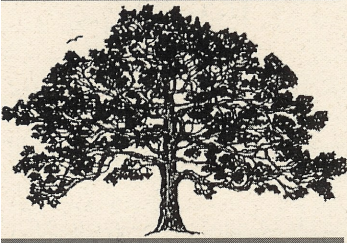


SUMMER 2009



FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE

NEWSLETTER

An Excerpt from: Riverside Remembered A Master's Project completed for the School of Natural Resources & Environment, University of Michigan . Sarah Faiks, Jarrett Kest, Amanda Szot, Molly Vendura: April 2001

Frederick Law Olmsted and Calvert Vaux

Frederick Law Olmsted

Landscape architecture is a broad profession that relies on the experience of many disciplines; this serves as a metaphor for Olmsted's life (1822-1903). In 1847, he began his adulthood as a farmer after several apprenticeships. He farmed for five years and at the same time pursued writing. After farming, he spent several years traveling through the South writing about slavery and the economic and social conditions there. In 1856, he became the Superintendent of Central Park in New York City, which eventually led to his partnership with Vaux and their submittal for the winning design of Central Park. In 1860, he became the Secretary of the United States Sanitation Commission (now known as the American Red Cross), which he helped to organize (Olmsted, Jr. 9). During this time he also continued his work with Vaux on Central Park. By 1863, he and Vaux had resigned as landscape architects for Central Park. Olmsted also resigned from the Sanitary Commission and began work for a mining company in California. Also in 1863, Olmsted, with Charles Eliot Norton, English clergyman Edwin Godkin, and others, founded the weekly review, *The Nation*. The following years found Olmsted busy with many landscape architecture projects in California and on the east coast. He and Vaux also resumed work on Central Park. The success of Central Park led to commissions for other parks and interconnected park systems in New York City, as well as in many other cities including Buffalo (1868-1893), and Chicago (1870-1871, 1895). Although most renown for these park systems, Olmsted and Vaux also designed many subdivisions, such as Tarrytown Heights, NY (1871-1872), and developed master plans for cities and villages such as Brooklyn, NY (1868), and Riverside, IL (1868-1869, 1883). They also developed plans for the campuses of Harvard University, Vassar College, and others.

Revisiting Riverside: A Frederick Law Olmsted Community

Olmsted and Vaux's partnership ended in 1872. However, the two later collaborated on several park projects, including the Niagara Reservation at Niagara Falls, NY, and Morningside Park in New York City. After his partnership with Vaux ended, Olmsted continued his practice, joined by his stepson, John Charles (J.C.) Olmsted, and later by Henry Sargeant Codman, Charles Elliott, and then by Olmsted's son Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr. Olmsted and his partners were very busy with the park system for Boston (known as the Emerald Necklace) (1875-1894) and Rochester (1888- 1893), the Druid Hills development in Georgia (1893), the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina (1888-1895), the U.S. Capitol grounds (1874-1893), and Stanford University in California (1886-1890). Olmsted also played a key role in the establishment of the National Park Service and published plans for the preservation of Yosemite Park (1865) and the reservation at Niagara Falls (1869-1887). Throughout his adulthood, he did much traveling to China, Europe, Canada, Mexico, and throughout the United States. Olmsted retired from professional practice in 1895. Olmsted's sight began to fail him and he developed a form of mental dementia. He spent his final years as a patient at McLean's Institute, the grounds of which he had designed some years before . His sons and other landscape architects continued the Olmsted firm.

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 Frederick Law Olmsted Society
Of Riverside**

NEWSLETTER

Summer 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

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

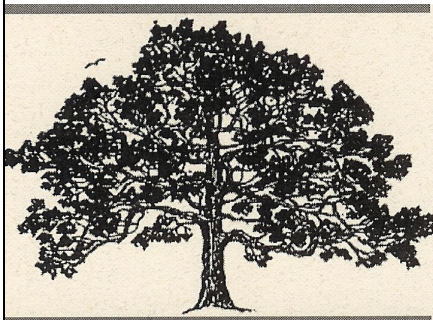
Newsletter: Chandra Reynolds

Tours/Education: Tony Pecelunas, Lonnie Sacchi,

Website: Kevin Hicks

Honorary Directors: Ted Smith, Mike DeLise, Geri Tauber

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Olmsted Society of Riverside
PO Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546



At the 16 June 2009 District 96 School Board meeting, the Olmsted Society offered to participate in a citizen's committee process because of Hauser's prominence in the village and our strong belief that as a community, we shall endeavor to bring our collective grounds to a unified level in line with the landscape design vision of the Village's planner, Frederick Law Olmsted. That is the standard set forth by the National Historic Landmark designation the Village of Riverside has achieved. The committee's involvement was to assist ongoing planning efforts and to ensure that one or more appropriate design approaches would be provided to the building committee for their consideration. In so collaborating and soliciting public input from the beginning, later feedback with the potential to delay the Board's implementation schedule could be pre-empted.

Unfortunately, in our opinion, the D96 Board decided to proceed without the benefit of structured public input. However, we respect the Board's authority, and remain committed towards the best possible outcome in the interest of all community stakeholders. We thus submitted the following input in writing, for their consideration.

First, and most important, are the aesthetics and character of the new landscape design. The Hauser landscape should blend in with and enhance the village's serene and sylvan beauty. It should evoke a naturalistic setting, including many trees and shrubs that will further enhance our National Historic Landmark district status, as well as benefit our collective environment. The Frederick Law Olmsted Society offered detailed and specific input as needed, given that a number of our Board members have a deep knowledge of Olmsted's plans, writings, and design philosophy.

Second, we recommended that a local landscape architect familiar with Olmsted's design principals and the Landscape Advisory Commission's approved native plants list be consulted as the Board proceeds further with their design team. As is commonly done among design professionals dedicated to delivering the highest value for their clients, a peer-review, offered free of charge by a local landscape architect who has provided pro-bono work for School District 96 before, is a win-win-win proposal for the school board, the Village, and the taxpayers.

Third, we highly recommended that as little hardscape be used as possible. Where such hardscape is deemed necessary after careful review of any functional or programmatic alternatives, we recommended the use of permeable pavements. Storm water run-off is already problematic on Woodside Road during heavy rainfalls, and permeable pavement systems positively contribute to the natural recharging of our aquifers. These systems have been successfully used on a large scale in such places as the Morton Arboretum visitor parking lot, the White Sox Cellular Field parking lot, and the plaza at Buckingham Fountain in Chicago's Grant Park. We would be happy to share our knowledge of these systems with the D96 building committee team as well; as we have LEED accredited and licensed architects on our Board as well.

The FLOS board will continue to monitor this situation. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at any time. I am humbled to be of service to you.

Kim Jacobs

president@olmstedociety.org

OLMSTED SOCIETY LANDSCAPE WORKERS

FINDING THE COMMON BEAUTY

The Riverside Public Works Department & the Riverside Frederick Law Olmsted Society have teamed up in 2009 to help beautify Riverside's public parks. At the April landscape workday at the Millbridge Triangle in Scottswood Commons, Central School students came out in force to celebrate Earth Day, Arbor Day & Turn Off Week (no screen time). Joining us were the 2nd graders from Brownie Troop #238, the 4th & 5th graders from Central's Ecology Club and many other Central School students. In all we had more than 30 volunteers from Central School participate. With so many volunteers we were able to remove all weeds from the area, including Buckthorn, Green Ash & garlic Mustard. We also laid down six truck loads of mulch. Pass by this area to see the lovely Nine-bark, Prairie Rose & Wild Plum.



Garlic Mustard Lesson

We found Wild Geranium, Mayapple, Red Trillium, and Jack-in-the-Pulpit among others.

For the second workday in May, the 30th, we worked at the triangle at Longcommon & Downing. Again, several Riverside school students helped weed this very large triangle. We helped clear a path through a bed & hope to spread mulch at the July workday. We also cleared an area around a bench that was overtaken by Buckthorn. Because of the size of this triangle, it is in desperate need of being "adopted" by a group of volunteers. Please contact the FLOS Landscape Committee if interested.



Central 4th & 5th Grade Eco-Club 4/25/09

Scottswood Commons & 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 on August 29th, September 12th and November 14th at Riverside Road by the swinging bridge. On October 3rd, we'll be returning to Scottswood Commons and on October 24th, join us at the triangle at Longcommon and Downing. 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. Please be sure to go to our website, www.olmstedsociety.org to see more pictures from the workdays.

Contact Holly Machina at hmachina@ameritech.net, 708-442-0226

Contact Cindy Kellogg at cindykellogg@comcast.net, 708-442-1040



The Book Corner

By Jane Kunka

Victorian Gardens, Part 1: Suburban Home Grounds by Frank J. Scott

This new acquisition to the Olmsted Collection was published in 1870. Suburban communities were being built after the Civil War with the advent of improved transportation from the large and often overcrowded cities.

The author Frank J. Scott had studied with Andrew Jackson Downing, the horticulturist, landscape gardener and architectural critic. He hoped this book would appeal to the new suburbanites and “aid persons of moderate income, who knew little of the art of decorative gardening, to beautify their homes.” New editions of the book were published in 1872 and 1873, and bear out the author’s supposition that he had a large and receptive readership.

Scott complained of poor promotion of his book by his publisher and asked Frederick Law Olmsted to write a favorable review on it for “The Nation”. Olmsted did so on October 26, 1871, and that review is included in a pocket in the front of the copy in the Olmsted Collection at the Riverside Public Library.

Olmsted, as we know, was a proponent of a natural landscape that would have a “refreshing and tranquilizing” effect on the viewer. Scott was more concerned with creating and framing a picture in a garden. Though Olmsted was not completely complimentary toward “Victorian Gardens”, he did appreciate Mr. Scott’s recommendations on plant materials. Charles Beveridge said Olmsted had “a desire to use landscape art to meet human needs”. Scott’s book promoted the more elaborate gardenesque style which suggested the display of specimens of flowering plants and carefully shaped shrubs.

This book should interest those who might consider restoring a Victorian garden. They were very difficult to care for, and few remain, but this book is still being used for restoration efforts in Victorian homes.

More Olmsted Society Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteer to help restore and preserve the historic value of this village ! If you have just an hour, or time for a dedicated effort, the Olmsted Society offers numerous opportunities for making a positive contribution to Riverside, not to mention meeting and working together with friends and neighbors!

Architectural Lecture Series: Research and obtain speakers for our free lectures at the Township Hall on topics related to architecture and landscape architecture. If you have any contacts or ideas on topics of interest, Contact: Sander Kaplan at sander-tree@sbcglobal.net

Housewalk: 3rd Sunday in May, every other year. The steering committee secures homes of architectural interest on a chosen theme, then publicizes and manages the event. House Captains and Docents present homes to the public. Many volunteers are needed ! Contact: house-walk@olmstedsociety.org.

Tours of Historic Riverside: 3rd Sunday of the month 2-4 pm, May thru Oct. Docents lead visitors on informative walking tours, departing from Riverside’s train station. (North and south sides tours on alternating months.) Bus, trolley, Segway, or private tours are available by special arrangement. Contact Lonnie Sacchi at lsac111@sbcglobal.net

“Reflections on Riverside” Poetry Contest: This contest invites contemplation of Riverside’s natural areas to school children. Open to all grade levels, it is publicized in April, judged in May and awarded in June. Editing and typesetting for the publication of a “Reflections on Riverside” poetry book is ongoing. Contact Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga at abderdeen1@comcast.net

Website: Ongoing-Update content and presentation on Olmsted Society Website. Investigate secure method of accepting membership payments and registration. Contact: Kevin Hicks at Kevin@hicks.tv

Library– Research and obtain new publications for the Frederick Law Olmsted Room of the Riverside Library. Contact: Jane Kunka at jjkunka@comcast.net

Membership: Ongoing. Update membership database, coordinate mailings and initiate outreach to members. Contact: Membership@olmstedsociety.org

Newsletter: 2-3 times per year. Write articles on topics of historic, landscape, and environmental interest for the membership. Help is needed with printing, addressing and mailing newsletters. Contact: Chandra Reynolds at fta@sbcglobal.net

Publicity: Ongoing. Write press releases and coordinate printing of posters, flyers, outreach letters, etc. Distribute publicity materials. Contact Kim Jacobs at filerjacobs@sbcglobal.net.

“REFLECTIONS ON RIVERSIDE” POETRY CONTEST

WINNERS TO BE PUBLISHED



While we'll give you a sneak preview of this year's winners below, please note that the long awaited publication of all Reflections on Riverside entries to date is coming to fruition. A bound volume spanning 2007, 2008 and 2009 will be appearing this fall in the Olmsted Room of the Riverside Public Library.



Olmsted's Plan for Riverside

*Samantha Miezio,
Ames Elementary*

Frederick Olmsted had a plan
To make it beautiful, but it only
began

He wanted space of solid
ground

And green trees and plants all
around

People who live there are oh, so
gracious

The parks we have are nice and
spacious

Frederick Olmsted had a
dream

I think we have it
That's what it seems!

Nature Lover

*Becky Warner, St. Mary
School, Jr. High Div*

While I walk the eroded
path,
Shells crunch under my
feet.
I see three duckies take a
bath,
I feel the sun's sweet heat.
Geese groupies gape at me,
The river rapids are high
today.
Squirrels scamper up a
tree,
While the water snake si-
dles away.
The birds are bickering,
The icy water tickles my toes.
The fireflies are flickering,
I see green in the leaves of the
gingkoes.
As a nature lover, I am fond
Of the natural spaces of Swan
Pond.

Big Ball Park

*Molly Gates,
Blythe Park Elementary*

Home Run!
Sunny, Exciting
Pitching, Hitting, Stealing
Strike 1, Strike 2, Strike 3.
You're out!
Big Ball Park

River *Skye Ozga,
Central Elementary*

The frothing water
Rushing over the Hoffman
dam
Then under the bridge
Such powerful force
Surging though the forest
Leaves in dark water
Currents of great strength
Right under the swinging
bridge
The mighty Des Plaines

Down by the River

*Luci Siliunas, St. Mary
Elementary*

Down by the river
In the old, old park
I can feel a shiver
And it's getting pretty dark.
There stands a tree
The size of three
So very old
As ancient as gold.
The old gas street lights
Show me the way.
They guide me along,
From night until day.
All the streets winding
Is hard for the finding
If I get too dizzy
No one's too busy
To help me find my way.

OLMSTED SOCIETY TOTE BAGS NOW AVAILABLE



Show your support for the Fredrick Law Olmsted Society and shop in style with our Signature Tote Bags!

Heavy duty canvas bags come in cream with dark navy trim and feature the signature of Fredrick Law Olmsted.

Help reduce the use of plastic bags! Great for trips to the Library or sustainable shopping at your local grocer or farmer's market. Zippered side pocket is an added bonus for keys, cell phones or loose change.

Olmsted Signature Bags are FREE at all Olmsted Society Events with a donation of \$10 to the Fredrick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside. You may also make a donation by mail.

Send your donation to:

Frederick Law Olmsted Society
c/o Signature Tote Bag
P.O. Box 65
Riverside, Illinois 60546



THE OLMSTED SOCIETY LECTURE SERIES PRESENTS:

Confessions of a Nature Lover: How I Finally Learned to Connect Kids and Nature

What happens when well-meaning nature lovers talk to young kids about big environmental problems? Come explore the effects of too much bad news and find out why author David Sobel says, "Let us allow children to love the earth before we ask them to save it." Through this lively interactive workshop, we'll dig into "what's OK to say," how to instill environmental "good manners", and explore easy ways to help the kids in your life connect with the wilderness in their own backyard.

Bio info: Katie Slivovsky, Exhibit Developer, Chicago Children's Museum

Katie Slivovsky has a degree in wildlife biology and has worked as a nature educator and exhibit developer at the Children's Museum of Indianapolis, the Morton Arboretum Children's Garden, Brookfield Zoo, and now the Chicago Children's Museum. She has written about age-appropriate conservation messages for News-week, Illinois Steward, and Chicago Parent and has presented workshops throughout Chicagoland, the United States and abroad. She lives in Western Springs and gets really excited when her kids find worms in the garden.

Please join us for this lecture on Wednesday, August 19th at 7:30pm in Township Hall.

“REFLECTIONS ON RIVERSIDE” ANNOUNCES

POETRY WINNERS

Each April, in celebration of National Poetry Month and the advent of spring in Riverside, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society sponsors its “**Reflections on Riverside**” **Student Poetry Contest**. The contest, which is open to local elementary and junior high school students, challenges students to reflect upon Riverside’s natural areas and convey their impressions in poetic form.

This year, 56 students from five area schools participated in the contest. A panel of seven judges scored the entries independently. Olmsted Society President Kim Jacobs and program chair Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga presented the awards during the last week of school at ceremonies throughout Riverside.

All aspiring poets received certificates of recognition. The following elementary school winners received framed certificates together with prizes of cash and/or Aunt Diana’s homemade fudge:

Ames 1st place: Samantha Miezio, 4th grade, *Olmsted’s Plan for Riverside*

2nd place: Mac Catrambone, 4th grade, *Birds of Riverside*

Blythe Park 1st place: Molly Gates, 4th grade, *Big Ball Park*

2nd place: Erin Grehan, 4th grade, *Living Thing*

Central 1st place: Skye Ozga, 3rd grade, *River*

2nd place: David Pribyl-Pierdinock, 5th grade, *Riverside in Spring*

St. Mary 1st place: Luci Siliunas, 4th grade, *Down by the River*

2nd place: Chloe Mc Kinley, 5th grade, *Journey of a Traveler: Peace Haven*

This year’s winner of the **Junior High School Division** is **Becky Warner** (6th grade) of **St. Mary School** for her poem titled, *Nature Lover*.

All the winner’s work will be published into a bound volume for the Riverside Library. Special thanks to Janice Fisher and Dorothy Sikora for their resourcefulness, advice and encouragement on this publication. Please stop by the Olmsted Room and check it out!



2009 Membership Renewal

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: _____

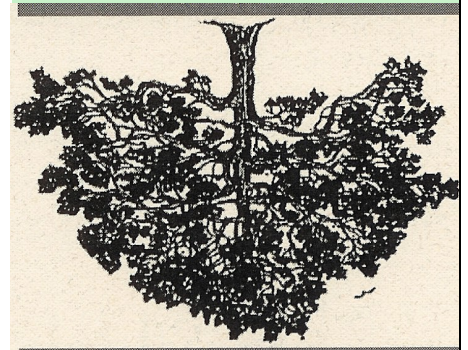
Phone: _____

Email: _____

www.olmstedsociety.org

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

Contact Joanna Beaumont at
membership@olmstedsociety.org



FREDERICK LAW OL MSTED SOCIETY OF
RIVERSIDE

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