

Report to the AIS from the American Iris Society Foundation

November, 2010

Research Grants:

The Foundation is currently funding two studies. Two other studies have been recently completed.

Dr. Carol Wilson's work on the genus *Iris*, a three year grant for "Systematic studies in the Bearded Irises, Subgenus *Iris*" was partially funded by the Foundation, and is now completed. We have not yet received a final report, but expect it soon. Dr. Wilson noted that her collecting trip to China was more successful than anticipated, and that she returned with several species that are rarely collected, based on searches in Chinese, US and European herbaria. One of these is *Iris dolichosiphon subsp. orientalis* (formerly *Iris kemonensis*), collected at 14,690 ft on the Tibetan Plateau.

One of Dr. Wilson's students, Jinyan Guo, is completing work on her study of "Phylogenetic and developmental study of *Iris* subgenus *Limniris* section *Lophris* and related species". The final grant installment was made early in 2010, and we expect a final report on this study within the next few months.

Dr. Carol Wilson has begun a new study titled "Does Data Based on Nuclear Sequence and Pollen Morphology Agree with the Sectional Classification of Subgenus *Iris* Based on Chloroplast Sequence Data?" This is a two year study and the Foundation Board voted to approve funding in the amount of \$10,285, divided over the two year study period. Dr. Wilson notes that this research (especially DNA content) is a new direction for her.

Dr. John Kaufmann, a weed specialist, is working on identifying herbicides that may be sprayed over irises and effective against broadleaf weeds. Iris plots of Tall Bearded, Dwarf Bearded, Spuria, Siberian, and Japanese irises are in place and spraying was begun this summer. Sixteen different herbicides are being evaluated for safety to iris. The first payment on this grant was made this summer and the first progress report of the study was received.

Finally, an article by Dr. Noland H. Martin, an Assistant Professor of Biology at Texas State University San Marcos, was printed in the July issue of *Irises*. This report was originally published in *Fleur de Lis*, by the Society for Louisiana Irises (SLI). Dr. Martin is a past recipient of funding by the AIS Foundation and by the SLI, and this article is about results and experiences arising from those studies.

Donation contributions:

Individual donations have been very few during the past period since the Spring 2010 AIS Board meeting. However, the Foundation recently received a significant estate donation of \$10,000. This contribution is not earmarked and went into the General Fund of the Foundation. The contribution from the DuBose Trust interest continues to be the single largest yearly donation coming to the Foundation. That amount has also been

decreasing over the past two years, but is expected to increase in the next years because of capital investment changes of the Trust.

For the first time, the Foundation is required to file a tax return. Because of declining donations over the past several years and because of the ratio of Investment Income to Donation Income, the Foundation must now file as a Private Foundation rather than a Public Foundation. The primary downside of this is that the Foundation now is required to pay taxes on the portion of its income from Investments (Interest, etc). Donation income is not taxed.

AIS Library:

The joint AIS/AIS Foundation working group continues to consider uses of the DuBose Trust fund proceeds in regards to an iris library. Members of the joint working group are Will Plotner and Nancy Price from the Foundation and Jeanne Clay Plank and Jill Bonino from the AIS, Gary White from both organizations. Bob Hollingworth and Judy Keisling are ex-officio members.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary E. White
Secretary, AIS Foundation