

SUMMER 2016 NEWSLETTER

Reflections on Riverside Poetry Contest Results! by Aberdeen Ozga



Merit certificate winners -
photo credit Deborah Catalano



Olivia M., 1st Place Winner -
Junior High Division



High School Poetry Awards -
Photo credit: Sarah Johnson

“REFLECTIONS ON RIVERSIDE” WINNERS TO BE HONORED AT BROOKFIELD ZOO

Participants of the 2016 “Reflections on Riverside” poetry contest were honored at a special ceremony on Saturday June 25th at the Brookfield Zoo.

The over-all winners of the Poetry Contest, at each level, are:

1st Grade:	Ella V.	Ames	“Trees of Riverside”
2nd Grade:	Claire S.	Ames	“The Riverside Party”
3rd Grade:	Noah W.	Hollywood	“Riverside is the Best!”
4th Grade:	Elizabeth S.	St. Mary	“The Town by the River’s Side”
5th Grade:	Elizabeth S.	St. Mary	“I am Riverside”
Jr. High:	Olivia M.	Hauser	“Ode to the Jewel in the Forest”
High School:	Isabelle E.	RBHS	“Remarks on the River”

In addition to the above-named winners, 14 students received special honors for the strength of the nature themes expressed in their poetry and 67 students received certificates of merit. We attended each school’s year-end awards ceremony, awarding gold foil certificates to all. Delighted first place winners also received a check from the Olmsted Society and an Aunt Diana’s chocolate bar iced with the Society’s trademark oak tree.

Through a special collaboration with the Riverside Public Library and the Brookfield Zoo, all of the young poets were invited to share their poems at the public reading on June 25th.

We asked our Board members the question: **Why did you join FLOS?**
and as you'll read below, we received some amazing answers.



Aberdeen Ozga:

Riverside's amazing old trees, elegant curves and open green spaces are so welcoming and restorative it's easy to feel at home here. Knowing it was all intentionally and - so thoughtfully - designed to provide this sense of relief made me want to learn more about Olmsted. There is an incredible legacy here - I'm glad I can do something meaningful to help sustain it.

Upcoming Events:

Historic Walking Tours with Jim Petrizilka and Tony Pecelunas:



RIVERSIDE INVITES YOU TO EXPLORE OUR STORYBOOK NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK VILLAGE

2016 Docent-led Walking Tours of Riverside offered on the following Sundays:

North Division Tours - May 29, July 31, September 18

South Division Tours - June 26, August 28, October 30

2-4 PM, \$15, \$10 for Seniors (62+) and Olmsted Society Members.

Meet at Riverside Train Station, east side of main platform.

Special Custom Tours always available \$20+ per person based on requirements.

Call 708-442-7675 or email tours@olmstedsociety.org



Sponsored by the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Visit us at www.olmstedsociety.org

Follow us at: www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS or www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS

Sightsee! Shop! Dine!

Meet at the Riverside Train Station - the tours run from 2-4pm

- July 31 (North side)
- August 28 (South side)
- September 18 (North side)
- October 30 (South side)

Purchase Tickets for the Historic Walking Tours through this [link](#):

Landscape Workdays on Saturdays:

Join us for our next landscape workday on July 30th at the Longcommon & Downing triangle from 9am-12pm.

Future Landscape Workdays on Saturdays:

Longcommon & Downing triangle: Aug 27th

Riverside Road: Aug 13th, Sept 10th, Sept 17th & Oct 22nd

Scottswood Common: Nov 5th

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 & a water bottle. All other supplies & snacks will be provided.



President's Letter: Rob Dixon

Dear Olmsted Society members:

A rainy spring has turned into a gloriously green spring in Riverside. The Construction in the central business district continues and we hope the planters and new surfaces will put a spring in the step of downtown Riverside. The Riverside Brookfield High School Day of Service was well attended by high schoolers and renewed my faith in the potential of kids to connect with the natural environment. I spent time with the football team and other high schoolers that day and I appreciated their ability to do have lifting. I recommend volunteering your time to this annual event if you can.

Recent lectures have been well attended. Topics on beekeeping and converting turf grass to prairie plants had standing room only audiences with excellent speakers. These two lectures are available on YouTube and local cable channel 6. Many thanks to the Riverside Cable Commission for covering these lectures.

The Olmsted Society will be represented in the upcoming Fourth of July Parade. An exciting float with an emphasis on native plants is planned. Contact Abby Randall or Sander Kaplan to get involved with building the float or walking in the parade. All are welcome.

Also mark your calendars for Saturday, September 24, 2016, 4 to 7 pm. The Olmsted Society is partnering with Riverside Foods to host HopStop at the Riverside Train Station. The craft beer festival will feature local micro brewers such as BuckleDown, Miskatonic, Quincy Street Distilling, Kinghlahger, and many others. Volunteers will be essential to meet the goal of zero waste; to support the brewers, food vendors, and musicians; to check in ticket holders; staff an Olmsted Society information table; and more! If you are interested in volunteering for HopStop let me or Tom Guardi know at president@olmstedsociety.org.

Kind regards,
Rob Dixon
President, Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside
Rob Dixon, President

I have enjoyed coordinating the HopStop fundraiser for the Olmsted Society and welcome anyone who wishes to assist with this craft beer and music festival. Olmsted Society lectures, landscape workdays, and other activities that invite learning about nature appeal to me. The Olmsted Society is a chance to learn about the unique aspects of Riverside, meet people who are inspired by Olmsted, and continue to make Riverside a place that lives up to Olmsted's vision.



Vice President: Abby Randall

Abby Randall is a residential architect living and working in Riverside with her husband and children. She enjoys the opportunity to share and preserve the rich history of her community with others. Riverside's quiet streets, charming homes, and beautiful landscapes inspired her to make this unique place her home.



Treasurer: Thomas Guardi

Tom joined FLOS with wife, Connie, as a team to support Frederick Law Olmsted's vision.



Secretary: Janice O'Flaherty

I joined FLOS, because I love Riverside. I want to make sure all the beautiful things that drew me to this community in the first place will stay intact and for future generations to enjoy.

*Letter from Schermerhorn
to Olmsted April 13, 1877*

An 1877 Letter to Olmsted Concerning Riverside

By Jim Petrzilka

Sometime in early 1877 Frederick Law Olmsted wrote a letter to a friend requesting information about the then current condition of Riverside.

Although Olmsted had severed his connection to the project some years before, he still owned real estate in Riverside and was probably also interested in the results of his early planning and construction efforts.

Louis Schermerhorn, who, as a civil engineer, was one of the original implementers of Olmsted's plan for the village, and also a village resident, was the perfect person to ask. He responded with a four page, devilishly hard to decipher, handwritten letter.

A copy of this letter, obtained from the Library of Congress, is in the possession of the Riverside Historical Museum, and thanks to the determined efforts of members of the Historical Commission, and of the Olmsted Society, it has now finally been decoded. Some supplementary punctuation, paragraphing, and bracketed words have been added to facilitate clarity.

Enjoy this description of Riverside in 1877, with its interesting echoes of our own time.

*Letter from Schermerhorn
to Olmsted April 13, 1877*

Riverside, Ill
April 13, 1877

Fred Law Olmsted

Dear Sir,

In answer to your previous [letter] the following statement as to the present condition of Riverside may not be without interest. The roads & road surfaces are in perfect condition & are cited by all who have seen them as the best results which have here been attained by broken stone and gravel. They are smooth and free from mud at all times, and rarely very dusty, - hardly a dollar has been expended on them since the original outlay.

The water works have been and still are in full and satisfactory use. The gas works have recently stopped the manufacture of gas because the retorts were burned out & the consumers do not feel like carrying our assessment of \$500 necessary to replace them. Otherwise the Works & distribution system are intact. The sewerage system meets all demands even though the plan stopped short of the original plan. The houses (about 45 in number) & private grounds are exceedingly well kept & the place has a look of order & taste. The borders and public grounds are fairly kept - not hairline in perfect neatness - but orderly & free from offence. The grass is kept within bounds by three cuttings during the summer & the trees pruned & protected.

The Hotel is empty and going to destruction. There are but three empty dwellings - the two old Company's houses on the First Division and one on the Third. Quite a number are rented, their original owners having parted with them to parties holding mortgages over them, who rent, rather than have them remain empty. \$25 per month is the rent generally offered for houses originally costing from 8 to \$12,000.

The place is under village organization with a good Board of Trustees who are interested in the preservation of the improvements. Childs [Emery Childs - Riverside Improvement Co. President] almost endless legal complications have plunged a very large part of the property into a hazy condition as to title. This added to [the] ruinously depressed condition of real estate makes property quite unsaleable - it is quite impossible to fix from [determine] present value yet it will be safe to say that it is between $\frac{1}{2}$ and $\frac{1}{4}$ the old rate fixed by the company. No one sells who can hold - all believing that when affairs brighten that Riverside will come in for its share of public appreciation, as many keen business men have greatly bought up, from time to time, bargains, and hold their purchases contentedly.

The test of time and use has demonstrated the correctness of the general principles of construction & has proved adequate to all demands.

The climate is hard on trees and shrubs & hence many of the former, say 10%, have died. Of the latter few remain except the hardiest kinds. The side walks (tar concrete) have quite generally failed.

If there are any points of the detailed construction of roads etc. which seem of value to you I shall be glad to give you any information in my power.

No new buildings have been erected in the past two years.

Yours very truly,
L.Y. Schermerhorn

Watch our recent lecture: [Backyard Beekeeping](#)



In the last few years urban beekeeping has been rising in popularity and popping up in the most unlikely of places, even in a field at O'Hare Airport. Marcin Matelski, Head Beekeeper at the Garfield Park Conservatory, gave a lecture on the "why" and "how" of beekeeping on March 17th. Just click on ***Backyard Beekeeping*** above to watch the recorded lecture.

Marcin Matelski has been an urban beekeeper for the past 7 years. He maintains 40+ hives in Chicago and the suburbs. He teaches beekeeping classes, leads workshops and has organized beekeeping seminars in the past.

"We can reduce flooding by planting the native plants of Illinois, such as *Sorghastrum nutans* (Linnaeus) Nash (Poaceae) also known as ***Indian Grass***, shown here below:





Landscape Committee Report with Cindy Kellogg and Holly Machina

APRIL 23, 2016 Work Day:

A very large group of our regular volunteers and students from Riverside-Brookfield High School Day of Service volunteered their time at our workday on April 23, 2016. Village Forester, Michael Collins, gave all of the students information about what they would be doing.

The students removed invasive buckthorn and made two large burn piles. Michael Collins then gave the students a lesson on the effects of Emerald Ash Bore and then on how to plant a tree. The students planted four oak trees around the scout cabin in honor of Earth Day and Arbor Day.

RBHS Day of Service:



May 7, 2016 Work Day: Work Day Volunteers

Work Day May 7, 2016

On a beautiful May 7th, eight volunteers along with Michael Collins, Village Forester, planted shrubs and perennials on the Longcommon. Elderberry and honeysuckle bushes were planted along with ginger, waterleaf, foamflower and anemone throughout the Longcommon. All of these plantings, along with mayapple, bluebells and maidenhair fern, were donated by a very kind and generous volunteer. Thank you for making the Longcommon a beautiful treasure in Riverside.

Mulching:



Planting Ginger:



Planting Ginger and Shrubs



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Renew Your Membership [here](#):



F.R.E.D. Report with Cathy Maloney:

The FRED landscape design lectures for 2016-2017 will feature a three-part series on "Gardens of the World." The presentations will offer insights and history of design styles in China, England, and a to-be-named country. See how American landscape design finds inspiration in, and differs from, these classic styles. The first two presentations will be at 7 PM in the Riverside Library on the following dates, with the winter presentation TBA:

Wednesday, October 19 7 PM "Gardens of England"

GARDENS OF ENGLAND will offer an armchair tour of leading gardens in Britain. English gardens offer much to the historical basis of American landscape design, and Frederick Law Olmsted was greatly influenced by many of that country's leading designers.

Karla Lynch is a landscape architect and horticulturist who has led many garden tours in England, Italy and Holland. After 20 years as a designer/instructor with The Morton Arboretum, Lynch, a favorite lecturer at previous FREDs, maintains her own landscape architecture practice in Geneva, Illinois.

Wednesday, November 16 7 PM "Gardens of China"

GARDENS OF CHINA will explore the rich legacy of Chinese gardens with a concentration on the gardens of Suzhou and the surrounding region. The talk will conclude with examples of contemporary Chinese gardens and landscapes that extend this garden heritage into current work by landscape architects in China.

RON HENDERSON, FASLA, is Professor and Director of the Master of Landscape Architecture Program at Illinois Institute of Technology and Founding Principal of L+A Landscape Architecture in Newport, Rhode Island. From 2005-2011, he was Professor of Landscape Architecture at Tsinghua University in Beijing. He is the author of THE GARDENS OF SUZHOU (University of Pennsylvania Press: 2012).

Cathy Maloney is a garden historian and former business consultant. "My husband and I were drawn to Riverside by its indefinable charm," she says. "We bought our first house here almost 30 years ago. Since then, we've learned much about Olmsted's vision for blending nature and community, and I launched a second career as a garden editor and author."

**Riverside was mentioned as a great place for a summer stroll:
check out the article [here](#):**

**The Olmsted Society is pleased to be a sponsor of Riverfest this
coming Saturday July 23rd. Gates open at 4:00pm**

Media Updates with Sandy Petrzilka and Abby Randall:



A new flyer for 2016 Walking Tours was created, and the flyer and press release was sent to local Riverside media contacts and to all publications that have long lead times.

National Association of Olmsted Parks (NAOP) - The NAOP requested submittals for their Spring Newsletter, and Cathy Maloney prepared an article on Riverside's designation as an Arboretum. The 2016 Walking Tour schedule was also sent.

Abby Randall is the Social Media guru for FLOS, and has gained quite a following.

Follow us on Facebook - www.facebook.com/RiversideFLOS or

Twitter - www.twitter.com/RiversideFLOS to stay up to date on FLOS events.

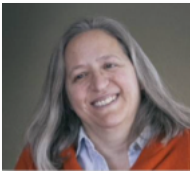
Committee Reports:

Membership - Theresa Pelletier & Kimber Coombes:

Membership renewal statements were sent electronically or by US mail to all members. Please renew your membership for 2016 if you have not already done so.

Currently there are 136 active members to date.

Renew Your Membership here:



Theresa Pelletier:

I've always admired the many things the Frederick Law Olmsted Society does in preserving the beauty of Riverside, and we've been long-time supporters. I cannot imagine living here without being a member of FLOS. Eventually, we became active participants as board members. The Media position was vacant, I accepted the challenge, and for the past several years I've had the pleasure of publicizing our activities with our many media contacts. The work is fulfilling, and my fellow board members are incredibly talented, interesting, and nice.



Kimber Coombes:

Whether it's helping to keep Riverside beautiful through work days, promoting sustainability and education by hosting guest speakers or simply building relationships, FLOS allows me to give back to our community in ways that are close to my heart.

Lectures - Lois Kimmelman:



On March 16, Marcin Matelski, Head Beekeeper at the Garfield Park Conservatory, gave a talk on Backyard Beekeeping. He shared examples from his own experience to illustrate the benefits and challenges of beekeeping in Chicago and the suburbs. An informal honey tasting topped off the evening. The videotaped lecture can be viewed [here](#):

On May 11, [Stephanie Walquist](#) of West Cook Wild Ones gave an inspiring and informative lecture on ways to transform a lawn into a colorful native landscape. A videotaped version of her talk is available [here](#):

Upcoming Lecture:

Aug 3, 7 pm at the Riverside Public Library:

Giants in the Park: Unveiling the Histories behind Lincoln Park's Vintage Monuments

Lincoln Park, historically Chicago's great place of leisure, is also an outdoor art and history museum with its seventeen vintage portrait statues. Using historical photographs and book highlights, Part I features the histories behind the The Alarm, LaSalle, Lincoln, Grant, and Fountain Girl (originally named Willard Fountain). Missing statuary and the park's cemetery years are touched upon as well.

Lois Kimmelman has spent the last 30 years dedicated to what is both her vocation and avocation: working to protect the environment, and has led many governmental and private sector projects. She currently manages a website www.historecycle.com, founded to promote green renovations of historic buildings.

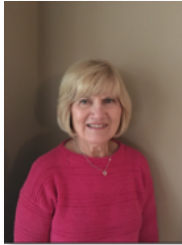
Newsletter - Maura Braun:



As part of our streamlining efforts we are down to just 12 paper newsletter recipients. Thank you to everyone for providing their emails. We now save close to \$2,000.00 per year by not sending hundreds of paper newsletters. The savings will go towards worthy causes. Send me your email address at newsletter@olmstedociety.org to add to the worthy causes.

As an interior designer, living here in Riverside, I have a total appreciation for the design and planning that Olmsted created for the residents to enjoy everyday. During my masters program I studied Olmsted's plans, which included Riverside; the winding roads and vast green spaces make this town such a special place, that I feel it's vital to keep his spirit alive.

Library - Connie Guardi:



Olmsted Collection:

The Riverside Museum case in the Riverside Public Library is featuring books from the Olmsted Collection. The title of the display is "What's in a Name? It is based on the booklet, ORIGINS OF RIVERSIDE STREET NAMES, published by the Library in 1980.

Frederick Law Olmsted named twenty-two of the streets in our town in honor of men who influenced him. The Olmsted Collection includes books by and about these men. Bartram, Downing, Catesby (changed to Gatesby) Evelyn, Kent, Nuttall and Shenstone books are shown in the case, but the Collection includes works by and about all twenty-two. They all fit into one of three categories: naturalists, landscapers or writers. Visit the Collection and discover these treasures.

The booklet explains the origins of all seventy-six street names. It can be purchased for \$4.00 at the circulation desk in the Library. You might be surprised by what's in the name of the street where you live.

Connie Guardi:

I was recruited for the FLOS Board by Joan Opila who was the chairperson of the FLOS Tour Committee. I had been giving the FLOS walking tours under her direction for awhile and she thought I would make a good addition to the Board.

I am currently the Chairperson of the Riverside Historical Commission and co-author of RIVERSIDE, a book that is part of the Arcadia "Images of America" series.

Long Range Planning Chairperson Jim Petrizilka:



The biggest obstacle ahead of us is the 50th anniversary of the society, but we need to start planning now. Connie is on the committee, but many volunteers are needed. We discussed what we should do to celebrate 50 years 1968 - 2018. Other dates to note, in 1868 Olmsted came to Riverside and in 2019 it will be 125 years since the plans of Riverside were created.

I joined FLOS Walking Tours because I love to stroll around Riverside, and what better way than with a group of like minded people who are also interested in learning more about our fabulous town. I got involved with Long Range Planning because it seemed the best way, within FLOS, to assure that Olmsted's vision for the town is maintained.

Bike Path with Mike Johnson & Amy Hill:



The purpose of the Bike Path Committee is to help improve cycling in our community with special emphasis on encouraging children to bike to school. We support the efforts of District 96 to improve the school grounds to accommodate more bicycles.

Mike Johnson:

I joined FLOS because Olmsted's parklike neighborhood design was a significant factor in us choosing to raise a family in Riverside, and I committed to the key parts of the FLOS Mission and Olmsted's vision: concern for humanity, nature, sense of community. Cycling is another passion of mine, and it is a great way to experience Olmsted's vision and be an active part of the community.

Meet our 3 new board members:

Michelle Roblee, Janice O'Flaherty and Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino



Michelle Roblee:

I am interested in all things beautiful and value high quality craftsmanship in architecture, interior design and landscapes. It's nice to have an opportunity to assist organizations like FLOS which promotes these endeavors along with educating and preserving the local community.



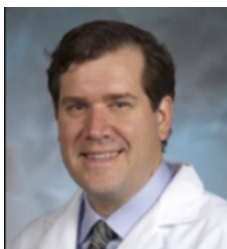
Janice O'Flaherty :

I joined FLOS, because I love Riverside. I want to make sure all the beautiful things that drew me to this community in the first place will stay intact and for future generations to enjoy.



Dr. Michelangelo Sabatino, PhD:

As a newcomer to Riverside and as a historian of architecture and the built environment I feel a special duty to help safeguard and reinvigorate Olmsted's legacy for future generations. As a FLOS board member I hope to promote educational and research initiatives. I am on the faculty at the College of Architecture of the Illinois Institute of Technology and currently serve as Director of the PhD Program in Architecture.



Webmaster (Dr.) Tim Ozga

For me, Riverside is much more than a historic landscape designed by Frederick Law Olmsted. It is a community of great friends and neighbors and the Olmsted Society has brought me closer to many of the wonderfully talented people of Riverside.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside is a registered 501c3 organization. The Society 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.

[Join FLOS or Renew Your Membership here:](#)

Or Just
print
and mail
this
form to:
Frederick
Law
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Society of
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PO Box 65
Riverside,
Illinois
60546

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 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reliable Redbud</i> \$35-\$49 \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hearty Hickory</i> \$50-\$124 <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sugar Maple</i> \$125-\$249 (includes 2 historic walking tour tickets) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mighty Oak</i> \$250+ (includes 4 historic walking tour tickets) Total Enclosed \$ _____ <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____ Email _____ <input type="checkbox"/> 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! <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture <input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk <input type="checkbox"/> Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Library <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> F.R.E.D. <input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape <input type="checkbox"/> Education and Tours <input type="checkbox"/> Website

Renew Your Membership online here:
<http://www.olmstedsociety.org/membership/membership-renewal/>