



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

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Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

September/October 2023

Volunteer Events & Projects Update Wednesday, September 6, 6:00-8:00pm

Plan to join staff and fellow volunteers at the Nature Center for socializing, snacks, and an update on our many autumn volunteer opportunities. The first half-hour will be for socializing, and the meeting will begin at 6:30pm. At 7:00pm, Shane McKenzie from the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation will present a program on the *Urban Coyote Research Project*, which has been tracking and studying local coyote populations for the past 25 years. This free presentation is open to the public.

Spring Valley Nature Club Program. Wednesday October 4, 2023 7:00-8:30PM

Putting up the Harvest presented by Ania Gwarnicki

Ania is a Schaumburg 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!

Spring Valley Nature Club Program. Wednesday November 1, 2023 7:00-8:30PM

Creating Eco Friendly Fresh Holiday Décor! Your Hostess Donna Johnson

This has been a much-anticipated enjoyable session where we learn how to make beautiful fresh holiday floral arrangements with homegrown greens, florals and found objects. You can bring your own mug or planter no larger than 6" diameter. You'll have access to pinecones, silk flowers etc. You can bring some of your own special items to enhance your handmade treasure. You'll learn how to transform your Thanksgiving arrangement into a winter wonderland or Holiday décor item! Any extra decor you may bring will be appreciated!

Free presentation! Bring a friend, let us know how many are coming so we'll have enough supplies for everyone! We will have some extra mugs or planters if you do not have one.

Spring Valley Update for September/October Newsleaf – 2023

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'summer' hours until the end of October, although Bison's Bluff hours will be curtailed during the shorter days of early autumn. 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-8pm.
- Additional parking at St. Matthew's Catholic Church will be available throughout the summer months. The gate leading onto Heritage Farm's walking paths from St. Matthew's will be opened each morning at 8am.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors daily from 10am-6pm.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings are open Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-7:00pm during September and until 5:30pm during October. Admission for all children ages 2-12 entering the nature playground is \$2 for residents or \$3 for non-residents. Maximum capacities will be maintained by staff in order to ensure a quality play experience for all, and on busy days, one-hour play sessions are enforced.
- Spring Valley has three picnic shelters available for private rental. These are located just east of the Nature Center parking lot, near Merkle Cabin, and at Heritage Farm. 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 special 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.

Spring Valley App

Spring Valley's free app is available 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.

Volunteer Events & Projects Update

Plan to join staff and fellow volunteers on **Wednesday, September 6, 6:00-8:00pm** at the Nature Center for socializing, snacks, and an update on our many autumn volunteer opportunities. The first half-hour will be for socializing, and the meeting will begin at 6:30pm. At 7:00pm, Shane McKenzie from the Max McGraw Wildlife Foundation will present a program on the *Urban Coyote Research Project*, which has been tracking and studying local coyote populations for the past 25 years. This free presentation is open to the public.

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. You can always call the Nature Center during business hours, and staff will be happy to assist you with registration.

Monarch Butterfly release programs will continue to take place daily behind the Nature Center, continuing through September 24. Release times (dependent on weather and availability of butterflies) are at 11:15am and 3:00pm. On September 24 from 2-4pm, volunteers will be hosting the **Adios Amigos** end-of-season event. This free event features not only the final butterfly releases of the year but kid's crafts and refreshments. No registration is required for either the daily releases or for the end-of-season event.

Concert at the Cabin – Saturday, Sept. 9, 4:00-7:00pm

Spend a late summer evening near the Cabin enjoying the always popular Spring Valley Concert Band as they play concert band favorites along with uniquely arranged popular tunes and film scores. Grilled food and beverages will be available for purchase, or pack your own picnic dinner a la Ravinia! Bring lawn chairs or a blanket. A wagon shuttle will transport you down to the Merkle Cabin area. The music will begin at 5:00pm. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Spring Valley's 40th Birthday Party – Saturday & Sunday, Sept. 23 & 24

Help celebrate 40 years of conservation, education, and community engagement with an entire weekend of activities! All activities have FREE admission, thanks to sponsorship by Spring Valley Nature Club.

Celebration of Community Stewardship, Saturday, 9am-12pm

Help harvest native wildflower seeds at Spring Valley as part of *National Public Lands Day* and receive a packet of native wildflower seeds to take home.

Birthday Party Picnic, Saturday, 12-2pm

Join us for a picnic lunch near Merkle Cabin, followed by birthday cake and ice cream! A slideshow of the early years at Spring Valley will be shown continuously inside the Cabin. A wagon shuttle will transport visitors from the Nature Center down to the Cabin.

Birthday Beer Garden, Saturday, 4-6pm

Wrap up Saturday's celebration with a traditional family biergarten at Heritage Farm! Craft beer, soda, bratwurst, and more will be available. Local folk/country band Cheryl & the Downhome Boys will entertain as well.

The Spring Valley Story: Healing the Land, Sunday, 10:30am-12pm

Spring Valley Manager, Dave Brooks will lead this walk to explore the amazing healing impact of 40 years of restoration work that has taken place. Learn about the incredible journey from old farm fields to rich natural landscapes that has occurred. Pre-registration required.

Adios Amigos, Sunday, 2-4pm

Celebrate the journey of the amazing monarch butterfly, as the final generation of 2023 migrates to Mexico. Butterflies will be released at 3pm. Includes crafts for the kids and refreshments.

Autumn Harvest Festival – Sunday, Oct. 1, 12:00-4:00pm

Spring Valley's premier autumn historical event is back! In addition to demonstrations of 19th century farm life, such as apple cider pressing, butter churning, sauerkraut making, and blacksmithing, there will be kid's pumpkin decorating, games, crafts, food, and live music. Everything takes place at Heritage Farm, with parking at the Nature Center and St. Matthew Catholic Church. Admission is \$5/person or \$20/family.

Tricks & Treats at Spring Valley – Saturday & Sunday, Oct. 28 & 29, 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 over into the woods near Merkle Cabin, 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 \$4/resident or \$6/non-resident.

Coming Soon!!

Hog House to Smokehouse, Heritage Farm's authentic portrayal of traditional meat preparation, returns on November 12.

Spring Valley Holiday Craft Fair will return on November 25 & 26 – the weekend after Thanksgiving! Plan to stop by to do some of your holiday shopping among the many hand-crafted items being displayed by our vendors. If you, or someone you know, creates hand-crafted items for sale at events, have them contact us for information on purchasing booth space.

Christmas in the Valley will take place on December 9 & 10 at Heritage Farm and Merkle Cabin!

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

Harvesting Your Heirloom Vegetable Garden!

The most important thing you can do for your garden this season is to water and fertilize weakly weekly.

As the fall weather nears to winter, you can continue to grow some items such as kale, lettuce, peas, Cole crops, beets, carrots, and turnips all the way till winter freezes the ground. Look at the seed racks at Spring Valley to see what you may want to pop in the ground this fall! Continue to harvest your bounty! Too many tomatoes? Many people don't realize that tomatoes, peppers, and onions can be frozen for later use without having to blanch them. Though they will be softened after defrosting you can use them for soups, stews and anywhere that you normally use those items in the cooked stage.

Assess how your garden did, what items you liked and those you didn't. You can plan for next year's garden, take advantage of seeds that are available at a discount. You can look at our plant list on the website and browse the goodies. Remember the new list will be up in late February or Early March.

Now is a great opportunity to plan for your own garden adventure!

Watch for the seed racks of Botanical Interests Seeds that will be on display in Spring Valley's and the Farm's Visitors Centers. They are high quality seeds and are organic too! Proceeds benefit the community with programs and activities for all ages!

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 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 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