

Report of the Foundation to the AIS – April 2008

The Foundation has spent \$12,400.00 on grants last year. The trustees have apportioned this amount as follows:

- ❖ Nolan Martin \$5,040.00
- ❖ Carol Wilson for \$7,500.00

Dr. Noland H. Martin: He has documented the flowering phenology of 2000 *Iris fulva*, *I. brevicaulis* and their hybrids in experimental field plots in the Atchafalaya swamp. At the same time he is analyzing the microhabitats and identifying the Pollinators (hummingbirds, butterflies and bees). He will give a report at the Austin meeting.

Dr. Carol Wilson: Her proposed study is being undertaken to determine several unanswered questions about subgenus *Iris*. 1) Is there a core lineage that is comprised of most species now placed within subgenus *Iris*? 2) Do species now placed within sections *Pseudoregelia* and *Psammiris* belong to one or two groups? 3) What is the relationship of species from section *Regelia* to other species within subgenus *Iris*? 4) Do species presently placed within the sections *Oncocyclus* and *Iris* form monophyletic groups?

We will continue the support of Dr. Wilson with the second half of her grant in the amount of \$7,500.00.

Two grant proposals have been received - one from Dr. Martin and one from Sunni Taylor, his graduate student. They will be voted on by the trustees at the Austin meeting. Taylor's summary: The Abbeville Red (*Iris nelsonii*) is a purported homoploid hybrid species that is endemic to the full shade of a cypress marsh in southern Louisiana. Despite the attention paid to *I. nelsonii* (Randolph 1966; Arnold 1993), the identities of the progenitor species have only been speculated. I propose the use of population genetic techniques to identify the progenitor species, as well as the contribution of each species to the genome of *I. nelsonii*. This information is vital for further analyses of the divergence of this hybrid lineage from its parental species.

Dr. Martin's summary: The proposed project seeks to develop a new genetic linkage map between the species-pair *Iris hexagona* and *Iris nelsonii*. Specifically in this experiment, I will utilize an F₂ mapping approach, with a population size of ± 400 F₂ individuals to create a single linkage map of co-dominant and dominant genetic markers.

In this regard we are very pleased with the collaboration from Science Group of AIS who have been providing helpful reviews of all these proposals. This arrangement is working well.

The Hager/DuBose Trust has been completed. The amount after fees, taxes and other costs, amounted to \$425,000.00. Phil Edinger is the trustee for this DuBose Library Trust and has been given a check for this amount. He will invest it and care for the trust for the next 20 years or until his death. The principal will not be touched; only the interest can be used for library purposes. Hopefully, Bob Plank will inform the board of the present situation. We are extremely grateful for the truly outstanding service provided by Bob in bringing this quite complex affair to a conclusion. We propose that a joint ad hoc committee be formed between AIS and the the Foundation to discuss how best to use this new library funding.

Contributions continue to fall. Also the rapid fall in interest rates on CDs will reduce our ability to fund projects in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sec./Treas. AIS Foundation