

www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Editor: Al Larson

September/October 2020

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

Fall Already!???

It's been a tumultuous year to say the least! The COVID pandemic put a damper on most of everyone's activities including our Heirloom Vegetable Sale. Fortunately, we were able to conduct an abbreviated Sale via the internet. I want to thank all of you who supported our cause by ordering seeds and plants and volunteering your efforts during the virtual Sale. The main benefit of having our Sale being seen by so many is that there were dozens of newbie gardeners who took advantage of being locked down at home, to pursue the wholesome activity of gardening! I have been hearing back from so many of them thanking us for having this wonderful opportunity available to the community. Nature Club even was able to supply the Volkening Heritage Farm and the Childrens' Garden with a myriad of vegetable and herb plants for the display gardens.

Though the programs and activities of the Nature Club have been curtailed, we are still looking forward to having our Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations Sale. This year there is an easy and exciting opportunity to view what is available and order your Holiday décor from the comforts of home. Simply press on the link or copy and paste the following in your browser: <https://go.wreathsaleapp.com/springvalley> Nature Club will coordinate everything for you, after placing your order, come to Spring Valley Nature Center Saturday November 30, 2020 between the hours of 12:00 PM – 2:00PM and pick up your order under the canopy at the main entrance.

If you prefer, paper forms are available (attached) for those folks that may not have internet access. Please share this information and forms with your friends & neighbors.

The guidelines outlined by the CDC make the prospect of having our monthly meetings virtually impossible. 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 meetings will be suspended the balance of 2020.

Thank you, stay well and be safe.

Spring Valley Update for September/October Newsleaf – 2020

Here are the latest updates on operations at Spring Valley as we enter the 6th and 7th months of adjusting to the COVID pandemic situation. 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 not always staffed; 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-8pm. 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 for scheduled 1-hour play sessions each day, starting at 10am. Special restrictions and fees apply (more info below).
- All scheduled special events and walk-in programs for the remainder of 2020 have been cancelled. This includes **Concert at the Cabin**, **Autumn Harvest Festival**, our Halloween events, **Holiday Craft Fair**, and **Christmas in the Valley**.
- Our fall programs have been redesigned to comply with group maximums and social distancing guidelines, in accordance with Illinois Phase 4 guidelines. Several innovative, new programs have been designed that take advantage of our outdoor resources, picnic shelters, etc.
- Spring Valley is offering 'virtual field trips' to area schools in place of our regular on-site field trips.
- With on-going restrictions on group gatherings, all scheduled meetings are also cancelled until further notice.
- As mentioned in May, the Heritage Farm's programming has been paused for the year. All livestock have been moved offsite. Cattle are being cared for at a farm near Marengo, IL and our draft horses are on loan to an Indiana Amish farm for the season.
- With most facilities closed and programming reduced, a few of Spring Valley's staff are still furloughed. Volunteers have been welcomed back to assist with care of gardens at Heritage Farm and behind the Nature Center, assist with outdoor conservation projects, trail maintenance, etc. Other volunteers have been helping us to offer pop-up produce sales in order to sell garden produce and with weekly Saturday wagon rides.

The Schaumburg Park District continues to closely follow the State of Illinois guidelines and additional recommendations from the Center 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.

Bison's Bluff Nature Playground

- Hours of Operation: Daily in September, 10:00am-6:30pm; daily in October, 10:00am-5:00pm
- Play sessions begin at 10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, and (Sept. only) 5:30pm.
- On-line reservations through ActiveNet available for residents only; non-residents are able to sign up for a play session at the entrance to Bison's Bluff.
- Entrance fee for one-hour play session is \$2/person
- No more than 50 patrons may be inside the play area (includes adults)
- Play area is closed for cleaning and sanitation for a half-hour between each play session.
- Main play area entrance is staffed during operating hours
- No Group Use permitted
- Water feature will NOT be operational for safety/health reasons
- No Picnics permitted inside play area

September/October 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. More information on these programs and registration is available at www.parkfun.com.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Several newly designed programs for young children are available this fall, are being offered. Based on the premise that outdoors is the healthiest place to be, these are outdoor programs for children ages 2-5 (varies by program) accompanied by a parent. Some are multi-week programs, and 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 – Tues. & Thurs., Sept. 8-Dec. 17, 12-2pm

Nature, Yoga & Storytime – Sunday, Sept. 13 and Oct. 11, 10-11am

Autumn Nature Playdates – Wed., Oct. 7-28, 11:45am-12:30pm

How a Spider Spins Its Web – Sat., Oct 24, 1-2:30pm

YOGA PROGRAMS

Yoga programs are also being offered again this fall; however, the Nature Center will be used rather than the Merkle Cabin, to provide sufficient spacing of participants. There are classes for beginners or those experienced with the physical, mental and emotional benefits of yoga. Most are evening classes, scheduled over several weeks. Yoga in Nature are single classes and take place outdoors. Fees vary.

Beginner's Yoga at the Nature Center – Tues. or Wed., Sept. 8 – Dec. 15/16, 6-7pm or 7:30-8:30pm.

Weekly Yoga at the Nature Center – Tues. or Thurs., Sept. 8-Dec. 15/17, 6-7pm or 7:30-8:30pm

Yoga in Nature – Wed., Sept. 16 or 30, 7:30-8:30am

Insect Safari – September 12 5, 9-11am

The late summer prairie is buzzing with excitement and insects! Youngsters will go on a hike to catch and study the large variety of insects to be seen at Spring Valley. Participants will be supplied with capture nets and bug boxes, play games, work on a craft project, and have a ton of six-legged fun. Fee is \$11/person; Ages 5-8

Campfire Cookout – Sat., Sept. 12, 5-7pm

Join us for a family campfire to roast hot dogs and marshmallows, campfire games and songs. Bring a blanket or folding camp chair if you wish. Register each family member. Fee is \$8/person; all ages.

Fall Camouflage Hike – Sat., Sept. 26, 2-3:30PM

Children will learn about the importance of camouflage in nature and go on a hike to search for Spring Valley's hidden creatures. Fee is \$11/person; Ages 5-8.

Sunset Hike & Campfire – Sat., Sept. 19, 6:30-8pm OR Oct. 17, 5:30-7pm

Experience the magic of an autumn sunset during a hike from the Nature Center to a lookout point to watch the sun go down, and then enjoy a campfire near Merkle Cabin. Staff will share a story around the campfire as well as pre-packaged s'more kits for each family. Please register each family member. Fee is \$7/person; all ages

Family Bird Hike – Sat., Sept. 26, 10-11:30am

Grab binoculars and spend a morning in the woods. Learn how to use field markings and a guidebook to identify unknown birds. Birders of all ages and experience levels are welcome! Spring Valley has extra binoculars available to use. Register as a family, paying one fee. Fee is \$15/family; all ages.

Community Conservation Workdays – Sat., Sept. 26 OR Oct. 24, 9am-1pm

Join others during our socially distanced workdays to help harvest native wildflower and grass seed to be used in future plantings. This is a great way to help the local environment while spending a few hours out in the fresh air. FREE; ages 16 and over.

Creatures of the Night Hike – Sat., Oct. 10, 7-9pm

Explore Spring Valley after dark with a guide! Discover what our nocturnal creatures are up to and call upon your own sensory superpowers to explore nature at night. Please register as a family. Fee is \$14/family; ages 5 and over.

VIRTUAL – Spring Valley Monarch Migration 3K Walk/Run

Since monarchs can migrate up to 3,000 to their winter home in Mexico, we're inviting people to walk or hike 3,000 meters in solidarity with the monarchs! This can be done anytime during the month of October. After registering, you'll be sent special instructions on how to record and report your final time. The only winners will be Spring Valley's monarch program, which will benefit from your registration donation. Fee is \$10/person; all ages welcome.

VIRTUAL – Winter Composting with Worms – Sat., Oct. 17, 1-2pm

Composting with worms is easy, clean and fun! It also allows you to compost your kitchen scraps year-round. This class, presented via Zoom, will provide you with both the know-how and tools to start your own mini worm-powered compost system. All materials will be provided for pick up at the Nature Center after the class. Fee is \$24/person; ages 16 and over.

VIRTUAL – Winter Backyard Bird Feeding – Sun., Nov. 1, 10-11am

Learn how to attract a variety of birds to your backyard during the winter months (and year-round) with proper feeder selection and placement, providing the right types of food, and habitat enhancements. This program, presented via Zoom, will also include a 'who's who' of area backyard birds to help you get to know local birds and their unique behaviors. Fee is \$12/person; ages 16 and over.

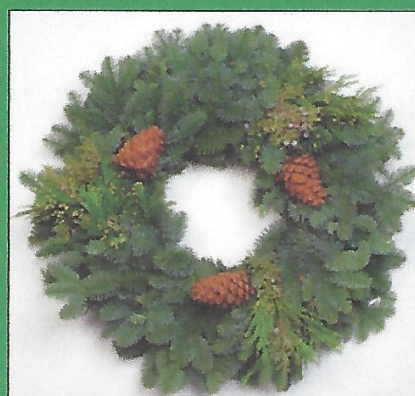
Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



*Single Face Balsam Outdoor Wreath 26", 36", 48", 60", 72"
Double Face Balsam 36"*



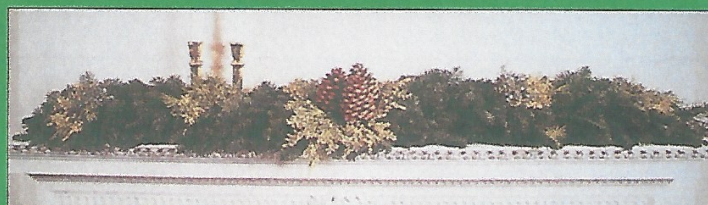
12" Pinecone Chandelier Hanging Decorator



*Noble Fir Mixed Wreath 20", 36" & 48"
Indoor/Outdoor*



*Evergreen Planter Regular 32"
Supersized 42"
(Outdoor)*



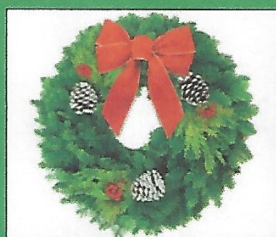
4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece



'Balsam Swag



12" Candle Ring Wreath with 4" Candle



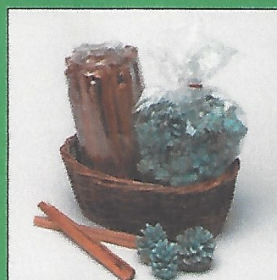
24" Boxed Decorator Wreath



Holiday Yule Log 12"



25' Balsam Fir Garland Mixed Cedar & Noble also Available



Firestarter Basket



Fallen Hero Wreath Delivered to a National Cemetery

SPRING VALLEY NATURE CLUB
HANDCRAFTED WREATHS AND DECORATIONS PAPER ORDER FORM

DESCRIPTION	COST	QTY.	TOTAL
12" MIXED NOBLE CANDLE RING WREATH 4" CANDLE	\$23.00	_____	_____
12" PINECONE CHANDELLIER HANGING DECORATOR	\$32.00	_____	_____
4' NOBLE MIX MANTELPiece/CENTERPIECE	\$44.00	_____	_____
12" HOLIDAY YULE LOG	\$20.00	_____	_____
OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (32")	\$33.00	_____	_____
SUPERSIZED OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (38")	\$47.00	_____	_____
FIRE STARTER BASKET	\$21.00	_____	_____
DOOR SWAG WITH VELVET RIBBON	\$18.00	_____	_____
20" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$25.00	_____	_____
36" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$45.00	_____	_____
48" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$68.00	_____	_____
24" DECORATOR WREATH BOXED W/ VELVET RIBBON	\$40.00	_____	_____
26" FALLEN HERO WREATH	\$25.00	_____	_____
26" SINGLE FACE BALSAM WITH VELVET RIBBON	\$20.00	_____	_____
36" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$32.00	_____	_____
36" DOUBLE FACE BALSAM	\$44.00	_____	_____
48" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$45.00	_____	_____
60" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$55.00	_____	_____
72" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$75.00	_____	_____
25' BALSAM GARLAND	\$33.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM CEDAR-DOUGLAS MIXED GARLAND	\$40.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM NOBLE GARLAND (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$54.00	_____	_____
CEMETERY STANDS	\$6.00	_____	_____
INDOOR/OUTDOOR VELVET RIBBON FOR 20" WREATH	\$3.00	_____	_____

GRAND TOTAL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Paper order forms must be received by 5:00PM Friday November 20, 2020 at Spring Valley Nature Center

New this year, electronic order form for your convenience. <https://go.wreathsaleapp.com/springvalley>

Pick Up Your Order at Spring Valley Saturday November 28, 2020 12:00 PM – 2:00PM

Questions? Call Spring Valley (847) 985-2100

Proceeds benefit the Spring Valley Nature Club. Please make checks payable and deliver to:

Spring Valley Nature Club 1111 E Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60194

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 and Sweetland Bakery for their purchase discount.

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(c3) organization and contributions may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

Spring Valley Nature Club 2020 Membership Rates

To show our appreciation for our members' loyalty, we have come up with special benefits for all 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 and help our cause.

Family Fun Membership: In addition to all the standard items above, this membership category includes a Spring Valley Annual Family Pass (\$120.00 value) to be used for a 15% discount on most Spring Valley Programs; 10% Discount on Summer Camps and Birthday Parties; 15% discount on Honey & Gift Shop purchases at Spring Valley and free admission to all Spring Valley events. **Including the Pancake Breakfast!** (The discounts do not apply to the Solstice Hop & Vine or the Haunting in the Valley.)

Your Membership Packet needs to be picked up in person at the Spring Valley Nature Center 9:00 – 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
Family Fun Membership	\$120.00
Life	\$150.00
Sponsor	\$1000.00

Senior - Individual – Family – Supporting - Family Fun - 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