

Report to the AIS from the AIS Foundation – October, 2014

Grants and Scholarships:

The Foundation is currently funding six projects, and a 7th was funded during the summer. Of these, funding has been fully paid on five of them.

Dr. Carol Wilson, at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, is conducting a three year 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 grant of total of \$10,285 has been fully paid. We expect an interim report of Dr. Wilson’s progress in the next few months, and a full report upon completion.

Bob Pries was granted \$500 for a pilot study to digitize and archive about 1000 iris photos. A photographic record of digitized photos would be displayed on the Iris Wiki. Bob has not yet requested payment for this grant.

Sunni Taylor, a student, then a research associate of Dr. Noland Martin’s at Texas State University San Marcos, conducted a study: “Divergence in Sympatry: Mechanical Pollinator Isolation as a Mechanism for Hybrid Speciation”. Foundation funding (\$2,718) for this grant has been completed. A No Pay extension for this study was requested and granted. We await a report of findings at the end of the study.

A study was approved about 18 months ago to Jenna Hamlin, a PhD student at the University of Georgia, working under the direction of Dr. Michael Arnold in the Department of Genetics. Jenna’s study involves work on the evolutionary diversification of two species of Louisiana irises, *Iris fulva* and *Iris brevicaulis*. Jenna has already completed the field work collecting samples of *Iris fulva* and is beginning work analyzing the data. This grant of \$6,921 will allow her to complete the field work collecting samples and specimens of *Iris brevicaulis*, then completing studies and analyses on the data. With this data and experiments/analyses, Jenna hopes to further the knowledge into the role of geography, ecology, natural hybridization and natural selection in the evolutionary diversification of these two taxa. Funding for this grant has been fully paid. The first paper on this research has been accepted for publication in **Ecology and Evolution!** We are expecting a final report on this study within the next year.

A proposal from Erin Riggs at the Leach Botanical Garden in Portland, Oregon was approved after review by the AIS Scientific Committee last year. This study is a continuation of her taxonomic study of the *Iris hartwegii* complex (PCN). The modest cost (\$1,924) of this study was paid in summer of 2013.

\$1000 grant to Dr. Aaron Floden at the University of Tennessee for field work in India, including searching for a new species of crested iris. This grant proposal came to the Foundation in the spring of 2014, and the proposal was sent to the AIS Scientific Committee for review. The proposal application was recommended for approval by that committee, and the Foundation then funded the project. This money was used to help fund a small expedition to the Indian Himalayas. The crested iris was located and a collection prepared for shipment to the USA. Unfortunately, the shipment of collected plants was delayed by the Indian postal system and the irises died by the time they arrived in the USA. However, it is hoped that seeds might be collected from the same location within a year or two.

A new grant proposal was received from the AIS to scan approximately 10,000 pages of iris catalogs collected by Anne and Mike Lowe. Non-destructive scanning, employing OCR to provide electronically searchable PDF files would be done. The scanned catalogs would be shipped to the AIS Library at the conclusion of the project, and the project noted as a donation in honor of Mike and Anne Lowe. The same firm that scanned the AIS Bulletin library would perform the scanning/OCR. The cost of this project has been approved by the AIS Foundation in the amount of \$6900. The project funding was requested by John Jones, Chair of the Electronic Services Committee. The resulting project files will be available to the public from the AIS Library, other public library resources as chosen by the AIS Board and those stipulated by the AIS Foundation (if any) in its proposal response, and other venues as selected by the AIS Board. The full grant amount of \$6,900 will be made this fall to the AIS Electronic Services restricted fund for this project.

Ackerman Essay Contest.

The 2014 Ackerman Youth Essay Contest was completed and winners announced at the AIS convention in Dallas . The essay title for 2014 was “Why, When, and Where did you become interested in Irises?” The essay title for 2015 has not yet been announced.

AIS Library:

The AIS Library has now been in its new location in Molalla, Oregon for two and a half years. The lease was renewed in June for another 2 yrs at the same rate of \$7,500 per annum. The AIS Foundation has assumed management of Library funding, including day to day costs of supplies, equipment, acquisitions, maintenance, etc. This funding comes from Foundation library funds and through interest proceeds from the Sidney P. DuBose Memorial Trust

Donation contributions:

The contribution from the DuBose Trust interest continues to be the single largest yearly donation coming to the Foundation. Other donations now include those for all AIS and AIS Foundation donation accounts. Donations received earmarked for the AIS Library and for Research and Scholarship remain in AIS Foundation accounts, and are used towards the AIS Library or towards iris research, as specified by the donor.

Donations received for all Youth activities (except for the Ackerman Essay Contest), for the AIS General Fund, for Insurance Defrayment, for the AIS Encyclopedia (Wiki) and for the AIS 100th Anniversary Fund are collected and distributed to the AIS on a roughly quarterly basis. Please see the separate “Donations to the AIS” report for details of those donations since March 21st of 2014. To date, in situations where no designation of donation application was made (either to the AIS or to the AIS Foundation), we have attributed them to the AIS General Fund.

Other funding sources, primarily interest income on Certificates of Deposit, have dramatically fallen over the past few years. The bulk of the AIS Foundation’s income is now from donations and interest contributions from the DuBose Trust. While the Foundation has sufficient funds to maintain the library at its current levels, as well as funding of other Library projects, funding for new scientific grants must be curtailed, unless donations for Research increase dramatically and/or interest rates rise significantly.

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Respectfully submitted, October 24, 2014

Gary E. White, Secretary/Treasurer of the AIS Foundation