

Clark-Landsbaum Deming Park Holly Arboretum

Terre Haute, Indiana (USDA Hardiness Zone 5b)

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

The weather in 2009 was cooler than normal and there were snow showers on April 6. It was a very wet year. We had 53.47 inches of precipitation, and normal is 41.36 inches. July was 5 degrees below normal and the second coldest on record. August was colder than normal and very dry. The temperature was below normal 5 of the last 6 months.

Those hollies that died and were removed from the arboretum were three specimens of *Ilex x meserveae* 'Honey Maid', which were dug up from a bed in the winter and failed to survive transplanting in the spring. These plants had been doing very well since they were planted in 1998. *Ilex* 'Rock Garden', *Ilex koehneana* 'Lock Raven', *Ilex cornuta* CHI09, *Ilex opaca* 'Georgianna', *Ilex crenata* 'Compacta' and *Ilex glabra* male died and were removed.

Hollies added to the arboretum include: *Ilex opaca* 'Indiana State', *Ilex* 'Rock Garden', *Ilex opaca* 'Arden', *Ilex opaca* 'Emily' and *Ilex opaca* 'Virginia West'.

Drainage on the hillside at the arboretum has been so poor that a number of hollies were adversely affected and many died. A year ago drainage tile was installed at the bottom of the hill. This year it was discovered that years ago the lower area below the hill was swampy and had been filled up with rubble, including concrete steps, broken concrete with rebar, asphalt paving, and other debris. This was removed and backfilled with soil. Last summer additional drainage tiles were installed above this area and connected to the lower tiles. This should correct the drainage problem. However, some hollies had to be moved since the bed was destroyed. Several *crenatas* and other smaller hollies replaced the ones that were lost.

Over 50 members and guests of the Great Rivers Chapter of the Holly Society of America met here in the fall. They were surprised that the Red Hollies, which were planted in 2005, were doing so well. Additional plants are being sent to test for their performance in this hardiness zone.

Since our arboretum is in a public city park, it is funded and maintained by Friends of the Arboretum. We are able to support the arboretum with a spring fundraiser, selling holly wreaths for the holidays, and through private donations. Some hollies in the arboretum are being planted or maintained as memorial gifts.

Because the arboretum space is somewhat limited, we have begun planting hollies throughout the community. From 2003 thru 2009, over 100 hollies have been planted.

These hollies have been planted at the County Fairgrounds, City Hall, County Court House, two colleges, public schools, entrance to a city boulevard, other parks, and major roads into the city.

We are actively speaking to service clubs, churches, schools and other groups about the arboretum and holly. Tours of the arboretum for interested groups are given when requested. Educational classes and tours are given to students from horticulture classes at IVY Tech Community College and Master Gardener trainees. On Arbor Day, Indiana State University was recognized as just the second Tree Campus in Indiana. At the dedication ceremony, an 'Indiana State' *Ilex opaca* was planted on the campus. This holly was named for the university.

Several "Holly of the Year" are planted in the arboretum. Two 'Satyr Hill' were planted in 1998 and 1999. Even though they were planted in a wet location, they are surviving. With the drainage project complete, we should see growth improvement with these hollies. Four 'Sky Pencil' were added from 1998 to 2001. One was hit by a lawnmower and died, but the others look good. 'Lassie' was planted in 2003. It has grown well and set berries for the first time this year. 'Sunny Foster', planted in 1996, was protected every winter for several years, but now without winter shelter, dies back more every year. 'Lewis' (2007) has done well and is being grown in a protected area until it is large enough to be transplanted into a public park. 'Lewis' is now about 40" tall.

Robert Artis