



Garden Report: June 2021

- **Bridge Update:**
 - The bridge, built from sustainably sourced lumber harvested from Allerton Park, was built in early June! It will officially open to the public once final inspections are completed in the coming weeks.
- **RORG Student Team:**
 - Sandra Bjerga continues to help plan and develop social media. She recently interviewed Professor Tony Endress, who led the charge on the original build of the garden in 2006. The interview is currently being converted into a blog.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 7.04 inches of precipitation, the highest monthly total since the garden's renovation. See "Observations of note" below
- **Observations of note:**
 - **June interest:** The summer blooms took the spotlight as species like Southern Blue Flag Iris, Purple Poppy Mallow, Pale Purple Coneflower, 'Rozanne' Geranium, and Butterflyweed hit their peak bloom. Yellow Coneflower, Royal Catchfly, Cardinal Flower, Rosinweed, and Purple Coneflower are not far behind and will bloom over the next several weeks.
 - **Heavy Rain:** Towards the end of the month, the rain garden experienced its first major rain event post-renovation. The garden successfully soaked up 5.24 inches of rain in four days with no flooding issues.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - Celebrated [Pride Month](#), [Nature Photography Day](#), and [Pollinator Week](#).
 - The posts about the late-month [heavy rain event](#) reached very large audiences.
- **Volunteer Highlights:**
 - Regular workdays occur each Friday from 9:00-11:00am, weather dependent. The RORG Team and regular volunteers have been welcoming and training several new volunteers from the Champaign County Master Gardeners and East Central Illinois Master Naturalist programs.
- **Presentations & Tours:**
 - Eliana Brown and Layne Knoche [presented to the Wild Ones: Illinois Prairie Chapter](#) on June 14.
 - Layne Knoche gave a tour to the Macoupin County Master Gardeners on June 23.
- **Published Blogs:**
 - [In the Garden: June](#)
 - [An Interview with Karen Folk, RORG's Lead Master Naturalist](#)
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant:**
 - All goals have been met as of 6/30/2021.

