

The work of the **Scientific Advisory Committee** has included the following over the past two years.

- 1) Committee formation during summer of 2005. An 11 member group of science minded members has comprised this committee from its beginning to the present. The same members have remained on the committee throughout this time. The members recruited represent a wide geographical area, a variety of scientific disciplines and a broad interest in all classes of irises. This committee combines the responsibility of three former committees, which were the Scientific Editor (or advisor) of the AIS Bulletin, the former Scientific Committee, and the Grants/Scientific Research Committee. The Committee prepared a Mission Statement and Guiding Principles for its operation.
- 2) Developed a Policy Statement on Iris Conservation for the AIS. This policy statement was approved by the AIS BOD in November 2005. The plight of the so-called Gilboa Iris in Israel was one of the precipitating factors in the development of this conservation policy statement.
- 3) Grant reviews for the AIS Foundation. The SAC has acted as a resource for the AIS Foundation in reviewing grant proposals to that organization. To date, the SAC members have reviewed three grant proposals for the Foundation.
- 4) Review of Scientific articles for the AIS Bulletin. The SAC, since its formation, has also reviewed five scientific articles at the request of the editor of the AIS Bulletin. This review process has resulted in recommendations for revising manuscripts, a caution in one instance concerning a possible invasive plant, and one instance of recommending that a manuscript not be accepted for publication. All of the manuscript revisions and additions were with the acceptance of both the author and Bulletin Editor.
- 5) Resource for Information. There have been multiple cases of requests to the Scientific Advisory Committee for assistance on scientific topics from both the US and abroad. These have ranged from requests for help in treating bearded irises infected with Leaf Blight in New Zealand to requests for recommendation of iris plantings at the Chicago Botanic Garden. There was also a request for information concerning possible Broad Bean Wilt Virus on irises and whether it is symptomatic or not on irises, affecting possible importation of irises from the US into New Zealand. In all of these cases, we were able to offer direct help or advice for assistance from another source.
- 6) AIS Grant Proposal Funding. The AIS BOD approved up to \$5,000 for SAC projects in 2007. One of the uses of this money is expected to be for Research Grant Funding. During the summer of 2007, the SAC reviewed a grant proposal from Andrew Wheeler, whose work involves three series and eight species of North American native beardless irises, their relationships and possible origins. This grant proposal request (for \$2500) was reviewed by the committee and unanimously recommended for funding by the AIS BOD. In addition, a previously funded grant by Dr. Alan Meerow was completed in spring of 2007 and the final report will be forwarded to the committee and available to the AIS Board of Directors.

Prepared by Gary White, August 2007