

Garden Report: December 2020

- **Red Oak Health:**
 - Extension Horticulture Educator Ryan Pankau is finalizing plans to apply mycorrhizae around the Red Oak and is working with F&S. Ryan is also working with Diane Plewa, Extension Plant Diagnostic Outreach Specialist, on securing Cambistat for application in the coming months.
- **RORG Student Team:**
 - Lauren Lindow wrote [“Reimagining the Suburban Lawn: Opportunities for Growth”](#) which details sustainable landscape practices employed by a suburban Chicago homeowner.
 - The RORG Student Team [presented their final report](#) to the team. They shared their social media highlights and analysis on their impact and reach across the social media platforms.
 - At the end of the semester, the RORG team said goodbye to the Fall 2020 Student Team with a [semester recap blog](#).
- **Monitoring:**
 - **CoCoRaHS** rain gauge watchers reported 1.54 inches of rain and .51 inches of snow.
 - **Soil:** Data is being processed from the soil infiltration testing, which was performed by the RORG Student Team in September. This data will be included in an upcoming blog post by Layne Knoche.
- **Observations of note:**
 - **December interest:** Smooth Blue Aster bloomed until the middle of the month. Seedheads from Black Eyed Susan, Yellow Coneflower, Purple Coneflower and Prairie Dropseed were of interest. Semi-evergreen species such as Pennsylvania sedge and Common Rush added color to the dormant landscape. Songbirds were attracted by the dried seeds of various native species and the berries of Winterberry and Red Chokeberry.
- **Social Media Highlights:**
 - [Holiday greetings](#) were expressed on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.
- **Published Blogs:**
 - [In the Garden: Early December](#)
 - [Planting in Layers: How to Design with Native Species](#)
 - [Holiday Decorations from the Eye of the Landscape Designer](#)
 - [RORG’s 2020 Year in Review](#)
 - [Make a Difference with Year-End Giving](#)
- **Progress toward Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation Grant (as of 12/31/20):**
 - **Volunteer Stewardship to be completed by 8/31/21.**
 - Physical: 248 hours. [Need 400 hours to receive \$4,000.]
 - Social Media: **104 hours. We did it!** [~~Need 100 hours to receive \$2,000.~~]
 - **Donation Match**
 - We’re at \$6,650, about 95% of the way there! [Need \$7,000 to receive \$21,000.]

