MORRIS ARBORETUM OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania USDA Hardiness Zone 6A

The most outstanding weather information for the past year was a very high rainfall. Overall, in 2013 we received 56 in. (1.4 m) of precipitation, well above the annual average of 41.5 in (1.1m). This included 10.6 in. (27 cm) in June and 13.3 in. (33.8 cm) in July. None of this had any effect in the hollies, and as always, I am impressed with the resilience of established hollies, which never seem to show any symptoms despite the extremes in weather.

As of December 32, 2013, we have 174 taxa of *Ilex* planted in our collection.

In 2013, we planted 29 plants of 12 taxa, seven of which were new (*) to our collection (one plant unless noted):

Additions

- *I.* × *altaclerensis* 'Cherryberry'*
- *I.* × *altaclerensis* 'Nigrescens'*
- *I. aquifolium* (Balkan female)*
- *I. aquifolium* (Balkan male)*
- *I.* × *koehneana* 'San Jose'*
- *I.* 'Serendipity' (2 plants)*
- *I. verticillata* (3 plants)
- *I. verticillata* 'Bodacious Bounty' (3 plants)*
- *I. verticillata* 'Jim Dandy'
- *I. verticillata* 'Red Sprite' (5 plants)
- *I. verticillata* 'Winter Gold' (6 plants)
- *I. verticillata* 'Winter Red' (3 plants)

We lost 8 plants from our collection during 2013 — 6 taxa, 3 taxa lost (**) from the collection (one plant unless noted):

- *I.* × *aquipernyi* 'Meschick' (2 plants)
- *I. crenata* 'Snowflake'**
- *I. crenata* 'Soft Touch'**
- *I.* 'Gypsy'**
- *I. opaca* 'Jersey Princess'
- *I. verticillata* 'Red Sprite' (2 plants)

Plants that I have been impressed with over the past year are:

- *I.* 'Conive' Festive™ 2007-250*A – excellent foliage quality
- *I.* 'Dapat' Miss Patricia™ 2004-052*A – excellent foliage quality
- *I.* × *koehneana* 'Ajax' 2002-349*A & B – excellent form and leaf quality; strong central leader
- *I.* × *koehneana* 'Hohman' 2001-220*B – excellent form and leaf quality
- *I.* × *koehneana* 'Lassie' 2007-010*A – denser branching structure than other cultivars on site
- *I. latifolia* 1996-002*A – male; excellent form and leaf color
- *I. opaca* 'Clark' 1995-012*C – very good foliage quality
- *I. opaca* 'Dan Fenton' 2001-216*A – very good foliage quality
- *I. opaca* 'Morris Arboretum' 1949-788*A – excellent foliage quality
- *I.* 'Rutzan' Red Beauty™ 2006-040*C – dense shape and slow growth good for landscape use

We have undertaken a major project to review and propagate the hollies in the core of our collection, known as the Holly Slope. The main goal of this project is to perform an assessment to determine if any hollies on the slope are unusual, special, or rarely present in other major holly collections nearby, and to propagate those hollies with the eventual intention of offering specimens to other gardens and arboreta. This was completed through correspondence with the staff at the institutions that house these major holly collections. Furthermore, this project will set the stage for determining what holly plants can be removed to reduce crowding to revitalize the collection. Propagation of these plants by cuttings was undertaken in the winter of 2013–14, and they are currently growing in the greenhouse at the arboretum.

Hollies of the Year:

- *I. crenata* 'Sky Pencil': one does not look good due to poor siting, otherwise, performs very well in our area
- *I.* × *koehneana* 'Lassie': two plants with very nice structure, dense lower branching and good fruit set

• *I. verticillata* 'Maryland Beauty': two plants; good shape and densely branched structure; excellent fruit set eaten early by the birds

• *I. verticillata* "Red Sprite': several mass plantings; good growth; fruits well, but stripped early in season by birds

• *I. pedunculosa*: two female plants; fruit set improved since we planted 'Stevens Male'

We do not have *I. opaca* 'Satyr Hill', *I.* × *attenuata* 'Sunny Foster', *I. aquifolium* 'Lewis', *I.* 'Scepter', *I. (cornuta* × *aquifolium)* 'Nellie R. Stevens', or *I. aquifolium* 'Proud Mary'.

Anthony S. Aiello, Curator, and Elinor I. Goff, Plant Recorder