

# The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

*Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan*

Summer 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*

- 7/10: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Patriots Park
- 7/25: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station
- 7/31: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Indian Gardens
- 8/26: 7 PM – [Presentation](#): *A Look into Urban Bird Migration & What Role We Play* via Zoom
- 8/28: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Scottswood Common
- 8/29: **7 AM** – [Bird Walk](#) location to be announced
- 8/29: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (South) at Riverside Train Station
- 9/9: 7 PM – [Presentation](#): *The Seeds of Riverside: Creating an Olmsted 200 Botanical Box* via Zoom
- 9/18: 9 AM to Noon – [Workday](#) at Scottswood Common
- 9/19: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station

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

## *Inside This Issue*

### Poetry Contest Results

The FLOS Poetry Contest winners have been selected and prized awarded. [Page 3](#)

### Landscape Workdays

Volunteer efforts to restore Indian Gardens and maintain other public spaces continue. [Page 4](#)

### Walking Tours Return

Regularly scheduled Sunday tours, as well as Family Only and Special Tours are back this summer. [Page 6](#)

### More Presentations Coming Soon

Topics include birds, seeds & Mid-Century Modern houses. Don't miss our guided bird walk in August! [Page 7](#)



## President’s Letter



Yvonne Lucero  
FLOS Board President

Dear Members,

Have you had people who say they want to come and visit, then you can never pin them down? Well, the “big C” of the summer season (no, not more Covid!) “Cicadas” are similar. – we’ve been told they are on their way, but so far, the show has been slow.

They *are* out there, cluttering up neighborhoods and serving as snacks for all sorts of animals, but Chicagoland has not seen too many knocking about on our plants and sidewalks. We might have been missed locally, in part because their emergence is not only triggered by temperature, but by *rain*, which has been wanting. Further, of course, the overall global warming that may be confusing some of the billions of little alarm clocks underground.

Lots of folks already have some tidbits of news about them, but just to add to your store of cocktail party chatter: These bugs are part of Brood X (not Gen X...) which refers to their coming from an East Coast species, and every time we have 17-year cicadas, they are part of a Brood X group-the X stands for ten, like the Roman numeral. There are 3,000-4,000 types of cicadas, but Brood X-ers are somewhat special-they are among the longest-lived insects on the planet. They come to no harm from most rainstorms, because their wings shed droplets easily.

Most of the eastern states are covered with them right now, but only relatively small parts of Indiana, Illinois (mainly south), and Tennessee are hosting bug bashes in their green spaces.

The racket up in the trees is of course, bugs trying to meet other bugs, and their matchmaking technology hasn’t changed in thousands of years, so our ears pay the price. Some unfortunate cicadas (about 5%) become infested with a fungus that produces an amphetamine like effect, and they become, in essence, sex-crazed. Not just the usual “I have a goal in life, and it’s to reproduce”, but wildly enthusiastic. The downside is that the fungus makes the lower half of their bodies fall off...no joke, because then they can’t mate effectively. Bummer, man.

I won’t go into the whole eating them thing, there are multiple articles about this, but watch out for anything crunchy in the munchies for the next few weeks. If it doesn’t look like a tortilla chip, you may want to skip it.



Prizes were awarded for the annual “Reflections on Riverside” Poetry Contest. (Left) FLOS Board Member Trisha Flassing presents an award to high school first prize winner, Alexandra D. of Riverside Brookfield High School. (Right) Maya D., third grade winner and author of “Eggs to Eggs,” displays her award.



## Reflections on Riverside Poetry Contest Winners Announced



**Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga**  
*Poetry Contest Chair*

The Olmsted Society’s “Reflections on Riverside” Student Poetry Contest is held each April in celebration of National Poetry month. Inspired by the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Olmsted’s birth next year, our theme this year focused on Riverside’s Beginnings – and over 90 area students rose to the challenge!

We wish to recognize everyone who took a break from Zoom and wandered our restorative landmark landscape. You thoughtfully considered how Riverside came to be, spring’s beginnings, or what endures here, timeless – and our judges were impressed by your reflections.

While we would ordinarily present awards at schools’ year-end ceremonies, WeVideo made it possible for our poetry co-chairs to share kudos and congratulations with the D96 school communities in a COVID-safe way. Certificates and prizes (cash and Aunt Diana’s chocolate) were distributed to those winners via their school office and we were able to make special (masked) deliveries to our high school and home-schooled winners. On behalf of the Olmsted Society, it is our sincere hope that we brought each poet a little joy!

We are pleased to announce to the community the overall winners of the Poetry Contest, at each level:

Level	Student	School	Poem Title
1 <sup>st</sup> Grade	Tamzin D.	Blythe Park	“Potawatomi Haiku”
3 <sup>rd</sup> Grade	Maya A.	Home School	“From Eggs to Eggs”
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Dominic K.	Ames	“Human Nature”
Jr. High	Juliana G.	Hauser	“My Favorite Tree”
High School	Alexandra D.	Riverside-Brookfield	“Through A Keyhole”

### *My Favorite Tree*

Riverside’s beginning?  
I only remember the trees  
The words of Frederick Law Olmsted ring through my head –  
But no.  
Riverside’s beginning?  
The trees.

Alone, together, swaying, dancing  
The trees whisper in the wind and dance with the breeze  
As we drive through the roads – alive for years  
I stare at the homey trees on the familiar roads through my wistful eyes  
They shine in the dark night, lit by moonlight  
Even in the dark you can see the beauty there.

As we drive through town, I tap my feet  
To the beat of the wind softly shaking the trees,  
Like a mother shaking you gently to wake up.

I look through the window, wondering  
Will I ever have one home, like the trees?  
Swim, my house, Chicago, volleyball practice – these are all my homes  
But the trees?  
They stay, content as one could be  
In the form of a tree  
One home, one spot

But... can a tree be a home too?  
My tree allowed me to lean on it  
The bark, hard – but to me?  
Soft as a pillow  
My favorite tree, old as time  
Its quiet whispers comforted me  
But, maybe someone else needs a tree to lean on?

*Juliana G.*  
*Hauser Junior High*





## Landscape Workdays

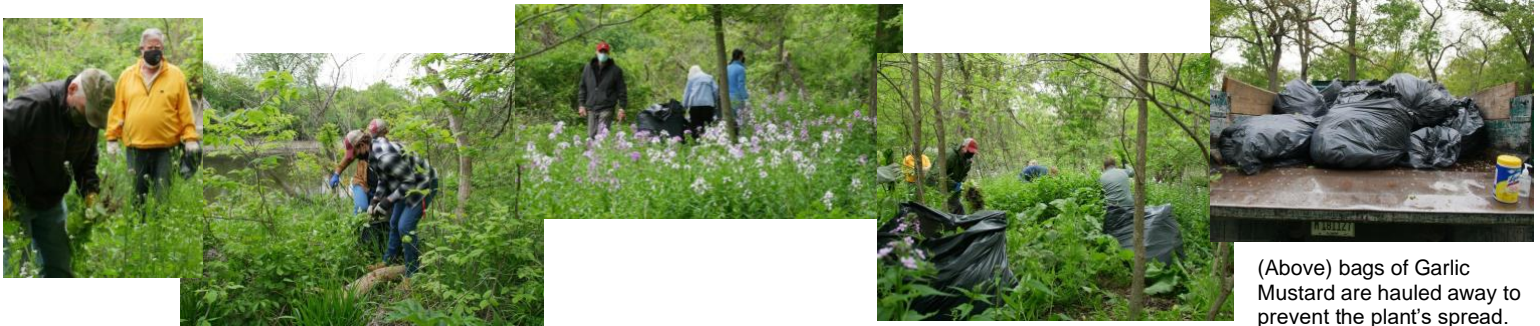


Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina

*Landscape Co-Chairs*

### Indian Gardens Restoration Project

FLOS is beginning a long-term project to restore Indian Gardens area. On Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>, 19 adult volunteers and four young adults joined us in the restoration project. Michael Collins, Village Forester, and Shawn Sinn cut brush and trees while we pulled garlic mustard that was in full bloom. FLOS has been removing garlic mustard from Indian Gardens for several years. On this rainy Saturday, volunteers filled the Village's truck with 33 bags and cleared approximately 30 feet of the riverbank. It was very encouraging to see the areas where we've removed it healthy and free of garlic mustard. Now you can see the river!



(Above) bags of Garlic Mustard are hauled away to prevent the plant's spread.

### Riverside Road Landscape Workday

On a beautiful June 5<sup>th</sup>, ten volunteers pulled garlic mustard and removed invasive buckthorn from the riverbank along Riverside Road. Their efforts uncovered native plants like trillium and Solomon's seal.



(Far right) an area of the riverbank infested with Garlic Mustard. (Right) the same area cleared by FLOS workday volunteers. (Above) a native Trillium is revealed.



## Landscape Workdays (cont'd)

### 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 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
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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 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](mailto:workdays@olmstedsociety.org)  
708-447-0226

- Michael Collins  
Riverside Village Forester  
[mcollins@riverside.il.us](mailto:mcollins@riverside.il.us)  
708-442-3590 x 502



## 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](mailto: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
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](mailto: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*

### A Look into Urban Bird Migration & What Role We Play

**Thursday, August 26 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**

An overview of birdlife found throughout the seasons in our area with a special focus on migration. Learn how birds follow natural landmarks such as the Des Plaines River. Learn about important conservation theories for preserving migrating birds, how birds follow natural landmarks, and where and when to find migrants. Ways you can help in the large-scale conservation of migrating birds will be presented, as well.



Henry Griffin has been admiring our feathered friends since the age of 12 and founded [Oak Park Bird Walks](#), in 2014 at age 14. The organization has since raised thousands of dollars for conservation groups around the world. Henry has a bird life list of 1126 species and is always looking to add a new one!

Register at the [Riverside Public Library](#) website. You will be sent a link to the presentation after you register.

### Bird Walk with Henry Griffin

**Sunday, August 29 at 7:00 AM at a nearby Forest Preserve location**

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside presents a Bird Walk with Henry Griffin. Join local birding expert Griffin on a guided, 90-minute birdwatching activity that is appropriate for new and experienced birders. This is a free event, but you must register in advance.

The bird walk will take place at a Cook County Forest Preserve location near Riverside. It will involve walking and standing for ninety minutes on paved and unpaved ground. Note that this a **morning** event, so set your alarm clock!

Register at the [Brown Paper Tickets](#) website. You will be sent full details for the bird walk when you register.

### The Seeds of Riverside: Creating an Olmsted 200 Botanical Box

**Thursday, September 9 at 7:00 PM via Zoom**

Botanical artist Shilin Hora and hardwood artisan Francisco Gonzales walk us through the makings of intricate, museum-quality, botanical boxes. From Riverside Seed Hunts to the artists' workshop at *The Seed*, this dynamic photo-rich lecture is set to be presented by Zoom through the Riverside Public Library.

Register at the [Riverside Public Library](#) website. You will be sent a link to the presentation after you register.



Shilin Hora is a botanical artist and the shop owner of a unique botanical boutique called *The Seed*, in Riverside. *The Seed* aims to add value to the larger ecological narrative by providing beautiful sustainable artwork by local artists who protect and celebrate nature.

Francisco González is a local craftsman and framer for *The Seed*. He carefully sources hardwood from renovated structures in Illinois, crafting architectural salvage frames for *The Seed's* Botanical Box collections – including the collection of frames for the Olmsted Fundraiser!



## *Presentations Report (cont'd)*

### Coming this Fall

On Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 PM, join Riverside residents and authors Michelangelo Sabatino (IIT College of Architecture) and Serge Ambrose for a presentation of their new book *Modern in the Middle: Chicago Houses, 1929-1975* (co-authored with Susan Benjamin) followed by a conversation with Kim Freeark and architect John Vinci about the Freeark House completed in 1975.

Register at the [Riverside Public Library](#) website. You will be sent a link to this Zoom presentation after you register.

### Recent Presentations

If you missed our presentations from this Spring, recordings of past presentations are available on the Olmsted Society website ([olmstedsociety.org](http://olmstedsociety.org)).

In April, FLOS hosted a [Home Rain Garden Panel Discussion](#). Panelists included landscape architect Shawn Sinn, Val Kehoe and Jinnie Hoggarth from the University of Illinois Extension, along with three Riverside homeowners who have rain gardens.

In May, student researchers Pauline Hong, Fotini Kaim and Marcus Levigne from the Urban Studies Program at the University of Illinois – Chicago presented findings from their study of Riverside's Art Deco and Art Moderne buildings in "[Jazz Age Modern: Riverside's Art Deco & Art Moderne Houses](#)."

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Subscribe to our newsletter by emailing us at:  
[newsletter@olmstedsociety.org](mailto:newsletter@olmstedsociety.org)

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

 [facebook.com/RiversideFLOS](https://facebook.com/RiversideFLOS)

 [twitter.com/RiversideFLOS](https://twitter.com/RiversideFLOS)

Visit the Olmsted Society website at:  
[olmstedsociety.org](http://olmstedsociety.org)