



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

September/October 2022

**Letter from the President, Donna Johnson
Congratulations to Wayne Slover our 2022 Meineke Award Recipient!**



Spring Valley Volunteers' & Nature Club's meeting September 7, 2022, 6:30PM – 8:00 PM

Spring Valley Nature Center 1111 E. Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg IL

Dave Brooks: Volunteer Opportunities at Spring Valley

We are all invited to meet Sarah Severson, the new Volunteer coordinator and learn about the great opportunities available to those who would like to give of themselves while sharing the wonder of Spring Valley Nature Center.

Spring Valley Nature Club meeting October 5, 2022, 7:00PM – 8:00PM

Tim Joyce - Wild Birds Unlimited: Care and feeding of our wild feathered friends.

You don't want to miss this meeting! Back by popular demand, Tim Joyce will entertain and educate us about taking care of the needs of wild birds. Learn how to feed the late migrating hummingbirds and what food varieties are suitable for our various birds of winter. He'll inform us about the effects of various diseases that you may want to be aware of and how to curb their effects.

Bring family and friends for a wonderful evening. Refreshments will be served.

Spring Valley will be hosting the Holiday Craft Fair once again this year on November 26 & 27

We have scheduled a crafting workshop on November 12 & 13 from 10:00am thru 3:00pm both days. These workshops are a lot of fun! Yes, I know I hear people say, "I can't do crafts", well that's simply not true. Trust me, when we all get together, the little kids that are playing in the center, peek into the craft room wondering, why everyone is laughing and having so much fun! If you have any crafts, you have made and would like to contribute them to our Craft Booth, your items would be appreciated! We will have a plethora of materials to choose from, you do not need to bring anything other than a glue gun if you have one. Let me know if you and a friend would like to join us, the more the merrier!

Spring Valley Update for September/October Newsleaf – 2022

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'summer' hours from May through October, although Bison's Bluff hours will be curtailed during the shorter days of early autumn. 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** is open daily from 10am-7:00pm during September and until 5:30pm during October. 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 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.

Spring Valley App

Staff has recently 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.

Volunteer Events & Projects Update

Plan to join staff and fellow volunteers on **Wednesday, September 7, 6:30-8:00pm** at the Nature Center for socializing, snacks, and an update on autumn volunteer opportunities. The first half-hour will be for socializing, and the meeting will begin at 7:00pm.

Lynn Eikenbary Memorial Planting Dedication

Lynn Eikenbary was a long-time Spring Valley Nature Club member, volunteer, past club President, and Ellsworth Meineke Award winner who passed away last spring. Her contributions to conservation at Spring Valley over many years cannot be overstated. Her friends and fellow volunteers have generously funded the establishment of a new native plant restoration area at Spring Valley. This area will be dedicated on Saturday, October 15 at 3:00pm. A reception will follow the dedication at Markle Cabin. All are invited.

Spring 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 **Program Guide** for autumn, 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.

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 *Magnificent Trees* in September and October. Heritage Farm's focus will be on *Positively Pretzels* in September and *Amazing Apples* in October.

Monarch Butterfly release programs will continue to take place daily behind the Nature Center, continuing through September 25. Release times (dependent on weather and availability of butterflies) are at 11:15am and 3:00pm. On September 25 from 2-4pm, volunteers will be hosting the **Adios Amigos** end-of-season event. This free event features not only the final butterfly releases of the year but kid's crafts and refreshments.

Concert at the Cabin – Saturday, Sept. 10, 4:00-7:00pm

Spend a late summer evening near the Cabin enjoying the always popular Spring Valley Concert Band as they play concert band favorites along with uniquely arranged popular tunes and film scores. Grilled food and beverages 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 5:00pm. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Trails & Ales – Saturday, Sept. 24, 4:00-7:30pm

This adults-only evening program will feature the 'ale trail,' a short walk along Spring Valley's trails, where participants will be treated to craft beer tasting accompanied by food pairings. Additional beers will be available for purchase around a campfire at the conclusion of the walk. Pre-registration is required for this program, which features nine different entry times to ensure groups are spaced out along the trail. Admission is \$20 for residents and \$25 for non-residents.

Autumn Harvest Festival – Sunday, Oct. 2, 12:00-4:00pm

Spring Valley's premier autumn historical event is back! In addition to demonstrations of 19th century farm life, such as apple cider pressing, butter churning, sauerkraut making, and blacksmithing, there will be kid's pumpkin decorating, games, crafts, food, and live music. Everything takes place at Heritage Farm, with parking at the Nature Center and St. Matthew Catholic Church. Admission is \$5/person or \$20/family.

Tricks & Treats at Spring Valley – Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 29 & 30, 2:00-5:00pm

This new Halloween event features trick or treating in a fun, interactive way for families. Participants will sign up for a specific entry time and will follow a trail through Heritage Farm and over into the woods near Merkle Cabin, meeting strange characters and picking up treats along the way. Pre-registration is required for all children attending (parents attend at no charge). Parking is at St. Matthew Church. Registration fee is \$4/resident or \$6/non-resident.

Coming Soon!!

Spring Valley will be hosting the **Holiday Craft Fair** once again this year on November 26 & 27 – the weekend after Thanksgiving! Plan to stop by to do some of your holiday shopping among the many hand-crafted items being displayed by our vendors. If you, or someone you know, creates hand-crafted items for sale at events, have them contact us for information on purchasing booth space.

Christmas in the Valley will take place on December 10 & 11 at Heritage Farm and Merkle Cabin!

Additional programs are being offered throughout the autumn months– visit the virtual **Autumn Program Guide** to learn more!

Longing for an Heirloom Veggie & Herb Garden? Now is the Time to Plant!

You can still create nature's bounty in a container.

We have frittered away most of growing season, now we are left with the remorse of “what kept me from doing it?” You can still purchase and plant seeds of Radish, Lettuce, Beets, Kale, Cabbage, Bok Choy, and a few other cold tolerant crops. Ground too wet? Don't have a spot in the sun, plant in a container, Pot, bucket etc! Have some herbs planted in the ground? Dig them up & pot them! They will reward you with weeks of yummy additions to your table! Just do it! Getting below freezing outside? Bring it into garage to continue your plant's maturing process! You'll be surprised how successful and rewarding it can be, trying your hand at making your own plants last longer! For more information you can contact us at springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

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