

Fall 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.olmstedsociety.org



www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS



www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS

FRED

Saturday, September 12, 2015
Township Hall, Riverside, IL

9am-5pm Festival of Classes

4pm-7pm Craft Beer Fest

7pm-8pm An Evening with Geoffrey Baer of PBS

A full day festival of classes, tours, and demonstrations showing how gardens enhance communities yesteryear and today. Including:

- ♥ Walking tours of Riverside gardens
- ♥ Design with edible landscapes
- ♥ Canning your harvest
- ♥ Native landscapes "then and now"
- ♥ Free demonstrations
- ♥ Sneak peak with Geoffrey Baer of new PBS show featuring Riverside at 7pm

Register Now for best selection of classes.

Pick one or two classes or sign up for the whole day.

\$25 for full day of classes. Beer tasting and lecture ticketed separately.

For tickets and more information

www.FredofRiverside.org

All proceeds go to Frederick Law Olmsted Society, a non-profit 501(c)(3)



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NEWSLETTER, FALL 2015

**THE
FREDERICK
LAW
OLMSTED
SOCIETY
OF
RIVERSIDE**

If you have a question or comment about the newsletter, please direct them to newsletter@olmstedociety.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: 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

Greetings Olmsted Society Members:

Summer is here and the time is right for curvilinear streets. Riverside is most magnificent with all of its trees leafed out and plants in bloom. After a long winter, get out and enjoy. Landscape work days are a great way to meet neighbors and interact with our Village Forester, Mike Collins. Olmsted members who coordinate the workdays are quite knowledgeable about plants and gardening and are happy to share information. It's a great way to enjoy Riverside.

This past Spring the Olmsted Society and the Library hosted two programs with strong attendance from Riverside and its surrounding communities. The first was "Undamming the Des Plaines" with Steve Pescitelli of the DNR. His in-depth analysis over a period of many years documented the vastly improved health of the Des Plaines following dam removal in Riverside. The Chicago Tribune recently reported on the importance of removing dams all along the Des Plaines. Karen Darch, Village President, gave a talk entitled "Crude by Rail," that outlined the dangers created by the rail and petroleum industries that ship extremely hazardous material in adequate train cars on precarious infrastructure. Thanks go to Riverside TV in capturing both lectures on digital video. I encourage you to check the videos out at the Riverside TV website or YouTube.

Exciting things are happening in Riverside, such as the creation of Riverside as an arboretum, and the extension of the Salt Creek bike trail to Riverside's doorstep. The Olmsted Society has endorsed the Village's efforts to become an arboretum, and we will work to connect Riverside effectively to regional bike networks. If you are interested in the bike trail efforts or wish to engage with any of the committees listed to the left of my note, let us know.

Finally, the Olmsted Society will participate in the 4th of July parade. We welcome members, bike riders, in-line skaters, and walkers to join us. Contact Abby Randall if you wish to get involved.

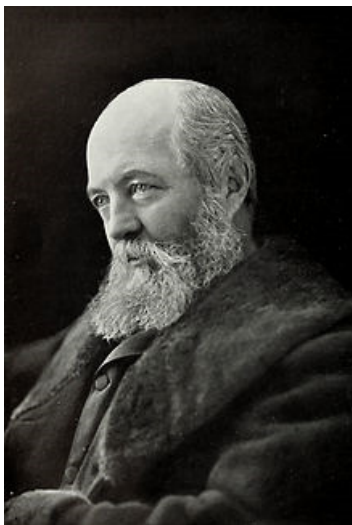
Best wishes for a great summer,

Regards,

Rob Dixon

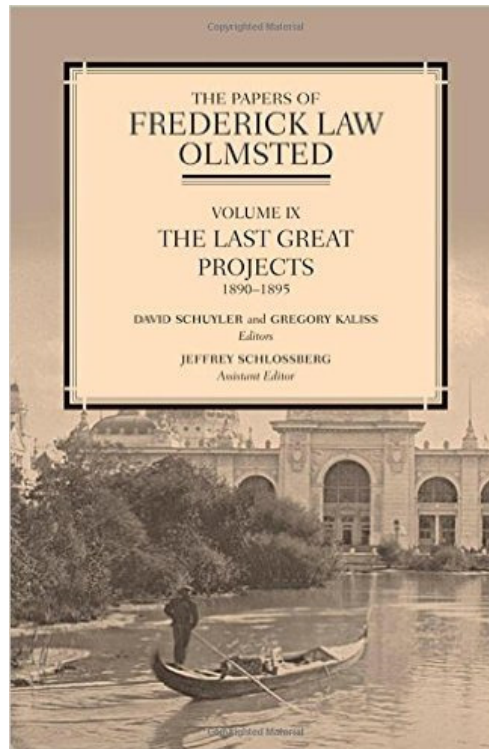
President, Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

The Olmsted Collection at the Riverside Public Library



LIBRARY NEWS

By Constance Guard, Chair, Library Committee



Two important books have been added to the Olmsted Collection in the Riverside Public Library. Both texts are devoted to the legacy of the designer of Riverside, Frederick Law Olmsted.

The first work is Volume IX of the Papers of Frederick Law Olmsted: *The Last Great Projects 1890-1895*. This volume includes important documents related to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893 and Olmsted's extensive work at the Biltmore Estate in North Carolina.

The other work is Volume II of the supplementary Series of the Olmsted Papers, *Frederick Law Olmsted: Plans and Views of Public Parks*. It is a beautiful volume containing Olmsted's drawings and plans for parks throughout the United States and Canada. Especially interesting to the people of Illinois, in light of all the controversy surrounding the placement in Chicago of the Obama Presidential Library, are Olmsted's drawings and plans for Washington Park, Jackson Park and the Columbian Exposition. This work is worthy of display in anyone's home who is interested in the magnificence of Olmsted's artistry and skill in park design.

[FRED continued from page 1]

Join gardeners, nature-lovers, history buffs, and foodies throughout Chicagoland on Saturday, September 12, 2015 in historic Riverside, Illinois.

FRED 2015 will launch Saturday, September 12 with a new lineup of speakers and Community and Garden theme. The FRED (Frederick Law Olmsted in Riverside Education and Design), a garden festival of classes, tours and demos, runs from 9 a.m. through 5 p.m. at the Riverside Township Hall.

A special sneak peek at Riverside's recent selection as one of "Ten Towns that Shaped America," a forthcoming PBS presentation will also be featured in evening entertainment. Classes will feature presentations on native plants, historic landscapes, and a special emphasis this year on growing vegetables and other edibles. "History buffs, foodies, community gardeners, and anyone who loves nature will enjoy this year's classes," says Cathy Maloney, FRED Chairperson.

Presentations include:

Vegetables: Lasting Beauty in the Landscape, by edible landscaping pioneer and landscape architect Vicki Nowicki; A Spirited Affair, a tasting and lecture, by Riverside's Quincy Street Distillery; If Plants Could Speak - Riverside Before Olmsted by Peggy Notebaert Museum horticulturist Nate Fremont; Landscape as Community: Riverside's Legacy in the 21st Century, by landscape architect and historian Scott Mehaffey; Fruit and Fancy: Bountiful landscape trees and shrubs, Kevin Mathews of the Midwest Fruit Exchange; Green and Natural Spaces in Your Community, by landscape architect and ecologist Jack Pizzo; You Can Preserve It! Veggies and Fruit in the pantry, by Celeste & Yvonne Lucero; Veggie garden walk in Riverside, a self-guided tour of various gardens in Riverside.

FRED classes will be held a stone's throw from the Riverside Metra station, in the architecturally significant library and town hall overlooking the river. And - don't miss the HOP STOP! New this year, join the fun in Riverside's historic train depot, with local craft beer, live music, food, and on-site home brewing. Riverside's inaugural craft beer event features samples of more than 10 brews from 5 local Chicagoland breweries. Only 200 tickets available for this special event!

- \$25.00 for a full day of classes and workshops, or \$10 per class. All proceeds go to the nonprofit Frederick Law Olmsted Society, a historic and ecological preservation group.
- Evening events ticketed separately.
- For registration and more information visit www.FredOfRiverside.org.



Vicki Nowicki



Nate Fremont

BROOKFIELD ZOO HONORS "REFLECTIONS ON RIVERSIDE" WINNERS

On June 27, the Brookfield Zoo held a special ceremony honoring this year's "Reflections on Riverside" poetry contest winners. Our Reflections on Riverside Program, now in its 10th year, encourages area students to reflect upon Riverside's landscape and natural areas and to give voice to their impressions. We are continually impressed by the unique perspectives on Olmsted's living landmark.

As is our custom, the Olmsted Society awarded each poetry contest participant a gold foil certificate and warm congratulations at year-end ceremonies at their respective schools. Delighted first place winners also received Aunt Diana's chocolate bars iced with the Society's trademark oak tree and a cash prize.

The over-all winners of the poetry contest, at each level, are:

1st Grade:	Elli B.	Hollywood School	"Riverside"
2nd Grade:	Sophia K.	St. Mary School	"Says The"
3rd Grade:	Caroline S.	Central School	"The Beautiful River"
4th Grade:	Apollo G.	Blythe Park School	"Swinging Bridge"
5th Grade:	Stephen B.	Central School	"A Recipe For Riverside"
Jr. High:	Emily K.	Hauser Jr. High	"Riverside Speaks"

The winners of our related Reflections on Riverside Imagery Contest, which takes place at the high school level, are:

1st Place, Visual Arts:	Lorena H.	RBHS	"Light Labyrinth"
1st Place, Poetry:	Lexi D.	RBHS	"A House On Scottswood"

In addition to the above-named winners, twenty-one students also received special honors for the strength of nature themes expressed in their poetry. Through a special collaboration with the Riverside Public Library and the Brookfield Zoo, all of these students were invited to share their poems at the public reading at the Zoo, which was held on June 27th. It is always a treat to hear young poets gathered together to share their reflections on Riverside.



CENTRAL SCHOOL THIRD AND FOURTH GRADERS RECEIVING SPECIAL HONORS FOR STRENGTH OF NATURE THEME: MIA W., BRIAN P., HAYDEN M., KATHRYN R., SOPHIA S., SOPHIE K., AMANDA K. AND CAROLINE S.



AMES 5TH GRADER MARKETA M. RECEIVING POETRY AWARD.



CENTRAL SCHOOL 3RD AND 4TH GRADE WINNERS



EMILY K., 1ST PLACE WINNER, JUNIOR HIGH DIVISION

Landscape Committee Report

On Saturday, May 9th, the area around Scout Cabin was full of Girl Scouts and other volunteers who removed 59 large black garbage bags of invasive, dreaded garlic mustard. Thanks to the 36 volunteers, including 12 girl scouts and 2 adults from the 6th grade Hauser Girl Scout Troop #41020.

In May, Six hardy and wet volunteers helped Village Forester, Mike Collins removes grasses, weeds and buckthorn from the newly planted beds at Patriot's Park. And, one volunteer weeded all of the geranium beds. We filled more than a full dump truck, even in the rain.

Over two very hot and humid workdays in July, FLOS volunteers cleared beds of weeds, invasive species and applied mulch to beautify the common. And, as a bonus, milkweed is growing profusely attracting monarch butterflies.



Milkweed
on Scottswood Common

Troop 41020 at
the Garlic
Mustard Pull



Scottswood Common after our
Workday



Patriot's Park after our Workday

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 Pond 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 and Patriot's park, along 26th Street, is the newest constructed playground in Riverside.

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.

Sept. 19	9am-12pm	Riverside Roa
Oct. 24	9am-12pm	Riverside Roa
Nov. 7	9am-12pm	Scottswood C

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.



Our Garlic Mustard Haul

FLOS Represented on Regional Tourism Board

FLOS Board member Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga has been appointed to the Board of Directors of Visit Oak Park, the regional tourism bureau representing Oak Park and 20 neighboring towns including Riverside.

FLOS has been a non-profit member of Visit Oak Park ("VOP") for the past three years, promoting our monthly walking tours of historic Riverside through VOP's widely distributed brochures, e-blasts and social media. In addition, through regular participation at VOP Tourism Committee meetings, FLOS Board Members Sandie and Jim Petrzilka established positive relationships with VOP members from other communities, laying the groundwork for collaborations such as the discounted tandem bike rental offered by Greenline Wheels for our "Sustainability: Then & Now" housewalk in 2014.

As a member of the VOP Board, Aberdeen now has the opportunity to inform the management and marketing strategy of Visit Oak Park. She hopes to share Olmsted's legacy and Riverside's many architectural and natural attractions with an even greater audience.

FLOS AT THE RIVERSIDE 4TH OF JULY PARADE



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.

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