

# Annual Springbrook Spree Had Everyone Chirping

The Nature Center Foundation's Springbrook Spree, its annual fundraiser, *Soar with Springbrook*, was held on Saturday, May 1 at the Coon Rapids Civic Center. Over 100 people chatted, enjoyed wonderful hors d'oeuvres, and made bids on the many fun and useful silent auction items.

Dave Kondrick, Fridley Parks and Recreation Commission member, served as auctioneer for eight highly prized restaurant gift certificates. He sold each at more than the face value to an enthusiastic fund-raiser crowd.

The event is the single largest fundraising event held by the Foundation

The evening highlight was an informative and entertaining presentation by naturalist and author Stan Tekiela, of Minnesota, entitled *Uncommon Facts About Common Birds*.

Stan's presentation featured new and interesting information on pigeons, crows, starlings, blue jays, and other birds that we see every day in Minnesota. We learned that birds see ultraviolet light and crows are smart enough to make tools.

Thank you to all who donated to or attended this event. Thanks also to the Spree Committee, John Engstrom, Chair, Donna Bahls, Gloria Campbell, Carol Delmonico, Ginny Helseth-Miller, Ed Meyer, Annette Mitchell, Valora Putnam, Cherish Ringaman, Lynette Schack, Rebecca (Becky) Thaisen for planning this enjoyable fundraising event.

We will soon be scheduling next year's event so watch for the date and plan to attend.



**Stan Tekiela, a nature center director from Eden Prairie and author a popular Minnesota bird guide, gave a presentation called *Uncommon Facts About Common Birds*.**

*Springbrook Nature Center is a City of Fridley Park*

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

## Providing for Springbrook Needs

Springbrook Nature Center Foundation will soon send its Summer fundraising request to 1,500 people who have previously supported Springbrook.

The Foundation has two fundraising mail campaigns per year. These two requests are our largest source of funds to support our ongoing projects.

Fridley, MN 55432  
P.O. Box 32722  
**Friends of Springbrook Nature Center**



PRESERVE • EDUCATE • NURTURE

Spring 2010

Provided by the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation

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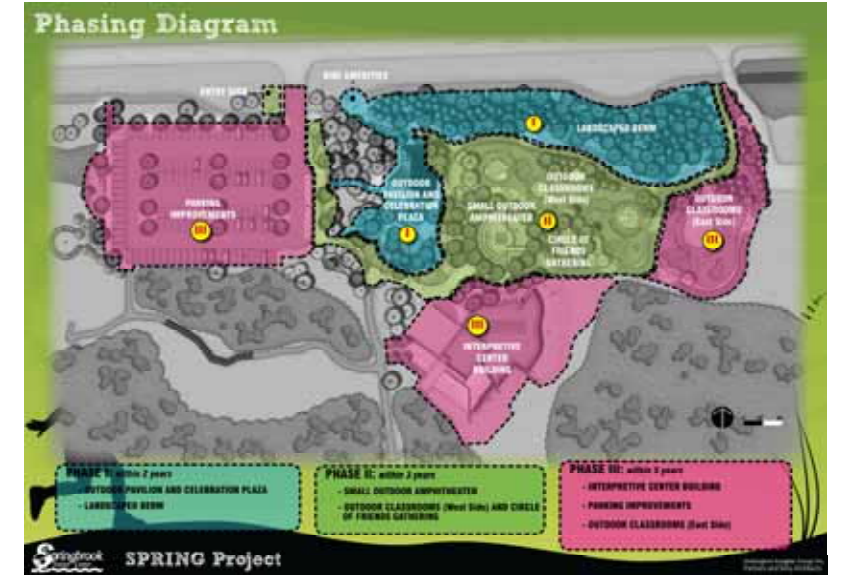
### Board Officers Re-Elected

At the April Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Board meeting, the slate of officers for the next year was elected. The officers are: Malcolm Mitchell, Chairperson; Donna Bahls, Vice-Chairperson; Ed Meyer, Treasurer; and Annette Mitchell, Secretary. Congratulations and we wish them all a successful year as board officers.

## Plans Change to Phase in SPRING Project

The SPRING project (Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation) continues to move forward, although not without one significant setback. The SPRING project is intended to focus heavy and growing use of the nature center while preserving the natural aspects of the center from excessive use, by enhancing the usefulness of the seven acre entrance area including the Interpretive Center.

Again this year Rep. Carolyn Laine and Sen. Satveer Chaudhary introduced bills in the House and Senate, respectively, to provide bonding monies to pay for a portion of the SPRING project. Ample support was shown in the state legislature, but once again Gov. Tim Pawlenty cast a



**This diagram shows the phased-in plan for the Sanctuary Protection and Renewal Into the Next Generation Project.**

line-item veto of the Springbrook Project.

Nevertheless, the Project continues to move forward in partnership with the City of Fridley. Using money provided by a grant from the McKnight Foundation and additional funds provided by the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, Hoisington Koeigler Group, Inc, in

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## Changes on the Foundation Board

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Board added four new directors. Cherish Ringaman, Drew Laursen, Carolyn Laursen and Tim Dess have recently been elected, bringing the board membership to 17.

Cherish, a Fridley resident, is employed as a Business Analyst with Target Corporation. Drew and Carolyn live in Coon

Rapids, are employed by Ocean Tech Enterprises, and co-own a small business, Northwoods Wildlife Management Services. Tim lives in North Oaks and is employed at 3M as an Industrial and Transportation Business Supply Chain Manager. All four new members have a common interest – a passion for nature.

Resigning from the

board are Valora Putnam, Jim Malkowski and Brenda St. Germaine. Valora and Jim resigned from the board at the end of their terms. Brenda resigned as a result of moving to Wisconsin.

The Foundation is always looking for members. Anyone interested is encouraged to contact Jerry Hartlaub of the Nominations Committee.

# Spring Fling Food Tent Brings Out Smiles and Dollars

After the Trail of Discovery, meeting the Giant Rabbit, a visit to Storybook Gardens, petting animals and enjoying some carnival games – it’s time for a snack. Where? The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation Food Tent – of course!

As a gracious service and a mild fund raiser, the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation sells sandwiches, snacks and beverages to children and families enjoying the *Spring Fling* festivities. Apart from food and drink sales, board members devote many hours to Food Tent set-up and clean-up, and to adhering to many government safety requirements. Thanks goes to Foundation Director Brent Hodgeman for serving as leader of the Food Tent.

It isn’t all work. *Spring Fling* volunteers, safety personnel, and staff folks casually “dine” with board members while exchanging pleasantries and *Spring Fling* seasonal humor. Making new friends and team building are added benefits.

Patrons lingered in conversation, especially enjoying the beautiful weather this year. The board thanks all Food Tent patrons. Next year, plan to attend both *Pumpkin Night in*



Springbrook’s Spring Fling: The first picnic of the year.

the Park, October 23, 2010, and *Spring Fling* on April 16, 2011 — the Saturday afternoon before Easter weekend. They’ll again be great family fun with good food.

# Cummins Volunteers Remove Invasive Garlic Mustard

Cummins Power Generation encourages employees to actively support organizations and programs that improve life in their communities by forming teams to perform community service. Recently, nine volunteers from Fridley’s Cummins Power Generation went to Springbrook Nature Center to remove garlic mustard.

Garlic mustard is a biennial herb that overwhelms na-



Team members stand alongside bags of removed garlic mustard.

tive plants by aggressively monopolizing light, moisture, nutrients, soil and space. Many native wildflowers (including bloodroot, wild ginger and trilliums) are threatened by garlic mustard.

The project was the brainchild of employee James Bursey, who attended the Wisconsin Woodland Leadership Institute Forestry Outreach Program. He thought removing garlic mustard would be a good project for Cummins Power Generation volunteers. Working with the Community Involvement Team, Jim recruited for the project.

The group worked for about four hours, clearing one large patch of garlic mustard and pulling garlic mustard along the path toward a second large patch. After pulling the noxious weed, they bagged and removed it to ensure that the plant’s seeds would not mature into full grown plants.

Removing exotic invasive plants is tough, dirty work. The volunteers providing this invaluable service are crucial to maintaining Springbrook’s habitat. Springbrook was very grateful for the success of this project.

# Phased In SPRING Project Keeps Upgrades Moving

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conjunction with Partners & Sirny Architects were hired by the city to create a master plan for the SPRING Project. After several months of design efforts and working meetings, an overall three phased project plan has been completed. Figure 1 shows the overall plan. This includes an addition to the current Interpretive Center, a new picnic pavilion, an outdoor amphitheater and Celebration Plaza, improvements in parking, several outdoor classrooms, and a berm to shield SNC from the 85<sup>th</sup> Avenue traffic noise.

Figure 2 illustrates Phase I in more detail. The new picnic pavilion will accommodate up to 175 people for outdoor weddings, and other gatherings. The Celebration Plaza will provide space to sit and visit, or just relax near

the interactive water fall and stream while enjoying the sight and smells of the plants in the healing garden.

Generating this plan document package was a very successful collaboration among all parties--the architects--Greg Ingraham, Ana Nelson and Paul Anderson; City of Fridley Staff—Siah St. Clair, SNC Director, Jack Kirk, Parks and Recreation Director, and Jim Kosluchar, Public Works Director; City of Fridley officials—Mayor Scott Lund and Dave Kondrik, Parks and Recreation Commission member and Planning Commission chair; and Foundation Board Members—Malcolm Mitchell and Donna Bahls. With this overall plan in hand, the SNCF is well prepared to move forward with Phase I, including a major capitol fund drive to raise the funds. We look forward to broad community support for this endeavor.



This diagram shows the first phase of the Springbrook SPRING project, the development of an outdoor pavilion and celebration plaza.