









Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Summer 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

6/22: 9 AM to Noon – Workday at Big Ball Park

6/29: 10 AM – "Reflections on Riverside" <u>Poetry Contest</u> Honors & Readings at Brookfield Zoo

6/30: 2 PM – Walking Tour (South) at Riverside Train Station

7/4: 8:45 AM - Riverside Independence Day Parade

7/27: 9 AM to Noon - Workday at Riverside Road

7/28: 2 PM – Walking Tour (North) at Riverside Train Station 8/10:

- 1 PM: Wildflower Walk The Illinois Botanist, meet at Riverside Public Library
- 3 PM: <u>Lecture</u> The Illinois Botanist at Riverside Public Library

8/24: 9 AM to Noon – Workday at Scottswood Common

8/25: 2 PM – Walking Tour (South) at Riverside Train Station

9/7: 9 AM to Noon – Workday at Patriots Park

9/21: 9 AM to Noon - Workday at Riverside Road

9/22: 2 PM – <u>Walking Tour</u> (North) at Riverside Train Station 9/27:

- 7 PM: <u>Public Lecture</u> "Reflections on Riverside" by Blair Kamin & Barbara Mahany at Riverside Presbyterian Church
- 9 PM: <u>Private Reception</u> Kamin & Mahany at Avery Coonley Estate

9/28:

- Noon to 4 PM: House Walk: Masterworks
- 4 to 7 PM <u>Hop Stop Craft Beer Festival</u>

Inside This Issue

HopStop Craft Beer Festival

HopStop returns this year to the Riverside Train Station with craft beer, food & music. Page 3

House Walk 2019: Masterworks

View the interior of four homes at Frank Lloyd Wright's Avery Coonley Estate, including a wing of the main house. Houses by Jenney, Drummond and Vinci will also be open for touring. Page 3

Blair Kamin & Barbara Mahany

Kamin, the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Chicago Tribune* architecture critic, and Mahany, journalist and author, will give a free lecture on the New England connections to Chicago and Riverside architecture and landscape. A private reception will follow at the Avery Coonley House. <u>Page 5</u>

Riverside BioBlitz

Amateur naturalists of all ages followed scientists on a plant and animal survey.

Over 400 observations were made – including dozens of bird species and more than 100 plants. Page 6

Poetry Contest

Winners have been selected. All entrants will be honored at Brookfield Zoo on June 28. Selected poems will be read. Page 7

Arbor Day & Olmsted's Birthday

Sedges, Virginia Bluebells and a Burr Oak were planted in the triangle at Kent & Longcommon to mark the occasion. Page 8



President's Letter



Cathy Maloney FLOS Board President

Lots of FLOS activities this spring, and more to come this summer!

In further response to last fall's survey of members and nonmembers, our Board initiated actions to increase awareness of FLOS's mission and activities. We held a well-attended open house at Chew Chew Café on April 2. At this meeting, the Board voted on a tagline which, short and sweet, conveys the essence of FLOS: "Stewards of the land and Olmsted's Plan." We'll use this wherever possible to help convey our mission. Credit to Sandie Petrizilka for developing this motto.

Another way we are trying to increase awareness (and ultimately new members or volunteers) is by partnering with other groups in new activities. On May 10-11. FLOS partnered with the Landscape Advisory Commission (LAC) to host the first-ever BioBlitz, a scientist-led census of Riverside's wildlife. The BioBlitz was organized by the Landscape Advisory Commission, with food for our volunteer scientists provided by FLOS. More than 10 scientists from institutions such as the Field Museum, Lincoln Park and Brookfield Zoos, The Morton Arboretum and more, joined 70-plus participants in recording different species of plants, birds, mammals, and insects in a 24hour period.



LAC members David Rubin and Mary Plunkett welcome participants to Riverside's first-ever BioBlitz

Thanks to **Theresa Pelletier** and **Aberdeen Ozga** for logistics support, Bob Finn and Yvonne Lucero for outreach, and to the many FLOS members for participating. See the hundreds of observations recorded under Historic Riverside BioBlitz on the iNaturalist.org app to see what lives in our wild areas!



Bird experts (L-R) Colleen McVeigh of the Field Museum, Steve Pruett-Jones of the University of Chicago and FLOS member Mike Maloney scout the skies for species.

In another partnership, under the leadership of **Cindy** Kellogg and Holly Machina, an experimental planting of sedges under trees is underway at the Kent & Longcommon triangle. Working with Village Forester Mike Collins and author and plantsman Roy Diblik, the planting will serve as a (hopefully successful!) alternative to mulching under trees. FLOS Board members Rick and Linda LaBelle and Mike and Cathy Maloney are working with an informal group of bird watchers to document migratory species. It is part of an effort to obtain accreditation for Riverside from the Audubon Society as an "Important Bird Area."

FLOS's annual **poetry contest** is underway with partnerships with our local grade schools and RB high school. Our traditional collaboration with the Riverside Public Library continues with exciting lectures and nature walks. Read about these and the blockbuster. doubleheader, sesquicentennial blow-out weekend planned for September 27-28, FLOS's HopStop craft beer festival and, after a five-year hiatus, Masterworks House Walk.

We'll need lots of volunteer help. Please give an hour or two, if you can. We are all "Stewards of the land and Olmsted's Plan."



HopStop Craft Beer Festival

Saturday, September 28, 2019, 4 to 7 PM at Riverside Train Station

Riverside Foods and the Olmsted Society are once again partnering to bring you the HopStop craft beer festival with sample offerings from micro-local craft brewers who have been with us at past events such as:

Brickstone Brewery Goose Island Right Bee Cider

BuckleDown Brewing Hailstorm Brewing Safehouse Brewing

Citizens CiderNoon Whistle BrewingSpiteful BrewingFlapjack BrewingPollyanna BrewingWhiner Brewing

Forbidden Root Pipeworks

and Riverside's own Quincy Street Distilling, to name a few.

This year's HopStop takes place at the <u>Riverside Train Station</u>, Riverside, Illinois – <u>Metra commuter rail</u> drops you at the door.

Food available for purchase separately and the live music of headliner *Dr. Don and the Boogie Monsters* round out a wonderful outdoor family friendly setting in the arboretum Village of Riverside. A commemorative tasting glass is provided with each ticket and this will be a zero-waste event. Thanks to Flood Brothers for sponsoring our zero waste efforts.

This year, the Riverside Masterworks House Walk precedes HopStop running from Noon to 4:00 PM. Buy a bundled value ticket and spend the day with us! Tickets may be purchased at <u>Brown Paper Tickets</u>.

For complete information regarding this year's participants, visit the official 2019 HopStop site at: www.riversidehopstop.com.

100% of the proceeds from the HopStop go to Riverside non-profits.

Riverside House Walk 2019: Masterworks

Saturday, September 28, 2019, Noon to 4 PM

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society House Walk is back, featuring some of the most beautiful and iconic homes in Riverside! This year's theme is "Masterworks," with some of the best examples of work by famous architects including Frank Lloyd Wright, William Le Baron Jenney, William Drummond and Louis Guenzel, and John Vinci and Lawrence Kenney.

Four structures that are part of the original Avery Coonley Estate will be open for viewing. The Coonley House Bedroom Wing (1907) and the Gardener's Cottage (1907) were designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. The Bedroom Wing has undergone extensive restoration by the current owners. Thorncroft Residence (1912) and the Caretaker's Cottage (1913) were designed by William Drummond and Louis Guenzel, proteges of Frank Lloyd Wright and Adler and Sullivan, respectively.

This year, HopStop (beginning at 4:00 PM) immediately follows the House Walk. Buy a bundled value ticket and spend the day with us! Tickets for both events may be purchased at Brown Paper Tickets.

See the House Walk 2019: Masterworks page on the FLOS Website.

Continued on page 4





Riverside House Walk 2019: Masterworks, cont'd.

House Walk Residences

Avery Coonley Estate Bed Room Wing, Frank Lloyd Wright (1908): Currently under restoration by its new owners, this fine example of Wright's Prairie Style architecture has emerged from near ruins to its original beauty. This wing has not been publicly viewed for at almost two decades.





Avery Coonley Gardeners Cottage, Frank Lloyd Wright (1908): The Gardeners Cottage, arguably the first modest home designed by Wright for a working man, combines historic features with modern functionality.

Thorncroft, *William Drummond and Louis Guenzel (1912)*: Part of the Avery Coonley Estate and originally the residence for the teachers of the Christian Scientist kindergarten and play house and the Coonley's child, this beautiful home has been extensively restored by the current owners.





Caretakers Cottage, William Drummond and Louis Guenzel (1913): Part of the Avery Coonley Estate and the residence for the caretaker for the teachers' residence, note the exquisite windows overlooking the park and river.

The Freeark House, *John Vinci and Lawrence Kenney* (1975): A stunning International Style home overlooking the Des Plaines River.





L. Y. Schermerhorn House, William Le Baron Jenney (1869): One of the oldest homes in Riverside. One of its unique features is the use of vertical wood board batten. This residence was designed for L.Y. Schermerhorn, a partner with Jenney and John Bogart in the engineering firm hired by the Riverside Improvement Company to implement Frederick Law Olmsted's plan for Riverside. Jenney is known as the Father of the American skyscraper.



An Evening with Blair Kamin & Barbara Mahany



Blair Kamin has been the architecture critic for the *Chicago Tribune* since 1992. He is a winner of the Pulitzer Prize for Criticism for his columns that included a series of articles on Chicago's lakefront. He has lectured widely and appeared on programs ranging from ABC's "Nightline" to WTTW-Ch. 11's "Chicago Tonight." Kamin has been a contributor or co-author of several books and his collected columns have been published by the University of Chicago Press. In addition to the Pulitzer, Kamin is the recipient of more than 30 awards, including two presented by the American Institute of Architects. He serves as an adjunct professor of art at North Central College and has served as a visiting critic at architecture schools including the Harvard University Graduate School of Design.

Barbara Mahany spent nearly three decades as a reporter and writer at the *Chicago Tribune*. She is now a freelance journalist and author of two collections of essays. Early on, Mahany intended to become a pediatric nurse practitioner but enrolled in Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, graduating at the top of her class. As a Tribune reporter, she covered stories ranging from the Iran-Contra hearings, Prince Charles' visit to Chicago, a cross-country ride with the Truck Driver of the Year, Mother Theresa's nuns on Chicago's West Side, the Jeanine Nicarico murder, Jell-O wrestlers and fox hunters. Mahany's lifestyle stories on gardening, health, family, food, books, travel and home have been published in the Los Angeles Times, the Baltimore Sun, and the Orlando Sentinel, among other papers.

Kamin and Mahany met and married while both were working at the *Chicago Tribune*.

Public Lecture

Friday, September 27 at 7 PM at Riverside Presbyterian Church

CITY IN A GARDEN, NEW ENGLAND ROOTS

New England has had a profound but little-noticed impact on the architecture and, especially, the landscape architecture of Chicago. That impact is evident in the names of downtown skyscrapers like the Monadnock and Pittsfield Buildings; in the influence of Henry Hobson Richardson on architects Adler & Sullivan and the first Chicago School of Architecture; and in the transplantation of the idea of the New England town common to Chicago's lakefront, a notion to which Frederick Law Olmsted gave full expression in his plans for Jackson and Washington Parks as well as Riverside. Not only did design ideas come from New England to the Chicago area, but also investments, as from the "Eastern businessmen" who formed the 1869 Riverside Improvement Company.

In this illustrated talk, *Chicago Tribune* architecture critic Blair Kamin and former *Tribune* writer Barbara Mahany explore the New England-Chicago connections and their meaning for today.

Riverside Presbyterian Church is located at 116 Barrypoint Road, Riverside, IL.

The lecture is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance at Brown Paper Tickets.

Private Reception

Friday, September 27 at 9 PM at the Avery Coonley Estate

A private reception will be held for Blair Kamin and Barbara Mahany in the Public-Living Room Wing of the Avery Coonley House. Join us for a unique opportunity to meet journalist and author Barbara Mahany and Pulitzer Prizewinning architecture critic Blair Kamin. Spend an evening in one of Frank Lloyd Wright's most impressive homes. This beautifully-restored wing of the Coonley House will not be open for the 2019 House Walk.

Only 20 tickets will be sold for this event. Tickets are \$150.00 each and must be purchased in advance. FLOS members will have the first opportunity to purchase tickets – watch your email and the FLOS website for details.

Small plates, wine and champagne will be served.



Riverside BioBlitz Begins Biodiversity Tracking

What do a beaver, a Blackburnian warbler, and prairie trillium have in common? These species are among the more than 400 observations made during Riverside's first-ever BioBlitz, a one-day series of nature walks where different animals and plants are identified and counted. In the 24-hour period between Friday, May 10 and Saturday, May 11, nearly 200 different species were identified and logged into iNaturalist, an app that consolidates and tabulates biological data. Despite the inclement weather, more than 70 participants hiked the Riverside trails identifying flora and fauna.



Mammal expert Matt Mulligan show BioBlitz participants a mouse found in an overnight trap.

The nature immersion experience was organized by Riverside's Landscape Advisory Commission, with support from the Frederick Law Olmsted Society and funding from Openlands through the Green Region grants. Cathy Maloney, president of the Olmsted Society and Landscape Advisory Commission noted, "The turnout was terrific. The data gathered will be especially helpful to document Riverside's biodiversity during its sesquicentennial year of 2019."

Scientists from major Chicago area institutions including the Field Museum, Brookfield Zoo, Lincoln Park Zoo, The Morton Arboretum, and the University of Chicago guided participants on walks through Riverside's natural areas. Mammal experts including Matt Mulligan from the Lincoln Park Zoo, and Jill Mateo

from the University of Chicago, set out cameras and small traps during the evening of May 10 to track the presence of night animals. Ornithologists spotted birds with their binoculars at dawn and dusk.

The BioBlitz began Friday evening with an Owl Prowl at 8 PM led by Melinda Pruett-Jones, an ornithologist and Riverside resident. While no owls were spotted, about 20 volunteers learned about night-flying creatures and habitats.



Owl Prowl participants listen to ornithologist Melinda Pruett-Jones.

Then, at 7 AM on Saturday, the birders were off again. Throughout the day, 64 total species of birds were identified, many of which were migratory birds.

Erin McMahan, an entomologist from The Morton Arboretum, helped participants find insects in Riverside's natural areas. Participants found a number of interesting specimens hiding under rocks and logs.

Plant expert Jennie Willcox drove in from Maquoketa, lowa to help identify herbaceous species. Riversider John Kolar, Shawn Sinn of Semper Fi Land Services, and many experts from the Brookfield Zoo worked with volunteers to document well over 100 plant species.

Anyone interested in reviewing the results of the BioBlitz can go to iNaturalist.org, and search for Historic Riverside BioBlitz. The data will remain here for historic records.



"Reflections on Riverside" Poetry Contest



Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga Poetry Contest Chair

Winners to be honored at Brookfield Zoo on June 29

Please join us Saturday, June 29 at 10 a.m. at the Discovery Center of the Brookfield Zoo for a special ceremony honoring those students who participated in the 2019 "Reflections on Riverside" poetry contest.

Our theme this year celebrates 150 years of Olmsted's timeless design, and we are pleased to report that close to 150 of Riverside's youth rose to the challenge!

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

1 st Grade:	Cataline B.	Hollywood	"Riverside Woods"
2 nd Grade:	Dominic K.	Ames	"A Beautiful Nature Town"
5 th Grade:	Ellie B.	Hollywood	"One Morning in Riverside"
Jr. High:	Gemma N.	Hauser	"Ode to the River"
High School:	Skylar C.	RBHS	"What Else it Knows"

In addition to the above-named winners,15 students received special honors for the strength of the nature themes expressed in their poetry. 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.

All of our young poets are invited to share their poems at the public reading at the Zoo on the 29^{th.} If you would like enjoy this morning of poetic reflection with us, please RSVP to poetrycontest@olmstedsociety.org by June 23.

Walking Tours of Historic Riverside

Docent-led walking tours are offered at 2:00 PM on (usually) the last Sunday of the month from May to October. The remaining tour dates for 2019 are:

Date	Tour Area	
June 30	South Side	
July 28	North Side	
August 25	South Side	
September 22	North Side	
October 27	South Side	

Tours depart <u>Riverside Train Station</u> (main train station, east side of platform) at 2:00 PM. Tours last about two hours ending by 4:00 PM.

Tickets are \$20 each or \$15 for Seniors (age 62+) and Olmsted Society Members.

Special custom tours are available for \$25+ per person based on your requirements. Phone 708-442-7675 or email tours@olmstedsociety.org.

For further details and to purchase tickets, see the <u>Historic Walking Tours page</u> on the FLOS website.



Landscape Workdays Schedule



Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina Landscape Co-Chairs

In 2019, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces.

All workdays are scheduled for **Saturdays from 9 AM to Noon**. 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.

For more information, see the Landscape Workdays page on the FLOS website.

Date	Location	Projects
June 22	Big Ball Park	Mulching
July 27	Riverside Road	Weeding
August 24	Scottswood Commons	Weeding & mulching
September 7	Patriots Park	Weeding
September 21	Riverside Road	Weeding
October 5	Riverside Road	Plant native grasses & sedges
October 12	Riverside Road	Native seed collecting (rain date)
November 2	Longcommon & Downing	Weeding & mulching

Workday, Arbor Day, Olmsted's Birthday & Sedges, Too!

We planted and celebrated Arbor Day and Olmsted's Birthday on our workday at Longcommon and Kent Roads on Saturday, April 27th. Sixteen FLOS volunteers plus village staff members worked with Village Forester, Michael Collins, and noted plant expert, Roy Diblik.

We are participating in an experiment to see if sedges can replace mulch in beds under our trees. We planted 820 Penn (or Common) Oak and Carex Albicans sedge plugs with nine Virginia Blue Bells to add a touch of color. All of the plants were donated by Midwest Ground Covers.

A Bur Oak was planted to celebrate Arbor Day and Green Oak Leaf Cupcakes helped us celebrate Olmsted's birthday. We finished just in time for the rain and snow to water our new plants.





Lecture Report

Olivia Barraza & Dan Murphy

Lecture Co-chairs

Chris Benda "The Illinois Botanist" - Saturday, August 10



Chris Benda is a botanist and past president of the Illinois Native Plant Society (2015-2016). He was a regional ecologist for the Illinois Natural Areas Inventory Update in southern Illinois from 2008-2012. Chris teaches the Flora of Southern Illinois at Southern Illinois University in the summer and a variety of classes at The Morton Arboretum. He is an accomplished photographer and author of several publications about natural areas in Illinois. Read more about Chris Benda and his travels across Illinois at illinoisbotanizer.com

Wildflower Walk 1:00 PM, Start at Riverside Public Library

Walk and talk with "The Illinois Botanist!" Join Chris Benda for a walk among the wildflowers on the Des Plaines River and Riverside's Arboretum on August 10. Chris will point out native plants in Riverside which can be grown in your own garden. This nature walk promises to be a great all-ages event!

Meet in front of the Riverside Public Library (<u>1 Burling Road</u>) at 1:00 PM. Only 20 spots are available for the wildflower walk so, first come, first served.

Presentation 3:00 PM at Riverside Public Library

Following the wildflower walk, Chris will give a colorful and informative presentation in the library.

Blair Kamin & Barbara Mahany – Friday, September 28

See the "Public Lecture" on page 5, "An Evening with Blair Kamin & Barbara Mahany".

RB Day of Service

Our partnership with Riverside Brookfield High School and their day of service was very successful.

On Saturday, May 4, 2019, 24 RB students and 12 other volunteers gathered 25 bags of Garlic Mustard and planted six shrubs and six trees in Indian Gardens. All of the shrubs and trees were then caged to keep deer and other animals from destroying them.

Michael Collins, Village Forester, taught the group about Emerald Ash Bore, Garlic Mustard and how to plant trees and shrubs.





Membership Report



Linda LaBelle

Membership Chair

To all of our dedicated members, thank you for your loyal support and all the membership renewals and donations to date. It is never too late to renew or make a donation.

Olmsted Society of Riverside is dedicated to sustaining Olmsted's vision for Riverside for generations to come. Its mission is guided by his concern for humanity, nature, sense of community and the innovative and thoughtful essence of his work.

Please consider renewing your membership or becoming a member. 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 minimum \$35.00 tax-deductible contribution by check or you can subscribe or renew online:

FLOS Membership Renewal Form

If you prefer, print and mail the form below:

Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

PO Box 65

Riverside, Illinois 60546

Thank you for your continued support!

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. The town was developed in 1868 by Landscape Architect Frederick Law Olmsted and his business partner Calvert Vaux. Membership is open to all interested individuals for the current calendar year (Jan. 1- Dec. 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, IL 60546 or join online at www.olmstedSociety.org and select the Membership tab.				
MEMBERSHIP: Reliable Redbud \$35-\$49 \$ Hearty Hickory \$50-\$124 \$ Sugar Maple \$125-\$249 \$ (includes 2 walking tour tickets) Mighty Oak \$250 + \$ (includes 4 walking tour tickets) New Member Renewal Gift Membership Name:	COMMITTES: Put your talent to work & your energy to good use by joining a committee! Architecture Education & Tours Fundraising events: Hop Stop Housewalk _ 4th of July Parade Float _ Landscape Workdays Library Membership Newsletter Public Relations Website			
Address: Phone: Email:	I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation			





Dr. Tim OzgaWebmaster

A **big thank you** to our Webmaster, Tim Ozga, for all of his efforts in managing the website and the emailed newsletters!

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.

Subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at: newsletter@olmstedsociety.org

Check out our social media link for information on upcoming events:

facebook.com/RiversideFLOS

twitter.com/RiversideFLOS

Visit the Olmsted Society website at:

olmstedsociety.org

