



[www.springvalleynatureclub.org](http://www.springvalleynatureclub.org)    [springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com)

Editor: Al Larson

September/October 2017

### **From the President Donna Johnson**

The multi colored Autumn leaves are falling, creating a crazy quilt patchwork on our lawns. It's hard to believe that Summer has come to an end. The best part of Autumn is all the great events scheduled at Spring Valley, our favorite being the Autumn Harvest Fest. Nature Club will have its Grapevine Wreath, Face Painting, and Popcorn attractions, while Spring Valley Volunteers help with the plethora of other attractions. Be sure to attend this "fun for the whole family" Festival, October 1 from 12:00 – 5:00pm.

#### **Spring Valley Volunteers/Nature Club Meeting September 6, 2017 6:30 pm**

Join us for light refreshments and conversation in the Nature Center classroom. At 7pm we will begin our general volunteer meeting during which we will discuss Spring Valley's special events for the remainder of the year and the various volunteer opportunities available. Sign-up sheets will be on hand. Following the meeting, join us as Tom Emery discusses the Civilian Conservation Corps at 7:30pm.

**Hard Work, Good Deal: The Civilian Conservation Corps.** Join us at the September meeting of the Spring Valley Nature Club and Spring Valley volunteers (FREE and open to the general public too) as we review upcoming events and projects, followed by a special presentation by historian and author Tom Emery on the history of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The CCC was one of the hallmark New Deal programs developed in the wake of the Great Depression. It was considered one of the most successful government programs in American history. The CCC put millions of young men to work in the service of parks and conservation. Don't miss this informative presentation on an important period of American history and conservation!

#### **Nature Club meeting Wednesday October 4<sup>th</sup> 2017, 7:00 pm**

##### **Pickling Your Garden's Bounty, Presented by: Donna Johnson, Master Gardener**

Donna Johnson will have a hands-on demonstration on preserving your garden's (or farm stand's) bounty! No wasteful blanching, chilling, and freezing! Learn how to put up pickled green beans, pumpkins, squash, overabundant cherry tomatoes, overgrown cucumbers, humungous watermelons and many other garden vegetables and fruits. Turn your over stock of veggies into this seasons welcome giftable. Relive summer memories with pickled watermelon rinds. Treat your Thanksgiving hostess with some pickled pumpkin, load up those winter weary hot dogs with homemade pickle relish! We will have samples of all kinds of luscious pickled wonders. Spring Valley will have "The Pickled Pantry" recipe books available so that you may have the easy to follow and great recipes to enjoy at home.

Questions? Contact Nature Club at; [springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com) or 847-985-2100

## **Happenings at Spring Valley – September/October, 2017**

**Early autumn is a busy time at Spring Valley** and features numerous events and programs! Mark your calendar for these unique and popular special events. Note that some programs require pre-registration due to limited space. Visit [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com) for more information or call (847) 985-2100.

### ***Concert at the Cabin – Saturday, September 9, 5-7:30 p.m.***

The summer outdoor concert season winds up with this popular annual performance by the Spring Valley Concert Band under the shelter at the Merkle Cabin. Bring lawn chairs or a blanket and settle in for an hour of outstanding concert band selections by Schaumburg's own community band. Grilled food and beverages will be sold by Olde Salem Café, or bring your own picnic supper to enjoy – a la Ravinia, surrounded by the beautiful ambience of Spring Valley. Music will begin at 6:00. A wagon shuttle will transport visitors to the Cabin area from the Nature Center. Admission is FREE! Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.

### ***Harvest Bonfire – Saturday, September 16, 6-8 p.m.***

Celebrate the start of autumn with a special family bonfire at the Heritage Farm! Attendees will be provided hot dogs and marshmallows for roasting along with horse-drawn wagon rides and a chance to visit the farmhouse by lantern light. Admission is \$7/person; kids 3 and under are free. Parking available at the Nature Center, with a wagon shuttle to the Heritage Farm.

### ***National Public Lands Day – Saturday, September 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.***

You're invited...to learn about and experience the satisfaction of helping steward local ecosystems back to health! As part of a coordinated national effort, Spring Valley will be hosting a native plant seed collection workday. Come out to learn about how Spring Valley has replanted over 60 acres of native Illinois prairie during the past 30+ years. Participants can come for all or just part of the morning effort to harvest the rich bounty of native wildflower and grass seed needed for future plantings. Free event – no registration required.

### ***Autumn Harvest Festival – Sunday, October 1, 12-5 p.m.***

Spring Valley's longest running and most popular event is a feast for the senses, allowing you to travel back in time to experience life on a 19<sup>th</sup> century farm as well as the early frontier. Two activity areas – the Heritage Farm and Merkle Cabin – offer a wide range of historical demonstrations, kid's activities, food and beverage sales, and live music. Parking is available just west of Plum Grove Rd., across the street from the Heritage Farm. Wagons will run continuously between the Farm and Cabin areas, as well as the Nature Center parking lot. Admission is \$5/person or \$20/family, with kids 3 and under free.

### ***Jammin' Round the Campfire – Saturday, October 21, 6-8 p.m.***

Enjoy an evening of songs and stories around the campfire at the Nature Center! Kids will be able to roast marshmallows as well as clap or sing along with the music at this free family program.

### ***Haunting in the Valley – Friday & Saturday, October 27 & 28, 6:15-9 p.m.***

Tickets are on sale now for Spring Valley's popular Halloween program, which features theatrical and just a bit scary walks through the woods and Farm. Registered participants are transported by wagon to the trail entrance, where they are met by a guide. Also available are games and a bonfire at the Nature Center as well as a live owl presentation. Pre-registration is strongly advised for this popular program as space is limited! Cost is \$6/person if purchased in advance; \$8/person at the door (if available).

***Trick or Treat at Spring Valley – Tuesday, October 31, 3-6 p.m.***

Take your little ones trick or treating in a special place, where the Halloween creatures hide out in your favorite places at Spring Valley. A wagon will shuttle you and your costumed witches, ghouls, and cartoon characters between the Nature Center and Heritage Farm. Several treat stops will be set up at both locations. Free for all ages! Please park at the Nature Center.

***Horse-drawn Wagon Rides at the Farm***

Every Saturday and Sunday through October, visitors can take a narrated tour of the Heritage Farm via horse-drawn wagon. Rides are offered between 12 and 2:30 pm, with tickets being available on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are purchased at the Farm Visitor Center on the day of the ride.

***COMING IN NOVEMBER!!***

**Hoghouse to Smokehouse – Sunday, November 19, 12-4 p.m.**

This popular event offers an authentic glimpse into how local German farm families filled their pantries, root cellars, and larders with sausages, hams and other ethnic staples before the onset of winter.

**Spring Valley Holiday Bazaar – Saturday & Sunday, November 25 & 26, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Spring Valley Nature Club, this annual holiday bazaar features numerous craft vendors inside the Nature Center and outside in a heated tent.

## **2018 Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden**

Still clearing your 2017 vegetable garden? Have you noted all your successes and/or failures? Now is the best time to plan for your “2018 Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden”! While the taste of the last of your summer tomatoes is still on your lips, it’s time to decide if you want to add or delete some of the choices you’ve had this past season.

While the autumn winds blow and the frost freezes your pumpkins, warm your spirits with a look at Baker Creek Seeds on line catalog! If you would, keep [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) in mind when planning your 2018 seed purchases.

We have a unique arrangement with Baker Creek Seeds of Mansfield Missouri whereupon our members and friends can submit their seed order and check made payable to Spring Valley Nature Club! Mail to Spring Valley Nature Center 1111 E Schaumburg Rd Schaumburg IL 60194 Mark envelope “Seed Order Enclosed” Nature Club will place a group order when we have a qualifying amount. Please note you do not need to be a member of Nature Club to place an order with us. You will be notified as to when you can come to pick-up your seeds. As a courtesy from Baker Seeds we do not pay a shipping charge and Nature Club gets a special rate allowing the club to derive a profit from all the seeds that we purchase.

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 for the community.

## Nature

The sun's journey towards the year's end, shrinking the days and storing the light, has now brought us here, to the lingering nights of a cool September. The waning days of summer have quickened the pace of wildlife, as the urgency of the coming season of cold and dark presses in, hurrying them along in their gathering.

Harvesting bees compete with yellow-jackets and butterflies for nectar from flowers racing to bloom before next month's frost ends their summer's bouquet. This is a time when bees get blamed for yellow-jacket stings, when the yellow-jackets' aggressive hunt for food brings them into conflict with picnic-goers, barbecuers, bare feet and sun-dresses.

Robins gorge themselves on late season berries, preparing themselves for the journey south. Goldfinches dip and swoop, skimming above the tall grasses, seeking out thistle seed. A late morning blue jay eyes me from the edge of the bird bath, before hopping to the far rim where an American crab partially shields him before he will bend down to drink.

Grasshoppers leap from stem to stem and their late season abundance is a boon to predators, from spiders to shrews to foxes. Woodchucks continue their yearlong banquet, gorging themselves on greens, raiding vegetable gardens when they can, stuffing themselves with a season's bounty so they can sleep away the coming months of cold and ice and snow.

While woodchucks binge, squirrels, chipmunks and 13 lined ground squirrels store. Chipmunks need underground granaries, stocked with grains and seeds and acorns, so when they wake periodically during winter's sleep, they can restore energy reserves before drifting off to dream of spring. Squirrels use tree hollows for storage, but they also bury the nuts they gather from oaks and hickories. Their forgetfulness grows trees, in the forest and in my flower beds.

Now the birds gather. Redwings begin to give up the marshes, grouping together in huge flocks. Mixtures of cowbirds and starlings line roadside telephone wires, chattering in competition with highway noises and occasionally swooping down to sample firm fields and stalk lawns.

Towards dusk, soaring above the tree tops and swooping beneath street lights to capture insect flyers, the nighthawks appear. Silent now, they flock together before beginning their long journey to the forests and grasslands of South America.

In the evening, if you listen closely, especially when heavy skies push them closer to the earth, you can hear the sound of traveling songbirds, softly calling to each other. The protection of darkness and the calmer air is attractive to small birds during migration. And their calling to each other is a way to communicate position as they journey through the night.

Their voices are the voices of the season. A final chat marking the end of their year. And their sound is the sound of summer leaving --- the beginning echo to autumn's call.

Al Larson

## 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 for their support in offering a discount coupon for purchases at their location; Schaumburg Park District for the 1-day Fitness Pass; Platt Hill Nursery for their support and discount coupon at their garden centers; Holistic Art Studio for their discount coupon; Bon Ton Stores for their coupon book for discounts throughout the store. The Bon Ton coupon books are valid for their other stores that are located throughout the US. A listing of their stores is on the membership dues page.

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 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 2017 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), Back In Line Chiropractic (Discount on Services) Bon-Ton Stores Seasonal Discount Coupon Book (Carson's, Younkers, Herberger's, Bergner's, Elder-Beerman, Boston Store, etc., estimated value up to \$500.00

A special benefit is 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 of the 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:** Identifies you as a supporter of the Nature Club's efforts.

**\*\*All current Life Members** are eligible to receive the **“Discount Coupon Pack”** for just \$10.00 a year

**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**.

**Family Fun Membership:** In addition to all of 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.

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

**Your dues are now payable for the year 2017**

Individual		\$15.00
Family		\$25.00
Supporting		\$35.00
Senior		\$10.00
Family Fun		\$120.00
Life	**	\$150.00
Sponsor		\$1000.00

-----  
**Individual – Family – Supporting -- Senior -- 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