



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

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

**Letter from the President, Donna Johnson**

**July/August 2025**

## **Herbal Tea Delights**

**Spring Valley Nature Club  
Presents  
Herbal Teas**

**Join Donna and Carol Johnson as they concoct Herbal Teas**

Join us for an exploration of the world of herbal teas, where we'll uncover the flavors, benefits, and traditions behind these natural infusions. Whether you're a seasoned gardener or just beginning to discover the joys of growing your own herbs, our upcoming program promises to inspire you with tips for cultivating, harvesting, and blending your own unique teas. Discover how a handful of leaves from your garden can fill your cup with comfort, wellness, and connection to nature.

Spring Valley Nature Center  
1111 E Schaumburg Rd  
Schaumburg IL 60194  
Wednesday August 6<sup>th</sup> 2025  
7:00PM – 8:30PM  
“Tea Tasting”  
“Door Prizes”

Herbs plants will be available for purchase  
This is a free event however we do need you to register to attend.  
Contact: [springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com](mailto:springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com)

## Spring Valley Update for July/August Newsleaf – 2025

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. It is anticipated that the recently renovated Visitor Center will be opened to the public soon, as we are awaiting final permit approval.
- 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 Jeff Pal at [jepal@parkfun.com](mailto:jepal@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](http://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 Guide for summer, found at [www.parkfun.com](http://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.

### German Beer Gardens & Concerts – Sat., July 26 and August 23, 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 Cheryl & the Downhome Boys (July), and the Spring Valley Community Concert Band (August). Local craft beer from Buffalo Creek Brewing (July) and Church

Street Brewing (August) 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!

### Ice Cream Social – Tuesday, August 12, 6:00-8:00PM

Enjoy a delightful evening at Heritage Farm with old-fashioned games, wagon rides, and hand-churned ice cream with various toppings. Registration encouraged. Admission fee is \$8/person for residents or \$10/person for non-residents. Children 2 and younger are free.

### Star Party & Family Campfire – Saturday, August 16, 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 if 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 Update for July/August Newsleaf – 2025 cont.**

### **Honey Fest – Sunday, August 17, 12-2PM**

Celebrate the sweet magic of honey and the hardworking bees that make it possible at Heritage Farm! There will be honey tastings, historic demonstrations, and interactive displays that explore the world of pollination, bee-inspired craft activities, and more. A variety of honey-themed treats, beeswax crafts and beverages will be available for purchase in the museum store. Free admission for all!

### **Spring Valley Volunteer Picnic – Friday, August 15, 5:30-8:30 p.m.**

Active volunteers and Spring Valley Nature Club members are invited to this annual celebration, held near the 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 a guest by calling (847) 985-2100. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.

### **From Field to Feast: A Local Culinary Experience – Wednesday, August 27, 5:00-7:00PM**

Celebrate fresh, seasonal and regional food and beverages at this adult-only multi-course feast. Held within Heritage Farm's new Visitor Center, this event will feature the creations of local farm-to-table chef, Zak Dolezal from Duke's Kitchen in Crystal Lake. Complementing the delicious food will be wines from Lynfred Winery, beer from Buffalo Creek Brewing, and garden-themed cocktails from Spring Valley's own mixologists. Don't miss this one-of-a-kind dining experience! Registration deadline is August 20. Cost is \$75/person. Call Spring Valley for help getting registered!

Additional programs are being offered through July and August – visit the virtual Summer 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; 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

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