

# SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Oct 2009

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 May 2009 AIS Board meeting to October 28, 2009.

## IRIS-RELATED RESEARCH

**Discussion:** Two studies funded by AIS are ongoing.

- 1) Dr. Alan Meerow is a USDA scientist, and his study is titled "Heterogeneity, ecological speciation and introgression in a large population of *Iris savannarum*". This is a two-year study with an AIS approved grant for \$4840 in the first year and \$4125 in the second year.
- 2) Andrew Wheeler is a PhD candidate at Claremont Graduate University and Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden in Claremont, CA; and his study is titled "Section Linniris: Series Laevigatae, Series Prismaticae and Series Tripetalae: Are these historic groups supported?" To date, \$2,500 has been requested, approved by AIS and paid toward this research.

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

1. The first year payment amount of \$4,482.50 was made in January for the Meerow study. Payment for the second and final installment (also \$4,482.50) of this grant was completed in September 2009. A final report following completion of the study is expected and has been committed by Dr. Meerow. The second year funding of this study was approved by the AIS BOD in November, 2008. A one year no-cost extension was granted to Dr. Meerow. His study is to be completed in February 2011, with the final report to follow.
2. A final report is expected upon completion of Andrew Wheeler's study. No new funding has been requested for this study.

## Committee Composition

Since its inception in 2005, the Scientific Advisory Committee of 11 members has continued with the same full complement of members. I appreciate the dedication, work and support of all the members of this committee during the past four years.

Due to increasing commitments with the AIS and the AIS Foundation, as well as work and other personal commitments, I wish to relinquish my position as Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee. I will be willing to continue to serve on this committee, however, if the new chairman is amenable to that.

## 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