

Garden Report: April 2021

- **Red Oak Health:**
 - Extension Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau has finalized plans to apply mycorrhizae and Cambistat around the Red Oak and is working with F&S. These will be applied in the next few weeks and will be followed 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're being cut into lumber. A pre-construction meeting was held to finalize construction plans.
- **RORG Student Team:**
 - Sandra Bjerga helped with the final days of [Mulch Madness 2021](#). She also interviewed UIUC's Andrea Faber Taylor and developed social media for our various platforms.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 2.25 inches of precipitation.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **April interest:** Spring ephemerals installed last year, including hundreds of Virginia Bluebells, Shooting Star, Woodland Phlox, and tulips, bloomed beautifully. They were very popular with passersby. The groundcover plants have filled in nicely at the beginning of their second growing season at RORG. Other plants in bloom included Foamflower, Rue Anemone, Marsh Marigold, Wild Ginger, Pussytoes, and Jacob's Ladder.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Announced the [winner](#) of the 2021 Mulch Madness native plant competition.
 - Celebrated [National Pets Day](#), [National Volunteer Week](#), [Earth Day](#), and [Arbor Day](#).
- **Volunteer Highlights:**
 - Several volunteers from the Champaign County Master Gardeners, East Central Illinois Master Naturalists, and University of Illinois volunteered through the month recording 40 hours of work.
- **Presentations:**
 - RORG Director Eliana Brown presented virtually at a DuPage County Stormwater Management meeting.
- **Tours:**
 - Guided RORG tours resumed in April with presentations given to various community organizations, including the Urbana Natural Areas group, and to students from UIUC's Allen Hall.
- **Published Blogs:**
 - [In the Garden: April](#)
 - [Horticulture + Health: an Interview with Dr. Andrea Faber Taylor](#)
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 02/28/21):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
 - Physical: 348 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.**

