

Garden Report: February 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.
- **Bridge Update:**
 - RORG Director Eliana Brown and volunteer Shannon Tucker report that we're on track to build the boardwalk bridge late-May/early-June. Micah Putman of Allerton Park has delivered Black Locust trees to The Woodshop, a local lumber mill, where they'll be cut into lumber. With February's below-average temperatures, milling has delayed slightly but should start back up once temperature allow for it.
- **RORG Student Team:**
 - The RORG Team [welcomed](#) Sandra Bjerga, Communications Major, to the [Student Team](#). Sandra has been helping to plan and prepare for the upcoming Mulch Madness native plant competition and will be involved in a large portion of RORG's social media in the coming months.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 2.05 inches of liquid-equivalent precipitation.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **February interest:** Songbirds ate the last remaining berries of Winterberry and Red Chokeberry.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Winter Highlights Series wrapped up with a spotlight on [Red Twig Dogwood](#).
 - Celebrated [Valentines' Day](#), and [Mardi Gras](#), [Black History Month](#), and [Lunar New Year](#)
 - Campus and Community Resources and Announcements:
 - [South Asian American Leadership Conference](#)
 - [Mulch Madness](#), which raked in over 64,000 views last year, will occur again this March. Planning and preparation have taken place and the tournament will begin March 16th. Help us spread the word! 😊
- **Presentations:**
 - RORG Landscape Designer Layne Knoche was featured in two episodes of Extension's *Good Growing* podcast for a discussion on favorite native plants. Specially featured was RORG's Red Chokeberry.
- **Published Blogs:**
 - [In the Garden: February](#)
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 02/28/21):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
 - Physical: 264.75 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
 - Social Media: **Completed in December 2020.**
 - **Donation Match**
 - Goal of \$7,000 was completed in January 2021.**

