

## Garden Report: May 2021

- **Red Oak Health:**
  - Extension Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau worked with equipment provided by UIUC F&S to apply mycorrhizae around the Red Oak. Ryan wrote an upcoming guest blog explaining the importance of these practices.
- **Bridge Update:**
  - As of the end of May, the sustainably sourced lumber harvested from Allerton Park has been delivered to campus. Construction should begin in the first week of June.
- **RORG Student Team:**
  - Sandra Bjerga continues to help plan and develop social media. She recently interviewed RORG's Lead Master Naturalist, Karen Folk, which will be converted into an upcoming blog. Sandra has also developed a comprehensive plan for an upcoming series featuring each of RORG's 54 plant species.
- **Monitoring:**
  - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 3.67 inches of precipitation.
- **Observations of note:**
  - **May interest:** A number of spring blooming plants installed last fall continued into the first half of the month including Shooting Star, Wild Hyacinth, Tulips, and Woodland Phlox. Other species in bloom included Goatsbeard, Wild Geranium, 'Rozanne' Geranium, Wild Ginger, Jack-in-the-Pulpit, Marsh Marigold, Prairie Alumroot, Blue Flag Iris, Jacob's Ladder, Red Chokeberry, and Red Twig Dogwood.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
  - Celebrated [Star Wars Day](#), [Mother's Day](#), [UIUC Graduation](#), and [Memorial Day](#).
- **Volunteer Highlights:**
  - Regular workdays were established and will occur each Friday from 9:00-11:00am, weather dependent.
  - The RORG Team welcomed several new regular volunteers from the Champaign County Master Gardeners and East Central Illinois Master Naturalist programs.
  - Extension volunteers helped install additional Wild Hyacinth, as well as additional Black Eyed Susan and Royal Catchfly which were grown in campus greenhouses from RORG seeds collected last fall.
  - Members of the student chapter of ASLA at UIUC helped RORG's landscape designer, Layne Knoche, [install several hundred spring ephemerals](#) in the nearby Illini Grove. This was done as part of the ICECF grant the RORG team was awarded last year.
- **Tours:**
  - Layne Knoche [gave a tour](#) to the Champaign County Master Gardener class of 2021 on May 1.
- **Published Blogs:**
  - [In the Garden: May](#)
  - [Improving Campus Sustainability One Green Space at a Time](#)
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 02/28/21):**
  - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
    - Physical: **410 hours. We needed to collect 400 hours to receive \$4,000, and WE DID IT!**
    - Social Media: **Completed in December 2020.**
  - **Donation Match**
    - Goal of \$7,000 was completed in January 2021.**

