

Winter 2013

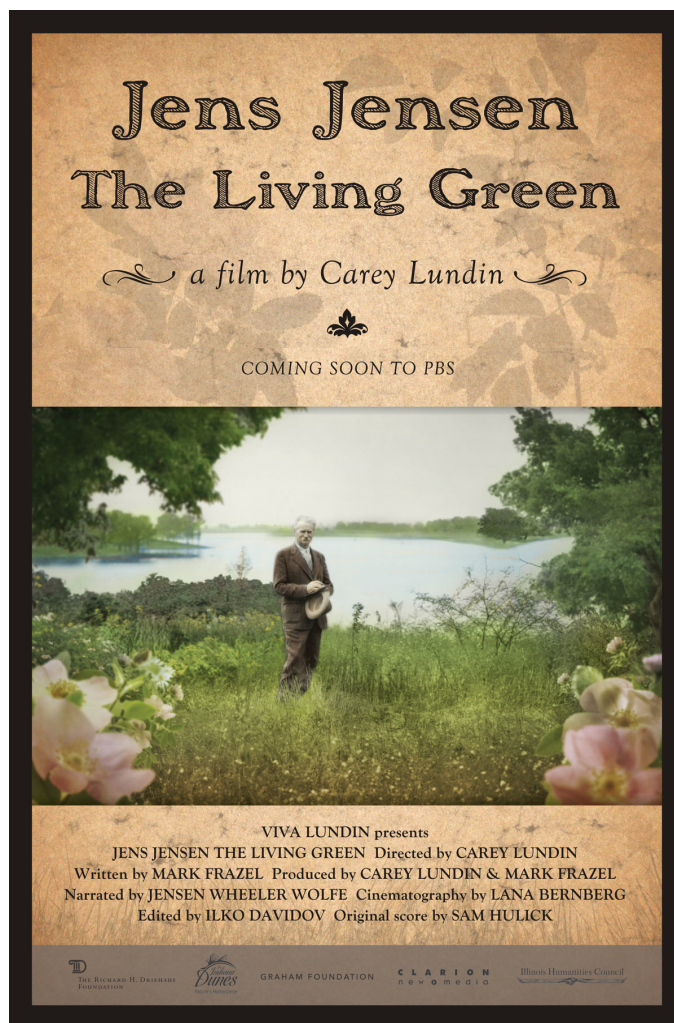


The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come. Its members are guided by his concern for humanity, nature, sense of community and the innovative and thoughtful essence of his work. The Olmsted Society invites residents 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

Frederick Law Olmsted Society Annual Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2014, 7:00 pm
Riverside Township Hall



The annual meeting this year, planned for Friday, January 17, 2014, at 7pm, in the Village Hall, will present Carey Lundin, director and co-producer of "Jens Jensen The Living Green", a feature documentary for PBS about the irascible Prairie Style landscape architect and the Midwest's first great conservationist.

Jensen was profoundly influenced by Frederick Law Olmsted. At the Annual Meeting, Lundin will explore the many Olmsted connections with an excerpt from her film covering the Columbian Exposition Wooded Island, Riverside, the small parks (the sons of Olmsted) and Central Park. She will be joined by Mark Frazel, writer and co-producer of the film.

The production of the film and location of long lost interviews of Jensen reads like a detective novel. This is a rare glimpse of Jensen in the first person and the opportunity for the documentarians to describe how they brought it together. Ms. Lundin and Mr. Frazel will introduce the film excerpt shown at the meeting and follow with Q & A.

As is tradition, a scrumptious buffet will follow the meeting. We look forward to seeing you there.

NEWSLETTER, WINTER 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: Aberdeen Ozga, Mary Judy
Landscape: Cindy Kellogg, Holly Machina
Landscape Architecture (FRED): Cathy Maloney
Lectures: Rob Dixon, Jeff Miller
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 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

Give the gift of Olmsted!

Nearing the end of 2013, we should take a moment to reflect upon the wonderful accomplishments of your Frederick Law Olmsted Society: Our landscape efforts and concern for nature merited the IDNR Volunteer Award for our work to remove invasive species. Our Landscape Workdays again brought the community together to share in maintaining our public green spaces. Our goals to inspire and educate were met as the Poetry and Imagery Contest reached new heights in student participation and our expanded Lecture series at the Riverside Library brought more focus to the ever-expanding challenges we will face in the future. In the fall, the second installment of FRED emphasized our desire to protect and preserve the environment. Finally, residents and visitors together hit new benchmarks for participation as together they learned about our cultural and physical heritage on our monthly Walking Tours. With that said, I can only reiterate that none of this is possible without you. Membership contributions and your countless volunteer hours drive the programs that have made today's Olmsted Society a valued resource in the Riverside community. For this reason, I encourage you to consider giving the gift of Olmsted this year. A friend, a neighbor, a relative nearby...when you make your membership renewal this year I invite you to gift a membership to someone else. As seen in 2013, a community working together can certainly make a difference!

Thanks again for a great year!

Timothy Ozga
President, Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

STEWARDSHIP

2014 FLOS Board Nominations

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following nominations for 2014 Olmsted Society Board:

Officers nominated for renewal:

<i>President:</i>	<i>Tim Ozga</i>
<i>Vice President:</i>	<i>Sander Kaplan</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Mary Geroch</i>

New Officer nominee:

<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Jennifer Pacourek</i>
-------------------	--------------------------

New Board nominees:

*Maura Braun
Michael Johnson
Lois Kimmelman
Jennifer Pacourek
Abigail and Greg Randall*

New Honorary Director

Fred Kitch

The Nominating Committee was made up of Chairperson Kim Dixon, Board members Paul D'Amato and Connie Guardi and members at large Jennifer Pacourek and Dorie Skiest. These nominations will be voted upon by the membership at the upcoming FLOS Annual Meeting on January 17, 2014 at 7pm , Riverside Township Hall.

2014 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 as little as a \$25 tax-deductible contribution.

Three easy ways to join:

- IN PERSON At our Annual Meeting Jan 17, 2014, 7:00 PM;
- ON LINE www.olmstedociety.org; and
- BY MAIL See form on back page of newsletter.

OLMSTED LECTURE SERIES

Upcoming Lectures

CAREY LUNDIN,
DIRECTOR AND CO-
PRODUCER OF "JENS
JENSEN THE LIVING
GREEN"
FLOS Annual Meeting
Friday, January 17, 2014,
Meeting 7pm
Presentation 8pm
Riverside Township Hall

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

The End is Near – Guy McPherson and the Twin Sides of the Fossil Fuel Coin

Similar to Olmsted traveling in the antebellum South and recording his observations in serial to the New York Times compiled in *The Cotton Kingdom*, Guy McPherson seeks to raise awareness of near term human extinction due to our fossil fuel economy. Whereas, Olmsted succeeded in raising awareness of conditions in the South greatly; few seem to be listening or responding to Guy McPherson's cautionary tale. If it is true what Tom Lehrer has said, "always predict the worst and you'll be hailed as a prophet," then we definitely had a prophet in our midst. There was a good crowd at the library, but a larger audience may be needed to turn around issues of climate change.

Guy McPherson presented a unique perspective on global climate change at the Riverside Public Library in September. Dr. McPherson is convinced that climate change is a fact and that it will, in combination with oil shortages, in the very near term, cause the collapse of the industrial economy. Up until recently he felt that a complete collapse of the industrial economy might allow for survival of humans and other species. He has stated that the collapse of the industrial, petroleum-based, economy would be a positive development preventing complete near term extinction.

That piece of good news was cleared from his talking points at the library due to the recent increase of non-linear, self-reinforcing feedback loops that warm the planet combined with recent studies citing the rising amount of carbon in the atmosphere. Examples of feedback loops include the melting of polar ice. In the absence of ice that once reflected sunlight, the darker sea is warmed and more ice melted - rinse and repeat. Another feedback loop is the shifting of warm ocean currents to polar regions. He feels that it is really too late at this point to do anything about climate change and we are headed for a bleak future. As he notes on his website – "Humans have tinkered with the natural world since we appeared on the evolutionary stage. Our Days may be numbered. As the home team, Nature Bats Last."

In the face of these facts, Dr. McPherson left a tenured teaching position with the University of Arizona and lives off-grid in a straw bale house. He raises much of his food. His talk dealt with how he has created a set of durable living arrangements in the face of what he feels is an unsustainable petroleum-based economy teetering on collapse. The wide-ranging Q & A attempted to refute, clarify, or endorse his claims. Several in attendance traveled a fair distance to hear Dr. McPherson based on his reputation in the community of those closely following climate change and its implications.

In short, it was a thought-provoking and sobering program delivered with a good sense of humor by the presenter. Following the talk, reality was fought off and the climate did indeed change with a pint or two at the Riverside Tap.

THE GREAT DANDELION CAPER

By Jim Petrzilka



The recent ticketing and fining of an elderly gentleman caught picking dandelions for salad greens in the Cook County Forest Preserves has generated considerable comment. On the face of it, it does seem strange that removing from the Preserves some leaves or flowers from a common non-native weed, which will eventually grow back, could be against the law, but the law is clear, of apparently noble intent, and the ticketing officer was, according to the authorities, correctly enforcing the law. It is all very perplexing and definitely food (and not just delicious dandelion greens) for thought.

The mission of the Forest Preserves is to acquire and maintain an adequate amount of protected, relatively untouched, natural areas, close at hand, for enjoyment and recreation, so people can, if they choose, find refuge and rejuvenation from the stresses of modern urban living. This is a noble purpose and one that Frederick Law Olmsted would have heartily endorsed. In fact the healing power of nature was the guiding philosophical principle in all his designs, including his design of Riverside.

Preserving forests and other natural areas is a righteous cause. However, except for isolated groves and some streamside trees, soon mostly cut down, the entire Chicago area was treeless, and the dominant prairies and savannas were almost all drained and plowed in the 19th Century. So the Forest Preserve District is attempting to establish, preserve, grow, and protect something that is actually a fairly recent artifact. An artifact is defined as a characteristic product of human activity. Riverside is an artifact. The Forest Preserves are also an artifact. They are both, in fact, evolving artifacts and as such require intelligent management.

The Forest Preserve District Code, Title 2, Chapter 2-2-1 PROTECTION OF NATIVE LANDSCAPE Section A-1 Destruction of Native Landscape, states: “No person shall, within the property of the Forest Preserve district: cut, remove or wantonly destroy any tree, sapling, seedling, bush or shrub, whether alive or dead, or chip, blaze, box, girdle, trim, or otherwise deface or injure any tree or shrub, or break or remove any branch, foliage, flower, on any tree or shrub, or pick, gather, uproot, remove or destroy any flower plant or grass.” So stepping off a trail to admire some natural beauty and

accidentally breaking a branch could conceivably cost you a stressful \$75. And one wonders about the meaning of “Native Landscape” and how it applies to dandelions.

Looked at closely, the details and enforcement of the Forest Preserve “Protection of Native Landscape” Code can seem more designed to establish and protect a howling wilderness, without regard to its native character, rather than provide stewardship of a pleasant place to enjoy the beauty of nature, and, oh, perhaps do a bit of harmless, stress-reducing foraging. There are indeed howling wildernesses in the world, and they are not places to find refuge and rejuvenation from stresses of any kind. They are in fact stress-inducing places.

So the current rule may not always be the best approach, although it is the easiest to enforce and does not require the fine splitting of hairs over what is or is not on some approved list of “stuff that may be taken”. Certainly the poaching of trees or rare plants in the interests of free home or business landscaping, or private enterprise, must not be encouraged under any law. Somehow, though, if a sharp-eyed officer can spot a guy stooped over picking dandelion leaves, he or she might be expected not only to spot a gang with a backhoe and/or shovels digging up an oak tree or filching rare plants, but tell the difference between that and a solitary soul picking renewable dandelion leaves.

Is there such a thing as harmless foraging? Hmmm, ask the ethnic mushroom hunter or the person who knows enough about the various plants to include foraged plants in a meal, that is, if you can find one. There certainly aren’t enough of them to put our supermarkets out of business or to disturb the impenetrable tangle of a good part of our Forest Preserves, which, sadly, are coming to resemble howling wildernesses, where only the overpopulated deer and the beavers may destroy the trees and plants with ticketless impunity.

Most of our citizens would be deathly afraid of eating anything out of the wild, unlike the Native Americans, who, of course, all foraged, and managed their own plant resources very carefully. As far as we can tell they practiced “sustainability”, with intelligence and gusto. The earliest European explorers even commented on the ‘parklike’ landscapes of the New World. This was, of course, before disease, drink, guns, and duplicity largely decimated the Indians and created the howling wilderness that the popular mind associates with early America (read “1491” by Charles C. Mann). The Forest Preserve Code regarding Native Plants is a lawyerly bureaucrat’s idea of proper stewardship of a natural resource. It may be missing the point.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

STEWARDSHIP

We're Still Walking

By Jim Petrzilka, co-chair, Walking Tours Committee

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside concluded another successful Riverside Walking Tour season on October 22nd. Our regularly scheduled and special tours attracted over 200 people from all over America and many foreign countries, who came to experience the beauty and history of our National Landmark village. The monies raised, as always, will be used to aid in the landscape beautification and educational activities of the Olmsted Society. Our visitors also, in most cases, dropped a few dollars into our excellent local business community. We also provided our annual free walking tour to over sixty 8th grade students of Hauser Jr. High, who were astounded to learn (among many other things) that you could put a canoe in the DesPlaines River near Riverside and paddle your way all the way to New Orleans and the Gulf of Mexico.

Hearing the fascinating story of our town from its prehistory down to the present, while actually strolling past places of surpassing beauty, architectural significance and fascinating happenings, never fails to move people. Riverside was made for walking, horseback or carriage riding and, today, bicycling. It's a place to experience at a leisurely, stress-reducing, pace.

Our trained FLOS docents enjoy the walking tour experience each and every time as much as our visitors. It's a great way to meet some interesting people who share a common interest in what makes a place like Riverside special. We are always looking for new walking tour guides who will enjoy the fun of doing our walking tours, of meeting our visitors, and sometimes amazing them with little known facts about our town. Each of our docents is thoroughly trained but left with wide discretion as to the things to highlight based on visitor interest.

Sometimes it's as simple as relating what some Riverside people have found in their back yards, such as the man who dug up a flintlock rifle while gardening, or the family that found a long-buried pond from a vanished estate. Sometimes it's pointing out the location of the all-steel House of the Future from the 1933 Chicago World's Fair; or the ancient Indian burial ground; or the Riverside home (still standing)) that housed the original Riverside Improvement Company Sales Office.

If you want to learn more about your village, and think you can meet our standards for providing our visitors an interesting and informative walking tour experience, please contact Tony Pecelunas at 708-442-7675 or at sailboat9@comcast.net.



Record Year for FLOS Landscape Committee

By Holly Machina and Cindy Kellog, Co-Chairs, Landscape Committee

This was a record year in volunteer effort for the Landscape Committee. The time volunteers spent at Riverside parks and natural areas totaled over 540 hours. In total, FLOS Landscape Committee volunteers provided the Village of Riverside with almost \$4,500 worth of free labor in 2013. Moreover, this amazing contribution does not account for the many, many hours that Landscape Committee volunteers worked in addition to the FLOS scheduled landscape workdays.

Restoring the riverbank along Riverside Road has been a commitment of this committee since 2011. Restoration work includes removing buckthorn, grapevine and other invasive weeds between Gage and Olmsted Roads. In 2013 we planted 20 flats of native sedges and grasses, which were donated by the Olmsted Society in the amount of \$850.00. We are continuing to widen the view of the river and plan to continue next year.

The Village's 50-50 Cooperative Tree Program was offered again this spring. The Olmsted Society reimbursed Olmsted Society Members \$324.50 for planting trees in their parkways.

FLOS also purchased gator bags for the Village in the amount of \$692.50 to help keep newly planted trees watered and purchased auger drill bits for \$38.00. We use the auger bits for planting plugs along the river.

As committee co-chairs, we continue to be blessed with hard-working and dedicated members who are also fun to work with. We are forever grateful!

STEWARDSHIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The Great Dandelion Caper

So would a more relaxed approach to plant foraging lead to hordes of citizens denuding our Forest Preserves of every living thing? Perhaps. It could happen. Especially if the economy continues to tank and our government goes bankrupt and our citizens, without jobs, try to stave off starvation as long as possible, in which case all the laws and Forest Preserve Police in the world will not save our Forest Preserves. Otherwise, it won't happen until pigs fly.

The original article by John Kass that appeared in the Chicago Tribune (6/28/13) can be found here: http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-06-28/news/ct-met-kass-0628-20130628_1_dandelions-crime-fighters-joanna. A follow-up article after the gentleman has his day in court can be found here: http://www.abajournal.com/news/article/man_ticketed_for_picking_dandelions_forced_to_pay_75_fine/.

The FRED (Frederick Law Olmsted in Riverside Education and Design) RECAP 2013

By Cathy Maloney

FLOS sponsored The FRED, a garden and landscape design symposium, on September 21 of this year. A biannual event, the program offers classes, tours and workshops exploring the living legacy of Riverside as an inspiration for community and landscape design.



Scott Mehaffey, FASLA, (left), Village Forester Mike Collins (center), and Malcolm Cairns, FASLA, (right) lead a walking tour highlighting Riverside's historic landscape.



Film makers Carey Lundin and Mark Frazel showed their new documentary, "Jens Jenson, The Living Green." If you missed it, come to the FLOS Annual Meeting on January 17, 2014.



A competition for the most creative rain harvest system was won by Rob Dixon.



Presenter Amy Coffman-Phillips, architect and expert on biomimicry, leads a discussion on how nature influences good design.



The Riverside Arts Center offers fun ideas for youngsters to create art from natural materials.



Tony LoBello of Mariani Landscapes shares stories of Garden Makeovers - how to change your landscape from ho-hum to huzzah!



Sponsors such as the Chew Chew Café, Home Depot of Countryside, and many exhibitors helped inspire gardeners.

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
☐ FRED

- ☐ Electronic Media/Website
☐ Tours/Education
☐ Fourth of July
☐ Long Range Planning
☐ Other Talents



The Frederick Law Olmsted
Society of Riverside