

University of Tennessee Arboretum  
2012-13 Annual Report to  
The Holly Society of America

The Holly Task Force had a full schedule of events over the past year with three successful work days during the summer, fall and spring. In April the task force fertilized, weeded, and mulched the collection assisted by 13 University of Tennessee Arboretum Society (UTAS) volunteers and Arboretum staff. Twenty-one new posts and signage were installed and significant headway was made pruning the overgrown *Ilex crenata* collection.

There is ongoing concern for the collection during the summers which prompted Holly Task Force volunteers to continue focus on deep watering of the collection during the July workday. UTAS volunteers and Arboretum staff also completed several other tasks including selective pruning and general cleanup of the collection.

On a beautiful November morning volunteers, lead by Holly Society members Dr. Will Witte and Fran Scheidt, fertilized the younger plants, mulched, and pruned. Holly Society members Carmen and Josie Gianforte took cuttings for propagation at their greenhouse. The collection was inspected and they documented plant conditions, dead plants, and tasks needing completion. Additional deer fencing is needed, and hollies #13 'Snowflake' and #19b 'Soft Touch", both *I. crenata*, did not survive the summer. Also not surviving was #22 *I. colchica*, and #88 'Jean Bissonnette' *I. aquifolium* × (*aquifolium* × *rugosa*). A replacement is being sought by the Holly Task Force.

The Holly Task Force has identified the following goals for 2013:

- Add additional deer fencing around specific plants.
- Water the *I. crenata* 'Schillings' planting around the patio entry garden throughout the summer.
- Reprint the Elmore Holly Collection brochure.
- Add the Elmore Holly Collection to the Arboretum trail map.
- Review the long-standing plan for a trail extension through the American Holly Collection from the existing Heath Cove Trail to the main access road with natural mulch and log materials.
- Complete an onsite re-inspection/inventory of the collection focusing on plant vigor, signage, labeling, spacing requirements, removing dead plants, etc. (Dr. Witte, Fran Scheidt, and Kevin Hoyt).
- Secure funding from the UT Arboretum Society for adding new plants to the collection.
- Seek potential plant donations from area nurseries.

The UT Arboretum Society and the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education have placed an emphasis on outreach and membership development for 2013. For more information on our programs and collections please visit the Arboretum webpage (<http://forestry.tennessee.edu/arbpage.htm>).

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