

Winter 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

Frederick Law Olmsted Society Annual Meeting Friday, January 18, 2013, 7:00 pm Riverside Township Hall



Please join the Frederick Law Olmsted Society at its annual meeting on January 18, 2013. The meeting will include an announcement of the nominees for FLOS' 2013 Board of Directors and a presentation by Julia Bachrach, Archivist for the Chicago Park District.

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2013 Membership Drive
It is Time to Renew Your Membership

Membership covers one calendar year so it is time to renew! Our primary source of revenue is membership donations, which enable us to fulfill our mission of preservation and education. *So please renew today!*

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

Three easy ways to join:

- IN PERSON At our Annual Meeting Jan 18, 2013, 7:00 PM;
- ON LINE www.olmstedsociety.org; and
- BY MAIL See form on back page of newsletter.

NEWSLETTER, WINTER 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

Architecture: Sander Kaplan
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
Village Liason: Gintaras Lietuvninkas
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.

“Send good things out into the world and good things will come back to you.”

A life lesson my wife shared with me many years ago is something we can all reflect upon in this season of giving. Your efforts as a member of the Olmsted Society, whether through donations or by volunteering selflessly of your time has helped to make 2012 one of our busiest and most rewarding years to date. Best of all, our efforts to educate, preserve and protect have made a lasting impact on Riverside which we hope will continue to expand as we look forward to the upcoming year.

As all of you who have supported the Olmsted Society may already know, our outreach efforts have expanded to all of Riverside and beyond as we continue to enhance the beauty of Riverside and strengthen our understanding of what it means to be stewards for Olmsted’s plan of community living. On page 7 of this month’s Newsletter, we have included expanded descriptions of our many volunteer committees. When you submit your membership renewal, please consider as a gift to Riverside, becoming more involved throughout the year as a volunteer on one of our many committees. Even one hour spent together for something as simple as planting a tree can yield rewards that will come back for generations to come.

I would like to thank you again for your continued support of the Olmsted Society and hope that together we can continue our efforts to send out good things in the New Year!

Best Regards,

Tim Ozga
President, Frederick Law Olmsted Society

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Annual Meeting, Julia Bachrach

The Olmsted Society is pleased to present Julia Bachrach, Archivist for the Chicago Park District, as a guest speaker at its Annual Meeting on January 18, 2013, 7:00 pm (presentation at 8:00pm). Ms. Bachrach will speak to the recently released second edition of her book entitled “The City in a Garden: A History of Chicago’s Parks.” Her book was recently featured in the Chicago Tribune on November 20, 2012.

“The City in a Garden” is a compelling look at Chicago’s remarkable and sometimes overlooked park system. Through unprecedented access to a cache of historical plans, photographs, and drawings, Ms. Bachrach documents Chicago’s 175-year commitment to its public parks and explains how luminaries such as architect Daniel H. Burnham, landscape architect and conservationist Jens Jensen, and social reformer Jane Addams shaped and influenced Chicago’s green spaces. In her presentation, she will highlight the unique contributions of architect William LeBaron Jenney in Chicago’s west parks.

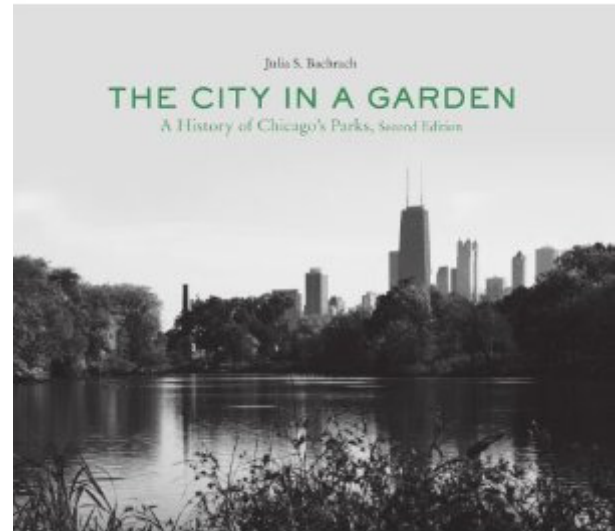
Ms. Bachrach’s revised edition of “The City in a Garden” illuminates Chicago’s ongoing commitment to its expansive park district. Since 2001, Chicago’s parks have seen a renaissance. More than a billion dollars have been invested in a wide range of projects, including the restoration of dozens of historically significant buildings, landscapes, and artworks; the reconstruction of the lakefront revetment system; the creation of new gardens and natural areas; and the construction of new beach and field houses. Chicagoans now enjoy the addition of new and innovative green spaces such as Millennium Park and Palmisano Nature Park, a twenty-seven-acre park created from an old stone quarry in the south side Bridgeport neighborhood. Featuring new research, an expanded glossary, and additional documentary photographs, this beautifully illustrated book is a must for those who prize green spaces. We look forward to Ms. Bachrach’s presentation in January.

BOOK REVIEW:

THE CITY IN A GARDEN A HISTORY OF CHICAGO PARKS

By JULIA BACHRACH

**Reviewed by CONNIE GUARDI, Chair, Library
Committee**



The recently published second edition of Julia Bachrach’s 2001 book “The City in a Garden: A History of Chicago Parks,” chronicles the Chicago Park District’s 175 year history. Much work has been done in the Chicago parks since the first edition was issued, inspiring Bachrach to update and expand her original work.

As the Park District historian for the past twenty years Bachrach has been dedicated to preserving and memorializing the multitude of landscapes, buildings and public artworks that comprise the Chicago park system. The book is filled with wonderful photographs and beautifully tells the history of the Chicago park system, the largest park district in the United States.

For Riversiders there is an important connection with the subject of this book since two very important figures in our Village’s history, Frederick Law Olmsted and William LeBaron Jenney, were both designers of parks in Chicago. Olmsted designed Jackson and Washington parks and the Midway Plaisance. Jenney designed Humbolt, Central (later named Garfield) and Douglas parks.

Ms. Bachrach will be the guest speaker at the Annual Meeting on Friday, January 18, 2013.

**OLMSTED
LECTURE SERIES**

Upcoming Lectures

JULIA BACHRACH,
ARCHIVIST
FLOS Annual Meeting
Friday, January 18, 2013,
Meeting 7pm
Presentation 8pm
Riverside Township Hall

GUY STERNBERG,
Arborist
February 20, 2013, 7pm
Riverside Public Library

DREW BURKHART,
Illinois Coalition for
Responsible Outdoor
Lighting
April 17, 2013, 7pm
Riverside Public Library

The Olmsted Society lecture series is held in partnership with the Riverside Public Library with lectures held in the upstairs Library Great Room. The historic space provides an intimate setting with ample seating. Many thanks to Dorothy Sikora and Janice Fisher for providing refreshments and assisting with publicity.

LECTURE NOTES

By Rob Dixon and Jeffery Miller, Co-Chairs, Lecture Committee

It has been a stimulating year of lectures for the Olmsted Society. Topics ranged from Downton Abbey to backyard hens and from passive houses to world's fair gardens. The most recent lecture by Cathy Maloney on December 9th was well attended and highlighted her new book "World's Fair Gardens: Shaping American Landscapes" Her book is available for purchase at the Riverside Library.



There are some exciting events coming this winter and spring. In addition to Julia Bachrach, who is speaking at the Annual Meeting in January, Guy Sternberg will speak on February 20, 2013 about how trees will be affected by global warming and the associated increase in frequency of extreme droughts, flooding, and temperatures that are expected to occur in coming decades.

Most scientists agree that our climate is becoming increasingly unstable. How will this affect our most treasured and permanent landscape plants—our trees? Why should we be concerned, and what should we do? Learn about things such as proxy data; clinal variation; natural climate cycling; the importance of species, provenance, and diversity; and some expected trends for our landscapes of the coming century. You will come away better prepared for the uncertain future of your environment.

Mr. Sternberg served on the staff of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources for 32 years, receiving the Honor Award for outstanding service. He is a charter life member and past chapter president of the Illinois Native Plant Society and is the author of "Native Trees for North American Landscapes." He holds life memberships in the International Society of Arboriculture (from which he received a Special Recognition Award for his work with historic trees), the International Dendrology Society, and American Forests.

Mr. Sternberg has cultivated and studied trees since 1952 and has assembled one of the NAPCC oak genus (*Quercus*) living reference collections for North America at Starhill Forest, his research arboretum, where he and his wife Edie also grow more than 1800 accessioned taxa of woody plants.

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KNOWLEDGE

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LECTURE NOTES



Next up is a focus on the night sky with a presentation from the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting on April 17, 2013.

Drew Burkhart from the Illinois Coalition for Responsible Outdoor Lighting will speak to the importance of preserving the night sky. Just as Frederick Law Olmsted saw western lands in need of conservancy and recognized the need to provide revitalizing exposure to nature, people with vision now see the need to stem light pollution and preserve the night sky. As our cities, suburbs and towns have paved over prairies and woodlands, stray light from the poorly designed, irresponsibly operated fixtures with which we've filled our world has, in effect, paved over our nighttime sky. The night sky has, in a short span of years, gone from being a source of inspirational wonder to being a nearly blank, dully glowing shell.

Why does this matter? Educators, politicians, sociologists, and citizens are expressing concern at how young people in our nation show little interest in the sciences and mathematics. Science and math are the tools for studying nature and why should we expect young people to be interested in nature, if they never get to experience it? For centuries, the dark, star-filled night sky has inspired not only countless poets and philosophers, but also many young people who went on to become students of astronomy, physics, and other sciences.

Our general citizenry is also losing its exposure to nature. Parks and sound urban planning can save samples of the natural world, but light pollution does not respect park or village boundaries; once stray light spews into the sky, it draws a curtain for everyone for many, many miles around. Consideration of the further elimination or preservation of the night sky is especially relevant as citizens and planners consider expanding the presence of large retailers in our community. Please join us.

Future lectures include presentations from Riverside residents who have installed photovoltaic solar panels in accordance with the recently modified Riverside zoning. Stay tuned for news of future lectures!

2013 Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following nominations for 2013 Olmsted Society Board:

Officers nominated for renewal:

President: Tim Ozga
Vice President: Sander Kaplan
Secretary: Yvonne Lucero

New Officer nominee:

Treasurer: Mary Geroch

New Board nominees:

Ken Pearlman
Paul D'Amato

The Nominating Committee was made up of Chairperson Kim Dixon, Board members Yvonne Lucero, Jason Kinnan and members at large Jennifer Pacourek and Joe Cablk.

Riverside is the Place to Be

Wavy winded is what you think of Riverside
Parks and schools have lots of kids
Birds fly high in the sky
Teachers are smart
Riverside's on the chart
You should visit Riverside

Dylan M.
Hollywood Elementary
4th grade

What I Can See . . .

I can see grass growing nearby,
And I can see birds getting ready to fly.

I can see children in the Riverside park
And also a beaver chewing on bark.

I can see ducks doing a little jive,
And the bees bringing nectar to their beehive.

There is a lot to see in this fabulous place,
I roam and explore nature's finest grace.

Kevin M.
Ames Elementary
4th grade

FLOS NEEDS YOU. PLEASE JOIN AN OLMSTED SOCIETY COMMITTEE.

Do you want to become more involved with the Olmsted Society? Please consider joining a FLOS committee. Each committee meets separately from the Olmsted Board, but is a vital part of FLOS. If you are interested in joining any of the following committees, please send an email to membership@olmstedsociety.org.

- **Architecture**. This committee organizes tours of buildings or places of architectural significance.
- **Landscape**. This committee organizes the very popular landscape workdays held from March through November.
- **Housewalk**. The housewalk is the biggest FLOS fundraiser and occurs every 2 years. Committee members help plan and organize this event, which offers the public a chance to tour Riverside's different home design styles.
- **Membership**. The membership committee is responsible for increasing the number of members and ensuring the retention of these members.
- **Library**. The library committee maintains the Olmsted collection at the Riverside Public Library.
- **Media/Public Relations**. The media committee consists of two people, a publicist and a photographer. The publicist provides press releases, flyers, or articles concerning FLOS activities and events to media contacts. Media contacts consist of newspapers, magazines, organizations, libraries, hotels, colleges, village and park districts, newsletters, the Oak Park Visitors Bureau, the National Association of Olmsted Parks (NAOP), and Riverside-specific groups. The publicist determines whether the activity is local or requires broader distribution. The publicist is a member of Riverside's Chamber of Commerce representing FLOS at the Chamber's monthly meetings, and participates in Chamber and Village events. There is always interest in expanding our reach and acquiring additional support to help achieve our goals. Our "wish list" would include someone who is proficient in Social Media and/or someone who has connections with the television or radio industry.
- **Newsletter**. This committee prepares the FLOS newsletter every quarter.
- **Electronic Media/Website**. Over the past few years FLOS has worked hard to establish a website and develop an e-mail format that allows us to share events and Society updates with the community. If you have an interest in photography, web design and publishing on the internet, writing short essays or reporting on FLOS sponsored events, please contact our Website Committee as we would welcome your talents.
- **Tours/Education**. The Olmsted Society Walking Tour Committee researches, prepares, advertizes and conducts both regularly scheduled and special tours of the Village of Riverside. This involves becoming knowledgeable about all aspects of village history and lore and being able to convey this information in a meaningful and entertaining way to a diverse, sometimes international, audience. It also involves investing in a good pair of walking shoes.
- **Long Range Planning**. The Olmsted Society Long Range Planning Committee meets periodically, looks into our crystal ball, and attempts to identify ideas, concerns, problems and trends that may, in the future, impact the Olmsted Society's ability to fulfill its mission. These are analyzed and discussed by the Committee members, and alternative strategies are devised, and shared with the entire Olmsted Board, with a view to successfully resolving them.
- **FRED (Fredrick Law Olmsted in Riverside Education and Design)**. FRED began on April 26, 2012, the 190th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, and included planters decorated by local artists and planted by landscape design experts put on display throughout the Village, a Gateway to Riverside Design Competition, and a symposium focused on landscape design and sustainability. This committee plans and organizes this event every 2 years (beginning in 2013).

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 its preservation and maintenance. Membership covers a calendar year and entitles you and your family members 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 or go to our website 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
- Media/Public Relations
- Newsletter
- Electronic Media/Website
- Tours/Education
- Fourth of July
- Long Range Planning
- FRED
- Other Talents



The Frederick Law Olmsted
Society of Riverside