



Natural Enquirer

Newsletter for Spring Valley Supporters and Volunteers VOL: 11 • Jan/Feb '20



In this issue...

This issue of the *Natural Enquirer* focuses on the value, history, and contributions of trees. Not only are they a carbon sink for the superabundance of CO₂ currently in the atmosphere, but they provide decoration for the holidays, shelter for animals, heat for some homes, succession in abandoned lots, and a beacon for Illinois settlers in times past.

Do you heat your home with wood, gas, or electricity? Do you know the cost benefits of each and have you explored the options available where you live? In this period of winter, thinking about this may inspire you to winterize your home/apartment for the onslaught of the cold, turn down your thermometer a bit, begin to think in terms of installing solar, choose a combination of fuel sources, or select a less expensive provider. Options which are open to many of us.

The second article introduces us to the cottonwood tree. This tall, fast-growing tree¹ not only guided early settlers toward water and wood, but in early spring gave hope that winter was coming to an end, the ground thawing, and a proper burial could be provided for those who hadn't survived the winter. The beauty of its triangular shaped leaves fluttering in even a slight breeze caused sunlight to be filtered in a unique pattern and it is no wonder that they stood as a sign of hope for all to see. In modern times, cottonwoods are some of the first plants to "colonize" abandoned lots. Their fluffy seeds float down and begin to grow with the slightest moisture turning even parking lots into green meadows.

Last, but not least, spend time reading through the names of our volunteers recognized for their length of service to Spring Valley or the number of hours donated during 2019. Where would we be without them? They are the fuel (wood) which keeps Spring Valley burning as a beacon of hope in Schaumburg! They are the energy which provides for everything we do! They are the pioneers of our prairie, wetlands, woodlands, and farm!

¹ To see a cross-section of a cottonwood that once grew at Spring Valley, stop in the library at the Nature Center to see a slice of a 100+ year old tree! See if you can count the rings!

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Visit parkfun.com and take our Spring Valley Program Survey.

Of Hearth and Home: Firewood as Fuel by Dave Brooks



Open Hearth, 1700s

He who heats his home with wood is warmed twice, once when splitting and stacking his firewood and once again by the fire.

-Adaptation of an old saying



There are few thoughts more comforting on a cold winter night than to imagine oneself sitting by the warming glow of a crackling fire in the fireplace. The sights, sounds, and smells of a wood fire on the hearth elicit feelings of nostalgia for most of us. Such a thing has become a luxury in modern America, due to the fact that the cheapest way to heat most homes has for many years been an electric or gas furnace. In fact, so cheap and readily available is natural gas that most new fireplaces nowadays are those which ignite with the flip of a switch, instantly wreathing blackened concrete logs with curling flames – faux fireplaces. Those homes equipped with wood burning fireplaces have generally been older homes or those with owners who desired the aesthetics and romance provided by a wood fire and could afford to have one. There have also been those who heat their (usually modest) homes or cabins with woodstoves, but this has occurred only where other fuels are uneconomical or as a demonstration of independence and self-sufficiency.

It was not so long ago – three or four generations – that most American homes were still heated by wood (wood was also the primary cooking fuel for most.). When Europeans began to settle America, it was a land blessed with an abundance of forests. Even as the population grew and expanded westward, a seemingly inexhaustible supply of timber greeted the new settlers (at least until they encountered the open prairies, but that is a different story). An open fireplace; however, is a fairly inefficient way of heating an indoor space, as much of the heat is drawn up and out the chimney. Enter the cast iron woodstove, one of the first technological advances in home heating! Woodstoves provided a greater surface area for heat transfer into the room and also included dampers, which regulated the air flow into the fire box, thus burning the fuel more efficiently.



As hearth-heated homes gave way to more efficient cast iron woodstoves, it was still locally harvested firewood that fed the stoves of American families. By the mid-19th century, wood played the role that petroleum does in today's economy. Not only did it fuel individual households, but it powered America's early industry, everything from steam locomotives to steamships and foundries. Wood, of course, unlike petroleum, is a renewable resource. Nonetheless, its usefulness as a fuel for a growing industrial economy, not to mention its primary use as building material and home heating fuel was limited and ultimately unsustainable. As forests became depleted, people turned to the fuels provided for them by new extractive industries – first coal, then fuel oil, and then natural gas or propane.

Wood remains a home heating option for people concerned about the fluctuations in natural gas prices or those wishing to be free of reliance on fossil fuels. Not only that, modern woodstoves and wood burning fireplaces are much more efficient than their counterparts of only a quarter century ago. They burn fuels more completely, produce less air pollution, and often include features that effectively transfer more heat into the home rather than allow it to go out the chimney. Wood is also a relatively abundant and certainly renewable natural resource. The forests of America and their trees still serve many purposes in today's world; however, most of these forests are much better managed than they were at the close of the 19th century. In fact, American foresters have learned quite well how to manage forests sustainably so that they can continue to produce pulpwood for paper or timber for lumber.¹ Managing forests for firewood is similar but involves the selective cutting of hardwoods on a rotational basis or utilization of trees and scraps not suitable for the lumber mill. Many states have forestry programs designed to advise landowners on how best to do this on their property.

Just as a carpenter or furniture builder knows that different types of wood possess different properties, making them suitable for different things, so it is with firewood. While all wood contains stored energy and will burn, different woods burn differently. This simple fact was known to early generations, and certain woods were preferred for home heat, others for baking foods, others for firing clay pottery, etc. Some woods, such as cedars, spruce, and pine were rarely used for cooking or heating due to the explosive resins which sent sparks flying from the fire. Some of these softwoods also produce an excessive amount of smoke. Hardwoods have always been the preferred woods for home heat, since their density means they burn longer and hotter. British thermal units (BTUs) are used to quantify the heat output of any fuel. Many of the preferred woods for home heat produce twenty to thirty million BTUs for each cord of seasoned firewood (a cord being a stack of firewood 8 feet long by 4 feet wide, by 4 feet high). This is comparable to 250-350 cubic feet of natural gas.

The decision to add a wood-fired stove or fireplace to your home is both a lifestyle choice and an economic one. Depending on how you acquire your firewood supply – drive to a woodlot and cut it yourself or have a load of split seasoned hardwood delivered to your driveway – and where you live, burning wood can easily cost more than heating with fossil fuels (especially given our current low natural gas costs). For some, the environmental appeal of using a renewable natural resource and one which reduces their carbon footprint² is paramount.

Like any old idea that suddenly begins to appear attractive again, heating with wood does have its warts when viewed up close, as anyone who has done it for long can attest. For one thing, it is a heat source that is dependent on a regular supply of human labor. Even if you don't cut and split your own firewood, you still need to be home to feed wood into the stove. Modern efficient woodstoves are able to burn wood slowly and more completely, meaning that wood doesn't need to be added quite as often, but the fact remains that if you leave your house for more than a day, the fire goes out and your house gets cold very quickly. Unless you're heating a rustic cabin with no indoor plumbing, this scenario will not work without some sort of back-up heat source. As a result, many folks who do decide to heat with wood do so in addition to a secondary heat source – oil, natural gas or electric. This way, their home can be kept at a minimum temperature that will keep the pipes from freezing if they are away from home.

Woodstoves and fireplaces also require more maintenance than modern furnaces. The chimney flue needs to be cleaned and inspected yearly, ashes need to be removed from the firebox, and the wood supply needs to be acquired and/or prepared, stored in a dry place, and moved into the house as needed. All of this can create a mess of shavings, bark, and possibly bugs that most homeowners may not want to deal with on a regular basis. Many people soon come to understand why their great-grandparents willingly forsook the woodstove for a modern oil furnace. For others, the work simply becomes a satisfying physical routine added to their lives – one which they feel keeps them grounded and more closely connected to the source of their home's heat. The appeal of a wood fire for warmth strikes a chord with many people, whether done for environmental reasons, economic ones, a desire to maintain traditions, or simply because they find it a satisfying way to meet one of life's basic needs.



1 The issue of sustainability is complicated, and many would point out that it is easy to replant trees after cutting, but much harder to maintain diverse forest ecosystems. The fact is that forests in moister climates are often easier to manage for sustainability, since the trees regenerate faster.

2 While it's true that burning wood still creates greenhouse gases, it can be argued that the carbon in wood is part of the natural carbon cycle and is constantly being released by dying trees and taken up again by living trees. Fossil fuels take carbon that had been locked up in the ground for millions of years and releases it into the atmosphere.

The Pioneer Tree

by Walter Plinske



Cottonwood Bark

the eastern U.S., southern Canada, and northern Mexico. A member of the poplar (*Populus*) family, it is designated *P. deltoids*, the eastern cottonwood. A subspecies, the plains cottonwood, occurs west of the Mississippi River from Texas to the Dakotas. They are large, deciduous trees, generally 50-80 feet tall, distinguished by thick, deeply fissured bark and triangular to diamond shaped leaves. An interesting feature of the leaves is that the petiole, (or leaf-stalk), is flattened sideways so that the leaves have a particular type of movement in the wind, producing a



Cottonwood Seeds

fluttering shimmer of sound. Male and female flowers are on separate catkins, appearing before the leaves in spring. The seeds are born on cottony structures that allow them to be blown long distances by the wind. The cottonwood is also a different kind of pioneer. The springtime blizzard of cottony seeds seeks out areas of fresh damp ground. Daring to germinate where no seed has gone before, they maximize their success after the recession of spring floods with their resulting expanses of fresh alluvial deposits. In areas of newly disturbed ground such as abandoned farm fields and strip mines, they are the first to colonize the land. One can imagine them thousands of years ago, after the recession of the continental glaciers, re-greening the tortured land anew with their snowstorms of life.

No tree of the prairie region grows taller than the cottonwood. A huge specimen once grew near what is now the intersection of Glenview Rd. and the Edens expressway. Said to be 130 feet tall and 41 feet in girth, it had a cavity near its base which supposedly could hold 30 people. Its first branches appeared 70 feet up its trunk. It was thought to be 500-600 years old. Some called it the "Potawatomi Tree," while to others it was simply "The Big Tree." It survived a big fire that swept through the area in 1832, killing every other tree. Though venerated for many years as a source of local pride, it was taken down for "safety reasons" in 1903. Experts say the cottonwood can grow up to 190 feet tall, but most rarely live more than 125 years. They have an exceptional growth rate and provide a large crop of wood within just 10 to 30 years. The wood is coarse and of low fuel value compared to hardwoods such as oak or walnut. Increasingly, the wood is used in the production of "orientated strand board," used in home construction. The tree is used by herbalists who employ its bark and flower buds. The buds, covered with a sticky resin that is highly antimicrobial and protects the tree from infection, are prepared in an infusion of oil that is used to relieve sore muscles, rheumatic pain, and bruises. The dried bark, mixed with licorice root, cloves, and brandy, after "maturing" can be sipped for an antidote for "poor appetite, indigestion, and feverishness."

When the wave of settlement reached Illinois in the early 1800s, it soon became clear that the vast forests people were accustomed to in the east were to be found wanting. This was not a dark unlimited expanse of solid treetops as far as the eye could reach, broken only by a distant horizon. It was a sea of grass, undulating in the blowing winds, punctuated only by scattered groves of trees, that by the nature of their makeup and position allowed them to survive the presence of fire on the land. And further west, with the climate becoming drier and harsher, these groves became smaller and sparser. By the time a traveler came to the western edge of the prairies, the groves were totally missing. There was one kind of tree however, able to eke out an existence in this harsh environment. It was the cottonwood. It became known as the pioneer tree.

The cottonwood was a beacon to the pioneers as they forged through miles of prairie grass and windswept emptiness. The tree marked a moist spot where water would be available, perhaps a cool spring or a small creek. There would be cool shade, wood for fires, and possibly some small game animals for an impromptu meal. Cottonwood trunks could be used to form dugout canoes, as Lewis and Clark reported during their return trip from the west coast in 1806. A reference in their journal hailed the "towering cottonwoods" that later gave name to Big Timber, Montana. The cottonwoods often served as gathering places for the native Americans. Their stark vertical contrast in the boundless flatness of the prairie served as trail markers, discernible only by the limits of the onlooker.

The cottonwood tree of the eastern prairie is one of the largest North American hardwoods. It occurs throughout



Cottonwood Leaves

on cottony structures that allow them to be blown long distances by the wind.

The cottonwood is also a different kind of pioneer. The springtime blizzard of cottony seeds seeks out areas of fresh damp ground. Daring to germinate where no seed has gone before, they maximize their success after the recession of spring floods with their resulting expanses of fresh alluvial deposits. In areas of newly disturbed ground such as abandoned farm fields and strip mines, they are the first to colonize the land. One can imagine them thousands of years ago, after the recession of the continental glaciers, re-greening the tortured land anew with their snowstorms of life.



Massive Cottonwood



The holidays are now behind us and here's hoping they were just what "the doctor ordered"; that getting together with family and friends was hope-filled, happy, and fun. 'Tis now the season of cold, blustery, windy, and frozen! I'm sure everyone knows that to reduce our carbon footprint in winter we should keep the thermostat set a little lower, wear a little extra, and hope for the best! Of course, it goes without saying that we've also weather stripped the windows, closed the curtains, and checked the heat vents, etc. Now, how about a really radical idea?

What if we could all work from home one day a week - skipping a commute that normally results in the emission of 10 pounds of carbon dioxide per half-gallon of gasoline? That would be 10 pounds of CO₂ that will *never* be generated and emitted into the atmosphere weekly. And in a year, that would mean we will have *not* added nearly 500 pounds of CO₂ to the atmosphere. Quite significant! Especially if that is multiplied by the approximately 115 million American commuters. Realistically, though, how many of us have the option to work from home? I'd guess not too many, yet it probably wouldn't hurt to ask!! So, what are we to do on a personal level?

Some of the choices we *can* make seem to be "drops in a bucket," but even drops add up! Turning off the light when leaving a room: a drop in the bucket. Adjusting the thermostat when leaving for work, carpooling, combining several errands into one trip: more drops. Buying a fuel-efficient or hybrid/all-electric vehicle: *lots* more drops in the bucket. How about driving more slowly?

Driving 60 mph rather than the posted 75 mph would result in 20-25% more efficient driving (air resistance increases exponentially with speed). This decrease would not only save on the cost of gas, but every gallon of gasoline we *don't* burn results in approximately 19 pounds of CO₂ *not emitted* into the atmosphere. Believe it or not, if you drive 25 miles on a highway to work at 60 mph, you'd only arrive *five minutes* later than if you drove 75 mph. Of course, this doesn't apply to those of us driving within the city. I'll have to look into this area next!

Just something for all of us to think about when we're out and about.



Adapted from a 5-part series by Craig K. Chandler <https://www.yaleclimateconnections.org/2019/03/want-to-burn-less-gas-drive-slower/>

2020 SPRING VALLEY CALENDAR



1111 E. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg • 847-985-2100

CELEBRATE THE YEAR WITH US!



Stop into the Nature Center to purchase a 2020 Spring Valley calendar by Jan. 15 and receive \$2 off the regular price of \$10!



What's Happenin'

leave no child inside
a chicago wilderness initiative

Click on program/icon for information and to register online.*

**To create a new account, visit the registration desk at the CRC or download an internet registration form at parkfun.com under the registration tab.*

Programs will be cancelled three days in advance if minimum is not reached, so register early!

Spring Valley offers an early bird discount on programs. Prices in the current brochure reflect that discount and will be in effect until one week before the date of the program. At that time, fees will increase 15%. Programs with insufficient registration will be cancelled at noon three days before the program. Please take advantage of this opportunity. It is our attempt to serve you better!

ADULT/TEENS



Farm to Table Cooking Series

Saturday, Jan. 25 • NEW • Get to Know Bee's Wax
Saturday, Feb. 22 • NEW • Tap into Maple Syrup
Saturday, March 7 • NEW • Cheesy Possibilities
10 a.m.-Noon

Learn ways to use simple, farm fresh ingredients to create wholesome, delicious dishes at home.



A Beginner's Intro to Yoga at the Cabin

Tuesday, Jan. 7-March 10 • 7:30-8:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8-March 11 • 6-7 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 8-March 11 • 7:30-8:30 p.m.

This yoga class is especially designed to introduce new students to yoga. All ages are welcome.



Weekly Yoga at the Cabin

Tuesday, Jan. 7-March 10 • 6-7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9-March 12 • 6-7 p.m.
Thursday, Jan. 9-March 12 • 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Nurture your mind and body in this rustic setting and connect with nature.



Schaumburg Park District's 36th Annual
Sugar Bush Fair
Taste Nature's Gift of Pure Maple Syrup.

FREE ADMISSION
 DRESS FOR THE WEATHER!

Saturday & Sunday, March 14 & 15
9 a.m.-Noon Spring Valley Nature Center | 1111 E. Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg
 (1/4 mile west of Meacham Road)

MAPLE SUGARING-Originally published by Currier & Ives

EARLY CHILDHOOD



Pot o' Gold Hunt

Saturday, March 21 • 10-11:30 a.m.
 Follow the leprechaun's trail through Spring Valley to find hidden treasure at the end of the rainbow!

FAMILY

The following programs have a special family rate. By registering ONE child, it is assumed that a minimum of two people (one adult and child) or a maximum of four people are attending. Do NOT register additional people, they may pay on the day of the program.



Family Woodworking: Bird Feeders

Saturday, March 28 • 1-2:30 p.m.
 Gather with other families to construct and decorate a birdhouse to spruce up your yard.



Sundown Supper in the Sugar Bush

Saturday, Feb. 29 • 4-6 p.m.
 Bring your family to help tap maple trees, gather sap and tend the boil down. Afterward, enjoy a pancake 'supper' at Merkle Cabin with real maple syrup.



Winter Moon Hike

Friday, Jan. 10 • 6-7:30 p.m.
 Explore Spring Valley after hours as we play in the snow, look for animals and enjoy the moonlight.

YOUTH



Frozen Scientists

Saturday, Jan. 25 • 1-2 p.m.
 Enjoy an afternoon of snow and ice related experiments and crafts. Come prepared to go outside.



While Spring Valley's grounds and trails are open from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. throughout the winter, certain areas of Spring Valley close for the winter due to hazardous conditions resulting from snow and ice.

Bison's Bluff Nature Playground will be **CLOSED** any time there is snow or ice on the ground.

If you see these signs posted at the entrances to the play area, for your safety, please do not enter the nature playground.



Thanks!



Pioneer Pancakes

Saturday, March 21 • 1-3 p.m.

Make maple syrup the pioneer way by collecting sap and boiling it down in a wood-fired evaporator. Afterward, enjoy maple syrup on pancakes.



Scout Sugar Bush

Saturday, March 7 • 9-11 a.m.

Join us for this scout venture into the world of maple trees, sap and syrup.



Spring Valley Spring Break Camp

Monday-Friday, March 23-27 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Spend some time at Spring Valley as spring approaches and the days become a little warmer.

Home School Programs

Looking for an educational outing for your home school group? Spring Valley is the perfect place for hands-on, **exploration and science-based** programs. Topics include Conservation in Action, Woodlands, Owls, Seasonal Ecology, Pioneer Living, Farms and Food, Gardening, Wetlands, Night Hikes, and Mighty Acorns. Call 847-985-2100 to find out more about Mighty Acorns, a three-season visit to the Nature Center.

For more information about programs and pricing, or to schedule a program, call 847-985-2100.

SPRING VALLEY WINTER FEST
Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 15 & 16 • Noon - 3 p.m.
Nature Center



Get bundled up and join in some winter fun. Enjoy snowshoe walks through the prairie, horse-drawn wagon rides, winter snacks, crafts and activities inside the Nature Center and marshmallows roasted on a winter bonfire!

Admission: \$3/person or \$12/family, children 3 and under free.

Sponsored by the Spring Valley Nature Club.

Snowshoe Rentals Available
Beginning Dec. 1

Experience the beauty of the winter landscape in a new way! The following rental policies apply:

- There must be a minimum of four inches of snow on the ground before rentals will be made available.
- First-time renters will be asked to view a short video on the proper way to use snowshoes prior to taking them out.
- A rental application and liability waiver must be completed at the Nature Center.
- A driver's license or other form of ID is required as a deposit.
- Rental rate is \$5 for a maximum of three hours for use at Spring Valley.
- Rentals are available on a first come, first served basis from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. All rentals must be returned by 4:30 p.m.
- Special youth group rates are available after 3 p.m. on weekdays. Call to inquire. We cannot accommodate youth groups on weekends.
- To take snowshoes off-site, a deposit of \$50 is required. The cost is \$10 per day.

Call 847-985-2100 for more information.



Volunteer News

Spring Valley Volunteer Recognition for 2019

Spring Valley held its Volunteer Holiday Celebration and Recognition event on Friday, December 13. It was wonderful that so many volunteers could join us for the evening's festivities. Activities included the chance to socialize with fellow volunteers, the toasting of wassail, the pleasure of delectable food, and of course, the recognition of our fantastic volunteers. Spring Valley volunteers, along with the help of local church, corporate, school, and scout groups, contributed 13,584.75 hours in 2019. It's wonderful to see such strong community support. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time and talent to Spring Valley. We simply could not accomplish as much as we do without you!

As is traditionally done this time of year, we would like to specifically recognize people for their accomplishments over the past year.

First 25 hours of service

Don Anderson
 Diane Ariola
 Diane Atkan
 Ned Bruns
 Ken Carlson
 Jennifer Corsaw
 Diane Crater
 Nancy Croke
 Barb Figlewicz
 John Figlewicz
 David Gola
 Susan Gorke
 Lauren Hall
 Katie Hunt
 Carol D Johnson
 Jay Johnson
 Adyan Khan
 Junaid Khan
 Kirk Levis
 Mary McNally
 Adrienne Mikkelsen
 Karen Mueller
 Connie Nelson-Sanford
 Marylou Patrick
 Harold Pletz
 Steve Prorak
 Chris Rayner
 Wayne Slover
 Frankie Suffi
 John Terp
 Linda Terp
 Barb Thomas
 Debra Tutak
 Christine Van Duys
 Alice Vogel
 Marcia Wysocki
 Sebastian Zieleziecki

50 to 99 Hours

Diane Atkan
 Rich Banducci
 Deanna Bruckner

Cynthia Clark
 Dennis Colbert
 Rosemary Colbert
 Daryle Drew
 Dave Farnsworth
 Alex Flint
 Elaina Ford
 Pete Gigous
 Susan Gorke
 Lee Hirstein
 Arthur Jeczala
 Carol Johnson
 Donna Johnson
 Jay Johnson
 Barb Kuhn
 Nancy Lyons
 Penny Perles
 Carol Pletz
 Walter Plinske
 Barb Royce
 Dolores Samp
 Lydia Tarasiuk
 John Terp
 Carol Thomas
 Judy Velan

100 to 199 Hours

Carol Anagnostopoulos
 Jeanne Banducci
 Barry Clark
 Barb Dochterman
 Peg Dorgan
 Andy Farnham
 Sue Gallios
 Louis Handke-Roth
 James McGee
 Gloria Moritz
 Karen Mueller
 Marylou Patrick
 Tom Perles
 Dick Ruffolo
 Wayne Slover
 Laurie Tatom

Lorenzo Vendramin
 Al Vogel
 Angela Waidanz
 Carolyn White
 Judy Wood

200 to 299 Hours

Ned Bruns
 Andrea Farnham
 Valerie Kot
 Don Olszewski
 Marianne Ommundson

300 to 399 Hours

Delores Potter

400 to 499 Hours

Duane Bolin
 Lynn Eikenbary
 Barb Mitchell
 Ken Ogorzalek

500+ Hours

Roy Svenson

700+ Hours

Tony Meo

Two Years

Rich Banducci
 Peg Dorgan
 Dave Farnsworth
 Maile Fidale
 Sue Gallios
 Patty Gucciardi
 Sophia Holmes
 Carol Johnson
 Jackson Kalmar
 Adyan Khan
 Junaid Khan
 Alexis Matesi
 Jack Ponzetti
 Marcia Wysocki

Five Years

Jim Baum
 Betty Bei
 Gretchen Coleman
 Louis Handke-Roth
 Don Olszewski
 Jen O'Reilly
 Pat Ramos
 Tony Satoh
 Gerri Svenson
 Judy Wood

Ten Years

Gail Ameer
 Bill Bidlo
 Cindy Holmberg
 Tom Poklen
 Diane Shore
 Laurie Tatom
 Joe Vito
 Angela Waidanz

Fifteen Years

Duane Bolin
 Barb Muehlhausen
 Renata Riccobon
 Louisa Walsh

Twenty Years

Marilyn Dvoratchek
 Kevin Kaitis
 Walter Plinske

Twenty-Five Years

Eve Carter

Note: if you are due an award and have not yet received it, **please stop by the Nature Center by Feb. 1** so we can personally present it to you. Thank you!

Volunteer News

Volunteer Want Ads

If you are interested in helping with any of the following activities, please call Judy at 847/985-2100 or e-mail her at juvito@parkfun.com.

Conservation Workday

Saturday, Jan. 25



Put on your grubby clothes, dress for the weather, and help us cut buckthorn. The workday run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

General Volunteer Meeting

Wednesday, February 5

Join us at 6:30 p.m. for light refreshments and conversation in the Nature Center classroom. At 7 p.m. we will begin our general volunteer meeting during which we will discuss Spring Valley's upcoming special events and other various volunteer opportunities available. Sign-up sheets will be on hand.

Winterfest

Saturday & Sunday, Feb. 15 & 16

Get bundled up and join in some winter fun. Volunteers are needed to assist with various winter-related activities, both inside and out. Shift time is 11:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.



Prescribed Burn Training

Saturday, Feb. 22

Learn the philosophy behind controlled burns and why we use this important management tool at Spring Valley. Volunteers who attend the training will then be eligible to assist with the prescribed burns we do in spring and fall. Training is scheduled from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Nature Center classroom.

Sugar Bush Set-Up

Thursday, March 12

Can't help at the Sugar Bush Fair, but still want to be part of it? Join us the Thursday **before** the event to help set-up. We have a variety of activities which need to be done. Come at 9:30 a.m. and stay for all or part of the day!



Sugar Bush

Saturday & Sunday, March 14 & 15

It's not too early to start thinking about the Sugar Bush Fair. If you think you'll be available to help, please give me a call. Shift time is 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Remember - there's a free pancake breakfast for all volunteers!

Pats on the back to the following volunteers

- Daryle Drew, Dave Farnsworth, Alex Flint, Eliana Ford, Susan Gorke, Amanda, Janet and Al Kraus, Karen Mueller, Janet Neally, Kristi Overgaard, Jack Ponzetti, Barb and Bob Royce, Dick Ruffolo, Roy Svenson, Laurie Tatom and Lorenzo Vendramin for their continuing weekly animal care assistance at Volkening Heritage Farm.
- Arthur Jeczala for helping with a variety of administrative support activities on a regular basis.
- Duane Bolin, Tony Meo, Ken Ogorzalek, Roy Svenson and Al Vogel for their ongoing assistance with grounds maintenance at the Nature Center and the Farm.



Dates to Remember

- Monday, Jan. 13.....1:30-4 p.m.
Handy Crafters Meeting
- Saturday, Jan. 25.....9 a.m.-1 p.m.
Conservation Workday
- Wednesday, Feb. 5.....6:30-9 p.m.
Volunteer Meeting
- Monday, Feb. 10.....1:30-4 p.m.
Handy Crafters Meeting
- Saturday, Feb. 15.....Noon-3 p.m.
Winterfest
- Sunday, Feb. 16.....Noon-3 p.m.
Winterfest
- Saturday, Feb. 22.....9 a.m.-2 p.m.
Burn Training

Welcome New Volunteers!

- Mike Davis
- Doc Syverson



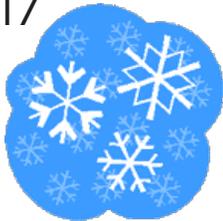
Happy Birthday to...

January

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 Gary Glatzhofer | 17 Louis Handke-Roth |
| Karen Mueller | Mary McNally |
| 4 Andrea Farnham | 22 Maile Fidale |
| Jackson Kalmar | 23 Eileen Skiba |
| 5 Sue Carr | 24 Andy Farnham |
| Jennifer Corsaw | Matt Render |
| Christine Van Duys | 25 Gary Rams |
| 10 Susan Gorke | 28 Dan Greco |
| 11 Barb Dochterman | Ned Bruns |
| Jennifer O'Reilly | 30 Ann Scacco |
| 12 Marilyn Dvoratckek | |
| Jeffery Giesel | |

February

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 Dave Farnsworth | 19 Diane Atkan |
| 9 Arthur Jeczala | 23 Roger Nelson |
| Steve Larson | Wayne Slover |
| 10 Sandy Meo | 24 Jeanne Banducci |
| 11 Carol Pletz | 25 Dean Bruckner |
| 14 Bill Flesch | 27 Barbara Flegiewicz |
| Leo Salais | Janet Neally |

JANUARY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>FARM CLOSED CABIN CLOSED</p> <hr/> <p>Bold indicates volunteer activities <i>Italics</i> indicates programs which may be taken as complimentary by volunteers See "What's Happening" for program descriptions</p>		31	<p>1</p>  <p><i>New Year's Day</i></p>	2	3	4
		<p>Th-F •Spring Valley Winter Break Camp 10a</p>				
5	<p>6</p> 	7	8	9	10	11
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p Schaumburg Community Garden Club 7p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p Sierra Club 6:30p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Winter Moon Walk 6p 	
12	<p>13</p> <p>Handy Crafters Meeting 1:30p</p>	14	15	16	17	18
		 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p Spring Valley Nature Club 6:30p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
	<p><i>Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 		<p>Conservation Workday 9a</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Get to Know Bee's Wax 9a •Frozen Scientists 1p
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p 		

FEBRUARY 2020						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>FARM CLOSED CABIN CLOSED</p> <p>Bold indicates volunteer activities <i>Italics</i> indicates programs which may be taken as complimentary by volunteers See "What's Happening" for program descriptions</p>		28	29	30	31 	1
2	3	4 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	5  •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p Volunteer Meeting 6:30p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	6 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	7	8
9	10 Handy Crafters Meeting 1:30pm	11  •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	12 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p Schaumburg Community Garden Club 6:30p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	13 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p Sierra Club 6:30p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i>	15 Winterfest Noon
16 Winterfest Noon	17  <i>Presidents' Day</i>	18 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	19 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	20  •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	21	22 Prescribed Burn Training 9a •Tap into Maple Syrup 10a
23	24	25 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	26 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	27 •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 6p •Weekly Yoga at Cabin 7:30p	28 	29 •Sundown Supper in the Sugar Bush 4p

SPRING VALLEY | Schaumburg Park District • 1111 East Schaumburg Road, Schaumburg, Illinois 60194

Spring Valley is a refuge of 135 acres of fields, forests, marshes and streams with over three miles of handicapped-accessible trails, a museum featuring natural history displays and information, a new nature playground and an 1880s living-history farm. Spring Valley is open to the general public. Admission is free.



Hours:

Grounds and Trails

April 1 - Oct. 31 Daily 8 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Nov. 1 - March 31 Daily 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nature Center/Museum Hours

Year-round Daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Bison's Bluff Nature Playground

April 1 - Oct. 31 Tue-Sun 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
 Mon Noon-8 p.m.
 Nov. 1 - March 31 Daily 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (weather permitting)

Volkening Heritage Farm

April 3 - Nov. 18 Daily 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
 Mon Museum buildings CLOSED
 Dec. 1 - March 31 Open for Special Events & programs only

Unless otherwise noted, all programs are held rain or shine. Participants should dress appropriately for weather conditions.

Vera Meineke Nature Center
847-985-2100

The earth-sheltered visitor center provides an introduction to Spring Valley's 135 acres of restored prairies, woodlands and wetlands and three miles of trails. The center contains natural history exhibits that change seasonally, a demonstration Backyard for Wildlife, an observation tower, classrooms, an extensive library, gift sales area and restrooms.



Volkening Heritage Farm
847-985-2102

Step back into the past for a look at Schaumburg as it was in the 1880s - a rural German farm community. Help with seasonal farm chores, participate in family activities and games of the 1880s, or simply visit the livestock and soak in the quiet. Authentically dressed interpreters will welcome and share activities with visitors throughout the site.

Environmental Outreach Program

We'll bring our outreach program to your site. Topics include forests, worms, spiders, mammals, owls, food chains, food webs, wetlands, and the water cycle. Students will participate in hands-on activities, songs, and games. **Topics may be adapted to students in grades one through six, and are aligned with Illinois State Standards and NGSS.**

Programs at Spring Valley

School, Scout and adult groups are encouraged to take advantage of Spring Valley's Environmental Education Program. Programs change seasonally and are geared for specific age groups. Correlations to the state standards, connections with NGSS, and activity sheets are available on the SPD website, www.parkfun.com.

Learn local history with a visit to the Heritage Farm. Elementary and high school students recreate farm life in the 1880s with *Hands on History*; second graders experience it through *Heritage Quest*. Children from the age of four through second grade will learn about food, farmers, and farm animals in *Farms and Foods*.

Scout Badges

We offer many opportunities for scouts. Our programs will help with your badge, pin or patch requirements. Call for more information or stop in for a brochure.

Spring Valley Firepit and Shelter Rentals

Make your next scout group, business or family gathering something special! Spring Valley offers the use of a picnic shelter and fire pit in a wooded setting near the Merkle Log Cabin. Use of the site includes firewood, trash/recycling receptacles and benches, as well as picnic tables. No alcohol or amplified music permitted. Restrooms are available at the Heritage Farm or Nature Center, a 5-10 minute walk. The adjacent Merkle Log Cabin contains a restroom and may be rented for additional fees.

Hourly use fees:	
Residents:\$25	Civic groups: \$25
Non-residents:.....\$40	Corporate/business groups: \$55

SPRING VALLEY MISSION STATEMENT:

Spring Valley's mission is to educate area residents regarding the natural and cultural history of the Schaumburg area and how people have and continue to interact with and upon the landscape.

SCHAUMBURG PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS:

- Mike Daniels
- Sharon DiMaria
- David Johnson
- George Longmeyer
- Bob Schmidt
- Tony LaFrenere, *Executive Director*

NATURAL ENQUIRER STAFF:

- Mary Rice..... Editor
- Judy Vito Volunteer Coordinator
- Dave Brooks.. "*In this Issue...*"
- Scott Stompor Graphic Artist



SCHAUMBURG PARK DISTRICT WEBSITE:

parkfun.com
E-MAIL:
springvalley@parkfun.com

MEMBER: *Chicago Wilderness*