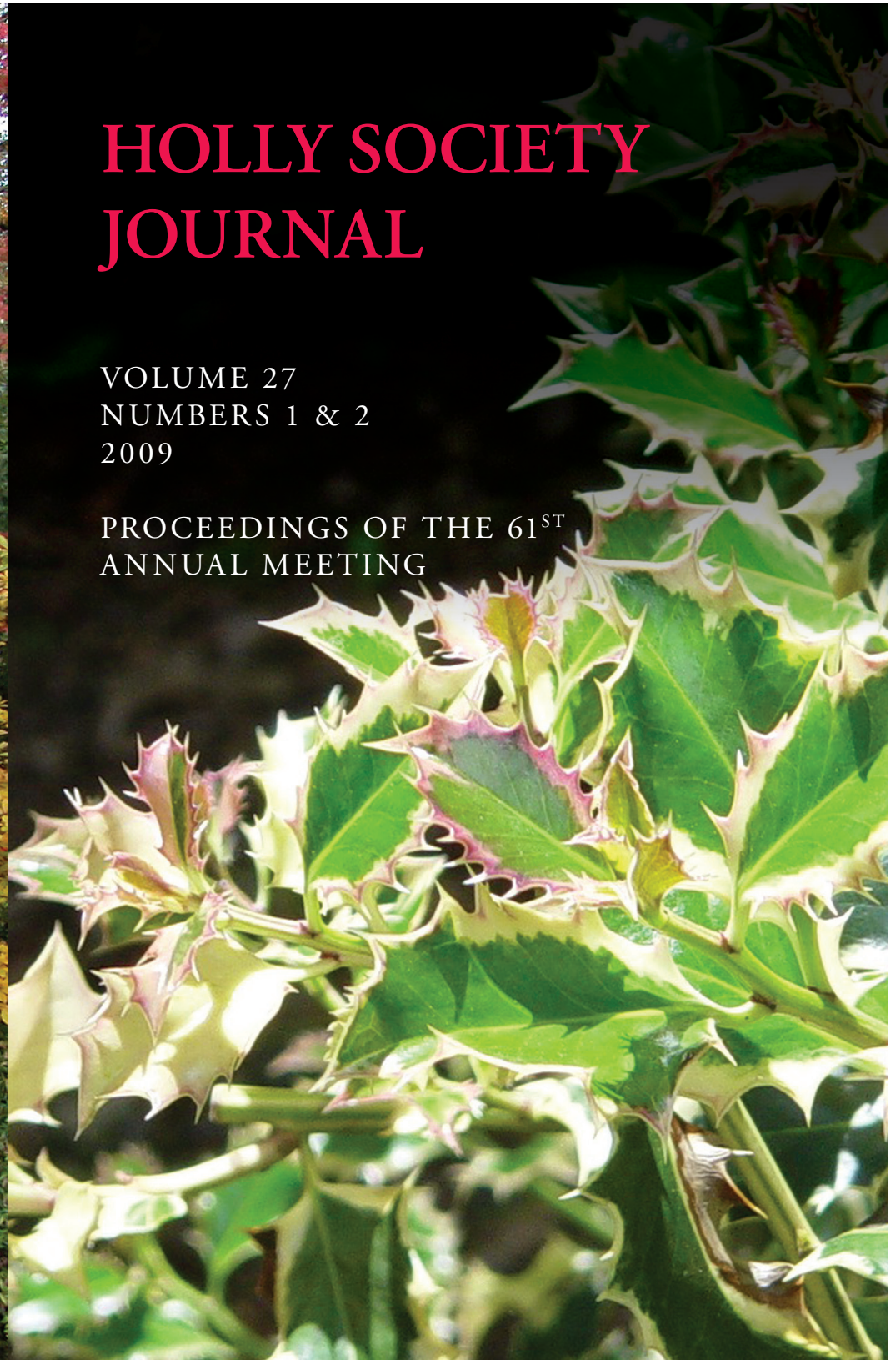




# HOLLY SOCIETY JOURNAL

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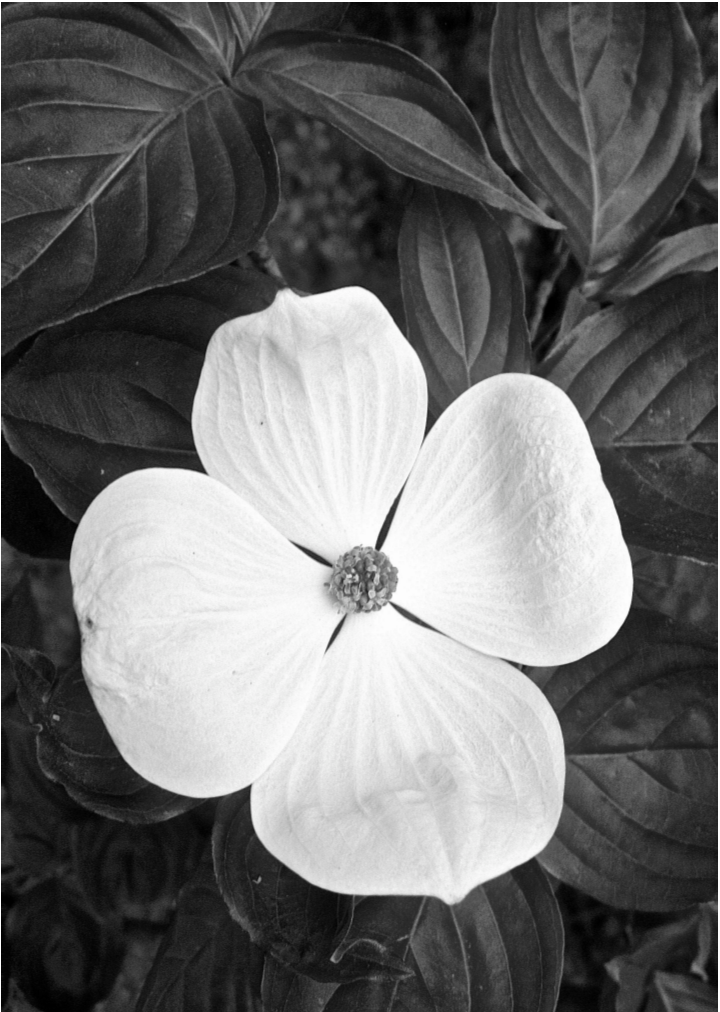
PROCEEDINGS OF THE 61<sup>ST</sup>  
ANNUAL MEETING





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A huge bloom of *Cornus Venus*®, one of the Jersey Star™ dogwood series developed at Rutgers University by Dr. Elwin Orton. Photo by Charlie Jernigan.

THE RUTGERS WOODY ORNAMENTAL AND NUT TREE  
BREEDING PROGRAM: PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE  
PERSPECTIVES

*Thomas J. Molnar, PhD\**

Rutgers University and the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station have a long and successful history of woody ornamental research and breeding. At the core of this success is Dr. Elwin Orton. With the help of his now-retired technician, David Gant, Dr. Orton dedicated over forty years of his life to plant genetic improvement. Most members of the Holly Society are intimately familiar with Dr. Orton's work with *Ilex* and his contributions to the Society. The list of outstanding holly cultivars developed by him is long, including familiar names such as *I. opaca* 'Jersey Princess' and 'Dan Fenton', *I. crenata* 'Beehive' and the *I. serrata* × *verticillata* hybrids 'Autumn Glow' and 'Harvest Red'. Dr. Orton also developed a number of coveted multi-species hybrids such as *I.* × 'Rock Garden', *I.* × 'Dwarf Pagoda', and more, as well as the outstanding 2004 release *I.* × 'Rutzan' Red Beauty® [*(I. rugosa* × *I. aquifolium)* × *I. pernyi*], which is proving to be quite resistant to deer browsing in New Jersey.

His most recent cultivar is the 2008 release *I. opaca* 'Portia Orton', a gorgeous American holly worthy of being named after his wife. Dr. Orton is not finished releasing great plants. While it is too early to give away the details, new selections are currently under testing that will be released in 2009 and 2010 and that include several advanced generation interspecific hybrids as well as one or two unique *I. crenata*. What can be shared about these plants is that they are some of Dr. Orton's best hollies yet.

Although Dr. Orton retired as a full-time faculty member at Rutgers in September 2008, the holly breeding program is still going strong. Dr. Orton continues to work full-time on the project as an emeritus professor, and his retirement opened up a faculty line to hire a new plant breeder, Tom Molnar. Together with our research team of John Capik and Erik Fargo, we are expanding on earlier holly breeding efforts and successes to develop new, attractive, unique plants at Rutgers, while continuing to advance Dr. Orton's most recent selections.

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\*Department of Plant Biology and Pathology, School of Environmental and Biological Science, Rutgers University, 59 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901, molnar@aesop.rutgers.edu.



An immediate objective of the Rutgers *Ilex* breeding program consists of preserving and enhancing the large collection of *Ilex* genetic resources developed over nearly four decades, which contains highly-diverse advanced generation interspecific hybrids as well as select individual species accessions. Over the years, Dr. Orton made thousands of hybridizations across many generations of breeding to incorporate traits of multiple species into elite, advanced generation interspecific hybrids. We are now using these advanced hybrids in controlled crosses to produce large populations of diverse seedlings to select rare, superior hybrids that combine the best traits of many *Ilex* species. Having access to such advanced generation material is a plant breeder's dream come true. We can now generate genetically diverse plants expressing combinations of traits rarely witnessed in only one individual.

Our breeding goals are to use the large reserve of *Ilex* research and knowledge developed at Rutgers to continue to create and release new and superior shrub and tree forms of evergreen hollies that express traits such as beautiful foliage and fruit displays. We will also be looking for other traits of interest to the nursery industry and to holly enthusiasts such as resistance to deer browsing and increased cold tolerance, and look forward to input and ideas from members of the Society to help us meet our objectives.

While Dr. Orton has made a name for himself with hollies, his work with hybrid dogwoods is also world renowned and is likely his greatest contribution to the nursery trade. Through great foresight, Dr. Orton took it upon himself in the late 1960s to hybridize *Cornus florida*, our native, large-bracted flowering dogwood, with *C. kousa*, its Asian counterpart. Before Dr. Orton's attempts, this cross was believed to be nearly impossible to make. For example, the two species flower nearly a month apart, among other challenges. Through much persistence, great attention to detail, and a thorough understanding of the nature of dogwoods, and maybe a little luck, Dr. Orton was able to generate the first successful hybrids of *C. florida* and *C. kousa*; from here the Stellar series was born. After many controlled crosses and twenty years of evaluation, six superior hybrid seedlings were chosen for release and patenting in 1990–91: *Cornuta* × 'Rutdan' Celestial®, *C.* × 'Rutban' Aurora®, *C.* × 'Rutfan' Stardust®, *C.* × 'Rutgan' Stellar Pink®, *C.* × 'Rutcan' Constellation®, and *C.* × 'Rutlan' Ruth Ellen®.

Fortuitously, these new hybrids were released at the time when dogwood anthracnose (*Discula destructiva*, an introduced fungal pathogen)

was decimating native dogwoods across the eastern United States. The new hybrids were highly resistant to this disease and were also more vigorous, borer resistant, and drought tolerant than their *C. florida* parents.

Dr. Orton's hybrids provided plant enthusiasts, homeowners, landscape architects, etc., the ability to continue to plant dogwoods in places where the native species had succumbed to the disease. These were not ordinary dogwoods! While sometimes late coming into heavy flower, cultivars of the Stellar series present spectacular spring floral displays and are beautiful, low-maintenance trees with very attractive and clean, dark green foliage, too. Excellent descriptions of each of these cultivars, with color pictures, are in the book *Dogwoods: the Genus Cornus* by Paul Cappiello and Don Shadow (Timber Press, 2005).

As occasionally happens in nature, dogwood anthracnose seems to have taken a downturn in its severity and prevalence, and there has been a strong comeback of *C. florida* in the eastern United States. However, a new disease, powdery mildew (*Erysiphe pulchra*), has emerged as a major problem on *C. florida*. Strikingly, most of Dr. Orton's hybrids are also very resistant to powdery mildew, helping these truly great cultivars to maintain their popularity and usefulness in the landscape.

Not happy leaving well enough alone, Dr. Orton decided to bring a third *Cornus* species into the mix, *C. nuttallii*, the Pacific coast dogwood. Although being only marginally hardy outside of the Pacific Northwest, *C. nuttallii* has large, bright white floral bracts, dark glossy green foliage, and a more upright growth habit than *C. florida*. By crossing *C. nuttallii* with *C. kousa*, and then crossing a superior offspring of these parents back to an unrelated *C. kousa*, Dr. Orton was able to develop spectacular, advanced generation hybrids that are cold hardy in USDA Zone 6b, while still retaining the best characteristics of both species. From this work, the outstanding new release 'KN30-8' Venus<sup>®</sup>, of the Jersey Star<sup>™</sup> series, was born (Plant Patent #16,309). Venus<sup>®</sup> produces some of the largest bright white floral bracts ever observed on a dogwood, and has glossy dark-green foliage, a very attractive growth habit, and a dense floral display as well. Besides all these great characteristics, Venus<sup>®</sup> is also powdery mildew and anthracnose resistant and grows vigorously and comes into flower at a much younger age, due to grafting, than cultivars of the Stellar series. Its outstanding beauty was acknowledged in 2007 by the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, which decorated it with their 2007 Gold Medal Award. Once you have seen it in bloom, it is hard not to remark to others that it is one of the most spectacular dogwoods ever created.



As with the holly breeding program, we are bolstering *Cornus* breeding efforts of Rutgers to include preserving and enhancing the existing germplasm collection that contains advanced generation hybrids of *C. kousa*, *C. nuttallii*, *C. capitata*, and *C. florida*. Our immediate breeding goal is to develop and release superior, dark pink bracted *C. kousa* and hybrid *Cornus* cultivars. Currently no *C. kousa* or *Cornus* hybrids exist that express dark pink floral bracts like those found on *C. florida*. We have advanced germplasm available at Rutgers to develop these plants that will also express the disease and pest resistance of the *Cornus* hybrids. We think dark pink bracted *C. kousa* types will be very desirable to dogwood enthusiasts and the nursery and landscape industry. We are also striving to develop superior *Cornus* hybrids that express increased cold hardiness using germplasm collected from cold regions in North America and Asia to increase the growing range of large-bracted hybrid dogwoods. The future of *Cornus* breeding at Rutgers looks very promising.

Besides his outstanding and successful cultivar releases, Dr. Elwin Orton has built a legacy of *Ilex* and *Cornus* genetic resources and knowledge that are at our disposal to rapidly develop the next generation of superior Rutgers' hybrids. Along with this foundation, we also are benefiting from the long-term vision, inspiration, and highly successful breeding methodologies developed by Dr. Reed Funk to enhance our breeding efforts and objectives. With their continued guidance and support, we are enthusiastically and systematically striving to create new and improved cultivars that meet the high standards set by previous Rutgers releases, whether it is woody ornamentals, turfgrasses, or highly-productive tree crops for food or bioenergy.



*Ilex aquifolium* 'Harlequin'. Photo by Patricia Postma.

## HOLLY ARBORETA 2008 ANNUAL REPORTS

Holly Society Official Holly Arboreta and Experimental Test Centers are public or semipublic institutions that educate plant lovers in the use of holly in the landscape and comply with HSA guidelines. These institutions maintain properly labeled holly collections and accurate accession records that include valid name, source, date and size (or age) when received, location, and other relevant information. Official Arboreta and Test Centers must submit annual reports to the Society to stay active. These reports include pertinent weather data, additions or deletions to the collection, notes on holly performance, and general information on holly collections and projects involving them. Test Centers must also report the status of ongoing research involving holly. Following are the Official Holly Arboreta and Experimental Test Center reports for 2008. Inventory lists for some arboreta may be found on the HSA website, [www.hollysocam.org](http://www.hollysocam.org).

### ARBORETUM BOKRIJK

3600 Genk (Limburg) Belgium (Hardiness Zone 7b)

In the first months of 2008, we did not have a real winter at all. Then at the end of December 2008, we had two very cold weeks ( $-21\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$  [ $-5.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$ ]) with frosty days and nights. I cannot give a list of the damage incurred as that will be for the 2009 report. The only thing I can say is that there has been a lot of damage in our arboretum.

We moved many of the larger cultivars from our nursery to the arboretum grounds and in that period it was very wet. The arboretum grounds are normally very wet and I think that was why we lost a few interesting *Ilex aquifolium* cultivars: *I.* ‘*Angustimarginata Variegata*’, *I.* ‘*Heterophylla Variegata*’, *I.* ‘*Maculaska*’, and *I.* ‘*Whitesail*’.

We have a few very interesting additions from France. Albert Neél had visited other collectors in the United States during the Holly Society Annual Meeting in 2007 and took cuttings of several cultivars. We are friends, so he gave us many of the rooted cuttings. Our new introductions from Albert Neél are *I. aquifolium* ‘*Golden Butterfly*’ and ‘*Lemon Umbrella*’; *I. crenata* ‘*Drops of Gold*’ and ‘*Gold Mine*’; *I. cornuta* ‘*Carissa*’ and ‘*China Doll*’, *I. opaca* ‘*Satyr Hill*’; *I. (aquifolium*  $\times$  *cornuta*) ‘*Hefcup*’ Buttercup™; and *I. (dimorphophylla*  $\times$  *cornuta*) ‘*Carolina Cone*’.



This year we planted many *I. canariensis* outdoors in the arboretum grounds or in the surrounding park. They were containerized plants from the greenhouse. Immediately after planting, we had the very cold spell. In a future report, I will report something more about our experience with that holly species. Our plants are from wild-collected seeds from the Canary Island Tenerife and are very rare in cultivation in Europe. I have given some plants to arboreta in Great Britain.

In my earlier reports, I wrote about *I. crenata*, which, as a species, is very sensitive to dry periods in summer. This year I saw with my own eyes the reason for this phenomenon. I visited Japan with members of the International Dendrology Society; two leading experts on Japanese flora, Professor Dr. Hideaki Ohba (University of Tokyo) and Professor Dr. Mitsuo Suzuki (Director of the Botanical Garden of Tohoku University in Kawauchi, Sendai); and the botanical expert on Japanese flora, Dr. Koji Yonekura (Botanical Garden of Tohoku University in Kawauchi, Sendai).

*Ilex crenata* is a holly from Japan and surrounding countries. Japan is a country with abundant rain with some places receiving more than 2500 mm (98.4 inches), three times that of Belgium. On the other hand, *I. crenata* can grow to large sizes in very wet places, sometimes even in marshes. In the old, neglected Hakone Arboretum (Honshu) I saw a plant nearly 7 m (23 feet) high with a trunk of 120 cm (47.2 inches) in diameter. It was a very picturesque small tree. One cannot believe that an *I. crenata* could be so large. It is a pity to see such a beautiful, totally neglected collection, but it can give one a wealth of information about development in the conditions of a neglected collection.

In the wild, we saw a few well-known and very interesting hollies. On Mount Jizo-san there was a great abundance of *I. rugosa* and *I. leucoxyla*. On that 1736 m (5695 feet) tall mountain, *I. leucoxyla* is an alpine plant, as is *I. rugosa*. On the same mountain there are many hybrids of *I. × makinoi* (*I. leucoxyla* × *I. rugosa*) together with their parent plants. There were many *I. × makinoi*; in some cases the hybrid was more abundant than the parent species. I took some cuttings, but I think that after our long trip most of the cuttings were useless. The only popular holly in Japan is *I. rotunda*, and female selections are planted as street trees. Small-leaved *I. crenata* selections are planted as hedges.

Other hollies we saw in the wild were *I. geniculata*, *I. macropoda*, *I. pedunculosa*, *I. serrata*, and *I. sugerokii* var. *sugerokii*, but none are in cultivation. I collected some seeds of many of these species in their wild habitats. *Ilex geniculata* is a rare species in cultivation in Europe and in

the United States. In the wild I saw only a few of these plants, not nearly as many as *I. serrata* or *I. crenata*, which is a pity. It is a deciduous but marvelous holly with long peduncles as in *I. pedunculosa*. Quite amazing!

I also collected a new variety of *I. crenata* var. *hachijoensis* that was growing on Mount Miharayama, a volcano on the island of Oshima. These hollies grow between *Neolitsia sericea*, *Eurya japonica*, and *Callicarpa japonica* var. *luxurans* and plants of *Prunus speciosa* and *Alnus sieboldiana*.

Jef Van Meulder, Curator, Plant Collections

## ARBORETUM DES PRÉS DES CULANDS CONSERVATOIRE NATIONAL D'ILEX

La Nivelle– 45130 Meung Sur Loire, France (Hardiness Zone 7)

Some of our *Ilex* species, namely *I. × altaclerensis*, *I. aquifolium*, and *I. opaca*, had very poor pollination in 2008 caused by a late frost in May (–8 °C [17.6 °F]) that froze flowers and young shoots. The summer was normally warm followed by a wintery autumn, and winter began with temperatures of –10 °C (–14.0 °F).

There were no changes to our *Ilex* collection this year. Although we are unable to attend the Holly Society Annual Meeting every year, we would nonetheless be happy to receive new *Ilex* and will bear any expenses incurred in shipping them to us. We did not receive any test hollies from the meeting.

In 2008 *I. (cornuta × aquifolium)* ‘Nellie R. Stevens’ had abundant fruit, quickly growing shoots, and good foliage. *I. crenata* ‘Sky Pencil’ and *I. × koehneana* ‘Lassie’ performed very well.

We are continuing to maintain the holly collection, observe its development, and look for new species such as *I. collina*, *I. laevigata*, *I. myrtifolia*, *I. shennongjiaensis*, *I. wilsonii*. We planted a collection of *Hosta*, *Astilbe*, and *Hemerocallis* with our *Ilex*; the condition of the soil, which has a pH of 6.9 to 7.1, allows them to develop well. We keep a large amount of mulch on the ground to prevent moisture loss in the summer, to discourage weed growth, and to add humus to the soil. This saves a lot of maintenance time. We have also noticed that, as a result, *Ilex* has a better root and bud development and there is less stress on the plant. Parasite and disease problems were insignificant.

Pierre Paris, Conservateur; Frances Alderman, Translator



## BERNHEIM ARBORETUM AND RESEARCH FOREST

Clermont, KY (USDA Hardiness Zone 6a)

This year we welcomed our new director, Dr. Mark Wourms, who brings renewed enthusiasm and a fresh outlook for Bernheim's future.

Spring conditions were favorable for flowering, and fruit set this year was one of the heaviest in some time. Much of the collection bowed under the weight of massive amounts of berries that the public and wildlife appreciated. However, this past year's weather has proven challenging for many genera in the arboretum, including the *Ilex* collection. From mid-July through September we registered only a trace amount of rainfall, along with high temperatures that averaged 86 °F (30 °C). Most of the hollies recovered well from the 2007 untimely spring freeze but were then stressed by successive droughts, which led to the failure of many accessions. Several of our younger specimens, planted within the past five years, failed to become fully established due to the consistently difficult weather.

Our losses this year were far greater than normal and in recent years. Deaccessions this year include: *I. crenata* 'Shiro-fukurin'; *I. cornuta* 'Aglo' and 'Shiu Ying'; *I. glabra* 'Densa'; *I. × koehneana* 'Conayule' Yule Brite™; *I. × meserveae* 'Honey Maid'; *I. opaca* 'Bear Station', 'Miss Martha', 'Laquerberry', and 'Pyramidalis'; *I. verticillata* 'Winter King' and 'Winter Red'; *I. [(cornuta × pernyi) 'Doctor Kasab' × (×meserveae)?]* 'Dr. Bissonnette'; *I. (cornuta × pernyi) × I. latifolia* 'Conot' Patriot™, and *I. [(× meserveae) × pernyi]* 'Rutzan' Red Beauty®. Additional accessions for the year are as follows: *I. pedunculosa*, *I. opaca* 'Cheerful', and *I. [(aquifolium × cornuta) 'Nellie R. Stevens' × latifolia]* 'Adonis'.

We have many 1992 and 1995 accessions of *I. × koehneana*, including 'Jade', 'Agena', 'Ajax', 'Chieftain', 'Lassie', and hybrids *I. × koehneana* 'Loch Raven' and *I. [(aquifolium × cornuta) 'Nellie R. Stevens' × latifolia]* 'Adonis' and 'Venus' that we have continued to evaluate. They have proven themselves in our landscape for both hardiness and aesthetics. Although these specimens experienced considerable leaf burn during last spring's erratic temperatures, they recovered more quickly than some of our hardier *Ilex* species. Their growth has been even and steady, creating tight pyramidal spires which complement a backdrop of mixed evergreen and deciduous forest. These hollies would merit greater consideration for this region.

The collection is always under review for needed changes. Originally planted singularly in Bernheim's familiar grid pattern for the ease of study and comparison, some of the older *I. opaca* have grown so large

they are now being mulched as groupings. We are also planning a newly designed entrance into the hollies that will be inviting and easily accessible, with additional pathways and signage throughout the collection. Our conifer screen, which surrounds the hollies and offers wind protection, will be another area that will receive additional plantings.

Each year Bernheim has seen an increased interest in the *Ilex* genera. *Ilex opaca* ‘William Hawkins’ has drawn much attention as has ‘Maryland Dwarf’ and the orange and yellow berried forms of the deciduous species, *I. crenata*, and hybrids. We receive numerous calls and e-mails inquiring about new introductions, as well as much older and lesser known cultivars. This trend has increased the interest of many nurseries in their selections of hollies, and of homeowners who want to place more in their landscapes. Thanks to all the arboreta, nurseries, and the Holly Society for their hard work, knowledge and willingness to share.

Eric Garris, Curator, Hubbuch Holly Collection

## BLUE RIDGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Flat Rock, NC (USDA Hardiness Zone 7)

Weather at Flat Rock, North Carolina, was dry for another summer, but we are having some good amounts of rain now. We are also experiencing some of the coldest weather in a while. To date we haven't lost any plants due to either drought or cold. The berries are plentiful and very pretty.

Due to the construction of our new building, we have fallen behind on the upkeep of our holly beds. Now we hope to start cleaning up the beds to get them back in order.

We do have promises of new holly varieties that will be donated to us, including some not already in our collection. We are looking forward to spring when we will make our holly collection an extension to our beautiful new building.

David Tabor, Supervisor, Landscape Maintenance

## CALLAWAY GARDENS

Pine Mountain, GA (USDA Hardiness Zone 7b)

Temperatures in March fluctuated from 25 to 81 °F (–3.9 to 27.2 °C). In mid-April, we experienced below freezing temperatures followed by warm 80 °F (26.7 °C) days. Rainfall for the year was below average. With watering restrictions in place, the whole garden received minimal supplemental watering. These factors all contributed to our less than spectacular berry display in the fall and winter of 2008.

Landscape renovations forced the removal of some mature specimens of *Ilex cornuta* ‘Burfordii’, ‘D’Or’, and ‘Rotunda’. Other specimens of these varieties remain in our inventory. A mature male specimen of *I. pedunculosa* was transplanted to avoid damage from an uprooted pine tree. A few *I. × koehneana* ‘Wirt L. Winn’ were removed for the construction of a new hydrangea garden; others remain in both the Meadowlark and Callaway Brothers Azalea Bowl.

We are beginning to identify and evaluate the male pollinators in our collection, with plans to propagate those varieties of merit that are not available in the trade. Other hollies to be propagated that are of special significance to Callaway Gardens are *I. cornuta* ‘D’Or’, *I. opaca* ‘Betty Nevison’, and *I. [(cornuta ‘Burfordii’ × pernyi) ‘Red Delight’ × latifolia] ‘Galle’s Triumph’*.

Hank Bruno and Kathy Crye

## CHOLLIPO ARBORETUM Republic of Korea (Zone 7–8)

The weather was very kind in 2008. There was no damage by cold weather in the blooming time and no flooding in the rainy season, but there was a minor drought in the autumn. Mean air temperature was 12.8 °C (55 °F) with a maximum of 33.3 °C (91.9 °F) on August 8 and a minimum of –11.7 °C (10.9 °F) on January 18. Annual precipitation was 909.6 mm (35.81 inches). Mean humidity was 75.3% with a maximum of 99.9% and minimum of 14.1%. Mean wind direction was N: 355.8°, and highest mean daily wind velocity was 36.9 m/s (82.54 mph). (2008, Automatic Weather System of Chollipo Arboretum).

In 2008, the Chollipo Arboretum recorded the following new *Ilex* species (and their sources) through the Index Seminum: *I. aculeolata* (Shanghai BG); *I. ficoidea* (Sanghai BG); *I. montana* (Dawes Arboretum); and *I. szechwanensis* (Shanghai BG).

We moved the following nine hollies as they were planted too densely in their original location: *I. aquifolium* ‘Myrtifolia’ and ‘Rubri-caulis Aurea’; *I. cornuta* ‘D’Or’; *I. latifolia* ‘Variegata’; *I. × kiusiana*; *I. opaca* ‘Barnard Luce’, ‘Martha’s Vineyard’, and ‘Nelson West’; and *I. × wandoensis* ‘Min Pyong–gal’. They have been relocated around the Biology Education Center which opened in April 2008 on the sixth memorial day of Mr. C. Ferris Miller. Of these, *I. × wandoensis* ‘Min Pyong–gal’ has been planted in front of the building in memory of Mr. Miller. They are growing very well and looking good.

Cuttings of thirty–seven taxa were taken for additional propagation as a supplement for taxa preservation.

The following hollies looked especially nice in 2008: *I. cornuta*, *I. cornuta* ‘Dwarf Burford’, *I. decidua* ‘Red Cascade’, *I. × koehneana* ‘Chestnut Leaf’, *I. × wandoensis*, *I. verticillata* ‘Winter Red’, and *I. (cornuta × aquifolium)* ‘Nellie R. Stevens’.

Many hollies produced superb berries last year. Of course, numerous birds enjoyed the *Ilex* berries in the arboretum too. Interestingly, they didn’t attack the berries of the *I. decidua* ‘Red Cascade’, which is located in an open place in the main area. Most of the berries of others were attacked by birds during this time.

Chang–ho Choi

## CLARK–LANDSBAUM DEMING PARK HOLLY ARBORETUM Terre Haute, Indiana (USDA Hardiness Zone 5b)

The berry set this year was outstanding. The previous year there were several days with late frost that froze all the blooms and many young shoots, so there were few berries. This year growth was good and all plants did very well. The south slope near the front of the arboretum has always been too wet and for a number of years numerous plants there did not survive. Even some deciduous hollies planted there did poorly. This year the slope was tiled to drain off the water from underground seepage. The drained area was left to settle over winter so the tile would not be crushed. Temporarily, the slope is scarred and unsightly but the drainage seems to have improved. Several hollies needed to be removed and were then replanted. These had a setback but appear to be recovering.

Temperatures for the year were normal. The year ended with an average of 52.2 °F (11.2 °C); normal is 52.5 °F (11.4 °C). Rainfall and melted snow of 62.92 inches (1598.2 mm) for the year was well above the normal 41.36 inches (1051.5 mm), or 52% above average. Most of the precipitation came in March, May, and June; those three months totaled 31.74 inches (2076.2 mm), or about half of the yearly total. There was an extended dry spell in August with only 0.91 inches (23.1 mm) for the month, quite a bit less than the average 3.56 inches (90.4 mm). This put some stress on the plants.

Several *Ilex crenata* died and were removed: three ‘Sentinel’, two ‘Highlander’, and three ‘Rotundifolia’. We also lost two *I. opaca*: ‘Longwood Gardens’ and ‘Dan Fenton’. Additions this year include *I. [aquifolium ‘Pyramidalis’ × (× meserveae Blue Prince®)] ‘Hachfee’*

Castle Spire™, and three *I. crenata* ‘Mistress’. Thanks to the generosity of several people, we have some small specimens that are being grown to a larger size before being added to the arboretum. Jules Klein, Kevin Collard of Pine View Nursery, and Dr. Elwin Orton donated specimens that will be grown to a larger size before being added to the park. There are now over four hundred thirty hollies in the arboretum, including eleven species and over two hundred cultivars.

Because subzero weather has been limited the last couple of years, some hollies from the South are doing well. *Ilex* × *attenuata* ‘Savannah’ has done well while ‘Sunny Foster’, which was sheltered for several years, now dies back more every year. The red holly hybrids set out from larger containers in 2005 have also done well, although earlier gallon containers of the Red Holly *I. [(cornuta* ‘Burfordii’ × *pernyi* ‘Red Delight’) × (*latifolia*) ‘Mary Nell’) × ?] ‘Conaf’ Oak Leaf™ failed to survive the first winter. Most of the blue hollies do very well here except for *I. × meserveae* Blue Princess®.

The *I. verticillata* does very well in our area. The hedges are solid red with clusters of berries until hundreds of robins begin feasting on them at the end of December. In a week or two all are devoured.

When the evergreen holly berries ripen, they too are attacked. There are some *I. opaca* that are outstanding. ‘Torchbearer’ is an attractive, fast growing, upright tree with bright red berries. It is the tallest in the arboretum and was one of the first planted in 1993. ‘Dr. Cribbs’ is a staminate, vigorous tree and is covered with many blooms in the spring.

There have been few problems with disease. The deciduous hollies are sprayed with a dormant oil early in the year. The systemic insecticide Merit is applied every two years to control holly leaf miner. No other disease controls are used. Since the soil is alkaline, pelletized sulfur is used to lower the pH. A 12–12–12 commercial fertilizer is applied in the spring before growth begins, and Holly-tone is used in the fall. A commercial landscaper applies mulch once a year, spreads pre-emergent weed control to all beds, and maintains weed control as needed.

Since the Arboretum is in a city park, our organization, Friends of the Arboretum (FOTA), financially supports and maintains the holly in Deming Park. The FOTA talks to organizations, churches and any interested groups about the Arboretum and hollies. An educational program is presented annually to each training class of Master Gardeners. In 2003, we started planting holly in other locations throughout the city and county. They have been set out at the county fairgrounds, other city parks, on a



boulevard, church, City Hall, Vigo County Courthouse, hiking trails, two local universities, and schools. Most specimens were *I. opaca*, but deciduous holly and *I. crenata* have also been planted. We want our town to become known as “Terre Haute, a City of Holly”. So far, more than ninety hollies have been added to the community.

Robert Artis, Friends of the Arboretum

## THE DAWES ARBORETUM

Newark, Ohio (USDA Hardiness Zone 5b)

I am pleased to report that the holly collection at The Dawes Arboretum performed beautifully throughout the 2008 season, displaying some exceptionally heavy fruiting despite protracted dry weather during the mid- and late-summer months. The Dawes Arboretum was especially honored to have featured our hollies for HSA members who toured the collection in October during our 2008 Annual Meeting. Roughly seventeen years had elapsed since the Society’s previous visit to Dawes, and I think all would agree that we have made substantial progress in exhibiting many of the fine hollies that adapt well to our region.

Temperatures for 2008 in central Ohio were, for the most part, fairly normal. The mean monthly temperature varied by less than 2 °F (1.1 °C) from normal except during the months of March through May. In March our mean temperatures were 3.7 °F (2.1 °C) below average, whereas in April temperatures exceeded the average by 2.8 °F (1.6 °C). In May temperatures again dipped below average by 4.3 °F (2.4 °C) with periodic lows of 30 to 39 °F (–1.1 to 3.9 °C) throughout the month. Precipitation in 2008 oscillated between wetter than normal from late winter to early summer to much drier than normal from midsummer into mid-fall. Precipitation in February and March was 5.7 inches (14.5 cm) and 7.03 inches (17.86 cm) or 3.21 inches (8.15 cm) and 3.87 inches (9.83 cm) above normal during those two months. One of the heaviest twenty-four-hour snowfalls ever recorded for Licking County fell on March 8, inundating our hollies with up to 16 inches (40.64 cm) of snow. The holly collection suffered no significant damage from this event, as was the case during a major ice storm in December 2005. From July through November, precipitation was just over 6 inches (15.24 cm) below average, but once again hollies performed well. While losses were significant in other collection areas, no hollies were removed as the result of drought injury.

Finally, a calamitous weather event struck central Ohio on September 14 when the remnants of Hurricane Ike pummeled our grounds with

sustained winds of 54 miles (86.9 km) per hour for several hours. Cleanup from Hurricane Ike begin immediately and will likely continue through 2009. Though many mature trees were felled and damage to our collections was severe, hollies suffered through these high winds with virtually no damage apart from some minor branch stripping caused from limbs severed on adjacent white pines.

So I have concluded that hollies are certifiably tough plants that withstand significant perturbations in weather and hold up firmly even during long droughts. This undoubtedly contributes to their popularity and success in the southern portions of the United States.

Our penchant and directive for the addition and evaluation of new holly taxa continued through 2008. Additions to our collections are as follows: *I. crenata* ‘Golden Heller’, ‘Piccolo’, and ‘Soft Touch’; *I. longipes* (3); *I. verticillata* ‘Sunsplash’ (2); *I. [aquifolium* ‘Pyramidalis’ × (*meserveae* Blue Prince®)] ‘Hachfee’ Castle Spire™ (2) and ‘Heckenstar’ Castle Wall™; and *I. (centrochinensis* × *aquifolium*) ‘Centennial Girl’.

The following plants were removed either because of death or unsightly appearance and lack of vigor: *I. × attenuata* ‘Tanager’; *I. crenata* ‘Glass’; *I. macropoda*; *I. opaca* ‘Cheerful’, ‘Dias’, ‘Doctor Cribbs’, ‘Gee’, ‘Lacquerberry’, ‘Menantico’, ‘Orlando Pride’, ‘Ruth’ (2), and ‘Virginia Giant’; *I. serrata* (2); and *I. verticillata* ‘Earlbright’.

Our collection of American hollies numbers over 230 distinct taxa. A few taxa unique to the collection are growing in the Arboretum’s nursery and will be added to Holly Hill soon. Naturally, there is considerable repetition within the species and its cultivated forms, and sometimes individual cultivars attract my attention and promise to join those varieties that have long been considered a reliable cut above the majority. This year I was particularly struck by the deep red fruits of *I. opaca* ‘Eleanor’ that were borne profusely and ripened earlier than any other cultivar in our collection (August to September). *I. opaca* ‘Indian Maiden’ had the best display of orange-red fruit among our younger specimens and is worthy of future consideration and comparison with the long-known and highly esteemed ‘Corpening No. 3’. *Ilex opaca* ‘Allen’ (scarlet-red fruits) and *I. opaca* ‘Lady Blakeford’ (yellow fruits) are two promising fastigate cultivars growing in the same fashion as ‘Slim Jane’. They fruit well but look to be about a third to half as wide as the average cultivar and thus are potentially useful for tight, residential sites. Finally, *I. opaca* ‘Marsh Mutation’ receives my vote as the most unique American holly for growth habit. This tight, incredibly dense and slow growing form was reputedly

the only cultivar to be selected from a witches broom. I find plausibility in this statement because I have never witnessed any witches brooms on American holly although it is known to occur on some Meserve hybrids (*I. × meserveae*) and on Japanese holly (*I. crenata*).

I am excited about adding another winterberry to our collection. *Ilex verticillata* ‘Kennebago’ was highly impressive in the nursery for its large and copious red fruits last fall and appears to be a tight, clean, and compact shrub akin in habit to *I. verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’ and ‘Stop Light’. I also look forward to future additions of Japanese holly (*I. crenata*) because there are many varieties that may prove hardy to our area (USDA Zone 5b), warranting further evaluation.

Richard A. Larson, Nursery Manager

## DENVER BOTANIC GARDENS

Denver, Colorado (USDA Hardiness Zone 5)

Denver, Colorado experienced a cooler than normal spring in 2008. This resulted in a prolonged bloom of mid-spring bulbs, trees and shrubs that lasted from April through May. Generally, Denver springtime weather has some hot windy days that tend to fade flowers quickly in our dry climate mixed with some wet heavy snowfalls that freeze other flower buds.

The high temperature in 2008 was 104 °F (40 °C) recorded on July 1. The low temperature was –19 °F (–28.3 °C) on December 15. It was a fairly hot summer, with forty-seven days reaching greater than 90 °F (32.2 °C), fourteen days more than normal.

We received 10.21 inches (25.9 cm) of precipitation in 2008, 5.6 inches (14.2 cm) below average. Climate data was taken from the NOAA’s National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office for Denver/Boulder.

We removed the following from the garden inventory due to death or to construction (see below): *Ilex* ‘Sky Pencil’; *I. cornuta* ‘Mone’ and Berries Jubilee™; *I. glabra* ‘Nana’, ‘Chamzin’ Nordic™; and *I. serrata*. No additions were made to Denver Botanic Gardens’ *Ilex* collection during 2007–08. The inventory currently stands at nineteen taxa and seven species. A few plants are recorded as being in the nursery and are not included in the taxa count until they have been planted into a specific garden.

Current taxa include:

*I. aquifolium* ‘Teufel’s Zero’

*I.* ‘Bonfire’

*I. cornuta* ‘Burfordii Nana’

*I. crenata* ‘Convexa’

*I. Ebony Magic*

*I. × meserveae* Blue Angel®, ‘Blue Boy’, ‘Blue Girl’, Blue Prince®,  
Blue Princess® and ‘Mesid’ Blue Maid®

*I. paraguariensis*

*I. ‘Raritan Chief’*

*I. verticillata*

*I. verticillata* ‘After Glow’, ‘Jim Dandy’, ‘Oosterwijk’, ‘Sunset’ and  
‘Winter Gold’

Due to construction occurring at Denver Botanic Gardens, no new performance data has been collected in the past year. We have no *Ilex* tests in progress. We continue to map collections through BG-Map. Collections information is held and tracked in BG-BASE database. We have no Hollies of the Year on which to report.

Denver Botanic Gardens is undergoing a period of massive construction. A new irrigation mainline and technology fiber was added in the Gardens over the past four months. Eventually a majority of the Gardens will be Wi-Fi accessible. A new parking garage and visitors center will open by summer 2009. Greenhouse complex construction will begin in the summer of 2009 to replace existing greenhouses, propagation and horticulture office areas. Plans have been made for a new children’s garden, a cutting garden, a welcome garden, a sensory garden and a Plant Select® garden to be added over the next 2 years.

Cindy Newlander, Denver Botanic Gardens Manager of Plant Records

## HIGHLAND BOTANICAL PARK

Rochester, New York (USDA Hardiness Zone 4)

Weather for the year 2008 fluctuated widely in temperatures and rainfall. Precipitation was down from the Rochester, New York, average, especially for the summer months. From June through September, precipitation was more than 2 inches (5.1 cm) below normal. In winter, the heavy snowfall of February provided cover for the hollies, and there was not much windburn.

Temperatures in January and April were unusually warm. The passage of several powerful warm fronts in January (January 11 and 30) led to very windy days, with peak wind gusts of 75 mph (120.7 km/h) and 63 mph (101.4 km/h), respectively. These two windstorms led to the loss of some large specimen trees in Highland Botanical Park, including some tall, old conifers. Of particular note was an *Abies homophylla* that snapped very

near our specimen *Ilex ciliospinosa* on January 30, but fortunately the holly was untouched. This particular holly has been in our collection since 1958.

No new holly accessions were made for 2008, although several *I. crenata* 'Northern Beauty' were balled and burlapped and removed from the front of the Lambert Conservatory. This was done because of some extensive renovation to the central dome of the conservatory. The hollies will be replaced in the spring of 2009 after the renovation is complete.

On September 16, when the remnants of Hurricane Ike passed through, a massive 96-year-old *Evodia hupehensis* (now known as *Tetradium*) fell, narrowly missing several *I. decidua*. Again, there was no damage to the hollies.

Fruiting was good on our *I. decidua* cultivars, and the fruit continues to hold at this time. Holly growth and vigor was average for the year 2008.

Kent Millham, Plant Propagator

## MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDENS

St. Louis, Missouri (USDA Hardiness Zone 6b)

The winter of 2008 was average with near normal temperatures and moisture. Spring was cool and it was the wettest year on record for St. Louis with close to 60 inches (152 cm) of rainfall for the year. The region had three major floods, but because of the heavy rains in short periods the upland areas had some problems with dry soils. Summer temperatures were warmer with some 100 °F (37.8 °C) temperature days. Fall was warm and later than normal with peak fall color in early November.

The following hollies were added this year: *Ilex* 'Borjomi Saguramo'; *I.* 'Conaf' Oakleaf™; *I. integra* 'Ogon'; *I. opaca* 'Portia Orton', 'Steward's Silver Crown', 'Villanova', and 'William Hawkins'; *I. × aquipernyi* 'Meschick' Dragon Lady®; *I. × koehneana* 'Loch Raven', and 'San Jose'; *I. × meserveae* 'Hachfee Castle Spire™' and 'Heckenstar' Castle Wall™.

The cool wet spring resulted in later bud break, and with no late spring frosts this year's fruit set was very heavy. With a mild winter and heavy fruit set on crabapples, birds have left the holly berries alone. This has resulted in very good displays of berries into winter.

We have not experienced problems with diseases or pests and have lost no hollies this year.

Walter Behrendt, Senior Horticulturist



## THE MORRIS ARBORETUM

Philadelphia, PA (USDA Hardiness Zone 6)

January and February 2008 were milder and dryer than normal and there were some dramatic swings in temperatures. For example, between February 6 and February 11 temperatures ranged from a high of 63 °F (17.2 °C) to a low of 11°F (−11.7 °C). The other outstanding weather event of 2008 was a dry August in which we received only 2.4 inches (6.1 cm) of precipitation. These conditions did not affect the health of our holly collection. As always, I was impressed by the resiliency of our hollies. As of December 31, 2008, we have 161 taxa of *Ilex* planted in our collection.

In 2008, we planted 26 plants of nine taxa, two of which were new (\*) to our collection.

<i>I. × attenuata</i> ‘Savannah’	<i>I. opaca</i> ‘Clark’
<i>I. fargesii</i>	<i>I. opaca</i> ‘Dan Fenton’
<i>I. × koehneana</i> ‘H. Hohman’	<i>I. serrata</i>
* <i>I. macropoda</i>	<i>I. verticillata</i> ‘Southern Gentleman’
* <i>I. macropoda</i> f. <i>pseudomacropoda</i>	

We lost 11 plants from our collection during 2010: 8 taxa, 2 taxa lost (\*\*) from our collection):

<i>I. ‘Apollo’</i>	<i>I. opaca</i> ‘Carolina’
<i>I. fargesii</i>	<i>I. opaca</i> ‘Jersey Knight’
** <i>I. laevigata</i>	** <i>I. opaca</i> ‘Satyr Hill’
<i>I. opaca</i>	<i>I. verticillata</i>

One other taxon was lost when *I. × wandoensis* was re-identified as *I. cornuta*.

Several hollies are noteworthy this year because of fruit set and/or foliage quality, their rarity, or cold hardiness. These include:

- I. × altaclerensis* ‘Eldridge’
- I. aquifolium*
- I. ‘Dapat’* (Miss Patricia™)
- I. × koehneana* ‘Lassie’ – excellent fruit set
- I. × koehneana* ‘Wirt L. Winn’
- \**I. latifolia*
- I. ‘Lydia Morris’*
- I. macrocarpa* – female plant with fruit
- I. purpurea × glabra*
- I. opaca* ‘Delia’
- I. opaca* ‘Freeman’
- I. opaca* ‘Helen Makepeace’

We are currently working with the Scott Arboretum on propagating *I. opaca* ‘Mrs. Santa’ that was planted at the Morris Arboretum in 1950. Our plant may have to be removed because of a construction project but we are trying to propagate it before its removal.

In October we donated a large number of assorted hollies to the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society’s Fall Garden Festival. These plants are distributed to the members of PHS.

Hollies of the Year:

*I. crenata* ‘Sky Pencil’ – 7 by 2 feet (2.1 m by 0.61 m). Foliage is thin on the shady side and at the bottom of the plant.

*I. × koehneana* ‘Lassie’ – Our plant is grown from cuttings taken in 2001 and it already has very heavy and attractive fruit set.

*I. verticillata* ‘Maryland Beauty’ – Plants are growing well but there was no fruit at this time.

Anthony Aiello, Curator and Director of Horticulture and

Elinor I. Goff, Plant Recorder

## PLANTING FIELDS ARBORETUM STATE HISTORIC PARK

Oyster Bay, New York (USDA Hardiness Zone 7a)

In the spring and summer of 2008 we had above average rainfall. Fall weather was moderate and winter was mild. Fruit production was moderate to light. Leaves of *Ilex* ‘Mary Nell’ indicate some winter burn on the southern exposure.

Additions to our collection in 2008 were:

*I. crenata* ‘Green Lustre’ (16)

*I. [(cornuta ‘Burfordii’ × pernyi ‘Red Delight’) × latifolia]*  
‘Mary Nell’ (23)

*I. [(× meserveae) × pernyi]* ‘Rutzan’ Red Beauty® (3)

Deletions in 2008 were:

*I. verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’ (1)

*I. verticillata* ‘Jim Dandy’ (1)

*I. opaca* ‘Red Velvet’ (1)

*I. opaca* ‘Farage’ (2)

We removed the *I. opaca* ‘Red Velvet’ and two *I. opaca* ‘Farage’ to provide better air circulation and sunlight for surrounding hollies.

Of our two Hollies of the Year, *I. verticillata* ‘Maryland Beauty’ is too young to determine performance and *I. crenata* ‘Sky Pencil’ showed excellent performance.

Peter Atkins, Assistant Director Kenneth Provenzano, Curator of Plant Collections

**THE POLLY HILL ARBORETUM**  
 West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts  
 (USDA Hardiness Zone 7a)

In early 2009 the living collection at the Polly Hill Arboretum includes 98 *Ilex* taxa represented by 195 individual plants. The data on which this report is based were collected and evaluations were made during the first two weeks of January 2009 by Thomas E. Clark, Collections & Grounds Manager, and Nancy Weaver, Plant Recorder.

The weather during 2008 can be characterized as having been generally warmer than average. The lowest temperature recorded was 8 °F (−13.3 °C) on January 4. Total precipitation was only 0.25 inches (0.64 cm) below the annual average of 45.57 inches (115.75 cm). Both July and September were distinctly wetter than average. This additional rainfall helped to support good growth and fruit development, particularly in July which is typically the driest month of the year. Table 1 details the 2008 weather.

**Table 1. Temperature and precipitation summaries for 2008<sup>1</sup>**

Month	Monthly mean temperature	Departure from norm	Monthly precipitation	Departure from norm
January	33.8 °F (1.0 °C)	3.5 °F (1.9 °C)	2.65" (6.73 cm)	−1.02" (−2.59 cm)
February	35.8 °F (2.1 °C)	5.8 °F (3.2 °C)	4.61" (11.71 cm)	0.49" (1.24 cm)
March	39.0 °F (3.9 °C)	2.5 °F (1.4 °C)	3.65" (9.27 cm)	−0.38" (−0.97 cm)
April	48.2 °F (9.0 °C)	3.4 °F (1.9 °C)	3.95" (10.03 cm)	−0.33" (−0.84 cm)
May	54.7 °F (12.6 °C)	0.8 °F (0.4 °C)	3.7" (9.40 cm)	−0.55" (−1.40 cm)
June	68.5 °F (20.3 °C)	5.3 °F (3.0 °C)	1.79" (4.55 cm)	−0.86" (−2.18 cm)
July	74.1 °F (23.4 °C)	4.6 °F (2.6 °C)	4.15" (10.54 cm)	1.52" (3.86 cm)
August	70.0 °F (21.1 °C)	1.3 °F (0.7 °C)	1.73" (4.39 cm)	−2.70" (−6.86 cm)
September	66.3 °F (19.1 °C)	3.3 °F (1.9 °C)	6.89" (17.50 cm)	3.33" (8.46 cm)
October	53.4 °F (11.9 °C)	−0.9 °F (−0.5 °C)	2.32" (5.89 cm)	−1.07" (−2.72 cm)
November	44.3 °F (6.8 °C)	−0.3 °F (−0.2 °C)	3.75" (9.53 cm)	−0.65" (−1.65 cm)
December	39.4 °F (4.1 °C)	5.2 °F (2.9 °C)	6.38" (16.21 cm)	1.97" (5.00 cm)
2008 Total			56.18" (142.70 cm)	10.36" (26.31 cm)

<sup>1</sup>Weather data was recorded by Mark Alan Lovewell in Edgartown, Massachusetts

Plants of one new taxon were added to the collection in 2008, *Ilex glabra* ‘Peggy’s Cove’. This compact selection of inkberry was discovered in Nova Scotia, Canada, by Jack Alexander, Plant Propagator at the Arnold Arboretum, Massachusetts, USA. Propagules of four other taxa were received: *I. latifolia*, *I. macropoda*, *I. montana* and *I. mucronata*, the latter three as seed of known wild provenance. Eighteen plants representing eleven taxa were removed from the collection: *Ilex* ‘Apollo’\*; *I.* ‘Sparkleberry’; *I. crenata*; *I. crenata* ‘Twiggy’; *I. decidua*; *I. opaca* ‘St. Mary’; *I.*

serrata × *verticillata*\*; *I. verticillata*; *I. verticillata* ‘Maryland Beauty’\*, ‘Red Sprite’ and ‘Sunsplash’. Those marked with (\*) are taxa no longer represented in the living collection. The deaccessions represent an ongoing effort to improve the overall health of the living collection, to alleviate crowding and to open space for further diversification of the collection.

*Ilex* generally performed quite well in 2008. Overall, clones of *I. opaca* were highly rated and fruit set on many of these was generally quite good. Particularly fine cultivars included ‘Barnard Luce’, ‘Martha’s Vineyard’ and ‘Miss Helen’. *Ilex* ‘Pernella’, *I. × altaclerensis* ‘NYBG No. 2’ and *I. aquifolium* ‘Evangeline’ performed exceptionally well in 2008. Damage caused by holly berry midge (*Asphondylia ilicicola*) was evident in some selections of *I. opaca*, but was not deemed to be very significant. A leaf spot disease and the telltale tracks of a species of leaf miner were noted on *I. opaca* but neither was found with regularity.

In 2008 the arboretum bought, with grant funding provided by the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust, a laser engraver for the primary purpose of producing high quality, professional display and accession labels. In preparation for the 2009 HSA annual meeting, the entire holly collection will be completely and accurately labeled. This labeling project follows soon after a visit from taxonomist Susyn Andrews who assessed our holly collection with a particular focus on the nomenclature. The Polly Hill Arboretum is looking forward to hosting attendees of the 2009 Annual Meeting for a tour of the Arboretum.

Thomas E. Clark, Collections & Grounds Manager

## THE JAMES FRORER HOLLY COLLECTION OF THE SCOTT ARBORETUM OF SWARTHMORE COLLEGE Swarthmore, Pennsylvania (USDA Hardiness Zone 6b)

Donated in 1974, the James R. Frorer Holly Collection was a gift of James R. Frorer, an avid collector of *Ilex* and a Swarthmore College alumnus. Frorer provided the resources for moving the collection, and established an endowment fund to aid with upkeep and maintenance. The Scott Arboretum has been designated a National Holly Arboretum by the Holly Society of America. The extensive collection is also recognized by the North American Plant Collection Consortium (NAPCC).

The collection sits on a southfacing slope overlooking the Crum Creek with bountiful sunlight and air flow. These winds can cause winter desiccation and the exposure leads to foliar bleaching. The collection is

maintained by the Scott Arboretum's horticulture crew, curatorial office, and volunteers.

The winter of 2008 was mild, with temperatures higher than the area's average and with meager snowfall. Precipitation and temperature levels for the rest of year closely matched long-term averages for the region, except for an especially dry September and October and a slightly warmer than usual summer. The beginning of July was marked by high winds that damaged some arboretum specimens including a couple in the Holly Collection. So far, the winter of 2009 has had colder temperatures and larger amounts of snowfall than is typical for the area.

This year's evaluation was conducted from late January to mid-February 2009. At the time of evaluation, none of deciduous hollies had berries present; therefore, they were not evaluated.

This year's highest rated hollies are:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> 'Peter's'   | <i>I. x altaclerensis</i> 'Cherryberry',          |
| <i>I. crenata</i> (yellow fruit)   | and 'Hodginsii'                                   |
| <i>I. opaca</i> 'Bittersweet', 'Carolina',<br>'Cheerful', 'Old Heavy<br>Berry', and 'Richards' | <i>I. x aquipernyi</i> Dragon Lady®<br>'Meschick' |
| <i>I. sugerokii</i> var. <i>brevipedunculata</i>   | <i>I. x koehneana</i> 'Chieftain'                 |

This year's lowest rated hollies are:

- |                              |                        |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>I. cornuta</i> 'Slack'    | <i>I. sp.</i>          |
| <i>I. crenata</i>            | <i>I. x aquipernyi</i> |
| <i>I. crenata</i> 'Tennyson' | <i>I. x meserveae</i>  |

Deletions of *Ilex* since our last report:

- I. crenata* (3)
- I. crenata* (yellow fruit) (1)
- I. crenata* 'Oleafera' (2)
- I. crenata* 'Red Lion' (1)
- I. glabra* 'Ivory Queen'
- I. x meserveae* 'Blue Girl'

Our Holly of the Year specimens:

- I. opaca* 'Satyr Hill' – Healthy specimen with light-colored foliage
- I. x koehneana* 'Lassie' – Small gap two-thirds of the way up tree; nice, orange-red fruit



*I. × attenuata* ‘Sunny Foster’ – Lovely color; some dieback and desiccation present

*I. aquifolium* ‘Lewis’ – Uneven habit

Miriam Pinsker, Curatorial Intern

## JOHN J. TYLER ARBORETUM

Media, Pennsylvania (USDA Hardiness Zone 6)

There have been no notable weather conditions since our last report.

The *Ilex* collection grows well at Tyler and is maintained, but does not receive much public or research attention. We have a total of five hundred twenty-seven hollies representing one hundred forty-eight taxa. We added three *I. verticillata* ‘Golden Verboom’ to our collection in 2008 and deleted two *I. aquifolium* ‘Laura Barnes’ and one *I. ‘Serendipity’*. One nice specimen of *I. aquifolium* ‘Laura Barnes’ had to be removed for pathway construction.

*Ilex verticillata* ‘Winter Red’ continues to be an excellent plant which holds fruit long into the winter.

We have several of HSA’s Holly of the Year. *Ilex opaca* ‘Satyr Hill’ is a good plant with great fruit set and good foliage. *Ilex × koehneana* ‘Lassie’ is an excellent plant with nice foliage and excellent fruit. Tyler’s specimens of *I. × attenuata* ‘Sunny Foster’ are small and have lost their variegation. *Ilex aquifolium* ‘Lewis’ exhibits excellent form and foliage but not bountiful fruit.

We have no ongoing research to report. Rutgers Gardens took cuttings to propagate and grow on to expand their holly collections for research.

Carla Hetzel, Head Gardener and Robert Harold, Plant Recorder

## U.S. NATIONAL ARBORETUM

Washington, DC (USDA Hardiness Zone 7b)

January 2008 started off with above average temperatures, similar to 2007. The second week of January was warm with a recorded high temperature of 71 °F (21.7 °C) on January 9. The rest of the month was fairly normal with a low temperature of 16 °F (–8.9 °C). Rain and snowfall were below normal with only 1.47 inches (3.7 cm) recorded. February’s weather pattern was similar to January’s, except we did receive average moisture. The high temperature recorded for March was 72 °F (22.2 °C) and the low temperature recorded at the beginning of the month was 26 °F (–3.3 °C). Rainfall was below average for the month. April’s tem-

peratures fluctuated between above average and below average, as is typical for the spring. We had above average rainfall, but most of it fell in one or two events. In May and June, we received almost 17 inches (43 cm) of rain, which is about a third of our normal rainfall for the year. Most of this rain fell over a period of several days, causing flooding. The months of July, August, and September had fairly typical temperatures with a high of 95 °F (35 °C) recorded in July and September. Rainfall was average for July and September, but August was dry. October and November continued to be on the dry side with above average temperatures. In December, we had several warm days, but our temperatures were mostly normal.

This year, we focused on the renovation of an aging landscape feature in the Holly collection. After the removal of a large oak due to its decline, we removed the *I. cornuta* hedge that surrounded it. In keeping with the original design, we planted two sections of *I. Patriot*<sup>™</sup> ‘Conot’ and two sections of *Magnolia grandiflora* Alta<sup>™</sup> ‘TMGH’. These new plantings will be maintained as hedges to show our visitors how *Ilex* can be utilized for hedge plantings. Other plantings were minimal in the collection.

We continue to evaluate and observe plants that perform well in the collection. We have observed that *I. verticillata* ‘Winter Red’ has the best berry set of our deciduous hollies holdings year after year.

A conceptual plan for adding additional automatic irrigation to the collection was developed this year and, pending on funding, could be installed in the next several years.

The Chesapeake Chapter of the Holly Society volunteered their services again in the fall. They helped to tackle pruning of many of the older and larger *Ilex* in the collection.

We have several Holly of the Year plants that are growing in the collections. *Ilex opaca* ‘Satyr Hill’, *I. crenata* ‘Sky Pencil’ and *I. × attenuata* ‘Sunny Foster’ have performed well over the last several years. Our *I. × attenuata* did suffer in the drought in 2002, but was hat racked and looks good again.

Carole Bordelon, Supervisory Horticulturist

## WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM Seattle, Washington (USDA Hardiness Zone 8b)

The past fall was relatively dry. For the period of October through December 2008, the Arboretum gauge recorded total rainfall of 11.8 inches (29.97 cm), or 79% of average. Through the end of the year, there were fourteen nights when low temperatures dropped below freezing, with a

seasonal low of 14 °F (–10.0 °C) on December 22. All freezing nights occurred during the second half of December, with mild low temperatures before this period. The freezing temperatures were accompanied by roughly 12 inches (30.5 cm) of snow, the largest snow event for Seattle for many years. As of this writing, little if any damage has resulted from this tempestuous autumn. The *Ilex* Collection suffered no breakage from snow loading, and freeze damage is not apparent.

Heat intensity for the past summer was atypically low for the area. There was a total of thirteen days during the months of June, July, and August with a high temperature greater than or equal to 80 °F (26.7 °C), with seasonal highs of 88 °F (31.1 °C) recorded on August 15 and 16. Summer rainfall is typically low in this modified Mediterranean climate. However, the rainfall for the summer of 2008 was significantly above normal with 5.7 inches (14.38 cm), or 167% of average, for the months of June, July, and August.

The Curatorial staff has completed an analysis of the entire Arboretum holly collection and developed a transformation plan based on these findings and the refocused goals for the collection that will emphasize natural species placed in a taxonomic arrangement. The individual species are being grouped into four areas across the exhibit space representing the four clades, or subdivisions, of the genus *Ilex*. From the total of four hundred eighty-four *Ilex* specimens, three hundred thirteen will be removed and one hundred seventy-one will be retained in the collection. Sixteen of those retained are very large specimens that cannot be moved. These specimens have been retained in their current locations within the newly developed Pacific Connections Entry Gardens. The one hundred twelve specimens will be relocated to the new holly site by transplantation (sixty-nine specimens), propagation (twenty specimens) or both methods (twenty-three specimens). In 2007 and 2008, much progress has been made toward transforming this collection, including re-propagation, transplantation of specimens, and setting out new plants. In all, thirty-five large specimens, ranging from 8 to 25 feet (2.4 to 7.6 m) in height, were transplanted with a large tree spade. An additional twenty-five specimens were transplanted by hand. To date, the transformed collection contains specimens representing approximately thirty species with many additional taxa currently in the plant production unit.

Randall Hitchin, Living Collection Manager & Registrar

## INTERNATIONAL *ILEX* CULTIVAR REGISTRATIONS

*Michael R. Pontti*

9–02 *Ilex* [(*cornuta* ‘Burfordii’) × *latifolia*] ‘Bessie Smith’ Female

Registered: November 10, 2008

Mr. David S. Smith

1202 Jossie Lane

McLean, Virginia 22102

Discovered and selected as a chance seedling in the spring of 1985 by Mrs. P. B. C. (Bessie) Smith, at her home at 3941 Topside Road in Knoxville, Tennessee. Several seedlings were found when the mother plant, *Ilex cornuta* ‘Burfordii’ was killed by a  $-24^{\circ}\text{F}$  ( $-31.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) cold wave on January 21, 1985. In June 1995, Bessie Smith and Mr. Harold Elmore named this female clone for Mrs. Smith, as well as a male clone, *Ilex* ‘Patrick Smith’ for her late husband, Mr. Patrick B. C. Smith. They were subsequently introduced later that fall by Holly Haven Hybrids of Knoxville, Tennessee. A tree was planted in Mrs. Smith’s honor by Harold Elmore and Mrs. Frances B. Scheidt at Mrs. Smith’s church, the Immaculate Conception church in Knoxville. The original plant at the late Mrs. Smith’s home no longer exists, after being-removed from her garden in 2008.

The large evergreen tree, estimated to be twenty–three years old, is 5.2 m (17 feet) tall and 3.0 m (10 feet) wide, with a broadly conical shape and a horizontal branching habit. Leaves are dark green above, Green Group 137A, and lighter green below, Green Group 148C, on the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of 1986. Leaves are large, smooth, elliptical, to 11.7 cm ( $4\frac{5}{8}$  inches) long, 4.8 cm ( $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches) wide, with margins slightly bowed or convex in side view, spinose, with up to ten uneven serrate spines on each side, alternating between small and medium, apices aristulate, with rounded bases and petioles up to 1.3 cm ( $\frac{1}{2}$  inch) long. The abundant red fruit are axillary, with up to twelve oval fruit per cluster, 8 mm ( $\frac{5}{16}$  inch) by 1 cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$  inch), Red Group 44A, with petioles to 1 cm ( $\frac{3}{8}$  inch) long. Hardiness results indicate this clone is winter hardy through Zone 6b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990.

Plants were propagated and distributed by Holly Haven Hybrids in Knoxville, Tennessee, beginning in the fall of 1995. *Ilex* ‘Bessie Smith’ and ‘Patrick Smith’ were distributed in 1995 at the Annual Meeting of the

Holly Society in Mobile, Alabama, as part of the holly hardiness test program. Selection was based on a rapid growth rate, green twigs, Green Group 143B, large, pale yellow, axillary flower clusters resulting in abundant red fruit and large, smooth, glossy leaves which also distinguish this clone from the Bruner hollies.

Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U.S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington, D.C., 20002.

6-06 *Ilex verticillata* 'Skipjack'                      Male  
Registered: October 9, 2006  
Mr. William N. Kuhl  
9000 Satyr Hill Road  
Baltimore, Maryland 21234

This cultivar originated in 1975 as a chance seedling from a seedling lot received from Princeton Nursery at McLean Nurseries in Baltimore, Maryland. Selected, named and introduced by Mr. William N. Kuhl, this holly has been in production for nearly fifteen years as McLean's Early Male. The original plant is located at McLean Nurseries.

At thirty-one years of age, this large deciduous shrub exhibits a multistemmed vase shape, 2.7 m (9 feet) tall by 2.7 m (9 feet) wide, with a herringbone branching habit. The leaf texture is chartaceous, while leaves are glabrous, pubescent below, elliptic to obovate to 1.2 dm (4 ¾ inches) long by 5.1 cm (2 inches) wide; bases are broadly cuneate; margins are flat in side view, serrate in top view with an acuminate to acute apex. Petioles are 2.0 cm ( 13/16 inch) long. Leaves are deep green, Green Group 139 A on the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of 1995.

McLean Nurseries is introducing 'Skipjack', a male *Ilex verticillata*, as an early flowering, vigorous cultivar. Its attractive foliage is typical of the species with good color, and may be readily used to pollinate winterberry holly native to Maryland and the Mid Atlantic States. In addition to its use as a pollinator, this plant is ideal for naturalizing with other plantings and to establish and enhance wetlands and stream banks. In days gone by, when seafood was abundant in the Chesapeake Bay, an oyster dredging boat called the Skipjack was the workhorse of this estuary. Its distinctive shape, with a raking mast and mutton chop sail, made it easy to identify as a symbol of the Bay. The vast reefs of oysters, harvested by Maryland watermen in their Skipjacks, could purify the water of the bay. Today, the Chesapeake Bay is struggling to replenish the abundance that



has declined through decades of over-harvesting and pollution. Plantings of natives in the Chesapeake Bay watershed are an important step in improving the quality of the Bay, by controlling runoff from ever-increasing developed areas. One native holly ideally suited for this effort is the common winterberry, *I. Verticillata* ‘Skipjack’ whose hardiness is rated at zone 4 on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990.

Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U.S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington D.C. 2002.

1–08 *Ilex opaca* ‘Indiana State’                      Male

Registered: June 24, 2008

Mr. Robert D. Artis for the

Friends of the Clark–Landsbaum Deming Park Holly Arboretum

743 Rose Harbour Court

Terre Haute, Indiana 47803

This cultivar originated in 1964 as a chance seedling growing in a neglected holly hedge behind a farmhouse facing Evesham Road in Magnolia, New Jersey. In front of that house grew a large Cucumbertree Magnolia, *Magnolia acuminata*, for which the town of Magnolia was named.

In 1967, cuttings taken from this taxa appeared to be unique in that no leaf miner or leaf spot was present while all surrounding plants were infested; it was also then that the clone was moved to Terre Haute, Indiana. Although the original plant is no longer in existence, the cuttings taken were later determined to be male. In 1968 they were planted in the yard of a cousin of the discoverer along with a female holly, *Ilex opaca* ‘Farage’.

Mr. Artis named this clone in 2005, and it was subsequently introduced by a group of Friends of the Clark–Landsbaum Deming Park Holly Arboretum (FOTA) of Terre Haute, Indiana, in partnership with one of its members, Mr. Kevin Runion, associate vice-president of facilities management at Indiana State University. It is FOTA’s goal to expand the use of holly throughout the city of Terre Haute, and Mr. Runion offered them nursery space in the ISU Tree Farm to start the project. The university fenced off part of the farm, cultivated the soil, adjusted the soil pH for holly, and provided mulch for the rooted cuttings. In 2007 nearly 160 one-gallon and larger hollies of eight different cultivars were set out and left to attain a suitable size for planting the public spaces of the city. To recognize the university and its unwavering assistance in this project, the name “Indiana State” was chosen for this new cultivar.

The large evergreen tree, now forty–four years old, measures approximately 6.4 m (21 feet) tall with a spread of 6.1 m (20 feet) and a trunk diameter of 26.7 cm (10.5 inches). The tree exhibits a broadly conical shape and a dense fastigiata branching habit. Annual growth is typically about 20 cm (8 inches). The leaves are oval, coriaceous and keeled. The largest leaves have an average length of 6 cm (2 3/8 inches) and a width of 3.7 cm (1 3/8 inches). The margins are spinose often to the top half of the leaf and sinuate in top view, with 2–3 (typically 2) spines per side and undulate in cross section. Bases are rounded to cuneate and petioles are 8 mm ( 5/16 inch) in length. Leaf apices are acuminate with an aristate tip spine 2 mm ( 5/64 inches) in length. Leaves are olive–green, Green Group 139A, on the Royal Horticultural Society Colour Chart of 1995.

Plants are available through Mr. Artis and have been produced for the greening of the Terre Haute, Indiana, Public Space Project, by TNZ Nursery of Louisville, Kentucky, and Pine View Nursery of Litchfield, Kentucky.

Selection of this cultivar was based on the clone’s superior resistance to holly leaf miner and leaf spot disease and foliage a deeper green and glossier than many other *I. opaca* cultivars. Hardiness is rated at zone 5b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990, and the cultivar has survived temperatures down to –31 °F (–35.0 °C).

Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U.S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington, D.C. 20002.

2–08 *Ilex aquifolium* ‘Cotswold Green’                      Male  
Registered: June 26, 2008  
Dr. Neville R. Phillips  
The Noor, Yeovil Road, Sherborne  
Dorset DT9 4PX U.K.

The origin of this selection is unknown. It was cloned in 1999 by Dr. Neville R. Phillips from unnamed, mature specimens found in a boundary planting of screening /shelter hollies of unknown age in Dyrham Park (National Trust) near Bath, Gloucestershire, U.K. Named and introduced in 2007, the parent plant is a large evergreen tree growing in shade with large entire foliage.

The evergreen tree, now about eight years old, exhibits a conical shape, with a herringbone branching habit. The clone is now 9.2 dm (3 feet) tall by

6.1 dm (2 feet) wide with leaves coriaceous, glossy, glabrous, elliptic–lanceolate, 5.1 cm (2 inches) long and 2.5 cm (1 inch) wide, with an acuminate apex and rounded base. The side view is convex, while the margin in top view is entire or with few spines directed forward toward the apex and are often twisted; petioles are to 1.1 cm ( $\frac{7}{16}$  inch) with an average annual growth of 1.1 dm (4 inches). Although the growth rate varies considerably on different parts of the plant (the leader grows 23 cm [9 inches] long with the characteristic pair of basal secondary shoots on the current year’s extension), the habit is compact and bushy with overall slow growth.

Cloned specimens are in a holly reference collection at The Noor, Yeovil Road, Sherborne, Dorset in the U.K.

Selection was based on a general appearance resembling *Ilex aquifolium* ‘Watereriana Compacta’ (syn. ‘Waterer’s Green’), but lacks the whitish edging of that cultivar and is slightly more vigorous than *I. aquifolium* ‘Cotswold Cream’.

Hardiness is rated at Zone 7b–8b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990.

Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U.S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington, D.C. 20002.

3–08 *Ilex aquifolium* ‘Cotswold Cream’                      Male  
Registered: June 26, 2008  
Dr. Neville R. Phillips  
The Noor, Yeovil Road, Sherborne  
Dorset DT9 4PX U.K.

The origin of this selection is unknown, but was cloned as a branch sport in 1999 by Dr. Neville R. Phillips from unnamed mature specimens in a boundary planting of screening/shelter hollies of unknown age in Dyrham Park (National Trust) near Bath, Gloucestershire, U.K. Named and introduced in 2007, the parent plant is a large evergreen tree growing in shade with large entire foliage.

The evergreen tree, now about eight years old, exhibits an elliptic or columnar shape, with a herringbone branching habit. The clone is now 1.2 m (4 feet) tall by 3.9 dm (1  $\frac{1}{4}$  feet) wide with leaves coriaceous, glossy, glabrous, elliptic to lanceolate, silver maculate, 5.1 cm (2 inches) long and 1.9 cm ( $\frac{3}{4}$  inch) wide, with an acuminate apex and rounded base. The side view is undulate or twisted (adult foliage is elongate and entire), while the

margin in top view is spinose (with five or fewer spines), directed forward toward the apex; petioles are to 1.1 cm ( $\frac{7}{16}$  inch) with an average annual growth rate of 7.7 cm (3 inches). The habit is compact and upright with overall slow growth.

Cloned specimens are in a holly reference collection at The Noor, Yeovil Road, Sherborne, Dorset in the U. K. In addition, a specimen cloned from the original isolate has been returned to Dyrham Park and is growing there. Attention was originally drawn to this sport by Mr. Dale Dennehy, head gardener at Dyrham Park, where it had apparently been ‘gathered’ for several years by local women to decorate a nearby church.

Selection was based on a general appearance resembling the male cultivar *I. aquifolium* ‘Silver Milkboy’ and the female cultivar ‘Silver Milkmaid’ morphotype, but is considered more decorative than either of the former clones. The younger foliage has a bright yellowish appearance and is slow growing. It is also important to note that the weakly spinose juvenile growth described is markedly different from most of the entire mature (adult) foliage. The origin of the cultivar name refers to the well-known limestone district in the U.K. where it was first discovered.

Hardiness is rated at Zone 7b–8b on the USDA Plant Hardiness Zone Map of 1990.

Voucher specimens are on deposit in the herbarium of the U.S. National Arboretum (NA), Washington, D.C. 20002.



*Ilex opaca* ‘Croonenburg’ in the Elmore Holly collection at the University of Tennessee Arboretum, Oak Ridge, TN. Photo by Charlie Jernigan

ANNUAL MEETING 2008  
HOLLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARDS

WOLF-FENTON AWARD

*Robert D. Artis*

Members of the Holly Society of America know that the Wolf-Fenton Award is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions and dedicated service in the field of holly. Marilyn Clark has exemplified that dedication and is the 2008 recipient of the Wolf-Fenton Award.

For many years, Marilyn and her late husband, Bill, had visions of a place where people could come to enjoy the beauty of hollies. Her dream was fulfilled in 1991, as Marilyn worked with the city of Terre Haute, Indiana, to initiate the concept of an arboretum in a public park. Deming Park was selected as the site, and in the fall of 1992, the first plantings were made. Marilyn worked diligently with the great Rivers Chapter of the Holly Society and Carl Suk to put together a master plan for the arboretum. Her active involvement with the arboretum has enabled it to prosper and grow. In 1998, another dream of Marilyn's was fulfilled when the arboretum was declared an Official Holly Arboretum by the Holly Society of America. In October 1999, the Indiana Urban Forest awarded the arboretum the "Outstanding Urban Forestry Project of the Year." To date, the arboretum has grown to encompass four hundred twenty-three plants, twelve species, and one hundred ninety-nine cultivars. The Clark-Landsbaum Deming Park Holly Arboretum also has the distinction of being the only official arboretum in a city park where all can enjoy the plantings.

Marilyn also established Friends of the Arboretum, a volunteer organization of local citizens. With her guidance and encouragement, this group has worked diligently to maintain the arboretum. Work days are scheduled several times each year to weed, fertilize, prune, and care for the hollies, which include trees and shrubs, both evergreen and deciduous.

Marilyn has long been active in the Holly Society of America and its great Rivers Chapter. She has served as both a trustee of the Society and the chairperson of its Awards Committee. Anyone who has met her at one of the Society's annual meetings looks forward to her pleasant smile and friendly conversation.

Marilyn's vision of hollies planted throughout the community became a reality in 2003. Terre Haute's City of Hollies project has grown because of Marilyn's hard work and active solicitation of grant funding. To date, more than ninety-three hollies have been planted. Some of the

locations include local schools and universities, city parks, Vigo County Fairgrounds, city hall, and the Vigo County Courthouse. Her hope is that the project will continue to grow and Terre Haute will become “Indiana’s City of Hollies.”

When visitors enter the Clark-Landsbaum Deming Park Holly Arboretum, they can tell that it is the result of many hours of careful attention. Marilyn’s dedication to educating the community about the beauty of holly is evident by the response received at displays at our County Fair and other venues. In the Wabash Valley when someone thinks of hollies, they think of Marilyn Clark.

#### WILLIAM F. KOSAR AWARD

*Michael R. Pontti*

Around 1999, I was contacted by Louise Bendall about registering a new cultivar found in a group of hollies on her farm, Highfield Farm on Hatch Lane in Liss, Hampshire, United Kingdom. The plant was unique in that the leaves were thinly variegated and glossy, but appeared to vary enormously from the original tree. On closer examination, however, leaves could always be found with a thin sliver of silver around their margins. This interesting, yet subtle observation was made by a person who had observed many holly clones but detected something new and unusual about this taxon. The registration, when finally completed, gave rise to the cultivar *Ilex aquifolium* ‘Silver Lining’, the first HSA registration completed in the new millennium.

Some eight years later, a select group of holly lovers made a tour of southern England, and one of the stops on the tour was Highfield Farm. Here we made personal contact with a very lovely lady, now known as Louise Bendall Duck, and the location where we were able to see ‘Silver Lining’ in all its glory. And how it showed that uniqueness in the midst of a “gold mine” of other beautifully shaped and expertly grown English clones! The entire group left wishing they could have transported the whole farm back to the States to show everyone how holly grown by this outstanding plantswoman is accomplished. We saw many famous English cultivars previously seen only in pictures, but also came away fascinated with the lady who gave adequate time to explain the evolution of Highfield Farm and the holly she cultivated. The group was truly humbled with the vast knowledge and enthusiasm she demonstrated for knowing and growing holly.

Louise Bendall Duck's love of her work with holly and contributions to the advancement of growing beautiful specimens, and her enthusiasm and warmth dealing with people coupled with the passion she has for the genus *Ilex*, make her an outstanding individual worthy of receiving the William F. Kosar Award.

### PRESIDENT'S AWARDS

These awards are given at the discretion of the Society's president to individuals or local chapters for outstanding service and dedication to the Holly Society of America. HSA president Bill Cannon honored two people at the 2008 Annual Holly Banquet and Awards Ceremony for their contributions to the Society and its activities. He first recognized Myo Myint for his important work as chairperson of the Investment Committee. He presented his second award to Barbara Taylor for her significant work as chairperson of the Arboretum Committee and as a member of the Awards Committee.

Earlier in the year, HSA's great Rivers Chapter had very generously presented the Society with a gift of \$1000 towards the costs of the meeting in Newark and The Dawes Arboretum. In recognition of their contribution, Bill presented the Chapter with a President's Award for their generous contribution to help defray the expenses of the 2008 Annual Meeting.

### WINNERS OF THE 2008 HOLLY SPRIG CONTEST

*William Kuhl*

The judges of the 2008 Holly Sprig Contest were Bob Adams, Bob Shumate, Jim Resch, Mike Pontti, Bob Hopkins, and Tom Molnar. The scribes were Bill Cannon, Jim Norton and Linda Parsons. Chairman Bill Kuhl announced the winners and presented the awards at the Annual Holly Banquet. Winners for the best sprigs and collections are listed below.

### AMATEUR DIVISION

Class I: *Ilex opaca*. Male: first, Charles Anderson, 'William Hawkins'; second, Charles Anderson, 'David'; third, Robert Artis, 'Indiana State'. Female: first, Charles Anderson, 'Dan Fenton'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Satyr Hill'; third, Charles Anderson, 'Vera'; honorable mention, Myo Myint, 'Manig'. Yellow Berried: first, Charles Anderson, 'Canary'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Villanova'; third, Robert Artis, 'Morgan Gold'.

Class II: *Ilex aquifolium*. Male: First: Myo Myint, 'Angustifolia'; second, M. Kenneth McQuage, unnamed; third, Myo Myint, 'Hastata';

honorable mention, Myo Myint, unnamed. Female: first, Myo Myint, 'Argentea Marginata'; second, Myo Myint, 'Medio-Picta'; third, M. Kenneth McQuage, 'Medio-Picta'; honorable mention, Myo Myint, 'Ferox Argentea Marginata'.

Class III: *Ilex crenata*. Male: First: Robert Artis, 'Green Dragon'; second, M. Kenneth McQuage, unnamed. Female: first, Myo Myint, 'Geisha'; second, Myo Myint, 'Dwarf Pagoda'. Variegated: First, Robert Artis, 'Drops of Gold'; second, Robert Artis, 'Golden Heller'.

Class IV: *Ilex cornuta*. Male: first, Charles Anderson, 'CH 122'; second, Jim and Marge Norton, unnamed; third, Charles Anderson, 'O'Spring'. Female: First, Myo Myint, unnamed; second, Charles Anderson, 'Bufordii'; third, Linda Parsons, 'Avery Island'; honorable mention, M. Kenneth McQuage, unnamed.

Class V: Deciduous Holly, *Ilex verticillata*. first, Charles Anderson, 'Winter Red'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Aurantiaca'; third, Charles Anderson, 'Maryland Beauty'; honorable mention, Charles Anderson, 'Chrysocarpa' and 'Winter Gold'. Deciduous Hollies: First, Linda Parsons, *I. decidua*; second, Charles Anderson, *I.* × 'Sparkleberry'; third, Charles Anderson, *I. serrata* 'Sundrops'; honorable mention, Jim and Marge Norton, *I. serrata*, and April Sandborn, *I. ambigua*.

Class VI: Miscellaneous Species. first, Myo Myint, *I. latifolia*; second, Charles Anderson, 'Shore Girl'; third, M. Kenneth McQuage, *I. pernyi*.

Class VII: Interspecific Hybrids. Male: first, Charles Anderson, 'Hugger'; second, Robert Artis, 'Dr. Bissonnette'; third, Linda Parsons, 'China Boy'. Female: first, M. Kenneth McQuage, *I.* × *meservae*; second, Charles Anderson, 'Dr. Kassab'; third, Charles Anderson, 'Bessie Smith'; honorable mention, M. Kenneth McQuage, 'Camelliaefolia' and 'Mary Nell'. Subclass *Ilex* × *koehneana*: first, Charles Anderson, 'Lassie'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Martha Berry'; third, Myo Myint, 'Loch Raven'; honorable mention, Charles Anderson, 'Ruby'. Subclass *Ilex* × *attenuata*: first, Charles Anderson, 'Sunny Foster'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Nasa'.

Arrangement: First, April Sandborn; second, Thien Thien Myint

The Wilson T. Mott Award for Best Evergreen Sprig, Amateur Division, was M. Kenneth McQuage for *I.* × *meservae* .



## PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

Class I: *Ilex opaca*. Male: first, William Kuhl, 'Jersey Knight'; second, William Cannon, 'Northwind'. Female: first, William Kuhl, 'Hume's Choice'; second, William Kuhl, 'Satyr Hill'; third, Chuck Wiley, unnamed; honorable mention, William Kuhl, 'Steward's Silver Crown' and 'Vera'. Yellow Berried: first, Christine Wiley, 'Xanhrocarpa'; second, Chuck Wiley, 'Xanthocarpa'; third, William Kuhl, 'Morgan Gold'.

Class II: *Ilex aquifolium*. Female: first, William Kuhl, 'Lewis'. Yellow Berried: second, William Cannon, 'Duquette'. Variegated: second, William Cannon, 'Golden Milkboy'.

Class III: *Ilex crenata*. Male: third, William Cannon, 'Golden Gem'. Female: first, Chuck Wiley, 'Dwarf Pagoda'; second, William Cannon, 'Watanabeana'; third, William Cannon, 'Ivory Tower'.

Class IV: *Ilex cornuta*. Male: second, William Kuhl, 'CH 121.' Female: second, William Kuhl, 'Burfordii Nana.'

Class V: Deciduous Holly. First, William Kuhl, 'Winter Gold'; second, William Cannon, 'Sundrops'; honorable mention, William Cannon, 'Sparkleberry' and 'Longwood Firefall'.

Class VI: Miscellaneous Species. First, William Kuhl, *I. glabra* 'Compacta'; honorable mention, William Cannon, *I. colchica*.

Class VII: Interspecific Hybrids. Male: second, William Kuhl, 'Edward Stevens'. Female: second, William Kuhl, 'Brilliant'; third, Chuck and Chris Wiley, 'Pernella'.

Subclass *Ilex* × *koehneana*. First, William Cannon, 'Lassie'; second, William Kuhl, 'Ruby'.

Subclass *Ilex* × *attenuata*. Second: William Cannon, unnamed; third, William Cannon, 'Alagold'.

The winner of the Stewart H. McLean Award for Best in Show, Professional Division, was William Cannon for *Ilex* × *koehneana* 'Lassie.'

PROCEEDINGS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL MEETING

October 30, 2008

The Holly Society of America's 2008 Annual Meeting convened at 8:50 a.m. on October 30, 2008, at The Place off the Square in Newark, Ohio. Bill Cannon presided as president. Those in attendance were Carole Cossaboon, secretary, James Ray Head, administrative vice-president, Linda Parsons, executive vice-president, and Dennis Superczynski, treasurer. Trustees present were Lydia Brittle, Jane Y. Christy, Earl Cully, Ann Farnham, Albert Hendley, Bob Hopkins, Richard Larson, James T. Norton and Chuck Wiley. Unable to attend were Ronald E. Solt, immediate past president, and trustees Bill Rathgeb and C. Richard Lehnert.

President Cannon opened the meeting by thanking everyone for coming and announced that most of the meeting activities would take place in the Club Room of the hotel. He also announced that Ron Solt was unable to attend due to health problems. Mr. Cannon stated that a Journal is ready and will be sent to the editor. Mrs. Parsons stated that another Journal is being prepared to be sent to press. Mr. Cannon, at the interim meeting, asked for a volunteer to head a committee for test plants. Mrs. Ann Farnham volunteered to head the committee. He thanked Mrs. Farnham for the good job she has done. Mr. Cannon spoke of those who have passed away and obituaries will be sent to the editor for insertion in future newsletters.

**Secretary's Report:** Carole Cossaboon. A motion was made to waive the reading of the Board of Trustee's June 14, 2008, Interim Board Minutes so they could be reviewed and corrected by Linda Parsons and Ann Farnham and re-sent to committee members. The motion was seconded and carried. Mr. Cannon noted the importance of keeping membership addresses current and up to date for all members. Mrs. Cossaboon informed the committee of the death of Mr. Francis Raughley on July 5, 2008. His obituary will be sent to the editor for publication in a future Holly Letter.

***Future Annual Meetings***

62<sup>nd</sup> Meeting: The 2009 meeting will be held at Martha's Vineyard from October 22 to October 25, 2009. Chuck Wiley, in charge of the meeting, presented his report and said that preparations were going well. He distributed a temporary itinerary. He stated that he needed a budget projection and Linda Parson said she would work with him to come up with figures. Mr. Wiley is still working on details for the hotel. There are two possibilities: The Mansion House, which does not have a meeting room, and another hotel which does. The cost of the second hotel will be between

\$85.00– \$90.00 per night. He said that he is still working out prices with the Mansion House and if it is chosen it is within walking distance of the second hotel. Mr. Wiley still needs to secure a speaker for the welcome dinner and someone for a lecture session. Bill Cannon said he might be able to help in that area. Linda Parson asked if we really need a speaker at the awards dinner because the agenda is already full. Ray Head inquired about transporting plants to the island for the plant auction and Mr. Wiley acknowledged that this would not be an issue as there would be room on the boat. Bill Cannon said that he would have his garden open and he would contact the Heritage Garden for anyone who wanted to stay for an extra day and tour. He said Martha's Vineyard is a very popular place for bird watching.

63<sup>rd</sup> Meeting: The 2010 Annual Meeting in Knoxville, Tennessee will be held from November 4 to November 7, 2010. Dennis Superczynski is working with Barbara Taylor. He presented the following information regarding the cost of the hotel: The Double Tree Hotel in Oak Ridge will cost \$99.00 per night and they will discount the meeting rooms from \$825.00 to \$500.00. He has several options for the early arrival tour which includes a personal tour by Dr. Susan Hamilton at The University of Tennessee Gardens on Campus. Other options after that tour are the Gatlinburg Aquarium or the Museum of Science and Energy. Friday's all day tour will begin with a visit to the University of Tennessee Arboretum's Harold Elmore Holly Collection to dedicate a new stone entrance that is being constructed. The stone entrance will contain the official Holly Society plaque. Afterwards members will go by bus to the Don Shadow Nursery and animal farm. Burt Henley remarked how fine the Don Shadow Nursery tour is. The welcome dinner and awards banquet will be held at the hotel. Mr. Superczynski stated that he has several speakers lined up.

64<sup>th</sup> Meeting: The 2011 meeting will be in Long Island, N.Y. Bud Gehnrich is gathering information with the new Long Island Chapter president. The chapter is looking forward to hosting the annual meeting. Linda Parsons will get in contact with them to make sure that they are on schedule for working out the details.

65<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 2012. There was a discussion of holding the meeting in Virginia. Lydia Brittle voiced some thoughts about some side tours such as the Maritime Museum. One problem is that Mrs. Brittle is considering resigning due to health issues and commented that the current vice president is not interested in hosting a meeting. Mike Pontti indicated that he may be able to have the meeting in the Northern Virginia area. Mrs. Brittle will

speak to her chapter at their next meeting to determine if there is enough support to host the meeting.

66<sup>th</sup> Meeting: 2013. A proposal was raised at the interim meeting in June to consider St. Louis, Missouri as a possible meeting location with Earl Culley in charge. Mr. Culley was not sure if he would be able to host the meeting but the possibility of Bob Hopkins handling the details was discussed.

### ***Committee Reports***

**Arboretum:** Ray Head. Barbara Taylor has resigned as chair due to health reasons. Bill Cannon has spoken to several people who agreed to eliminate this committee. It is a responsibility of the arboreta to supply the necessary holly inventory information and Linda Parsons thought that information could be gathered with correspondence between the society and the arboreta. Ray Head asked if anyone was interested in sending out the necessary forms and follow up if not they were not returned. Ann Farnham agreed to head this committee.

**Audit:** Dennis Superczynski. Mr. Superczynski checked with a public accountant who stated that an audit normally is not required for a non-profit organization due to expense. She said that what organizations generally do is have someone on the board review the treasurer's documents. At the interim meeting there were no volunteers to review the documents and a suggestion was made to have the treasurer pass out a detailed profit and loss statement which lists all the transactions for the executive board to review. Mr. Superczynski gave the report to President Bill Cannon, Mrs. Linda Parsons, and Mr. Ray Head for review. A motion was made to change the budget date to the annual meeting. Mr. Head asked if this motion should be made after the treasurer's report. It was agreed to wait.

**Awards:** Marjorie Norton, the committee's chairperson, sent an email stating that all necessary letters and awards for this year have been taken care of. The two award plaques are finished. Blue Ridge Arboretum will receive one plaque this year and another will be given to The Polly Hill Arboretum next year as the Annual Meeting will be held nearby.

### **Big Tree: No Report**

**Bylaws:** James Head read an email from Charles Anderson regarding the proposed change of attendance at the interim meetings. He does not recommend changing the bylaws for attendance at meetings and to keep the bylaws as status quo. Bill Cannon stated that it is getting harder for committees and trustees to attend the interim meeting due to cost. Linda Parsons suggested perhaps sending the recorded minutes via email for review to be sent back within one week on items that require votes. Ray

Head stated that doing it in this manner would also require a change in the bylaws. Albert Hendley suggested that *Go to Meeting* or web cam to do this would be legal for a meeting. Linda Parsons, the computer specialist, will look into these options. Ray Head suggested changing our financial year to coincide with the Annual Meeting when most board members are present. Dennis Superczynski suggested changing the dates for the budget report to the annual meeting, as stated above under Audit.

Computer Applications: No report

Editorial Committee: Linda Parsons. The Holly Letters should go out in March, with information about the interim meeting; July and September Holly Letters will include information about the upcoming annual meeting. A December Holly Letter was considered with possible information about sprig winners from the Annual Meeting. A Journal is at the printer and should be ready for mailing by the end of November. The new editor, Irene Nicholson, has all the material needed for the 2008 journals. Mrs. Parsons and Ms. Nicholson have the contents for a Holly Letter in December. The HSA journals should be back on schedule for mailings in March and September. Bill Cannon stated the need for articles and pictures from members and said that they should be sent to Irene Nicholson, the new editor, for publication in future Holly Letters. Mr. Cannon said that future speakers must give a synopsis of their speeches for upcoming publications. Mrs. Parsons had 5000 copies printed of "Tips on Choosing, Planting and Caring for Your Holly" which is published by the Holly Society. This booklet will be included in new member packets and to members as a courtesy. Non-members will be able to purchase the pamphlet for \$2.00. Reviewers for the Holly Letters and journals will be Ann Farnham and Linda Parsons and two other reviewers will be added. It was emphasized that a quick turnaround from the reviewers is very important. It was also agreed that the Holly Letter must be edited by the Editorial Committee.

Test Hollies: Ann Farnham. Mr. Head feels that the test holly program could spark the interest of prospective members to become interested in holly and a reason to start attending the annual meetings. At the meetings members will be able to acquire unique test holly plants free of charge. Mrs. Farnham heads this committee and will keep updated evaluation records from those who acquire these plants.

Holly of the Year: No report

Investments: Beginning Trust Fund Assets were \$87,489.33 as of April 1, 2008. During the following six month period, total interest earned was \$1812.56. Semiannual interest earned from Treasury Notes from the Research Trust Fund was \$925.00 and was transmitted to the Treasurer (08/

28/08). Ending Trust Fund Assets were \$88,376.89 as of September 30, 2008. At this time the HSA has no replacement date for Myo Myint, the former investments chair.

New Members: No report

Membership: No report

Nominations: Ron Solt. Mr. Head reported the following on nominees: the administrative vice president nominee is Jane Y. Christy, the executive vice president nominee is Linda Parsons and the president nominee is James Ray Head. The new board members are Bob Hopkins, James Resch and Clara Joan Johnson. Ballots for those who wish to vote will be readily available at the registration table. Bill Cannon will replace Ron Solt as nomination chairperson.

Publicity: Bill Cannon. Mr. Cannon discussed selling a picture of the holly of the year at the annual public auction.

Registration: Mike Pontti. Mr. Pontti received a registration of *I. × wandoensis*, which will be published in a 2008 HSA Journal. Mrs. Parsons has 40 years of *Ilex* cultivar lists by the Holly Society available on her computer. A discussion took place about the best way to have this list published.

Student Awards Program: No report.

Treasurer's Report: Dennis Superczynski. Mr. Superczynski gave the Treasurer's reports and statement of profit and loss for the period of April 1 through September 30, 2008. The September 30, 2008, total assets are \$91,203.62. A motion was made to accept the Treasurer's reports. The motion was seconded and carried by the Board to accept the reports.

As discussed above, Mr. Superczynski would prefer that the 2009 fiscal year budget be approved at the annual meeting rather than the interim meeting. A motion was made to accept the budget at the annual meeting. The motion was seconded and carried by the Board to accept the change.

Budget: Linda Parson inquired if the budget could be approved by the executive committee rather than the entire board. Ray Head stated the budget is basically a guideline and did not see any reason why the budget could not be accepted over the internet. Bill Cannon asked if Mr. Superczynski could gather the information about the budget and forward to the executive committee for approval. Mr. Superczynski will send the budget information after the end of the fiscal year in April.

Unfinished Business

1. Richard Larson asked if the promotion material for the Annual Meeting could be received at least 2 months before the meeting. There was a discussion about having a Holly Letter in July which would announce the

date and location followed in September with a one-page flyer reminding members of the Annual Meeting. The possibility of setting up a Paypal account on the Holly Society's website was discussed for members to pay for the Annual Meeting through Paypal. Linda Parsons noted that it was not cost effective for the HSA to pay with a credit card.

2. Richard Larson asked about the possibility of recruiting highly qualified international speakers for the national meetings.

#### New Business

Interim Meeting: The next Interim Board Meeting will be held June 12–13, 2009, in Millville, New Jersey.

A motion was made for a continuing resolution which would authorize the treasurer to pay bills that come due between March 31, 2009, the end of the HSA's fiscal year, and the 2009 Interim Board Meeting. The motion was seconded and adopted.

Raising Revenue: Ray Head said he would like to have a committee formed to look at ways to raise revenue or cut spending. Mr. Head said he thought Dennis Superczynski and Burt Hendley were good possible committee heads. Earl Culley and Bill Cannon also volunteered. Mr. Head is against a dues increase at this time. He feels that this committee could communicate ideas through emails. Linda Parsons recommended that this be a standing committee, something that would not disappear. Mr. Head wants some recommendations by the June 2009 meeting. Another possible way to raise revenue as discussed is to perhaps patent a holly under the organization's name to sell.

Chuck Wiley said that if we invite the public inside the sprig room of the hotel for next year's annual meeting we will need liability insurance. If we do not carry liability insurance the hotel will provide it at a cost of \$150.00.

It was noted that anyone who would like to make a gift donation can do so through their 401K without paying taxes. Mr. Cannon suggested that this be placed in the Holly Letter for member's information. Mrs. Parsons noted that the Great Rivers Chapter donated \$1000 to the 2008 Annual Meeting.

Ray Head announced that Bill Cannon will replace Ron Solt as the nominating committee chairman.

Ann Farnham has been working with Pedro González-Gutiérrez to finish his manuscript on the genus *Ilex* in the Antilles. Linda Parsons made a recommendation to publish Pedro González-Gutiérrez' Antilles manuscript as Bulletin #23. A motion was made to have the Bulletin #23 printed in the most cost effective way. The motion was seconded and carried.

Dennis Superczynski commended the outgoing president, Bill Cannon for his fine work as president of the Holly Society.

A motion was made at 2:30 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Carole Cossaboon, Holly Society Secretary

HOLLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. FINANCIAL REPORT  
INTERIM BALANCE SHEET  
As of September 30, 2008

<u>Account</u>	<u>Balance</u>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
AmSouth Bank	\$5.39
Bank of America NJ – Checking	\$1,729.33
Bank of America NJ – Savings	\$592.01
Petty Cash – Secretary	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$2,826.73
Other Assets	
Trust Fund – Life Member	\$21,573.50
Trust Fund – Research	\$42,605.26
Trust Fund – Wolf/Memorial	<u>\$24,198.13</u>
Total Other Assets	\$88,376.89
Total Assets	<u>\$91,203.62</u>
<b>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</b>	
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
P-0 S. Scheffer Grant	\$1,000.00
P-1 P. Gutiérrez Grant	<u>\$1,267.00</u>
Total Liabilities	\$2,267.00
<b>EQUITY</b>	
Total Liability & Equity	<u>\$88,936.62</u>
	<u>\$91,203.62</u>

Respectfully submitted,

Dennis Superczynski, Treasurer



∞ MEETING PARTICIPANTS ∞  
2008 ANNUAL MEETING\*\*

Adams, Mr. Robert, 1453 North Riley Highway, Shelbyville, IN 46176

Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Dorothy), 11801 Greenspring Avenue,  
Owings Mills, MD 21117

Andrews, Ms. Susyn, 86 Thompson Avenue, Kew, Richmond, Surrey  
TW9 4JN, England

Artis, Mr. Robert, 743 Rose Harbour Court, Terre Haute, IN 47803

Atwood, Mr. Aaron, 154 East Myrtle Street, Palmyra, IL 62674

Bernhardt, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Sarah), Indian Orchards, 24 Copes Lane,  
Media, PA 19063

Brittle, Mrs. Lydia, 407 Russell Avenue, Apt. 413, Gaithersburg, MD  
20877

Cannon, Mr. William, 2081 Main Street, Brewster, MA 02631

Chaffins, Mr. & Mrs. Mark (Vicki), 364 Loretta Drive, Shepherdsville,  
KY 40165

\*Cossaboon, Mrs. Carole, 1102 South 2nd Street, Millville, NJ 08332

Cully, Mr. Earl, Heritage Trees, Inc., 846 Hoagland Road, Box 84A,  
Jacksonville, IL 62650

Ecker, Mr. Mike, The Dawes Arboretum, 7770 Jacksontown Road, SE,  
Newark, OH 43056-9380

Farnham, Mrs. Ann, 68 Lochatong Road, West Trenton, NJ 08628

\*Fisher, Ms. Beckie, The Dawes Arboretum, 7770 Jacksontown Road,  
SE, Newark, OH 43056

Head, Mr. & Mrs. James Ray (Mary Ann), 1087 Baber Road, Rutherford-  
ton, NC 28139

Hendley, Mr. & Mrs. Albert (Susan), 400 Yale Avenue, Zanesville, OH  
43701

Hopkins, Mr. Bob, TNZ Nursery, 1800 Wickham Way, Louisville, KY  
40223

Hopkins, Mr. Tom, TNZ Nursery, 1800 Wickham Way, Louisville, KY  
40223

Kuhl, Mr. William, McLean Nurseries, 9000 Satyr Hill Road, Baltimore,  
MD 21234

\*Landini, Ms. Peg, TNZ Nursery, 1800 Wickham Way, Louisville, KY  
40223

Larson, Mr. Rich, 226 South Quentin Road, Newark, OH 430551

\*Lightfoot, Mr. Paul, 8444 East 700 South, Upland, IN 46989

McQuage, Mr. Ken, 9806 Hilltop Drive, Parkville, MD 21234  
Molnar, Dr. Thomas, 59 Dudley Road, New Brunswick, NJ 08901  
Myint, Mr. & Mrs. Myo (Thein Thein), 933 Morris Avenue, Bryn Mawr,  
PA 19010  
Norton, Mr. James (Margie), 404 Center Street, Barnsboro, NJ 08080  
Orton, Dr. Elwin, 1500 Main Street, Millstone, NJ 08844  
Parsons, Mrs. Linda, 11318 West Murdock, Wichita, KS 67212  
Pontti, Mr. & Mrs. Michael (Diana), 10520 Cedar Avenue, Fairfax, VA  
22030  
Resch, Dr. James, 5 Heather Loft Court, Bear, DE 19701  
Sanborn, Ms. April, P.O. Box 69, Webster, NC 28788  
Shumate, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Cathy), 4316 Cassell Boulevard, Prince  
Frederick, MD 20678  
\*Starrett, Dr. Mark, Department of Plant and Soil Science, College of  
Agriculture and Life Science, The University of Vermont, Hills Agri-  
cultural Building, 105 Carrigan Drive, Burlington, VT 05405  
Superczynski, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis (Janet), 12104 Aspenwood Drive,  
Knoxville, TN 37934  
Tatum, Patrick J., P.O. Box 3151, Terre Haute, IN 47803  
Welch, Dr. & Mrs. Robert (Betty), 4409 Atwick Road, Baltimore, MD  
21210  
Wiley, Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Chris), Vineyard Gardens, P.O. Box 550,  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

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\*\*Starred (\*) names indicate people attending their first Holly Society Annual Meeting.

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