



RED OAK RAIN GARDEN

Garden Report: July 2020

- **Volunteers:**
 - Extension Volunteers are back on a limited basis. Academic volunteers lined up for fall.
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRHaS** rain gauge installed. Seeking help from the neighborhood for daily monitoring. The garden successfully soaked up rainfall within short periods of time.
 - **Soil:** Contacted Watershed Outreach Associate Jennifer Jones about establishing soil testing. She connected us with ACES/Crop Sciences professor Dr. Andrew Margenot, who is a soil scientist. He provided information and also offered to let us use his lab equipment to measure infiltration.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **July blooms:** New Jersey Tea, Buttonbush, Red Twig Dogwood, Black Cohosh, Swamp Milkweed, Butterfly Weed, Purple Poppy Mallow, Tall Bellflower, Pale Purple Coneflower, Purple Coneflower, Rozanne Geranium, Cardinal Flower, Smooth Phlox, Grey-Headed Coneflower, Orange Coneflower, Royal Catchfly, and Rosin Weed. Summer 2020 Plant Collection and Zoom backgrounds are featured on the [website](#).
 - **Build it and they will come:** Seeing multitudes of Monarch caterpillars.
- **Social media highlights:**
 - Guest blog by ACE professor Dr. Amy Ando, Environmental Economist, was one of our most popular posts along with Layne Knoche's blog about RORG's certifications.
- **Fall Plans:**
 - Will be installing new and replacement plants late September and bulbs in October.
 - Working with Ext. Hort. Educator Ryan Pankau and F&S to address Red Oak tree health.
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 8/12/20):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
 - Physical: 95 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
 - Social Media: 35.5 hours [Need 100 hours to receive \$2,000.]
 - **Donation Match**
 - Our first donation! \$125 [Need \$7,000 to receive \$21,000.] Interim deadline: Sep 1.

