

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside

Stewards of the land and Olmsted's plan

Fall 2023 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

9/24: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station

9/30: 9 AM to Noon – [Landscape Workday](#) at Indian Gardens

9/30: 3 PM to 6 PM – [HopStop Craft Beer Festival](#) at
Riverside Train Station

10/7: 9 AM to Noon – [Landscape Workday](#) at Longcommon

10/14: 9 AM to 2 PM – [Field Trip](#) to Illinois Institute of
Technology Campus

10/18: 7 PM – [Presentation](#): *Living in a Modern or
Contemporary House in Riverside* at Riverside
Public Library

10/29: 2 PM – [Walking Tour](#) (North) at Riverside Train Station

11/4: 9 AM to Noon – [Landscape Workday](#) at Riverside Road

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President's Letter



Yvonne Lucero

Olmsted Society Board President

Fall is gradually drifting towards us on little yellow leaves, perhaps not yet enough to rake, but several more immediate events are upon us as well.

Fall is the season of migratory bird movement, and will continue to be so until about mid-October. As the weather cools, the number of birds increases, and while many waterbirds migrate in daylight, far more species use the night skies; as many as **750 million per night** by early October! A key to helping our feathered friends is turning off your outdoor lights, or any excess lights that are not absolutely essential between 6:30 PM and 12:30AM (peak migration hours). Just as we've promoted No-mow May, so too should we encourage "reduced light early autumn". The birds are fully capable of using the stars and weather, as well as long-standing instinct to get from their summer homes to the winter refuges without any artificial illumination.

In the human world, there have been autumnal celebrations of the harvest and the anticipation of the hibernation months for thousands of years. The Olmsted Society will join these tradition with our [HopStop craft beer festival](#) on September 30th at the Riverside Train Station from 3:00 to 6:00 PM. [Tickets are going fast](#), so get yours before there are none! This is a family-friendly event, so those who are not beer-drinkers will still find potables and food, as well as music.

The Olmsted Society has planned a field trip to the Illinois Institute of Technology campus in Chicago led by Prof. Michelangelo Sabatino on October 21 (note the new date for this outing). [Purchase tickets](#) on the Olmsted Society website. Your ticket includes the tour, bus transportation and a boxed lunch.

More to come in the quiet months of winter...stay tuned for info on the 2024 presentations and the Annual Public Meeting.



Scenes from the 2022 HopStop craft beer festival. Tickets are on sale for this year's HopStop at the Riverside Train Station on Saturday, September 30. Photos by Matt Adema.





Connie Guardi Wins National Olmsted Network Award

Recognized for Sustained Service to Olmsted Society & Riverside

Olmsted Society board member and former board President Constance (Connie) Guardi has been selected by the Olmsted Network Board of Directors as this year's recipient of the Caroline Loughlin Volunteer Service Award. Established in 2005 to recognize "extraordinary dedication and commitment to the preservation of the Olmsted legacy." Named after Caroline Loughlin—a valued trustee, officer, and long-time supporter of the National Association for Olmsted Parks—the award has been given to trailblazers such as Charles Beveridge, Newt Levee, Susan Rademacher, Gerry Wright, and Lucy Lawliss for their efforts to promote and protect the Olmsted legacy.



The National Association of Olmsted Parks, now rebranded as the Olmsted Network, received a bumper crop of nominations from around the nation for this year's prestigious award, but Constance Guardi surpassed them all. In the congratulatory letter to Connie, the President and CEO of the Olmsted Network wrote "I can think of no more worthy recipient and look forward to bestowing it on you!"

Constance Guardi's accomplishments are many. She has been a leading light of the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside, Illinois, and the Riverside Historical Commission for 38 years. She is co-author of the Arcadia book "Riverside," facilitated the PBS program "Ten Towns That Changed America," hosted by Geoffrey Baer. Connie worked closely with IIT to create the display at the Riverside Train Station that features a permanent pictorial exhibit on Riverside history titled "Picturing Riverside," and coordinated and implemented Riverside celebrations for the Olmsted 200 anniversary.

The award will be presented at the September 21 awards dinner in Milwaukee, Wisconsin at the Grohmann Museum.



(Left) A fall streetscape in Riverside. (Below) Sunrise sky over the Arcade Building.





HopStop is Coming Saturday, September 30

Tickets Are Now on Sale



Riverside Foods and the Olmsted Society are once again collaborating to bring you the HopStop craft beer festival. This year, HopStop makes a return to the historic [Riverside Train Station](#).

We will be sampling offerings from local craft brewers and food will be available for purchase. Live music will round out a wonderful outdoor family-friendly setting in the arboretum Village of Riverside.

Make use of the free bicycle valet, bring a designated driver, or take Metra (which drops you off right at the venue).

A commemorative tasting glass is provided with each ticket sold, and this will be a zero-waste event. Sponsorship opportunities are available by contacting us at hopstop2023@olmstedsociety.org.

100% of the proceeds from HopStop go to the Olmsted Society to help foster a sustainable future in our community and celebrate the legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted.

Purchase tickets at [Brown Paper Tickets](#).

Olmsted Society Field Trip

Guided Tour of the Illinois Institute of Technology Campus

The Architecture Committee is sponsoring a trip to the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT) to tour the campus and buildings designed by world-renowned architect Mies van der Rohe, as well as the work of landscape architect Alfred Caldwell.



Michelangelo Sabatino, IIT professor of architecture and architectural historian, will lead the tour on **Saturday, October 21** from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM. *Note the new date for this event!*

Tickets are \$50.00 per person and will include bus transportation, the tour, and a box lunch. Only 42 tickets will be sold. Tickets may be purchased from the [Olmsted Society website](#).

S. R. Crown Hall on IIT's campus is a national historic landmark designed by Mies van der Rohe. Photo by Joe Ravi, [CC BY-SA 3.0](#), via Wikimedia Commons



Reflections on Riverside Student Poetry Contest Results

Some Winning Entries on the Theme *Born to Be Wild*

Rivers

by F. Bradshaw
Grade 1

As the bears swim and thrash in the lake
Catching fish and always having fun
As cherries bloom
And vegetables grow
Every single fruit and vegetable and animal
Has a place to go
No animal too big
No fruit too small
No vegetable too medium
And every place has one peace
In Riverside, that's always here
The rivers
It's in the name, Riverside!

Riverside Has Many Creatures

by R. Barrs
Grade 2

Riverside has awesome features
and one of them is all its creatures.

Coyotes howl at the moon,
and you can see foxes at noon.

Bunnies run here and there,
and you can see squirrels everywhere!

When birds chirp and birds flutter,
it is hard to even mutter.

You see, Riverside has many creatures
and that's the best of all its features.

Born To Be Wild

by D. Durojaye
Grade 5

The theme this year is Born to be Wild
Hits a little different when you are an immigrant child
My parents came to this country with an American dream
Hoping their children are born and seen
When I think of nature I think of being free
Standing tall breathing deeply
Running outside air hitting my face
Making my parents proud and taking up space
Freedom on land and water you see
Swimming breaststroke, backstroke and freestyle,
especially
In the water I feel like a fish
Proudly living fulfilling my parents wish
Fire, water, earth and air
Coming together in nature I share
Born to be wild
Means something different to an immigrant's child



An additional poem can be found on Page 14



Olmsted Society Supports Girl Scout Bronze Award Project

Triangle Landscaped with Native Trees & Plants

This year, Olmsted Society gave \$400 to a local Girl Scout troop for the improvement of the [T56 Triangle at Westover, Northgate and Loudon Roads](#). This is one of Riverside's signature triangles, as it is a very important route into our town.

The Girl Scouts of Troop 45954 (Central School 5th Grade) requested funding for the plant materials through in-person and Zoom presentations to the Olmsted Society and other civic and governmental groups. The Olmsted Society donation was critical for purchasing plant material and serving as a catalyst for other organizations to support this project.

To allow as many girls to participate in the project as possible, two short site clean-up days were scheduled this May. The scouts removed 20 invasive buckthorn trees and prepared the area for planting.

On May 20th, planting day was a success! The scouts planted one Blue Beech, one Ironwood, two Redbuds and 400 native plants, including Sand Coreopsis, Ohio Spiderwort, Wild Strawberries, Wild Violets and Star Sedge. The Triangle already had Witch-hazels, Redbuds, Horse Chestnut as understory plants and Sugar Maples, Ironwood, Swamp White Oak, Burr Oaks, Black Oak, Pin Oaks, Shagbark Hickory, Honey Locust, Red Mulberry and Blue Ash trees. Wow what a great diverse site! The trees and plants together support a biodiverse ecosystem that is beneficial to bugs, butterflies, and birds. Even though these hardy natives require less watering, the site was mulched, as well.

Girl Scout Troop 45954 (Central School 5th Grade) demonstrated focus and determination to earn their Bronze Award! Their efforts will help support a native ecosystem and provide a welcoming entrance to our historic village, for years to come.



(Top) The scouts team up to remove a thicket of invasive brush. (Middle) Site preparation involved the removal of turf grass and the curiosity of an onlooker. (Bottom) The scouts are justifiably proud of their efforts to remove a stubborn Buckthorn.





Tributes & Trees Program



The *Tributes & Trees Program* is an impactful choice for donations since all proceeds go directly to beautifying the landscape of Riverside. There is no staff to pay, and you will not be asked to contribute again and again. Donate any dollar amount you choose. All funds received are greatly appreciated.

Consider using *Tributes & Trees* for births, birthdays, graduations, weddings, anniversaries, holidays, memorials, or to say “thanks”.

Visit our website to [donate](#) to Tributes & Trees

TRIBUTES & TREES REMEMBERS:

- “In memory of your wonderful mother, **Ina Greeff**”
Donors: Cathy and Mike Maloney

Walking Tours of Historic Riverside

Let Us Share Our Hometown Pride with You!

What better way to celebrate 201 years of Olmsted's legacy than to take a walking tour of Riverside, America's first planned suburb and a national historic site?

Today, this magical place of lush landscaping, curving streets, gas lamps, and charming parks still fulfills Olmsted's dream. It has since inspired architects such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Louis Sullivan to create some of their most beautiful works. Over 70 landmarked structures representing over 150 years of American architecture dot the village. The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside invites you to experience this very special American place. A place with a hidden history that may surprise you.

The remaining scheduled Sunday afternoon tour dates for 2023 are:

Date	Tour Area
September 24	North Division
October 29	South Division

Tours depart at 2:00 PM from the main Riverside Train Station on Bloomingbank Rd., south of the BNSF railroad tracks, on the east side of the platform.

Tickets are \$20 per person (\$15 for seniors 62+ and Olmsted Society members). PayPal or credit card payments are accepted in advance on the Historic Walking Tours page of our website. Tickets may be purchased with cash only at the start of the tour. Special customized tours are available by appointment. For more information call 708-447-7635 or e-mail tours@olmstedssociety.org.



Presentations Report



Dan Murphy
Presentations Chair

Advance Registration Encouraged

For each presentation you plan to attend, please pre-register on the Riverside Public Library website. This will ensure that the library provides enough chairs for the expected number of attendees. Of course, you're always welcome to attend our free presentations – even if you don't pre-register.

Living in a Modern or Contemporary House in Riverside

Wednesday, October 18 at 7:00 PM at the Riverside Public Library

The Olmsted Society and the [Riverside Arts Center](#) will host a conversation highlighting contemporary and modern houses in Riverside. This panel discussion is presented in conjunction with [Outside the Box: Modern and Contemporary Homes in Riverside](#), a photography exhibition at the Riverside Arts Center's FlexSpace. Join exhibition co-curators Kim Freeark and Michelangelo Sabatino, along with architectural photographer Will Quam, Riverside homeowners, and other contributors to hear their insights about owning, living in and, in some cases, growing up in a contemporary or modern house in Riverside.

Pre-register for this panel discussion at the [Riverside Public Library website](#).



Kim Freeark is a retired IT consultant. She moved to Riverside in 2016, when she purchased her parent's home. Kim enjoys gardening, reading, and opining about architecture. She currently serves as Treasurer of two non-profit organizations: the Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside (FLOS) and the Yucatan Environmental Foundation (YEF).



Michelangelo Sabatino is a publicly engaged architectural historian, curator, and preservationist. He is Professor at IIT's College of Architecture where he directs the PhD program and is the inaugural John Vinci Distinguished Research Fellow. He serves on the Board of Directors of Docomomo US. Sabatino and his partner Serge Ambrose recently restored their late 1930s modern home in Riverside. Their forthcoming book is entitled *Modern, Again. The Benda House & Garden in Chicagoland* (2024)

www.michelangelo-sabatino.com



Will Quam is an architecture photographer, architecture writer, and researcher and the heart behind Brick of Chicago. He loves bricks. Learn more about the [bricks and architecture tours](#) Will leads! Check out some of [Will's media appearances](#).

<https://www.brickofchicago.com>

[Outside the Box: Modern and Contemporary Homes in Riverside](#) is now on exhibit at the Riverside Arts Center's FlexSpace until October 21, 2023.



Landscape Workdays



Cindy Kellogg & Holly Machina

Landscape Co-Chairs

Help Beautify Our Public Parks

For 2023, we are teaming up with the Village of Riverside to help beautify our green spaces.

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.

Date	Location	Notes
September 30th	Indian Gardens	Planting Native Species
October 7th	Longcommon	Planting Native Species
November 4th	Riverside Road	Collecting Seeds

For further information or to be added to our Olmsted Society landscape committee email 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

June 3 – Indian Gardens Riverbank

Our workday of June 3 started with a survey of the riverbank in Indian Gardens. During the spring, sedge plugs we planted last fall were eaten by geese. Our workday focus then turned to removing invasives in the overgrown meadow. The result of our efforts produced a large burn pile of invasive plants.

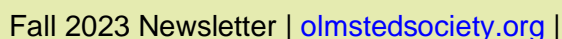
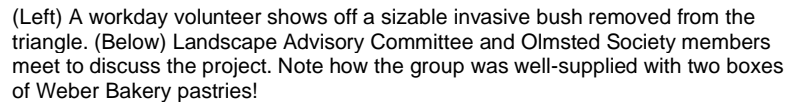
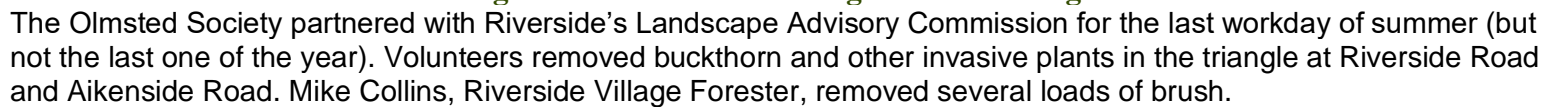
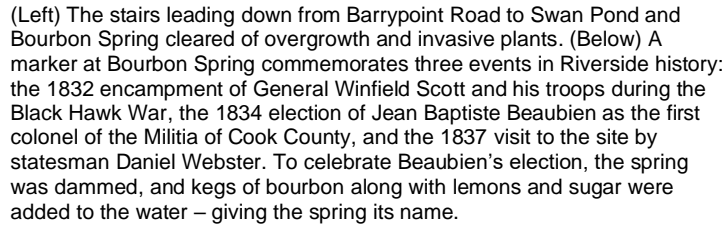


(Above) Olmsted Society volunteers survey the condition of the Des Plaines Riverbank at Indian Gardens. (Below) Hungry geese left few of the sedge plugs uneaten that were planted last fall.





The July workday focused on Barrypoint Road and [Bourbon Spring](#). Bourbon Spring is a historic site located by Swan Pond across the street from the train station parking lot. Faithful volunteers cleared truckloads of Japanese Knotweed, Buckthorn and other invasive plants that lined the street. Efforts included a record-setting grapevine removal from native trees. The sidewalk and stairs leading to Swan Pond and the Bourbon Spring marker were cleared, too.





Membership Report



Linda LaBelle
Membership Chair

2023 Membership renewals are off to a great start. Thank for your generous contributions. Many activities are planned for 2023. Members and the community are welcome to participate.

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. You can join or renew online using the link below:

[Olmsted Society New Membership or Renewal](#)

If you prefer to use a check, 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.

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



Membership Report, cont'd.

The Frederick Law Olmsted Society of Riverside 2023 Membership List

Mighty Oak

Christopher Enger & Minyuen Chang Enger
Thomas & Connie Guardi
Lisa & Nick Lambros
Cathy & Mike Maloney
William Marritt & Steven Oldham

Judy Meredith & Roy Benedek
Jim & Sandie Petrzilka
Julie & John Schaff
Erin & Christopher Wieland

Sugar Maple

Peter Boutsikakis
Bridget Doherty & Leon Pietrowski
Jason Doyle
David & Trisha Flassing
Stephanus Greeff
Linda & Rick LaBelle
Thomas J. Litwiler
Dr. Yvonne Lucero & Jim Harrington
Gail & Mark McKernin
Marie Mirro

Daniel Murphy & Olivia Barraza
Dr. Timothy Ozga & Aberdeen Marsh-Ozga
Douglas & Kathleen Pletcher
Joanne & Ray Rogers
Michelangelo Sabatino & Serge Ambrose
Mark Shevitz & Amy Jacksic
Prof. Kathryn Stanley Podwall
Linda Stehno
Susan Worthington & Laurel Anderson

Hearty Hickory

Thomas & Janice Barr
Ginny & Scott Beall
Randy & Paula Jo Belice
Greg & Sandy Briolat
James Bryniarski & Leona Hubatch
James Burns
Joseph & Valerie Cablk
Nancy & Sam Chmell
Michael & Candice Collins
Joann Day & George Giesey
Jean DiMonte
Elizabeth & Brian Duke
Joseph Dvorak III & Nancy Dvorak
Bob & Judy Finn
Rachael & Luigi Franceschina
Kim Freeark
Mary Geroch
Nancy Graham
Kevin Hicks

Mark & Amy Hill
Dick & Ruth Julian
Cindy Kellogg
Erin Kelly
Alfred Kitch
Troy & Shari Klyber
Jane Kunka
Jane Lauritsen
Karen & Patrick Layng
Ginny Lee-Herrmann & Andrew Herrmann
Jim Miller
Anthony & Catherine Nie
Corina Pambuccian
Phyllis Pecelunas
Susan Peters & Rich McGoniagle
Mary & John Plunkett
Diane & James Richards
Cynthia Robinson & Matthew Hane
Matt Rogina



Membership Report, cont'd.

Hearty Hickory (cont'd)

Ms. Margaret Rohter
Drs. Emily Rosenberg & Tim Hill
Marilyn & Bruce Russell
Ms. Dorothy Schroeder
Ben Sells & Jill Mateo

Mark & Dorothy Sikora
Carol B. Skala
Theodore Smith & Susan Shipper Smith
Alice Stake & Sandra Stake-Gonzalez
Dr. Joseph Troiani & Terrie Badgett

Reliable Redbud

Bert & Bernadien Austin
Ellie Babka
Jerry & Dr. Diane Balin
David Barker
Donna Budil
Ms. Diane Ceragioli
Becky Chandler
Joseph & Grace Cieply
Alice Conroy
Anne Cyran
Nadine & Tom Espisito
Frank & Paula Gagliano
Roberta & Michael Gates
Thomas & Ariella Guardi
Edward Jepson
John Kolar
Stephen & Ann Kubiczky
Jane & Thomas Lane
Holly Machina & Jason Kinnan

Paul & Thea Marhoul
Margaret Miller
Cynthia & James Mlynarski
Maureen Mulligan
Patricia Nemec
Janice O'Flaherty
Richard & Marcia Olson
Drs. Frank & Carla Orland
Jen & Chris Pacourek
Charlie & Susan Pipal
Michael Renaud
David & Minetta Rubin
Alida Silverman
Veronica Tabet
Donna Ulrich
E. Van Cura
Jack & Joan Wiaduck
Susan & Matt Wolfe
Miranda Wright & Matt Rumph

We'd like to say a special "thank you" for your continued support to our 2023 members and benefactors (those named and anonymous).



Our Wild

by E. Blomgren
Grade 8

Most people's views on nature are mild,
But I was born to be wild.
Most people see the Earth as theirs,
But I see the Earth and know we're meant to share.
The coyotes that walk through the night,
Willing to put up a fight with their wild side.
The deer that decide our wild was once here,
They stand where they please with no fear.
The wild flowers that emerge in the spring,
Saying "Hey this is where we grow, you can't change a thing".
The river that rushes and floods over its limit.
It's thinking, make way, I won't wait a minute.
Our wild is alive and it's ever-present,
I always think how pleasant, I get to live amongst this wild.
I sometimes look around and say "But there's still a lot we should change".
We have to do the things within our range.
We want to keep this wonderful wild.
While there's still a lot to fix,
I appreciate every minute I get to spend not being mild.
After all, I was born to be wild.

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 and website for information on upcoming events:

 facebook.com/RiversideFLOS

 instagram.com/riverside.FLOS

 olmstedsociety.org