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Magical Way to Help Springbrook

Nov. 15 – Dec. 14

The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation is participating in Northtown Mall's Magical Season of Giving, a promotion that lets nonprofit organizations compete for cash prizes. The group with the most points receives \$2,000!

Every dollar you spend at a Northtown Mall retailer from Nov. 15 to Dec. 14 counts as one point for our group. Just take your receipts to Guest Services. They will mark your receipt and return it to you.

Receipts from these retailers outside of the main mall also count: The Home Depot, Buffalo Wild Wings, Old Chicago, Potbelly, FedEx Kinko's, Game Stop, Verizon, Applebee's and Starbucks.

Bakken Endorses SPRING Project

Medtronic co-founder Earl Bakken presented a gift to the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation of \$5,000 in memorial to the passing of Elaine Hermundslie, wife of Medtronic co-founder, Palmer Hermundslie.

Fridley Mayor Scott Lund and Malcolm Mitchell, chair of the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, accepted the check. Bakken also signed a letter designed to encourage other donors to support the SPRING Project.

Bakken toured the park in May as a distinguished guest of Mayor Lund, Nature Center Director Siah St. Clair and Springbrook Foundation Member Jerry Hartlaub. He presented the memorial after his tour. He said Elaine and Palmer were generous people who would have appreciated Springbrook.

"We were honored that he would make a memorial to the Nature Center on behalf of his sister-in-law, Elaine," said Hartlaub, a former Medtronic employee. "Earl, who grew up playing along Rice



Director Siah St. Clair, Mayor Scott Lund, Director Jerry Hartlaub and Earl Bakken (left to right) tour Springbrook. In addition to making a donation on behalf of his sister-in-law, Bakken endorsed Springbrook's SPRING Project.

Creek, has always appreciated the open areas of Fridley."

The spring day turned out to be a gorgeous one to appreciate the park. A group of kindergarteners studied tiny critters found in the park's wetlands. The tour included several park stops, a visit to the Interpretive Center and a brief presentation by St. Clair.

Bakken's fondness for the area is a big reason internationally famous Medtronic is headquartered in Fridley.

Promoting Springbrook To Fridley's Neighbors

At a New Brighton Town Hall Meeting, the Springbrook Nature Center was nicely featured in the concurrent Community Fair. Nearly 200 people had an opportunity to learn about various regional nonprofit and government service groups. The Springbrook

exhibit included a live Blanding's turtle, a stuffed Barred owl and a stuffed striped skunk, many beautiful glossy Nature Center photos and various informational handouts.

Springbrook Foundation Director Jerry Hartlaub organized and staffed the four hour exhibit

This exhibit was part of the Foundation's continuing initiative to promote the Nature Center. The intent is to encourage appreciation of nature, encourage participation in Springbrook programs, and suggest financial and in-kind gifts to improve the Nature Center.

New Sign To Welcome Visitors

For regular visitors, the Interpretive Center at Springbrook Nature Center is frequently the first place they stop. The exhibits of live animals, taxidermy and other exhibits delight children and adults alike.

But some visitors can be put off by the unmarked building. In an effort to welcome all who come to the Nature Center, the Springbrook Foundation is creating a new sign.

The Springbrook Interpretive Center serves as park headquarters, zoo, store, meeting room,



Here is a preliminary design of the Interpretive Center sign, which will be about five feet wide.

classroom, learning center, exhibit space, staff offices, storage, wildlife watching area, restrooms and even polling place for the citizens of northwest Fridley.

Money for the sign was donated by Joyce Colotti in memory of her husband, Dominic.

Stock Donations To Springbrook Foundation Make Tax Sense

When you donate to the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation, consider donating stock. When you donate stock you avoid paying capital gains on that stock, so Springbrook benefits more than if you sold the stock and donated the proceeds.

It is easy to donate stock to Springbrook. Just e-mail treasurer, Ed Meyer, at meyer98@comcast.net, for our brokerage firm, our account number, and our DTC number. Contact your broker and provide this information along with the stock name and number of shares you wish to donate.

Foundation Scholarships Help Big Kids Too

In addition to scholarships for children to attend summer camps at Springbrook Nature Center, the Springbrook Foundation also provides scholarships for young volunteers who go on to study environmental education or conservation in college.

A requirement of the scholarship is that the young person has to make a significant contribution in time and talent to Springbrook Nature Center.

This fall, the Foundation provided a scholarship to Katy Campbell of Blaine. Campbell has been a regular volunteer at Springbrook since she was quite young. Although she is teaching at the nationally famous Wolf Ridge Environmental Learning Center near Finland as a part of her master's degree, she found time to come back to Fridley to help out with this year's Pumpkin Night in the Park.

Campbell is a graduate student at

the University of Minnesota at Duluth. After teaching at Wolf Ridge she will be finishing coursework on the university campus next year.

For the last several summers Campbell was a Springbrook day camp leader.

In the past two years, the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation has also provided scholarships to 35 children whose parents couldn't afford the entire cost of a Springbrook day camp. Springbrook relies on social workers to identify needy children.



Katy Campbell, left, and two summer campers studying camouflage. She started like many volunteers, caring for animals, and last summer was a day camp leader.

Last year 425 children attended Springbrook's summer day camps.

The Foundation has a donation box on the counter inside the Interpretive Center and all money raised from that donation box is used for either day camp or college and post-secondary scholarships.

SAVE THE DATE: Springbrook's annual fundraiser is Saturday May 2 at the North Air Banquet Hall, Central Avenue in Fridley.

Fundraisers Of A Feather Find Fun Together

Ruth Powers has been helping raise funds for the Springbrook Nature Center doing what she loves – participating in Springbrook's Bird Banding program.

The company Powers works for, Symantec, donates money to the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation for every hour she volunteers at the Nature Center. Symantec, makers of software such as Norton Anti-Virus, donates money this way because it puts its donations where its employees are willing to put their time. So far this year Symantec has donated \$677 for the time Powers has spent capturing local song birds in mist nets and traps, studying them and then seeing that they are safely released.

And she isn't the only one. The company that Judy Jones retired from, Land O' Lakes, also donates to Springbrook for the time she puts in. Judy, who records the size, weight and other data gathered about the captured song birds, also volunteers in other ways at Springbrook. She is especially helpful covering the reception desk when employees are needed elsewhere.



Ruth Powers holds one of her fleeting charges, a robin.

Many companies make their donations in this way. This way employees feel a sense of participation in the company's charitable giving. Usually it involves some minimal paperwork. The Springbrook Nature Center Foundation can provide documents showing its non-profit status for anyone who wants to help. (Contact Malcolm Mitchell at 763-571-2339 for information.)

Springbrook's Bird Banding project is lead by Ron Refsnider of Coon Rapids. He is retired from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It is one of the longest continual bird banding projects in Minnesota. Refsnider and Siah St. Clair, Springbrook's director, are licensed to band all birds except for waterfowl and hummingbirds.

The birds are measured, weighed, examined for fat and other health indicators, aged and sexed (if possible), fitted with a light-weight band with a unique number on it and then released. Band numbers and other collected data are sent to the national Bird Banding Laboratory.

Other regular volunteers include Dean Krepela, Mary Dawson, Lance Nelson, Yolanda and Erling Fugelso, Steve Goldsmith, Paul Fusco, Gloria Campbell, Ben Sandstrom, Jenn Gillen, Caleb Ashling, Holly Burd and Deb Field.

The next Springbrook bird banding is from 7:30 a.m. to noon on Sunday, Dec. 7. The public is welcome and maybe able to release birds.



Refsnider tries to determine the age by seeing if the skull bone is complete.

Above, Ron Refsnider, Judy Jones and Mary Dawson, three regular Bird Banding volunteers, go about the business of researching Minnesota song birds as three young people observe.



Powers releases a chickadee, one of the common birds at Springbrook.

Doyle Mullin: A Lifetime Of Service to Springbrook

Springbrook Nature Center Foundation and City of Fridley recognized Doyle Mullin, past chairman of the Foundation, for his 34 years of service to Springbrook Nature Center and Springbrook Nature Center Foundation.

Mullin had served on the Foundation's board of directors for almost as long as it existed. During much of that time he was its chair and driving force. He was also instrumental in raising funds for the Interpretive Center. Mullin and his wife, Ninky, live in Fridley.

A reception for Mullin was held June 26 and about 45 people attended, including Mullin's family, city officials and past directors.

At the reception, Mayor Scott Lund presented Doyle with a plaque and recognition of making the day Doyle Mullin Appreciation Day in the City of Fridley.

Plaques, one for Mullin and one for Springbrook, read:

Special Recognition for a Lifetime of Service

Doyle Mullin has dedicated 34 years – more than half of his adult life – to serving and supporting the Springbrook Nature Center and the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation.

During this time he has served as Foundation chair, associate chair, board member, mentor, spokesman and advocate. Working with others, he helped preserve the land which comprises the Nature Center, secured funding for building the Interpretive Center and defended



Doyle Mullin of Fridley has been an advocate for Springbrook Nature Center since before it was a park.

this popular Fridley park from alteration and development.

For this and countless other accomplishments, the City of Fridley and the Springbrook Nature Center Foundation recognize his selfless efforts for community betterment on behalf of the citizens of Fridley.

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.