

Summer 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



www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS



www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS



Get Your Housewalk Tickets Today!
SUSTAINABILITY: THEN & NOW
One Day Only!

On **Sunday June 1**, the Olmsted Society presents its 2014 Housewalk, ***Sustainability: Then & Now***. Survey how concepts of sustainable living have changed over time by visiting nine Riverside homes - six of which are opening interiors – spanning the ages from Victorian to contemporary green-build. Whether your passion lies with architecture, environment, home and garden, science, history . . . or all of the above . . . *Sustainability: Then & Now* is a thought-provoking and pleasant way to spend the afternoon.

CONTINUED ON PAGES 5 and 6

Advance Tickets for *Sustainability: Then & Now* are \$30 for current Olmsted Society members and \$40 for non-members and may be purchased at www.olmstedsociety.org, the Riverside Public Library, Aunt Diana's and the Oak Park Visitor's Center.

Day-of-Event Tickets may be purchased at Will-Call at the Water Tower starting at 11:30 a.m. on June 1st for an additional \$5 surcharge.

NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 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

Copyright 2014
The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of
Riverside
PO Box 65
Riverside, Illinois 60546

from the PRESIDENT

Greetings,

In addition to all the great events detailed in this month's newsletter, I wanted to share with you some developing news with regard to the Olmsted Society's continued impact on preserving Riverside...and in this case the DesPlaines River, for which Riverside is justly named.

As you may know, for the past few years our Landscape volunteers have expanded their efforts to include work along some of the river frontage along Riverside Road. They began last year with a preliminary clearing of buckthorn and invasive species, opening up a clean view of the river. This effort was followed by replanting the embankment with natives and subsequently performing a controlled burn for maintenance this spring. Now that the Hofmann Dam project is complete we have begun to see the early benefits of restoration, including the return of river fowl such as wood ducks, herons and even an eagle to the banks of our DesPlaines River. Taking a leisurely stroll along the Riverside Road path now gives you a glimpse of the natural beauty of a flowing river similar to that experienced by Olmsted when he first walked these same paths many years ago.

Unfortunately, it is only a glimpse. There are still long vistas of natural beauty completely concealed by a buckthorn barricade. A similar problem also exists along both Fairbank and Bloomingbank Roads. It is time that we, as a community, begin to take more action to reclaim what recent CMAP reports have called an "invaluable asset" to Riverside, the DesPlaines River. A complete restoration, unfortunately, will take more than the effort of just a few volunteers. It is time for the Village of Riverside to take to heart the fact that all who live here are caretakers of this wonderful legacy. It is time for our Village leadership to take the challenge and join us in our efforts to return this valuable resource to its natural splendor!

As always, I would like to thank our entire membership for all the wonderful work completed thus far and welcome your continued support in progressing a DesPlaines River restoration in the months and years to come.

Best Regards,

Timothy Ozga

President, Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside



Olmsted Poets Honored at Brookfield Zoo

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



While the overall winners for the Reflections on Riverside Poetry contest will not be announced until year-end awards ceremonies at area schools, the Olmsted Society was asked to nominate ten young poets whose work expresses particular sensitivity toward nature for a special honor earlier this month.

For the May 3rd Finale of the On the Same Page program sponsored by the Riverside, North Riverside and Brookfield Public Libraries and the Brookfield Zoo, Olmsted poets were asked to share their reflections with a wide public audience on the Brookfield Zoo's outdoor Nature Stage.

The weather cooperated and the sun smiled down as Anne Huston of the Riverside Library and Jim and Sandie Petrzilka of the Olmsted Society acknowledged the following individuals for the thoughtful nature of their work: Morgan Daun, Jacqueline Hart, Zoe Jacquat, Katherine LaHart, Olivia Liu, Laura McClean, Stuart Marciniak, Daniella Pope, Jake Shevitz, and Sara Vacek. The audience at the Zoo was treated to hearing most of these poets read their works aloud on stage.

If you were unable to attend the May 3rd event and are interested in learning how our community poets are thinking about Riverside and its natural landscape, please mark your calendars for July 24. At 7:00 that evening, the Riverside Public Library will host the Reflections on Riverside Poetry Reading for all contest participants. We hope you will join us!

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

May 25 (North)
June 29 (South)
July 27 (North)
August 31 (South)
September 21 (North)
October 26 (South)

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.



FLOS has refreshed it's presence on social media. To date, we've gathered 155 followers on Facebook and 46 followers on Twitter. To help us get the word out about FLOS, we ask that our members not only follow us, but "like" each of our Facebook posts. If you're not sure where to find us, please check out:

www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS

www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS

Additionally, if you have any photos or posts that you'd like to see on our wall, please direct them to media@olmstedsociety.org.

We're excited to continue generating buzz about our many excellent activities.



VISIT OAK PARK VISITS RIVERSIDE!

On Wednesday, April 16, 2014, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society hosted the Visit Oak Park Tourism Committee to showcase not only our events but the Village as well. Invitations were extended and accepted by Ben Sells, Village President; Peter Scalera, Village Manager; Dave Moravecek, President of the Riverside Chamber of Commerce; and Jean Sussman, Village Trustee. Dignitaries from Visit Oak Park were Tom Lynch, President and CEO; and Bernadette Staszewski, Director of Membership and Advertising. Thirteen Tourism Committee members were present along with six Riverside participants and presenters. The meeting was held at the Riverside Public Library, a Riverside attraction that greatly impressed our guests. During the Special Presentation portion of the agenda, FLOS Board Members Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga and Mary Lang Judy gave a presentation on our June 1 Housewalk, Sustainability: Then & Now, and Jean Sussman provided an overview of the May 17-18 Riverside Arts Weekend (RAW). Flyers of the Village's events were distributed.

Following the meeting, Janice Foley was available for tours of the Library, and FLOS Walking Tours Co-Chair Jim Petrzilka took a group on a brief customized walking tour of Riverside.

Feedback of the day was positive. Our guests expressed interest in returning to Riverside to attend the FLOS Housewalk, RAW, and FLOS Walking Tours.

Village committee planners would like to give a special thank you to Janice Foley and Dorothy Sikora of the Riverside Public Library, and FLOS Board Members Connie Guardi and Abby Randall for all their help with this event.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! FLOS WILL BE AT 2014 CRUISE NIGHTS AND CAR SHOW

Classic cars, good food, retro music, smiling faces of neighbors and friends – all the ingredients of old fashioned family fun right here in Riverside. Stop by the FLOS booth to say Hi and learn about upcoming activities and events. The dates and times for Thursday evening Cruise Nights are June 12, July 10, and August 14, all from 6-9 PM.

The Sunday Car Show will be on September 28, 10 AM to 5 PM.

KNOWLEDGE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Our tour begins at Riverside's historic water tower, which is home to our Ticket Will Call and Green Transportation area. All nine homes featured in Sustainability: Then & Now are within a 2 mile radius, making for an enjoyable walk or bike ride. Shuttle service via the zero-emission Nissan LEAF also departs from the water tower, compliments of Continental Nissan.

Here is a glimpse of what is in store for the rest of your afternoon:



The Gear-Foulkes Residence – 1888 Queen Anne Victorian

Tour inside this historic structure, once home to a noted Riverside poet, and see why its materials and design made preservation a must for the current owners. Learn how their new rear addition - equipped for solar - is site sensitive and how a new permeable drive resolved prior basement seepage issues.



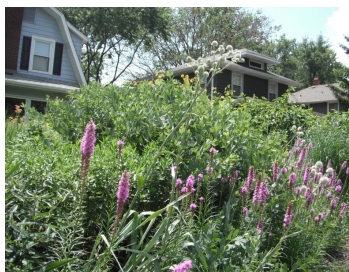
The Jansen Residence – 1923 Dutch Colonial

This is an exterior tour featuring a DIY solar installation, electric vehicle charging station and organic victory garden.



The Karasek-LaMantia Residence – 1924 Bungalow

Once inside this Craftsman style bungalow, one senses the honesty of its materials and the efficiency of its design. The Craftsman ideal of seeking harmony with the environment is exemplified by a recent project: The home is now heated and cooled with a state-of-the-art geothermal system . . . the first of its kind in Riverside.



The Haugland Residence – 1926 Dutch Colonial

Give your eyes a vacation as you explore this full yard organic rain garden.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6



The O'Brien-Rubio Residence – 1929 Georgian Revival

This stately home opens to demonstrate the value of preservation, restoration and the importance of energy efficiency enhancements. Outside, a rainwater containment and irrigation system consisting of rain gardens, swales, permeable pavers and a 2,500 gallon retention system alleviates prior water problems.



The McDougall Residence – 1933 Century of Progress Home

An exterior history lesson about the 1933 World's Fair debut of this novel sustainable home: An all-steel, germ-free, pre-fab wonder!



The Kotlar Residence – 1962 Mid-Century Modern

A design-buff's dream, this Mid-Century Modern gem opens to show its warm, inviting spaces. The modularity of this home is inherently flexible, enabling adaptation for different lifestyles and needs, ensuring the longevity of this modern work of art.



The Skiba-Brannick Residence – 1992 Neo-Gothic Revival

Tour inside this contemporary home designed for energy efficiency and with sensitivity to its site. The current owners are in tune with the home's environmental ethic and have incorporated reclaimed and recycled objects into their home and gardens for an effect that is at once intriguing and serene.



The Foley Residence – 2010 Traditional

You may be surprised to learn that this traditional looking brick home is newly constructed to LEED standards. As many of the materials utilized in the construction are worthy of closer examination, the developer will have a "Hands-On" station set up in the garage following your tour of the home's lovely interior.

This is the most exciting and educational Housewalk FLOS has held in Riverside to date. We are grateful to each of the homeowners for sharing their tangible and varied examples of sustainability from so many different eras and we are grateful to each of you for supporting the landscape restoration and educational programs of the Olmsted Society through this fundraiser. We are sure you will be intrigued and energized by *Sustainability: Then & Now!*

STEWARDSHIP

Controlled Burn in Riverside!

FLOS, in cooperation with the Village Forester and Riverside Public Works conducted a prescribed burn on Friday, April 11, 2014. The burn was conducted at the Scout Cabin and the sedge meadow on Fairbanks Road and then along the Des Plaines River on Riverside Road where the Landscape Committee has been clearing the river bank. The benefits of conducting a prescribed burn are to remove unwanted invasive species, recycles nutrients back to the soil and promote growth of trees, wildflowers and other plants.

The Desplaines River riverbank before the controlled burn



Burning along the Desplaines River



The result of a controlled burn along Riverside Road



The Garlic Mustard Challenge

On May 10, 2014, fifteen FLOS landscape volunteers cleared garlic mustard and trash at the Scout Cabin and netted 15 bags. We also cut a large patch of invasive buckthorn.

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 the swinging bridge to Ogden Avenue and 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.

May 31	9am-12pm	Swan Pond
June 21	9am-12pm	Harrington Park
July 12	9am-12pm	Harrington Park (rain date 7/19)
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

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 and snacks will be provided.

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