

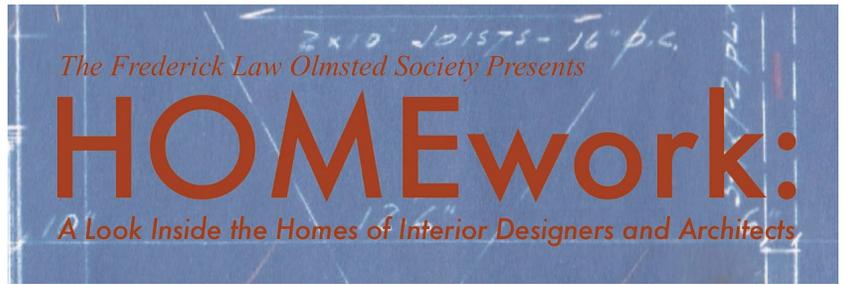
SPRING 2012



The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come. Its 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.

Membership is open to all interested individuals for a \$25 tax-deductible contribution by check or online.

Olmsted Society
PO Box 65
Riverside, IL 60546
www.olmstedsociety.org



This year's housewalk, "HOMEwork: A Look Inside the Homes of Riverside Architects and Interior Designers," is unique because it includes residences owned by local architects and interior designers. This year's houses include the following:



We are also pleased to feature a tour of the newly renovated Arcade Building, which is one of Riverside's historic landmarks. William Lebaron Jenney was a part owner in the early 1870's. It has undergone an extensive architectural restoration. Most of the spaces within the Arcade Building will be open to the Housewalk patrons.

This year's housewalk will depict how the architects and designers have applied expertise in their profession to make the best use of the given architecture of their own homes. You will notice many of the homes are smaller in scale, and they are scattered throughout the village. In most cases, the designs of the interior spaces outweigh any exterior, architectural significance. Some of the houses have substantial additions, while others are transformed



Arcade Building

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2012

THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE

If you have a question or comment about the newsletter, please direct them to newsletter@olmstedsociety.org.

OFFICERS

President: Tim Ozga
Vice President: Sander Kaplan
Treasurer: Fred Kitch
Secretary: Yvone Lucero

COMMITTEES

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Housewalk: Rachael Franceschina, Kim Jacobs
Landscape: Cindy Kellogg, Holly Machina
Library: Constance Guardi
Long Range Planning: Jim Petrizilka, Jeff Miller, Rachael and Luigi Franceschina
Lectures: Rob Dixon, Jeff Miller
Media: Sandie Petrizilka
Membership: Theresa Pelletier
Newsletter: Gintaras Lietuvninkas, Dorie Skiest
Tours/Education: Tony Pecelunas, Jim Petrizilka
Writing: Aberdeen Ozga
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Honorary Directors: Karen Graham, John and Jane Kunka, Lonnie Sacchi, Dorothy Schroeder, Ted Smith, Geri Tauber

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The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside
PO Box 65
Riverside, Illinois 60546

Greetings.

As the newest president of the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself. What began as a curiosity for the charm and beauty of our hometown, has grown, as my family has grown, into an appreciation for the template of community living that Olmsted envisioned nearly a century and a half ago. My wife Aberdeen and I have been members of the Society since we moved to Riverside in 2001 and have been active members of the FLOS Board for the past 6 years. Over that time, many of the faces on our Board have changed. With an infusion of new talent and energy, the Society is emerging anew. Bolstered by our Mission Statement, our efforts to reach out to neighbors and friends continues to grow year by year as we work to support the landmark landscape we live in, Riverside.

In 2012, I am pleased to share, we are planning more events and are focused on making the Society more accessible than ever. Our outreach has expanded through collaborative efforts with the Village, Library, Chamber and local groups and charities. Our intention is to bring the Society into the 21st century and our events are centered around making the Olmsted experience one that is applicable to living in the Riverside of today.

For example, our spring House Walk entitled "HOMEwork" will coincide with the Riverside Arts Weekend (RAW) in a shared venture to increase visitors and local participation. Over the summer, the Society will co-sponsor FRED (Frederick Law Olmsted in Riverside Education and Design), an unprecedented three day education and networking event bringing experts and homeowners together on garden and landscape design. Also, we have embarked on a collaborative Lecture Series with the Riverside Public Library. This April, May and June we will have targeted lectures on landscape design, urban development and even a talk focused on backyard chickens!

These special events will go hand in hand with our regular schedule of Landscape Workdays, Walking Tours and Youth Poetry Contest. It is my firm belief that the spirit of Olmsted lives in the sense of community that is inherent in Riverside's Plan.

I would like to thank you, the residents of Riverside, for your interest in the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, and take this opportunity to invite you to help us make 2012 a most memorable year.

Tim Ozga
president@olmstedsociety.org

The Picnic Conundrum in Riverside

Webster's dictionary defines a picnic as an excursion or outing with food, usually provided by members of the group, and eaten in the open. The word picnic may also be used to describe a pleasant or amusingly carefree experience or an easy task or feat. Unfortunately, Noah Webster never visited Riverside, for in Riverside having a picnic is no picnic, and can get you in trouble with the law.

This seems odd to many people, especially to out-of-town visitors touring our village, who see the no picnicking and fishing signs and comment on the irony that Frederick Law Olmsted designed Riverside and its parks specifically to encourage people to mingle and recreate. Although he didn't often use the word picnic in his writings, one of those times was his labeling of "Picnic Island" in Swan Pond Park in his 1869 Plan of Riverside.

Some have said that Olmsted's 19th Century idea of picnics, which were carried on as formal catered affairs with servants, bears no resemblance to our 21st century version, and would be totally inappropriate for modern day Riverside. It might be best, therefore, to let Olmsted himself describe what he meant. This is best stated in his February 25, 1870, paper on Public Parks and the Enlargement of Towns read in Boston before the American Social Science Association and contained in Supplementary Volume 1 of the papers of Frederick Law Olmsted Pg. 188.

"... it may happen that a man of any class shall say to his wife, when he is going out in the morning, "My dear, when the children come home from school put some bread and butter and salad in a basket and go to the spring under the chestnut-tree where we found the Johnsons last week. I will join you there as soon as I can get away from the office. We will walk to the dairy-mans cottage and get some tea and some fresh milk for the children, and take our supper by the brookside;" ...

This does not seem to be a particularly outmoded 19th century conception of picnics, nor did it, in Olmsted's mind, seem to require something like a Special Use Permit. In any case, if this type of argument is carried too far, it could leave us wondering whether or not Olmsted would now prefer the obvious efficiencies gained by straightening out our roads to conform more closely to the generally accepted norm.

The no picnicking or fishing law in Riverside was put in place because drunken bums, ostensibly fishermen, but really just drunken bums, were regularly congregating along the river front parks and disturbing the peace, so the village trustees of the time, taking no chances, applied the sledgehammer rather than the scalpel. Sadly, this is an example of a tiny minority of miscreants dictating the allowable behavior of the overwhelming majority of well-behaved citizens. It is equally sad that the idea of picnicking in our town still seems in the

RIVERSIDE WALKING TOURS 2012 SCHEDULE

Learn about the history of Riverside and discover the winding roads, delightful parks, beautiful landscapes, and varied architecture that make up this historic landmark village. The walking tours are an excellent way to share the unique attributes of Riverside with your family, out-of-town guests, friends and others unaware of Riverside's national significance.

MAY 27 (NORTH) **AUGUST 26 (SOUTH)**
JUNE 24 (SOUTH) **SEPTEMBER 23 (NORTH)**
JULY 29 (NORTH) **OCTOBER 28 (SOUTH)**

The two-hour tours depart from the Riverside Railway Depot at 2 p.m. and are \$10 per person (\$3 discount for Olmsted Society members and seniors 62+). Group tours can be arranged upon request. Proceeds benefit the Olmsted Society and go toward landscape preservation, educational programs, and architectural restoration in Riverside.

For more information:

tours@olmstedsociety.org



Dear FLOS,

I would like to participate in the Saturday workdays, but do not have any experience in gardening or landscaping. May I still participate?

Signed,
Dream Gardener

Dear Dream Gardener,

Yes, you do not need to have any experience in gardening or landscaping to participate in the Olmsted workdays. There will be people there to guide you and teach you all you need to know. All you need to bring is a water bottle and your willingness to help.

See you soon,
FLOS

Do you have a question about Frederick Law Olmsted, The Olmsted Society or Riverside's landscape? Send your questions to ASK FLOS at our mailing address or questions@olmstedsociety.org. Not every question will make the Q&A, so ask a good one.

2nd ANNUAL GARLIC MUSTARD CHALLENGE

Grab your family and friends to be a part of a fun community service project to help control the spread of garlic mustard in Riverside.

Garlic mustard is more than an annoying weed cropping up in your garden. The plant not only chokes out native wildflowers by competing for space and sunlight, it also excretes chemicals through its roots preventing wildflower growth. Garlic mustard poses a serious threat to the biodiversity and overall quality of natural areas.



Sponsored by the Olmsted Society, the event begins at Scout Cabin on Fairbanks Road where we will kick off with an orientation and safety talk. No experience is required, but please dress appropriately. Bring work gloves and hand tools if you have them, and wear sturdy clothing (long sleeves, long pants and boots). Snacks and drinks will be provided – but bring your own water bottle. We look forward to seeing you there!

Saturday, May 19, 2012
9:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
Scout Cabin
Fairbanks & Bloomingbank Roads
Riverside, Illinois

Landscape Workdays

In 2012, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces.

Scottswood Common and Longcommon Common serve as the backbones of Riverside's landscape architecture. Both were intended to be part of a green space stretching all the way to downtown Chicago. The parks on the riverbank follow the meandering Des Plaines River.

Frederick Law Olmsted designed these parks to provide changing vistas for both pedestrians and vehicles. His plan can be better realized by reducing shrub overgrowth and eliminating weeds. Join us as we tame and then maintain your public parks of Riverside.

April 28	Scottswood Common <i>Arbor Day Celebration</i>
May 12	Riverside Road
May 19	Scout Cabin Area <i>Garlic Mustard Challenge</i>
June 9	Riverside Road
June 23	Scottswood Common
July 14	Longcommon & Downing Triangle
August 11	Longcommon & Downing Triangle
September 8	Riverside Road
September 22	Scottswood Common
October 13	Various Locations (TBD)
November 10	Longcommon (Big Ball Park)

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 and a water bottle. All other supplies & snacks will be provided.

For more information or to be added to our FLOS landscape committee e-list, please contact:

Holly Machina & Cindy Kellogg
 Olmsted Society Landscape Committee Chairpersons
landscape@olmstedsociety.org

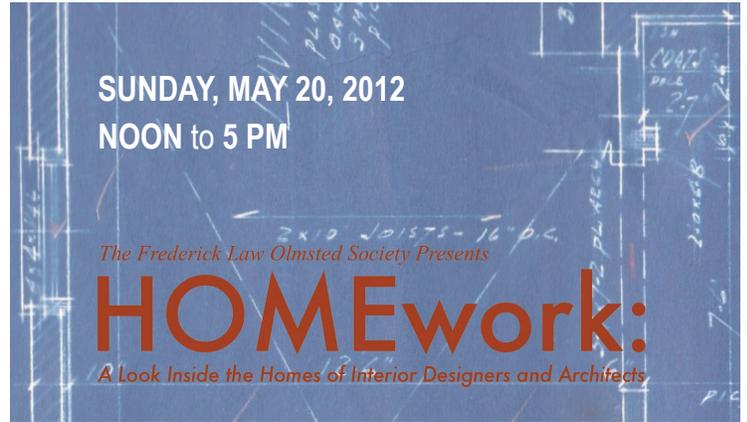
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2012 Housewalk

merely by use of paint, art and furniture placement. There will definitely be more focus on furniture, finishes and décor than past FLOS housewalk tours. This is a unique opportunity to see the homes of Riverside from a different perspective.

One of the homes on the tour, 190 Addison Road, is actually the coach house of a prominent residence that burned down in the 30s. The coach house takes precedence and appears as if it was always the main house on the lot.

Both 352 Addison and 500 Selborne were part of a parcel of original lots owned by Edith Rockefeller from 1909 and subdivided in 1915 and 1921, respectively.



Tickets are \$35 pre-sale and \$40 day of the Walk. (Olmsted Society members receive a \$10 discount on tickets)

TICKETS ARE AVAILABLE AT:

Aunt Diana's Candy Makers
29 East Burlington, Riverside

Riverside Public Library
1 Burling Road, Riverside

By mail: Checks to Olmsted Society
P.O. Box 65 Riverside, IL 60546

Or online: www.olmstedsociety.org

For more information, please contact
housewalk@olmstedsociety.org or
call 708.442.0906.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Picnic Conundrum

minds of many to conjure up images of the apocalypse, involving the probable desecration of our landscape, our parks, our property values, our public safety, and our way of life by hordes of littering bestial denizens of the underworld, which our law enforcement will be unable to handle. Today, our admittedly stretched law enforcement force promptly responds to all citizens' complaints and alerts but normally does not place the highest priority on policing picnicking or fishing activities.

The most interesting, some might say delicious, irony concerning the Riverside picnic conundrum is that Olmsted's Riverside design trumps the best laid plans and laws of mere mortals. It is probably safe to say that there have always been picnics in Riverside and there will always be picnics in Riverside. A walk around town on a fine summer day last year found landscape crews enjoying quiet luncheon repasts in our parks and parkways, fishermen in the bushes at Swan Pond were having quiet snacks, a FLOS Landscape Workday crew was enjoying light fare after some righteous labor in one of our parks, a small family was chowing down on one of our park benches, and a couple of young ladies had spread a blanket with food at the Hoffman dam. People will recreate if given the proper setting and we have one of the most proper settings in America. May it always be so, and may we some day collectively find a way to legally and unobtrusively experience, if we choose, and without the need for municipal signs detrimental to the character of the village, the pleasant and amusingly carefree experience that is a picnic.

Jim Petrizilka

Tours/Education Committee Co-Chairperson

Lecture Series

The Olmsted Society and the Riverside Public Library are planning to host a series of lectures at the library. We hope to hold about four lectures throughout the year on a variety of topics. Talks will be held in the Great Room of the library on Wednesday evenings at 7PM.

UPCOMING LECTURE:

Shunde, A Chinese Eco City District Design Competition



**Wednesday, May 23, 2012
7:00 PM
Riverside Public Library**

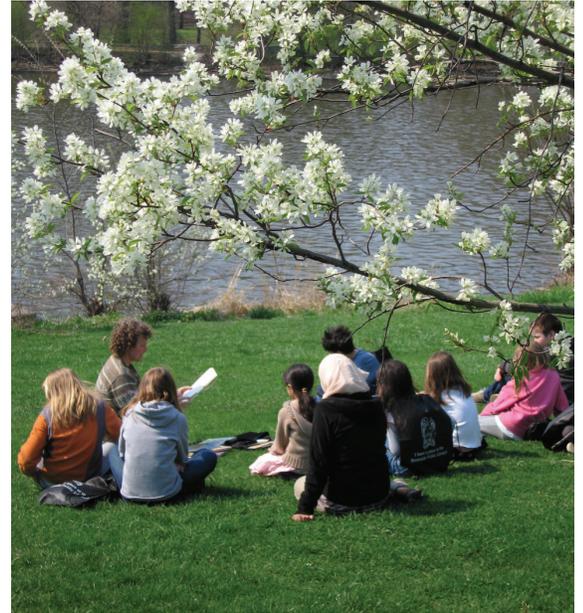
Riverside resident Paul Sterner’s architecture firm recently participated in an urban design competition project in southern China. The firm’s winning scheme emphasized three key attributes: working with nature, ecology, and land conservation. Two important elements to the design include a grand riverfront park and a central park canal way, which is an outdoor room defined by the architecture.

Presenter: Paul Sterner, AIA of Oculus Architecture



Olmsted biographer Justin Martin, author of “Genius of Place: The Life of Frederick Law Olmsted,” signs his book. Mr. Martin was the Guest Lecturer at the Annual Meeting of the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside on January 13, 2012.

REFLECTIONS ON RIVERSIDE POETRY CONTEST



To celebrate National Poetry Month the Frederick Law Olmsted Society invites entries for our annual “Reflections on Riverside” Student Poetry Contest.

Poetry reflecting upon, or encouraging reflection upon, any of Riverside’s natural areas is welcome. Head out into Riverside’s vast and varied landscape for inspiration!

The contest is open to all Riverside-area elementary and junior high school students. Cash prizes of \$25 will be awarded to the winner from each participating elementary. A single \$50 prize is awarded at the junior high level. All entrants receive certificates of recognition at their respective schools and are invited to read their poems at a special reception hosted by the Riverside Public Library over the summer. Poems are eventually compiled in a professionally bound book for the Olmsted Collection and Local Author’s Section at the Riverside Public Library.

Entries for this year’s contest must be postmarked by April 30, 2012, so don’t delay. For Rules and Official Entry Form visit:

www.olmstedsociety.org



The Frederick Law Olmsted
Society of Riverside

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE

Your support will help promote the progress of Riverside, educate residents about the history and significance of the Village, and support active involvement in the Village's needs. Membership covers a calendar year and entitles you to participate in the Society's functions free-of-charge or at discounted prices, reimbursements in Riverside's co-op tree planting program, and the quarterly newsletters. Please return this form with your check payable to the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, PO Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546. Please contact membership@olmstedsociety.org with questions or see our website at www.olmstedsociety.org.

MEMBERSHIP

- Reliable Redbud (\$25-\$49) \$ _____
- Hearty Hickory (\$50-\$99) \$ _____
- Sugar Maple (\$100-\$249) \$ _____
- Mighty Oak (\$250+) \$ _____
- Total Enclosed \$ _____
- New Member Renewal Gift Membership

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please provide your email address so we save paper and trees!

COMMITTEES

Put your talent to work and your energy to good use by joining a committee!

- Architecture
- Landscape
- Housewalk
- Membership
- Library
- Public Relations
- Newsletter
- Website
- Tours/Education
- Other Talents _____