

SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

May 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 November 2009 AIS Board meeting to May 1, 2009.

IRIS-RELATED RESEARCH

Discussion: The first payment was requested for the grant approved to Dr. Alan Meerow, a USDA scientist, and 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.

Status/Action/Recommendation:

1. The first year payment amount of \$4,482.50 was made in January for the Meerow study. Payment request for the second and final installment of this grant is expected during the summer or fall of 2009. The second portion of this grant will also be in the amount of \$4,482.50. 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.
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. .
A progress report is expected in 2009. No new funding has been requested for this study.

AIS BOD Request

Discussion: The AIS Board of Directors voted to refer the policy concerning registration of wild iris plants to the Scientific Advisory Committee for review and clarification. The AIS BOD approved motion was: "The Scientific Advisory Committee be asked to formulate a written policy on the collection of wild iris plants with good collection data and should include any fees be waived by AIS if they are registered. This policy would then be presented to the AIS Board of Directors for approval."

Status/Recommendation:

Members of the SAC have been discussing this motion on a policy for registration of wild iris plants. There will be a final recommendation for this policy presented at the BOD meeting in Kansas City on May 11-12, 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