

# SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

October 2008

Submitted by Gary White

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) was formed during the summer of 2005 to review science issues and make recommendations to the Board of Directors of the American Iris Society when appropriate. Following is a summary of the committee's activities from the April 2008 AIS Board meeting to October 15, 2008.

## IRIS-RELATED RESEARCH

**Discussion:** Two grant requests were submitted to the committee for consideration. The first of these was a proposal by Jinyan Guo, a doctoral graduate student working with Dr. Carol Wilson at Claremont Graduate University and the Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden. Her study proposal is titled "Phylogenetic and developmental study of *Iris* subgenus *Limniris* section *Lophris* and related species". This grant request is for a two year study with a proposed budget of \$1320 the first year and \$960 the second year. The second grant request was from Dr. Alan Meerow, a USDA scientist, and titled "Heterogeneity, ecological speciation and introgression in a large population of *Iris savannarum*". This is also a two-year study with a request for \$4840 in the first year and \$4125 in the second year.

Both of these grant requests and study outlines were reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee. Both were recommended for funding by a majority of committee members.

### ***Status/Action/Recommendation:***

1. Copies of the Jinyan Guo proposal and the Alan Meerow proposal were made available to the AIS Board of Directors for consideration and with a recommendation for funding. Money available in the AIS Research and Scholarship fund was not sufficient to cover first year funding for both studies. The Jinyan Guo proposal was then presented to the AIS Foundation. The AIS Foundation voted to fund the Jinyan Guo proposal for both years. The AIS Board of Directors voted to fund the first year of the Alan Meerow proposal. The Scientific Advisory Committee recommends that the second year of the Meerow proposal also be funded.
2. Status of current grants awarded by AIS:  
Andrew Wheeler's grant-funded study "Section *Limniris*: Series *Laevigatae*, Series *Prismaticae* and Series *Tripetalae*: Are these historic groups supported?" is continuing. His communication with me indicates that his funds are sufficient for the current year, but he plans to request further funding in the next granting period. A progress report is expected in winter of 2008 or early in 2009.
3. **Motion to approve** funding of the Alan Meerow grant proposal in the amount of \$4125 for the second year of his study of *Iris savannarum*.

## **Project Funding**

### ***Discussion:***

Recent history: The Scientific Advisory Committee requested \$5,000 be budgeted for applicable projects in 2007. This request was approved by the AIS BOD in November 2006. Per Board motion, money not spent on scientific projects is retained in the restricted Research and Scholarship fund. \$2,500 was used from this fund in 2007. Further expenditures from the Research and Scholarship fund have been authorized in 2008 as described above. Additional funds have not been budgeted for this restricted fund to date, though there have been significant donations to the Research and Scholarship Fund.

### ***Status/Recommendation and Budget Request:***

Because of recent donations to the Research and Scholarship Fund, money is currently available to fund current research projects, including year two of the Meerow study and expected further grant support for Andrew Wheeler's project.

***Budget Request:*** The Scientific Advisory Committee requests that an additional \$5,000 be allocated to the Research and Scholarship Fund for research grant funding and other appropriate projects in 2009.

### **Members of the AIS Scientific Advisory Committee:**

Gary White (Chairman), Lincoln, NE  
Anna Cadd, Healdsburg, CA  
Dennis Hager, Millington, Maryland  
George Hildenbrandt, State College, PA  
Bob Hollingworth, Williamston, MI  
Anna Mae Miller, Kalamazoo, MI

Kelly Norris, Ames, Iowa  
Will Plotner, Molalla, Oregon  
Bob Pries, Roxboro, North Carolina  
Bill Shear, Hampden-Sydney, Virginia  
James Waddick, Kansas City, Missouri