

www.springvalleynatureclub.org

springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com

Letter from the President, Donna Johnson

November/December 2024

Welcome Holiday Season

Spring Valley Nature Club Program, Wednesday November 6, 2024, 7:00-8:30PM

There is nothing quite welcoming like something that you make yourself!

On November 6th we will have a hands-on session where we will create a Fresh Greens arrangement to take home which will last through the holidays. You can grace your Holiday table or bring a Thank You gift for the hostess of that special occasion.

Creating Fresh Greens Holiday Décor- Presented by Donna Johnson.

Join Donna and Nature Club members and friends in learning about crafting your own Holiday Décor. Most of the supplies will be provided, but we need you to bring your own container; a special mug or small leakproof planter no larger than 6". Have some interesting small décor items (floral picks, mini birds, pinecones, mini ornaments, etc.) bring them along to make your creation extra special! To make sure we have enough greenery, décor, etc. we need to have a head count to determine how much to bring. If you have a glue gun, bring it, otherwise we will share glue guns. We will have a limited supply of extra containers in the event you do not have one. This is a FREE event!

Let us know if you and a friend will attend.

Email us at springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com Please RSVP

Spring Valley Holiday Craft Show Workshop November 23, 10:00AM 4:00PM

Join me and Nature Club members and friends for fun sessions of letting our creative juices flourish! You don't have to be a crafting whiz, just come and join in the fun of getting together and getting to know one another in a festive atmosphere! We will have a plethora of crafting materials available and some fun ideas for various projects. If you have any crafts, you have made and would like to contribute them to our Craft Booth, your items would be appreciated! We'll have refreshments, lots of conversations, much laughter and so much fun! Bring a friend, the more the merrier! Please let us know if you and a friend will attend. Email us at springvalleynatureclub@gmail.com.

Saturday at 10am 4pm come for an hour or two or stay for the day, anything is greatly appreciated.

Spring Valley NewsLeaf Update for November/December 2024 – January 2025

Spring Valley's grounds and facilities transitioned to 'winter' hours on November 1. 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-5pm.
- NOTE: the parking area at St. Matthew's Catholic Church will remain accessible and the gate accessing Heritage Farm will remain open into the winter months this year.
- The **Nature Center Museum** is open to visitors every day from 10am-4pm. NOTE that all facilities will be closed in Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.
- **Volkening Heritage Farm's Visitor Center** and other farm buildings are open Wednesday-Sunday from 10am-4pm through the end of November. After that, they will be closed during the winter months.
- **Bison's Bluff Nature Playground** is open daily from 10am-4pm, weather permitting. During the winter months, there is no admission fee to use the playground.
- The Merkle Cabin is available for small 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 projects, please contact Spring Valley's Volunteer Coordinator, Sarah Severson at saseverson@parkfun.com.

Spring Valley App

Staff has developed a Spring Valley site use app that works with 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.

Autumn and Holiday Events & Programs

NOTE: On-line pre-registration is required for most Spring Valley programs as they have limited capacity and spots often fill quickly, so early registration is advised. Most special events have walk-in admission paid when you arrive. More information and on-line registration are available within the Park District's virtual **Autumn Program Guide** and **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.

Hoghouse to Smokehouse – Sun., Nov. 10, 10:00am-2:00pm

Join us for this popular event at Heritage Farm that explores the ways in which 19th century farm families prepared meat for the winter ahead. See how bacon, hams, and sausage were made and preserved in the smokehouse for later consumption. Learn about the importance of pork to the German diet. Food and beverages will be available for purchase as well. Admission to the event is \$3/person or \$12/family, with children 2 and under admitted free.

Spring Valley Holiday Craft Fair – Sat. & Sun., Nov. 30 & Dec. 1, 10:00am-4:00pm

Plan to visit the Nature Center on Thanksgiving weekend to peruse the displays of hand-crafted gift items available from our vendors. From jewelry to unique home decorations, you'll be sure to find something for those on your holiday gift list. Spring Valley Nature Club will be selling food and beverages as well. Admission is free!

Christmas in the Valley – Sunday, Dec. 8, 12:00-4:00pm

Experience a 19th century farm Christmas at Heritage Farm with demonstrations in the farmhouse, stop by a warm fire for cocoa or soup, and walk to the Merkle Cabin for children's crafts and a visit with St. Nick. A wagon shuttle will transport you between the farm and cabin areas. Admission is \$3/person or \$12/family, with children under 3 are free.

Coming Soon!!

Cabin Fever Festival (formerly Winter Fest) returns February Join us during the weekend of February 8 & 9 to frolic in Spring Valley's winter wonderland, with s'mores by the campfire, ice fishing demonstrations, outdoor games, and dogsled demonstrations. Warm up inside the Nature Center with games and activities that teach about winter wildlife.

Also, make sure you put March 15 & 16 on your calendar, as the always popular **Sugar Bush Fair** returns with the best pancake breakfast around!

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 NATURE CLUB
HANDCRAFTED WREATHS AND DECORATIONS PAPER ORDER FORM 2023

| DESCRIPTION | COST | QTY. | TOTAL |
|---|---------|-------|-------|
| 12" NOBLE CANDLE RING WREATH "NO CANDLE" | \$24.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 4' NOBLE MIX MANTELPIECE/CENTERPIECE | \$46.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 12" HOLIDAY YULE LOG | \$24.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 12" BIRCH SNOWMAN | \$35.00 | _____ | _____ |
| OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (32") | \$35.00 | _____ | _____ |
| SUPERSIZED OUTDOOR EVERGREEN PLANTER (42") | \$56.00 | _____ | _____ |
| FIRE STARTER BASKET | \$24.00 | _____ | _____ |
| DOOR SWAG WITH VELVET RIBBON | \$20.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 20" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR) | \$28.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 36" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR) | \$53.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 48" PREMIUM NOBLE FIR MIX (INDOOR/OUTDOOR) | \$82.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 24" DECORATOR WREATH BOXED W/ VELVET RIBBON | \$45.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 26" FALLEN HERO WREATH | \$26.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 24" SINGLE FACE BALSAM W/RIBBON | \$24.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 30" SINGLE FACE NOBLE W/RIBBON | \$34.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 36" DOUBLE FACE BALSAM | \$54.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 40" SINGLE FACE BALSAM | \$50.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 60" SINGLE FACE BALSAM | \$70.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 72" SINGLE FACE BALSAM | \$92.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 25' BALSAM GARLAND | \$40.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 25' PREMIUM CEDAR GARLAND | \$47.00 | _____ | _____ |
| 25' PREMIUM NOBLE GARLAND (INDOOR/OUTDOOR) | \$67.00 | _____ | _____ |
| CEMETERY STANDS | \$9.00 | _____ | _____ |
| INDOOR/OUTDOOR VELVET RIBBON FOR 20" WREATH | \$3.00 | _____ | _____ |

GRAND TOTAL _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Electronic ordering is the best way to order the Wreaths and Decorations, follow this link.

<https://go.wreathsaleapp.com/spring-valley-nature-club-wreaths-2024>

Fallen Hero ceremony will be December 12th at a Fort Sheridan Cemetery or Great Lakes Cemetery.

Pick Up Your Order at Spring Valley 1111 E Schaumburg Rd Saturday November 30, 2024, from 12:00 PM – 2:00PM

Questions? Call Spring Valley (847) 985-2100 – Proceeds benefit the Spring Valley Nature Club.

Paper order form must be received by 5:00PM Friday November 15, 2024, make checks payable and deliver to:

Spring Valley Nature Club 1111 E Schaumburg Rd. Schaumburg, IL 60194

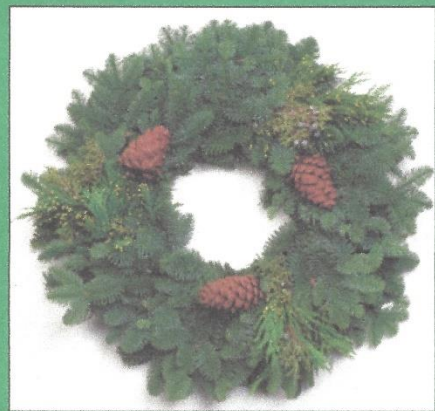
Handcrafted Wreaths and Decorations



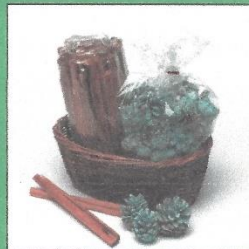
*Single Face Fir Outdoor
Wreath 24", 30", 40", 60", 72"
Double Face 36"*



10"-12" Birch Snowman



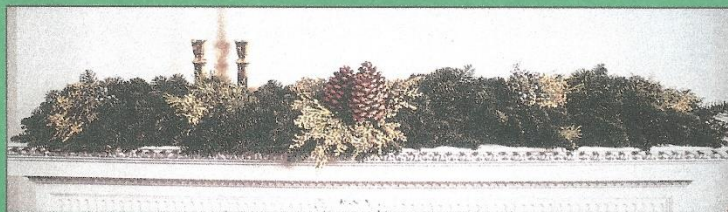
*Noble Fir Mixed Wreath
20", 36" & 48"
Indoor/Outdoor*



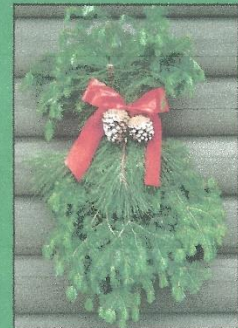
Firestarter Basket



*Evergreen Planter
Regular 32"
Supersized 42"
(Outdoor)*



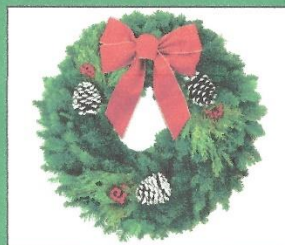
4' Mantelpiece/Centerpiece



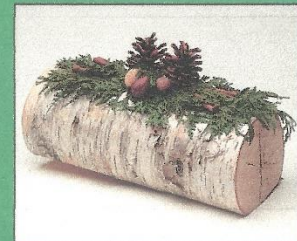
Door Swag



*12" Candle Ring Wreath
No Candle*



*24" Boxed
Decorator Wreath*



Holiday Yule Log 12"



*25' Balsam Fir Garland
Mixed Cedar & Noble also Available*



*Fallen Hero Wreath
Delivered to a
National Cemetery*

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 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 in August. Members in good standing in 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 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