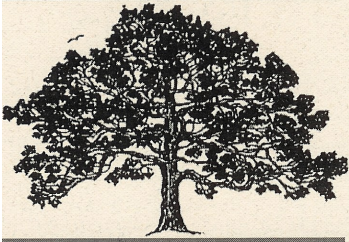


SPRING 2009



FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE

Newsletter

MISSION STATEMENT:

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come. It's members are guided by his concern for humanity, nature, sense of community and the innovative and thoughtful essence of his work. The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, protecting the environment, and preserving our cultural and physical heritage.

The Book Corner: Notes on the Olmsted Collection

by Jane Kunka

Library Committee New Acquisitions:

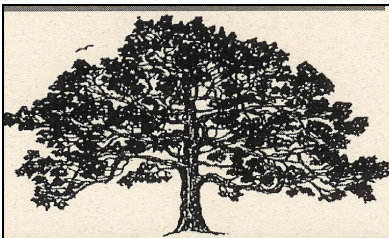
The Library Committee recently purchased the "Poetical Works of Akenside". This book has been sought after for many years, but has been out of print, and existing copies were prohibitively expensive. This volume represents an authentic text as printed by the original publisher. The current publisher is Biblio Bazaar, LLC. Their goal is publishing works that are culturally important, and making them available at a reasonable cost.

Olmsted named many of Riverside's roads for writers he admired and who influenced him. Many were mentioned in the Olmsted Papers, e.g. Repton, Loudon, Shenstone, Uvedale Price, Audubon, etc. Mark Akenside was not mentioned by Olmsted, but his most famous poem, "The Pleasures of the Imagination", written in the 18th century remained very popular in the 19th, and was widely read.

This volume opens with a brief biography of Akenside with critical remarks about his work. Akenside was born in England in 1721 at Newcastle Upon Tyne. The son of a butcher, he studied for the pulpit, but later changed his mind and studied medicine. He earned a doctor's degree from Cambridge, and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society and the College of Physicians. He wrote poetry from an early age. Mark Akenside's poetry is very beautiful, but a challenge for 21st century readers.

"The Pleasures of the Imagination" begins:

With what attractive charms this goodly frame
Of Nature touches the consenting hearts
Of mortal men; and what the pleasing stores
Which beauteous imitation thence derives
To deck the poet's or the painter's toll
My verse unfolds.



www.olmstedsmociety.org

The Frederick Law Olmsted
Society Of Riverside

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2009

Founded in 1968, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the original village plan, developed in 1868 by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux. Membership is open to all interested individuals. Annual Membership is available for a \$25.00 (tax deductible) contribution.

Officers

President: Kimberly Jacobs

Vice President: Tim Ozga

Treasurer: Theresa Pelletier

Secretary: Cindy Kellogg

Committees

Architecture: Sander Kaplan

Thomas Jacobs

Fourth of July: Sander Kaplan

Housewalk: Constance Guardi, Kimberly Jacobs, Theresa Pelletier

Landscape: Cindy Kellogg, Holly Machina

Library: Jane Kunka, Joanne Keefe

Long Range Planning: Lonnie Sacchi,

Membership: Joanna Beaumont, Tim Ozga

Newsletter: Chandra Reynolds

Tours/Education: Tony Pecelunas, Lonnie Sacchi,

Website: Kevin Hicks

Honorary Directors: Ted Smith, Mike DeLise, Geri Tauber

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PO Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546

A Letter From The President

By Kim Jacobs

Every so often, our attention is called to a local preservation issue of great importance. The Arcade Building, in the center of our village, is facing an uncertain future.

Olmsted's original plan called for a block of stores to fulfill every day needs. The partner of Calvert Vaux, Frederick C. Withers, was hired by the Riverside Improvement Company in 1871 to design the Arcade Building (as well as the Riverside Presbyterian Church, which has been much altered, but I digress.) At the time, *Harper's Weekly* described Withers as "a man of exceptional talent . . . insistent upon an adherence to the highest ideals . . . [and] no lack of imagination." The Olmsted Collection at the Riverside Library has several books about Withers, one of which tells the story about the birth of the Preservation movement in the early 1960's. Oddly enough, the very genesis of this movement involved the saving of a Withers' building, the Jefferson Market Courthouse in New York City!

With the arrival of spring, the winter related threats to the abandoned Arcade Building are temporarily behind us, but the neglect, lack of ownership, and exposure to the elements continue to wear on it. According to published reports, the ownership currently is in limbo between the receiver and the mortgage holder.



Frederick C. Withers

This past fall, FLOS Board member Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga tirelessly worked toward drawing attention to the fate of this historic building by applying to two endangered building lists, one by the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and the other by Landmarks Illinois. According to the Landmarks IL website, "The purpose of the 'Ten Most' list is to focus attention on sites threatened by deterioration, lack of maintenance, insufficient funds, or inappropriate development. Since the program's inception in 1995, 132 properties have been identified on the endangered list, calling attention to statewide resources in need of preservation." Landmarks IL will be announcing its 10 Most Endangered List on April 28th. Should the Arcade make the list, it would create desired publicity and ensure that preservation minded buyers would learn of its current predicament. Hopefully, positive action would soon follow.

On to the pragmatic. We find that a significant amount of money, generously donated by you through your membership support, is spent on paper and postage, in lieu of programs supporting our core mission. In this day and age, with all the technology available to us, *and* with a fantastic new website www.olmstedsmociety.org, a quarterly newsletter mailing is a waste of

1. paper, resulting in less trees,
2. money, which we could be spending on more TREES!

Continued on Page 4

Frederick Law Olmsted Society

Landscape Workday

Please celebrate Earth Day & Turn Off Week & Arbor Day by helping to weed & maintain a landmark of Riverside on **Saturday, April 25th, 2009 9am - 12pm**

The Scottwood Common

The Riverside Public Works Department & the Riverside Frederick Law Olmsted Society have teamed up in 2009 to help beautify Riverside's public parks. **Scottwood Common & the Longcommon** serve as the backbone of Riverside's landscape architecture. Both were intended to be part of a green space stretching all the way to downtown Chicago. Frederick Law Olmsted designed these parks to provide changing vistas for both pedestrians & vehicles. His plan can be better realized by reducing shrub overgrowth & eliminating weeds. Join us as we tame, and then maintain your public parks of Riverside.

Future Workdays:

Scottwood Common: May 9th & October 3rd

Longcommon & Downing triangle: May 30th, June 13th, July 18th & October 24th

Along Riverside Road: August 8th, August 29th, September 12th & November 14th

All workdays are scheduled for **Saturdays from 9am-12pm**. Look for the Riverside Public Works dump truck. Come for an hour or three, whatever your schedule allows. Supervised children are welcome. Service hour credits are available. Bring your favorite work gloves & a water bottle. All other supplies & snacks will be provided.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact:

Holly Machina or Cindy Kellogg, Olmsted Society Landscape Committee Chairpersons

landscape@olmstedsociety.org or 447-0226 or www.olmstedsociety.org

Mike Collins, Riverside Forester mcollins@riverside.il.us or 442-3590 ext. 502



Volunteers spreading mulch on Scottwood Common at the Saturday morning workday in March.

FLOS Website is New and Improved!

By Tim Ozga

A key part of The Olmsted Society's mission is providing information and education about the environment, culture, and physical heritage of Riverside. To better meet those goals the Society's website (www.olmstedsociety.org) has undergone a complete overhaul.

The site looks much better. Menus are easier to use. Pay special attention to the column on the right side of most pages. The right column contains three parts, the **Mission Statement**, a box listing **Upcoming Events**, and links to **Learn More**. Most importantly, new content has been added, and is being updated and added to all the time.

Landscape workdays are a regular Society event. The next scheduled workday is listed under **Upcoming Events**. Past workdays have their own page, with stories and pictures describing the days' accomplishments.

The first video on the website is under the **Landscape Resource** page. The fourteen minute video describes the garlic mustard plant, the problems it causes, and how to remove it. Garlic mustard is infesting Riverside and killing and crowding out other plant species.

The **Olmsted Collection at the Riverside Library** contains books and documents about the works and history of Olmsted, his associations, about Riverside, and about many aspects of landscaping. A list of the collection, containing over 700 titles, is now available online. This draft is still a little rough, but it shows the range of books available.

The yearly "**Reflections on Riverside**" poetry contest has a web page. The rules and forms are available for download and the names and pictures of previous year winners are posted.

A Letter From the President, continued

Thus said, we intend to email our newsletter to you in the future. If you have not already done so, please ensure that we have an email address for you by notifying our membership chair, Joanna Beaumont at membership@olmstedsociety.org. However, if you would still like to receive a hard copy of your newsletter, please notify us and we will see to it that it is delivered to your door.

Over these past three years, Jim Reynolds has lead the society with passion and determination. He has earned, above all, a designation of steward. In the name of the entire society, I would like to extend our gratitude for his years of service. We wish him, as well as all our new Village Trustees, Riverside Township Trustees, and District 96 & 208 School Board members the best, and look forward to forging ahead on our Riverside journey together.

As the new President of the Olmsted Society, it is my goal to improve our research and knowledge, thus remaining relevant; that we stay true to our mission to preserve and protect our legacy; that we continue respectful dialogue and collaboration with our village; and finally, that we continue our strong ethic of volunteerism. Feel free to contact me at any time. I am humbled to be of service to you.

Kim Jacobs president@olmstedsociety.org

Walking Tours Schedule for 2009

The Olmsted Walking Tours of Riverside are getting cranked up again for 2009. If you have never taken the tour, this is the year to do it. There is so much to learn about the history of Riverside, and much of it is truly amazing! The tours meet at the train station each month at 2 pm. The North side of town is one month, the South side is the next. Tours last about 2 hours, so bring your walking shoes!

Tickets: \$10 , \$7. Seniors and FLOS members

2009 Schedule

During the **Art Fair in May** there will be two special half price tours offered:

Saturday May 16th (North Side) and Sunday May 17th (South Side)

Our Regular Season Schedule Resumes: June 28th (South side)

July 26th (North side)

August 30th (South side)

September 27th (North side)

October 25th (South side)

For additional information, or to arrange a private tour, just call 442-7675 or 442-0845

From the FLOS Archives : 1975

(The more things change, the more things stay the same)

"News from the Poets Corner"

Our annual "Reflections on Riverside" student poetry contest is well under way! In celebration of National Poetry Month and the advent of spring in Riverside, the contest, held in April, encourages children to spend time out in Riverside's natural spaces and create original poetry reflecting upon their experiences and impressions.

Look for an announcement of the winners from each school in your next newsletter!

THE RIVERSIDE CENTENNIAL RESOLUTION

BY THE PEOPLE OF RIVERSIDE — A National Historic Landmark
"In the Spirit of 1776" preparatory to our National Bicentennial — 1976

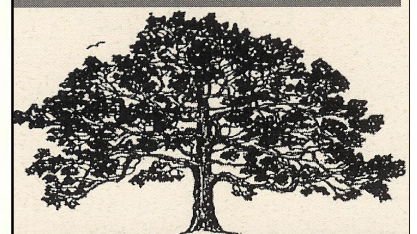
With the World in turmoil and our Nation struggling out of recession — with over half a trillion in debt — with oil and other energy problems — with National Resources depleting — with the necessity for reduction of air and water pollution — with inflation drastically lowering the value of the dollar — with most all governmental bodies overspending —

We, the people of Riverside, Illinois, celebrating our 100th anniversary in 1975, resolve the following:

1. To help speed the economic recovery. 2. To work for a secure America and World Peace. 3. To conserve energy. 4. To conserve National Resources. 5. To help reduce air and water pollution. 6. To encourage all to live within income and reduce borrowing, which encourages inflation. 7. Preparatory to our Nation's Bicentennial — and as a token of our earnest desire for fiscal sanity, our family contributes \$1.00 to the Bicentennial Commission Fund to reduce the National Debt.

SPONSORED BY
THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY
OF RIVERSIDE ILLINOIS

SIGNED



2009 Membership

Membership is for the calendar year. If you have not renewed your membership for 2009, please return this form with your check payable to: Frederick Law Olmsted Society, P.O. Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546

<input type="checkbox"/> General Member	\$25-\$49	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Contributing Member	\$50-\$99	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Member	\$100 and above	\$ _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership	\$ Add Amount	\$ _____
Total Enclosed:		\$ _____

The Olmsted Society welcomes your participation in our ongoing activities. Put your talent to work and your energy to good use by joining a committee! Check off the committees that interest you. The Chairman will contact you with more information.

<input type="checkbox"/> Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> Landscape
<input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk	<input type="checkbox"/> Membership
<input type="checkbox"/> Library	<input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations
<input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter	<input type="checkbox"/> Website
<input type="checkbox"/> Tours/Education	
<input type="checkbox"/> Other Talents _____	

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

www.olmstedssociety.org

Please give us your email address, so we can save paper and trees!

Contact Joanna Beaumont at
membership@olmstedssociety.org



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YOUR
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Please Renew Today!

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