

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

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

**Letter from the President, Donna Johnson      November/December 2023**  
**The Holidays are Right Around the Corner!**



There is nothing quite as welcoming as something that you make yourself! November 1<sup>st</sup> we will have a hands-on session where we will create a Fresh Greens arrangement to take home which will last through the holidays. You can grace your Holiday table or bring a Thank You gift for the hostess of that special meal.

**Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting Wednesday November 1, 2023, 7:00pm–8:30pm**

**Creating Fresh Greens Holiday Décor- Presented by Donna Johnson.** Join Donna and Nature Club members and friends in learning about crafting your own Holiday Décor. Most of the supplies will be provided, but we need you to **bring your own container**; a special mug or small leakproof planter no larger than 6". Have some interesting small décor items (floral picks, mini birds, pinecones, mini ornaments, etc.) bring them along to make your creation extra special! To make sure we have enough greenery, décor, etc. we need to have a head count to determine how much to bring. If you have a glue gun, bring it, otherwise we will share glue guns. We will have a limited supply of extra containers in the event you do not have one. This is a FREE event! Let us know if you and a friend will attend. Email us at [springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com) Please RSVP

**Spring Valley Holiday Craft Show Workshop, November 18 & 19 10:00 – 4:00 .** Join me and Nature Club members and friends for fun sessions of letting our creative juices flourish! You don't have to be a crafting whiz, just come and join in the fun of getting together and getting to know one another in a festive atmosphere! We will have a plethora of crafting materials available and some fun ideas for various projects. If you have any crafts, you have made and would like to contribute them to our Craft Booth, your items would be appreciated! We'll have refreshments, lots of conversations, much laughter and so much fun! Bring a friend, the more the merrier! Please let us know if you and a friend will attend. Email us at [springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com).

**Saturday & Sunday 10am 4pm** come for an hour or two or stay for the day, anything is greatly appreciated.

## Spring Valley NewsLeaf Update for November/December, 2023 – January, 2024

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities transitioned to 'winter' hours on November 1. We 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 parking area at St. Matthew's Catholic Church will be available through mid-December only. The gate leading onto Heritage Farm's walking paths from St. Matthew's will be CLOSED during the winter months.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors every day from 10am-4pm. NOTE that all facilities will be closed on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings are open Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm through the end of November. After that, they will be closed during the winter months.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-4pm, weather permitting. During the winter months, there is no admission fee to use the playground.
- The Merkle Cabin is available for small 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 projects, please contact Spring Valley's Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Severson at [saseverson@parkfun.com](mailto:saseverson@parkfun.com).

### 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 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).

### Autumn and Holiday Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for many of the programs listed below. Programs have limited capacity and spots often fill quickly, so early registration is advised. Most special events have walk-in admission paid when you arrive. More information and on-line registration are available within the Park District's virtual **Autumn Program Guide** and **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.

#### **Hoghouse to Smokehouse – Sun., Nov. 12, 10:00am-2:00pm**

Join us for the return of this popular event at Heritage Farm that explores the ways in which 19<sup>th</sup> century farm families prepared meat for the winter ahead. See how bacon, hams, and sausage were made and preserved in the smokehouse for later consumption. Learn about the importance of pork to the German diet. Food and beverages will be available for purchase as well. Admission to the event is \$3/person or \$12/family, with children 2 and under admitted free.

#### **Spring Valley Holiday Craft Fair – Sat. & Sun., Nov. 25 & 26, 10:00am-4:00pm**

Plan to visit the Nature Center on Thanksgiving weekend to peruse the displays of hand-crafted gift items available from our vendors. From jewelry to unique home decorations, you'll be sure to find something for those on your holiday gift list. Spring Valley Nature Club will be selling food and beverages as well. Admission is free!

#### **Christmas in the Valley – Sat. & Sun., Dec. 9 & 10, 12:00-4:00pm**

Experience a 19<sup>th</sup> century farm Christmas at Heritage Farm with demonstrations in the farmhouse, stop by a warm fire for cocoa or soup, and walk to the Merkle Cabin for children's crafts and a visit with St. Nick. A wagon shuttle will transport you between the farm and cabin areas. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family, with children under 3 admitted free.

## **Coming Soon!!**

**Spring Valley's Winter Volunteer Meeting** will take place on Wednesday, February 7, 6:30-8:30pm. We tentatively have planned to host Gina Roxas, the Executive Director at Trickster Cultural Center. Come to learn all about the new exhibits and other changes made recently at Schaumburg's Native American museum and cultural center. Note that this meeting may take place at Trickster. Look for more details to come!

**Winter Fest** returns in mid-February! Join us during the weekend of February 10 & 11 to frolic in Spring Valley's winter wonderland, with s'mores by the campfire, ice fishing demonstrations, outdoor games, and dogsled demonstrations. Warm up inside the Nature Center with games and activities that teach about winter wildlife.

Also, make sure you put March 16 & 17 on your calendar, as the always popular **Sugar Bush Fair** returns with the best pancake breakfast around!

## **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.

## **Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations Fundraiser**

We have an easy and exciting opportunity to view what is available and order your Holiday décor from the comforts of home! Simply press on the link or copy and paste the following in your browser. <http://go.wreathsaleapp.com/spring-valley-nature-club-wreaths-2023> Nature Club will coordinate everything for you! Go to the site, place your order, then come to Spring Valley Nature Center Saturday November 25, 2023, between the hours of 12:00 PM – 2:00PM to pick up your order under the canopy at the main entrance of the center. You will save the hassle of shopping and know that you are assisting Nature Club in providing funds for entertaining, educational programs and activities for the community at Spring Valley Nature Center.

If you prefer to mail in your order and check. Paper forms are available (attached) for those folks that may not have internet access. Please share this information and forms with your friends & neighbors.

SPRING VALLEY NATURE CLUB  
HANDCRAFTED WREATHS AND DECORATIONS PAPER ORDER FORM 2023

DESCRIPTION	COST	QTY.	TOTAL
12" NOBLE CANDLE RING WREATH "NO CANDLE"	\$24.00	_____	_____
4' NOBLE MIX MANTELPiece/CENTERPIECE	\$46.00	_____	_____
12" HOLIDAY YULE LOG	\$24.00	_____	_____
OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (32")	\$35.00	_____	_____
SUPERSIZED OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (42")	\$56.00	_____	_____
FIRE STARTER BASKET	\$24.00	_____	_____
DOOR SWAG WITH VELVET RIBBON	\$20.00	_____	_____
20" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$27.00	_____	_____
36" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$50.00	_____	_____
48" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$80.00	_____	_____
24" DECORATOR WREATH BOXED W/ VELVET RIBBON	\$45.00	_____	_____
26" FALLEN HERO WREATH	\$26.00	_____	_____
24" SINGLE FACE BALSAM W/RIBBON	\$23.00	_____	_____
30" SINGLE FACE NOBLE W/RIBBON	\$33.00	_____	_____
36" DOUBLE FACE BALSAM	\$54.00	_____	_____
40" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$50.00	_____	_____
60" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$70.00	_____	_____
72" SINGLE FACE BALSAM	\$92.00	_____	_____
25' BALSAM GARLAND	\$40.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM CEDAR GARLAND	\$46.00	_____	_____
25' PREMIUM NOBLE GARLAND (INDOOR/OUTDOOR)	\$65.00	_____	_____
CEMETERY STANDS	\$8.00	_____	_____
INDOOR/OUTDOOR VELVET RIBBON FOR 20" WREATH	\$3.00	_____	_____

**GRAND TOTAL**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

**Electronic ordering is the best way to order the Wreaths and Decorations, follow this link.**

<https://go.wreathsaleapp.com/spring-valley-nature-club-wreaths-2023>

Fallen Hero ceremony will be December 16<sup>th</sup> at Fort Sheridan Highwood IL

Pick Up Your Order at Spring Valley 1111 E Schaumburg Rd Saturday November 25, 2023, from 12:00 PM – 2:00PM

Questions? Call Spring Valley (847) 985-2100 – Proceeds benefit the Spring Valley Nature Club.

Paper order form must be received by 5:00PM Friday November 10, 2023, make checks payable and deliver to:

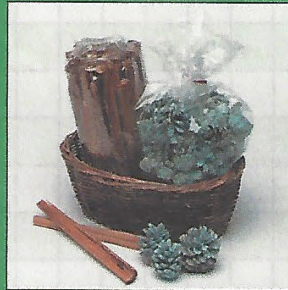
Spring Valley Nature Club 1111 E Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60194



# Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



*Single Face Fir Outdoor  
Wreath 24", 30", 40", 60", 72"  
Double Face 36"*



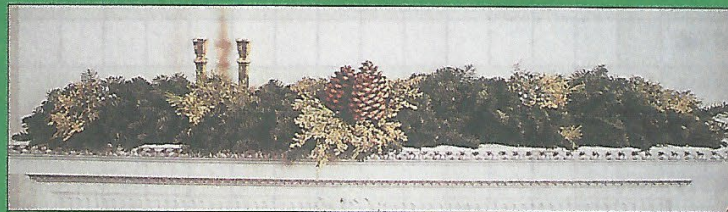
*Firestarter Basket*



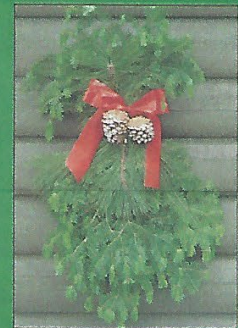
*Noble Fir Mixed Wreath  
20", 36" & 48"  
Indoor/Outdoor*



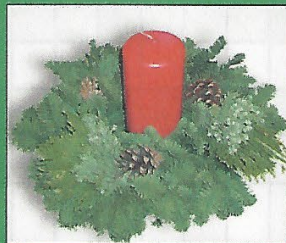
*Evergreen Planter  
Regular 32"  
Supersized 42"  
(Outdoor)*



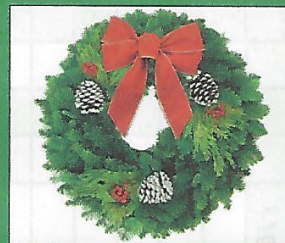
*4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece*



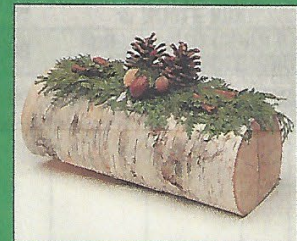
*Door Swag*



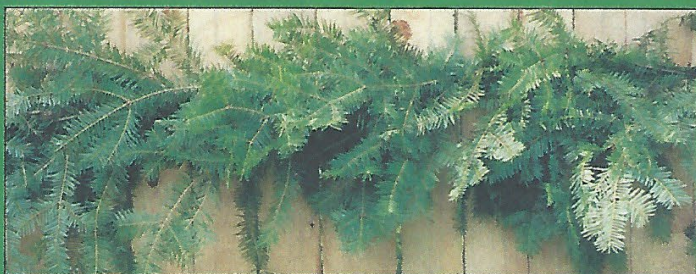
*12" Candle Ring Wreath  
No Candle*



*24" Boxed  
Decorator Wreath*



*Holiday Yule Log 12"*



*25' Balsam Fir Garland  
Mixed Cedar & Noble also Available*



*Fallen Hero Wreath  
Delivered to a  
National Cemetery*



## Spring Valley Nature Club 2023 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., Holistic Health Studio (massage discount), Platt Hill Nursery (discount on purchase), Chick-Fil-A (Free Sandwich - Schaumburg Stores only), Skincare by Carmela (Discount on Services), Ace Hardware (Nerge Rd. \$5 off) and Schaumburg Park District one day fitness pass & one day pool pass.

**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 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 – 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
Life	\$150.00
Sponsor	\$1000.00

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