

[www.springvalleynatureclub.org](http://www.springvalleynatureclub.org)

[springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com)

**Editor: Al Larson**

**November/December 2019**

## **Letter from the President, Donna Johnson**

### **A Time For Thanksgiving**

This is the time to reflect on the great accomplishments we have had throughout the year. I'm sitting here admiring the last of the heirloom tomatoes that I had grown this year. Though the spring had been wet and cold making it unfavorable to plant my saturated garden plot, I thought of what would create an ideal growing condition and I came up with the solution, plant in pots! You can usually overcome a negative by researching a positive solution. The same goes with creating an ideal environment for a haven for desirable wildlife. Now that our garden chores are done for the year, it is a great time to start planning your ideal garden and wildlife haven in your own yard. Check "Retiring Your Heirloom Vegetable and Herb Garden" page for tips on choosing your veggies and herbs. For ideas on creating a habitat, be sure to attend our November 6 Nature Club meeting to learn about bringing nature's beauty into your own habitat!

### **Nature Club Meeting Wednesday November 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 7:00pm**

#### **Creating a Wildlife Habitat. Presented by Kim White, The Natural Naturalist**

Kim White had been teaching the Education program at Brookfield Zoo for 20 years. Holding a Master Naturalist Certificate, she decided to teach as many people as she can about the world around them. There is a growing movement to change our pristine lawns into thriving habitats for wildlife. She will advise us on what we need to consider to be able to attract, and keep our wild, and non-wild neighbors happy. Showing us how to improve the quality of our property, encourage diversity and have a healthy environment! A few surprise visitors are also planned to join her! Be sure to bring a friend and look forward to an entertaining and educational evening. Refreshments will be served, and guests are always welcome!

### **It's time to put away the Halloween décor and plan your Holiday decorating, gift options and shopping!**

#### **Spring Valley Holiday Craft Fair - Saturday & Sunday, November 30 & December 1, 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 craft fair (formerly, Holiday 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!

### **December No Nature Club Meeting**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 Election of Officers, No Program**

## Late Fall & Holiday Happenings at Spring Valley – November/December 2019

Early winter at Spring Valley and 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](http://www.parkfun.com) for more information or call (847) 985-2100.

### **Hoghouse to Smokehouse – Sunday, November 17, 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 within the St. Matthew's Church south parking lot, with adjacent access to the Heritage Farm, and at the Nature Center, with a wagon shuttle providing transport to the Heritage Farm.

### **Spring Valley Holiday Craft Fair – Saturday & Sunday, November 30 & December 1, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.**

Avoid the post-Thanksgiving crowds at the big stores and malls and find unique hand-made gifts at this popular annual craft fair! Co-sponsored by the Spring Valley Nature Club, 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. FREE admission!

### **Christmas in the Valley – Saturday & Sunday, December 7 & 8, 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 within the St. Matthew's Church south parking lot, with adjacent access to the Heritage Farm, and at the Nature Center, with a wagon shuttle providing transport to the Cabin and Heritage Farm.

### **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 8. 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 2020!!**

#### ***Spring Valley Winter Fest – Saturday & Sunday, February 15 & 16, 12-3 p.m.***

Celebrate the beauty of winter at this event, which will feature dog sled demonstrations, snowshoeing, ice fishing demonstrations, horse-drawn wagon rides, indoor games, crafts and activities, 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 14 & 15, 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.

### ***50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Earth Day Events!!***

Earth Day will be 50 years old on April 22, 2020! Spring Valley will be offering a full week of special programs and events to help you deepen your connections to the earth and learn fun new ways to live more sustainably. More info to come!

## November

So, the search for the perfect underground pantry continues. Grey squirrels, probing and poking through grass and garden, have been burying acorns again. Winter hovers ever closer, so a fat larder must be stored against the coming cold, flower beds and yards present an opportunity for quick and easy storage while the acorn harvest is at its peak. Come spring and their forgetfulness brings a number of oak seedlings for replanting at the forest margin.

Every three or four years, oaks will produce a bumper crop of acorns, providing food for pheasants, raccoons, crows, and even nuthatches and titmice. They are a bounty to wild turkeys. White tailed deer relish acorns too, and while acorn crops wane, November brings something else to mind. This is the month that deer begin their courtship.

Armored for love, September's timid bucks are now November bold. Morning or evening confrontations with other bucks, does, or even surprised hikers, will produce a studied response from the emboldened male. A pause to lick his nose, sharpening his sense of smell, and then a challenge or an overture, or a melting away into cover if human contact is detected.

Smaller bucks will quickly demure from larger rivals, and bolt away. A worthy male opponent will not be shy and often challenge his fellow suiter and a heavy shoving match ensues.

A buck confronting an unreceptive doe will be quickly discouraged, with sharp hooves to punctuate her refusal. Ones that respond to his overture will often lead him on a bounding chase, even circling back to entice him further if he has slowed his pursuit or paused to consider another partner. Such leaps and races through woodlands and fields can be tragic where highways and cars are encountered.

December stills the mating urge when winter's shortening days bring the year's light to its ebb. June waits for next year's fawns.

November's adult raccoons have been building fat and acorns are readily eaten. Nocturnal in nature, shorter daylight hours allow them to feed and forage more heavily. Richer diets have thickened their rumps and padded their tails while fall's weather has produced a change in their coats. Underfur has grown denser and guard hairs are longer, with the tips giving a blue-black sheen to their final winter coat. Dressed for the season, they sleep away the worst of the cold days to come.

So, November is here, and the year begins to fade. Wild deer and plump raccoons celebrate the season, while secretive squirrels dig up my garden. And they all seem to know the answer to the deepening dark and the coming cold --- a patient wait for light, and warmth, and the earth's promise of spring.

Al Larson

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 to be received by Sunday November 24, 2019

Pick Up Your Order at Spring Valley Saturday November 30, 2019 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

# Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



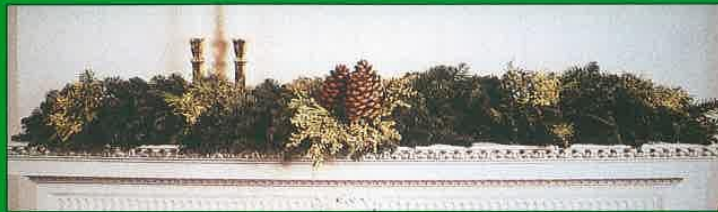
*Single Face Balsam Outdoor  
Wreath 26", 36", 48", 60", 72"  
Double Face Balsam 36"*



*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*

## Retiring Your Heirloom Vegetable & Herb Garden!

Now that winter has set in, it is time to clean up your garden and containers and discard those tomato vines and veggie stumps. You may still be able to rescue some herbs to transplant into pots to grow indoors on a sunny windowsill. Check and see what areas of your garden can use some leveling or drainage improvements. Clean up your containers and store them in a location where they are not exposed to all the freeze and thaws that tend to crack them, chip the edges and craze the finish.

Check your log of how your plants grew, which ripened first and the qualities that you liked or did not like. By logging your progress, you will be able to make good choices of the plants you would like to grow next year. Reflect on the varieties of veggies and tomatoes you have grown in the past, 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 at [www.rareseeds.com](http://www.rareseeds.com) and see what items interest you. Keep note of things you'd like to try next year and save your seed orders for the Club so we can place a group order early in the season 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! 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 handling 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; Skincare by Carmela for their discount on services.

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 2019 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**.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> through January 31<sup>st</sup>

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

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**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