



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

September/October 2025

The changing seasons bring new opportunities to enjoy the beauty and activities at Spring Valley

Spring Valley Nature Center volunteers and Nature Club Members September meeting.

Wednesday, September 3, 6:30-8:30pm at the **NEW Heritage Farm Visitor Center** for socializing, snacks, and an update on our many autumn volunteer opportunities. Our theme for the evening is **Seasonal Garden Bounty!** We invite you to bring, if you wish, a favorite appetizer or dessert made with the bounty of your own garden or your favorite seasonal fruits or vegetables. The evening will also include a mixology demonstration by our own Garden to Glass team, mixing up a garden-themed cocktail. Tastings will follow the demonstration. Plan to park in rear lot of St Matthews church and walk the path to Heritage Farm Visitors Center.

Spring Valley Nature Club Members October meeting

Wednesday, October 1st 7:00-8:30PM

Meet at the Spring Valley Nature Center Classroom

1111 E Schaumburg Rd Schaumburg IL 60194

Enjoying the Bounty of Autumnal Delights!

Autumn Culinary Demonstration with Anna Gwarnicki

Anna Gwarnicki will demonstrate canning and preserving delicious fruits and vegetables, guaranteed to tempt your taste buds. Anna will guide us through the preparation and canning of several easy, festive treats—perfect for enhancing your holiday table and creating thoughtful, homemade gifts. Her straightforward techniques and cherished recipes are simple to follow, making them accessible for everyone from everyday eats to holiday gift giving homemade treats. Attendees will also have the chance to sample a variety of Anna's homespun creations and enter free door prize drawing, ensuring a tasty and fun experience for all.

You do not need to be a member to attend, although we require a reservation. Space is limited. Reserve your spot by emailing springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Spring Valley Update for September/October Newsleaf – 2025

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'summer' hours 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.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** will remain open daily from 10am-7:00pm during September and then from 10am-5:30pm during October. The nature playground will be closed whenever stormy or rainy weather occurs. 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 Jeff Pal at jepal@parkfun.com
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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.

Visitor Center Construction Update

We are pleased to announce that the newly renovated Heritage Farm Visitor Center is now OPEN!! This new state-of-the-art building contains the gift shop, program rooms, teaching kitchen, and a large covered deck overlooking the pastures. The building includes both solar energy and geothermal heating/cooling features.

Nature Center Construction Alert

Construction is scheduled to begin sometime in November on the façade and offices at the Nature Center. Once begun, this will result in periodic closures of the Nature Center, except for program functions. This will last into the first half of 2026. More information on this project will be forthcoming.

Volunteer Events & Projects Update

Plan to join staff and fellow volunteers on **Wednesday, September 3, 6:30-8:30pm** at the **NEW Heritage Farm Visitor Center** for socializing, snacks, and an update on our many autumn volunteer opportunities. Our theme for the evening is Seasonal Garden Bounty! We invite you to bring, if you wish, a favorite appetizer or dessert made with the bounty of your own garden or your favorite seasonal fruits or vegetables. The evening will also include a mixology demonstration by our own Garden to Glass team, mixing up a garden-themed cocktail. Tastings for those interested will follow the demonstration.

Plan to park in rear lot of St Matthews church and walk path to Heritage Farm.

Fall 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 **Program Guide** for autumn, found at www.parkfun.com.

Monarch Butterfly release programs will continue to take place daily behind the Nature Center, continuing through September 20. Release times (dependent on weather and availability of butterflies) are at 11:15am and 3:00pm. On September 21 from 12-3pm, Trickster Cultural Center, 190 S. Roselle Rd., will be hosting the **Monarch Migration Celebration** end-of-season event. Formerly called Adios Amigos, this free event features not only the final butterfly releases of the year but kid's crafts and refreshments vendor displays, and Native American dance demonstrations. No registration is required for either the daily releases or for the end-of-season event.

Autumn Harvest Festival – Sunday, Oct. 5, 12:00-4:00pm

One of Spring Valley's largest and most popular community events, this event features demonstrations of 19th century farm life, such as apple cider pressing, apple butter making, food storage, and blacksmithing. There will also be kid's pumpkin decorating, games, crafts, food, and live music. Everything takes place this year at either Heritage Farm or Merkle Cabin, with parking at the Nature Center and St. Matthew Church. Admission is \$5/person or \$20/family.

Tricks & Treats at Spring Valley – Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 25 & 26, 2:00-5:00pm

Put on your costume and join us for trick or treating in a fun, interactive way! Participants will sign up for a specific entry time and will follow a trail through Heritage Farm and adjacent forests, meeting strange characters and picking up treats along the way. Pre-registration is required for all trick-or-treaters (parents attend at no charge). All attendees must park at St. Matthew Church and check-in at Heritage Farm. Registration fee is \$5/resident or \$7/non-resident.

Coming Soon!!

Hog House to Smokehouse, Heritage Farm's authentic portrayal of traditional meat preparation, returns on November 9.

Spring Valley Holiday Craft Fair will NOT take place this year due to construction at the Nature Center.

Christmas in the Valley will take place on December 7 at Heritage Farm and Merkle Cabin!

Additional programs are being offered throughout the autumn months– visit the virtual **Autumn Program Guide** to learn more!

1974 And Beyond – History of Spring Valley Nature Club

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 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 and with at least 2 hours of volunteering at Nature Club events should RSVP Spring Valley at 847-985-2100 in mid 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. 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 1st through January 31st

Senior 55 Plus	\$15.00
Individual	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00
Supporting	\$40.00
Life	\$200.00
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