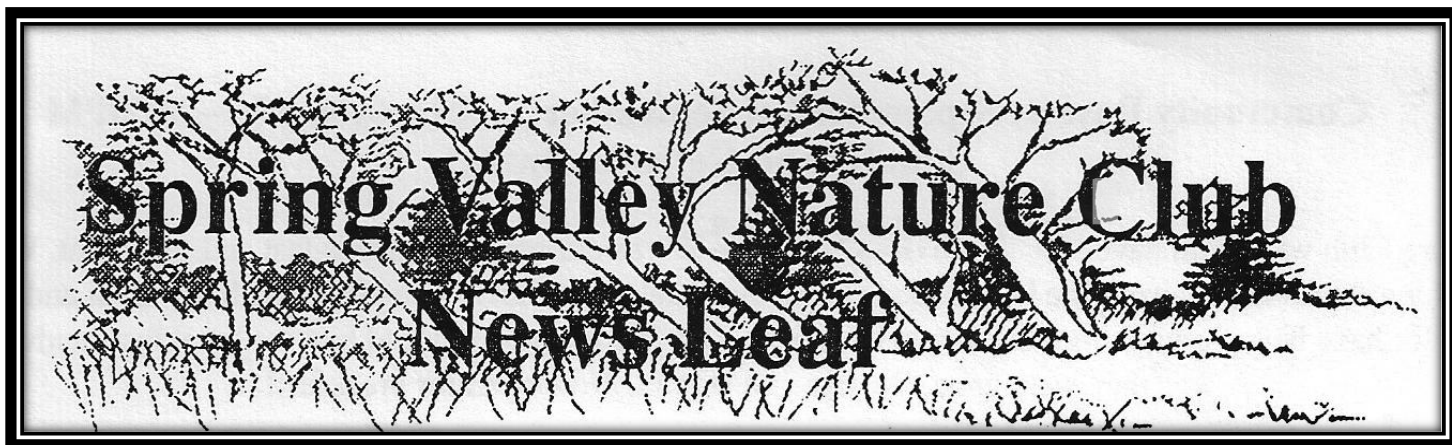




www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

September/October 2026

**Spring Valley Volunteer Meeting
Wednesday, September 2, 6pm-9pm**

Please join staff and fellow volunteers at the **Heritage Farm Visitor Center** for socializing, snacks, and an update on our many autumn volunteer opportunities. Plan to park in the south end of the St. Matthew Parish parking lot and walk the path to Heritage Farm.

**Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting
Wednesday October 7th 7:00PM-8:30PM
Volkening Heritage Farm**

*Wild Birds
Care and Feeding of our wild
feathered friends*

You don't want to miss this meeting! Back by popular demand. Jennifer Brennan will entertain and educate us about taking care of the needs of wild birds. Learn how to feed the late migrating hummingbirds and what food varieties are suitable for our varied birds of winter. Inform us about the effects of diseases that you may want to be aware of and how to curb their effects. Bring family and friends for a wonderful evening. Refreshments will be served.

**You do not need to be a member to attend, although we require a reservation.
Space at Heritage Farm is limited. To reserve your spot, email**

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Spring Valley Nature Club New Meeting Location

Temporary Parking Information

The following information explains how to attend Spring Valley Nature Club meetings at the Farm Building while the Nature Center is under construction. These temporary parking arrangements are in effect from September 2026, through late summer 2027.

Where to Park

Members and guests can park at St. Matthew's Church, 1005 E. Schaumburg Road. Use the driveway on the west side of the church and look for the sign that reads "Spring Valley Nature Center & Heritage Farm ALTERNATE PARKING."

Continue to the far south end of the parking lot.

After parking, use the path near the accessible parking signs to walk toward Heritage Farm. Please allow a few extra minutes to reach the Farm Building. A wheelchair-accessible ramp is also available.

Accessibility

If you need help reaching the Farm Building or have mobility concerns, please contact Spring Valley staff for guidance before your visit.

Unloading Before Meetings

- Use the gravel parking lot off Plum Grove Road only for unloading items before a Nature Club meeting.
- After unloading, move your vehicle to the St. Matthew's Church parking lot.
- Permanent parking is not available in the Farm Building gravel lot.

Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting Wednesday November 4th 7:00PM-8:30PM Volkening Heritage Farm

Creating Fresh Greens Holiday Décor- Presented by Donna Johnson.

Join Donna, Nature Club members and guest in crafting your own Holiday Décor. Most of the supplies will be provided, although we need you to bring your own container; a special mug or small leakproof planter not larger than 6" in diameter or a wreath no larger than 12". If you 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 know how many are coming to determine our supply needs. If you have a glue gun, bring it, otherwise we will have some to share. We will have a limited supply of extra containers in the event you do not have one. This is a FREE event for Nature Club Members. Non-members may attend for a fee of \$15.00 this fee can be applied to a Spring Valley Nature Club Membership.

Let us know how many in your party will attend, we need a head count, Please RSVP by November 1st

Email us at springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com we accept cash, check or charge at the door or skip the line, make your payments via PayPal to springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Spring Valley Update for September/October 2026

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities (see Nature Center Construction Alert) will remain open for fall hours through October. 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 every day from 8am-8pm.
- The Nature Center Museum will be closed to the public while under construction.
- Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center and other farm buildings are open Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm.
- Additional parking at St. Matthew Catholic Church will be available throughout the fall months. The gate leading onto Heritage Farm's walking paths from St. Matthew will be opened each morning at 8am.
- Bison's Bluff Nature Playground will remain open daily from 10:00am-8:00pm through September, except during stormy or rainy weather. The playground will be closed during October due to the Nature Center construction. Admission for all children ages 2-12 entering the nature playground is \$2 for Schaumburg Park District residents and \$3 for non-residents. One-hour play sessions and maximum capacities will be maintained by staff on busy days to ensure a quality play experience for all.
- Volunteers continue to assist with outdoor conservation projects, garden and trail maintenance, youth summer camps, and with our events and programs. If you are willing and able to assist with projects, please contact Jeff Pal at jepal@parkfun.com.

Spring Valley App

Staff maintain a site-use 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.

Nature Center Construction Alert

The Vera Meineke Nature Center improvements project is scheduled to begin at the end of September. During the duration of this construction, the Nature Center's interior and exterior space will be inaccessible. Limited programming opportunities will be offered out of the Merkle Log Cabin in the interim. This project will affect the façade, offices, and library of the Nature Center, and is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2027.

Fall Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for many of the programs Spring Valley offers, 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 Program Guide, found at www.parkfun.com/programs-events/program-guide.

Spring Valley Volunteer Meeting – Wednesday, September 2, 6pm-9pm

Please join staff and fellow volunteers at the **Heritage Farm Visitor Center** for socializing, snacks, and an update on our many autumn volunteer opportunities. Plan to park in the south end of the St. Matthew Parish parking lot and walk the path to Heritage Farm.

¡Adiós Amigos! – Sunday, September 20, 2pm-4pm

Celebrate the journey of the amazing monarch butterfly, as the final generation of 2026 migrates to Mexico. Visitors will be able to get a behind-the-scenes view of our volunteer-led butterfly rearing operation. Children can create a butterfly craft to take home. At 3 p.m. adult butterflies will be released behind the Nature Center to begin their long journey to Michoacán, Mexico. Refreshments will be available after the final release. Free admission. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.

Autumn Harvest Festival – Sunday, October 4, 12pm-4pm

Experience the fall harvest with demonstrations of 19th-century farm life, kids' crafts and games, pumpkin decorating, live music, food, beverages and more. Parking is available at both St. Matthew Church (1001 E. Schaumburg Road) and the Nature Center. A wagon shuttle will transport visitors from the Nature Center parking lot to Heritage Farm. Admission is \$5/person or \$20/family. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.

Tricks & Treats in the Valley – Saturday & Sunday, October 24 & 25, 12pm-3pm

Join us for an all-ages trick or treat experience. The trail begins at Heritage Farm and continues past the farm's historic buildings and out into the woods and fields. Wear a costume you can walk in for about half a mile! Entry is timed to ensure that groups are spaced out along the trail.

Park at St. Matthew Church (1001 E. Schaumburg Road), following the signs to Heritage Farm. Please register all trick-or-treaters; attending caregivers are free. Registration fee is \$6/resident or \$8/non-resident. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.

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; 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 2026 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), 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 in August.

Members in good standing please RSVP Spring Valley at 847-985-2100 for you and a guest, in July.

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. A 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 1st through January 31st

Senior 55 Plus	\$15.00
Individual	\$20.00
Supporting	\$40.00
Life	\$200.00
Sponsor	\$1000.00

Senior - Individual – 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