

Region 15

Fall 2026 Semi-Annual Report

You're Invited!

Fall Meeting 2026

Hosted by Tucson Area Iris Society in Tucson, AZ

Saturday October 17, 2026

www.region15ais.org

Contents

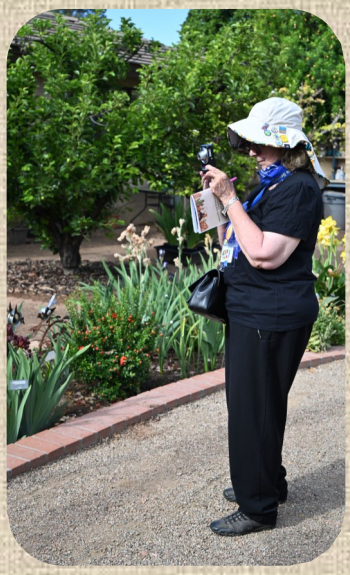
Region 15 Spring Trek photos (part 1)	2
Note from the Editor	3
Affiliate Presidents' Contact Info	3
Region 15 Trek Wheel 2026-2028	4
Region 15 Officers & Committees	4
Membership Update	4
AIS Youth Report by Cheryl Deaton	4
RVP Message by Beth Train	5
Judges Training by Mary Hanson	6
AIS Popularity Poll announcement	6
Slate of candidates for Region 15	7
AIS Membership Info	8
Upcoming conventions	8
2026 AIS Membership Drive	9
AIS Webinar and Online JT Info	9
Spring Board Meeting Minutes	10-12
Treasurer's Report by Cheryl Deaton	13
2026 Fall Meeting registration	14-17
AIS Region 15 Awards Report	18
2027 Spring Trek flyer	18
2027 schedule of AIS show judges	19
2027 AIS Convention	20
Remembering Winona Stevenson	21
In Memoriam: Mason Train	22-23
Tributes to Sam Wymer	24
Remembering Marilyn Pecoraro	25
Affiliate Presidents' Reports	
-Central Coast Iris Society	26-27
-Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society	28
-Inland Region Iris Society	29
-San Diego Iris Society	30-31
-San Fernando Valley Iris Society	32
-Orange County Iris & Daylily Club	33
-Southern California Iris Society	33
-Prescott Area Iris Society	34-35
-Sun Country Iris Society	36-37
-Tucson Area Iris Society	38-39
Region 15 Calendar	40-41
Region 15 Commercial Iris Growers	42
Region 15 Spring Trek photos (part 2)	43

Region 15 Spring Trek 2026

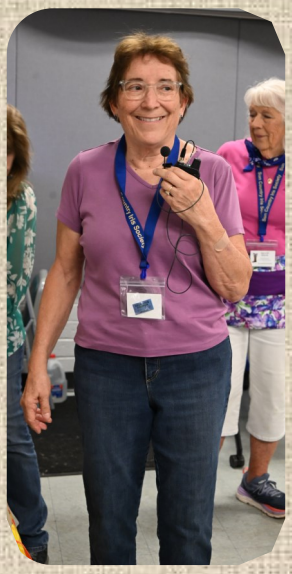












Top row, left to right: Ann Booth, spring trek co-chair; Beth Train, RVP, leading the board meeting; Bonnie Nichols, AIS President, giving JT; Jill Bonino

Middle row: General meeting and presentation; Mary Platner calling numbers for the raffle

Bottom row, left to right: Kyria Peavy, bus captain; Dale Liggett at the Petterson garden; Carol Morgan and Michelle Langston; Andi Rivarola of SFVIS with Sharon Petterson, garden host









Thank you Sun Country Iris Society!

Photo Credits: Claire Schneider



Note from the Editor

Hello fellow AIS Region 15 members!

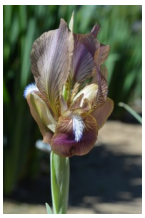
What a crazy year it has been! I hope you are all faring well in spite of the prolonged heat this summer. I am sure your gardens are not happy. It seems like every week of August had an extreme heat warning. As I write this, the heat is finally lifting and there is even a chance of rain for southern California from a possible tropical storm. A light, steady rain would be nice. Torrential downpours would not be nice, especially for recently burned areas, like what the Grand Canyon experienced recently.

I will be in Colorado this month, my first flight anywhere in almost 20 years and my first time in Colorado proper (beyond the Four Corners region). In this case, I suppose we could have driven there.

I am on the fence about going to the Fall Meeting in Tucson. The species focus, especially with the knowledgeable Jody Nolin as guest speaker, is of particular interest to me. For those that do not know, I am also editor of the Species Iris Group of North America (SIGNA) journal and the Aril Society International yearbook. I also love the desert, so I would love to go back to the surrounding area. October would be a good time to visit. We had been there before in late December of 2021 but we hardly spent any time in Tucson itself, including only a couple hours in Saguaro National Park. Kartchner Caverns State Park is a must-see, although getting a reservation for a tour can be tricky. A couple hours east of Tucson is a lesser known, stunning gem of a park: Chiricahua National Monument. For the history enthusiasts, Tumacacori National Historical Park is about an hour south of Tucson. There are so many local attractions, some of which are listed on pages 16-17 courtesy of TAIS. If you have the time, a road trip through Arizona would definitely be worth it!

Olga Batalov, Editor

READ THIS ISSUE ONLINE AT
www.region15ais.org



On the Cover: Iris lineata, aril species in the section Regelia
Photo credits: Claire Schneider

AIS Region 15
Local Chapter Presidents

Central Coast Iris Society
Cynthia Martin
CentralCoastIris@gmail.com
CCIS Facebook

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society
Pat Simpson
patsi5253@gmail.com
HDIDS Facebook

Inland Region Iris Society
Carolyn Nielsen & Penny Culbertson (co-presidents)
inlandregionirissociety@gmail.com
IRIS Facebook

Orange County Iris & Daylily Club
Derry Gerald
562-420-9190
OCIDC Facebook

Prescott Area Iris Society
Isabel Olsen
forwardprescottirissociety@gmail.com
PAIS website and Facebook

San Diego Iris Society
Mary Hanson
mehanson92021@gmail.com
SDIS website and Facebook

San Fernando Valley Iris Society
Andi Rivarola
andinsky@gmail.com
SFVIS website and Facebook

Southern California Iris Society
Cheryl Deaton
region15kids@hotmail.com
SCIS Facebook

Sun Country Iris Society
Dwayne Booth (interim)
suncountryiris@gmail.com
SCIS website

Tucson Area Iris Society
Kevin Kartchner
irisgrowinaz@gmail.com
or taisnewsletter@yahoo.com
TAIS website and Facebook

American Iris Society Region 15 Elected Officers

Region 15 Vice President (RVP)
Beth Balaney Train
bethtrain8@gmail.com

Assistant RVP and Judges Chair
Mary Hanson
mehanson92021@gmail.com

Region 15 Treasurer
Cheryl Deaton
27218 Walnut Springs Avenue
Canyon Country, CA 91351
region15kids@hotmail.com

Region 15 Secretary
Lois Farr
loistamfarr@gmail.com

Committee Chairs

Awards: Claire Schneider
itsaclearday.claire@gmail.com

Editor: Olga Batalov
olga_batalov@yahoo.com

Historian: Sue Brown
irisfor15w@gmail.com

Membership: Beth Balaney-Train for Mason Train
inlandregionirissociety@gmail.com

Nominating Committee:
Claire Schneider
itsaclearday.claire@gmail.com

Ways and Means Committee:
open

Webmaster: Tim Valenzuela
webdev@region15ais.org

Youth Program: Cheryl Deaton
region15kids@hotmail.com

AIS Region 15 Trek Wheel

Event	Trek Host	Location
2026 Fall Meeting	Tucson Area Iris Society	Tucson, AZ
2027 Spring Trek	San Diego Iris Society	Ramona, CA
2027 Fall Meeting	San Fernando Valley IS	Canoga Park, CA
2028 Spring Trek	Open	TBD
2028 Fall Meeting	Open	TBD

Get more info about upcoming Region 15 Treks from our website

www.region15ais.org

Visit us on Facebook

Membership Update (as of 8/27/2026)

By Beth Balaney-Train for Mason Train, Membership Chair

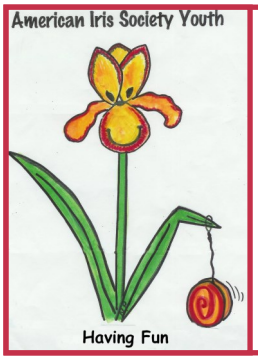
TOTAL AIS MEMBERS:	**196 (184 individuals)**
TOTAL YOUTH:	**7 (6 with, 1 without bulletin)**
TOTAL AFFILIATES:	**10 (No change)**

TOTAL AIS MEMBERS: 196 (184 individuals, 2 libraries, 10 affiliates)

AZ = 75 (72 adults, 3 affiliates)

CA = 121 (105 adults, 7 youth, 7 affiliates, 2 botanical gardens/libraries)

So far, there have been 9 new members via the 2026 AIS Membership Drive. There are also 18 members who joined in 2025 who renewed via this special.



AIS Youth Program Report

Cheryl Deaton, Region 15 Youth Chair

We have 7 youth members - all in California.



AIS Region 15 RVP Message

By Beth Balaney-Train, Region 15 RVP

Hello Region 15! I hope we get relief from this oppressive, unrelenting heat soon. I could only dream of cool, crisp fall temperatures for now as we continue to bake in triple-degree temperatures here in SoCal. SoCal could also use some rains (not too much at one time, please). It seems like AZ, however, is getting its share of the summer monsoons already.

I am looking forward to this year's Region 15 Fall Meeting. Tucson Area Iris Society is hosting. It has been many years since TAIS has hosted a Region 15 event, so I'm expecting there would be a lot of attendees at this meeting. I have met only a few of the TAIS members and I am excited to meet more come October 17th! Jody Nolin's judges training programs on Louisiana and spuria irises should be interesting and informative. Plus, I wouldn't want to miss the Swiss Raclette "Dinner" après meeting hosted by TAIS members Jody and John Williams. Just the thought of that hot melting cheese brings back memories of my first raclette experience!

Thank you Sun Country Iris Society for hosting the well-attended Region 15 Spring Trek in April. I had a wonderful time getting acquainted with the SCIS members again and seeing familiar faces. I found Bonnie Nichols' JTs on Novelty Irises and TB Irises (in-garden) educational. There was a paucity of iris blooms but the warm hospitality, smiling faces, and delicious food were worth the long drive from Southern CA.

The Trek Wheel is open in Spring 2028 and onwards. We have several affiliates who haven't hosted a Region 15 event lately, so please think about hosting one in the near future. It is likely too late to prep for a Spring Trek 2028, but please do consider hosting a Region 15 event starting with a Fall 2028 meeting at the least.

Lastly, thank you Region 15 for the opportunity to serve as your RVP the past three years. I enjoyed every minute of it. It has been a rewarding experience not only in knowledge gained but, most importantly, in friendships made. Thank you everyone for making me feel welcome and for all your love and support, especially this year with Mason's passing.

I hope to see most of you at the Tohono Chul on October 17th!

Beth Train 8/31/2026



Taken at Sharon Petterson's spuria iris garden

Left-Right:
Isabel Olsen (PAIS)
Claire Schneider (SDIS)
Sue Brown (HDIDS)
Beth Train (IRIS)
Sharon Petterson (SCIS)

Photo credit: Jenine Cook (PAIS)



AIS Judges Training

By Mary Hanson, Region 15 Asst. RVP

and Judges Training Chair

As of July 1, 2026, Region 15 has 22 judges. There are 11 G/E judges, 5 Master judges, 4 Emeritus judges, and 2 retired judges. 9 of our judges are also certified in artistic design.

Judges and students, please be mindful of your AIS membership expiration date. Please also be certain that your contact information is accurate. I had several letters containing activity reports that were returned. Remember to complete activity reports and to vote the ballot by the deadlines. Failure to maintain your responsibilities may result in you losing your status as a judge.

Student judges, please make sure you are keeping records of your JT classes. You have three years to complete the training program. Once you have completed 10 hours of training, you will be eligible to move to apprentice judge status. To become an apprentice, you need to ask 5 accredited judges to write you a letter of recommendation, which is sent to the judges training chair.

Mary

AIS Iris Popularity Poll 2026

The Iris Popularity Poll 2026 is open for votes through December 1. This open-ended electronic poll gives iris lovers a chance to list their favorites in any class of iris that grow well in their area. You can vote at this link: https://hov.to/8ff1ad0b or through the QR Code at the left. The poll needs many voters so that the data will be meaningful and in order to protect anonymity of voters. Many different voters from an AIS region, state or province can show what the popular irises are in that location, while just a few voters could offer a skewed view.

If you are new to the poll, this is how it works: fill in a few boxes that identify you as a unique voter and give your area for regional and growing zone results. You do not have to be an AIS member to vote. Next, list the names of 1-25 irises that you love and that grow well in your area. You will be asked to give the iris class (e.g. TB is Tall Bearded). Every class of irises is eligible from the smallest MDB (Miniature Dwarf Bearded) to the tallest SPU (spuria), and everything in between, bearded and beardless. We know that different irises perform better in different climates and expect the data to show what does well where voters live. We also expect that some favorites are loved everywhere. Let's find out what people enjoy growing!

The poll results can raise awareness of the strongest growing cultivars in an area, AIS region or growing zone. This gives gardeners ideas of what irises they may want to add to their gardens, irises that are beautiful and perform well where they live. This is a chance to celebrate local favorites, perhaps a hybridizer whose work is appreciated where it was first grown but not well known and distributed outside that area. The poll is also a place where old favorites can receive attention. From species to historics to 2026 introductions, if you grow it and love it, you can vote for it!

If you voted last year, please vote again. If you didn't vote last year in the inaugural electronic popularity poll, please take a few minutes to vote. If you don't have a computer, ask someone else to vote for you. Multiple people can vote from the same email address because we ask for names. Names will never appear in results and are simply used so that people without computers can vote; we use names to sort out unique voters and prevent anyone from voting more than once. If you love irises and have seen them growing, you should vote! The more data, the better the results will be for every class of irises and for every garden wherever it is located.

Slate of Candidates for AIS Region 15 officers

To be presented on October 17, 2026 at the Region 15 Fall Meeting in Tucson, AZ

It is time to elect AIS Region 15 officers. Here are the candidates:

- Mary Hanson of San Diego Iris Society for RVP 15
- Pat Olsen of Tucson Area Iris Society for assistant RVP 15
- Allie Deaton of Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society for secretary
- Cheryl Deaton of Southern California Iris Society for treasurer

Mary Hanson

Mary has served multiple terms as president, program chair, and secretary in the San Diego Iris Society. She has been a member of the American Iris Society since 2017 and a G/E judge since 2021. In 2023, Mary took on the job of assistant RVP and is now ready to step into the RVP position.

Pat Olsen

My family has grown irises for at least five generations. I joined the Northern Illinois Iris Society (NIIS) in March 2016, took my first judge's training exam that same day, and recently became a garden/exhibition judge, judging my first exhibition hosted by NIIS in May 2026. I began my membership with the Tucson Area Iris Society (TAIS) in early 2020, contributing to the club by finding speakers, presenting programs and assisting with the rhizome sale. I am also nominated for assistant president for TAIS (responsible for finding speakers). I recently started writing a monthly educational article called "Language of Iris" for our newsletter and gave a presentation on the fragrant *Iris pallida* and its role in perfume making. Additionally, I help update reblooming data on the iris encyclopedia (the Wiki), host the hands-on potting demonstration at the annual TAIS rhizome sale, and chair the 2026 Region 15 Fall Trek Committee.

Allie Deaton

My name is Allie Deaton, and I am interested in the AIS Region 15 Secretary position because I think it would help me learn more about our region and what the board positions entail. I have been an AIS member since 2019 and have been a member of Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society since 2019 as well. I have served as VP for my club for the last 5 years and have been our club historian for the past year. I have also chaired and assisted in the last two AIS Region 15 fall meetings held by HDIDS. Thank you for your consideration.

Cheryl Deaton

Cheryl has been treasurer of AIS Region 15 for years. Her duties have been to write checks for the region expenses and present a budget once a year at the region board meeting. She has volunteered to continue as treasurer for another three years.

Sincerely,
Claire Schneider
AIS Region 15 Nominating Committee chair

The American Iris Society

Check AIS membership status:
system.irises.org/membership/web-based-lookup

Renew membership
(pay by check, Visa, or MasterCard)
www.irises.org/aismembers/

Membership Rates (Print):

Annual Single $30 / Dual $35
Triennial Single $70 / Dual $85

Life Single $1500 / Dual $2000
Life Senior (65+) 15% discount
Youth (< 19 y/o) with Bulletin $12
Youth (< 19 y/o) without Bulletin $8

Annual E-membership: $15
(online Bulletin + Irisregister)

Full Membership (Print + E-member)
Annual Single $45 / Dual $50
Triennial Single $115 / Dual $130

Send payments to:
Jean Richter
1226 High Street
Alameda, CA 94501
Phone: (510) 205-4033
E-mail: memsec@irises.org



www.AISYouth.org

Please include youth's name, address, email and birthdate.

AIS CONVENTIONS

2027 Convention
2027 April 27 - May 1, Oklahoma City, OK
Hosted by: Oklahoma Iris Society
2027 Convention Co-Chair: Michael Kowalchyk
phone: 405-593-9608 | email: mjkow24@gmail.com
2027 Convention Co-Chair: Angie Salazar
text: 405-412-1359 | email: irisjunkie@yahoo.com
Convention hotel: Embassy Suites OKC NW
3233 Northwest Expy, Oklahoma City, OK 73112
Convention website: ais2027convention.org

FUTURE REGION 15 EVENTS

2027 Spring Trek
San Diego Iris Society
April 16-17, 2027: Ramona, CA

2027 Fall Meeting
San Fernando Valley Iris Society
November 13, 2027: 7401 Jordan Ave, Canoga Park, CA 91303

FUTURE SECTION CONVENTIONS

2027 SLI (Louisiana) Convention
2027 April 8-11, New Orleans, LA
Convention website: louisianairisgnois.com/convention/

2028 Japanese Iris Convention
2028 May 18-20, Columbia, SC

2029 Spuria Convention
Mid-May 2029, Ramona, CA
Convention Co-Chairs: Claire Schneider, Andi Rivarola and Gary White

2029 Siberian/Species Convention
2029 June 15-16, Alpena, MI
Convention Co-Chairs: Adam Cordes, Khris Sorgenfrei, Linda Stemen

For most current additional information, visit new.irises.org/news-events/conventions/

IMPORTANT
Announcement!

AIS Membership Drive 2026

Buy a membership for One Year, Get a Second Year

FREE

Details
1- Buy any membership (E, Print or Full) for one year, get a second year FREE.
2- New members only (including international).
3- Duration: January 1 - December 31, 2026.
4- Limited quantities.

Please share this link with your friends, family and society members **who are not AIS members yet**: system.irises.org/membership/promo.

Judges Training Webinar

SBMIS was proud to host a two-hour online judges' training on novelty iris by current AIS president, Bonnie Nichols. If you would like to view a recording of the training and get information on completing the test for judges' training credit, please visit: bayareairis.org/novelty-recording.html

AIS Webinars

The American Iris Society has been hosting webinars via Zoom since the summer of 2020. All the AIS webinars are **FREE of charge** to AIS members, AIS sections and local iris club members. For the most current information, visit www.irises.org/news-events/ or read your latest *News & Notes* email.

All of the past webinars, including JTs, are now posted on YouTube, so you can watch them again. See The American Iris Society - YouTube for the complete list of available videos. If you subscribe to the AIS YouTube channel, you will be notified when new videos are uploaded. For more information, send an email to aiswebinars@gmail.com.

Region 15 Spring Board Meeting Minutes

AIS REGION 15 SPRING BOARD MEETING

Friday, April 10th, 2026 Phoenix, AZ

7:50 pm: Region 15 **Board Meeting called to order** by Beth Train, Region 15 RVP.

Beth welcomed all attendees and thanked Sun Country Area Iris Society for hosting.

Minutes from the Winter Board Meeting on January 17, 2026: no corrections nor additions. Andi Rivarola made a motion to accept the minutes as written, seconded by Isabel Olson. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: by Cheryl Deaton. There have been two transactions since January. The balance in the checking account as of April 9, 2026 is $18,358.99 (*refer to page 13*).

Judges Training Report: by Mary Hanson. There are 24 active judges in AIS Region 15. Eleven G/E, five master judges, four emeritus judges, eight judges with artistic design certification, four retired judges, and nine student judges. Mary reminded everyone to keep an eye on the deadline for submitting the judges activity report: July 1.

Membership Report: by Beth Train (for Mason Train, deceased). There are 220 members in AIS Region 15, 140 are in California. There is a new AIS membership drive. Purchase any one-year AIS membership (e.g., print, e-member, or full membership), and receive a second year for free. This only applies to new AIS members.

AIS has added a special membership drive. Those people who purchased a new membership last year (for ten dollars) will be able to extend their membership one more year at last year's reduced price. These people will receive a letter in the mail which will explain how to take advantage of this special offer.

Awards Report: by Claire Schneider. A reminder that there are two new awards for the spring trek: the Rick Tasco Award for best arilbred iris and the Tom Craig Award for the best median iris.

Now that the prize for winning an award at a spring trek is a check for $50, there are several leftover plaques and trophies from previous treks. The decision was to distribute those plaques and trophies to the appropriate winners until they are all gone.

Youth Report: by Cheryl Deaton There are forty youth in AIS Region 15. Cheryl reminded everyone that youth new to AIS may join with the latest membership drive: buy one year and receive a second year for free.

Editor's Report: none

Historian Report: by Sue Brown. Sue asked that all the clubs send her their newsletters. It was mentioned that each club president should receive a copy of each club's newsletter. Someone will collect the emails of the club presidents and make that list available to all the club presidents.

Ways and Means: No report. Position open.

Nominating: by Claire Schneider. The current AIS Region 15 elected officers will leave office at the end of the fall meeting 2026. The slate of nominees will be published in the fall issue of the Region 15 newsletter. The slate will consist of RVP, assistant RVP, secretary, and treasurer. The assistant RVP must be an AIS accredited judge.

Affiliate Reports:

These reports are in the latest issue of the Region 15 newsletter.

a) Central Coast Iris Society

b) Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society

c) Inland Region Iris Society

d) Orange County Iris and Daylily Society

e) Prescott Area Iris Society

f) San Diego Iris Society

g) San Fernando Valley Iris Society

h) Southern California Iris Society

i) Sun Country Iris Society

j) Tucson Area Iris Society

NEW BUSINESS

a) Cheryl Deaton, treasurer, will send a check for $250 to the AIS 2026 Convention Committee. Each affiliate society should contribute $25, making checks out to AIS Region 15 and mailing those to Cheryl Deaton. So far, only three clubs have submitted checks: Hi Desert, Southern California, and Sun Country.

b) The process to renew affiliates with AIS is now online and is easy to do. You pay using PayPal, but you don't need a PayPal account to do so. The deadline was April 1. Affiliates that don't use the online system may send a check to Jody Nolin, the affiliate chair.

c) Donations may be made to the American Iris Society in memory of Mason Train. In the winter issue of the Bulletin, on page 88, there are instructions about how to do this. You may designate that your donation in Mason's name be channeled to a specific account. For more information, visit foundation.irises.org/contributions.

d) Andi Rivarola brought up the challenge of finding judges for the spring shows. There are four shows next weekend and not enough judges. Is there a way we could coordinate judges for all these shows? Suggestions:

- Spread out the shows so that no more than two shows would be scheduled for a given day.
- Schedule a show on a Sunday instead of everyone using Saturdays.
- Create a calendar where every club lists their show, so as to avoid multiple shows on one day.

OLD BUSINESS

Popularity Poll: The results of the 2025 Popularity Poll have been analyzed. The final, overall results will be printed in the spring issue of the AIS Bulletin. AIS will send Beth the rankings of irises for our region.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) SPAM awareness: Beth reminded everyone that no one from AIS, Region 15, or any club will ever ask you for money, gift cards, Zelle transfers, bitcoin or any type of money. If you think the request might be legitimate, phone the person to verify. See the "Spring is Phishing Season: How to protect yourself from scammers" in the AIS *IRISES* Bulletin, Spring 2024, page 44.

ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued)

b) Affiliate Work Group: Jody Nolin, the affiliate chair, created a monthly Zoom meeting where affiliate officers meet to share concerns and challenges and to discuss potential solutions. Their next Zoom meeting will be Thursday, June 25. Any affiliate officer or member is welcome to attend. Ask Jody to add your name to the list of people who receive a link to each meeting. Jody.nolin@gmail.com

c) Speaker Programs: In the next month or so, each RVP will receive a list of AIS speakers with the titles of their programs. These are programs about irises, judging, and other topics. Because the list contains the private contact information of each speaker, the list will not be on the AIS website. Instead, the list will be sent to the RVPs. If your club is interested in having a speaker, ask Beth for a copy of the list.

TREK WHEEL

a) The Fall Meeting will be on October 17, hosted by the Tucson Area Iris Society.

b) The next Spring Trek will be hosted by the San Diego Iris Society on April 16 and 17, 2027

c) The Fall Meeting 2027 will be hosted by San Fernando Valley Iris Society

d) Who will host the Spring Trek in 2028?

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 pm PDT.

Respectfully submitted,
Claire Schneider (in the absence of Lois Farr)
AIS Secretary, AIS Region 15 Awards & Nominating Committee chairs

REGION 15 SPRING GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday April 11, 2026 Phoenix, AZ

3:45 pm CALL TO ORDER by Beth Train, Region 15 RVP.

Affiliate Roll Call:

Central Coast Iris Society: 5
Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society: 4
Inland Region Iris Society: 9
Orange County Iris and Daylily Club: 0
Prescott Area Iris Society: 3
San Diego Iris Society: 7
San Fernando Valley Iris Society: 2
Southern California Iris Society: 4
Sun Country Iris Society: 32
Tucson Area Iris Society: 4
Pierce County Iris Society (Region 13): 2
Unaffiliated: 4

Beth thanked all the attendees and Bonnie Nichols, the guest speaker. The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Submitted by Beth Train
AIS Region 15 RVP

TREASURER'S REPORT

REGION 15 TREASURER'S REPORT
April 9, 2026
By Cheryl Deaton, Region 15 Treasurer

Rhizome Sale (from Spring Trek 2025) donations		**$6,408.21**
Central Coast Iris Society	$ 418.70	
Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society	$ 500.00	
Inland Region Iris Society	$ 978.51	
Orange County Iris and Daylily Club	$ 200.00	
Prescott Area Iris Society	$ 500.00	
San Diego Iris Society	$ 500.00	
San Fernando Valley Iris Society	$ 572.00	
Southern California Iris Society	$ 530.00	
Sun Country Iris Society	$1,180.00	
Tucson Area Iris Society	$1,029.00	
Fall Meeting 2025 Fundraiser		**$ 200.00**
AIS National Convention 2026 "Region 15 Basket" donation		**$ 75.00**
Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society	$25	
Southern California Iris Society	$25	
Sun Country Iris Society	$25	

TOTAL EARNINGS ..... + $6,683.21

EXPENSES since 1/1/2026

Spring 2026 Newsletter	$ 483.05

TOTAL EXPENSES ..... - $ 483.05

Checkbook Balance as of 4/9/2026: $18,358.99

INVESTMENTS: $18,290.79
(-$47.42)

The Tucson Area Iris Society invites you to

A Desert Oasis of Iris



The AIS Region 15 Fall Conference
October 17, 2026
9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tohono Chul
in The Wilson Room
7366 N Paseo Del Norte
Tucson, Arizona

Featuring Jody Nolin
Past President of AIS
presenting
"The Wide World of Iris"



REGISTRATION FORM

Registration for Adults: $60 For Youth: $35 Fee includes lunch. Total Enclosed: $ _____

Name(s) of attendees: _____

_____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: ____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Local Iris Society Affiliation: _____

Judges Training: Yes [ ] No [ ]
Please indicate the number of judges in training attending: _____

Please make check payable to Tucson Area Iris Society. Mail payment and form to:
Joyce Knill, 2310 N. Catalina Vista Loop, Tucson, AZ 85749

Registrations must be received no later than September 26th.

AIS REGION 15 2026 Fall Trek Schedule

A Desert Oasis of Iris

October 17, 2026

8:00 am	Tohono Chul Self Guided Garden Walks During the cooler morning temperatures Please complete your walks by 9:15 am
8:30 am	Registration Raffle Sales
9:30 am	Welcome Board Meeting Club Intros
10:30 am	Jody Nolin, Judges Training
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:30 pm	General Meeting Officer Nominations and Elections
2:00 pm	Jody Nolin, Judges Training
3:00 pm	Silent Auction Closes
	Raffle
4:00 pm	Thanks for coming
4:00 - 5:00 pm	Garden Walks (if temperatures permit)
5:00 - 8:00 pm	Jazz Under the Stars (at Tohono Chul) or Raclette Dinner*

*Raclette Dinner will be hosted by Jody and John Williams. Directions will be available at the trek.

TAIS Fall Trek Visitor Guide

It has been twelve years since TAIS last hosted a Trek. We are delighted to welcome you to the Sonoran Desert and look forward to hosting your visit. To further enhance your experience, we offer a few recommendations for nearby accommodation and attractions (Google Map link):

Nearby Hotels:

Wyndham Grand/Westward Look 4.4** 245 E Ina Rd., Tucson, AZ | 520-297-1151
Features include an on-site restaurant; please note complimentary breakfast is not provided. Located 1.5 miles from Tohono Chul.

Town Place Suites (Marriott) 4.3** 405 W Rudasill Rd., Tucson, AZ | 520-292-9697
This extended stay property also accommodates guests for one or two nights. Marriott points may be used, and complimentary breakfast is available. Located 2 miles from Tohono Chul.

La Posada (Choice Brand) 4.1** 5900 N Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ | 520-887-4800
Features include an on-site restaurant; complimentary breakfast is provided. Located 2 miles from Tohono Chul.

3 Palms Tucson North 4.0** 7411 N Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ | 520-575-9255
Check Expedia, etc. for good prices. Located 1 mile from Tohono Chul.

Best Western 3.9** 6201 N Oracle Rd., Tucson, AZ | 520-297-8111
Complimentary breakfast and a snack bar. No elevators but ground floor rooms available. Located 2 miles from Tohono Chul.

Restaurants - If you are a foodie, be sure to check out:

La Frida Mexican Grill & Seafood – Chef Claudia Vindiola is a James Beard semifinalist in the 2026 Best Chef: Southwest category. As you can guess, the restaurant is busy. Allow 30 minutes to drive there and plenty of time to wait as there are no reservations.

El Charro Café Downtown – Home of the very first chimichanga. Authentic Mexican cuisine. Several locations. Original location is downtown on Franklin and Court. 20 minute drive

Where do you get your best Sunset photos? Arrive at least 30 minutes before sunset which will be at 5:27 pm. Bring plenty of water, watch your footing on desert terrain and post sunset colors are spectacular!

Picacho Peak State Park – If your drive east on I-10 takes you near Picacho at sunset, you will get some really nice photos. Park entrance fee of $10-$20. 37 minute drive

Gates Pass – Premier Spot. Several different scenic overlooks allow for easy access to sunsets of brilliant shades of orange, pink, and purple with silhouettes of saguaros.

Tumamoc Hill – It is a 1.5 mile hike on a paved path. It does get quite steep at the top (about a 700 foot elevation change) but the view is spectacular. A 3-mile round trip. 30 minute drive

Saguaro National Park, East or West – Allow at least 45 minutes to drive to either park entrance. Our National Parks have some of the most spectacular views. Park Entrance fee applies. 40 minute drive to either park entrance

Do you have an extra day to take in the sights of Tucson?

Biosphere 2 – Do not even consider this a detour – for us gardeners and tree huggers this is a must stop location. A three plus acre living science project. Do not skip the 10-15 minute video. Allow 1.5 – 2 hours to tour. 35 minute drive

Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum – an outdoor zoo and botanical garden, allow 3-4 hours. 40 minute drive

Mission San Xavier del Bac – The mission is open daily. Franciscan Friars hold mass in the historic church at 10 am and 12:00 noon on Sunday. There is no A/C or heat so dress accordingly. The photo ops are many, even sunset. 30 minute drive

ASARCO Mineral Discovery Center and Mine Tours – Not far from Mission San Xavier del Bac. Reservations and closed toe shoes required for mine tour. 35 minute drive

Kartchner Caverns State Park - One of the best caves to explore is in our backyard. Approximately a one hour drive from the Trek venue. As luck would have it, both tours are available in October. The Rotunda/ Throne Room has colorful formations, while the Big Room has a “did you see that” ambiance. If you have the time and love caves this is well worth the trip. Do both rooms! 60 minute drive

Tombstone – If you’re into old westerns, detour to Tombstone after visiting the caves. Saloons, gun fights

and the old cemetery will entertain you. 90 minute drive

Mt. Lemmon and **Kitt Peak Observatories** – no matter where you are, take time to look at the stars. The Tucson night sky is amazing. Each observatory offers viewing opportunities. Kitt Peak is 2 hr 37 min drive. Mt. Lemmon is a 45-90 min drive. There is a nice app you can download for the drive up Mt. Lemmon.

Mirror Lab – Are you really into astronomy? The Mirror Lab offers insights into how those enormous telescopes are made. 25 minute drive

Broadway in Tucson (15 minute drive) and **The Gaslight Theatre (**30 minute drive) - The Broadway In Tucson is TBD but The Gaslight Theatre will have performances of "Hocus Pocused or Witch Please"

Rolling Thru Time Auto Museum – Over 250 vehicles for car enthusiasts to view. Fire trucks, farm equipment, muscle cars, and more. 30 minute drive

Arizona History Museum much to see and learn – Geronimo, Wyatt Earp, underground mine, wagons, and a 1912 Studebaker car. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday 10 am – 3 pm. 20 minute drive

Gardens and Nurseries

Tohono Chul is conveniently located at our Trek event. There is no admission fee for Trek attendees. As an attendee of the Trek, you will have access to the Tohono Chul gardens. If our luck continues, there will be a Saturday evening concert. We are eligible to remain for the concert. Their Desert Corner Nursery has native and arid-adapted plants.

Tucson Botanical Garden – #4 in the nation for Best Botanical Garden in the *USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice Awards* for 2025, for the third year in a row! Tranquility is your reward for visiting. 15 minute drive

Tucson Cactus & Koi, **Rillito Nursery and Garden Center**, as well as **Sunset Nursery**, are located just a short distance from the Trek.

Other nurseries that TAIS members often visit include:

Harlow Gardens is where the TAIS rhizome sale takes place, offering beautiful plants, pottery, and garden gifts. 15 minute drive

Four Arrows Garden is widely praised in the community and specializes in succulents, native plants, as well as desert-adapted trees and greenery. It's definitely worth the trip. 40 minute drive

Green Things with its impressive selection of plants, pottery, and overall charm. 15 minute drive

Mesquite Valley Growers remains a top pick among TAIS members. 25 minute drive

Military Aviation Museums

Pima Air and Space Museum, including the **390th Memorial Museum** featuring the B-17 Flying Fortress. Due to security measures, the Boneyard is permanently closed. 30 minute drive

Titan Missile Museum requires online reservations prior to visiting. On-site ticket purchases do not include access to the underground silo tour. Participation in this tour necessitates the ability to navigate 55 steps, as no elevator is available. 30 minute drive

Hiking Trails and Cycling

Sabino Canyon Recreational Park – Visitors may access the canyon via a tram ride, which offers several stops for drop-off and pick-up. The hiking trails vary in difficulty, ranging from easy to challenging. The **Phoneline** trail presents a moderate hike, requiring agility for descents, while the Sabino Walkway provides an accessible and leisurely stroll. 20 minute drive

Hope Camp Trail spans 5.6 miles, beginning at the Loma Alta Trailhead. This route features historical encampments, abandoned windmills, and water towers. It is recommended to allocate over four hours for completion. 50 minute drive

Signal Hill Petroglyphs – View multiple Native American petroglyphs from the trail. 40 minute drive

The Hugh Norris Trail is a popular, moderately difficult 9.6 to 9.8-mile round-trip route within Saguaro National Park West. It encompasses steep switchbacks, extensive saguaro forests, and panoramic vistas of the Tucson Mountains. Access is typically from the Hohokam Road trailhead. 30 minute drive

The Loop is recognized as the premier bike path in America. Bike rentals are available for those who prefer not to bring their own, and the Tucson Loop is suitable for shared use. 30 minute drive

Fantasy Island Mountain Bike Park serves as a well-known local destination for mountain biking enthusiasts. For more advanced cyclists, Mt. Lemmon and Saguaro Park offer challenging routes. 🚗 30 min

AIS Region 15 Awards Report

The 2026 AIS Region 15 Spring Trek was a wonderful event. The host, Sun Country Iris Society (SCIS), chose a convenient venue and served wonderful meals. Bonnie Nichols presented two very informative programs in addition to giving us a practical judges training on tall bearded iris. Each of the three gardens was unique and beautiful. Attendees were able to vote the trek ballot and below is a list of the winners. Each winning hybridizer received a certificate and a $50 check.

The Herb Holk Award (best tall bearded iris by a Region 15 hybridizer) was won by 'Chief Redskin,' which was introduced by Bernard Hamner in 1984.

The Claire Barr Award (best tall bearded iris from outside AIS Region 15) was won by Tom Burseen's 'Notta Lemon' (2010).

The Best Seedling from outside AIS Region 15 was won by Elizabeth Rieniets for 17e5-10-12 RISp6.

The Best Louisiana Iris was won by 'Paul Gossett,' which was introduced by Hooker Nichols in 2021.

The Best Spuria Iris was won by 'Sedona Skies,' which was introduced by Darol Jurn in 2026.

The Rick Tasco Award (best arilbred iris) was won by 'Sand Dancer,' which was introduced by Rick Tasco in 2010.

Thank you to all the hybridizers who submitted entries for the 2026 AIS Region 15 Spring Trek.

Claire Schneider
Region 15 Awards Chair

SAVE THE DATE!

The San Diego Iris Society will host the 2027 AIS Region 15 Spring Trek on **Fri-Sat, April 16-17th**

at the San Vicente Resort
24157 San Vicente Rd
Ramona, CA 92065

Bees Butterflies and Blooms

Featuring:

- 2 trek gardens
- In-garden JTs
- Classroom JT
- Guest speaker Anna Cadd on gardening in small spaces
- Two dinners, continental breakfast and a sack lunch

For more information, contact: olga_batalov@yahoo.com

2027 SCHEDULE OF AIS SHOW JUDGES

At the AIS Region 15 spring meeting, there was a discussion about the problem of finding judges for the spring shows. Because there are 19 judges in our region, we should be able to schedule our spring shows so there can be at least three judges for each show. To organize this, we need contact information for each judge, including a viable email address and phone number.

We also need a list of all the affiliate spring shows and their dates. At the fall meeting, it would be helpful if the representative of your affiliate club could provide information about your spring show and a list of judges with their contact information.

After we have that information, we can begin working on a schedule of judges. Keep in mind that we might ask your affiliate club to reschedule a show to a different day in order to create an even distribution of judges. For example, we might ask the Phoenix and Tucson clubs to schedule their shows back-to-back, one on Saturday and the other on Sunday. Same idea for Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society and Inland Region Iris Society. This way, both shows in the area would have judges available, with a minimum travel time for those judges.

I have asked Beth to add schedule of judges to the fall meeting agenda.

See you in October!
Claire Schneider
Region 15 Awards Chair
Region 15 Nominations Committee Chair
AIS Secretary





Top right: Judging at Inland Region Iris Society show on April 12th, 2025

Bottom right: Judging at San Diego Iris Society show on May 2nd, 2026

Photos by Claire Schneider

Iris Heaven



in

2027

2027 American Iris Society National Convention

Hosted by the **Oklahoma Iris Society**

April 27-May 1st, 2027

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

★ **9 Gardens on Tour**

★ ***Featured Guest Speakers***

Thomas Johnson of
Mid-America Iris Gardens

Mel and Bailey Schiller of
Smokin Heights Iris

Jim Hedgecock of
Comanche Acres Iris

and much more programming offered

Early Bird Registration for Adults: $359

American Iris Society Youth Members are FREE to attend with adult registration.

Youth registration refunded at end of convention.

Register by January 31, 2027

for a chance to **WIN**

3 FREE Nights



at the convention hotel during the 2027 American Iris Society National Convention!

Enter the drawing by registering early. Conditions apply.

Scan the QR code to register online

www.ais2027convention.org

Remembering Winona Stevenson

by Cheryl Deaton


Winona Stevenson (left) and Debbie James (right)

Winona Stevenson, owner of Lakeside Gardens in Lake Isabella, CA, passed away in June after a short illness. She is survived by her son, Morgan. Winona operated the commercial garden for more than 3 decades, only retiring during the Covid times. She continued to help Region 15 clubs and her neighbors for many years. Lakeside Gardens had every Dyke's Medal winner plus hundreds of irises including TBs, IBs, SDBs, Louisiana and spurias. She also grew many varieties of daylilies. She introduced irises for hybridizer Cheryl Deaton, and her favorite was 'Winona's Choice' (Deaton 2007), which she selected from the seedling beds.

Winona was a past president of Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society, past RVP of Region 15, past JT chair for Region 15, past historian of Region 15, and a charter member of the Novelty Iris Society. She was also a judge and volunteered to teach in garden classes at the conventions. She had attended AIS National Conventions since 2004, only missing the past two conventions due to declining health. She caught the "iris virus" in the 1990s and had a terminal case, which is why she started the garden and kept meticulous records of bloom. She was a warm and generous person, always willing to help other irisarians and fellow gardeners. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.



Current and past RVPs of Region 15 - back row: Cheryl Deaton (left), Winona Stevenson (middle), Janis Shackelford (right); front row: Sue Brown (left) and Beth Train (right)

In Memoriam: Mason Train

Born in Kansas and raised in Southern California, Mason Train was no stranger to gardening. His grandparents were landowners-farmers in Arkansas. His father tended a vegetable garden: rhubarb, strawberries, and tomatoes were favorites. His mother grew perennials – roses, canna lilies, daffodils, and white and yellow flowered irises that she called Dutch irises. It wasn't until Mason joined the iris club and learned more about irises that he realized that these are spuria irises, likely *Iris spuria carthaliniae*. To this day, this iris grows in the garden of his childhood home in Anaheim as well as our own perennial garden.

A Bachelor of Fine Arts graduate and holder of a lifetime California Teaching Credential in Art Education, Mason continued with his passion for learning. Mason was active in local and regional iris activities, having served as Secretary, 1st VP, President, and Newsletter Editor/Corresponding Secretary of Inland Region Iris Society. He was the Region 15 Membership Chair at the time of his passing. He enjoyed meeting people and making friends, found delight in good company, and did not turn down delicious food.

Mason joined the AIS Judges Training program within a few years of becoming an IRIS/AIS member. He had been an accredited AIS G/E and Artistic Design Judge for many years. He went and judged the local affiliate societies' iris shows whenever his schedule allowed. He enjoyed evaluating horticultural as well as artistic design entries, not only applying the AIS guidelines but also his keen eye as an Art Major. He judged the local Riverside and Colton Flower Shows, too.



Mason with Sue Brown (left) and Jill Bonino (center) judging the SFVIS Iris Show, April 2025

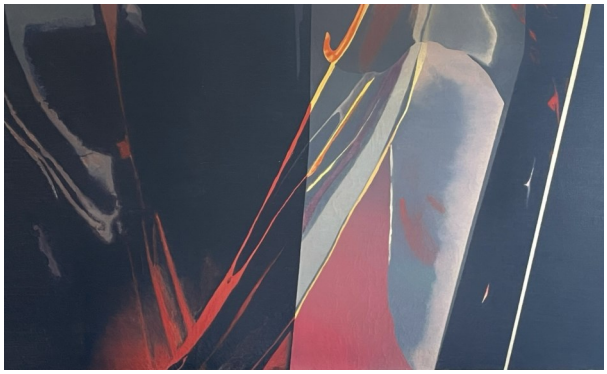


Mason with NGC Judges, Colton Flower Show, March 2025

He found garden tours educational and fun, and went to not only the AIS National Conventions but also Region 15 spring treks and fall meetings, TBIS treks and Region 13 treks. I will miss our trips to Oregon, a favorite in May. We would make the rounds of the iris and peony gardens not only to see the blooms but, more importantly, to see and visit hybridizers who have become friends over the years.



I remember Mason's love of the arts. We frequented art museums in our travels. He was a member of the Riverside Art Museum as well as the Riverside Community Arts Association. He exhibited and sold his art pieces in both venues. He particularly was a master of abstract art in oil or acrylic. His "God Versus Satan" oil on canvas is my favorite. This piece won first place at the Riverside Art Museum's Members Show in 1989. I was glad that he started painting again in recent years and got pieces chosen for exhibit in juried art shows in Riverside.



"God Versus Satan", oil on canvas, 46" x 28", 1989



"Step Forward and Back", oil on canvas





Left: **"A Magellanic Cloud Where Stars Are Created", mixed media on watercolor paper, 12" x 15" (Private Collection), exhibited at "The Versatility Of Pulp", Riverside Art Museum, April-October 2024.**

Right: **"Neutrino Ghost Waves", mixed media on canvas (Private Collection), exhibited at the Fourth Annual Art After Dark, Culver Center of the Arts, Riverside, CA, October 2024.**



Mason enjoyed taking pictures of irises and attendees in the iris conventions he and I frequented. He had entered some of his photographs in the AIS Photo Contest over the years and has won on several occasions.

To most, Mason will be remembered as a kind, thoughtful, and helpful person. Yes, he was all that, but to me, I will remember him as that lovely, content and safe feeling of being home.

Love always, Beth

Left: **"Zen Moment", First Place, Category 6 (Photo of wildlife with irises), AIS Photo Contest 2024. *Photo by Mason Train*.**
Photo Credits: Beth Train (except as cited).

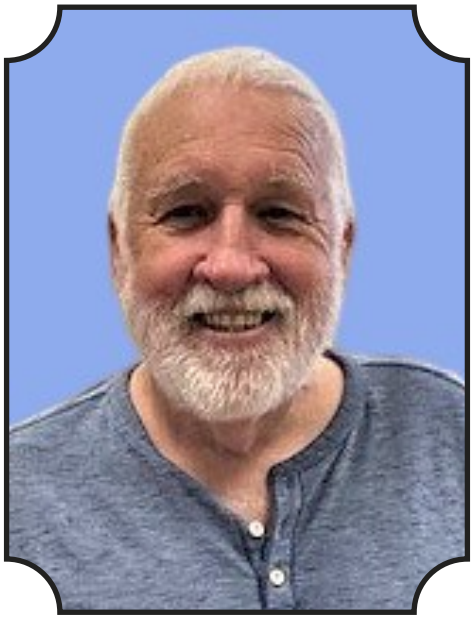
Tributes to Sam Wymer (1944-2026) - TAIS & AIS Life Member

Republished with permission from TAIS August Newsletter

Sam was an iris inspiration to me. Around 30 years ago when I first started growing iris, though poorly, I visited Sam's place. He was growing so many well-labeled and thriving iris varieties in his garden that it motivated me to do better in my garden. Like most of us in Tucson, I'm still trying to grow iris better. Sam was easily the current longest-active member of TAIS, going back decades. He was helping out even at our most recent sale and show. He also did a lot of volunteer work at the Tucson Botanical Gardens, especially with the iris garden that we help maintain. We are missing you, Sam. - Kevin Kartchner







I met Sam at my first TAIS meeting. He introduced himself and we soon realized that we were not only fellow Pennsylvanians but fellow Western Pennsylvanians, and yes, that means something when you are from there. Sam enjoyed talking to me about all of the back roads and little towns he used to go to. I enjoyed our conversations immensely. At our most recent iris sale, Sam shared that his favorite author was William Kent Krueger, who wrote mysteries that were set in Northern Minnesota. I enjoy a good mystery myself, so in remembrance of Sam, I am now reading *Boundary Waters* by Mr. Krueger. - Dave Smith

From Sam's Facebook and Blogger pages, we learned that he liked family history and doowop music, especially that from Pittsburgh, and had two adult children and five grandchildren. He wrote nine blogs and collected US Air Mail stamps and carbide lamps. Sam was a UA graduate, Master Gardener, and had retired from USWest.

I will remember Sam as a friendly face at all of our TAIS meetings and events. He was our long-time cashier at rhizome sales and iris shows. Sam was good at looking things up on his phone, too. When we were discussing having a banner made to promote the sale, he quickly found an inexpensive online source.

Sam grew up in the county beside the ones where Dave and I grew up and we began chatting with him about that at the first TAIS meeting we attended in 2016.

He was a longtime volunteer at the Tucson Botanical Gardens and kept TAIS fliers stocked in their iris bed on his own dime. These had information about the club on one side and tips about growing irises on the other. And Sam was generous with sharing seeds at our November potluck and plants from his garden as door prizes for meetings.

I will miss you, Sam.

- Sue Clark



Marilyn Pecoraro: 19__{never ask a lady her age} – 2025



"Guess where I am?" is often the voice or text she would get from me. It is because I would be on one of my many adventures to all 50 states and a few foreign countries. Sometimes, I would bring her small rocks from these places because she loved collecting them as souvenirs. I was on another adventure when I heard of my Mother Dearest passing on July 3, 2025.

I met Ms. Marilyn Monroe (she would laugh) when I first attended the Southern California Iris Society (SCIS) in the late 1990s. With her friendly personality, I felt welcome. We became great friends.

Marilyn was a member of two iris clubs: SCIS and Orange County Iris & Daylily Club. She was the president of the latter club. She was very generous in providing many rhizomes to their sales, then she would help with the sales. Besides herself and myself, she enlisted her non-iris-addicted, loving husband Joe (who had passed many years before her), daughter Jody, and the gardener to help with the digging, trimming, washing, labeling, and/or packaging. During the marking party, the fumes from the markers sometimes got so strong that a fan had to be turned on and the door had to be opened. We learned our lesson and used pens instead. She would also give iris rhizomes to her relatives, friends, and neighbors. Around her neighborhood, she was known as the iris lady. The community mailbox is next to her front garden, so each spring they got to see irises galore.

A few of her favorite irises got a premium planting spot outside her door: 'Bottle Rocket,' 'Paul Black,' 'Florentine Silk,' 'Expose,' 'Brouhaha,' 'Bay City,' and 'That's All Folks.' 'That's All Folks' went on to win the Best Specimen of Show for her on March 31, 2012 at the SCIS iris show.

Marilyn was an American Iris Society (AIS) judge. We attended AIS annual conventions, regional treks and meetings, and local shows. We also visited local iris gardens and the iris mecca of Salem, OR. Besides judging the SCIS iris shows, she would go to judge other iris shows around Southern California. She was fair and a little more on the generous side. It is a great way to encourage people to enter their irises. I enjoyed her surprised reaction of "Oh well" whenever it was revealed that my entry won Best Specimen of Show. She would have been very surprised and proud this April when my first and only entry in the artistic design division won me the Best Design of Show. I used her vase, her three stalks from two different spuria cultivars, her rocks, a driftwood, climbing asparagus plumosa ferns, and water in the arrangement.

While she was in hospice, I asked her to reveal her secret Swiss bank accounts and hidden treasures. She laughed. That's because her real treasures are hidden in plain sight: her wonderful daughters Juliet and Jody and adorable granddaughter Amanda. I consider them part of my family. I am happy that they, Jeff, and I were all there together on our last visit to see her.

We shall miss a wonderful and golden lady. May you watch over us with a smile. "Thank You for Being a Friend."

--Kim Ung

Central Coast Iris Society Report

By Cynthia Martin, President

The iris bloom season for 2026 was unusual for us here on the coast. With several heat waves spanning across the month of March with temperatures in the 80's and 90's, the irises decided it was best to hold back their blooms. Out of our 300 irises at the society garden in Mission Hills, about 30 or 40 had something of a bloom and, even so, the stalks were much shorter than usual and bud counts were lower. It was anyone's guess what would happen next. As the months went on, we noticed that many of the "Early Bloomers," which usually bloom in March for us, took their opportunities in June. I've personally never seen anything so strange with our irises. Just because it's strange to us, however, does not make it so. The irises know exactly what they're doing and they will work with the weather over our expectations, if they're forced to choose. Predictions around El Niño yield a similar unfavorable forecast for our iris blooms in 2027 as well. I must say, however, the Louisiana irises are doing quite well in these conditions. Maybe we will need to expand that section of our society garden!

Our garden continues to make progress, though it's much easier to wait until fall when it's cooler and the rains can soften up the ground for us. We have plans to install a few more iris beds, a pergola, and ground-cover mulch. Our latest installation is the large center-stone circle, made almost entirely of donated pavers.

Lastly, and with much regret, it is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of our beloved former president and friend, Benjamin Schleuning. Ben was the glue that held the Lompoc Valley Iris Society together for so many years, up until he nominated me for club president and we underwent our name change. Before that, he had been a longtime member of Lompoc's even older iris society, the Robert F. Young Iris Society, of which he was a member going back to the 1980's, and into the 2010's with LVIS. Ben's heart was as colorful and beautiful as his home iris garden. I'll miss his random weekly calls to discuss new introduction wish lists and hearing about what was blooming that day in his yard. He would always make me guess first, and I became so familiar with his huge collection that the guessing game got easier and easier, especially if he had forgotten he'd already told me or if his wife Flo had already texted me a picture of the bloom. So many of the irises we have in our garden are from his collection. In addition, we plan to build a bed containing more of his collection in his honor. He left a huge space that can't ever be filled in our society, but he also left an impression on each of us that we will always remember. We all miss him dearly.

www.facebook.com/CentralCoastIrisSociety









Top left: Flo Schleuning and Esther Ibarra at the CCIS Rhizome sale

Top middle: Ben Schleuning

Top right: Louisiana irises

Middle left: Cynthia Martin's hat from the 2026 Spring Trek (*photo by Claire Schneider*)

Bottom left: Working on the center circle, *bottom right*: Center circle at CCIS garden

All photos taken by Cynthia Martin unless otherwise noted





Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society Report

By Allie Deaton, Vice President

HDIDS has had a very busy spring and summer. We relocated our nursery, and have spent many working hours getting it put together and organized. Thanks to club member Sue Brown for the use of her property - it is appreciated!





Top left and right: HDIDS members setting up and filling tables at the new nursery. *Bottom right*: members and family helping install an extra water line at the new HDIDS nursery location

We had a great spring Show and Sale in April. Now, we are prepping for our fall sale to be held the first weekend in October. The heat the last few weeks has been trying, but we are all invested in keeping our nursery stock watered and healthy - thankfully we have many club volunteers willing to come and water when it is 105F+ outside. Thanks to them for their dedication!

Sadly, we lost a beloved member of our club last month. Long time member Winona Stevenson passed away - she will be sorely missed.

Our Giveaway is at our next meeting, along with our "Salad Spectacular" - and next month is our Ruble Auction where club member can spend their earned "Rubles" to bid on newer irises and daylily intros.

Hope to see everyone at the Region 15 Fall Meeting in Tucson!



www.facebook.com/hidesertiris/

Inland Region Iris Society Report

By Penny Culbertson, President

Hi, we are Penny Culbertson and Carolyn Nielsen, the new co-presidents for the Inland Region Iris Society. We are very happy and excited to serve our Riverside iris club for the 2026-2027 year. We have a lot of exciting programs planned for this next year and hope some of our other clubs can come to Riverside and join in on our meetings.

All of our club meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month. They start at 6:00 pm with a potluck dinner. Come share food and a great time with other iris club members. We would love to have you join us!

On September 1st, we will be holding our "Region 15 Auction" with rhizomes from the Sun Country Iris Society in Phoenix, Arizona at the Goeske Center, Riverside, CA.

September 19th and 20th will be our rhizome sale. Sales for both days are 9:00 am - 2:30 pm at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Dr., Riverside, CA. A $10 parking will be charged per car.

October 6th, 2026 - Halloween costume contest and program by Bryce Williamson: a Judges Training (JT) on Iris Patterns and Colors at the Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center (JMDC)

November 3rd, 2026 - Program (and JT) by Claire Schneider on Spuria at JMDC

December 1st, 2026 - Our Christmas Holiday Party with a Cookie Exchange and Gift Exchange (gift must be worth at least $20) at the Goeske Center

January 5th, 2027 - Program (and JT) by Rick Tasco on Arils and Arilbreds at the Goeske Center

February 2027 - no meeting scheduled

March 2nd, 2027 - Program: "Mostly Birds and Some Bees" by Audubon Society at the Goeske Center

April 6th, 2027 - Flower Show Preparations: Artistic Design (speaker TBD) at the Goeske Center

April 10th and 11th, 2027 - Our Flower Show and our potted iris sale at Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center. Times for both days are 9:00 am - 2:30 pm. A $10 parking fee will be charged per car.

May 4th, 2027 - Program by Sandy Masuo, Botanical Content Specialist from The Huntington: "Super Natural: Tales of Plants Behaving Weirdly" at the Goeske Center

June 1st, 2027 - The co-presidents will speak about the 2027 Convention in Oklahoma. Other club members will also share photos, highlights and favorite irises or memories.

Again, we look forward to working with you all and seeing you over this coming year!

Penny and Carolyn

www.facebook.com/Inland-Region-Iris-Society

San Diego Iris Society Report

By Claire Schneider, President



Over the first weekend in May, as usual, the San Diego Iris Society held their spring show and sale. Like many of the iris societies this year, we had a poor turn-out of iris. Only 31 stalks were entered compared to our usual 200. There were more Louisiana and spuria iris entries than bearded irises. Best in Show was won by Claire Schneider for 'Mythical Nights,' a spuria iris. Best Design of Show was won by Mary Hanson. With only four exhibitors, our show did not qualify for AIS medals. We sold approximately 200 pots of iris, which helped defray the costs of putting on a spring show. Because the City of San Diego recently installed parking meters in Balboa Park, attendance at the spring show was very reduced.

One of the great aspects of the San Diego Iris Society spring show is the number of trophies. We believe that the more trophies we have, the more likely our members are to enter a stalk of iris. Last year, we added two more trophies: Best Arilbred Iris and the Janis Shackelford Trophy for best orange iris. We also changed the qualification of many of our trophies - because we are seeing more entries of beardless irises, trophies now are given for "best iris" instead of "best bearded iris."

What else has SDIS been doing? At the June meeting, show awards were distributed, followed by an ice cream social and the election of officers. Claire Schneider is taking a turn as president while Mary Hanson is now past president. Jan Benoit, Janis Shackelford and Olga Batalov will continue in their jobs, respectively as vice-president, treasurer and secretary.



SDIS does not meet during the summer. Our Fall Rhizome Sales will be held on August 22 and 23 and September 19 and 20 in room 101 of Casa de Prado, Balboa Park, San Diego. We have added Louisiana and spuria to the sales tables and our customers gobble them up. The members-only auction of trek iris will be held on October 11 at the Lakeside Historical Society building in Lakeside. For more information about our programs and events, please visit our website. We're on Facebook, too.

We are looking forward to hosting the AIS Region 15 spring trek on April 16 and 17, 2027. Anna Cadd will be the celebrity speaker on the topic of irises in a small garden. She also will be giving a classroom judges training on artistic design. We will be asking attendees to bring their own containers, which will allow attendees to take home their completed designs. There will be a garden judges training on tall bearded irises in Janis Shackelford's garden and a garden judges training on median irises in Claire Schneider's garden. We are planning a silent auction and raffle of new and newer iris. More information will be on the Region 15 website, on the SDIS website and in the spring newsletter. We hope to see you there!!

Claire Schneider

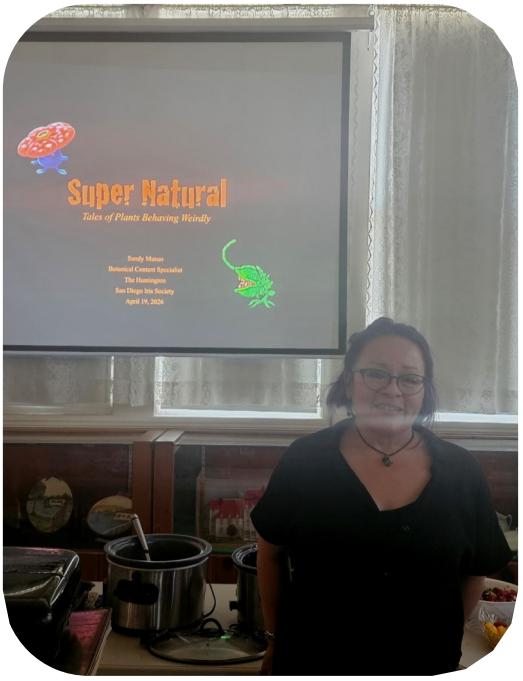
Top right: Best Specimen of Show, SPU 'Mythical Nights' (*photo by Olga Batalov*)

facebook.com/SanDiegoIrisSociety (public)
facebook.com/groups/769059883165997 (private)
SanDiegoIrisSociety.org

Bottom right: Janis Shackelford with the new best orange trophy named in her honor (*photo by Claire Schneider*)









Top row, left: Lynn McIlwain and Jim Hanson at 2026 Spring Trek

Top row, middle: SDIS member Roxy at 2026 Spring Trek

Top row, right: Guest speaker Sandy Masuo at April SDIS meeting

Middle row: celebratory mulberry pryanik at SDIS Spring Show

Bottom row, left: close-up of SPU 'Mythical Nights'

Bottom row, right: Best Arrangement, designed by Mary Hanson: "Burnt dinner, still gotta eat"

Photos from Spring Trek and April meeting by Claire Schneider. Photos from SDIS Spring Show by Olga Batalov.





SAN DIEGO IRIS SOCIETY

San Fernando Valley Iris Society Report

By Andi Rivarola, President



Hello all,

Our Spring Show 2026 was held on Saturday, April 18th. I want to acknowledge our two main show winners: Renee Fraser, who won Best in Show for her Horticultural Division entry, the Louisiana iris 'Lake Sylvia,' and Jan Lauritzen, who won Best in Show in the Artistic Division under the "Libra" category. Both were gorgeous entries. All the other entries were fantastic, inspiring, and beautiful. We also sold many potted irises. Our May 7th program, titled "How Flowers Like Irises Can Be Used in Designs," was presented by Diane Lerner and Natalie Bloxham. As usual, the June 4th program included the Annual Election. Our newly elected officers are Andi Rivarola, President; Aja Thacker, VP; Edith Diaz, Secretary; and Richard Davis, Treasurer. We also had our Spring Show Awards presentation and a potluck dinner. In July, we went dark. The August 6th program was our Annual Iris Auction.



Coming up for the SFVIS members:

September 3rd: A Digital Presentation by Jill Bonino on the AIS National Convention plus the Region 15 Spring Trek.

October 1st: Renee Fraser and Loren Zeldin on "Dealing with Drought and Irrigation, plus plant choices."

October 4th: Pioneer Day in the San Fernando Valley (our club annually has a booth)

November 5th: Games! Come play games and win irises.

December 3rd: Holiday Dinner and Get Together

January 7th, 2027: we go dark

Our Spring Show will be on April 10th, 2027.

The SFVIS Spring Trek will be on April 16-17, 2027.

The Region 15 Fall Meeting, organized by SFVIS, will be on November 13th, 2027.





Top right: Renee Fraser with 'Lake Sylvia,' *middle right*: Best in Show, Artistic Division

facebook.com/SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety
www.SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety.org

Bottom left and right: two more artistic design entries
All photos by Andi Rivarola

Orange County Iris and Daylily Club Report

By Derry Gerald, President, submitted via Lois Farr

OCIDC continues to enjoy meeting almost every month. Our group of 8 to 10 members follow the club's traditional schedule of holiday traditions, sharing garden information and auctions. This year's iris auction was especially fun and every member carried home a nice supply of rhizomes. We look forward to the region irises arriving for another fun and bountiful auction.

We do most of our communication by telephone - a simple, old-fashioned call reminds us of an upcoming meeting, event, or news. Ted, a very special and long-time member, passed away this year, leaving us with an empty seat and missed friendship.

Caring for our iris, sharing information and celebrating simple joys keeps our club alive. This summer, many of our members were busy traveling, so we postponed a few summer meetings. Derry mailed off a purchase order for amaryllis for the club members and we look forward to receiving the shipment in the coming months - maybe for Christmas!

We are thankful for all that the region does for us and we appreciate the work of communicating between the affiliates. It is refreshing to hear news from each club and receive the beautiful newsletter.

www.facebook.com/ocirisanddaylilyclub



Southern California Iris Society Report

By Cheryl Deaton, President



So Cal had a successful show in April, even though the bloom was sparse. Linda Meyer won Best in Show with 'Feel The Power' (*at right*) and Kim Ung won Best Arrangement (*bottom left*). We also held our annual sale at South Coast Plaza and sold out in the first 2 days. We don't have a meeting in May, so the show awards were given out at the June meeting and we discussed our budget for the coming year.



In July, we had our presentation from Jill on the Region 15 Trek and the AIS National Convention. So many beautiful flowers! We go kind of crazy in August, September and October with our members-only bearded and beardless iris auctions. This year (or really next year in January), we will have a PCN auction as well.

We do not meet in November and our holiday party will be on December 5th at a new location. We do a gift exchange with a $25 limit and it is supposed to be "garden" related, but the past few years the more popular gift has been a box of See's candy! Of course, chocolate is made from cocoa beans from the garden. We can "steal" the gifts (but only twice, then it's frozen) and it makes for a lively and fun activity.

We have gotten a few new members this year and we are working on our website. We also have business cards, which seem to be very popular with the public. We meet the 4th Saturday of the month at the LA Arboretum at 10 am, and everyone is welcome.

Right and bottom left photos by Kim Ung

facebook.com/SouthernCaliforniaIrisSociety

Prescott Area Iris Society Report

By Isabel Olsen, President

Wow! To say we have had a busy summer is an understatement! Well, let's start with our Iris Show 'Parade of Iris' and Potted Iris Sale, which we held on May 9, 2026. Despite the weather challenges our iris gardens experienced this year with early warm weather, we had a wonderful show and sale. We did have a larger Artistic Design Division, which helped offset fewer horticulture entries. Many new members participated for their first time, and they did a fabulous job!

We have unexpectedly had to move our meeting location for all future meetings. Our new location is Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Prescott, where we maintain a public iris garden. They welcomed us with open arms and we had our first meeting there in June. At that meeting, we had our Photo Contest, our Iris Show Award presentation and Ice Cream Social, where we welcomed three new members. The Silver Medal went to Isabel Olsen, the Bronze Medal went to Cynthe Brush, and the Artistic Sweepstakes recipient was Angela Denis.

We then had a couple of work days with many members pulling weeds and removing bloom stalks in the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden. After 15 bags of trash, the garden was magnificent and we were all proud of our efforts. We even had a pizza party for all of our amazing working members.

For the month of July, we had several "digs" scheduled at our three public gardens and in members' gardens to prepare for our Rhizome Sale. Our Marking Party/Potluck was the week before the Rhizome Sale. We couldn't have planned for better weather; it was cloudy and cooler than usual. This year, our Rhizome Sale was held at a new location, the former Mortimer Nursery. We made sure to advertise heavily so that the public knew of the changed location. Our sales were pleasing and were over sixty-five hundred dollars. The remaining rhizomes were potted up and are being cared for until the spring.

We have a Potted Iris Silent Auction planned for September, and our keynote speaker will be Ken Lain, owner of Watters Nursery. He will be presenting 'Rhizome to Rainbow: Watters Top 10 Iris.'

I want to compliment Sun Country Iris Society for hosting a fantastic Region 15 Spring Trek. The members who attended thoroughly enjoyed the organized event. A big thank you to SCIS for sharing the garden rhizomes with all of the clubs in Region 15. I always encourage my fellow members to attend the American Iris Society events. I am looking forward to attending the Region 15 Fall Meeting in Tucson, and seeing my many iris friends!

facebook.com/groups/1048378225226372/ (public)
https://www.facebook.com/prescottiris
www.prescottirissociety.org







Top left: "Parade of Iris - America the Beautiful, 250 Years" Artistic Design Best of Section winner by Angela Denis, *top right*: members at the Rhizome Sale (*photo by Sandy Shilling*)

Middle: Pizza party in the Yavapai College Sculpture Garden with members Cynthe Brush, Isabel Olsen, Eugene Zielinski, Kathy Sisley and Cynthia DeFrancisco (*photo by Carol Lee Sargent*)

Bottom left: Member Marilyn Campbell assisting shoppers at the Rhizome Sale; *bottom right*: Member Cynthe Brush, digging iris rhizomes at the Sharlot Hall Museum garden

Photos by Isabel Olsen unless otherwise noted





Sun Country Iris Society Report

By Sharon Petterson



Thanks to all who attended our Iris Roundup Spring Trek in April. Bonnie Nichols, our guest speaker, gave 2 judges' training classes. We hope you had a great time and enjoyed a good deal with the $100 fee for 3 meals and 2 busloads to ride to 3 gardens. Our May meeting program featured Eugene Zielinski from Prescott, AZ with "Iris Species Around the World." Our June Zoom judges training on Ethics was with Michael Kowalchyk from Oklahoma. There was no meeting in July. August's ice cream social also included our Photo Contest, with entries from members. September and October will be lively iris auctions with rhizomes we purchase to encourage members to grow newer irises.

Kyria Peavy, who had served as SCIS President before, was again President but had to resign because of her workload. Dwayne Booth, as VP, has taken over for the rest of 2026 until new officers are elected.



Photos on this page, top and middle right: Iris Roundup banners; *bottom left*: Bonnie Nichols giving a Judges Training on novelty irises; *bottom right*: Isabel Olsen (left) and Bridget Bernardi (right) showing off the Trek bags

Next page, top left: garden hostesses Sharon Petterson and Julie Grove greet guests at Julie's garden; *top right*: pulled pork dinner, including 3 desserts, was served by Vicki Rupp, Valerie Wielgus, and Barb Hayes; *middle left*: Megan Drap (CCIS), Bonnie Nichols, Andi Rivarola (SFVIS) and Cindy Martin (CCIS); *middle right*: Bonnie Nichols (left) and Andi Rivarola (right) in the foreground at breakfast on the Trek; *bottom left*: judges for TAIS spring show in April were Gerald Snyder (PAIS), Sharon Petterson (SCIS), Dale Liggett (SCIS), and Cheryl Dreska (SCIS); *bottom right*: April visit to Hall and Cliff's garden in Payson - Dee Wilson, Cliff Morris, and Maria Portillo with Ardi Kary.





www.suncountryiris.org













SUN COUNTRY IRIS SOCIETY

Tucson Area Iris Society Report

By Sue Clark, Secretary

TAIS' annual rhizome sale in September was a big success, with a net of $5000. We had lots of volunteers and Pat Olsen ran a "Make and Take" type class in which everyone got to plant an iris in a pot and it became theirs. One boy was so excited that he became a Youth Member of TAIS. In October, we connected with Lynda Miller via Zoom and learned, among other things, that she loves MTB irises, which are originally from her hometown in Indiana, and that she has a striking cinnamon-colored TB in the pipeline. Speaking of striking, our annual photo contest in October was filled with beautiful shots of irises and iris gardens. November featured our annual potluck with a seed- and plant-exchange, always a favorite event. We don't meet in December but in January we enjoyed a presentation by Eugene Zielinski of our sister club in Prescott, featuring slides of iris species from all over the world organized by the six subgenera. Eugene mentioned that he spotted *Iris missouriensis* growing on nearby Mt. Lemmon, and TAIS members chimed in with other species that they grow: *I. unguicularis*, *I. albicans*, spuria, Louisianas, Japanese, and Dutch. Kevin Kartchner led us in a game of Dykes Bingo at our February meeting. All of the supplies and directions are available on the AIS website. In March, we met with Nancy McDonald via Zoom for her engaging presentation on historic irises and the Historic Iris Preservation Society (HIPS). One big takeaway was that she urges people not to try to put names to their irises with unknown names (NoIDs), as tens of thousands of unnamed irises were sold as "landscape irises" between at least 1920 and 1960. In April, our members' irises and artistic arrangements had a chance to shine in our combination show with the Rose Society of Tucson. Kevin won Best Specimen of Show for 'In the Loop' and Sue Clark won Best Design of Show for her crescent-shaped line-mass arrangement (which started out as a diagonal arrangement but did well regardless). Pat Olsen spoke on how *Iris pallida* is processed into orris root, orris butter, and Orris Absolute and then used in many products, including four perfumes which she brought for us to sniff. We are off for the summer but back in August for our annual Rhizome Auction.





Top left: Kevin with his Best Specimen (*photo by Dave Smith*)

https://www.facebook.com/Tucsoniris/
TucsonIris.org

Bottom right: Sue with her Best Design (*photo by Dave Smith*)











Top: January meeting; *middle left and right*: Spring Show; *bottom left*: 2025 rhizome sale (*photo by Sally Vega*); *bottom right*: TAIS members with Beth Train at Region 15 Spring Trek (*photo by MJ King*)

AIS Region 15 2026-2027 Calendar

Month	Day	Event	Location
September, 2026	1	IRIS Monthly Meeting: Region 15 Auction	Riverside, CA
	1	SCIS Monthly Meeting: TB rhizome auction	Phoenix, AZ
	3	SFVIS Monthly Meeting: Digital presentation by Jill Bonino on AIS Convention and Regional Spring Trek	Canoga Park, CA
	9	OCIDC General Meeting (call to confirm)	Garden Grove, CA
	12	PAIS Monthly Meeting: Guest Speaker Ken Lain of Watters and silent auction fundraiser	Prescott, AZ
	19	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society monthly meeting	Lancaster, CA
	19	TAIS Rhizome Sale at Harlow Gardens Nursery	Tucson, AZ
	19-20	IRIS rhizome sale, Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center, 9 am-2:30 pm	Riverside, CA
	19-20	SDIS fall rhizome sale, Balboa Park, Casa del Prado room 101	San Diego, CA
	26	SCIS public rhizome sale at Whitfill Nursery	Gilbert, AZ
	26	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
October, 2026	1	SFVIS Monthly Meeting: Renee Fraser and Loren Zeldin on "Dealing with drought and irrigation, plus plant choices"	Canoga Park, CA
	4	Pioneer Day in the San Fernando Valley (SFVIS has a booth)	Chatsworth, CA
	6	IRIS Monthly Meeting: Halloween costume contest and **JT** program by Bryce Williamson: Iris Patterns and Colors at JMDC	Riverside, CA
	6	SCIS Monthly Meeting: TB/LA rhizome auction	Phoenix, AZ
	10	SCIS public rhizome sale at SummerWinds Nursery	Phoenix, AZ
	11	SDIS General Meeting: Region 15 iris auction	Lakeside, CA
	14	OCIDC General Meeting (call to confirm)	Garden Grove, CA
	17	**Region 15 Fall Meeting** hosted by Tucson Area Iris Society	Tucson, AZ
	17	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society monthly meeting	Lancaster, CA
	24	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
November, 2026	3	IRIS Monthly Meeting: **JT** on spuria by Claire Schneider at JMDC	Riverside, CA
	3	SCIS Monthly Meeting: Delane Langton on TBD over Zoom	Phoenix, AZ
	5	SFVIS Monthly Meeting: Games! Come play games and win irises!	Canoga Park, CA
	8	SDIS General Meeting: 2026 National Convention, Claire Schneider	Lakeside, CA
	11	OCIDC General Meeting (call to confirm)	Garden Grove, CA
	14	PAIS Monthly Meeting: Guest Speaker Brandon Sutton. 2026 PAIS Board Election.	Prescott, AZ
	21	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society monthly meeting	Lancaster, CA
December, 2026	1	IRIS Monthly Meeting: Holiday Party and Cookie/Gift Exchange	Riverside, CA
	1	SCIS Monthly Meeting: Year-end celebration, install new officers	Phoenix, AZ
	3	SFVIS Monthly Meeting: Holiday Dinner and Get Together	Canoga Park, CA
	5	Southern California Iris Society holiday party	TBA, CA
	9	OCIDC General Meeting (call to confirm)	Garden Grove, CA
	13	SDIS Holiday Party	Ramona, CA
	19	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society monthly meeting	Lancaster, CA

Month	Day	Event	Location
January, 2027	5	IRIS Monthly Meeting: **JT** on Arils and Arilbreds by Rick Tasco	Riverside, CA
	5	SCIS Monthly Meeting: agenda TBD	Phoenix, AZ
	10	SDIS General Meeting: agenda TBD	Lakeside, CA
	16	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society monthly meeting	Lancaster, CA
	23	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
February, 2027	2	SCIS Monthly Meeting: agenda TBD	Phoenix, AZ
	4	SFVIS Monthly Meeting: agenda TBD	Canoga Park, CA
	7	SDIS Birthday Party: speaker TBD	Ramona, CA
	20	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society monthly meeting	Lancaster, CA
	27	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
March, 2027	2	IRIS Monthly Meeting: Birds and some bees by Audubon Society	Riverside, CA
	2	SCIS Monthly Meeting: agenda TBD	Phoenix, AZ
	4	SFVIS Monthly Meeting: agenda TBD	Canoga Park, CA
	14	SDIS General Meeting: agenda TBD	Lakeside, CA
	20	Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society monthly meeting	Lancaster, CA
	27	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
April, 2027	1	SFVIS Monthly Meeting: agenda TBD	Canoga Park, CA
	6	IRIS Monthly Meeting: Flower Show Preparations: Artistic Design	Riverside, CA
	6	SCIS Monthly Meeting: agenda TBD	Phoenix, AZ
	10	SFVIS Spring Show	Canoga Park, CA
	10-11	IRIS show and potted iris sale, Jurupa Mountain Discovery Center	Riverside, CA
	16-17	**Region 15 Spring Trek** hosted by San Diego Iris Society	Ramona, CA

AIS REGION 15 AFFILIATE SOCIETY MEETINGS

For Central Coast Iris Society meetings contact the CCIS president or visit: facebook.com/CentralCoastIrisSociety

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society (HDIDS) meetings: 2 pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Quartz Hill Grange Hall located at 41843 50th St W, Quartz Hill, CA 93536, unless otherwise stated. HDIDS, P.O. Box 4572 Lancaster, CA 93539
Visit: facebook.com/hidesertiris/

Inland Region Iris Society (IRIS) meetings: 1st Tuesday of each month at 6 pm at the Janet Goeske Center (unless otherwise noted), 5257 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA. Visit: facebook.com/Inland-Region-Iris-Society

Orange County Iris & Daylily Club (OCIDC) meetings: 2nd Wednesday every month at 2 pm at the 1st Presbyterian Church, 11832 Euclid Street, Garden Grove, CA. Inquire with Derry Gerald (562-420-9190) in case meeting has been cancelled.

Prescott Area Iris Society (PAIS) meetings are held from 1:30-3:30 pm (except as noted) at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, 3700 Willow Creek Road #52A, Prescott, AZ 86301. For calendar of events go to www.prescottirissociety.org or Facebook.

San Diego Iris Society (SDIS) meetings: 2nd Sunday of most months of the year at 1 pm (unless a special event is planned) at 9906 Maine Avenue, Lakeside, CA. No meetings in July or August. www.sandiegoirissociety.org

San Fernando Valley Iris Society (SFVIS) meetings: 1st Thursday of each month at 7 pm at the Canoga Park Women's Club, 7401 Jordan Avenue, Canoga Park, CA. sanfernandovalleyirissociety.org or facebook.com/sanfernandovalley.irissociety

Southern California Iris Society (SCIS), is back to holding regularly scheduled meetings at the Los Angeles Arboretum in the Lecture Hall (known as the Bamboo Room) at 10 am. Meetings are on the 4th Saturday in the months of January, February, March, June, July, August, September and October. The Los Angeles Arboretum is located at 301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA. facebook.com/SouthernCaliforniaIrisSociety

Sun Country Iris Society meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7 pm at the Valley Garden Center, 1809 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix, AZ. www.suncountryiris.org

Tucson Area Iris Society (TAIS): Visit on Facebook. Calendar of events posted to the TAIS website at www.tucsoniris.org

Please send updates and corrections to olga_batalov@yahoo.com

AIS Region 15 Commercial Iris Gardens

Kary Iris Gardens
(480) 949-0253
Ardi Kary
6201 East Calle Rosa
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
email: ardikary@aol.com

Scott's Iris Gardens
(805) 712-2439
Tracy Scott
14615 Chispa Rd
Atascadero, CA 93422
email: scottsirisgardens@outlook.com

Bloomer-rang Iris Farm
(330) 958-0319
Wilhoit, AZ
email: bloomerangiris@gmail.com
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/people/Bloomer-rang-Iris-Farm/

Crafton Hills Iris Farm
(909) 492-0165
Mike and Lori Rhodes
Redlands, CA - **moved to Gardnerville, NV**
email: craftonhillsirisfarm@gmail.com
Facebook: Facebook/craftonhillsirisfarm
www.craftonhillsirisfarm.com





Wild Oak Farms
(909) 307-4565
Tony & Cheryl Hicks
32036 Live Oak Canyon Rd
Redlands, CA 92373
email: wildoakfarms.redlands@gmail.com

For advertising information contact
olga_batalov@yahoo.com

Region 15 Spring Trek 2026

















<u>*Row 1 left & middle*</u>: Ardi Kary's garden

<u>*Row 1 right & row 2 left*</u>: Julie Grove's garden

<u>*Row 2 middle & right*</u>: Sharon Petterson's garden

<u>*Row 3 left*</u>: Megan Drap (left) and Cindy Martin (right) of CCIS at Sharon Petterson's garden

<u>*Row 3 right*</u>: Loading onto buses

Thank you Sun Country Iris Society!

Photo Credits: Claire Schneider

Region 15 Spring Trek Award Winners

Photo credits as noted



'Chief Redskin' (Hamner 1984)
Winner of Herb Holk award for best tall bearded iris by a Region 15 hybridizer
Photo by Sue Clark



'Notta Lemon' (Burseen 2010)
Winner of Claire Barr award for best tall bearded iris from outside of AIS Region 15
Photo by Claire Schneider



17e5-10-12 RISp6 by Elizabeth Rieniets
Best seedling from outside of AIS Region 15
Photo by Sharon Petterson



LA 'Paul Gossett' (H Nichols 2021)
Best Louisiana iris
Photo from AIS Encyclopedia



AB 'Sand Dancer' (Tasco 2010)
Winner of Rick Tasco award for best arilbred iris
Photo by Claire Schneider



SPU 'Sedona Skies' (Jurn 2026)
Best Spuria iris
Photo by Sharon Petterson