

Spring 2015



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 \$35 tax-deductible contribution by check or online.

Olmsted Society  
PO Box 65  
Riverside, IL 60546

[www.olmstedociety.org](http://www.olmstedociety.org)



[www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS](https://www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS)



[www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS](https://www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS)



### **Perennial Favorites Return in April The Reflections on Riverside Poetry and Imagery Contests!**

**Submission Deadline is April 30, 2015**

You know it's almost spring when the Olmsted Society begins celebrating National Poetry Month through our Reflections on Riverside program. Beginning April 1, our Poetry Contest opens to students in grades 1-8 and an Imagery Contest, inviting both poetry and visual art, opens 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 NHL 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.

Through our partnership with the Riverside Library and Brookfield Zoo, special honors will be awarded for the most nature-themed poem(s) at any grade level. Last year, students receiving this honor were able to share their poems at a public reading on the Zoo's Nature Stage with author Shawna Coronado.

Rules and entry forms may be found at [www.olmstedociety.org](http://www.olmstedociety.org) starting April 1. While the deadline for both contests is April 30, we encourage eligible students to get out and explore Riverside's landscape and get creative with their reflections as soon as weather permits!

**NEWSLETTER, SPRING 2015**

**THE  
FREDERICK  
LAW  
OLMSTED  
SOCIETY  
OF  
RIVERSIDE**

If you have a question or comment about the newsletter, please direct them to [newsletter@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@olmstedsociety.org).

**OFFICERS**

President: Robert Dixon  
Vice President: Abigail Randall  
Treasurer: Mary Geroch  
Secretary: Jennifer Pacourek

**COMMITTEES**

Architecture: Sander Kaplan  
Housewalk 2016:  
Landscape: Cindy Kellogg, Holly Machina  
Landscape Architecture (FRED): Cathy Maloney  
Lectures: Rob Dixon, Jeff Miller  
Library: Constance Guardi  
Long Range Planning: Jim Petrzilka  
Media: Sandie Petrzilka  
Membership: Theresa Pelletier  
Newsletter: Gintaras Lietuvninkas,  
Dorie Lidd Skiest, Maura Braun  
Research: Jim Petrzilka  
Tours/Education: Tony Pecelunas  
Village Liaison: Lois Kimmelman,  
Theresa Pelletier  
Website: Tim Ozga  
Writing Contest: Aberdeen Marsh Ozga  
Honorary Directors: Karen Graham,  
Alfred Kitch, 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

Dear Olmsted Society Members:

I am pleased to begin a term as President for an organization that has been an integral part of promoting and maintaining a green Riverside. I would like to start by thanking Tim Ozga, my predecessor as President. Tim served as President for three years, initiated new programs and provided leadership in external and internal communications. His past efforts are much appreciated and are too numerous to list. Tim's continued service on the Board as webmaster and head chef are invaluable.

The mission of education and preservation of Olmsted's ideas and legacy is more relevant than ever. As we witness climate change and green spaces dwindle, the mission to preserve open space and educate future generations is critical. Connections with nature are harder and harder for kids to find. Playing fields more and more often are made of plastic and rubber; shortened school recesses are held on asphalt, and organized activities dominate the schedule. Riverside is blessed with open space, a beautiful river, and space for kids and adults to explore. The Olmsted Society seeks to celebrate Riverside and maintain its unique heritage.

The Olmsted Society has been a great resource for my family. We have enjoyed Saturday mornings digging the weeds and learning about native plants and trees from the Village Forester and Olmsted volunteers at landscape "work" days. These experiences have changed the way I look at Riverside green spaces and have taught me a lot about intentional landscape design. Join us as soon as the weather warms to get your hands dirty and smell the good earth.

We will continue sponsoring free speakers in cooperation with the Library on the environment, architecture, historic preservation, and landscape. Our program March 11, at 7 pm, for instance featured an expert on Illinois river and stream ecology to discuss the health of the DesPlaines River following the removal of dams in Riverside and elsewhere.

Thank you for your support of the Olmsted Society and please encourage neighbors who would endorse our activities to join or consider a gift membership. I welcome feedback on all matters related to the Olmsted Society at [robd708@gmail.com](mailto:robd708@gmail.com) and look forward to a productive year.

Regards,

Rob Dixon  
President, Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

## OLMSTED LECTURE SERIES

### Upcoming Lectures

Crude by Rail – the Story  
Behind the Fiery  
Derailments

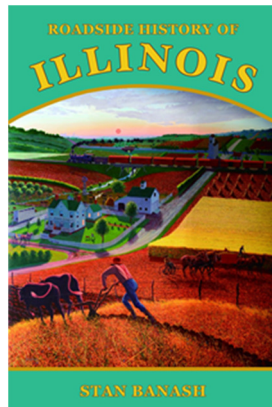
Wednesday, March 209,  
2015, 7pm

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. For more information, contact the Riverside Public Library, 1 Burling Road, Riverside, IL 60546, 708-442-6366, [www.riversidelibrary.org](http://www.riversidelibrary.org), [www.olmstedsociety.org](http://www.olmstedsociety.org)*

### LECTURE NOTES

By Rob Dixon, Co-Chair, Lecture Committee



Lecture:

February 11, 2015

Roadside History of  
Illinois

by Stan Banash

On February 11, Stan “Tex” Banash, provided a brief overview of his book, *Roadside History of Illinois*, and explained the history of the Prairie State from the Ice Age to the present, offering attendees a window into the state's seven regions. During the fast-moving presentation, Mr. Banash touched on unique facets of Illinois history and off the highway gems to visit (akin to Riverside). A full house in the Great Room stayed afterward for a question and answer session and to purchase books.



Lecture:

March 11, 2015

Undamming the  
Des Plaines

By Steve Pescitelli

On March 11th, Steve Pescitelli, Illinois Department of Natural Resources Stream Specialist, shared the latest river monitoring results in order to show the contrast between the “before” and “after” of dam removal. In his lecture, Mr. Pescitelli, addressed the issue of whether dismantling Hofmann Dam has already begun to have a ripple effect on the Des Plaines River’s water quality and fish habitat. If you were unable to attend the lecture a copy of the PowerPoint, courtesy of Mr. Pescitelli has been made available. View the Slideshow at [www.olmstedsociety.org](http://www.olmstedsociety.org)

[continued on page 4]

## KNOWLEDGE

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[Lecture Notes continued from page 3]



Lecture: May 11, 2015

### Crude by Rail – the Story Behind the Fiery Derailments

On May 11, 2015, 7 pm at Riverside Library, Karen Darch, Village Manager of Barrington, will speak to the danger of rail cars carrying crude oil. Riverside sees many trains of this type and the frequency is increasing. Ms. Darch is a national expert on this matter and has been quoted in national media outlets on the topic. She is an expert in this new threat to communities that border busy rail freight lines. As derailments continue, it is important to understand the real dangers of this new use of rail freight lines. The image below is of one of the explosions following a derailment in the town of Lac-Mégantic, about 155 miles east of Montreal.

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### SAVE THE DATE FOR FRED 2015



Don't miss the FRED 2015, "Community and Gardens." This year's FRED, Saturday, September 12, will focus on how gardens and landscapes bring communities together. The day-long symposium at Riverside's Village Hall and Library will feature classes on historic landscapes and will especially focus on edible landscapes. Learn how to combine veggies with flowers in the garden and how to preserve your harvest. A special appearance from WTTW detailing why Riverside is a top-ten community and a keynote by a renowned landscape historian are part of the schedule. Watch for registration and times via the FLOS website.



## SHOULD OLMSTED PARKS BE USED FOR THE OBAMA PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY?



WASHINGTON PARK, CHICAGO IL

The Olmsted Society recently stated an objection to the use of Washington Park or Jackson Park as a site for the Obama Presidential Library.

*The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside supports locating the Obama Presidential library in the city of Chicago, however we strongly object to any adulteration of an historic environment such as Washington Park or Jackson Park. It is our opinion that these parks are exquisite examples of urban parks by Frederick Law Olmsted. Frederick Law Olmsted did not create Washington Park or Jackson Park with the intent of including an urban environment within the park, but as a respite from urban life.*

FLOS welcomes your opinion at [newsletter@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@olmstedsociety.org).



JACKSON PARK, CHICAGO IL



## Landscape Committee Report

Restoring the riverbank along Riverside Road is a commitment of this committee. FLOS began this work in 2011 and will continue in 2015 with five landscape workdays scheduled at Riverside Road. FLOS also donated funds in the amount of \$789.23 to propagate 20 flats of native grasses and sedges to be planted along the riverbank on Riverside Road in August, 2015.



## 2015 FLOS LANDSCAPE WORKDAYS SCHEDULE

In 2015, FLOS is teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces. Come be part of the fun!

The parks along Riverside Road, in Swan Park and around the Scout Cabin area follow the meandering Des Plaines River. Scottswood Commons and Longcommon serve 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. Blythe Park contains one of Riverside's landmarks. Patriot's park, along 26<sup>th</sup> Street, is the newest playground constructed. .

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 11	9am–12pm	Swan Pond
April 25	9am-12pm	Swan Pond <i>RBHS Day of Service and Arbor Day Celebration and Central School Screen-Free Week</i>
May 9	9am-12pm	Scout Cabin Area <i>Garlic Mustard Challenge</i>
May 30	9am-12pm	Patriot's Park
June 13	9am-12pm	Riverside Road
July 11	9am-12pm	Scottswood Commons
July 25	9am-12pm	Scottswood Commons
Aug. 22	9am-12pm	Riverside Road
Aug. 29	9am-12pm	Riverside Road
Sept. 19	9am-12pm	Riverside Road
Oct. 24	9am-12pm	Riverside Road
Nov. 7	9am-12pm	Scottswood Commons

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.



## WRIGHT PLUS HOUSEWALK IS COMING TO RIVERSIDE!

On Saturday, May 16, 2015, the Frank Lloyd Wright trust will hold its 41<sup>st</sup> annual Wright Plus housewalk, a festive day that brings visitors from around the country and the world to view the rich heritage of our community. This year's housewalk includes the Avery Coonley Estate and Thorncroft residence in Riverside. For more information or to purchase tickets go to [www.flwright.org/wrightplus](http://www.flwright.org/wrightplus).



**Thorncroft (William Drummond, 1912)**  
A classic example of Prairie School architecture built in Riverside to house teachers for the Coonley Estate's private school



**Avery Coonley Residence (Frank Lloyd Wright, 1908)**  
The spectacular, meticulously restored main residence on the elaborate Coonley estate in Riverside, IL.



**JOIN FLOS  
FOR THE  
ANNUAL  
GARLIC  
MUSTARD  
CHALLENGE!  
MAY9th**

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 9th, we will meet at the Scout Cabin to view a short, informative video then proceed to the woods to remove garlic mustard.



**JOIN FLOS AT THE  
RBHS DAY OF  
SERVICE APRIL 25**

FLOS is a proud sponsor of the Riverside-Brookfield High School Day of Service. Please join us and help RB students, teachers and parents clean up the community. We will meet at Swan Pond between 9am-12pm. Look for the Riverside Public Works dump truck and the FLOS banner.

## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FREDERICK LAW OLMSTED SOCIETY OF RIVERSIDE

Founded in 1968, the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and restoration of the original plan for Riverside, which was developed in 1868 by landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his partner Calvert Vaux. Membership is open to all interested individuals, is for the current calendar year (January 1 through December 31), and is tax deductible. It includes your immediate family members living in your household. Please return this form with your check payable to the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, PO Box 65, Riverside, Illinois 60546 or join online at [www.olmstedsociety.org](http://www.olmstedsociety.org).

### MEMBERSHIP

☐ **Reliable Redbud** \$35-\$49 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Hearty Hickory** \$50-\$124 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Sugar Maple** \$125-\$249 (includes 2 historic walking tour tickets) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **Mighty Oak** \$250+(includes 4 historic walking tour tickets) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ New Member      ☐ Renewal      ☐ Gift Membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

☐ **I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation.**

**COMMITTEES** Put your talent to work and your energy to good use by joining a committee!

☐ Architecture

☐ Housewalk

☐ Membership

☐ Library

☐ Public Relations

☐ Newsletter

☐ F.R.E.D.

☐ 4th of July

☐ Landscape

☐ Education and Tours

☐ Website



The Frederick Law  
Olmsted Society of  
Riverside