

Spring 2014



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



RIVERSIDE BROOKFIELD HIGH SCHOOL 2014 DAY OF SERVICE

For the second year, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is sponsoring the Riverside Brookfield High School Day of Service. The RBHS Day of Service, being held on Saturday, April 26th to coincide with Arbor Day, is a highly organized group of service projects in each of the RBHS feeder communities. Students will perform seasonal clean up and environmental services to enhance the beauty of the five RBHS communities where we live including Riverside, Brookfield, Broadview, North Riverside, and La Grange Park. FLOS will also purchase and plant a tree during the RBHS Day of Service in celebration of Arbor Day.

Student volunteers, staff, parents and community volunteers are assigned to specific projects to complete in teams throughout the communities. These projects include extensive work in the Zoo Woods, the Swan Park clean up coordinated by FLOS, a DesPlaines River Sweep project through Riverside and North Riverside, and projects on the RBHS school grounds. At the completion of the projects, all will gather at the school to celebrate their successes.

LOOK INSIDE

**on page 7 for a special pull out flyer of the
2014 FLOS Walking Tours of Riverside
for you to print, copy and post!**

NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2014

**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: Jennifer Pacourek

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 Lidd Skiest, Maura Braum
Research: Jim Petrizilka
Tours/Education: Tony Pecelunas
Village Liaison:
Website: Tim Ozga
Writing Contest: Aberdeen Ozga
Honorary Directors: Karen Graham, John and Jane Kunka, Lonnie Sacchi, Dorothy Schroeder, Ted Smith, Geri Tauber

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PO Box 65
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Community Outreach.

The Olmsted Society is extending our community outreach in 2014 as we continue to find new ways to engage our friends and neighbors to improve Olmsted's vision for Riverside.

Over the winter, I worked with Village leaders to construct a meaningful plan to implement Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) recommendations for Riverside. The primary focus has been green spaces around the river and at the Scout Cabin. Additionally, future planning will incorporate Riverside history in architecture and landscape in an effort to attract visitors to enjoy the creativity of the Olmsted plan and the work of pioneering suburban architects whose residences abound in Riverside. Bike tours and expanded walking tours will allow us to share our cultural heritage.

Our landscape efforts will begin in Swan Pond and later in the year move along the river to Riverside Road. As a resource, the river brings tremendous value to our community. The Society looks forward to the day when our river and surrounding forest is restored to its original splendor.

This summer, the Society will also sponsor our inaugural Community Planting Program. The Village has selected Triangle 53, located at the intersection of Northwood and Bartram, as the location for this community event. The program will apply Olmsted planting principles to create an improved landscape with plantings provided by the Olmsted Society. Neighbors to Triangle 53 are invited to join us in the planting event and subsequently work together to maintain the Triangle for years to come.

Thank you, as always, for your support of the Olmsted Society!

Timothy Ozga

President, Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside



**8th Annual “Reflections on
Riverside”**

**Poetry and Imagery
Contests Deadline is
April 18, 2014**

*By Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga, Chair,
Writing Contest Committee*



Hey kids: Reflections on Riverside Poetry and Imagery Contests is now electronic!

Every April, the Olmsted Society celebrates National Poetry Month and what is supposed to be the advent of spring in Riverside (brrrr.....) through our Reflections on Riverside program. A Poetry Contest is open to students in grades 1-8 and an Imagery Contest, which invites both poetry and visual art, is open to High School students.

The Poetry Contest encourages reflection upon any of Riverside’s natural areas and carries a \$50 prize at the Junior High level. The winner at each elementary grade level, 1-5, receives a \$25 prize. The Imagery Contest, by contrast, invites reflection on Riverside’s National Historic Landmark landscape or architecture in either poetic form or as two-dimensional visual art. \$75 is awarded to the 1st place winner of each division and \$25 is awarded to the 2nd place winner of each division. The Olmsted Society is partnering with the Riverside Library and Brookfield Zoo, with special honors for the most nature-themed poem(s) at any grade level.

The deadline for both contests is April 18, 2014. We now accept entries by e-mail to poetrycontest@olmstedsociety.org and imagerycontest@olmstedsociety.org to accommodate the eleventh hour creative types. However, we encourage eligible students to get out and explore Riverside’s landscape and get creative with their reflections as soon as weather permits!

Entry forms may be found at www.olmstedsociety.org.

What the Tree Sees
A poem based on the Ames Tree
By Emily Kowal

Come my children, I know you’re vast
Now let’s take a trip through the past

A tumbling down
To the ground
Cascading from the trees
A seedling carried in the breeze

Lands by the riverbed
Not knowing what lay ahead
The only men that were around
On their heads wore feathered crowns

As the sapling began to grow
The men who had the bow
Who were buried in a mound
Were replaced with women in gowns

All around trees are cut
Just to make a little hut
Now for years and years our tree will grow
Through sun and rain and hail and snow

Til one year bright
Lightning strikes
With odium and fear
Its end is near

Split through the middle
Every branch widdled
As the saw thwacked through
You ponder with awe

Think!
What the trees see

OLMSTED LECTURE SERIES

Upcoming Lectures

ED BAILEY, Village Director of Public Works and ORION GALEY, Village Engineer
Riverside Comprehensive Sewer System Study
Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 7pm
Riverside Public Library

KIM HUNTER,
Goatherd, The Green Goats
Date and Time TBD
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. For more information, contact the Riverside Public Library, 1 Burling Road, Riverside, IL 60546, 708-442-6366, www.riversidelibrary.org, www.olmstedsociety.org

LECTURE NOTES

By Rob Dixon, Co-Chair, Lecture Committee



**RIVERSIDE:
COMPREHENSIVE SEWER
STUDY**

On Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 7:00 PM, at the Riverside Public Library, Riverside Director of Public Works Ed Bailey and Village Engineer Orion Galey will present an overview of the Village sewer collection system and present findings of Comprehensive Sewer Study recently completed by Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD. Ed has been the Director of Public Works since June of 2010 and has held a variety of positions over a 27 year career in local government. Orion is a licensed professional engineer with 10 years of experience with Christopher Burke Engineering. In addition to Riverside, Orion's experience includes municipal construction engineering for Oak Brook, Elmwood Park, Harwood Heights, Addison, Rosemont, Lombard and the Illinois Tollway.

GOATS?

In May, the Olmsted Society and the Riverside Public Library will host Kim Hunter of The Green Goats. Kim works with towns and villages, corporations, and other land holders to remove invasive species in a way that is friendly to the ecosystem.



Goats mulching down poison ivy, buckthorn, and other undesirables saves fuel, pesticides, and adds soil amendments in the form of manure. Come hear Kim's story of promoting the use of goats to solve stubborn problems with invasive species. The date of our program will be set soon, so stay tuned. The Chicago Tribune recently featured Kim Hunter. You may read the article at

http://articles.chicagotribune.com/2013-07-13/features/ct-tribu-remarkable-hunter-20130713_1_weeds-ideal-goat-herd.

WHY SUSTAINABILITY?

*By Aberdeen Ozga, Co-Chair,
2014 Housewalk Committee*

Sustainability is not a novel concept, but it is something we are hearing about with greater frequency in this country, usually in the context of economic discussions about resources of one type or another. But what is sustainability, really?

At its core, sustainability is based on a very simple principle: Everything we need for our survival and well-being depends, either directly or indirectly, on our natural environment. True sustainability means creating and maintaining conditions under which we can live in harmony with nature and also fulfill the social, economic and other requirements of future generations.

Living in a major metropolitan area in 2014, we have seemingly limitless quantities of food, product, entertainment, transportation and other choices, many of which are imported from around the world. Energy-wise, we consume more than we produce and we consume well over the national average. We also have impaired environmental quality.

Fortunately, we have the power of choice and the ability to plan. Living in Riverside is an excellent choice. Just 20 minutes by train from Chicago, Riverside is an American original — the country's first planned suburban community. Olmsted's design for Riverside, which enables both access to nature and to modern conveniences, subtly encourages consideration of one's relationship with the community and the environment.

The pleasant walkability of Riverside - and the surprising lot configurations – provides numerous opportunities for us to meet and greet our neighbors. Riverside's gently curving roads and paths and parks of green connect every part of this small town. We can easily gather for festivals, lectures, landscape work days, recreation and a variety of cultural and civic offerings.

We often meet by chance at the local grocers, bakery or farmers market and stop to talk (despite the list of things to do). By its design, Riverside encourages community. It is a place where one can feel connected. And this unique design, bestowed with National Landmark status, is enduring.

Is Riverside, therefore, a sustainable community? We have an eclectic array of homes, spanning from the Victorian age to new construction, and the vast majority are not LEED-certified. Some of our fellow Riversiders are building green from scratch and we can learn a great deal from this. Nonetheless, the materials and design of historic homes are often quite green and preserving them - with all of the energy and resources embodied therein - is the ultimate in recycling.

As we think globally about the environment and act locally in living in and revitalizing our homes within our means, preservation is a key strategy. And there is more we can do to reduce our environmental impact. Some of our neighbors are tapping into alternative energy sources, some are making their homes more energy efficient and others are harvesting rainwater.

Our 2014 Housewalk, Sustainability: Then & Now, features nine homes ranging from Queen Anne Victorian to modern green-build and surveys how concepts of sustainable living have changed over time and what we can do to make a difference in our own homes. We hope you will join us Sunday, June 1, for what promises to be the Olmsted Society's most informative and empowering housewalk yet. Tickets will go fast for this one, so advance purchase is recommended.

More information at www.olmstedsociety.org

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THE
FLOS 2014 HOUSEWALK
SUSTAINABILITY: NOW & THEN
SUNDAY JUNE 1, 2014**

Landscape Workdays at Swan Pond

In addition to the RBHS Day of Service on April 26, FLOS is holding two additional workdays at Swan Pond on April 5 and May 31. We will attempt to finish the clearing of invasive plants from the riverbank that the US Army Corps of Engineers began. Fortunately, we will have Village Public Works employees using chainsaws and working the chipper shredder to speed up the work. Our lofty goal this year is to open up the river view from the old Fairbank dam all the way to Millbridge Road.



Triangle at Longcommon and Downing before a workday



...and after a workday

The Garlic Mustard Challenge! – May 10th

FLOS will again participate in The Northeast Illinois Invasive Plant Partnership’s (NIIPP) Garlic Mustard Challenge and help control the spread of garlic mustard in Riverside. Garlic Mustard is an invasive plant that was brought over to the United States by European settlers as an herb and has no native competitors to help keep it in check. It chokes out native wildflowers and poses a serious threat to the biodiversity and overall quality of beloved natural areas. On Saturday, May 10th, we will meet at the Scout Cabin to view a short, informative video then proceed to the woods to remove garlic mustard.

Landscape Committee 2014 Donations - to date

We have made two recent donations, one to the Village of Riverside and the other to the RBHS Ecology Club. The first is to purchase \$500 worth of native sedges and grasses to be planted at the clearing along Riverside Road in September. A second donation of \$3,000 will pay interns to work with the RBHS Ecology Club members to help restore both the Waubensee Preserve and the Zoo Woods.

2014 LANDSCAPE WORKDAYS SCHEDULE

In 2014, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces.

The parks along Riverside Road, from Ogden Avenue to the swinging bridge to Swan Pond, follow the meandering Des Plaines River. Harrington Park, along Harlem Avenue, is the most recent green space to be designated as a Public Park.

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

April 5	9am-12pm	Swan Pond
April 26	9am-12pm	Swan Pond <i>RBHS Day of Service and Arbor Day Celebration</i>
May 10	9am-12pm	Scout Cabin Area <i>Garlic Mustard Challenge</i>
May 31	9am-12pm	Swan Pond
June 21	9am-12pm	Harrington Park
July 12	9am-12pm	Harrington Park <i>(rain date 7/19)</i>
August 9	9am-12pm	Harrington Park
Sept. 6	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road
Sept. 13	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road
Oct. 4	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road
Oct. 25	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road
Nov. 8	9am-12pm	Riverside Road At Gage Road

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.



2014 Walking Tours of Historic Riverside

Before his work on the 1893 World's Fair grounds of the White City, Frederick Law Olmsted created the storybook village of Riverside in 1869 as a place of rest and rejuvenation from the stresses of modern urban living. Today this magical place of curving streets, gas lamps, and charming parks still fulfills Olmsted's dream. It has since inspired architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan to create some of their most beautiful works. Over 80 landmark structures representing 145 years of iconic American architecture dot the village. The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside invites you to experience this very special American place, a place with a hidden history that may surprise you. Two separate two hour docent-led tours alternate monthly on the following Sundays:

North Division

May 25

July 27

September 21

South Division

June 29

August 31

October 26

Tours depart 2:00 PM from
Riverside Railway Depot
90 Bloomingbank Road, Riverside, Illinois
(Main train station – east side of platform)
\$15 per person
(*\$5 discount for Olmsted Society members and seniors 62+*)

Special customized Group Tours by appointment. For more information call 708-442-7675, email tours@olmstedsociety.org or visit www.olmstedsociety.org. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS & Twitter www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS.

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