

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Fall 2019 Newsletter

Upcoming Events

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

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

9/27:

- 7 PM: <u>Public Lecture</u> "City in a Garden, New England Roots" 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: Hop Stop Craft Beer Festival

10/5: 9 AM to Noon - Workday at Riverside Road

10/12: 9 AM to Noon - Workday at Riverside Road

10/26: 9 AM to Noon - Workday at Longcommon & Downing

10/27: 2 PM - Walking Tour (South) at Riverside Train Station

Inside This Issue

Tribute to Tony

FLOS pays tribute to Tony Pecelunas, a long-time volunteer, board member and tour guide, who passed away in July. Page 3

HopStop Craft Beer Festival

HopStop returns this year to the Riverside Train Station with craft beer, food & music. Page 4

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. <u>Page 4</u>

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 6</u>



President's Letter



Cathy Maloney FLOS Board President

Dear friends,

There's debate in our household as to the best month of the year, but I hold that September can't be beat. Not too hot, not too cold, still plenty of daylight, what's not to like? And this month...jampacked with FLOS events for you to enjoy.

Volunteer or just have fun at the Masterworks House Walk or HopStop on Saturday, September 28. Don't put off getting your tickets - these signature events have been known to sell out.

Friday of that weekend, September 27, is a rare treat. Pulitzer prize winner and architecture critic Blair Kamin will give a presentation with his wife, author Barbara Mahany. It is the first time the couple have ever given a joint presentation! The lecture is FREE, but we ask that you sign up so that we know how many seats are needed! See related articles in this newsletter or the FLOS website for details on how to get your tickets for the lecture, House Walk and HopStop.

The September 27-28 weekend is the Olmsted Society's major fundraiser and community get-together. It will be extra special this year to celebrate Riverside's sesquicentennial.

Speaking of which, did you see the "timeless" costumes of FLOS members in the July 4 parade? The white flowing gowns were exquisite, and some said the laurel wreaths crowning some of our gentlemen's heads were guite fitting. Thanks to "classic" designs from the Ozgas and Janice O'Flaherty.

Did you catch the vintage baseball game at Big Ball Park on July 21? Despite the drenching downpour, Vintage baseball clubs Chicago Salmon and Deep River Grinders played a full game to the delight of many. FLOS and Riverside Foods sponsored lunches for the team members and Riverside Parks and Rec contributed to the event.

Workdays continue with many volunteers helping to maintain Riverside's beautiful green spaces. Thanks to all involved.

While this summer has been busy, we pause to remember long-time Board member and FLOS friend, Tony Pecelunas. Tony and his wife, Phyllis, have been leaders in FLOS activities for the past several decades. Despite poor health in the last year, Tony continued to contribute and volunteer to FLOS events. We will miss him, and extend our sympathies to Phyllis.

Please continue to join in the Olmsted Society's mission as "stewards of the land and Olmsted's Plan."



FLOS volunteers dig in at Patriots' Park



FLOS members march in Riverside's 4th of July Parade



Vintage baseball returns to the Big Ball Park



Tribute to Tony



Tony Pecelunas, 1942 - 2019

Tony Pecelunas was a Renaissance Man. He was a historian, reenactor, raconteur, entrepreneur, mariner, consummate storyteller, and the best tour guide ever. He charmed everyone he met, with his quick wit and his instinct for fun. He was, for many years, one of the bedrocks of the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside. He chaired the group's Walking Tour program wherein he fielded inquiries from around the globe from individuals and groups desiring to come and experience Riverside.

When they did come to Riverside he showed them his town as only he could, including his own home if they wanted to see it. If they wanted something more exotic he gave it to them. For example, one group wanted to traverse the route of the planned Olmsted Parkway from Chicago to Riverside, and Tony was up to the task. With Phyllis, his wife and trusty sidekick, as wheelperson, and after fighting city traffic, Tony and Phyllis arrived at the bus embarkation point on Chicago's Gold Coast with a squeal of brakes and five minutes to spare. Tony subsequently mesmerized the group with his tales of what they were seeing along the route. They were so charmed they said it was the best tour ever, until they saw and experienced Tony's Riverside tour. If you wanted a bike tour Tony was also your man. He had spent many years in the bicycle business, and so, not only did you get a great tour but also a quick bike tune-up or repair if needed.

We are all going to miss Tony, and we can only hope that some of his spirit and his zest for life has rubbed off on those of us trying to carry on his legacy.

- Jim Petrzilka



In memory of Tony Pecelunas, a book will be added to the Olmsted Collection at the Riverside Public Library. It is a beautiful work titled *The Architecture of Trees* by Cesare Leonardi and Franca Stagi. It is a resource for anyone interested in the structure and beauty of trees. The drawings make this book a work of art as well as an informative guide to the study of trees.



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
BuckleDown Brewing	Hailstorm Brewing
Citizens Cider	Noon Whistle Brewing
Flapjack Brewing	Pollyanna Brewing
Forbidden Root	Pipeworks

Right Bee Cider Safehouse Brewing Spiteful Brewing Whiner Brewing

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: <u>www.riversidehopstop.com</u>.

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 <u>Brown Paper Tickets</u>.

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.





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

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.





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.

Free 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 you are encouraged to obtain tickets in advance at **Brown Paper Tickets**. Remaining tickets will be available at the door.

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 a very limited number of tickets are still available for this event. Tickets are \$150.00 each and must be purchased in advance at Brown Paper Tickets.

Small plates by Riverside's Chew Chew Restaurant, wine and champagne will be served.



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
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 708-447-7635 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 and a <u>water bottle</u>. All other supplies & snacks will be provided.

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

Date	Location	Projects
September 21	Riverside Road	Weeding
October 5	Riverside Road	Plant native grasses & sedges
October 12	Riverside Road	Native seed collecting (rain date)
October 26	Longcommon & Downing	Weeding & mulching



Lecture Report

Olivia Barraza & Dan Murphy Lecture Co-chairs

Previous Lectures



Chris Benda The Illinois Botanist – Saturday, August 10

On Saturday, August 10, Chris Benda, "The Illinois Botanist," led a walk among the trees and native plants in Riverside's Arboretum, Swan Pond and along the Des Plaines River. Chris identified plants by their scientific and common names, gave tips for plant identification, and related stories about plants and the people who study them.

Following the walk, Chris gave a humorous, engaging and informative talk about the natural history of Illinois, the pioneers in the study and propagation of Illinois' native plants, and a detailed listing of native plants that local gardeners can grow in their own yards.

If you missed these events, you can view recordings of the wildflower walk and the lecture.

Read more about Chris Benda and his travels across Illinois at illinoisbotanizer.com

Upcoming Lectures

Blair Kamin & Barbara Mahany – Friday, September 28

See the "Public Lecture" on page 6, "An Evening with Blair Kamin & Barbara Mahany".

Huzzah! Vintage Baseball Returns to Riverside



The crack of an old-time wooden bat against a "lemon peal" baseball resounded in Riverside's Big Ball Park on Sunday, July 21. This vintage baseball game featured the Chicago Salmon versus the Deep River Grinders of Lake County, Indiana. The teams played by baseball rules prevalent in the 1860s. Despite a steady rainfall, a full game was played.

"It's a fitting tribute to Riverside's 150th Anniversary," says Cathy Maloney, chair of Riverside's Sesquicentennial Committee and FLOS President. "Frederick Law Olmsted designed the Village in 1869 with Big Ball Park as an important green space. He advocated outdoor recreation."

Vintage baseball is a popular sport with clubs located across the country. Players use period-appropriate equipment, such as the "lemon peal" ball, a four-piece hand-stitched dark leather ball. "Both the Chicago Salmon and the Grinders use 1858 rules," said Gary Schiappacasse of the Chicago Salmon. "We'll give an explanation of the rules before the game and introduce all the players."

Games run nine innings and typically take about two hours. Both teams belong to the Vintage Baseball Association, a national group whose purpose is to preserve and enjoy America's early baseball games. It is perhaps fitting that the match-up be played in Riverside since one of Riverside's founders, David Gage, was president of the Chicago White Stockings in 1870.

Sponsors of this special game were the Frederick Law Olmsted Society, the Village of Riverside Parks and Recreation Department, and Riverside Foods.





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 <u>www.olmstedscoiety.org</u> 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: Address: Phone: Email:	COMMITTEES: 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 I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation	

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Membership Report, cont'd.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside 2019 Membership List

Thomas & Connie Guardi

Mighty Oak Jim & Sandie Petrzilka

Sugar Maple

John & Katherine Flaherty	Richard Marritt & Steven Oldham
David & Trisha Flassing	Judy Meredith & Roy Benedek
Rachael & Luigi Franceschina	Jeff & Jacqueline Miller
Sander Kaplan & Theresa Pelletier	Timothy Ozga & Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga
Stephen & Ann Kubiczky	Corina Pambuccian
Thomas J. Litwiler	Elaine Pesavento
Yvonne Lucero & Jim Harrington	Prof. Kathryn Stanley Podwall
Cathy & Mike Maloney	

Hearty Hickory

Frank & Carole Altmayer	Linda & Rick LaBelle
Jennifer Baader	Anthony J. Mourek
David Barker	Marianne Moye
Thomas & Janice Barr	Daniel Murphy & Olivia Barraza
Randy & Paula Jo Belice	Sylvia Neumann
Ramiro & Geraldine Borja	Anthony & Catherine Nie
James Bryniarski & Leona Hubatch	Drs. Frank & Carla Orland
Charles Carpenter	Kenneth Pearlman
Nancy & Sam Chmell	Anthony & Phyllis Pecelunas
Kim & Rob Dixon	Douglas & Kathleen Pletcher
Elizabeth & Brian Duke	Carole Pollitz
Joseph Dvorak III & Nancy Dvorak	Cecelia Radlowski
John Farneda & Fanie Greeff	Diane & James Richards
Bob & Judy Finn	Joanne Rogers
Mary Geroch	Laurence & Margaret Rohter
Nancy Graham	David & Minetta Rubin
Martha & Lou Heine	Marilyn & Bruce Russell
Kristine Herbst & Roman Salij	Dorothy Schroeder
Kevin Hicks	Mark Shevitz & Amy Jacksic
Carolyn Huson	Mark & Dorothy Sikora
Kim & Thomas Jacobs	Alice & Robert Stake
Dick & Ruth Julian	Joseph Troiani & Terrie Badgett
Cindy Kellogg	James & Donna Ulrich
Lois Kimmelman	E. & Joyce Van Cura
Alfred Kitch	Susan & Matt Wolfe
Jane Kunka	



Membership Report, cont'd.

Reliable Redbud

Bert & Bernardien Austin	Stephen & Rosanne Marshall
Bernie & Ellie Babka	John McNeal & Dr. Sharon Rae Bender-McNeal
Jerry & Diane Balin	Andrew E. Michyeta, IV
Maura Braun & George Lambros	Maureen Mulligan
Greg & Sandy Briolat	Carlos & Cathy Navarro
Donna Budil	Patricia Nemec
James Burns	Samantha & Mani Oller
Joseph & Valerie Cablk	Richard & Marcia Olson
Joseph & Grace Cieply	Jen & Chris Pacourek
Jo Day & George Giesey	Patricia Pavlich
Joan DeRycke	Charlie & Susan Pipal
Jean DiMonte	Keith & Malgorzata Plummer
Bryan Eddy	Mary & John Plunkett
Nadine & Tom Espisito	Doug & Jennifer Pollock
Frank & Paula Gagliano	Abigail & Greg Randall
Roberta & Michael Gates	Florence Rooney
Melissa & Adam Haefner	Dorothy C. Rzonca
Mark & Amy Hill	Michelangelo Sabatino & Serge Ambrose
George & Myra Hurst	Carol B. Skala
Edward Jepson	Peter & Mary Sluka
Helen & James Kolacki	Nora Smith
Teena & Cliff Kotchka	Robert & Carol Sprunger
Diana & Jim LaMantia	Olga Sylvester
Karen & Patrick Layng	Elizabeth Taus & Victoria Taus-Aquin
Holly Machina & Jason Kinnan	Jack & Joan Wiaduck
Joel & Sophia Marhoul	Thomas Wilkens
Paul & Thea Marhoul	Susan Worthington & Laurel Anderson

We'd like to say a special "thank you" for your continued support to our 2019 members and benefactors (those named and anonymous).





Dr. Tim Ozga

Webmaster

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 links for information on upcoming events:

facebook.com/RiversideFLOS

twitter.com/RiversideFLOS

Visit the Olmsted Society website at: olmstedsociety.org