

Report to the AIS from the AIS Foundation – May, 2015

Grants and Scholarships:

The Foundation is currently funding seven projects, and an 8th being considered for funding. Of these, funding has been fully paid on five of them, with a sixth pending outcome of the project.

Dr. Carol Wilson, then at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden, conducted 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, totaling \$10,285, has been fully paid. We are expecting an upcoming final report of Dr. Wilson’s work on this project.

Dr. Wilson has recently moved to UC Berkeley, and has submitted a new research study to the Foundation for consideration of funding. Her new project is a 3 year study titled “Systematic Studies of subgenera *Xiphium* and *Hermodactyloides* and Related Taxa Utilizing Next-Generation Sequencing and Morphology.” This proposal is being considered at the Foundation Board meeting in Portland.

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 are awaiting a final report on this study.

A study was approved about 2 years 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*. This grant of \$6,921 allowed 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 completed. The first paper on this research has been accepted for publication in **Ecology and Evolution**! Two more papers on this research have been submitted for publication. We are expecting a final report on this study within the next few months.

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. We are awaiting a report on this study.

A \$3,000 grant was approved in February to a group of plant explorers sponsored by the Atlanta Botanic Garden for help in locating and bringing back specimens of the Indian crested iris that was attempted last year by Aaron Floden from the University of Tennessee. The first attempt last year located plants, but the plants were not viable after extended quarantine in India. This new proposal involves an exploration trip by experienced veteran plant hunters Dan Hinkley and Scott McMahan. There is also a clause that in the event the trip to procure viable plants by this team is not successful, that the Foundation is not obligated for the \$3,000 funding. This grant money has not been paid, but if the project is successful, will be paid out after the June 2015 plant hunting exploration trip.

A grant proposal was received last fall 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 is being done. The scanned catalogs are to 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 cost of this project was 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 was made last fall to the AIS Electronic Services restricted fund for this project. This project appears to be nearing completion, and a progress report is expected from John Jones at the AIS board meeting in Portland.

Ackerman Essay Contest.

The 2015 Ackerman Youth Essay Contest is completed and winners will be announced at the AIS convention in Portland. The essay title for 2015 was "If you were an iris, which one would you be and why?"

AIS Library:

The AIS Library has now been in its new location in Molalla, Oregon for about 3 years. The lease was renewed in June last year 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.

AIS Encyclopedia:

Effective late fall of 2014, the AIS Foundation has assumed funding of the Encyclopedia. The annual maintenance cost is about \$1,000. There was an upgrade in 2014 which was also funded by the Foundation. The first

payment of \$3,000 was made in late fall 2014, covering both the 2014 maintenance/upgrade and the 2015 maintenance costs for the AIS Encyclopedia. This money is paid from Library Funds through the Foundation.

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 October 25th 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 have been reduced, depending on R&S donations in lieu of interest income.

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Respectfully submitted, May 11, 2015

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