



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

July/August 2026

**Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting.
July 1, 2026, has been CANCELLED**

Have a Safe and Happy July 4th

**Spring Valley Nature Club Meeting
Wednesday August 5th 7:00-8:30PM
Spring Valley Nature Center 1111 E Schaumburg Rd Schaumburg IL 60194**

**Enjoying the Bounty of Autumnal Delights!
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 July/August 2026

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities (see Nature Center Construction Alert) will remain open for summer 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 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.
- 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.
- Bison's Bluff Nature Playground will remain open daily from 10:00am-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 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 this 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. More information on this project will be forthcoming.

Summer 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.

Ice Cream Social and Bingo at the Farm – Wednesday, July 8 & August 12, 6pm-8pm

Bring the whole family for an unforgettable evening filled with fun, flavor, and community! Indulge in some ice cream, play bingo, and take a wagon ride as the sun starts to set on the farm. Admission is free for all ages. Ice cream, wagon rides, and bingo cards are available for purchase. Park at St. Matthews Church.

Family Fishing Clinic – Wednesday, July 15, 5:30pm-8pm

In partnership with the Illinois Department of Nature Resources, Schaumburg Park District is pleased to offer free fishing opportunities through the Access to Fishing program. Tackle, bait, and instructions will be provided. This session will take place at Lancer Creek/Twin Ponds Park on Summit Drive. Registration is not required. For more information, call (847) 985-2100.

German Beer Garden – Saturday, July 25 & August 29, 4pm-7pm

Play backyard and table games and enjoy live music with family and friends. These outdoor events are inspired by the community beer gardens once common in Schaumburg's farming community. Pretzels, bratwurst, local craft beer, and soda will be available for purchase. The event will take place rain or shine.

Unplug Illinois Day – Saturday, July 11, 11:00am-3:00pm

Unplug Illinois Day is part of an ongoing, state-wide initiative to get communities to plug into play, plus into creativity, and plug into activity. Visit Historic Volkering Heritage Farm to see how people lived before electricity and enjoy hands-on, old-fashioned fun for the whole family!

Summer Insect Extravaganza – Saturday, July 11, 6:30pm-9:30pm

This 'bug-centric' event helps everyone develop a greater appreciation for the diversity of insects at Spring Valley. Enjoy games and crafts and search for insects in the prairie and at the pond. At dusk, we'll take a wagon ride to the woods for a short walk to marvel at the abundance of fireflies. Children 2 and younger are free. Admission is paid at the event. Sponsored by Spring Valley Nature Club.

Spring Valley Volunteer Picnic – Friday, August 14, 5:30pm-8:30pm

Active volunteers and Spring Valley Nature Club members are invited to this annual celebration, held in 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.

Honey Fest – Saturday, August 16, 11:00am-1:00pm

Join us for a buzz-worthy day filled with sweet adventure! Celebrate the magic of honey and the hardworking bees that make it possible with a full lineup of family-friendly activities. Enjoy honey tastings, historic demonstrations and interactive displays that explore the world of pollination. Get creative with bee-inspired crafts and discover how you can help protect pollinators in your own backyard. Honey-themed treats, beeswax crafts and beverages will be available for purchase. Please park at St. Matthew Church and follow the signs to the event.

Back to School Campfire – Friday, August 21, 7:30pm-9:30pm

End summer break with a family campfire! Roast marshmallows over the fire and then hop on the tractor-drawn wagon for a short ride before heading home for the night. Children 2 and younger are free.

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
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