

Scientific Committee Report
Fall 2013
By Bob Hollingworth

It has been a fairly quiet time here in the Scientific Committee since I took over the Chair from Kelly Norris at the beginning of the year. We have added Dr. Carol Wilson from Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden as a member to join Gary White, Bob Pries, and Kelly Norris.

In January/February we declined to contribute financially to a project organized by the American Hosta Society to study controls for foliar nematodes since these do not appear to be a problem with irises. We provided input on a new taxonomic revision of the Irises of Central Asia at the request of President Morris.

New proposal reviewed and subsequently funded (by the AIS Foundation):

- A study of the evolutionary diversification of populations of Louisiana irises (*fulva* and *brevicaulis*) by Jenna Hamlin (U. Georgia).
- A proposal from Erin Riggs (Leach Botanical Garden, Portland, OR) to continue her taxonomic study on the *I. hartwegii* (PCN) complex.

Support continues for the third and final year of a project from Dr. Wilson on the molecular taxonomy of the genus *Iris* (funded before she joined the Committee) and for studies by Dr. John Kaufmann (ex-Michigan State University, ex-Monsanto) to evaluate new herbicides for use on irises. The first results of this work were published in the July issue of *Irises*. More to follow.

We (through the AIS Foundation) unfortunately now have a limited capacity to fund new projects because the interest rates on investments (mainly CDs) are currently very low. However, we still welcome new proposals of modest scope.