



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

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Editor: Al Larson

November/December 2018

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

Change is in the Air!

The crisp cool days of Autumn are fading fast, and the chill and thrill of winter is drawing near. It's time to put away the flip flops and cut offs and start unpacking those mukluks and parkas. It's time to put away the Halloween décor and start planning your Holiday decorating, gift giving options and shopping!

Spring Valley Holiday Bazaar Saturday & Sunday, November 24 & 25, 10:00 am- 4:00 pm.

Avoid the post-Thanksgiving crowds at the big stores and malls and find unique hand-made gifts at this popular annual bazaar! Sponsored by the Spring Valley Nature Club and Spring Valley Nature Center, this event features numerous vendors of hand-made items inside the Nature Center and outside in a heated tent. Refreshments will be sold by the Nature Club. Come see and buy a lot of unique handcrafted products and support local artists. What a great way to get in the Holiday Spirit! Admission is FREE!

Spring Valley Commemorative Throws are on sale for \$25.00!

A unique gift idea! Just the thing to carry in the car for a snug wrap at the football game or a delightful throw while lazing on the sofa! Fun and cozy! Pick one up at the Nature Center daily between 9 am. - 5 pm.

Nature Club Meeting Wednesday November 7th, 2018 7:00pm

Raptors in the Air - Registered falconer Cathy Blecker wowed us last month with Jack the Owl! By popular demand, Cathy will return. She will introduce us to her girlfriend, (Guma), a big beautiful Red Tail Hawk! Guma is a 10-year-old wild caught raptor that Cathy has had the privilege of rearing. She will be on her best behavior and ready to pose for pictures and to meet and greet our group. Cathy will explain the benefits of raptors and the role they play in nature's balance. There will be time for questions from the audience. Bring a friend, a camera and then enjoy an evening with Cathy and Guma! Refreshments will be served!

Please, Note....No December Nature Club Meeting

January 16, 2019 7:00 pm Nature Club Business Meeting & Election of Officers

There will be a brief review of 2018 and a look into the future of Nature Club's plans for 2019 followed by a vote of the attending members on the slate of officers for Spring Valley Nature Club. Your attendance would be appreciated. There will not be a program at this meeting.

Late Fall & Holiday Happenings at Spring Valley – November/December 2018

Early winter at Spring Valley features several events and programs! Mark your calendar for these unique and popular special events and programs. Note that some programs require pre-registration due to limited space. Visit www.parkfun.com for more information or call (847) 985-2100.

Hoghouse to Smokehouse – Sunday, November 18, 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. Along with the fascinating demonstrations, kid's activities are available and grilled food and warm beverages will be sold. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family; kids 3 and under are free. Parking is available at the Nature Center with a wagon shuttle providing transport to the Heritage Farm.

Spring Valley Holiday Bazaar – Saturday & Sunday, November 24 & 25, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Christmas in the Valley – Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2, 12-4 p.m.

Forget the holiday rush and step back in time to experience the true warmth of the Christmas season! The Heritage Farm will feature a display of German-American holiday traditions in the farmhouse, a simple toy workshop in the equipment shed, and pretzel decorating in the visitor center. The Merkle Log Cabin will host Father Christmas by the fireplace while kids work on craft activities in Santa's Workshop. Warm food and beverages will be sold as well. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family; kids 3 and under are free. Parking is available at the Nature Center with a shuttle bus providing transport to the Heritage Farm. A wagon shuttle between the Farm and Cabin is also available.

Embrace Winter's Beauty – Snowshoe Rentals!!

Snowshoes can be rented at Spring Valley anytime there is at least 4 inches of snow present. Rentals are available daily from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cost is \$5 for a three-hour rental. Call the Nature Center for updates on snow conditions.

Popular Spring Valley Wall Calendars coming soon!!

Each year, a full color, high quality wall calendar featuring stunning photos taken by Spring Valley's staff and volunteers is printed as a limited-edition item and presented to those volunteers who have contributed 50 hours or more during the previous year. The calendars are also sold at the Nature Center. It is a great way to show off Spring Valley's beauty in your home or office and makes an attractive stocking stuffer for the nature enthusiast on your shopping list!

Winter Closings

Reminder that the Heritage Farm closes for the season after Christmas in the Valley on December 3. All Spring Valley facilities are CLOSED on Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and New Year's Day; however, the grounds and trails ARE open for walkers every day of the year. Bison's Bluff Nature Playground is only open on days when snow and ice are NOT present. Otherwise, the play area is closed for safety reasons.

COMING IN 2019!!

Spring Valley Winter Fest – Saturday & Sunday, January 19 & 20, 12-4 p.m.

Celebrate the beauty of winter at this event, which will feature indoor games, crafts and activities as well as snowshoeing, horse-drawn wagon rides, dog sled demonstrations, and a bonfire. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family; kids 3 and under are free. All activities take place in and around the Nature Center.

Sugar Bush Fair – Saturday & Sunday, March 16 & 17, 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

Celebrate winter's end at this popular annual event which features a delicious pancake breakfast with real maple syrup, demonstrations of maple sugaring, and more.

Nature

Deliver us --- "from ghoulies and ghosties and long-leggety beasties and things that go bump in the night."

The dread of darkness hearkens from mankind's ancient days and remnants of old prayers occasionally remind us of some of our early fears. But there are things that go bump in the night and there are still others that we are unable to hear.

Dusk signals the end of the day for many of nature's creatures and just the beginning for many others. Swallows skimming flying insects from above the surface of pools, straining to locate elusive quarry in the dimming light are often joined by bats whose sonar findings are not tied to the location of the sun.

Bats have filled an environmental niche that doesn't directly compete with daytime flyers. And although there are other birds that hunt insects after sunset, they lack the bat's pinpoint accuracy. Nighthawks and whippoorwills troll the night sky, wide mouths swallowing whatever insects they come across.

The rules for predator and prey change somewhat after the sun goes down. Differences in surface temperature diminish and air currents no longer rise, keeping odors in place, or close to the ground. The sense of smell becomes even more important then. Keen hearing is a must since sound travels farther in the still, damp air. With the drop in temperature, air becomes more moist and animals susceptible to water loss can operate more freely. Toads come out to haunt lighted stoops and hunt through gardens, and nightcrawlers and land snails make their appearance.

Deer mice, white-footed mice and meadow voles emerge to forage after sundown when darkness can help mask their moves, and even talk to each other in voices pitched above the range of ominous nocturnal listeners. Even careful, sure-footed foraging can produce some sound and keen eyed and keener eared owls float down to harvest mice populations while prowling skunks and weasels also help to keep mice numbers in check.

Rabbits, though often seen during the day, are more active after dusk and white-tailed deer move out from cover to feed in meadows and fields. Raccoons and possums are also common night-time travelers.

City sounds and city lights obscure the life that was here before electricity. Night-flying migrating geese still call above the city, and small creatures talk in secret voices cringing from the light. The dark was made for them.

And we are the thing that goes bump in the night.

Al Larson

Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



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



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



*Evergreen Planter
Regular 32"
Supersized 38"*



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 ORDER FORM

DESCRIPTION	COST	QTY.	TOTAL
12" MIXED NOBLE CANDLE RING WREATH 4" CANDLE	\$24.00	_____	_____
4' NOBLE MIX MANTELPiece/CENTERPIECE	\$43.00	_____	_____
12" HOLIDAY YULE LOG	\$25.00	_____	_____
OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (32")	\$30.00	_____	_____
SUPERSIZED OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (38")	\$41.00	_____	_____
FIRE STARTER BASKET	\$25.00	_____	_____
DOOR SWAG WITH VELVET RIBBON	\$15.00	_____	_____
20" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$25.00	_____	_____
36" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$42.00	_____	_____
48" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$64.00	_____	_____
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	\$29.00	_____	_____
36" DOUBLE FACE BALSAM	\$41.00	_____	_____
48" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$41.00	_____	_____
60" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$51.00	_____	_____
72" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$68.00	_____	_____
25' BALSAM GARLAND	\$29.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM CEDAR-DOUGLAS MIXED GARLAND	\$35.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM NOBLE GARLAND (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$50.00	_____	_____
CEMETERY STANDS	\$6.00	_____	_____
INDOOR/OUTDOOR VELVET RIBBON FOR 20" WREATH	\$3.00	_____	_____

GRAND TOTAL

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Please Send Your Orders by Monday November 12, 2018

Pick Up Your Order Saturday November 24, 2018 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Spring Valley Nature Center 1111 E. Schaumburg Rd Schaumburg IL

Questions? Call Spring Valley (847) 985-2100

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

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

Retiring Your Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden!

Jack Frost has pretty much nipped the pumpkins, but there are still a few veggies enjoying the crisp late fall weather. Don't forget to check on them often and if you have them growing in containers you may need to water them occasionally! Keep up with harvesting your produce, leaving veggies to over mature just leads to invitation from roaming possums, racoons and squirrels to shop your goodies when you're not looking!

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. A sure way to have a healthy 2019 crop is to remove and discard tomato, pepper and squash vines in the trash. These plants in particular harbor overwintering insects and diseases.

When harvesting your garden treasures, note how they produced and relish the flavors. If you'd like to try your hand at pickling some of your bounty, take a look at the unique recipe book, "The Pickled Pantry" that is available at Spring Valley. The book specializes in small batch pickling, so you can appreciate the gifts from your garden for many months to come! You can even create delicious jars of goodies to gift to friends and neighbors!

Reflect on the varieties of veggies and tomatoes you have grown, were they what you expected, do you want to grow them again? Looking for something new? Now is the time to check Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Catalogue or online: www.rareseeds.com and see what items interest you; 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), Skincare by Carmela (Discount on Services)

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**.

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

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