



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

Jul/Aug 2024

Happy 50th Anniversary!!

To celebrate the Nature Club's milestone event, we are having a Nature Club picnic!
Saturday July 13, 2024, Noon -3:00PM at Spring Valley's pavilion.

All members in good standing are invited to join in on the festive event. We will have Chick-fil-A sandwiches with all the trimmings, chips, soda bottled water and dessert! All members who have currently joined or renewed their membership are invited. You may bring a partner; any additional guests you invite are \$5 per person.

You MUST RSVP with your name and how many are in your party by July 8, 2024, for our team to arrange the food and activities. No one without a reservation will be admitted. RSVP. springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com
After lunch, we will have a hay wagon tour of the grounds and have interpreters describe the process of how Spring Valley Nature Center was originally created by volunteers and their families.
What great fun!

Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting Wednesday August 7, 2024, 7:00-8:30PM

Putting up the Harvest presented by Anna Gwarnicki.

Anna is a Hoffman Estates resident who has a passion for gardening and putting up her garden treasures! Growing up in Europe on a self-sustaining farm, she has used her knowledge to create a bountiful garden in her suburban garden space. Though she is a busy mother of two and employed in health care as Memory Care Director in a local Rehab Center, she has used her gardening and preservation knowledge to create a bounty of gorgeous and delicious canned, pickled, and preserved treasures! Using her heart, intuition and following family recipes, her proficiency in achieving yummy results is amazing! This is a hands-on presentation! There will be samplings of her amazing, pickled goods!

Very informative and entertaining! Bring a friend, all are welcome!

Spring Valley Volunteer Picnic – Friday, August 16, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Spring Valley Nature Club members are invited to this annual celebration, held near the new Nature Center Pavilion. All picnic fixings are provided! The Nature Club will present the annual Ellsworth Meineke Award to a deserving volunteer at this event. RSVP for you and your guest by calling (847) 985-2100.

Spring Valley Update for July/August Newsleaf – 2024

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'summer' hours from May through October. We continue to offer a full schedule of family, youth, and adult programs.

- Spring Valley's grounds and walking trails are open for walkers every day from 8am-8pm.
- Additional parking at St. Matthew Catholic Church will be available throughout the summer months. The gate leading onto Heritage Farm's walking paths from St. Matthew will be opened each morning at 8am.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors daily from 10am-6pm.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's** buildings are open Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm. NOTE that due to renovation of the Visitor Center, the reception desk and Museum Shop have temporarily moved into the farmhouse. All parking for farm visitors is at St. Matthew Church during construction.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** will remain open daily from 10am-8:00pm throughout the summer, except during stormy or rainy weather. Admission for all children ages 2-12 entering the nature playground is \$2 for residents or \$3 for non-residents. One hour play sessions and maximum capacities will be maintained by staff on busy days in order to ensure a quality play experience for all.
- Spring Valley has two picnic shelters available for private rental. These are located just east of the Nature Center parking lot and near Merkle Cabin. 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, 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 Sarah Severson at saseverson@parkfun.com.

Spring Valley App

Staff maintains 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.

Summer Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for most of the programs listed below; however, most events do not require pre-registration. Nearly all classes have limited capacity and will be held outdoors. More information and on-line registration are available within the Park District's virtual **Program Guides** for summer, found at www.parkfun.com.

Monarch Butterfly education and release programs are once again taking place daily at the Nature Center, continuing through September. Program times (dependent on weather and availability of butterflies) are at 11:15am and 3:00pm, except on weekends, when programs are offered only at 3:00pm.

German Beer Gardens & Concerts – Sat., July 27 and August 24, 4:00-7:30 p.m.

A hallmark of many German communities in early America was the *biergarten* or beer garden, a celebration of family, community, and ethnic pride. Bring a picnic dinner, play backyard games, and enjoy a relaxing evening outdoors enjoying music by *Harper College Back Porch Revue* (July), and the *Spring Valley Community Concert Band* (August). Local craft beer from Church Street Brewing and soda, bratwurst, pretzels, and dill pickles will be available for purchase. Park at St. Matthew Church, following signs to the Heritage Farm entrance. The event will take place at Merkle Cabin, with a wagon shuttle transporting near to the Cabin. Event runs rain or shine. Admission is free!

Summer Insect Extravaganza – Saturday, July 20, 6:30-9:30 p.m.

This ‘bug-centric’ event helps everyone develop a healthy respect and appreciation for the diversity of insect life found at Spring Valley. Enjoy games and crafts in the nature center backyard, and then visit the exploration stations set up in the prairie and near the wetland to discover the insects found there. At dusk, wagons will transport attendees to the Cabin woods to take a short, guided walk in search of fireflies. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family, paid at the event. *Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.*

Star Party & Family Campfire – Saturday, August 17, 7:30-9:30PM

Celebrate the end of summer (and back to school for the kids) with a family campfire and sky watching. Star-related crafts and games will be available, along with telescope viewing of the night sky, and marshmallow roasting around the fire. Admission fee is \$3/person or \$12/family. *Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.*

Spring Valley Volunteer Picnic – Friday, August 16, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

Active volunteers and Spring Valley Nature Club members are invited to this annual celebration, held near the new Nature Center Pavilion. All picnic fixins’ are provided! The Nature Club will present the annual Ellsworth Meineke Award to a deserving volunteer at this event. RSVP for you and your guest by calling (847) 985-2100. *Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.*

Additional programs are being offered through July and August – visit the virtual **Summer Program Guide** to learn more!

Got your garden planted, now what?

This summer has been a real doozy!

The scorching hot days and occasional torrential rains have most of us wondering what's next? The main thing to remember is to **WATER!** Most of the time the ground is so hard and parched dry that even a deluge cannot penetrate the hardpan soil. So even if it has rained, you should check your soil around the veggie plantings. When you poke your finger into the ground it should be moist at least 1-2" down if not then you need to water! Don't forget to feed your plants with organic fertilizer is best. It is less apt to burn your plants if applied at recommended amounts. Remember the old saying fertilize Weekly, Weakly! Dumping a lot of fertilizer when your plants are stressed is worse than not feeding, **HYDRATE!**

When your plants start producing fruits, keep them picked as they ripen. Allowing them to stay on the plant encourages racoons, possums and squirrels to munch up your harvest. Remember, Fresh picked produce is best used fresh, or find recipes for canned or refrigerator pickled veggies.

Log onto www.springvalleynatureclub.org to begin your gardening adventure.

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 and benefits 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 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 2024 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 in 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 – 5:00 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	\$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