

## UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE ARBORETUM

Oak Ridge, TN USDA Hardiness Zone 7a-6b

The Elmore Holly Collection located on the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center/Arboretum grounds experienced several bouts of above normal temperatures in mid-January, early March, September, and mid/late December. Above-normal precipitation was also experienced in January, February, and April and throughout the fall season. The Elmore Holly Collection does not currently have an adequate on-site water source, and a plan is being considered to run a water line to the collection.

In March of 2017, Fran Scheidt, HSA and Holly Task Force member, and Janet Bigelow, University of Tennessee Arboretum Society President, met to discuss Fran's "wish list" for the Elmore Holly Collection. At the top of the list was the need to revise the brochure, which details the origin, general layout, and specific plants of the collection. Fran's list of revisions to the plant collection was crucial to updating the brochure, and Janet had ideas about making it more colorful and user-friendly. Numerous subsequent meetings with Nancy Smith, a volunteer who maintains the holly collection database and the brochure layout, resulted in many revisions—seven in all—that were reviewed by Fran, Dr. Will Witte, and Dennis Superczynski for comments and approval. In April, 2018, the brochure was sent to the printer, and 500 copies are now ready for distribution to visitors to this nationally recognized collection of hollies.

The fall Holly Work Day was held on October 14, 2017. With focused efforts by the volunteer contingent, all the tasks outlined for the morning were accomplished. Volunteers layered newspapers, beginning on the outside edge of the Japanese Holly Collection and spreading toward the center. Everyone, young and old, helped spread a heavy layer of mulch over the newspapers, providing protection from invasive weeds while retaining moisture for the hollies. Erik Ferragut and his sons, Jacob and Nathan, worked diligently spreading and carting mulch. Stalwart supporters Lucie Jones, Jim Mee, and the Holly Task Force leaders worked steadily. John Skinner led the way to remove bittersweet and honeysuckle from the top holly branches. A special note of thanks to Kathy Fahey for staying with us into the early afternoon and following up on Monday with Arboretum staff to finish mulching and installing deer fencing. And thanks to the Arboretum staff for delivering mulch to the work areas, applying Glyphosate prior to mulching the perimeter of the Japanese Holly bed,

auguring holes for planting new holly accessions, constructing deer fencing, and for watering in the new hollies.

The workday included planting 16 new hollies, from 'Barbie' to 'Virginia'. These hollies were selected by Fran Scheidt, some of which were brought back from the Holly Society of America Annual meeting in 2015. They were cared for in the arboretum green house and grown to planting size. Fran also selected the planting sites in proximity to groups related to the varieties already planted in respective areas. Fran maintains an up-to-date inventory of every holly planted in the Elmore Holly Collection.

Hollies planted October 14, 2017:

*Ilex crenata* 'Mariesii'

*I. crenata* 'Piccolo'

*I. colchica* (sp) Duplicate- To be renamed

*I. × altaclerensis* 'Camelliifolia'

*I. × aquipernyi* 'Dragon Slayer'

*I. × aquipernyi* 'Serendipity'

*I. aquifolium* 'Barbie'

*I. × ('Mary Nell' seedling) 'Coned' Little Red™*

*I. × pernyi veitchi* 'Little Bull'

*I. × attenuata* 'Nasa'

*I. pedunculosa* (sp)

*I. opaca* 'Portia Orton'

*I. integra × (× altaclerensis)* 'Virginia'

*I. integra* (sp)

*I. integra* (sp)

*I. integra* (sp)

The Spring 2018 Holly Work Day originally scheduled for April 7, 2018 had to be rescheduled for April 14 due to inclement weather. The workday focused on fertilizing young hollies planted in fall 2017 and installing in-ground signposts. The small group of volunteers also performed selective pruning and removing invasive vines throughout the collection. Dr. Will Witte was on hand directing proper pruning activities. Work was begun to trim back and remove invasive plants from the overgrown Japanese Holly Collection. This will be major project and require a substantial number of volunteer hours to complete.

The UT Holly Task Force will continue to focus on the following goals:

Replacing, moving and/or adding holly collection markers and labels to selected specimens

Enlarging and combining specimens into additional expanded “mulched” perimeter areas

For more information on our programs and collections please visit the Arboretum webpage (<http://utarboretum.tennessee.edu/index.html>). For more information about the UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center please visit (<http://forestry.tennessee.edu>), which is also connected to the new UT Arboretum Facebook page. Ms. Michelle Campanis, our new UT Arboretum Education Program Coordinator, recently implemented the site.

Dennis Superczynski, UT Holly Task Force Chairman, Janet Bigelow, President, UT Arboretum Society, Kevin P. Hoyt, Director, Director, UT Forest Resources AgResearch and Education Center