



The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Spring 2021 Newsletter

Our Mission

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 Olmsted's 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.

Upcoming Events

- 4/1: [Poetry Contest](#) Opens
- 4/10: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Harrington Park
- 4/29: 7 PM – [Presentation](#) via Zoom: Home Rain Garden
Panel Discussion
- 4/30: [Poetry Contest](#) Deadline
- 5/1: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Riverside Road
- 5/15: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens
- 5/18: 7 PM – [Presentation](#) via Zoom: Jazz Age Modern:
Riverside's Art Deco & Art Moderne Houses
- 5/30: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station
- 6/5: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens
- 6/27: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (South) at Riverside Train Station

Note: You must register **24 hours in advance** to volunteer for any 2021 landscape workday.

Inside This Issue

FLOS Board Officers & New Members

Meet the newest members of the FLOS Board of Directors. Also, a new president joins the three returning officers. [Page 3](#)

Olmsted 200 Initiatives

FLOS observes the bicentennial of Frederick Law Olmsted's birth. [Page 4](#)

UIC Urban Studies Capstone Projects

UIC students conduct two research projects in collaboration with FLOS. [Page 5](#)

Garden Groomers

A certificate program for entrepreneurial teen gardeners. [Page 5](#)

Student Poetry Contest

The annual FLOS Poetry Contest celebrates Riverside's Beginnings. [Page 6](#)

Presentations this Spring

Rain gardens and Art Deco / Art Moderne houses will be addressed. [Page 8](#)



President's Letter



Yvonne Lucero
FLOS Board President

Hello, FLOS members and families!

As the new president of FLOS, this is my first opportunity to attach a greeting to a newsletter. It's also 31 years since I moved to Riverside, which sounds impossibly long to me, but time flies.

As you might expect for the month of March, there is cabin-fever, but we can look toward to some spring-themed activities. Actually, I start anticipating spring around the 21st of December, when the winter solstice arrives with longer days and the seed catalogs begin filling my mailbox! I also suffer from over-ambitious ideas about how much can be planted into a garden bed – I have long considered annexing a friends' property in Brookfield for greater productivity...

An unusual amount of snow dressed the village nicely for a few weeks and allowed big and little kids to make the most of sledding at Swan Pond. More than a few pieces of equipment met their demise on that hill if the wreckage in the near-by waste can is anything to go by.

Have you heard that March is alternatively known as the "Month of Mud"? Yet, there are some signs of brave shoots coming up: the yellow cups of winter aconitum, snowdrops, and eventually, we will see sprinkles of squill.

For those of you who are bird watchers (many residents involuntarily became part of this group in the past year), the time is soon to see and hear new additions to our yards and woods. FLOS and the Landscape Advisory Commission are hoping to provide some useful information on birding in our area as spring progresses to summer. Stay tuned for more on this subject.

If you have any suggestions for features you would like to see either in the newsletter or ideas to be considered by the FLOS Board, please let me know at president@olmstedsociety.org.

Yvonne Lucero



Local artist, Shilin Hora, of The Seed will create a botanical box for the Riverside Public Library and lead seed collection events, all part of our [Olmsted 200](#) activities.



FLOS presents a [Rain Garden Panel Discussion](#), Thursday, April 29 at 7 PM



The [Garden Groomers](#) certificate program returns this year.



The annual [Reflections on Riverside Student Poetry Contest](#) asks young poets to consider "Riverside's Beginnings."



The 2021 FLOS Board of Directors

New Board Members

At the Annual Meeting in January, three new directors were elected to the FLOS Board.



Bridget Doherty considers herself “lucky to grow up in Riverside,” where her family has been active and proud community members for many generations (“...since the beginning of the town!”). After living in Boston and on Chicago’s north side, Bridget returned to Riverside about seven years ago. Presently, she volunteers with the Riverside Community Garden as a founding board member, serves as a leader for the Riverside Area Moms, and sits on Riverside's Economic Development Commission. Bridget is an avid gardener, who loves the village “dearly” and feels very invested in preserving the history and beauty of Riverside. Bridget is “thrilled to raise my family here and hopes to inspire other young families to embrace and celebrate the magic of our environment.”



Leon Pietrowski grew up in Berwyn before moving to Riverside while he attended Fenwick High School. He is a 21-year employee of UPS. Leon is currently an active volunteer in the Junior Achievement program and has served as a Boy Scout leader for his son's troop. Leon has a profound love of his family and nature. He also loves spending time outdoors – gardening, birdwatching, hiking, golfing and fishing are among Leon’s favorite activities.



Matt Rogina moved to Riverside in 2015. A native of St. Charles, he currently works as the Assistant Freedom of Information Act Director for the University of Illinois and is an adjunct professor at DePaul University School of Law. Matt and his wife, Anna, have one son, Henry.

FLOS Board Officers for 2021

Also, at the January Annual Meeting, the officers for the FLOS Board of Directors were elected for the 2021 calendar year. They are:

- President: Yvonne Lucero (new)
- Vice-President: Cindy Kellogg (returning)
- Secretary: Joanne Rogers (returning)
- Treasurer: Theresa Pelletier (returning)



Olmsted 200 & The Society's Exciting New Initiatives!

Be a Part of Two Enduring Gifts to the Riverside Community

2022 is the bicentennial of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted. A year-long, nation-wide program, [Olmsted 200](#), has been established to celebrate Olmsted's design principles – particularly those which are rooted in a concern for public health and a desire to promote thoughtful access to nature.

Locally, the Society is sponsoring two major initiatives, each involving community participation, to mark the celebration. The first, the *Olmsted 200 Botanical Box*, is a gift to the Riverside Public Library. The second is a *Public Nature Space/Living Tree Tribute*, in gratitude for health and healing. Both projects begin this spring and culminate on Olmsted's birthday - April 26, 2022.

Olmsted 200 Botanical Box

Partnering with artist Shilin Hora of [The Seed](#), the Society is raising funds for a sizeable, museum-quality Olmsted 200 Botanical Box to be gifted to the Riverside Public Library on Olmsted's 200th birthday. The Olmsted 200 Botanical Box will feature locally collected seeds artistically arranged over a map of the 1869 General Plan for Riverside. Framed with reclaimed wood from local architectural salvage, the box will be accompanied by a hand-written seed identification key. This gift will not only be a stunning work of art but will also educate generations to come about the diversity of Riverside's flora.

Public Nature Space/Living Tree Tribute

The Living Tree Tribute will reflect Olmsted's philosophy that immersion in Nature improves bodily and spiritual health. Working with the Village, the Olmsted Society and the members of the public will plant trees and shrubs in an intentional, yet naturalistic, design to promote serenity and well-being.

Support Our Efforts

Fundraising for both gifts to the community is occurring in two ways: via direct donation on the Olmsted Society's website, and through The Seed's sale of commemorative 12"x15" Olmsted 200 Botanical Boxes. Olmsted 200 Botanical Boxes can be commissioned starting this April at The Seed, which is located at [38 East Avenue in Riverside](#), or through the artist's website, www.shilinhora.com

Olmsted 200 Seed Collection Events

Beyond the maps, exquisite craftsmanship, and representation of local flora, the Olmsted 200 Botanical Boxes will also embody the great spirit of community engagement in Riverside. To this end, five no-cost seed collection events will be co-sponsored by the Olmsted Society and The Seed this year, providing participants of all ages with botanical education and restorative time in Olmsted's landscape. Seeds collected at these events will be professionally dried and preserved and then incorporated into botanical boxes – making them even more meaningful to those who love Riverside, and all that Riverside represents.

Seed collection events offer participants a chance to learn about seed collecting and Riverside's natural areas. These adventures will be led by botanical artist Shilin Hora, who will then use the seeds collected to create commemorative Olmsted 200 Botanical Boxes.

Seed collection events will take place on the **third Sundays of May, June, August, and September at noon**. Also, as part of the [Saturday, October 23rd landscape workday](#), there will be a final seed collection event along Riverside Road. This will ensure that the seeds collected represent Riverside's full seasonal species diversity.

The first event, on Sunday, May 16, will feature a guest nature guide specializing in early childhood education and will depart from Riverside's **Scout Cabin**. Upon completion, each participant will receive a botanical bookmark featuring illustrations of seeds that can be found that month in Riverside. Collect the bookmarks from at least three Seed Collection Events this year to be eligible for a special botanical prize!

Though free of charge, **advance registration is required** for all events so we know how to staff. Please visit www.olmstedociety.org and sign up today!



UIC Urban Studies Capstone Projects

FLOS Goes to School

The Olmsted Society is excited to have won not one, but two, cooperative arrangements with the Urban Studies Program at University of Illinois - Chicago. The UIC program issued a request for proposals to participate in their Urban Studies Capstone projects. In this program, undergraduate students in the Urban Studies program work on projects related to community planning. FLOS submitted two project proposals, and students and their faculty adviser voted to accept both.

The Art Deco & Art Moderne Bike Tour Project, headed by FLOS board member Dan Murphy, has students researching the architects, owners and history of these distinctive “modern” style homes built in Riverside from the 1920’s through the 40’s. Their research will serve as the basis for a new bicycle tour planned by FLOS. The student researchers will also give a presentation, “[Jazz Age Modern: Riverside’s Art Deco & Art Moderne Houses](#)” on Tuesday, May 18.

The Preservation and Environmental Conservation Project, headed by FLOS Board member Cathy Maloney, examines the challenges of historic preservation in the world of climate change. Students will examine best practices among leading historic communities. Climate change poses issues for landscape preservation, from the use of herbicides to extreme weather events to water usage. How will historic landscapes evolve?

The students began working in February and will continue until they present their final reports in April. We will share results with FLOS membership. “It’s a great opportunity to build a partnership with UIC Urban Studies,” concludes Cathy Maloney.

Garden Groomers

Teens Can Earn a Garden Maintenance Certificate

The popular Garden Groomers program for teens is back! If you know a teen who wants to learn more about gardening, this is the place! Whether to pick up some part-time work, or for personal satisfaction, gardening is a great pastime. Admission to the program is on a rolling basis now through the end of June.

Sign up for the Olmsted Society’s “Garden Groomers” certificate course. Teens, age 16-18, are eligible to obtain the certificate. This new program, with online video instruction (about one hour), an online test, and one to two hours of hands-on training, will give you confidence and skills in the garden.

The emphasis of the program is on *natural* garden maintenance, so you can be good to the Earth.

See the [Garden Groomers Statement](#) for more information. Contact GardenGroomers@olmstedsociety.org to apply.

Classes are limited and available **now!** Hope to see you!



Reflections on Riverside Student Poetry Contest



Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga
Poetry Contest Chair

Focus on Riverside's Beginnings!

Next April marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted, and organizations around the country are seeking creative ways to introduce people to Olmsted's vision. Here in Riverside, the Olmsted Society is kicking off its year-long celebration with its **Reflections on Riverside** Student Poetry Contest. Students in grades 1-12 are invited to spend time in Riverside's national landmark landscape and to incorporate reflections upon **Riverside's Beginnings** into their poems.

What am I seeing? What am I experiencing? How did this begin? How did it come to be? It is the Society's hope that considerations of Riverside's natural environment, and the ways in which it has been cultivated and designed, awaken in our area's youth a deeper appreciation of Olmsted's mastery of his craft.

The Poetry Contest seeks poems of any style or length in keeping with the theme of Riverside's Beginnings. \$100 will be awarded to the first-place winner at the high school level, \$50 will be awarded to the first-place junior high winner (grades 6-8) and \$25 will be awarded to the first-place winner at each grade level 1-5. Winning poems will be featured on the Olmsted Society website on a rotating basis and are eligible for inclusion on the Olmsted 200 national website. All contest participants will be invited to read their poems at a special ceremony later in the year.

Rules and entry forms may be found at olmstedsociety.org starting **April 1**. While the deadline is **April 30**, we encourage eligible students to get out and explore Riverside's landscape and get creative with their reflections as soon as weather permits!





Walking Tours of Historic Riverside

Let Us Share Our Hometown Pride with You!

This year we will continue to offer tours on a reservation only, masks-required basis, with limited participants, and payment via PayPal only. Reservation requests must be made by email at tours@olmstedsociety.org and include a return phone number. All reservations will be confirmed and scheduled based on our limited group capacity and the availability of docents.

Special Tours

Introduced last summer in response to the pandemic, we will continue to offer our *Family Only – Sheltering in Place Tour* starting, if you wish, from your own home. These tours can be customized to your family’s interests and each last about one hour. The cost is \$40 per family (up to six people from the same residence).

Special tours for out-of-town and international visitors can be arranged as in past years, but they are now limited to only eight participants. The cost is \$25 per person and require a \$75 deposit.

Regularly Scheduled Monthly Tours

We once again offer our regular monthly tours with advanced reservations required and limit of eight participants. These two-hour tours depart at 2:00 PM from the [Riverside Train Depot](#) (main train station, east side of platform) 90 Bloomingbank Rd. These are \$20 per person (\$15 for seniors 62+ and Olmsted Society members).

The Walking

Tours alternate between the North and South Divisions of Riverside. The North Tour covers the area north of the railroad tracks and features the Longcommon (key to Olmsted’s plan), an architecturally significant school, a place of worship designed by Jenney, and homes by Silsbee, Wright, Perkins, and Purcell & Elmslie. The South Tour includes Swan Pond Park, Indian Gardens, Scottswood Common, Wright’s Coonley Estate and homes by Jenney, Drummond, Vinci, Whittlesey, and a home designed by Olmsted’s partner, Calvert Vaux.

The regularly scheduled Sunday afternoon tour dates for 2021 are:

Date	Tour Area
May 30	North Division
June 27	South Division
July 25	North Division
August 29	South Division
September 19	North Division
October 24	South Division

Phone 708-447-7635 or email tours@olmstedsociety.org. For further details and to purchase tickets, see the [Historic Walking Tours page](#) on the FLOS website.



Presentations Report

Olivia Barraza & Dan Murphy

Presentations Co-chairs

Home Rain Garden Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 29 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

A rain garden in your yard can act as a sponge, a drain, and a filter for excess rainwater – water that can harm your trees and plants and overwhelm sewer systems. FLOS is partnering with the Riverside Public Library to present a panel discussion on home rain gardens. The discussion will cover design, construction, plant selection and maintenance.

[Register for this event](#) on the Riverside Public Library website. You will be sent a link to this event when you register.

The panelists include:

- Val Kehoe – Program Coordinator for University of Illinois Extension

Val is an [Energy and Environmental Stewardship Coordinator](#) for University of Illinois Extension serving Cook County. Her programs have included School and Community Gardens, as well as collaborative initiatives between Illinois Extension and the Forest Preserves of Cook County, namely the [Conservation@ Home](#) and the [Master Naturalist](#) programs. Val Kehoe is a horticulturist and certified arborist with 25+ years of experience in the green industry.

- Shawn Sinn – Vice President, Semper Fi Landscaping

Shawn is an ecological restoration contractor based in the Chicago region. He has worked as a project manager and field supervisor restoring natural areas since 2004 and has a particular fondness for stream restoration and prescribed burn management. Shawn currently serves as the Vice President of Land Services for [Semper Fi Land Services, Inc.](#) in Yorkville, Illinois, where his role includes leading the Ecological Restoration Division of the company.

- Three Riverside homeowners, Laura Rubio, John Haugland and Dan Murphy, will also discuss their own rain gardens.

Jazz Age Modern: Riverside's Art Deco & Art Moderne Houses

Tuesday, May 18 at 7:00 PM via Zoom

Riverside is known for its many Victorian, Arts & Crafts and Prairie Style homes, but there were number of Art Deco and Art Moderne houses built in the community from the 1920's to the 1940's. These modern styles have a sleek "machine age" aesthetic that, in the context of Riverside's rural atmosphere and traditional architectural styles, makes the appearance of these houses even more dramatic. For the first time, flat roofs and terraces replaced gables and porches. Glass block walls and corner windows were new innovations. With the emergence of the automobile as a status symbol, the garage was given a prominent place on the front of the house. The Art Deco and Art Moderne homes of Riverside represent a striking departure from previous architectural styles and the village boasts several interesting examples.

In collaboration with FLOS, student researchers Pauline Hong, Fotini Kaim and Marcus Levigne from the Urban Studies Program at the University of Illinois - Chicago conducted a study of Art Deco and Art Moderne buildings in Riverside. In an informative and illustrated presentation, Hong, Kain and Levigne share their findings about these distinctive "modern" homes in Riverside.

[Register for this event](#) on the Riverside Public Library website. You will be sent a link to this event when you register.



Landscape Workdays



Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina

Landscape Co-Chairs

Help Beautify Our Public Parks

For 2021, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces. Due to the pandemic, you **must register 24 hours in advance to participate in a workday**. The number of participants may be limited and anyone who did not register in advance may not participate.

Frederick Law Olmsted designed the parks in Riverside to provide changing vistas for both pedestrians & 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.

All workdays are scheduled for **Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 PM**. Bring your own **work gloves and a water bottle**. All landscaping supplies and pandemic-safe snacks will be provided. All participants must **wear masks and maintain social distance**. You will be informed of specific health and safety requirements when you make advanced reservations to participate.

For the most current information, see the [Landscape Workdays page](#) on the FLOS website.

Date	Location
April 10	Harrington Park
May 1	Riverside Road
May 15	Indian Gardens
June 5	Indian Gardens
July 10	Patriots Park
July 31	Indian Gardens
Aug 28	Scottswood Commons
Sept 18	Scottswood Commons
Oct 16	Longcommon Common
Oct 23*	Riverside Road
Nov 13	Longcommon & Downing Triangle

* On Saturday, October 23rd, we will be collecting seeds as part of the [Olmsted 200 Seed Collection Events](#). We will also be planting a tree to honor Mark Ross, a long-time volunteer who is recently deceased.

To make advanced reservations to participate in a workday or to be added to our FLOS landscape committee e-list, please contact:

- Holly Machina & Cindy Kellogg
FLOS Landscape Committee Chairpersons
workdays@olmstedsociety.org
708-447-0226

- Michael Collins
Riverside Village Forester
mcollins@riverside.il.us
708-442-3590 x 502



Membership Report



Linda LaBelle
Membership Chair

2021 Membership renewals are off to a great start. Thank for your generous contributions. 2021 is a new year and activities will be planned based in accordance with state and community Covid-19 guidelines.

Please consider renewing, becoming a member or giving the gift of membership. The Olmsted Society invites residents and visitors to join us in learning, enjoying Riverside's landscape 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!

✂

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. 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.

<p>MEMBERSHIP:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reliable Redbud</i> \$35-\$49 \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hearty Hickory</i> \$50-\$124 \$ _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sugar Maple</i> \$125-\$249 \$ _____ (includes 2 walking tour tickets)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> <i>Mighty Oak</i> \$250 + \$ _____ (includes 4 walking tour tickets)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Member</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Renewal</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Email: _____</p>	<p>COMMITTEES: <i>Put your talent to work & your energy to good use by joining a committee!</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Architecture</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Education & Tours</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Fundraising events: <input type="checkbox"/> Hop Stop <input type="checkbox"/> Housewalk</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4th of July Parade Float</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Workdays</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Library</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Membership</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Website</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I wish to receive a receipt for my tax deductible donation</p>
--	--



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:
www.olmstedsociety.org