

**Report to the AIS from the American Iris Society Foundation**  
**October, 2008**

The AIS Foundation Trustees met at the AIS spring convention in Austin, Texas. Three requests for funding were discussed. The AIS Scientific Advisory Committee reviewed two of these proposals, at the request of the Foundation, and recommended funding. The Trustees voted and approved funding for Dr. Noland Martin's study "Genetic Linkage Mapping in *Iris nelsonii* X *Iris hexagona* Hybrids, or...Developing a necessary genetic tool for studying speciation in Louisiana Iris." This grant amount was just over \$5000. Dr. Martin teaches and conducts research at Texas State University. The second study that was voted and approved for funding (\$2000) by the Trustees was requested by one of Dr. Martin's students, Sunni Taylor, and is titled "Homoploid hybrid speciation in Louisiana *Iris*". The third vote for funding approval was in the amount of \$5000 in support of Dr. Carol Wilson's ongoing work on the genus *Iris*.

The DuBose Trust has been finalized and the trust funds are invested in several CDs in various banks. Robert Plank was voted authority to handle investment of the assets of the trust and work with the DuBose trustee, Phil Edinger, on behalf of the Foundation. Dr. Hollingworth suggested a joint AIS/AIS Foundation working group be formed to study use of the DuBose trust funds in regards to an iris library. Will Plotner and Nancy Price were named the representatives from the Foundation for this AIS/Foundation committee.

Elections were held for the expiring terms of Carol Warner, Will Plotner and Jim Landers on the Board of Trustees. All were unanimously re-elected.

Robert Hollingworth was re-elected as President of the AIS Foundation and Dorothy Willott was re-elected as Vice-President. Roger Mazur withdrew from the Secretary/Treasurer position, after a period of 12 years. Gary White was elected to serve as Secretary/Treasurer. Roger Mazur will continue to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Foundation. Robert Plank was also elected to the Foundation's Board of Trustees.

In August, the AIS Foundation was asked to consider funding the Jinyan Guo proposal "Phylogenetic and developmental study of *Iris* subgenus *Limniris* section *Lophris* and related species". The Scientific Advisory Committee had already reviewed this proposal and recommended its approval for funding to the AIS. However, since two proposals were recommended for funding to AIS and sufficient money was not available in the AIS Research and Scholarship fund to cover both grants, the AIS Foundation voted to fund the Jinyan Guo proposal for both years of the study (\$1320 for year one and \$960 for year two). Jinyan Guo is a doctoral graduate student working with Dr. Carol Wilson at the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden and Claremont Graduate University in California.

It is noted that because of significantly lower interest rates, money available for funding research will likely be less in the coming year(s) than in the recent past.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gary E. White  
Secretary/Treasurer, AIS Foundation