nature Center and Heritage Farm remain closed.
- Bison's Bluff Nature Playground is open daily from 9am-4pm, on any day when dry conditions and temperatures above 32 degrees exist. Special restrictions on group gatherings still exist; however the playground is no longer staffed and there is no fee for entrance.
- All scheduled special events for the first three months of 2021 have been cancelled. A down-sized version of ***Sugar Bush Fair*** will be offered as scheduled Sunday breakfasts requiring reservations (see description below).
- All winter and spring programs continue to be modified to comply with group maximums and social distancing guidelines, in accordance with Illinois health and safety guidelines.
- With on-going restrictions on group gatherings, all scheduled meetings are cancelled until further notice.
- The Heritage Farm is offering limited programs during winter and spring. A new poultry flock is growing and we anticipate getting pigs and possibly cattle back in spring.
- 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.

The Schaumburg Park District continues to closely follow the State of Illinois guidelines and additional recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Decisions are also heavily based on finances. Since the Schaumburg Park District relies so much on program and user fees to fund its operations – 50% of all operations are funded by user fees, with resident taxes making up the rest – the district continues to take a heavy hit financially due to the lengthy shut-down and reduced programming. For that reason, facilities that are unlikely to pay for themselves via program or entrance fees are being kept closed for now. Due to the austerity measures in place to reduce expenses, the Park District has made the difficult decision over the past several months to cut its workforce by over 20%. Spring Valley has unfortunately lost five valued full-time staff members to layoffs. The five staff remaining are wearing many hats and will be endeavoring to rebuild Spring Valley's programs and services over the next year or two, after the pandemic abates.

Be safe and well, everyone, and take advantage of Spring Valley's beauty whenever you can!

Spring Valley 2021 Wall Calendars Now Available!

Spring Valley's attractive and popular annual wall calendar is available now for ordering. Photos feature our own natural beauty from season to season, month to month. They are available by ordering over the phone and can be mailed to your residence or by scheduling a pick up at the Nature Center. Calendars are \$8 each.

New Visitor Amenities Project Begun

The planned project to construct new picnic and outdoor program areas, restrooms, and a new pollinator interpretive garden near the Nature Center was started in late November. The Park District was awarded a \$400,000 Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD) grant in order to complete these new features. They are designed to better serve Spring Valley's many new visitors. Construction will continue through the winter and wrap up by early May. During construction, access to the walking paths near the Nature Center will remain open, although walkers will be detoured around the rear of the building. Bison's Bluff patrons are also detoured to a temporary entrance located along the sidewalk leading to Schaumburg Rd. Fencing is in place to keep patrons away from the construction area and off of the parking lot entrance lanes.

Bison's Bluff Nature Playground

- Hours of Operation: Daily, November-March, 9:00am-4:00pm
- Playground is CLOSED any day on which rain, ice, snow or temperatures below 32 degrees exist. Winter maintenance activities may also result in closures.
- No fees required
- No more than 50 patrons may be inside the play area (includes adults)
- No Group Use permitted
- No Picnics permitted inside play area

Winter Programs

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

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.

Winter Nature Playdates – Wed., Jan. 20, Feb. 3 & 17, Mar. 3 & 17, 11:00am-12:00pm

Snow Bunnies – Sat., Feb. 13, 10:00-11:30am

Saturday Campfire Stories – Sat., Feb. 6 & Mar. 6, 1:00-2:00pm

How to Speak Chicken – Tues., Mar. 2, 9, 16, & 30, 10:00-11:00am

Postcards from a Pig – Wed., Jan. 20, Feb. 17 & Mar. 17, 10:00-11:30am

YOGA PROGRAMS – In-person and Virtual

Four yoga programs are being offered at the Nature Center to provide sufficient spacing of participants, and one class will be offered virtually. These are classes for either beginners or those experienced with the physical, mental and emotional benefits of yoga. They are evening classes, scheduled once each week over 11 weeks.

Weekly Yoga at the Nature Center – Tues, Jan. 19-Mar. 30, 6:00-7:00pm OR 7:30-8:30pm

Weekly Yoga at the Nature Center – Thurs., Jan. 21-Apr. 1, 6:00-7:00pm OR 7:30-8:30pm

VIRTUAL Yoga at the Cabin – Wed., Jan. 20-Mar. 31, 7:00-8:00pm

Afterschool Nature Adventures

Each Monday and Wednesday afternoon, kids aged 5-10 can participate in some much-needed outdoor time, experiencing nature in winter. Each class takes place at Spring Valley from 3:30-4:30pm. First session is January 13 and final session is March 31. Fee is \$4/child for each session.

Spring Valley Spring Break Camp – Mon.-Fri., Mar. 22-26, 10:00am-2:00pm

Looking to get your 7-12 year-old out of the house over spring break? Let them spend time at Spring Valley exploring! Campers will walk to the Merkle Cabin each day for adventures in tracking wildlife, cooking over a fire, visiting the farm, and more. Fee is \$120 for residents and \$135 for non-residents.

VIRTUAL – Farm to Table Series

Learn ways to use simple, farm-fresh ingredients to create wholesome, delicious foods with these two virtual instructional classes. All ingredients will be provided via a box that can be picked up on specified dates, and the instruction will be provided via a pre-recorded video that can be viewed at home. Upon registration, you will be informed of supply pick-up location. **Endless Spuds** explores the limitless possibilities provided by the humble potato - pick-up date is Jan. 16; **Squash** explores the variety of squash and how these versatile vegetables provide nutritious and delicious foundation for many dishes - pick-up date is Feb. 13. Fee for each class is \$15 for residents and \$18 for non-residents.

VIRTUAL – Farm to Table Series: Kid's Edition

Encourage your budding young bakers to learn how to make gourmet pretzels or biscuits with these two virtual instructional classes. All ingredients will be provided via a box that can be picked up on specified dates, and the instruction will be provided via a pre-recorded video that can be viewed at home while your young chef follows along. Classes are designed for 10-14 year-olds. Upon registration, you will be informed of supply pick-up location. **Gourmet Pretzels** pick-up date is Jan. 30; **Not-so-Basic Biscuits** pick-up date is Feb. 27. Fee for each class is \$15 for residents and \$17 for non-residents.

Farm Fun Subscription Bag

Chase away your kid's cabin fever with these activity bags! Each month, we will offer a new bag of fun farm activities and crafts suitable for 5-12 year-olds. Bags will include craft supplies, activity sheets, and a link to an instructional video. Each month's bag will include a new theme. Instructions for pick-up will be sent after registration. Pick-ups are scheduled for Jan. 18, Feb. 22, and Mar. 15. Fees are \$15 for residents and \$17 for non-residents.

Family Woodworking: Birdhouse Building – Sat., Mar. 20, 10:00-11:30am

We'll help you to construct and decorate a birdhouse which you can then install to invite some new feathered friends into your yard. Your handiwork will help to liven up your landscape during the nesting season for house wrens or chickadees. All materials are provided, and no experience is necessary. Fee is \$15 per birdhouse.

Campfire Pies – Sat., Jan. 23, 1:00-2:30pm

Celebrate National Pie Day at Heritage Farm by making your own S'more Pie over the campfire. Program will include a story read around the campfire while everyone enjoys their pie. Fee is \$6 for residents and \$8 for non-residents.

Campfire Pancakes – Sat., Feb. 25, 1:00-2:30pm

Did you know there is a National Pancake Day? There is, and you can celebrate it at this program, held around a warm campfire at Heritage Farm. Enjoy a story read by the fire while you enjoy delicious campfire pancakes with warm maple syrup. Fee is \$6 for residents and \$8 for non-residents.

Sugar Bush Sunday Breakfast – Sun., Feb. 28, Mar. 7, Mar. 14, & Mar. 21, 9:00am-12:00pm

Enjoy Spring Valley's traditional Sugar Bush Fair on a smaller, more intimate scale! Reserved times will be available each of these Sunday mornings to enjoy a pancake breakfast with real maple syrup in the comfort of the Merkle Cabin. Attendance at each scheduled breakfast will be limited to 10 people. Registration includes a wagon ride from the Nature Center along with a guided tour of the tapped maple trees and syrup boil-down. Fee is \$10 for residents and \$12 for non-residents. Reservations are required.

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), Schaumburg Park District (1-day Fitness Pass), Roselle Ace Hardware (discount on purchase), Platt Hill Nursery (discount on purchase), Chick-Fil-A (Free Sandwich - Schaumburg Stores only), Skincare by Carmela (Discount on Services), Sweetland Bakery (discount on purchase).

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 paid 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**

Name _____

Address _____ St _____ Zip _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Spring Valley Nature Center is temporally closed, mail to the following.

Checks should be made payable and mailed to:
Spring Valley Nature Club
PO Box 68395 Schaumburg IL 60168