



www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

January/February 2024

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Spring Valley Nature Club Annual Business Meeting Wednesday January 3rd 2024, 6:30pm

All Spring Valley Nature Club members in good standing please plan on attending.

Election of officers for 2024

Slate:

Donna Johnson President – Nancy Mamsen Vice President – Phil Skultety Secretary/Treasurer

Directors: Peter Justen, Jay Johnson, Rich Wysocki, Karen Mueller, Karin Klima, Wayne Slover.

Budget proposal for 2024

Spring Valley Nature Center Meeting Wednesday February 7th 2024, 6:30pm

Join Spring Valley Volunteers and Nature Club Members for this informative presentation by Dave Brooks and the Spring Valley Staff.

Spring Valley Update for January/February Newsleaf – 2024

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities will remain on 'winter' hours until April 1. The Nature Center will 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-5pm.
- NOTE: the access gate from the St. Matthew Catholic Church parking lot will be CLOSED during the winter months.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors daily from 10am-4pm.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings are closed during the winter months. The Farm does offer limited programs during winter (see below).
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-4:00pm, only when temperatures are above 32 degrees and no rain, snow or ice are present. During the winter months, there is no admission fee to use the playground.
- The Merkle Cabin is available for private events when not scheduled for programs. 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 events and programs. If you are willing and able to assist with special events or projects, please contact Spring Valley's Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Severson at saseverson@parkfun.com.

Snowshoe Rentals!!

Snowshoe rentals will once again be offered anytime there is 4 inches or more of snow on the ground. Rentals are available between the hours of 10:00am and 3:00pm. The cost is \$5/pair for one hour of use. Call the Nature Center for more information on snow conditions.

Spring Valley App

Staff has developed a Spring Valley 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.

Winter 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 **Winter Program Guide** 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.

Spring Valley Winterfest – Sat. & Sun., Feb. 10 & 11, 12:00-3:00pm

Spring Valley is here to help everyone appreciate the beauty of nature in winter! This event will feature both indoor and outdoor games and activities, winter hikes (or snowshoe walks if snow is available), ice fishing demonstration, dogsled demonstrations, and warm food and beverages by a warm campfire. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family.

Sugar Bush Fair – Sat. & Sun., March 16 & 17, 9:00am-12:00pm

Spring Valley's popular maple syrup festival features historical demonstrations of maple syrup making, a demonstration sap boil down, hands-on activities for the kids, AND a popular pancake breakfast featuring real maple syrup. Event attendance is free. Reservations for the pancake breakfast are \$7/person if made by noon on March 15. Day-of breakfast admission will be \$8/person. Visit parkfun.com to make your breakfast reservations!

Family Full Moon Hikes – Fridays, Jan. 26, Feb. 23, & March 22, 6:00-8:00pm

Bundle up and enjoy a winter night hike during the full moon. A naturalist will guide you and reveal the secret to survival for local nocturnal wildlife as you move through the woods at night. This family experience is best suited to children ages 5-12. Pre-registration is required, and the fee is \$7/resident or \$9/non-resident.

Family Winter Tree Hunt – Saturday, Jan. 20, 10:00-11:30am

Bring the family out to learn about local trees and their unique features while following the clues to solve a puzzle. After the walk, we'll sample a sweet gift from the trees. Pre-registration is required, and fee is \$7/resident or \$9/non-resident.

For the Birds – Saturday, Feb. 17 & March 23, 10:00am-12:00pm

Learn about local birds, their habits, migration, and tips for ID at this family program. After walking down to the Merkle Cabin looking for birds with binoculars, we'll sit inside the Cabin observing birds at the feeders. Families will also be able to create a bird feeder to take home. Pre-registration required for this family program; fee is \$9/resident family or \$11/non-resident family.

Self-Care Saturday Series for Adults – 1st Saturday of each month, 9:30-11:00am

Spend some self-care time at the scenic Merkle Log Cabin at these special programs for adults. Learn how to create simple homemade items while enjoying coffee at these classes. On January 6, learn to create homemade cough syrups. On March 2, create some custom tea mixes to take home. Pre-registration is required, and fee is \$20/resident or \$24/non-resident.

Coming in Spring!!

Weather permitting, Spring Valley's popular **Sunset Fire & Picnic on the Prairie** will return on Saturday, April 6 from 5-7pm. Learn about the value of controlled fire in managing natural areas and witness the drama of a prairie fire at sunset!

Earth Day Party returns on Sunday, April 21 from 12:00-4:00pm with a host of activities, games, and demonstrations designed to get you thinking about your environmental footprint and simple ways you can have a positive impact on the environment.

Plan to place your order early for native plants and heirloom herbs and vegetables, as the annual **Native Plant & Heirloom Vegetable Sale** will return in late May. Pre-ordering is the only way to ensure that you get the plants you want for the 2023 garden season. Look for an upcoming announcement!

Construction Alert!!

The renovation and expansion of the Heritage Farm Visitor Center/Museum Shop is scheduled to start in mid-March. An addition to include new classrooms, restrooms, teaching kitchen, and sheltered outdoor program areas will extend off of the existing visitor center. The new construction will also feature passive solar and geothermal heating/cooling. During the renovation, the gift sale area and visitor information counter will be relocated to the farmhouse. Portable restrooms will be available on site as well.

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 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