

Garden Report: January 2021

- **Red Oak Health:**
 - Extension Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau is finalizing plans to apply mycorrhizae and Cambistat around the Red Oak and is working with F&S. These will be applied in early spring and will be accompanied by a guest blog to explain the importance of these practices.
- **RORG Student Team:**
 - The RORG Team is working to bring on a Communications Major intern for the spring semester. The intern will help to provide programmatic support to distribute knowledge of rain gardens and native plants to campus and the greater public. Interviews will take place in the first week of February.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 2.49 inches of liquid equivalent precipitation and 2.82 inches of snow, however, the rain gauge was damaged, and the snowboard went missing leading to some days without reports. Things have been replaced and we're on track for having the best accuracy possible with daily reporting.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **January interest:** Songbirds have been eating the berries of Winterberry and Red Chokeberry. The snowfalls helped Red Twig Dogwood to stand out with its beautiful red stems. Pawprints...
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Winter Highlights Series began, with spotlights on [Black Eyed Susan \(*Rudbeckia fulgida*\)](#), [Winterberry \(*Ilex verticillata*\)](#), [Bicknell's Sedge \(*Carex bicknellii*\)](#), [Purple Coneflower \(*Echinacea purpurea*\)](#), and [Red Chokeberry \(*Aronia arbutifolia*\)](#).
 - Champaign County Master Gardener and Horticulture Program [featured](#) the garden.
 - Campus and Community Resources and Announcements:
 - [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#), [Return of students for the spring semester](#), [Allerton Wellness Walk](#)
- **Presentations:**
 - Director C. Eliana Brown and Landscape Designer Layne Knoche gave a virtual presentation of "*Lessons from the Red Oak Rain Garden*" to several hundred Montgomery County, Maryland Master Gardeners on January 7. Several UIUC alums were in the audience! I-L-L!
- **Published Blogs:**
 - [In the Garden: January](#)
 - [How to Thrive in Winter's Gray Days](#)
 - [Winter Wildlife: Identifying Animal Tracks](#)
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 01/31/20):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship** to be completed by 8/31/21.
Physical: 255.75 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
Social Media: **104 hours. We did it!** [~~Need 100 hours to receive \$2,000.~~]
 - **Donation Match**
We reached our goal of \$7,000! This will be matched three to one by ICECF.

