



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

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Editor: Al Larson

September/October 2018

Letter From The President, Donna Johnson

Pot Luck & Sunset Hike Wednesday September 5th 2018 5:30pm

Join us for a special September meeting of the Spring Valley Nature Club and Spring Valley volunteers! We'll begin with a pot-luck dinner from 5:30-6:30, followed by a short review of upcoming events and projects. For those interested, at 7:00, we will then lead a sunset hike out on the trails to take in the late summer wildflowers and the early signs of autumn appearing on the landscape. The hike should conclude by 8:00 p.m.

Nature Club Meeting Wednesday October 3rd, 2018 7:00pm

Meet Jack the Owl – Cathy Blecker, our renown raptor specialist, will bring Jack the Owl to meet and greet our group. Cathy will explain the benefits of raptors and the role they play in nature's balance. I'm sure Cathy will share a snack with Jack, who amazes all who see him! There will be time for questions from the audience. Bring a friend, a camera and then enjoy an evening with Jack & Cathy! Refreshments will be served!

Autumn's Chill is in the air! Spring Valley Commemorative Throws on sale for \$25.00! Just the thing to carry in the car for an impromptu picnic, a snug wrap or a delightful cozy throw while lazing on the sofa!

Summer Happenings at Spring Valley – September/October 2018

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 for more information or call (847) 985-2100

Kickoff to Oktoberfest – Friday, September 7, 4-7 p.m.

This will be the Heritage Farm's final German bier garden event of the year. Stop by for a cold one, a warm pretzel, live traditional music, family games, and more. There will be soda for the kids. Many guests pack a picnic dinner to enjoy at the farm. Admission fee of \$5 gets you a souvenir glass and a large soft pretzel. Beer and soda are available for purchase.

Concert at the Cabin – Saturday, September 8, 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 15, 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 22, 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 7, 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 19th 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 20, 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 26 & 27, 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 – Wednesday, 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 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.

Spring Valley Holiday Bazaar – Saturday & Sunday, November 24 & 25, 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.

September Song

September sings its siren song. It beckons us in to cool deep evenings, soft with promises borne on sleep bereft of summer's stifling heat. It captures us with mild, mellow days of sun and pale blue skies, hazed over with hints of clouds and tinged with memories of a season's passing.

Its music coaxes color from the goldenrod, and now the yellow splashed stems bow and bend in rhythm to September's call. It hurries along the gatherers, pushing ground squirrels to add seeds to underground larders, and gray squirrels to seek secret places to bury acorns and hickory nuts. Stands of oaks and hickories remain as impressive reminders to their forgetfulness.

Yellow-jackets feel the press of the coming season too, and their heightened quest for food brings them to picnics and back-yard barbecues, settling on plates and invading drink containers, adding painful stings to pleasant surroundings and spoiling the reputations of less aggressive honey bees.

Locusts add to the seasonal chorus, and their rattling/trilling calls become a September crescendo, mixing with the music of crickets and supplanting birdsong as the season's sound.

Monarchs are on the move. Their rich orange and black wings beat against the breeze as they migrate to winter quarters. Their flight is bold and fearless, since unlike other butterflies, monarchs have little to fear from birds. It's all in their diet. Their caterpillars feed on milkweed and milkweed's poison makes would-be predators literally wretch from their taste. Their color pattern is such a powerful protector another butterfly, the Viceroy, imitates it. Birds avoid them too.

Speckled starling herds march across the back lawn. Bobbing and weaving they peck their way through the grass, side to side, up and down. Chickadees scour the trunks of the apple trees, hanging on twigs, searching for insects. Occasionally, one flits to the bird feeder, eyeing me with head cocked to one side, sampling a sunflower seed. A rush of house finches converges on the feeder, all chatter and soft sounds, angling for thistle seeds and alertly studying any moves I make.

September continues to call us and coax us and lure us along. It's a time for the birds to gather, before they begin their long journey south. For night hawks to haunt the evening sky for one last time. It's a time for sunflowers and goldenrod and apples, ripe with the sweet taste of the season. It's a time for memories and monarchs and dreams fading with the morning mist.

It's calling us for one more chance at summer's sun and summer's warmth. It needs a picnic or a barbecue, a wade in the water, a walk in the sand. Another ball game. A romance.

September calls and we must be going.

Al Larson

Tending Your Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden!

Though autumn is right around the corner, many of your veggie and herb plants are still producing. 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. Keep up with harvesting your produce, leaving tomatoes and veggies to over mature just leads to invitation from roaming possums and racoons to shop your goodies during the night! When cleaning up an area where the plants are spent, plant a crop that will mature quickly like radishes, lettuce or kale. 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 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)

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