



The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Fall 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

10/16: 8 AM to Noon – [Landscape Workday](#)

10/19: 7 PM – [Presentation](#): *Modern in the Middle: Chicago Houses, 1929-1975*, Online

10/23: 8 AM to Noon – [Landscape Workday](#) with

- An [Olmsted 200 Seed Collection Event](#)
- A tree planting to honor Mark Ross

10/24: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#), (South) at Riverside Train Station

11/13: 8 AM to Noon – [Landscape Workday](#)

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

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Your donations (in memorial, gratitude, or celebration) support tree planting in Riverside. [Page 3](#)

Riverside, Ready for It's Close-up

WGN News came to town to explore our landmark community. [Page 4](#)

"Modern in the Middle: Chicago Houses, 1929-1975"

Michelangelo Sabatino and Serge Ambrose present their book with special guests; architect John Vinci and Kim Freeark [Page 5](#)

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President's Letter



Yvonne Lucero
FLOS Board President

Dear Members,

Of trees and telephones...

Almost everyone who knows me is aware that I don't have an iPhone and don't even carry my flip phone unless forced to. I am a Luddite and have never adapted to having an electronic device become a permanent extension of my arm. Occasionally, however, there is value to these devices, and as we move into the colors of fall (here's hoping!) people may be more conscious of the trees around them, as green turns to various shades of gold, red, brown, and even purple. To that end, I want to remind people that they can use their smart phones (since these are so ubiquitous) to have some fun and learn about the trees in our landscape – especially now that the new path along the river is finished and it invites us to view the charms of the Des Plaines River.

As many folks know, Riverside was designated an arboretum in 2015, as a planned collection of trees, in the same way as Morton Arboretum (if not on as grand a scale). Guthrie Park has their trees labeled as to type, but if you are elsewhere in town, you may not know what each specimen is; enter the "Tree Finder"!

The [Tree Finder](#) can be found within the [Landscape Advisory Commission \(LAC\) pages](#) of the Riverside website. The LAC pages cover many aspects of Riverside's landscape design, as well as broader issues of plantings, conservation, and LAC-sponsored activities. You can also find instructions to use both the Tree Finder and the [iNaturalist](#) app, the latter of these two allows you to take a photo of nearly every plant, flower, bug or beast and upload it to learn more about what you've seen.

But, back to finding out about trees... the [Tree Finder](#) is a map of trees on Riverside's public lands, so you can learn more about all those unlabeled trees outside of Guthrie Park. The detail of this map is amazing – you can get lots of information about the trees you may have strolled, bicycled, or driven past for years.

Lots of thanks are due to the LAC members who have brought these resources together, so try them and see Riverside in a new light (but gaslight is still fine for streetlamps).

The Tree Finder web address is longer than most people care to type (or remember), so use the link provided on this page or point your tablet or smart phone camera to the square at right to use the Tree Finder.





New Tributes & Trees Program

Linda LaBelle & Sandie Petrzilka
Tributes & Trees Co-Chairs

Ever wish you could perform a random act of kindness and beautify a National Historic Landmark at the same time? Now you can with the Olmsted Society's *Tributes & Trees* program. The program allows you to make donations that recognize others, such as memorials, "thank yous," or to acknowledge special events. All donations will be used to enhance Riverside's landscape. See the [Tributes & Trees Program page](#) on the FLOS website for more details.

Tributes & Trees Recognizes

Honoree: **Tony Peculunas**

"It's been two years and we still miss your friendship, wise counsel, lively discussions, and pizza gatherings."

Donors: Jim & Sandie Petrzilka

Honorees: **Ed & Doris Hullihan**

"In memory of our parents who brought us to Riverside and introduced us to the genius of Frederick Law Olmsted."

Donors: Ann Lee & John Hullihan

Honorees: **Sandie & Jim Petrzilka**

"Two of the finest protectors of nature and history."

Donors: Derek, Nancy, Evan, and Savannah Griffing



Walking Tours of Historic Riverside

Last Regular Tour of the Year: Sunday, October 24

The last regularly scheduled Sunday afternoon tour will be of Riverside's South Division on October 24. The 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 tour lasts two-hours and departs at 2:00 PM from the [Riverside Train Depot](#) (90 Bloomingbank Rd. – main train station, east side of platform).

Tickets are \$20 per person (\$15 for seniors 62+ and Olmsted Society members) and payments made via PayPal only.

Reservation requests must be made by email to tours@olmstedsociety.org and must 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 for families, student groups and out-of-town visitors are available on request. 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.



WGN Comes to Riverside for a Tour

Jim Petrzilka

Walking Tours & Research Chair

On Tuesday, September 7, 2021, WGN TV's Morning News segment "Around Town with Ana Belaval" came to Riverside to experience and highlight the Olmsted Society's walking tours of our fair village of Riverside.

Ana and her crew were met at the Riverside Railroad Station at 7:00 AM by Olmsted Society stalwarts Yvonne Lucero, Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga, and Sandie and Jim Petrzilka.

Subsequently, over the next three hours, through several short interludes and two longer interviews, TV viewers learned the reasons for Riverside's importance as a National Landmark and were taken on a tour of some of Riverside's most iconic homes and sites.

Riverside sites visited included the railroad station and water tower (that segment was interrupted hilariously by three consecutive Metra trains with Ana Belaval gesticulating wildly as they passed), a gas lamp in the Scottswood Common, the Presbyterian Church, the William LeBaron Jenny-designed Schermerhorn and Reverend Trowbridge houses; the curving tree lined roads; and the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed Coonley Estate.

You can watch each of these segments at [Around Town tours Riverside with the Olmsted Society](#) on the WGN TV website.

It was a memorable experience for all involved and has led to a large spike in inquiries and signups for our [walking tours](#).



WGN TV reporter, Ana Belaval (second from left) stands with Olmsted Society volunteers outside the Bedroom Wing of the Coonley House. The volunteers, Jim Petrzilka (left), Sandie Petrzilka (second from right) and Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga (right), were on-hand to give interviews and show Ana and WGN crew around town.



Presentations Report

Dan Murphy
Presentations Chair

Modern in the Middle: Chicago Houses, 1929-1975

Tuesday, October 19 at 7:00 PM Online



Join Riverside residents and authors Michelangelo Sabatino 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 Riverside's Freeark House – one of the homes profiled in the book.

Register at the [Riverside Public Library](https://www.riversidepubliclibrary.org/) website. You will be sent a link to this Zoom presentation after you register.



Serge Ambrose is an architect and engineer focused on contemporary design and the conservation of 20th Century architectural heritage. He has worked on building projects in Florida, Texas and Illinois and has presented conservation research at several Docomomo US Symposia and other conferences. Serge is a member of the Association for Preservation Technology and has served on the Riverside (IL) Historical Commission. Serge served as the Docomomo US/Chicago Board Chair from 2016-2020. He is currently working on the restoration of the 1930's modernist Benda House and landscape in Riverside, IL.



Michelangelo Sabatino trained as an architect, preservationist, and historian. Professor Sabatino currently directs the PhD program in architecture and is the inaugural John Vinci Distinguished Research Fellow. Throughout his career Sabatino has focused new light on larger patterns of design discourse and production during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries: his book *Pride in Modesty: Modernist Architecture and the Vernacular Tradition in Italy* (2011) was translated into Italian and won critical acclaim and multiple awards, including the Society of Architectural Historians' Alice Davis Hitchcock Award. His recent books include [*Canada: Modern Architectures in History*](#) (with Rhodri Windsor Liscombe, 2016), [*Avant-Garde in the Cornfields: Architecture, Landscape, and Preservation in New Harmony*](#) (with Ben Nicholson, 2019), and [*Making Houston Modern: The Life and Architecture of Howard Barnstone*](#) (with Barrie Scardino Bradley and Stephen Fox, 2020).



John Vinci is an award-winning architect, author, and preservationist. He grew up a child of Italian immigrants on Chicago's South Side and attended the Illinois Institute of Technology, which was then under the direction of the legendary Modernist architect Ludwig Mies van der Rohe. Vinci's pioneering restoration projects include Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House and Home Studio, Sullivan's Chicago Stock Exchange Trading Room and the Carson Pirie Scott Building, and Root's Monadnock Building. His design work, meanwhile, includes notable buildings such as the Arts Club of Chicago, numerous award-winning residences including the Freeark House in Riverside, and more than fifty major exhibitions at the Art Institute of Chicago and other museums.



Kim Freeark is a retired IT consultant who has lived in Riverside since 2016. That year, she purchased her parents' "international style" home, which was designed by architects John Vinci and Lawrence Kenny and built in 1975. Kim enjoys gardening, reading, and traveling.



Landscape Workdays



Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina
Landscape Co-Chairs

Patriots' Park, July 10

Our eight volunteers were at Patriots' Park on July 10 to trim the shrubs covering the pathway, weed the flower bed, remove dead shrubs, and invasive plants. The path was covered with shrubs but with Michael Collins's guidance and knowledge, we were able to clear it.



FLOS volunteers work alongside Village Forester Mike Collins to beautify a Riverside park enjoyed by children and adults. The walking path that was cleared of shrubs is a major feature of the park.

Indian Gardens Restoration Update, September 18

In May our volunteers cleared invasive plants from the riverbank by Indian Gardens. On September 18, eleven volunteers collected native plant seeds to scatter in that area. Then, we planted gray sedge, false hop, and fox sedges. These sedges thrive in wetlands and along riverbanks. Michael Collins, Village Forester, dug the holes for the sedges with an auger. Thanks to Shawn Sinn for his expertise in picking plants that will survive in this area.



Freshly augered holes on the Indian Gardens riverbank are planted with wet-tolerant sedges – part of the Olmsted Society's restoration efforts in this area.



Landscape Workdays (cont'd)

Help Beautify Our Public Parks

For 2021, we continue to team 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
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 email list, please contact:

- Holly Machina & Cindy Kellogg
FLOS Landscape Committee Chairpersons
workdays@olmstedsociety.org
708-447-0226
olmstedsociety.org/events/landscape-workdays/
- Michael Collins
Riverside Village Forester
mcollins@riverside.il.us
708-442-3590 x 502
riverside.il.us/publicworks



An autumn scene along the Des Plaines River looking towards Swan Pond.



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!

✂

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>
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Membership Report, cont'd.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside 2021 Membership List

Mighty Oak

Thomas & Connie Guardi
Sander Kaplan & Theresa Pelletier
Cathy & Mike Maloney

William Marritt & Steven Oldham
Jim & Sandie Petrzilka

Sugar Maple

Mike & Carol Fortman
Kapil Khanna
Linda & Rick LaBelle
Dorothea Lidd Skiest & Steve Skiest
Thomas J. Litwiler
Dr. Yvonne Lucero & Jim Harrington
Ingrid Lulich
Daniel Murphy & Olivia Barraza

Dr. Timothy Ozga & Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga
Julie & John Schaff
Mark Shevitz & Amy Jacksic
Mark & Dorothy Sikora
Theodore Smith & Susan Shipper Smith
Prof. Kathryn Stanley Podwall
Dr. Joseph Troiani & Terrie Badgett
Susan Worthington & Laurel Anderson

Hearty Hickory

Thomas & Janice Barr
Ginny Beall
Randy & Paula Jo Belice
Greg & Sandy Briolat
James Bryniarski & Leona Hubatch
Charles Carpenter
Nancy & Sam Chmell
Michael Collins
Joann Day & George Giesey
Jean DiMonte
Kim & Rob Dixon
Bridget Doherty & Leon Pietrowski
Joseph Dvorak III & Nancy Dvorak
Bob & Judy Finn
David & Trisha Flassing
Rachael & Luigi Franceschina
Dan Fulwiler & Jose Hernandez
Mary Geroch
Nancy Graham
Stephanus Greeff & John Farneda
Thomas & Ariella Guardi
Carolyn Huson
Kim & Thomas Jacobs
Edward Jepson
Mary & Bill Judy
Dick & Ruth Julian
Deanne Kalamaras
Cindy Kellogg

Alfred Kitch
Stephen & Ann Kubiczky
Jane Kunka
Karen & Patrick Layng
Gintaras Lietuvninkas
Paul & Thea Marhoul
Joel Marhoul
Judy Meredith & Roy Benedek
Anthony J. Mourek
Anthony & Catherine Nie
Drs. Frank & Dr. Carla Orland
Kenneth Pearlman
Phyllis Pecelunas
Elaine & Mark Pesavento
Douglas & Kathleen Pletcher
Mary & John Plunkett
Cecelia Radlowski
Diane & James Richards
Cynthia Robinson & Matthew Hane
Joanne Rogers
Margaret & Laurence Rohter
Marilyn & Bruce Russell
Dorothy Schroeder
Norbert & Sharon Schwartz
Ben Sells & Jill Mateo
Carol B. Skala
Alice Stake & Sandra Stake-Gonzalez



Membership Report, cont'd

Reliable Redbud

Bert & Bernardien Austin
Ellie Babka
Jerry & Dr. Diane Balin
David Barker
Donna Budil
Joseph & Valerie Cablk
Diane Ceragioli
Joseph & Grace Cieply
Joan DeRycke
Kim Freeark
Roberta & Michael Gates
Troy & Shari Klyber
Helen Kolacki
John Kolar
Dr. Michael & Mrs. Linda Kowalik
Jane Lauritsen
Holly Machina & Jason Kinnan
Cynthia & James Mlynarski

Cristin Monti
Maureen Mulligan
Janice O'Flaherty
Richard & Marcia Olson
Jen & Chris Pacourek
Matt Rogina
Florence Rooney
Emily & Tim Rosenberg
David & Minetta Rubin
Michelangelo Sabatino & Serge Ambrose
Alida Silverman
Harjit Singh & Teresa Cantero Singh
Olga Sylvester
Elizabeth Taus & Victoria Taus-Aquin
E. & Joyce Van Cura
Jack & Joan Wiaduck
Susan & Matt Wolfe

We'd like to say a special "thank you" for your continued support to our 2021 members and benefactors (those named and anonymous).



One of our favorite fall streetscape photos.



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.

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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