

CYLBURN ARBORETUM

Baltimore, MD USDA Zone 7

Cylburn Arboretum, a Baltimore City public park, has almost 140 hollies in a number of special plantings. The largest group is in the traditional “Holly Collection” area. This planting is thought to date back to the 1960’s, although documentation is sparse. Elsewhere in the Arboretum, many deciduous hollies and *Ilex glabra* have been used in wet areas, rain gardens, or individual gardens. A significant group of *I. opaca* cultivars was planted in 2009 in connection with a new visitor center, and has recently been augmented by a separate grouping of *I. × koehneana* cultivars. Each plant has an identification tag, giving its accession number, botanical and common names, family name and native range. When the date planted is known, that appears on the tag as well.

The Arboretum has traditionally been considered zone 7, although recent years have brought very irregular weather patterns. In 2016, an early warm spring led to a severe late frost; then a return of spring with substantial rain; then a very dry summer and fall—a drought that continues in early 2017.

The Arboretum depends on volunteer attention to maintain the hollies, and we have benefited enormously from the dedicated guidance provided by Charles Anderson and Bill Kuhl. In January 2016, Jason Veil presented his thesis findings on methods to evaluate holly plants to the Arboretum Landscape Committee, and this was a very beneficial program. Jason had also presented at the annual meeting in October 2015.

In November, 2016, we applied for a government grant to obtain paid assistance to renovate the area of the traditional holly collection. If we obtain this grant we will remove seedling trees and invasive vines and weeds, renovate the turf, and add additional *Ilex* species.

Nell Strachan, Chair, Landscape Committee

<http://cylburn.org/>