Master of Ceremonies
Malcolm Mitchell, SNCF Chair

Auctioneers
Fridley Mayor Scott Lund
Jeremy Powers

Centerpieces Graphic Designs
Marcia Wiger Jessica Dowell

Videographer
Pushkar Vaidya

Springbrook Spree Committee
Jill Genaw, Chair
Donna Bahls Jami Bornetun
Neal Hayford Cindy Lund
Mandy Meisner Ed Meyer
Annette Mitchell Pushkar Vaidya
Renae Wrich

Welcome to
NATURE’S STORIES
2020

Photo by Siah St. Clair
Program Schedule

Silent Auction/Social Hour Begin...........5:00
Dinner..........................................................6:30
Welcome, SNC Update-Mike Maher........7:30
Nature’s Stories Video,
Silent Auction Closes............................7:50
Restaurant Run, Live Auction.................8:00
Fund a Need, Mystery Garden Reveal .......8:20
Pay & Collect Your Items......................~9:00

- Please return your name tag as you leave.
- Because the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation is a tax-exempt 501c(3) non-profit, $25 of your $50 ticket is eligible as a tax-deductible donation. The remainder of the ticket price is for the dinner. We thank you for your support.

Nature’s Stories

Birdbanding....Who Knew?

Oh, the fascinating places you discover through the eyes of your grandchildren! Who knew there was a whole culture of something so wonderful called bird banding? Our 10 year old grandson showed an extreme interest in the hobby of birdwatching for over a year. We supported it with questions, books, discussions, and staring out his kitchen window. We attended the Springbrook Spree last year and were delighted to bid on and win the Birding Basket, equipped with all the essentials to take his hobby to the next level from bird watching to bird banding.

After an amazing brunch at Springbrook, our family was introduced to the world of bird banding. We got to watch the entire process of capturing the birds, seeing traps in the field, talking with the experts, and releasing each bird. Birds were identified by species, unusual characteristics, weighed, categorized by sex and age prior to banding. Then the kids stepped outside and were shown how to hold and release the bird. We can’t begin to tell you what a thrill the release was for our grandson and his two younger brothers.

At the close of the morning, with big hugs and thank yous, we were asked, “when can we come again?” We returned the very next Saturday! Yup—the places you will go....

Steve & Mary Eggert
**Upcoming Events**

**Pavilion/Activity Center**

*Official Opening*

Thursday, May 28, 2020
5:30 – 7:30

**Saturday in the Park**

July 25, 2020
Ice Cream -- Fridley City Band

**Springbrook Spree 2021**

Saturday, March 6, 2021
Springbrook Nature Center

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**Live Auction Items**

**Birding Basket**
Includes being a special guest at bird banding and lots of items to enhance your bird watching experience. ($450)

**Roku TV**
43” TCL Roku TV Smart TV, with 4K and HDR. John will deliver, set-up on a tabletop, and show you how to use it. He will consult with you on how you can get rid of cable TV! Donated by John Brillhart, Cable Alternatives ($450)

**Holman Field Dinner Flight**
Includes Dinner for Two (1 starter, 2 entrees, 1 dessert) and a helicopter flight. Donated by Jill Genaw ($200)

**Toro Power Cleaner Snow Blower.** Donated by The Toro Company ($660)
**Bidding Information**

**Live Auction**—Raise your number to bid on these high value items.

**Silent Auction**— Fill in your name, number and bid* amount on the sheet in front of the items you wish to bid on. Minimum bid increment is given at the top of the bid sheet. All items must be taken home at the end of the evening unless specifically marked.

**Restaurant Run**—Fast action live Auction

**Paying**—The check-out table will have a folder with slips for all of the auction items you have won and items you have purchased. Pay by cash, check or Visa. You will receive a yellow bid sheet for each of your items. Please show your yellow bid sheet to the table monitors as you collect your items.

**Note**—Assistance with transporting large items is available within a 20 mile radius of the event. See a committee member for more information.

*A bid is a legal contract to buy. In the case of any bidding disputes, the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation reserves the right to make a final decision.

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**Restaurant Run**

| Keys Cafe | $50  |
| Red’s Savoy Pizza | $50 |
| Pazzaluna | $50 |
| Vietnamese Bistro | $100 |
| Sarna’s | $50 |
| Tria | $50 |
| Gardens of Salonica | $50 |

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I went to college and was hired by the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Department in 1993. In 1994, the Fridley Police Department was hiring so I applied and soon became a Fridley police officer. I worked as a police officer for the Fridley Police Department for the next 14 years and finished my career as a patrol sergeant. During this time, I always stopped in at Springbrook to visit with staff and talk about the “old days”.

Still wanting to be a game warden, I applied with the MN DNR and in 2007 I was successful in getting a job offer to be a game warden. All of the important lessons I learned from my experiences at Springbrook helped me reach my ultimate goal and it’s something I can never repay.

Even though I’m the assistant director and sit behind a desk most of the day, I still make a point to conduct falconry facility inspections for several falconers.

Springbrook Nature Center, Siah St. Clair, and the entire Springbrook staff will forever be a part of my successes in life.

*Greg Salo*
I grew up on the north side of the City of Fridley, relatively close to Springbrook Nature Center. At the age of 11, I discovered Springbrook Nature Center and the center’s director, Siah St. Clair.

When I was 12, Siah St. Clair let me and some buddies volunteer at the Nature Center. We were there every Friday night to make popcorn and Kool-aid for movie night and again Saturday morning for feeding the animals. At that time, it was Siah St. Clair and Kent Jones (Naturalist) who made us volunteers feel like we were an integral part of the nature center. Like any young boys, we pushed the limits on certain things and probably caused a few gray hairs with staff but Siah and Kent never gave up on us.

I was still volunteering at Springbrook when I saw a flyer talking about falconry. I was hooked. I found a falconry sponsor, Frank Taylor, and was set to take my falconry test with the MN DNR. On my 15th birthday I needed a ride to Carlos Avery Wildlife Management Area to take my test and since both my parents worked, I was stuck. Chris Graffunder, the Springbrook receptionist volunteered to drive me all the way to Carlos Avery to take my test! I passed the test on the first try and soon got my first red-tailed hawk. I brought my hawk Willie to Springbrook on several occasions to give presentations to the public and really felt like part of the team.

Just before my 16th birthday, Siah St. Clair offered me a paid job with the nature center – I was officially the “maintenance man” of the nature center. While Siah played a huge role in developing me into the person I am today, he hired great staff who played large roles as well.

I knew what I wanted to do for a living – be a game warden for the Minnesota DNR. Working for the nature center/City of Fridley opened the door for me to become a Community Service Officer with the Fridley Police Department.
Individual Donors

Pam Arnold
Gary Bank
Hatice Bilgic-Lim
Jami Bornetun
Amy Collura
John Dougherty
Mary Eggert
Richard and Margaret Ferber
Angelique Fredrickson
Jill Genaw
Fred Haggar
Jerry & Trish Hartlaub
Cindy Lund
Mike Maher
Mandy Meisner
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Lillian Meyer
Ginny Helseth-Miller
Malcolm & Annette Mitchell
Kathy Olson
Jeremy & Ruth Powers
Julie Richardson
Maija Sedzielarz
Earl “Doc” Smith
Tom Thompson
Pushkar Vaidya
Marcia Wiger
Renae Wrich

Merchant/Organization Donors

Please Patronize These Supporters

* Indicates 10+ year Springbrook Supporters

Alloy Brewing Company
Amphora Wines
Anoka County Parks
Applebees-Fridley*
Aramark
Bachmans
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Culver’s—St. Anthony*
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Gary’s Automotive*
Guthrie Theater
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Heights Theater*
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Lakeside Floor Coverings
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Nelson’s Cheese and Deli*
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Sammy Perrella’s*
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Schaaf Floral*
Springbrook Nature Center
Springbrook Bird Banders
St. Paul Saints*
St. Philips Quilters*
Stages Theater
Sunset Grill
Surly Brewing Company
Tavern Grill
Tasty Pizza*
Three Rivers Park District
The Toro Company*
Trader Joe’s*
Tria
Two Stooges Bar & Grill
Vietnamese Bistro
Wild Mountain
Windows by Marnee

Special Thanks to Banquets of Minnesota
for their help with the Spree.