



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

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**Editor: Al Larson**

**July/August 2020**

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

### **Where Do I Start?**

I want to start by thanking all our Spring Valley Nature Club members and volunteers for their efforts in making the SVNC Heirloom Vegetable and Herb sale a great success. Yes, we were successful, given the circumstances we found ourselves in. We had a record number of pre-orders, which were processed and fulfilled by our volunteers using “no contact” curbside or porch pick-up and offering FREE delivery for qualified pre-orders.

The Plant Sale hurdles were fielded by all, considering we had to do the logistics of the event from my backyard! Spring Valley’s closures made the Plant Sale a challenging event!

Another challenge that we are facing is our Nature Club meetings and programs. The guidelines outlined by the CDC make the prospect of having our monthly meetings virtually impossible. To maintain the advised guidelines and to ensure the health and safety of our members, friends, and members of the community, we have determined that the monthly Nature Club meetings will be suspended for the balance of 2020.

Thank you, stay well and be safe.

## Spring Valley Update for July/August Newsleaf – 2020

Here are the latest updates on operations at Spring Valley as we enter Phase 4 of the state of Illinois COVID-19 response and reopening. The situation does continue to change, sometimes quickly, so for more up-to-date information, please visit the Schaumburg Park District website at [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com). You may also call the Nature Center at (847) 985-2100; however, staff is not always there to answer the phones and it may take a day or two before we reply to messages left on voicemail.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails remain open for walkers every day from 8am-8pm. Portable toilets are available near the Nature Center and Merkle Cabin; however, no restrooms are open for use and no drinking water is available.
- Spring Valley's facilities remain closed. This includes the Nature Center and Heritage Farm.
- Bison's Bluff Nature Playground is scheduled to reopen on July 10 for limited capacity use every day from 10am-8pm. Special restrictions and fees apply, so see more on this below.
- All scheduled special events and walk-in programs through the end of August have been cancelled.
- Most scheduled summer camps and other programs have been cancelled. Some of our summer programs ARE being held (see below), but with modifications to limit the group size and conduct nearly all activities outdoors. Our fall programs will be redesigned to comply with group maximums and social distancing guidelines, in accordance with Illinois Phase 4 guidelines.
- With restrictions on group gatherings, all scheduled meetings are also cancelled until further notice.
- As mentioned in May, the Heritage Farm's programming has been paused for the year. All livestock have been moved offsite. Cattle are being cared for at a farm near Marengo, IL and our draft horses were loaned to an Indiana Amish farm for the season.
- With most facilities closed and programming reduced, many of Spring Valley's staff are still furloughed. Some volunteers are being welcomed back to assist with care of gardens at Heritage Farm and behind the Nature Center. Other volunteers are helping with invasive weed control, trail maintenance, bluebird monitoring, and keeping the grounds clean. With few staff back to active duty, this volunteer help is most welcome.

In determining what can be safely reopened, the Schaumburg Park District is following the State of Illinois guidelines and additional recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Decisions are also based on finances. Since the Schaumburg Park District relies heavily on program and user fees to fund its operations – 50% of all operations are funded by user fees, with resident taxes making up the rest – the district is taking a heavy hit financially due to the lengthy shut-down and reduced volunteer programming. For that reason, facilities that are unlikely to pay for themselves via program entrance fees are being kept closed for now.

Be safe and well, everyone, and take advantage of Spring Valley's beauty whenever you can!

### Bison's Bluff Interim Operations Plan

July 10-August 30. (Slightly modified operations may be proposed for September and October).

- Hours of Operation: Daily, 10:00am-8:00pm
- Play sessions begin at 10:00am, 11:30am, 1:00pm, 2:30pm, 4:00pm, 5:30pm, and 7:00pm
- On-line reservations through ActiveNet required, accessed via [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com)
- Cost for one-hour play session will be \$2/person
- No more than 50 patrons may be inside the play area (includes adults)
- Play area is closed for cleaning and sanitation for a half-hour between each play session.
- Main play area entrance is staffed during operating hours
- No Group Use permitted
- Water feature will NOT be operational for safety/health reasons
- No Picnics permitted inside play area
- Play area will be closed during rainy or inclement weather; cancelled play sessions due to inclement weather can be rescheduled or refunded.

## **July/August Programs**

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for each of the programs listed below. All classes have limited capacity and will be held outdoors.

### **Firefly Fandango – July 10, 11, & 12, 8:45-9:45pm**

Witness one of nature's marvels as the summer sun sets on Spring Valley's prairies and woods. After a short discussion on fireflies and how and why they produce light, groups will be taken on a twilight wagon ride to view the incredible light show to be seen on mid-summer evenings. Fee is \$5/person; All ages

### **Insect Safari – July 8 & August 5, 3-5pm**

The summer prairie is buzzing with excitement and insects! Youngsters will go on a hike to catch and study the large variety of insects to be seen at Spring Valley. Participants will be supplied with capture nets and bug boxes, play games, work on a craft project, and have a ton of six-legged fun. Fee is \$12/person; Ages 5-8

### **Just Desserts – July 11, 1-4pm**

Wild berries abound at Spring Valley, and many are edible! Youngsters will go on a hike to learn where black raspberries and blackberries grow and will harvest some to make a Dutch oven cobbler over a campfire. Participants should wear long pants and closed-toe shoes for this activity.

Fee \$16/person; Ages 7-12

### **Morning Meditation Meander – July 18 & August 22, 8-9pm**

Enjoy a guided meditative walk celebrating the changing seasons. Meet in front of the nature center, and feel free to bring your own insulated mug of tea to enjoy after the walk.

Fee is \$12/person; Adults 18+

### **Creek Explorers – July 18 & August 15, 3-5pm**

Prepared to get your feet wet as a naturalist takes youngsters on an adventure to see what lives in Spring Valley's creeks. Participants should meet at the Nature Center and wear soft-soled shoes that can get wet. Fee is \$15/person; Ages 8-12

### **Nature Playdates – July 9, July 30, August 20, 10-11am**

This class is designed to help you and your young child connect with nature. Our child play experts will guide you through a series of unstructured play activities, using the natural habitats at Spring Valley. Children will be encouraged to create, build, and use their imaginations. Dress for an outdoor adventure! Fee is \$10/parent-child; For parents with 1-2 children ages 1-4

### **Kid's Garden Party – August 15 & September 12, 10am-12pm**

Give your child the gift of a love of gardening! Kids will get dirty while lending a hand in Spring Valley's Kid's Garden and playing games that celebrate the harvest. Every participant will go home with a sampling of fresh vegetables. Fee is \$12/person; Ages 6-9

## 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 discount coupon on purchases; Schaumburg Park District 1-day Fitness Pass; Platt Hill Nursery for their support and discount coupon at their garden centers; Holistic Art Studio discount coupon; Skincare by Carmela for their discount on services and Sweetland Bakery for their purchase discount.

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(c)3 organization and contributions may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

## Spring Valley Nature Club 2020 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), Sweetland Bakery (discount on purchase).

**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