

Garden Report: October 2020

- **Fall 2020 Installation:**
 - 1,000 orange Tulips were installed on October 20th by Layne and Extension volunteers. They protected the bulbs with 1" chicken wire secured with metal landscape staples.
- **Red Oak Health:**
 - Extension Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau is finalizing plans to apply mycorrhizae around the Red Oak and is working with F&S. Ryan is also working with Diane Plewa, Extension Plant Diagnostic Outreach Specialist, on securing Cambistat for application in the coming months.
- **RORG Student Team:**
 - The RORG Student Team has been active on our social media platforms. Since they began in mid-September, our reach is up 109% on Facebook, up 57% on Instagram, and up 30% on Twitter. The team also created a RORG TikTok account, which has gained us a new audience of several hundred.
 - Ariel Gomez created a ["how-to" blog](#) on creating characters with items found at the garden.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRHaS** rain gauge watchers reported several beneficial rain events.
 - **Soil:** Data is being processed from the soil infiltration testing, which was performed by the RORG Student Team in September. This data will be housed on our website.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **September blooms:** 'Rozanne' Geranium. Smooth Blue Aster, Yellow Coneflower. Red Chokeberry, Spicebush, 'Blue Muffin' Viburnum had beautiful fall color. Fall 2020 Plant Collection can be found on the [website](#).
- **Social media highlights:**
 - **New blog series:** Layne is writing blogs a few times a month to cover garden updates. The late-October update can be found [here](#).
 - Popular blogs were published covering [RORG's Ceramics](#), [RORG's Acorn Cakes](#), and the [tulip installation](#).
 - "Fall Highlight" series on social media was very successful. We reached several thousand people over the 6 posts.
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 10/09/20):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
Physical: 226.75 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
Social Media: 81 hours. [Need 100 hours to receive \$2,000.]
 - **Donation Match**
Two-thirds of the way there! We're at \$4,623.08 [Need \$7,000 to receive \$21,000.]

