

Spring 2013



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

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
Frederick Law Olmsted Society
Landscape Workdays



Thomas Dixon (with a coconut he found at a recent workday)
and Riverside Forester Mike Collins

In 2013, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society is once again teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces. Join us as we tame, and then maintain your public parks of Riverside.

Scottswood Common and Longcommon Common serves 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. The parks on the riverbank follow the meandering Des Plaines River. Harrington Park, along Harlem Avenue, is the most recent green space to be designated as a Public Park. Patriots Park, along 26th Street, is the newest playground constructed. Blythe Park contains one of Riverside's landmarks.

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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2013

**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: Mary Geroch
Secretary: Yvonne Lucero

COMMITTEES

Architecture: Sander Kaplan
Housewalk 2014:
Landscape: Cindy Kellogg, Holly Machina
Landscape Architecture (FRED): Cathy Maloney
Lectures: Jeff Miller, Rob Dixon
Library: Constance Guardi
Long Range Planning: Jim Petrizilka
Media: Sandie Petrizilka
Membership: Theresa Pelletier
Newsletter: Gintaras Lietuvninkas, Dorie Skiest
Research: Jim Petrizilka
Tours/Education: Tony Pecelunas
Village Liaison: Gintaras Lietuvninkas
Website: Tim Ozga
Writing Contest: Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga
Honorary Directors: Karen Graham, John and Jane Kunka, Lonnie Sacchi, Dorothy Schroeder, Ted Smith, Geri Tauber

Copyright 2013
The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of
Riverside
PO Box 65
Riverside, Illinois 60546

Volunteers Needed

Over the past few years, the Olmsted Society has chosen Arbor Day to celebrate the onset of our annual workday season with the donation of selected tree plantings for our parks and parkways. In 2013 the celebration of Arbor Day promises to be the largest commitment to the Riverside landscape to date! On April 27th, volunteers from the Olmsted Society will have the opportunity to participate in two major landscape events.

First, as a continuation of our annual Arbor Day celebration, a FLOS Landscape Workday will be held at Patriots Park. As part of the project, the Society will be donating and planting several trees and shrubs to enhance the appearance of the park and surrounding area.

Secondly, FLOS will be a sponsor for the 2013 Riverside-Brookfield High School Volunteer Workday. Somewhere between 120-150 student volunteers will be working in Riverside that day from 9am-noon helping to weed and clean up along the Des Plaines River and in the Central Business District. The projects are being coordinated by Riverside Public Works and RB PTO volunteers, but it is anticipated that approximately 18 adult supervisors will be needed in Riverside to help direct the students in their efforts to weed and clean up. The Olmsted Society has been asked to offer our support and we are asking our members to step up as volunteer leaders to assist with the RB Volunteer Workday on Saturday, April 27th.

To sign-up for this historic event, please send an e-mail to the Workday coordinators at: rbworkday@olmstedsociety.org.

Thanks in advance for your continued support of the Olmsted Society!

Timothy Ozga
President, Frederick Law Olmsted

OLMSTED LECTURE SERIES

Upcoming Lectures

DREW BURKHART,
Illinois Coalition for
Responsible Outdoor
Lighting
*Environmental
Conservation After Dark*
April 17, 2013, 7pm
Riverside Public Library

SCOTT JANSEN
*Solar Panels in Riverside:
A Case Study*
May (date TBA)
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, Co-Chair, Lecture Committee

Guy Sternberg's visit to Riverside in February at the invitation of the Olmsted Society and Riverside Library was particularly productive. Guy spoke to all grade levels of Central Elementary in the auditorium regarding trees and human interaction. He fielded numerous questions from the engaged audience. The presentation at the Library later that evening was well attended by Riversiders and persons from all over the Chicago region. The effects of global climate change take a huge toll on trees, and as Riverside plans for the future, Guy's work to study trees and nurture species adaptable to harsh conditions will be helpful.



On April 17, 2013, 7:00 pm,
the Illinois Coalition for
Responsible Outdoor
Lighting titled
"Environmental Conservation
After Dark."

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. But 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.

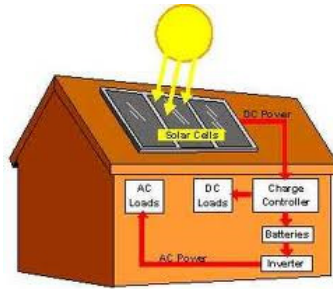
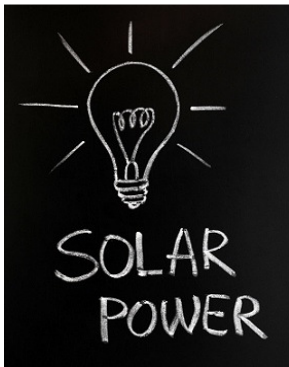
Our general citizenry is also losing its exposure to nature. Parks and sound urban planning can save samples of the natural world, but light pollution does not respect park or village boundaries; once stray light spews into the sky, it draws a curtain for everyone for many, many miles around. Consideration 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

KNOWLEDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Lecture Notes



In May, Riverside resident Scott Jansen will present "Solar Panels in Riverside: A Case Study."

Scott has taken advantage of the recently changed zoning ordinance to install solar panels on his detached garage roof. In this presentation, Scott shares his experiences with the ordinance, his motivations (both economic and ethical) for wanting to capture solar energy, his process for designing his system, his experience with installing it himself, his process of clearing the building inspections, and his final results. If you are interested in having solar panels on your roof, come with your questions. Scott will talk about different design options, installers, financial considerations, purchasing sources, safety issues, neighbor reactions, and more.

Let the sun shine in.

FRED 2013

FRED IS BACK!



The FRED (Frederick Law Olmsted in Riverside Education and Design) symposium will return on Saturday, September 21, 2013. Held again at the Village Hall and Riverside Library, the FRED is a day-long celebration of design and gardens. The day includes classes, tours, and special presentations by preeminent landscape architects, designers and urban planners.

Sponsored by FLOS, last year's FRED, held in August, 2012, was extremely popular with many classes filled to capacity. Participants hailed from a four-state area with many suburbs and Chicago residents well represented.

Plans for this year include a walking design tour of Riverside conducted by Scott Mehaffey, former landscape architect for the City of Chicago and The Morton Arboretum, and creator of one of Riverside's master landscape plans. Returning favorite instructors with new design ideas this year include Roy Diblik of Northwind Perennial Farms and Tony LoBello of Mariani Landscaping. Many new classes will be offered this year as well.

Mark your calendars and watch the FRED website, www.FRED2013.com for details. "Friend" FRED on Facebook for up-to-the-minute updates and to get information on class registration as soon as it's available: www.Facebook.com/FredinRiverside.

**7th Annual
“Reflections on Riverside”
Poetry Contest Deadline April 30
Now Open to High School Students**

By Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga, Chair, Writing Contest
Committee



Participation in the Olmsted Society's Reflections on Riverside Poetry Contest for students in grades 1-8 has grown tremendously since the contest was launched in 2007. Each year a greater number of young people are getting out into Riverside's landscape, considering their personal impressions of some aspect of Olmsted's multi-faceted design and conveying those impressions poetically. Over 200 Reflections on Riverside poems were inspired in 2012, which demonstrates our community's interest in and enthusiasm for this project. We are pleased to continue the tradition by announcing our 2013 Poetry Contest for students in grades 1-8.

We are also excited to announce the extension of the Reflections on Riverside program to the high school level. The high school program will encompass art, as well as poetry. This idea has been percolating for a few years, having been suggested by individual Society members from time to time. This year, following discussions with faculty members of Riverside-Brookfield High School's English and Art departments, the new contest is ready to go live.

The Reflections on Riverside Imagery Contest invites Riverside-area high school students to submit their reflections on any of Riverside's natural spaces in either poetic form or as two-dimensional visual art. Students may submit one entry per category, with a chance at a \$100 prize in each category.

The Poetry Contest carries a \$50 prize at the Junior High level, with the winner from each participating elementary school receiving a \$25 prize. Poetry Contest entries will continue to be collected and published for the Riverside Public Library. Entries from the Imagery Contest will be published in a separate series, which will juxtapose poetry with the visual art.

The deadline for both contests is April 30, 2013, so encourage eligible students to get out and explore Riverside's landscape and get creative with their reflections!

Entry forms may be found at www.olmstedsociety.org

Riverside's Spring

Little red robins chirping everywhere
Feeling the warm sun on my skin
Smelling the blooming flowers in the air
Watching creamy white butterflies fluttering in the wind
The river shining like a million stars
Relaxing, hearing, smelling, seeing all the peaceful things about Riverside

Ella J
Central Elementary, 3rd grade

STEWARDSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

All workdays are scheduled on 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 and snacks will be provided.

FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY - 2013 LANDSCAPE WORKDAYS SCHEDULE

April 27	9am-12pm	Patriots Park <i>Arbor Day Celebration</i>
May 11	9am-12pm	Scout Cabin Area <i>Great Garlic Mustard Pull</i>
June 1	9am-12pm	Blythe Park
June 22	9am-12pm	Longcommon Big Ball Park
July 13	9am-12pm	Scottswood Commons
August 3	9am-12pm	Harrington Park
August 24	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road
Sept. 7	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road
Sept. 14	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road
Oct. 5	9am-12pm	Longcommon Road Big Ball Park
Oct. 26	9am-12pm	Longcommon Road Big Ball Park
Nov. 9	9am-12pm	Longcommon Road Big Ball Park

For more information or to be added to our FLOS landscape committee e-list, please contact:
Holly Machina and Cindy Kellogg, Olmsted Society
Landscape Committee Chairpersons
landscape@olmstedociety.org



FLOS 2013 Landscape Donations

By Holly Machina, Co-Chair Landscape Committee

FLOS made two donations to the Village of Riverside. The first donation is for the purchase of 8 trees in the amount of \$2,247. Two canopy trees will be planted in Patriots Park, a site in desperate need of shade, during the FLOS landscape workday and Arbor Day celebration on April 27th. Six understory trees will be planted in two different triangles; Blackhawk and Riverside Roads and Addison and Cowley Roads. These understory trees will be planted in the Spring during the Village's Cooperative Tree Program. All FLOS members are reminded to submit their receipt from the Village to FLOS for reimbursement if you have purchased a parkway tree through the Village's program.

The second donation is in the amount of \$692.50 for the purchase of 50 gator bags. These bags wrap around newly planted trees and are designed to properly water the trees by slowly and evenly providing deep water saturation to the root zone with no run-off or evaporation. These gator bags are necessary due to recent drought conditions the Village is experiencing. The Riverside Public Works budget does not include the purchase of new gator bags for 2013. These 50 gator bags will be placed on newly planted parkway trees ordered through the Village's Cooperative Tree Program. Trees planted in parks always include gator bags, as our Forester reuses them year to year.

Riverside-Brookfield High School Day of Service April 27th

Our local high school is resurrecting the Day of Service and FLOS will be actively involved. We donated \$500 to the high school to help offset the cost of t-shirts purchased for the students to help identify them on the day of the event. We will also supervise students at three sites in Riverside for cleanups involving trash pick up, removal of invasive species and mulching.

RIVERSIDE WALKING TOURS

2013 SCHEDULE

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society is pleased to offer great opportunities to learn about our historic landmark village. Discover the winding roads, delightful parks, beautiful landscapes, varied architecture and much, much more!

The North Tour covers the area north of the railroad tracks and features the Longcommon (key to Olmsted's plan), an architecturally significant school, a place of worship designed by Jenney, and homes by Silsbee, Wright, Perkins, and Purcell & Elmslie.

The South Tour includes Swan Pond Park, Scottswood Common, Wright's Country Estate and service buildings, architecture by Jenney, Drummond, Kenny & Vinci, Wittlesey, and a home designed by Olmsted's partner, Calvert Vaux.

- May 26, (North)
- June 30, (South)
- July 28, (North)
- August 25, (South)
- September 22, (North)
- October 27, (South)

The two hour tours depart Riverside Train Depot, 90 Bloomingbank Road (main train station, east side of platform) at 2:00 p.m. and end at approximately 4:00 p.m. The cost is \$10 (\$7 for seniors 62+ and Olmsted Society members). Group tours arranged by calling (708) 442-7675 or via email tours@olmstedsociety.org. A deposit of \$75 is required for Special Group Tours.

This is Riverside, Where Nature's Always Found

Swish, Splash
A Great Red Heron Dips into the Swamp
There are only Animals here
This is Riverside
Where Nature's always found

Sling, Ping
A Native American releases an Arrow at a Deer
These were the First People here
This is Riverside
Where Nature's always found

Crackle, Pop
The fire in the Log Cabin crackles
The River flows nearby
These were the first Europeans here
This is Riverside
Where Nature's always found

Clip, Clop
A Horse and Carriage pass Trees as they Actuate down the Cobble streets
Riverside is now a City
This is Riverside
Where Nature's always found

Whoosh
Cars pass
Deer prance
As Herons fly and dip in the river
This is Riverside
Where Nature's always found

Emily K
Ames Elementary, 4th grade



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