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Holly Society of America

Gene Eisenbeiss *Hollies of the Year*



2003  
'Satyr Hill'



2008  
'Maryland  
Beauty'



2004  
'Sky Pencil'



2009  
'Scepter'



2005  
'Lassie'



2010  
'Red Sprite'



2006  
'Sunny Foster'



2011  
'Nelly Stevens'



2007  
'Lewis'



2012  
'Proud Mary'



The 2003-2012 Holly of the Year Poster by Bill Cannon, donated to and sold by the Holly Society. See page 17 for details.

## PREPARING FOR A HOLLY SPRIG CONTEST

*Charles Anderson*

**S**prig contests are a high point at Annual Holly Society of America meetings, and are a great way to promote and learn about holly. In a contest, people may view an array of cultivars at their peak form, including some that are less well-known or even rare. Producing a prize-winning holly sprig does not happen overnight, however. Good plant culture, selection, and preparation of the sprig are essential for a rewarding outcome.

A holly sprig is the terminal growth of a side branch of a genus *Ilex* plant, with sufficient length to display its identifying leaf, berry, and stem characteristics. An evergreen sprig may be up to 18 inches (45.7 cm) in length and may contain side branches. A deciduous sprig may be up to 24 inches (61 cm) in length, primarily to display its berries. A cutting for propagation, 3–4 inches (7.7–10.2 cm) long and without side branches, is not a sprig.

Exhibitors are rewarded for their years of cultural practice, and sprig reviewers receive an education on the diversity and special beauty of numerous cultivars. All members should aim for peak quality in growing their hollies and be encouraged to submit entries in contests. One way to get started is to volunteer to be a sprig show scribe or an assistant. Volunteers do not talk or try to influence judges but just observe and learn from the judges.

William Kuhl has been chair of the sprig contest committee of the Holly Society of America, Inc. for many years. He shares this advice for those entering sprigs: “There are intangible factors that are very important to improving the quality of sprigs:

- **Enthusiasm:** Have a love of growing holly and a desire to contribute to a sprig contest.
- **Dedication:** Make the effort to grow holly the best one can and then take the time to carefully select, prepare, and enter sprigs.
- **Continuous improvement:** Ask for feedback if your sprigs do not compete well. Observe the judging of sprigs. Continue to participate and you will improve.”

### USING SPRIGS FROM EXISTING HOLLIES

Sprig contest entries usually come from existing hollies. Your existing hollies may be in excellent condition and ready for sprig competition or they may require additional cultural practices to reach the peak condi-

tion you desire. Several items to consider or to help improve the quality of your sprigs are location, insect problems, and fertilization.

**Location:** If your holly is in a sunny or partially sunny location and not doing well, its condition may be improved with pruning and fertilization. If it is in dense shade, its health can be improved but its foliage and berry production will be severely limited when competing with hollies growing in a sunny location.

**Insect Problems:** There are insecticides available to control most insect problems. Leafminers affect various hollies and are the main culprits that cause disfiguring mines in holly leaves, particularly the *opacas*. Controlling this problem is discussed later in this article in "Cultural Practices." Infestation by spider mites causes subnormal foliage growth. The holly berry midge is a tiny brown mosquito-like insect that causes holly berries to remain green, particularly on *Ilex opaca*. If only one or two berries are infected, they may be carefully removed for a sprig contest. However, if the infestation is greater, the sprig should not be entered in a sprig contest.

**Fertilization:** Fertilization is usually the best and quickest way to improve holly quality. Lack of nutrients causes yellowing or stunting of foliage and short terminal shoot growth. Hollies enjoy being fed, particularly with nitrogen. However, use a balanced fertilizer high in nitrogen. I use 10-6-4 fertilizer at about one pound to each inch (2.5 cm) of plant trunk diameter. A yearly application in March can do wonders for an ailing existing holly. I broadcast a granular fertilizer adjacent to the plant drip line, but with certain very weak trees, or with individual trees growing in the lawn, I use the steel bar method. I poke a hole about 6 inches (15 cm) deep every foot (30.1 cm) or two (61 cm) just inside and just outside the tree drip line. I fill the hole with 10-6-4 fertilizer to within one inch (2.5 cm) of the soil surface. I kick in the top inch (2.5 cm) of soil to seal the hole or place soil in the void to prevent a spurt of grass growth from the fertilizer.

#### USING SPRIGS FROM NEW PLANTS

Begin by selecting a quality plant with healthy foliage and branches free of insect damage. Plants may be obtained from a nursery, a plant sale, a generous holly enthusiast, or a Holly Society auction.

Planting your holly is very important. Most hollies love the sun and will tolerate partial shade. While hollies may exist in shade, they will not produce excellent sprigs or specimen plants. An exception would be the *crenatas*, which seem to be happier in shade or semi-shade. *Crenatas* are

native plants in South Korea. When we were there in the 1990s I was surprised to see these formal-appearing plants growing naturally in full sun in open fields. *Crenata* volunteers in my garden appear only in a heavily shaded area. Hollies have been great for offering me an occasional surprise.

The plant pit should be a minimum of 12 inches (30.5 cm) wider than the pot or balled and burlapped ball. My experience has taught me to dig the hole 4–6 inches (10.2–15 cm) deeper than the ball or at least loosen the soil 4–6 inches (10.2–15 cm) below the ball. I always use soil amendments in my backfill mix because I want my plants to thrive, not just survive. I use one part peat moss, peat humus, or compost to about four parts of existing soil. Builders sand is also an excellent amendment, particularly if the existing soil is on the clay side. Contrary to what some authorities may say, I always spread a little Holly Tone® (4-3-4) on my backfill mix. Depending on the plant size, I use 4–6 ounces (113–170 g) of it per plant. Using too much can burn tender young roots. Thoroughly mix all the amendments and break up the earth clods.

Hollies should be planted about 1 inch (2.5 cm) higher than they were in the ball or pots. I previously mentioned to backfill or at least loosen the soil below the ball. However, before placing the ball in the pit it is very important to thoroughly tamp loose soil below the ball to prevent settling of the plant. Planting too deep is detrimental to the survival of the holly and could result in loss of the plant or severe stunting.

Water twice for thorough watering, once after backfilling the hole halfway and again after completing the fill process and making a soil saucer to catch and hold water. Mulch with about 2 inches (5 cm) of mulch to retain moisture, keep soil at an even temperature and help reduce or eliminate weeds. My mulch preference is pine bark nuggets for their exceptionally long life, weed suppression, and the very important attribute concerning nitrogen in the soil. Pine bark contains much more lignin than cellulose, while wood chips contain much more cellulose than lignin. Cellulose is broken down naturally by soil bacteria that obtain their life giving nitrogen requirements from the soil. The loss of nitrogen in the soil causes yellowing of plant foliage that is not a healthy sign. This can be very noticeable when fresh wood chips are used as mulch. It is beneficial for deciduous wood chips to be composted for several years because the cellulose is broken down by bacteria before being used as mulch. If wood chips are your only source of mulch, sprinkle Urea (38-0-0) on the soil surface before applying the mulch to compensate for nitro-

gen loss in the soil. Urea is best because other forms of nitrogen may raise the pH in the soil.

Pruning may or may not be necessary at the time of planting, unless you are planting bare root and need to compensate for root loss. If the holly is of the pyramidal type similar to most of the *opacas*, it may be necessary to select one strong leader and remove or cut back other leaders to encourage a strong single leader plant. After I have nurtured hollies for 2 or 3 years I prune them once a year in late winter to remove any suckers and branches that may protrude beyond the cultivar's normal shape. I only use pruning shears and make individual cuts. I do not use hedge clippers that would produce a formal, unnatural appearance with short shoots that do not make good sprigs. Hollies growing with a natural form produce the best sprigs. My hollies are maintained in their natural form, including the ones I use for wind breaks.

#### CULTURAL PRACTICES

Hollies are heavy feeders so it is important to fertilize plants after they are 2 or 3 years old. I fertilize my hollies once a year in late February or early March. I use 10-6-4 granular fertilizer for its economy, broadcast with one-third of the fertilizer inside the plant foliage drip line and two-thirds immediately outside the drip line. I apply about 1 pound (0.5 kg) to each inch (2.5 cm) of trunk diameter.

The only pesticide spraying I do annually is for leafminer on American hollies. I use a systemic insecticide and apply it when the new growth, which occurs about the first week in May, is about the size of a pinky nail.

I may water a young holly the first and second year after planting if the weather is very dry. After that, none of my hollies are watered.

My hollies are planted in mulched beds of 10 to 25 plants with five-foot (1.5 m) grass strips in between the beds to greatly reduce maintenance. I keep each entire bed mulched with 2–3 inches (5–8 cm) of the previously discussed mulch.

Mulch suppresses weeds, but they are inevitable in the landscape. I try not to pull weeds unless they are close to holly foliage because pulling brings up soil containing more weed seed. I apply Roundup® to kill weeds about once a month. By doing this, the weed problem lessens each year. I use Roundup® because it kills the weed top growth and the roots, and its active chemical breaks down when it hits the soil. It doesn't leave a residual effect in the soil to harm my hollies. As a word of caution, make sure the weed spray does not contact the foliage of your desirable

plants. If for any reason the herbicide spray touches foliage of a desirable plant, immediately prune and remove that foliage to reduce any additional translocated effect to the plant.

After caring for your holly for several years, the foliage and berries should be of good color and size. All your care will provide additional benefits when you make table decorations, wreaths, or other holly arrangements that are especially beautiful.

#### FINAL SELECTION OF SPRIGS FOR CONTEST

It is now time to select your sprigs for a sprig contest, which may be at the national or chapter level, or at a local garden club show. Selecting these sprigs is an art. There will be times when, at a distance, a plant appears to be a good candidate. However, finding a winning sprig may be very difficult, or you may not find a suitable entry. Sprig selection is a welcome opportunity to inspect your hollies at close range. Too often we view our hollies in a superficial manner and not in depth, noticing each leaf and berry analytically. I always find something that I did not see before sprig selection time. This is another good reason to enter a sprig contest.

In sprig selection, find a plant shoot with normal seasonal growth for the particular cultivar. You don't want leaves too large from excessive shade or stunted for some reason. Widely spaced leaves that occur from an excessive spurt of growth do not make a good sprig. Good leaf and berry color typical for your cultivar is important. Yellow leaves usually mean a lack of nitrogen or another nutrient. Eliminate from consideration a specimen if it has foliage leafminer damage. Occasionally, a leaf may exhibit an irregular shaped hole that may have been caused by grasshopper feeding. Don't use the sprig if several leaves have these holes. If only one leaf has a grasshopper hole and the remainder of the sprig is excellent, enter the sprig in the contest.

Theoretically, you are not to remove any berries for any reason. In practice, you will lose an occasional berry during sprig cleaning, transporting, and handling before your sprigs are placed on the show table. Therefore, if there are one or two discolored berries, particularly on deciduous holly, carefully and discreetly remove them.

Sprig leaves, berries, and short side branches should be well balanced to produce a beautiful specimen. Sometimes one heavily berried stem on an evergreen holly will be a prize winner sprig. I look for a three-stem evergreen formation rather than a two-stem. Both a three-stem and a one-stem have more beauty than a two-stem. Lopsided, out of bal-

ance sprigs do not have any aesthetic appeal. A well-shaped sprig with good color and berry distribution will be quick to catch a judge's eye.

Sprig contests contain separate classifications for yellow fruited, variegated, and male hollies. There are fewer entries in these classes and your chance of placing or winning is better. The sprig contest is an educational event, and an opportunity to display new cultivar selections and sprigs of unusual species and seldom-seen cultivars.

#### A FAVORITE SPRIG

One of my best entries has been *Ilex opaca* 'Vera'. A 'Vera' sprig is a beauty, with its tight dark green curved foliage and abundant vibrant red berries. Also, 'Vera' sprigs 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 cm) long make a great holiday corsage. The form of a young plant itself is not exceptional. My 'Vera' is about 5 feet (1.5 m) wide and 15 feet (4.6 m) tall with open sections after 15 years. When this holly becomes old, it will become bell shaped and attractive with dark green foliage and shining red berries.

#### CUTTING, CLEANING, AND PREPARING SPRIGS

Selecting a great sprig takes longer than cutting and cleaning a sprig. I cut my sprigs as late as possible before entering a sprig show. However, I go out several days ahead of time and carefully select the sprigs I want, then tie a brightly colored ribbon on them. Occasionally, I may select two from a plant and decide later which one I will enter into the show. One may enter only one sprig for each cultivar.

I cut my sprigs at a sharp angle the day before leaving for a sprig show. Cleaning the sprigs is very important. I remember judging a local show where several fine sprigs were soiled with dirt, dust, and insect webs. This usually turns a judge away. I clean my sprigs in a deep sink using the mild detergent, Woolite®, in cold water. It does not leave a film on the foliage. First, remove any dirt, dust, bird waste, or insect webs, then gently shake the sprigs in the water and detergent solution. Particularly observe the back of the leaves because this is usually where dirt collects. When the back of the leaves are clean, the front will most likely be clean. Rinse the sprigs with clear water, making sure soap bubbles are removed. Finally, place the sprigs on a plastic cover for partial drying.

Although I have never done it, I understand some people go an additional step to preserve freshness. They make 2 or 3 longitudinal slits in the end of the sprig stem and place the sprig in warm water to induce a turgid condition before transporting the sprigs. You may wish to try this.

Most of the time deciduous sprigs have not lost all of their summer foliage by show time. If a show is in mid-November the foliage will be



gone from frosts, but if the show is in October most of the foliage may remain on the plant. If the foliage remains on the sprig, it will wither by judging time resulting in a poor specimen. Removing the numerous leaves one at a time is a tedious, time consuming but very necessary job. Use great care not to knock off berries in the process. The terminal leaf of each stem seems to be the strongest so I hold that leaf and remove all the other leaves on the stem. I then carefully pinch off the terminal leaf. A good deciduous sprig has berries at or close to the stem tips.

#### IDENTIFICATION

It is very important to correctly identify sprigs, especially as judges frown on an incorrectly identified sprig. Some sprigs are very easy to identify, but I don't take any chances. I identify questionable sprigs with a piece of ribbon with an abbreviation of the cultivar name. The best method is to use Fred C. Galle's book, *Hollies, the Genus Ilex*. The sprig show chairperson may be able to help identify your specimen. If in doubt, just label the sprig card with *Ilex* and the species. Sprig entry cards provide important information on judging criteria.

#### TRANSPORTING

Transporting the cherished sprigs to the show is the final step. Carefully place them in a large plastic bag. If the quantity of sprigs requires it, use more than one bag to prevent overcrowding that could cause breakage or loss of berries. Put several drops of water in the plastic bag and keep the bag in a dark area to retain freshness. If at all possible, don't place your bag of sprigs in the trunk of the car since the sun may bake your prize winning specimens. Place your sprig bag in the back seat so the sprigs can enjoy the same temperature as the vehicle occupants. If you are flying to a sprig contest, special care will be required to prevent your precious sprigs from being crushed or injured during transit. Treat your holly sprigs with gentle care and they might reward you with blue ribbons.

#### REFERENCES:

Barton M. Bauers, Sr., "How to Pick a Winner: a Guide to Competitive Exhibition of Holly Sprigs." Holly Society of America, Inc. Bulletin No. 15 (1977).

Dr. Francis Gouin, Chairman, Department of Horticulture, University of Maryland, "Murdering Hollies with Mulch." Presentation at 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Holly Society of America, Columbia, Maryland, November 9, 1991.

## FRENCH CONNECTION TOUR, 2009

*Dennis Superczynski*

In September 2009, several Holly Society Members and friends from the University of Tennessee Arboretum and Gardens journeyed to Western Europe to visit a few of Europe's grandest gardens, and to connect with our good friend and loyal Holly Society member Albert Néel and his wife, Anik.

First visiting the Netherlands, our modest-sized group of eight witnessed the events taking place at FloraHolland, the largest flower auction in the world where 48 million flowers and plants are traded daily. It is a spectacular sight, with thousands of carts transporting fresh flowers and plants for shipment all over the world. Visiting local growers, the gardens of Keukenhof Castle, and Naktuinbouw, the Netherlands inspection service for horticulture, enabled us to capture the essence of this marvelous growing region.

We next visited Les Jardins d'Annevoie, the Gardens of Annevoie, near Brussels. The spectacular natural water gardens take visitors back to the eighteenth century as they stroll through the still-evolving gardens filled with breathtaking plant and water features. Originally laid out by Charles-Alexis de Montpellier in the eighteenth century, the gardens reflect three different design philosophies: the French style, where "art corrects nature" and dictates straight lines and long perspectives; the English style, where "art imitates nature" by creating artificial reproductions of natural features; and the Italian style, where "art adapts to nature" with curves and surprise effects, particularly by using water. It was a lovely prelude as our group headed into France to meet with Albert Néel at the Château d'Yville and his farm in Yville, Normandy!



The Water Gardens of Annevoie. Photo by Dennis Superczynski.

Arriving in Varengeville and Sainte Marguerite sur Mer, not far from Château d'Yville, our group met Albert and his two friends, Jan Ravensberg and Bart Schupper. Forty years ago all three were partners in a nursery in the Netherlands. We began our visit with a relaxing outdoor lunch-

eon. We went to the nearby Vasterival Garden, a woodland garden created in the mid-twentieth century by Princess Sturdza, a Norwegian, and her husband, Prince Sturdza, a Romanian. Considered to be one of the most beautiful gardens in France, it is open to visitors by appointment only. An associate of the Princess led us through the naturalized private



Princess Sturza's residence, La Vasterival Garden. Photo by Dennis Superczynski.

garden pathways overlooking the Seine River and allowed us to take photographs, something not often permitted. It has flowing lines and plants in naturalistic, romantic-style groupings, reminiscent of an English woodland garden. We next visited the nearby Shamrock Hydrangea Collection, the French national collection and the largest hydrangea collection in the world.

Albert's friend and owner of the collection, Robert Mallet, escorted us through paths of hundreds of hydrangea varieties all in magnificent bloom at this time of year. Our touring for the day concluded with dinner and an overnight in Rouen, the historic capital of Normandy.

The following morning our tour returned to Yville for an entire day to visit with Albert and Anik Néel at both Château d'Yville and their family farm and gardens. Here we were also greeted by Albert's sister Madeleine, his daughter Emmanuelle, and his friends Jan and Bart, for a tour of the château's grounds and arboretum. The back of the château overlooks the Seine River and has formal terraced gardens planted with 2,000 David Austin roses, anchored by hollies and boxwoods. The eighteenth century château is classified as a "monument historique classé" by



The Néels Thatched Roof Home. Photo by Dennis Superczynski.

the French Authorities and is privately owned, so it is usually closed to the public. In June 2008, the Château officially opened the trial gardens and the Holly collection with Albert Louis Néel as manager and curator. Albert is a collector of *Ilex* (Holly), *Buxus* (Boxwood), *Euonymus* (Spindle Bush), and *Syringa* (Lilac). The objectives of the holly trial garden are to study cultivars and varieties of holly; to study adaptation and resistance of hollies under varying acidity and light conditions; and to form a complete collection of both cultivars and hybrids for possible introduction to France of new varieties or species.

The trial gardens are located next to Albert's farm and thatched roof



Pigeon Tower. Photo by  
Dennis Superczynski.

home where we all enjoyed refreshments before touring the collection. Well-labeled and manicured, the collection was a fascinating and rewarding botanical experience. Walled gardens and a brick pigeon tower presented a lovely backdrop for the collections. Following some pleasant leisure time on the château's grounds, we enjoyed a delicious, intimate buffet luncheon inside the château that was prepared for us by Anik, Madeleine, and Emmanuelle.

In the afternoon Albert guided us to a one-hectare fenced plot in the forest containing only hollies. Albert has dubbed this area "Holly Wood," and it contains perfectly labeled plants along well-defined paths. We stopped at a nearby site with a huge thousand-year-old oak tree that dwarfed our group, where we had our photographs taken. Our day ended with a delicious dinner at the Royal Couscous restaurant before returning to Rouen for the evening.

After this lovely visit with Albert, his family and friends, it was time to leave for Paris and return home. Along the way we stopped to visit Claude Monet's Garden in Giverny, a special treat, and finally arrived in Paris. We toured the Champs-Élysées, an avenue that connects the Arc de Triomphe and the Place de la Concorde in the heart of Paris, and visited the Eiffel Tower. Ooh la la, the tour ended with an evening walk past the Moulin Rouge Cabaret for a farewell dinner on the hill in Montmartre.

Guests on the tour included Holly Society members Dennis and Jan Superczynski, Jane Christy and Joan Johnson, and friends of the University

of Tennessee Arboretum and Gardens Debbie Allen, Evelyn Lorenz, Sondra Jamison, and Russell Manning. Albert Neél's friends accompanying us were Jan Ravensberg, a nurseryman in Clara, County Offaly, Ireland, and Bart Schupper from Hazerswoude, Netherlands.

Our special thanks go to Albert and Anik Neél, Madeleine Neél, and Emmanuelle Zezioli-Neél for hosting our group in Yville.



The group under the thousand-year-old oak tree on the Château d'Yville grounds.  
Photo by Dennis Superczynski.

## THE HOLLY OF THE YEAR: A HISTORY

*Bill Cannon*

At a Trustees' meeting in 2002 the idea for a Holly of the Year came up. The idea to bring the best hollies to the attention of the public, while informing gardeners and nurserymen about the existence of the Holly Society, seemed to be a good one. We added the name of the late Gene Eisenbeiss, "Mr. Holly," to the selection to honor our good friend and holly expert who did a vast amount of work over the years to help the Holly Society.

The first holly that we chose, 'Satyr Hill', was the Holly of the Year for 2003. The Trustees voted on selections for the following five years at their next meeting. We chose hollies, for at least this first group, that would be available at a wide range of nurseries, easy to grow, and hardy in a number of zones.

*Ilex opaca* 'Satyr Hill' was chosen for 2003. A fine American holly, it was selected and introduced by Stewart McLean who registered it in 1970. 'Satyr Hill' stands out among the many cultivars of *I. opaca*. The leaves are large and typical of American holly except that they are nearly flat. The fruit is large and bright red. Pollination is easily accomplished using an *opaca* male such as 'Jersey Knight' or 'Baltimore Buzz'. 'Satyr Hill' is hardy well into zone 5.

The holly chosen for 2004 was *I. crenata* 'Sky Pencil'. 'Sky Pencil' is a female Japanese holly that was discovered on Mount Dai-sen in Honshu Japan. It was named by N. Shibamichi and first introduced to the United States in 1985. 'Sky Pencil' is a very popular plant in Japan and after 20 years it has become popular in nurseries in the United States, too. 'Sky Pencil' has an unusual habit, growing ten times as tall as it is wide. It is 8–10 feet (2.4–3.1 m) tall and about 1 foot (0.3 m) wide at maturity. Zone 6 is the northern limit of its hardiness without protection.

In 2005 we chose the outstanding *koehneana* holly 'Lassie'. *Koehneana* hollies are the hybrids of *I. aquifolium* and *I. latifolia*. 'Lassie' is a seedling discovered at McLean Nurseries in Towson, Maryland, and named and registered by Stewart McLean in 1970.

*Koehneana* hollies are just now becoming popular. If 'Lassie' were better known by nursery owners and landscapers, I think that it would be the most popular holly sold today. 'Lassie' is fast growing, giving the landscape an 8 foot (2.4 m) tree in 10 to 12 years. The tree stays pleasingly pyramidal with a minimum of pruning.

The leaves of 'Lassie' are dark green and shiny, measuring 4 inches (10.2 cm) long and 2 inches (5.1 cm) wide. They have many small spines that are semi-sharp. The berries are large, bright red, and abundant. 'Lassie' always produces a large crop of fruit. The pollenizer can be a *koehneana* male such as 'Chieftan', 'Loch Raven', or 'Ajax'. Other males will pollinize Lassie if they bloom at the same time. 'Lassie' will survive to zone 6.

'Sunny Foster' was chosen for 2006. This holly is hardy only to the warmest parts of zone 6. It is an outstanding *attenuata* holly, a hybrid of *I. cassine* and *I. opaca*. The hybrid was first described by Willard Ashe of Walton County, Florida in 1924. 'Sunny Foster' is a leaf mutation of 'Foster # 2' that was discovered by William Kosar at the National Arboretum. It was named and registered by Gene Eisenbeiss in 1982.

The unusual foliage is narrow, about 1¼ inches (4.5 cm) long and ⅝ inches (1.6 cm) wide. If grown in full sun the leaves are butter-yellow. The plant is a female that bears bright red berries that contrast nicely with the yellow leaves. 'Sunny Foster' is slow growing and makes a good highlight plant. It normally grows in a pyramidal shape but can be used as an unusual topiary. Sprigs can be cut for bright leaves in wreaths and other holiday arrangements.

The 2007 selection was *I. aquifolium* 'Lewis'. Of the many English hollies, 'Lewis' is certainly one of the best. 'Lewis' was discovered in the town of Delight, Maryland by Stewart McLean and introduced about 1967. It is fast growing, hardy well into zone 6, and is a heavily fruiting female. The leaves are spiny and dark green. The fruit is large and bright red. 'Lewis' grows to a pyramidal shape. It can be pollinated by a male English holly or a hybrid that blooms at the same time.

A deciduous cultivar of *I. verticillata*, 'Maryland Beauty' was selected for 2008. It was discovered as a seedling by C.L. Jenkins in 1930 and registered by Jenkins and Sons in 1970. 'Maryland Beauty' is a compact plant reaching a height of about 5 feet (1.5 m). The fruit is bright red, coloring early in September. Heavy, dependable fruiting makes it a good plant for commercial cutting. 'Jim Dandy' can be used as a pollenizer.

The 2009 Holly of the Year honors Gene Eisenbeiss and one of his finest introductions, *I. ×* 'Scepter'. This holly is the result of a controlled cross of *I. integra* and *I. × altaclerensis* 'Hodginsii'. 'Scepter' grows quickly, reaching a height of 20 feet (6.1 m) in about 15 years. Although this holly is listed as pyramidal it stays quite narrow at about 4-5 feet

(1.2–1.5 m). It is compact with dark green nearly spineless leaves. The profuse, bright red berries are borne in clusters of 2 to 10 and the plant never fails to fruit if a suitable pollinator is present. Male plants of *integra*, *altaclerensis*, *cornuta*, *meserveae* and hybrids of these and others that bloom at the same time will do as pollenizers.

Cuttings of 'Scepter' root easily using hardwood or semi-hardwood tips. Hardiness is sometimes listed as zone 7 but I planted one in zone 6 with no winter problems. 'Scepter' is one of the finest hollies introduced by the National Arboretum.

*I. verticillata* 'Red Sprite' was the Holly of the Year for 2010. 'Red Sprite' was discovered in the wild near Hampden Nursery, Hampden, Massachusetts by P.A. Siebaldi and registered by him in 1980. 'Red Sprite' is a dwarf, growing to only 3–4 feet (0.9–1.2 m) tall, which makes it an ideal plant for a small garden. It is slow growing with dark green leaves and large red fruit. Hardiness is listed as zone 4.

*I. × 'Nellie R. Stevens'* was chosen for 2011. It is a magnificent holly that matures into a large tree at about 20–30 feet (6.1–9.1 m). It is a putative hybrid of *I. cornuta* and *I. aquifolium* and has existed for more than a hundred years. The cross was made at the National Arboretum and it was registered in 1967 by G.A. Van Lennep.

The leaves of "Nellie" are dark green and very glossy, long and spiny. The branches are pendulous and the fruit is orange-red and ripens quite late. One of the most popular tree hollies sold on the East Coast, it is hardy to zone 6b.

*I. aquifolium* 'Proud Mary', chosen Holly of the Year for 2012, is a stunning variegated holly that is fast growing and hardier than most English hollies. It is a variegated sport discovered by Kenneth McQuage in 1993 and registered in 1995.

The vivid red berries are highlighted by green and gold leaves that have few spines. 'Proud Mary' grows as a pyramidal tree and should be hardy into zone 6b.



## HOLLY OF THE YEAR POSTER AVAILABLE

*Emily Jernigan*

**B**ill Cannon has created a beautiful poster that features the 2003-2012 Hollies of the Year, and has donated it to the Holly Society. The full color, 11 × 17 inch (28 × 43 cm) poster has a photograph of each holly, sells for \$15, including domestic postage, and is shown on page 2 of this *Journal*. There are two ways to buy a poster: go to our website, [www.hollysocam.org](http://www.hollysocam.org), follow the link to the poster, and pay using PayPal; or send a check for \$15 to Holly Society of America, P.O. Box 803, 309 Buck Street, Millville, NJ 08332-0803. Either way, Bill will mail you the poster and the proceeds will help support the Holly Society.



Margie Norton, Josie Gianforte, Jim Resch, and Mary Harrison at the University of Tennessee Gardens. Photo by Emily Jernigan.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND TOURS - 2010

*Dennis Superczynski*

Sixty-five Holly Society members traveled to Oak Ridge, Tennessee in early November 2010 for the 63rd Annual Meeting of the Holly Society of America, hosted by the South Central Chapter and the University of Tennessee Arboretum. The Doubletree Hotel in Oak Ridge served as our conference headquarters, providing the Thursday Welcome Dinner and meeting space for our educational presentations, the Sprig Contest, the Silent and Holly auctions, and the Annual Banquet and Awards Ceremony on Saturday evening.

Oak Ridge and Knoxville are located in East Tennessee, in a valley between the Cumberland and the Great Smoky Mountains. The best-known feature of this area is its proximity to the Great Smoky Mountain National Park and the popular tourist areas of Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge. Knoxville is home of the University of Tennessee's flagship campus, along with its extremely popular sport teams, the Volunteers or "Vols." Oak Ridge is also known as the "Secret City" because of its secret establishment in the 1940s as a base for the Manhattan Project that led to the development of the atomic bomb that ended World War II. Today, scientific development still plays a crucial role in the economy and culture of the region, and the Oak Ridge facilities are one of the largest employers in the Knoxville metropolitan area. The University of Tennessee Campus Gardens, the UT Arboretum, and American Museum of Science and Energy in Oak Ridge were featured on the Early Arrivals tour.

For the first time the HSA Board met on Wednesday afternoon, allowing board members to participate in the Early Arrivals Tour. We left the hotel on Thursday, November 4, and headed to The University of Tennessee Gardens on the Knoxville Campus where Assistant Director James Newburn greeted us. Although the morning was chilly and rainy, we enjoyed escorted tours of some of the two thousand ongoing herbaceous plant evaluations and the recently



Susan Elmore (R) and her daughter at the stone pillar marking the Harold L. Elmore Holly Collection at the UT Arboretum.  
Photo by Emily Jernigan.

dedicated Beall Family Rose Garden. Dr. Susan Hamilton, our featured speaker for the Annual Holly Banquet, is the garden's director and served as one of our guides. As we bid farewell to our friends at UT Gardens, our tour path took us east to the historic Knoxville Botanical Garden and Arboretum for a garden luncheon and tour of the facility. Once a family operated nursery, the garden is located on forty-four beautiful ridge-top acres that feature lovely stone structures and landscaped surroundings. Steve Seifried, Executive Director, greeted our group and provided a history of the gardens and of its recent transformation from historic nursery property to delightful public gardens.

Following lunch, we returned to Oak Ridge to visit The American Museum of Science and Energy. We saw a variety of exhibits, including some that explore the earth's energy resources and others that depict Oak Ridge's participation in the Manhattan Project and the development of the atomic bomb. The day's finale took us a short distance to the University of Tennessee Arboretum and the Elmore Holly Collection. Here the stone entrance to the holly collection, recently constructed by the UT Arboretum Society, was dedicated in recognition of "Mr. Holly," the late Harold L. Elmore. The Holly Collection was begun by Mr. Elmore, a past president of the Holly Society of America and of the UT Arboretum Society, and is a research and display garden with over two hundred cultivars of the genus *Ilex*. Richard Evans, Director of the Arboretum and



Ray Head and Dr. Will Witte admire the Elmore Holly Collection. Photo by Emily Jernigan.

Tom Row, UT Arboretum Society president, welcomed the Holly Society. Fran Scheidt and Dennis Superczynski, members of the Holly Society and the UT Arboretum Holly Task Force all spoke about Harold's involvement with the Holly Society and the Holly Collection. Harold's daughter Susan Elmore spoke on behalf of the El-

more family, honoring his enthusiasm for hollies and zest for life in everything he did. The tour concluded with refreshments and plenty of time to browse the Holly Collection. Rachel Cobb, the HSA Webmaster, took

many beautiful photos of the collection. They are posted on our website, [www.hollysocam.org](http://www.hollysocam.org).

The official beginning of the Society's 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting began at the Welcome Dinner Thursday evening in the dining room of the Doubletree Hotel. Tom Row, a retired nuclear engineer from Oak Ridge National Laboratory and current President of the UT Arboretum Society, was the featured speaker. His presentation, "Oak Ridge, a Community of Volunteers from Birth: Why the Arboretum and Holly Garden Came to Be," enlightened our audience with a personal perspective on the history of Oak Ridge and the UT Arboretum. Following the presentation, the Holly Sprig Room officially opened for entries in the Sprig Contest.

Friday's Annual Bus Tour left the Doubletree Hotel at 8:00 a.m. and headed to Winchester, Tennessee and the 1900 acres of Shadow Nursery. Located in South Middle Tennessee, the wholesale nursery has been owned and operated since 1973 by renowned plantsman and fourth generation nurseryman, Don Shadow. We sat on hay bales and ate boxed lunches as Don greeted us. He then gave us a slide presentation featuring



Taking a modern version of a hay ride at Shadow Nursery. Photo by Emily Jernigan.

some new plants that he has collected from around the world and is currently evaluating. We also saw photos of some of the more than eight hundred wild animals he cares for, which represent about sixty different species of rare and endangered animals. After a tractor-

pulled hay ride around a small area of the nursery, we boarded our bus and Don narrated a tour of the larger nursery operation and we viewed some of the animals living in the open under Don's watchful eye. Our visit concluded with an opportunity to shop Shadow Nursery and choose plants to take home, many that are not readily available in the marketplace. We could also buy the book *Dogwoods*, co-authored by Don Shadow and Paul Capiello, and have Don sign it. Before returning to Oak Ridge late in the evening the tour continued to Lynchburg, Tennessee for a guided tour of the Jack Daniel's Distillery. Then Don joined us for a delicious Southern-style dinner catered at the distillery.

The morning lecture sessions on Saturday kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Will Witte, Associate Professor (retired) of the Department of Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design at The University of Tennessee, "New Holly Selections from the UT Arboretum." His talk provided descriptions and observations of the various hollies he introduced to the University of Tennessee Arboretum. He then passed various cuttings around the room.

W. Jim Cortese, International Society of Arboriculture (I.S.A.) Board Certified Master Arborist, offered the second presentation, "Assessment and Valuation of The Harold L. Elmore at the University of Tennessee Arboretum in Oak Ridge, Tennessee." Jim explained the process he developed to arrive at a current value for more than two hundred hollies in the Elmore collection.

Dr. Mark Windham, Professor in the Department of Entomology and Plant Pathology Department at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, concluded the scientific sessions with his presentation, "Rose Ramblings: Proper Selection for Worry-Free Rose Gardening." Mark's entertaining and informative discussion provided the audience with a review of the "Best of the Best" rose selections, including the no-spray Knock Out® varieties. Mark inspired those of us who have loved roses for years, and encouraged the rest of us to try growing them.

Throughout the morning scientific sessions the Holly Society sponsored a plant sale outdoors in the hotel courtyard. Plant vendors included Mike and Brenda Stansberry (Beaver Creek Nursery), Andy Sessions (Sunlight Gardens), Sue Hamilton (University of Tennessee Gardens), and Bob Hopkins (TNZ Nursery).

The Saturday afternoon session opened with the Annual Business Meeting in the Banquet Room followed by the Holly Auction. Auctioneers Robert Adams, Michael Pontti, Dr. Jim Resch, and Bud Gehrich led the bidding. The fortunate winning bidders took home \$2,832.00 in treasured plants and silent auction prizes. Following the auction, the Holly Sprig Room opened for a last chance to view entries and prizewinners of the Sprig Contest. The silent auction offered international holly themed treasures from Barbara Taylor's personal collection, brought back primarily from the United Kingdom. They were very popular in the bidding contest.

The Banquet Room reopened at 6 p.m. for the Annual Holly Banquet and Awards Ceremony. Guest speaker Dr. Susan Hamilton, Director of the UT Gardens, provided a presentation, "Winter, A Beautiful Time in

the Garden.” This inspiring talk, with so many different views of winter landscapes, was very appropriate for this time of year and it left everyone in awe of the beauty a winter garden can present, with red-berried hollies leading the show. Bill Kuhl, organizer of the Holly sprig contest, presented the contest winners. The 2010 Annual Holly Society Meeting concluded with remarks from President Ray Head and presentations of the awards.

On Sunday, November 7, local nurseries offered an open house for meeting participants. Mike and Brenda Stansberry, Beaver Creek Nursery, Knoxville and Vivian Abney, East Fork Nursery, Sevierville hosted the event.

A special thank you is offered to the following people: Marianne Head, Joanna Partain and Jan Superczynski served as Registration Table hosts; Fran Scheidt arranged our dinner table centerpieces, fashioned from holly cuttings; Charlie Jernigan drove a van on the Annual Holly Tour with the overflow passengers; Richard Evans and Tom Row hosted the Holly Society at the UT Arboretum Elmore Holly Collection dedication ceremony; and Emily Jernigan, Joann Johnson, and Jan Superczynski arranged for and served refreshments at the dedication ceremony.



Dinner under the watchful eye of ‘Gentleman Jack’ Daniels, Lynchburg, Tennessee. Photo by Emily Jernigan.

ELMORE HOLLY COLLECTION ENTRANCE DEDICATION  
KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Fran Scheidt*

Welcome, everyone, to this very special place: honored guests, members of the Elmore family and especially members of the Holly Society of America.

Let's think back 300 years ago, to 1700. Native Americans-the Woodland Indians of the Tribe Cherokee-camped along the river just over the hill. They hunted here. Removed in the 1830s, they were replaced by settlers, including the Elmore ancestors who came down the Ohio River and through the Cumberland Gap to the Territory known as Franklin, which became the state of Tennessee in 1795.

Fast forward to the 1900s. Where we are today was once farm land which was purchased in the early 1940s by the US Government for the Oak Ridge Manhattan Project. Farm families were relocated; this property reverted to woodlands and undergrowth, with foxes, deer and wild turkey, much as it was when the Cherokee roamed these woods. The atom bomb was built just over the ridge, about five miles from here.

In August 1961, the University of Tennessee acquired 2,260 acres of forested land near Oak Ridge from the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare for, "...use in teaching, research and demonstration." Dr. Jack Sharp at the University and other interested scientists envisioned an Arboretum, "A collection of woody plants adapted to the climate of Tennessee ... to utilize and expand existing plant groups and preserve such areas as have special values for ecological study ... (and) to provide space for a collection of mutants of woody plants."

As noted in *The Oak Ridger* of April 1964, "The UT Forestry Department...has started work on an Arboretum, a place where trees and shrubs are grown for scientific and educational purposes." Some 260



Fran Scheidt speaks at the Elmore Holly Entrance Dedication. Photo by Emily Jernigan.

acres were carved out of the original land grant, of which about 80 acres were open space for an arboretum, according to early records. At this time the Forestry Department at the University expanded from a two-year to a four-year program. An Arboretum Director was named; his office was in an abandoned guardhouse near Solway Bridge, according to an early account. Friends of the Arboretum formed a support group, to be known as the University of Tennessee Arboretum Society (UTAS), which shared temporary office space with the nearby cemetery.

Finally, in our archives, his name first appears: some of you called him Gramps, or Uncle Harold; many of us referred to him as Hal; everyone recognized him as “Mr. Holly.”

As his letter to Mr. Evans, the Superintendent of the Arboretum and Forestry Experiment Station, shows, he was willing to help: “I would like to help this collection become one of the better holly displays in the Nation. If I could be of assistance...” Beginning in 1977, he provided holly from his nursery, Holly Haven Hybrids, for the arboretum plant sale and he continued to be a very popular vendor for the next twenty-five years. He not only sold hollies by the hundreds; he was a continuing source of information about their culture. “Why do I have no holly berries?” was a frequently asked question. We all remember his answer: “Do you have a lonesome 'Nellie'?”. (He, of course, was referring to the popular holly, 'Nellie R. Stevens'.)

Hal's own collection, begun as a hobby, expanded to some 800 cultivars of many different kinds of holly, which covered his five-acre farm in West Knox County. He became an active member of the Holly Society of America and served in various leadership capacities: as president, treasurer, and longtime board member. He knew holly people from all over the world as well as in this country. His friends included major *Ilex* researchers at the National Arboretum and at leading universities who shared with him their latest plant introductions. Furthermore, he knew all the major growers in this country, including Don Shadow, whom we will meet tomorrow when we visit his Shadow Nursery in Winchester.

Allow me to digress. We are exceedingly happy to have Dr. Elwin Orton from Rutgers with us here today. Several of the hollies in the Elmore Holly Collection are from your own research efforts, Dr. Orton. Also with us is our very own Dr. Will Witte who has been actively involved with the Korean Holly Project.

Following Hal's retirement in 1982 from TVA as Regional Director of Non-Power Projects, he devoted much time to the UT Arboretum. At



TVA he reportedly kept five secretaries busy. He was totally involved in the success of each project. During the 1980s he served four consecutive terms as President of UTAS. He invited his friend J. C. Raulston, the noted North Carolina plantsman, to come speak. Thus began the UTAS Speakers Bureau. Mr. Raulston then invited Hal and members of UTAS to come visit his Arboretum, and so we had the beginning of what has become another outstanding program, the very popular UTAS annual Tours.

But back to the subject of our gathering today, the dedication of this wonderful Elmore Holly Collection and its beautiful entry. In an article in the Fall, 2000 issue of *The Leaflet* [the UTAS newsletter at the time] he writes: "In 1983 I presented a modest plan for a holly planting on the hillside north of the service road to Richard Evans, Arboretum Director. After due consideration, Richard came up with a much better proposal. He showed me a domed hill just east of the Rhododendron Vale. This area had once been a farm field reforested with yellow pines, most of which had been killed by pine bark beetles. After removal of the dead pines, a ground cover of tall fescue was planted, which surrounded a few remaining pines. What we observed was a three to five-acre sun-drenched grassy field, protected by a border of hardwoods and higher ridges on both the North and the South, obviously an ideal site for most holly species."

He continues, "Everyone was excited about the proposed new 'Holly Garden'; UTAS adopted it as a central program objective and created the Holly Task Force." Thus began what is now The Elmore Holly Collection. In 1983, designs for general planting areas were drawn and submitted by several people, including a sketch by Mr. Evans. "Each bed was to contain hollies from a specific geographic area, with hollies with similar characteristics being grouped together," according to Hal's article in *The Leaflet*.

Letters were sent to the Tennessee Nurserymen's Association and area garden clubs asking for help; plants were selected from his own Holly Haven Hybrids nursery that represented traditional species of holly; volunteers were recruited for the designated planting day. Today, we have increased the Elmore Holly Collection to its present total of more than 200 cultivars. We continue to maintain the Collection through regular work days. And now we have constructed this beautiful entry structure that we hereby dedicate today.

In closing I should like to read from a memo Hal wrote as a member of the Holly Task Force to the UTAS Board, dated January 1994, in which he put in writing his dream for the holly collection:

Mission: To establish and maintain at the UT Arboretum a world class collection of plants of the genus *Ilex* for the purposes of research, germ plasma storage and the development, testing, promotion and distribution of new and improved holly cultivars.

GOALS:

1. Add 50 to 100 new holly cultivars per year to the Arboretum Collection until the total collection reaches 1,000;

2. Establish an optimal maintenance program for the holly collection that will assure plant survival and rapid growth;

3. Enlarge the land allocated to the holly collection to accommodate Goal #1;

4. Install the necessary infrastructure (irrigation system) as required for Goal #2.

PROGRAMS:

1. Encourage commercial nurseries, public institutions and holly collectors and propagators to contribute holly cultivars to the Collection;

2. Encourage horticultural, medicinal and market researchers to utilize the Arboretum holly collection as a base for future research projects;

3. Encourage the distribution of superior holly cultivars through plant sales, gift plants to UTAS members, and standing invitations to commercial growers to take cuttings from the holly Collection.

Again, thank you for your presence on this wonderful day, remembering our friend, Gramps, Uncle Harold, Hal, Harold, "Mr. Holly," or Harold Lane Elmore, here at the UT Arboretum, in his Holly Collection.

*Fran Scheidt, a retired educator, is a former editor of the Holly Society Journal. She is a longtime member of the UT Arboretum Society, having served several terms as a board member and as Secretary to the Board. She is a founding member of the Holly Task Force and continues to keep accession records of the Elmore Holly Collection. As a Master Gardener, Fran frequently gives talks to area Garden Clubs. Her favorite topic, of course, is Ilex.*

## THE GENE EISENBEISS 2010 HOLLY OF THE YEAR

*Dr. James Resch*

**I**lex *verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’, is the Gene Eisenbeiss Holly of the Year for 2010. ‘Red Sprite’ is an excellent dwarf form of the native winterberry, *I. verticillata*. Like all winterberries, the plant is deciduous. In autumn, the leaves turn yellow and then fall to reveal abundant, large red fruit. The fruits persist well into the winter, and attract a variety of wildlife, including robins, mockingbirds, and bluebirds.

Compared to other winterberries, ‘Red Sprite’ is fairly slow-growing and compact, maturing at 3–4 feet (0.91–1.2 m) in height and width. This size makes ‘Red Sprite’ particularly useful for smaller properties, and for group plantings. ‘Red Sprite’ enjoys a sunny to partly shaded location. The plant is tolerant of moist soil, and will thrive in locations that remain wet for long periods in the spring, or after heavy rains. For best fruit set, plant an early flowering male winterberry such as ‘Jim Dandy’ or ‘Skipjack’ nearby.

‘Red Sprite’ originated as a chance seedling near Hampden, Massachusetts, and was registered with the Holly Society of America in 1980 by P.A. Siebaldi. Like most winterberries, it is adaptable to a wide climatic range, and grows from Zones 3 through 9 in the U.S. and Canada. ‘Red Sprite’ is readily propagated by softwood cuttings, and container-grown specimens are available from many nurseries, including mail order sources.



*Ilex verticillata* ‘Red Sprite’, the 2010 Holly of the Year. Photo by Charles Samuels.

*The committee in charge of selecting the Gene Eisenbeiss Holly of the Year tries to pick out hollies that are available at a wide range of nurseries, would be easy to grow, and would be hardy in a number of USDA Hardiness Zones.*

## HOLLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA AWARDS

### WOLF-FENTON AWARD

The Wolf-Fenton Award is the most prestigious award of the Holly Society. It was first established in 1982 as the C.R. Wolf Award to honor HSA founder Clarence R. Wolf, who not only was instrumental in organizing the Holly Society but also did much to nurture and sustain the fledgling organization through its crucial years. Charter member Daniel Fenton was its first recipient for his meritorious service and contributions to the Society and to holly culture. Upon his death in 1988, the award was renamed for these two great men who meant so much to the Society.

The Wolf-Fenton Award is given to an individual, not necessarily a member of the Society and not confined to the United States, for outstanding contributions and dedicated service in the field of holly. As the premier award of the Society, and because of the high degree of achievement it recognizes, the Wolf-Fenton Award is not presented every year.

This year, the Award was given to Society treasurer Dennis Superczynski. President Ray Head said that Dennis has served as treasurer for many years in a very effective manner, and further noted his ongoing and extensive contributions to enhance and maintain the Harold Elmore Holly Collection at the University of Tennessee Arboretum.

### WILLIAM F. KOSAR AWARD

The William F. Kosar Award is given in memory of the pioneer holly breeder and devoted Holly Society member William F. Kosar, who died in 1985. Gene K. Eisenbeiss was its first recipient for his work in continuing the Holly Research and Hybridization Program established by Mr. Kosar at the National Arboretum as well as his own holly research.

The William F. Kosar Award is given to an outstanding plantsman for contributions to the hybridization, evaluation, selection, or introduction of hollies. The Society presented this Award to Dr. James F. Resch, a longtime and active Society member from Delaware who certainly meets its standards.

In recommending Jim for the award, HSA member Michael Ponti noted, "Dr. Resch has steadily shown himself to be a perceptive holly evaluator and has completed registrations for several new cultivars with

the likes of *Ilex opaca* 'Bear Crossing', *I. opaca* 'Bear Station', and recently *I. (aquifolium × cornuta)* 'Sled Run'. He has shown a lifelong fascination with plants in this genus and has carefully selected those with unique attributes, which in turn have led to the new introductions. A strong emphasis of Dr. Resch's goals in selecting and growing holly has been his dedication to improving insect and disease resistance and the aesthetics of superior fruiting.

Dr. Resch is a respected scientist and an active nurseryman. He is thorough in his assessment of new clones and keeps detailed records on observations made over years of his work. He is enthusiastic and willingly shares his research of holly with others. Dr. Resch is also very involved with the administrative aspects of the Holly Society, and volunteers his time and expertise as Vice President of the Chesapeake Chapter and as a Trustee of the Holly Society of America.

I feel that Jim's love of his work and his contributions to the advancement of growing superior holly, his enthusiasm and sincerity in dealing with people, coupled with the passion he has for the genus *Ilex* make him an outstanding individual worthy of the William F. Kosar Award.”

#### PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award is given at the discretion of the President to an individual or individuals for outstanding service and dedication to the Holly Society of America. This year, president Ray Head gave the President's Award to Dennis Superczynski in appreciation of his efforts in arranging the 2010 HSA Annual Meeting in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and for his contributions to the Society over many years, most recently for his service as treasurer and active board member.

## WINNERS OF THE 2010 HOLLY SPRIG CONTEST

The judges of the 2010 Holly Sprig Contest were Bob Adams, Bob Hopkins and Jim Resch. The scribes were Joe Rosellini and Rich Larson. Chairman Bill Kuhl announced the winners and presented the awards at the Annual Holly Banquet. Contest winners for the best sprigs and collections are listed below.

### AMATEUR DIVISION

Class I: *Ilex opaca*. Male: first, Charles Anderson, 'David'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Jersey Knight'; third, Charles Anderson, 'Golden Knight'. Female: first, Charles Anderson, 'Vera'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Merry Christmas'; third, Charles Anderson, 'Charlie's Angel'; honorable mention, Charles Anderson, 'Hedge Holly' and 'Church'. Yellow Berried: first, Charles Anderson, 'Villanova'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Corpening No. 3'; honorable mention, Charles Anderson, 'Morgan Gold' and 'Canary'.

Class II: *Ilex aquifolium*. Male: first, Carmen Gianforte, 'Holly Girl'; second, Carmen Gianforte, 'Monville'; third, Carmen Gianforte, 'Jolly Holly'; honorable mention, Charles Anderson, 'Crispa Aurea-Picta'; Carmen Gianforte, 'Ferox Argenta Marginata'.

Class III: *Ilex crenata*. Female: first, Bud Gengrich, 'Dwarf Pagoda'; second, Joe and Kathy Rosellini, 'Sky Pencil'.

Class IV: *Ilex cornuta*. Male: first, Charles Anderson, 'O'Spring'; second, Charles Anderson, 'CH-122'. Female: Charles Anderson, 'China Doll'.

Class V: Deciduous Hollies, *Ilex verticillata*. first, Charles Anderson, 'Winter Red'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Winter Gold'; third, James Ray Head, 'Stoplight'; honorable mention, Charles Anderson, 'Aurantiaca'; James Ray Head, 'Shaver'. Deciduous Hollies: first, James Ray Head, 'Curtisii'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Sparkleberry'; honorable mention, Charles Anderson, 'Sundrops'; James Ray Head, 'Finch's Gold'.

Class VI: Miscellaneous Species. first, James Ray Head, *Ilex pedunculosa*; second, James Ray Head, *I. latifolia*; third, James Ray Head, *I. wandoensis*; honorable mention, Carmen Ginaforte, *I. pernyi* 'Veitchii'.

Class VII: Interspecific Hybrids. Male: first, Charles Anderson, 'Hugger'; second, Charles Anderson, 'Justine'; honorable mention, James Resch, 'Sled Run'. Female: first, Charles Anderson, 'Miniature'; second, Robert Welch, 'San Jose'; third, Robert Welch, 'Centennial Girl'; honorable mention, Cathy and Joe Rosellini, 'Well's Gold'; Rachel Childs, 'Emily Brunner'. Subclass *Ilex koehneana*: second, James Ray Head, 'Ajax'; third, Charles Anderson, 'Martha Berry'. Subclass *I. attenuata*: first, James Ray Head, 'Oriole'; second, James Ray Head, 'NASA'; third, James Ray Head, 'Foster's No. 2'; honorable mention, James Ray Head, 'Blazer'.

The Wilson T. Mott Award winner for Best Evergreen Sprig in the Amateur Division was James Ray Head for *I. pedunculosa*.

#### PROFESSIONAL DIVISION:

Class I: *Ilex opaca*. Male: first, William Kuhl, 'Jersey Knight.' Female: first, William Kuhl, 'St. Mary'; second, William Kuhl, 'Steward's Silver Crown'; third, William Kuhl, 'Miss Helen'; honorable mention, Chuck and Chris Wiley, *I. opaca*; William Kuhl, 'Satyr Hill' and 'Hume's Choice'. Yellow Berried: first, William Kuhl, 'Canary'; second, Chuck and Chris Wiley, *I. opaca*.

Class II: *Ilex aquifolium*. Male: first, William Kuhl, 'Berkley'. Female: William Kuhl, 'Hollycroft Jill'. Variegated: first, William Kuhl, 'Imgramii'; second, William Kuhl, 'Dude'.

Class III: *Ilex crenata*. Male: honorable mention, William Kuhl, 'Green Dragon'.

Class IV: *Ilex cornuta*. Female: first, William Kuhl, 'Hume'; second, William Kuhl, 'Rotunda'.

Class V: Deciduous Holly. First, Dan Turner, *Ilex serrata* 'Koshobai'; second, William Kuhl, *I. verticillata* 'Winter Gold'; third, William Kuhl, *I. verticillata* 'Winter Red'.

Class VII: Interspecific Hybrids. Male: first, William Kuhl, 'Loch Raven'; second, William Kuhl, *aquipernyi*. Female: first, William Kuhl, 'Centennial Girl'; second, William Kuhl, 'Dr. Kassab'; third, William Kuhl, 'Miniature'; honorable mention, Chuck and Chris Wiley, 'Pernella'; William Kuhl, 'Red Beauty'.

Subclass *Ilex koehneana*. first, Dan Turner, 'Agena'; second, William Kuhl, 'Ruby'.

The winner of the Stewart H. McLean Award for Best in Show, Professional Division, was William Kuhl for *I. aquifolium* 'Hollycroft Jill'.



*Ilex [(cornuta x pernyi) x latifolia] x cornuta 'Magee #3'*  
from the Elmore Holly Collection at the University of Tennessee  
Arboretum in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Photo by Emily Jernigan.



## 2010 TEST HOLLIES

The Test Hollies given out at the Oak Ridge Annual Meeting in 2010 are described below. The questionnaires for the 2010 Test Hollies, distributed in Knoxville in 2010, will be sent out in October of this year for preliminary information and questions.v

### *Ilex (aquifolium × cornuta)* ‘Sled Run’

Donated by Jim Resch

This putative chance hybrid seedling of *Ilex (aquifolium × cornuta)* was discovered in the late 1960s in Baltimore County, Maryland. The leaves of this male cultivar are very broad, glossy, and dark olive green in color, with nearly spineless margins on mature foliage. The plant bears abundant, highly fragrant flowers on the previous season’s growth, over a very long period covering the flowering of *I. aquifolium* and many of its hybrids. ‘Sled Run’ was registered in January, 2010 with the Holly Society of America (Holly Society Journal 28(2):31 (2010)).



*Ilex (aquifolium × cornuta)* ‘Sled Run’: young plants in flower. Photo by Jim Resch.

## 2010 NON-TEST ANNUAL MEETING PLANTS

### LONGWOOD GARDENS HOLLIES

Donated by Longwood Gardens and transported by Jim Resch

*Ilex* × *attenuata* ‘**Longwood Gold**’ and  
*Ilex opaca* ‘**Longwood Gardens**’

These yellow-fruited hollies were introduced by Longwood Gardens of Kennett Square, Pennsylvania, and were donated through the generosity of Research Assistant, Barrett Wilson. Mr. Wilson propagated these cultivars for the Holly Society, and originally provided plants for distribution at the 2009 Annual Meeting on Martha’s Vineyard. Additional plants of both cultivars were provided for distribution at the 2009 Annual Meeting on Martha’s Vineyard. *Ilex* × *attenuata* ‘Longwood Gold’ is a particularly handsome cultivar, selected for its bright yellow fruit, dark green foliage, and superior cold tolerance. *I. opaca* ‘Longwood Gardens’ is valued for its yellow fruit, dense pyramidal habit, and the light green color of new springtime growth which contrasts strongly with mature foliage.



#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

Please visit our website, [www.hollysocam.org](http://www.hollysocam.org), for more information about the Holly Society. You will find articles, photos, and information about our Annual and Chapter meetings; learn more about holly; and can join or renew your membership in the Society there. You can also buy Bill Cannon’s Holly of the Year poster. Check it out for yourself!

PROCEEDINGS  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL MEETING  
November 3, 2010

The Holly Society of America's 2010 Annual Meeting convened at 3:15 p.m. on November 3, 2010, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. James Ray Head presided as president. Attending were Jane Christy, administrative vice president, Dennis Superczynski, treasurer, and Carole Cossaboon, secretary. Trustees and Committee heads present were Emily Jernigan, Earl Cully, Aaron Atwood, Mike Pontti, Cathy Rosellini, Bob Adams, Nancy Bernhardt, Rachel Cobb, Lydia Brittle, Richard A. Larson, Margie Norton, April Sanborn, Bob Hopkins and John Swintosky.

President Head opened the meeting by announcing this was the first meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Holly Society held prior to the Annual Meeting. He thanked all those who attended for coming one day early. Secretary Carole Cossaboon gave a membership count of 287 as of October 28, 2010. There were mailings of one journal and two newsletters with the second journal being mailed after the Annual Meeting. There were no other announcements from the secretary. A motion was made to waive the reading of the June 12, 2010, Board of Trustees Interim Meeting Minutes. The motion was seconded and carried. A motion was made to approve and distribute the minutes for the journal. The motion was seconded and carried.

***Financial Reports***

Treasurer Dennis Superczynski distributed the treasurer's interim report for the six month period from April 1 through September 30, 2009, that included the proposed 2011 budget. The September 30 total assets are \$87,709.00. The budget for the fiscal year 2010 - 2011 projects an operating deficit of \$9000 due to the proposed printing of four journals in 2010/2011 to bring the journals up to date. A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was seconded and carried. Discussion took place regarding the outstanding Gutierrez grant account. A motion was made to close out the Gutierrez grant account due to Cuban laws and our inability to transfer the funds. The motion was seconded and carried. A suggestion was made to make Gutierrez's information into a PDF file and add to the Holly Society Web page for anyone who would like to download it. Rachel Cobb will work with Linda Parsons to get this onto our Web Page. There was discussion about the possibility of publishing

the 2009 Journals on the HSA website rather than printing them to save money.

**Investment:** An Investment report was distributed from Albert Hendley, who was unable to attend the early meeting, and read by Jane Y. Christy, administrative vice president. He recommended the board of directors pass a resolution commending Myo Myint for his wisdom and foresight when he selected US Treasury Notes to invest in. The one note yielded 4.75% when matured in 2011 and the other note matures in 2012 yielding 4.50%. Another note and CD will mature in 2017 and 2014 respectively. Interest earned in a twelve month period earned \$3,196.77 and \$1850.00. Ending trust Fund assets were \$82,920.91 as of September 30, 2010.

### ***Annual Meetings***

The 64<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Long Island, N.Y. has been scheduled for October 20 - 23, 2011. Peter Atkins has arranged for hotel reservations with East Norwich Inn in East Norwich N.Y. The Welcome Dinner, Saturday's lectures, Auction and Awards Banquet will be held at The Planting Fields Arboretum State Historic Park. The Early Arrivals Tour will be at the Planting Fields Arboretum. The Annual Tour will leave from Planting Fields and will stop at Bayard Cutting Arboretum and Fire Island. Speakers for Saturday's lectures are still being finalized; they include Bruce Crawford of Rutgers Gardens and possibly Dick Murcott.

The 65<sup>th</sup> Meeting in Richmond, Virginia has been scheduled for October 25 - 28, 2012. Mike Pontti has some tentative plans to book the Holiday Inn in Richmond and possibly schedule a lunch at the Jefferson Estate. A tour of the Botanic Garden and perhaps the University of Virginia were mentioned as possible tours. Mr. Pontti is working on getting speakers and feels everything is coming together for the 2012 meeting.

The 66<sup>th</sup> Meeting plan, to possibly have the annual meeting in France, was tabled due to the cost. A suggestion was made to plan the trip as a tour for another time. St. Louis, Missouri and Cleveland, Ohio were discussed as possible sites for the 2013 meeting. A motion was made to tentatively make St. Louis the site for the 2013 meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

### ***Committee Reports***

Advertising: Ron Solt, chair - No Report

Auction - Bob Hopkins, chair - No Report

Awards - Margie Norton, chair - Report will be given at a later time.

Bylaws and Policies - Charles Anderson, chair - The recent declination by Ron Solt to be considered for the presidency after the

mailing of the ballots might have been a problem; however with Mike Pontti's acceptance to replace Ron Solt as the nominating committee's recommendation cancelled any ballots that were received by members voting for Mr. Solt. Ballots will be counted by the nominating committee and the secretary.

Chapter and Membership - Linda Parsons, chair - No Report

Computer Applications - Linda Parson, chair - No Report

Editorial - Emily Jernigan. Emily distributed the second 2010 Holly Society Journal to everyone at the Board Meeting. Everyone who attends the 2010 Annual Meeting will receive their copy at the Welcome Dinner. Secretary Carole Cossaboon will take the remaining Journals back to mail to members.

Nominating - Bill Cannon, chair - No Report

Publicity and Holly of the Year - Bill Cannon, chair. Bill Cannon donated Holly of the Year posters to sell. A motion was made to sell them for \$10 at the meeting and \$15, which will include postage. The motion was seconded and carried.

Registration - Mike Pontti, chair. Mike informed the board the National Arboretum form is now on the web to register holly. Mike thanked Rachel Cobb for putting the registration forms for new holly cultivar on the web for members to submit them electronically, which makes registration easier. There was only one registration for 2010 and that was 'Sled Run' from Dr. Jim Resch.

Show - Bill Kuhl, chair - No Report

Webmaster - Rachel Cobb. Rachel submitted a report highlighting items she had achieved since the interim meeting. These included creating a new look for the web page, a gallery section, updated Holly Cultivar Registrations and Holly Arboreta listings, creating Gmail accounts and she added PayPal for membership and Annual Meetings. Ongoing maintenance includes adding and removing dated material as well as monthly checks for linked pages. Rachel presented some new ideas such as a Q & A section to cover most basic topics. The board commended Rachel for her hard work creating a new look to the Holly Society web page. A motion was made to allow Rachel to cross reference with the Ivy Society and other societies to bring others to the Holly Society website. The motion was seconded and carried.

### ***Additional old business***

Computer applications - Currently the computer data base has been corrected for the secretary. There was a discussion about the current data base and if it needed to be updated to a newer system.

### *New Business*

A discussion was held about having a committee work with Chairperson of Holly of the Year. Bill Cannon will act as lead person but would like to have several committee people to work with him. A motion was made to have three additional people to sit on the committee. The motion was seconded and carried. These additional committee people will not need to sit on the board but just work with the Chairperson.

A discussion was held regarding who will publish the HSA Newsletter as well as how many should be published. Currently Emily Jernigan is publishing the Journals and Linda Parsons is publishing the Newsletter. A motion was made to consolidate Journal and Newsletter into one position, having Emily Jernigan publish them both. The motion was second and carried. Emily acknowledged the vast knowledge that Linda Parsons has regarding the history of the Holly Society. President Ray Head agreed that the knowledge Linda has is invaluable. A suggestion was made to have Linda collaborate with Emily for the newsletter regarding the Annual Meeting. Another suggestion was made to make a position of Technical Advisor with Linda as the head. A motion was made to remove the Computer Application category and create a position of Historian/Technical Advisor. The motion was seconded and carried. President Ray Head will ask Linda Parsons to head this position.

Bob Hopkins withdrew as chairperson of Auction.

Clara Joan Johnson withdrew her name from the Board of Trustee for year 2011. Richard Larson agreed to sit on the Board to replace her.

The possibility of placing the 2009 Journals, when published, on the website rather than mailed was discussed. The option of having one really high quality journal with color photos, rather than two with black and white photos, was discussed. Some of the articles in the Journals could be put into the Newsletter.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The motion was seconded and carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Carole Cossaboon  
Holly Society Secretary

**HOLLY SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC. FINANCIAL REPORTS**  
**INTERIM BALANCE SHEET**  
 As of September 30, 2010

Account	Balance
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Cash and Bank Accounts	
Bank of America NJ - Checking	\$1,250.96
Bank of America NJ - Savings	\$1,094.90
Petty Cash - Secretary	<u>\$500.00</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	\$2,845.86
Other Assets	
Trust Fund - Life Member	\$23,191.59
Trust Fund - Research	\$49,650.45
Trust Fund - Wolf/Memorial	<u>\$12,021.88</u>
Total Other Assets	\$84,863.92
Total Assets	<u>\$87,709.78</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>	<u>\$85,442.78</u>
Total Liability & Equity	<u>\$87,709.78</u>

Respectfully submitted,  
 Dennis Superczynski, Treasurer

## **2010 ANNUAL MEETING SPONSORS**

***South Central Chapter, Holly Society  
of America, Memphis, TN  
Barbara Taylor, President***

***Coast of Maine Organic Products,  
Marion, ME\****

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***Thank you for your contributions!***

\*2009 Meeting Sponsor



∞ MEETING PARTICIPANTS ∞  
2010 ANNUAL MEETING <sup>1</sup>

- Adams, Mr. Robert, 1453 North Riley Highway, Shelbyville, IN 46176  
Anderson, Mr. & Mrs. Charles (Dorothy), 11801 Greenspring Avenue,  
Owings Mills, MD 21117  
Atwood, Mr. Aaron, 154 East Myrtle St, Palmyra, IL 62674  
Berger, Ms. Sherri, Mary's Plant Farm & Landscaping,  
2410 Lanes Mill Road, Hamilton, OH 45013  
Bernhardt, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Sarah), Bernhardt, 24 Copes Lane,  
Media, PA 19063  
Booth, Mr. Hale, 7085 Sawyer Road, Signal Mountain, TN 37377  
Brittle, Mrs. Lydia, 407 Russell Avenue, Apt. 413,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20877  
Childs, Rachel, P.O. Box 23024, Knoxville, TN 37933  
Christy, Mrs. Jane, 633 Dove Drive, Millville, NJ 08332  
\*Cobb, Ms. Rachel, 128 Husted Station Road, Elmer, NJ 08318  
Cossaboon, Mrs. Carole, 1102 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St, Millville, NJ 08332  
Cully, Mr. Earl, Heritage Trees, Inc., 846 Hoagland Road, Box 84A,  
Jacksonville, IL 62650  
Dillard, Mr. and Mrs. Timothy A. (Wanda), 2340 Interlackin Circle NW,  
Cleveland, TN 37312  
Elmore, Susan, P.O. Box 23024, Knoxville, TN 37933  
Freeman, Mr. & Mrs. John (Nancy), 528 Johnson Grove Road,  
Bells, TN 38006  
Gehnrich, Mr. and Mrs. Herman C. (Ruth), 164 Chichester Road,  
Huntington, NY 11743  
\*Gianforte, Mr. & Mrs. Carmen (Josie), 664 Francisco Road NW,  
Georgetown, TN 37336  
\*Grist, Ms. Marilyn, 2412 Wade Hampton Blvd, Greenville, SC 29615  
Harrison, Mary Ms., Mary's Plant Farm & Landscaping,  
2410 Lanes Mill Road, Hamilton, OH 45013  
Head, Mr. and Mrs. James Ray (Mary Ann), 1087 Baber Road,  
Rutherfordton, NC 28139  
Hendley, Mr. & Mrs. Albert (Susan), 400 Yale Avenue,  
Zanesville, OH 43701  
\*Hopkins, Mr. Robert, 15412 Aylesbury Street, Silver Spring, MD 20905  
\*Jernigan, Mrs. Emily, 118 Claymore Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830  
Johnson, Ms. Clara, 403 Orchard Knob Rd, Clinton, TN 37716

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

Larson, Mr. Richard, 226 South Quentin Road, Newark, OH 43055

Lasseigne, Dr. Todd, 4850 Tally Road, Walkertown, NC 27051

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

McCarter, Dr. and Mrs. Jackson (Pamela), 280 Trammell Road, Travelers  
Rest, SC 29690

Norton, Mrs. Margie, 404 Center Street, Barnsboro, NJ 08080

Orton, Jr., Dr. and Mrs. Elwin R. (Portia), 1500 Main Street,  
Millstone, NJ 08844

Pontti, Mr. & Mrs. Michael (Diana), 10520 Cedar Avenue,  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Resch, Dr. Jim, 5 Heather Loft Court, Bear, DE 19701

Robinson, Dr. & Mrs. Gordan (Bonnie), 2 Myrtlewood Drive,  
Carolina Shores, NC 28467

Rosellini, Mr. and Mrs. Joe (Cathy), 2916 B Cub Hill Road,  
Baltimore, MD 21234

Sanborn, Ms. April, P.O. Box 69, Webster, NC 28788

Scheidt, Ms. Frances B., 7028 Kinzalow Drive, Knoxville, TN 37909

Shumate, Mr. & Mrs. Robert (Cathy), 4316 Cassell Boulevard, Prince  
Frederick, MD 20678

Superczynski, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis (Janet), 12104 Aspenwood Drive,  
Knoxville, TN 37934

Swintosky, Mr. and Mrs. John (Marianne), 152 South Taylor,  
Georgetown, KY 40324

Turner, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel C. (Sigrid), Patuxent Valley Nursery,  
6905 Mink Hollow Road, Highland, MD 20777

Welch, Dr. and Mrs. Robert B. (Betty), 4409 Atwick Road,  
Baltimore, MD 21210

Wiley, Mr. & Mrs. Chuck (Chris), Vineyard Gardens, P.O. Box 550,  
West Tisbury, MA 02575

\*Woody, Mr. & Mrs. Joe (Dana), 2201 Cortelyou Road,  
Charlotte, NC 28211

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

HSA ANNUAL MEETING SITES

64<sup>TH</sup> MEETING  
LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK  
October 20-23, 2011

65<sup>th</sup> MEETING  
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
October 25-28, 2012



*Ilex cornuta* 'Fine Line' from the Elmore Holly Collection at the University of Tennessee Arboretum in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Photo by Jim Resch.