



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

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Editor: Al Larson

July/August 2018

**Letter From The President
Donna Johnson**

**Happy Independence Day
Enjoy your 4th of July Holiday
No SVNC meeting Wednesday July 4th 2018**

Celebrating the Fourth of July has become a tradition of fireworks, family gatherings and picnics. The weather for this summer has been ideal for so many activities. I'm glad to see that our holiday week will be warm and pleasant without the weather fireworks of last year's July!

My garden is still recovering from last July's Ice Works! That micro burst and hail storm really set our area reeling! I'll be looking forward to spending a leisurely Fourth working in my garden (preening those heirloom Tomatoes and Veggies), then enjoying a backyard cookout and a wonderful day basking in the glorious sunshine. I hope all of you have an enjoyable holiday relaxing and doing all the activities that suit your fancy!

I'm looking forward to August's meeting and program where the topic will be of great interest to all of us, gardeners and non-gardeners alike. Our Nature Club Member Steve Klima will have a presentation about Bees! Not just the revered Honeybees but the little workhorses that pollinate most of our crops, Mason bees! Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Our next meeting of the Spring Valley Nature Club
Wednesday August 1st 2018 7:00pm**

All About Those Mason Bees! By Steve Klima

Steve Klima is from Chicago and had moved to Schaumburg in 1992. In 2013 his wife was diagnosed with a debilitating disease and he wanted to do something special for her to lift her spirits. Wanting to make her a Butterfly Garden to enjoy he spent much time researching the project. Coming across an article on pollinating bees and the benefits for all gardens, he acted on the information he learned, by purchasing the first lot of bees. His hives included Mason Bees and Leafcutter Bees, also some reeds and a house for the bees. Today he has seven bee houses and about 1000 bees. And of this date his wife and bees are doing great!

Steve will fill us in via a demonstration of the why, where, when and how of introducing these little workhorses in your own gardens! Sure, to be a fun, informative and entertaining session for all!

Summer Happenings at Spring Valley – July/August, 2018

The summer months feature numerous events and programs at Spring Valley! Note that some programs require pre-registration due to limited space. Visit www.parkfun.com for more information or call (847) 985-2100.

Firefly Fandango – Saturday & Sunday, July 7 & 8, 8:45-9:45 p.m.

Register in advance for this popular family program. Participants will learn about fireflies and how they make their ‘cool’ light in the Nature Center backyard. Groups will then be taken on a twilight wagon ride to view the incredible light show to be seen on mid-summer evenings at Spring Valley. Fee is \$4 for residents or \$5 for non-residents.

Buzzing About Insects – Sunday, July 8, Noon – 3 p.m.

Explore the fascinating world of insects through games and activities at this free family drop-in program! Spring Valley’s woods, prairies, and wetlands has an astounding diversity of insects – and only a handful of them will ‘bug’ you – most are beautiful and fun to learn about. Stop by the Nature Center backyard anytime to learn something new about our six-legged friends! Refreshments will be available for purchase.

Heritage Farm Drop-in Thursdays

10 a.m.-noon

July 5 – *Better with Butter*, July 26 – *Leather Works*, August 16 – *Sundae School*.

Stop by the Farm anytime between 10 a.m. and noon for something unique and special on these days. Activities and demonstrations are on-going. *Better with Butter* will feature butter making (and tasting); *Leather Works* will allow you to make a simple leather bracelet in our harness shop; *Sundae School* will get everyone cranking out home-made ice cream. There is a participation fee of \$2/person.

Make It & Take It Sunday Drop-in – July 15 & August 12, 1-3 p.m.

Stop by the Nature Center on either of these Sunday afternoons to create a simple, free nature craft.

German Beer Gardens – Saturdays, July 28 & August 18, 4-7 p.m.

Socialize with your neighbors at these re-creations of traditional German ‘biergartens,’ held at the Heritage Farm. There will be games, live traditional music, pretzels, soda, and of course, good German beer! The entrance fee of \$5 gets you a souvenir glass as well as a pretzel. Beer and soda are available for purchase. Kids welcome at these family events!

Star Gazing Party – Saturday, August 11, 8:30-11 p.m.

Raise your eyes to the skies at this family celebration of astronomy! Telescopes will be set up along the trails behind the Nature Center, and games and activities will be available inside the building. The annual Perseid meteor shower will be a highlight, so bring a blanket or folding lawn chairs so you can sit back and watch the heavens for a shooting star. Admission is free! Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.

Back to School Campfire – Friday, August 17, 7:30-9 p.m.

This family event features a cheery campfire in back of the Nature Center, marshmallow roasting, and wagon rides through the prairie. Bring a camp chair or blanket. Fee is \$2/person.

Farm to Fork Festival – Monday, August 20, 5-8 p.m.

Join us for our 4th annual celebration of fresh, seasonal, regional foods at the Heritage Farm! Several area restaurants and caterers will be preparing and serving up locally sourced and seasonally fresh dishes as part of an unforgettable white tablecloth outdoor dining experience. Locally produced beers and wines will be available as well as live music. Cost is \$38/person, with pre-registration required by August 15.

Heritage Farm Local Market Day – Saturday, August 25, 8 a.m.-noon

Visit the Heritage Farm’s mini-market to pick up some locally crafted foods. You’ll be able to meet the people behind the products as well – everything from locally made cheeses, meats, farm fresh eggs, and produce will be featured. Free admission!

Nature

When our kids were little, it was always a joy to see their wonder at the new things they saw and experienced as they began their journey into the world. The following is one of those times.

As we dashed from the car to the house, the skies opened up and poured rain all over Jennifer and me. It caught me by surprise. But not nearly the surprise it was for Jenny. For her, it was truly startling, because she had never been rained on before. In her pre-rained-on world, water was something that is warm and comes in tubs that you sit in and splash. It is something the goldfish swim in and what is put in Sam's feeding dish, that the ferocious tiger cat tests with his paw to see if it's there, and that is off limits to 15-month old's because Mom raises her voice to a warning "Jenny", whenever you play too close.

This rain surprise was different. This was cold. And noisy. And not at all predictable. It truly was something to be considered.

One of the effects of torrential downpours is the emergence of earthworms in great numbers. Fleeing from asphyxiation will not save them if the rain drives them up during the day. Earthworms are extremely sensitive to ultraviolet rays and even cloudy days have enough light to give them a fatal exposure.

At night, rainstorms may drive them up from the ground and they will not be faced with the deadly light that breaks down their tissues, but there are other dangers when they are not in their protective burrows.

Raccoons will take them as an easy source of protein. Skunks, hunting at night, will gorge themselves on such a ready supply. Shrews, themselves driven from tunnels by the sudden rain, will also revel in the ample answer to supplying their acute energy needs. Toads and salamanders, nocturnal prowlers who need the moist night air to survive as much as earthworms do, hunt them whenever and wherever they can. And such heavy rain produces a bounty that will see them through many a summer night.

Earthworms, because of their burrowing traits, aerate the soil, permitting both air and water to enter. They literally swallow the earth, leaf matter and other vegetation, grind it up and deposit the waste at the entrance to their tunnels. These "castings" enrich the soil.

They play a major role in the diet of robins, woodcocks - - - half their food intake is earthworms - - - and several species of moles. Earthworms are probably one of the first lower forms of life little children discover. And stumbling across them in their beginning journey through life is always a thrill. One often shared by their mother.

Al Larson

Tending Your Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden!

Now that you have all your tomatoes, vegetable and herbs planted you've noticed that all that rain and the hot weather have made your plants grow rampantly. Don't forget to check on them often and if you have them growing in containers you may need to water them daily and sometimes twice a day! Whether in the ground or in pots, you should fertilize your veggies every couple weeks. Using an organic fertilizer is more environmentally friendly and the product tends to be more forgiving if you err in the measure of product you use. As long as you are going to grow your own produce, you may as well go organic, it is easier, and the flavor is usually better. Plus, if you have seen the cost of organic produce, you come out way ahead in the value of your homegrown goods!

Check for insect damage, and chances are you will find the little culprits lurking on the underside of leaves. You can simply wipe them off with a damp paper towel or even your fingers. No sense bringing out an arsenal of insecticides. I have found that using a mild dish wash soap solution does wonders on eliminating most insect pests, from slugs to Japanese beetles.

When you start picking your garden treasures, note how they produce and relish the flavors, remind yourself if they have measured up to your expectations of the variety and if you would like to grow this item again.

Don't forget to keep checking Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Catalogue or online: www.rareseeds.com and we will place a group order and have your seeds for you at the proper planting time next spring.

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 and mark the 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. Thank you.



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 2018 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)

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: 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**.

****All current Life Members** are eligible to receive the **"Discount Coupon Packet"** for a \$10 yearly donation.

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 charge of \$2.00

Yearly Memberships Begin February 1st through January 31st

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