



100 85th Avenue NE
Fridley, MN 55127

The *Friends of Springbrook* is the fundraising division of the *Springbrook Nature Center Foundation*, a 501 (c)(3) organization. All donations are tax deductible.

Springbrook Nature Center is a *City of Fridley Park*

Springbrook Spree – Nature’s Stories

Springbrook Spree 2020 – Nature’s Stories, held March 7 at the Interpretive Center, was a rousing success. Organized by the *Foundation Board*, this community building, annual fundraiser included a delicious buffet dinner, plus the *Mystery Tree*, *Wine Shelf*, *Restaurant Run*, *Table Centerpiece Raffle*, *Fund-A-Need* and the invigorating *Live Auction*. Attendees could observe the exhibits while bidding in the traditional well stocked *Silent Auction* and holding lively conversations. Auctioneers, Fridley Mayor, Scott Lund, and long time volunteer, Jeremy Powers, zestfully conducted the live auction. Inspiring “Nature’s Stories” were shared by Steve Eggert and Greg Salo.



Thank you to the *Spree* committee (Jill Genaw, Chair, Donna Bahls, Jami Bornerun, Neal Hayford, Cindy Lund, Mandy Meisner, Ed Meyer, Annette Mitchell, Pushkar Vaidya and Renae Wrich). All funds raised at the *Spree* are used for the benefit of the *Springbrook Nature Center*. **To everyone who attended and to those who donated to the Spree, a big THANK YOU.** Please go to our website to view the 6 *Spree Sponsors* and the 68 merchants and organizations that generously contributed. Planning for the March 6, 2021 *Spree* is underway. Plan to be there!



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SAVE THE DATE

PAC Grand Opening
(will be publicized)

Autumn Sampler
Saturday, September 12

Pumpkin Night
Saturday, October 17

To receive your *Springbrook Foundation* news by email, go to springbrookfoundation.org and click *Communications*, then *Sign Up*

BOARD OPENINGS

The *Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Board* is recruiting candidates.

To apply, go to springbrookfoundation.org click *Volunteer*, then *Board Openings*

Thanks a LATTE!

We DONUT know what we’d do without you! These clever words on invitations encouraged volunteers to attend the February 15 *Appreciation Brunch*. A delectable breakfast bar with entertainment and prizes, plus a healthy dose of thanks, were enjoyed by all. We celebrated the 1300 SNC



volunteers who help with animal care, bird banding, special events, Board service and much more. Volunteer awardees in the photo, left to right, are: Jen Yocum, Roger Lukkarila,

Cindy Ruschy, Nicholas Lue-Nelson, and Tim Stanoch (Volunteer of the Year). Not pictured are Erling and Yolanda Fugelso.

Entertainment Series

In support of the SNC, the SNCF has chosen to merge the *Saturday in the Park* event into the *Summer Concert Series*. SNCF will fund those summer events along with the fall *Friday Night by Firelight* program. This *Entertainment Series* creates vibrant, friendly events that are fun, accessible and free for Fridley residents and visitors from neighboring communities. Hope to see you there.



Springbrook COVID-19 News

Rest assured the SNC is complying with the restrictions and guidelines described by the *Minnesota Department of Health* and the governor’s directives including social distancing to prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19. **The trails are open.** Youth nature education **virtually** can be found under *Youth Programs* on the SNC website and on Facebook. Please go to springbrooknaturecenter.org for scheduling and further information regarding all SNC programs.

Thank You, Malcolm Mitchell

Malcolm is the outgoing chairperson on the *Springbrook Nature Center Foundation's (SNCF) Board of Directors*. Over 2 decades as a volunteer, he has been a driving force in preserving and developing the *Springbrook Nature Center (SNC)*. His can-do, hands-on leadership (no task was too small) has been instrumental in the success of most Board activities. Plus his personal and professional relationships have enabled many amazing accomplishments (e.g. obtaining a \$5 million grant from the State of Minnesota). Below are Malcolm's responses to questions posed in a recent interview.

1) When and why did you join the Board? *I joined in 1999 (21 years ago) shortly after Siah St Clair (former Executive Director) and Annette, my wife, asked me to help a task force recommend how to maintain and protect SNC. As the Executive Director of another non-profit, I had experience in policy development and fundraising, and could help the SNCF Board create and fund SNC projects. Since 2002, I served (18 years) as Board Chairperson.*



2) What would you consider your major accomplishments? *I consider these as major accomplishments: building and maintaining an effective Springbrook Foundation Board; saving Springbrook from becoming a passive park without programs or staff; helping to design, fundraise and complete construction of the SPRING Project; and building effective relationships with people and organizations in Fridley and beyond.*

3) What is your vision of the Foundation's future role? *My vision is to continue to: be a strong, independent 501(C)3 non-profit organization enabling tax exempt donations; promote SNC as a major natural habitat and environmental education resource; provide visible leadership and partnerships with the City of Fridley and the north metro area; and maintain and enhance SNC programs and facilities.*

Footnote: *I want to particularly thank Annette Mitchell (tireless, hard working 20 year Board member, mostly as Secretary), other Board members and the SNC staff for their support during my tenure, plus the many individuals and organizations in the community that have supported SNC and the SNCF.*

New Pavilion Activity Center Opening Soon

The SNCF, the SNC staff, and *City of Fridley* officials have been partnering to fund, design, and construct a new multipurpose *Pavilion Activity Center (PAC)*. The nearly complete, attractive new PAC includes an enclosed three season activities space, two restrooms, a concessions area and a picnic shelter, all adding significantly to SNC programming activities. We are very thankful for the following major contributors: *Minnesota DNR, City of Fridley, Fridley Lions Club, Springbrook Foundation, McGough Construction and BNSF Railway Foundation.*

In addition, major in-kind contributors are: *Bolton & Menk, City of Fridley, Park Construction, Parsons Electric, Total Air Inc., United Surface Preparation, and Vision Woodworking.* The formal **Grand Opening** with recognition of donors celebration date will be publicized. The PAC is the final piece of the decade long *SPRING (Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation) Project*, an attractive, renewed seven acre gateway area of the *Springbrook Nature Center*.



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Grants and Matches

BAE Systems, BNSF, Cargill, Delta Dental, Estee Lauder, Financial One Credit Union, Fridley Lions, General Mills, J.J. Taylor, Lurie, McGough, Medtronic, Michael Stedman, RAO Manufacturing, Rasmussen, Veritas, Xcel Energy (companies and foundations)

Board News

Key accomplishments the past half year include a Strategic Planning Retreat (led by *Renae Wrich*), updating the Bylaws (led by *Ed Meyer*), generating an Annual Report (led by *Malcolm Mitchell*), funding the camper scholarship program and creating a Springbrook video (led by *Renae Wrich/ Eric Bornetun/ Pushkar Vaidya*). We welcomed one new member (*Jami Bornetun*) and thanked departing members (*Eric Penniston, Tom Thompson and Malcolm Mitchell*). We created the Assistant Treasurer position and elected *Hatice Bilgic Lim* to it. *Julie Richardson* assumed full responsibility as Treasurer. *Kathryn Olson, Julie Richardson* and *Pushkar Vaidya* were re-elected to new terms on the Board.

Opportunity

Many "naming and recognition opportunities" are available to persons or organizations who want to leave a **noteworthy legacy**. One example is an engraved paving stone with an inscription of your choice, installed in the entry plaza. Go to our website (*springbrookfoundation.org* and click on *PAC Project*) for gifting opportunities or call 800-675-4317. If you want to leave a lasting, visible legacy in this beautiful facility, now's the time.

Well Done!

Being a near pristine natural area, well within the metro region, *Springbrook* is an urban jewel. Its ponds, forests and prairie are home to a plethora of marvelous wildlife. Its extensive trail system, interpretive center, educational programs and community programs contributed to the following statistics for 2019.

Metrics	2019 Totals
Nature Center Visits	~150,000+
Programs	535
Program Attendance	15,587
Participant Hours	35,278
Student Contacts	11,968
Summer Camps	12
Summer Camp Attendees	459
Camp Scholarships	21
Special Event Attendance	3,700
Volunteers	1,300
Volunteer Hours	8,448
Facility Rental Attendance	4,466

All this with only three superb full time staff, plus a cadre of excellent part time and seasonal employees, and a multitude of volunteers. Some *City of Fridley* departments lent a hand as needed. Incredible!

Contact Info

Springbrook's internet website presence has evolved into two fine websites:

a *Nature Center (SNC)* website (springbrooknaturecenter.org) (763) 572-3588

and

a *Foundation (SNCF)* website (springbrookfoundation.org) (800) 675-4317