



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

**Letter from the President, Donna Johnson**

**January/February 2025**

## **Happy New Year**

**Spring Valley Nature Club Annual Business Meeting.  
Wednesday January 22, 2025, 6:30PM at the Spring Valley Nature Center  
1111 E Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg IL 60194**

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**Spring Valley Nature Club Program Meeting.  
Wednesday February 5, 2025, 6:30PM at the Spring Valley Nature Center**

Along with the Spring Valley volunteers, Dave Brooks will give a presentation of the upcoming volunteer opportunities and programs for the year 2025.

### **Spring Valley Update for January/February 2025.**

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'winter' hours until April 1. The Nature Center will continue to offer a full schedule of family, youth, and adult programs and unique events.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails are open for walkers every day from 8am-5pm.
- NOTE: the access gate from the St. Matthew Catholic Church parking lot will remain OPEN this winter due to the lack of access from Plum Grove Rd. during ongoing construction at Heritage Farm.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors daily from 10am-4pm.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings are closed during the winter months. The Farm does offer limited programs during winter. Visit [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com) for more information on winter programs offered.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-4:00pm, only when temperatures are above 32 degrees and no rain, snow or ice are present. During the winter months, there is no admission fee to use the playground.
- The Merkle Cabin is available for private events when not scheduled for programs. Requests for rentals need to be submitted at least two weeks in advance. Rates are based on residency.
- Volunteers continue to assist with outdoor conservation projects, trail maintenance, and with events and programs. If you are willing and able to assist with special events or projects, please contact staff at the nature center. Note: we are in the process of hiring a new Volunteer Coordinator after Sarah Severson's departure. This position should be filled sometime in January.

## **Snowshoe Rentals!!**

Snowshoe rentals will once again be offered anytime there is 4 inches or more of snow on the ground. Rentals are available between the hours of 10:00am and 3:00pm. The cost is \$5/pair for one hour of use. Call the Nature Center for more information on snow conditions.

## **Spring Valley App**

Staff has developed a Spring Valley app for use on either Android or Apple smartphones. It features not only information on hours, site features, and facilities, but updates on new developments, and two guided tours that provide information on various natural history or historical topics as you walk the trails. The app is FREE and available from either the Google Play Store or Apple Store (simply type Spring Valley Nature Center into the search bar). It is also available as a web-app by going to [www.springvalley.stqry.app](http://www.springvalley.stqry.app).

## **Winter Events & Programs**

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for many of the programs listed below, which have limited capacity; however most special events have walk-in registration. More information and on-line registration are available within the Park District's virtual **Winter Program Guide** found at [www.parkfun.com](http://www.parkfun.com). You can always call the Nature Center during business hours, and staff will be happy to assist you with registration.

### **Cabin Fever Fest (formerly Winterfest) – Sat. & Sun., Feb. 8 & 9, 12:00-3:00pm**

This family event will feature both indoor and outdoor games and activities, a winter scavenger hunt, ice fishing demonstration, dogsled demonstrations, and warm food and beverages by a warm campfire. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

### **Sugar Bush Fair – Sat. & Sun., March 15 & 16, 9:00am-12:00pm**

Spring Valley's popular maple syrup festival features historical demonstrations of maple syrup making, a demonstration sap boil down, hands-on activities for the kids, AND a popular pancake breakfast featuring real maple syrup. Event attendance is free. Reservations for the pancake breakfast are \$7.50/person if made by noon on March 14. Day-of breakfast admission will be \$9/person. Visit [parkfun.com](http://parkfun.com) or stop by the nature center to make your breakfast reservations!

## **Coming in Spring!!**

*Eggsapalooza*, Spring Valley's always popular egg hunt and scavenger hunt for kids, is scheduled for Sunday, April 13. Reservations are necessary for this program, which sells out each year.

*Earth Day Party* returns on Sunday, April 27 from 12:00-4:00pm with a host of activities, games, and demonstrations designed to get you thinking about your environmental footprint and simple ways you can have a positive impact on the environment.

Plan to place your order early for native plants and heirloom herbs and vegetables, as the annual **Native Plant & Heirloom Vegetable Sale** will return on May 17 & 18. Pre-ordering is the only way to ensure that you get the plants you want for the 2025 garden season. Visit the Spring Valley Nature Club website to preorder heirloom vegetables and herbs. Visit the Schaumburg Community Garden Club website to preorder native wildflowers, grasses and shrubs. Both websites should be open for business in early to mid-March!

## **Construction Alert!!**

The renovation and expansion of the Heritage Farm Visitor Center/Museum Shop is ongoing but scheduled to wrap up this spring. We are very excited to be offering new classrooms, restrooms, a teaching kitchen, and a sheltered outdoor program area. The new construction will also feature passive solar and geothermal heating/cooling. Until the new building is open and functional, the gift sale area and visitor information counter will be located in the farmhouse. Portable restrooms are available on site as well.

## **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.

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) non-profit organization, and contributions may be tax deductible. Check with your tax advisor.

## Spring Valley Nature Club 2025 Membership Rates

To show our appreciation for our members' loyalty, a special benefit packet is offered to club members.

**“Discount Coupon Packet”** This packet will include certificates and coupons for various merchants, i.e., Platt Hill Nursery (discount on purchase), Chick-Fil-A (Free Sandwich - Schaumburg Stores only), Ace Hardware (Nerge Rd. \$5 off), Esthetics by Carmela (\$10 off any facial) and Schaumburg Park District one day fitness pass & one day pool pass.

**Special Benefit;** An invitation to the Spring Valley Volunteer/Meineke Award Picnic in August. Members in good standing by mid-July should RSVP Spring Valley at 847-985-2100.

**Free Entry to the Nature Club Programs:** Allows you to attend any of 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. Any donation is appreciated and helps the Nature Club fulfill its charter to support Spring Valley Nature Center.

Your Membership Packet needs to be picked up in person at the Spring Valley Nature Center 10:00 – 4:00 daily. Any member may have the membership packet 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	\$15.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Supporting	\$40.00
Life	\$200.00
Sponsor	\$1000.00

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**Senior - Individual – Family – Supporting - 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