

Region 15

Spring 2024 Semi-Annual Report

YOU'RE INVITED!

SPRING TREK 2024

**Hosted by the Inland Region Iris Society
in Riverside, CA**

Saturday, April 20th, 2024

www.region15ais.org

Contents

Region 15 Fall Meeting photos (part 1)	2
Note from the Editor	3
Affiliate Presidents' Contact Info	3
Region 15 Trek Wheel 2024-2026	4
Region 15 Officers & Committees	4
Membership Update by Mason Train	4
RVP Message by Beth Train	5
Judges Training by Mary Hanson	6
AIS Webinar Info	6
Treasurer's Report by Cheryl Deaton	7
AIS Youth Report by Cheryl Deaton	7
Fall 2023 Board meeting minutes	8
AIS Membership Info	9
Upcoming conventions	9
SLI/Spuria Iris Society joint convention	10
AIS National Convention flyer	10
SCIS Request for 2026 guest irises	11
Tall Bearded 2023 Symposium	
Region 15 results	12-13
Join the Affiliate Work Group!!	13

The "Iris of the Year" for 2024	14
AIS Membership Drive 2024	15
2024 Spring Trek information	16-19
2024 Fall Meeting flyer	20
In Memoriam, Joan Citron and Randy Squires	21
Region 15 Calendar	36-37
Region 15 Commercial Iris Growers	38
Region 15 Fall Meeting photos (part 2)	39

Affiliate Presidents' Reports

-Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society	22
-Orange County Iris & Daylily Club	22
-Lompoc Valley Iris Society	23
-Inland Region Iris Society	24-25
-San Diego Iris Society	26-27
-San Fernando Valley Iris Society	28
-Southern California Iris Society	29
-Prescott Area Iris Society	30-31
-Sun Country Iris Society	32-33
-Tucson Area Iris Society	34-35

Region 15 Fall Meeting 2023



Top left: LVIS member wearing one of their shirts

Top middle: Mason and Beth Train with speaker Tom Johnson; *top right:* Sue Brown and Janis Shackelford

Bottom left: left to right - Ann Marie Wren, Patti Nygard, Cheryl Deaton (back), Sue Brown (front), Winona Stevenson, Nancy Walker (back), Gail Lofdahl, Allie Deaton (back) and Pam Montelongo

Bottom right: IRIS members in attendance at Fall Meeting in Lompoc - seated, left to right: Carolyn, Carol, Beverley; standing, left to right: Maggie, Michelle, Mason, Beth, Penny, Rita;



Thank you Lompoc Valley Iris Society!

Photo Credits: Claire Schneider



Note from the Editor

Hello fellow AIS Region 15 members!

Welcome to spring! This year brings with it a lot of rain to southern California, fortunately not as much as in northern California but definitely wetter than we typically get. At my house, as of March 5th, we have had 8.3 inches of rain since the start of 2024 (with more coming down now) and 11.6 inches since last August. It was reasonably spread out too, possibly enough to trigger a good wildflower bloom in the deserts and likely enough for another spectacular poppy bloom. The cacti are already covered in buds, and some even bloomed as early as February. I know those of you to the north of us here in San Diego got a lot more rain, with hopefully minimal to no long-term damage. Similarly, I hope those of you in Arizona are unscathed. May your iris bloom be exceptional this year - I hope you fertilized before the rains!

As some of you may be aware, I recently took over as AIS exhibition schedules chair, which puts me in charge of approving the show schedules for all of the iris societies in the US (and Canada too apparently). I am happy to see that six of our ten affiliate clubs have approved shows, which is about 10% of the nationwide count thus far. Please consider the overlapping time commitment this has with the Region 15 spring newsletter deadline and submit your reports for this newsletter on-time, or better yet early if possible, next spring.

I hope to make it to the Region 15 spring trek this year, barring unforeseeable circumstances. If you are like me and do not drive, ask around your club to see if you could carpool with someone. The 2024 Spring Trek is only one day and a relatively short drive for most of you in California, maybe even doable in one day without needing a hotel. It is your chance to see newer cultivars in bloom, as well as to mingle and socialize (yes, even us introverts) with like-minded iris enthusiasts.

Olga Batalov, Editor

READ THIS ISSUE ONLINE AT
www.region15ais.org



On the Cover: 'Shock and Awe' (Steve Rocha, 2007), hybridized by former SDIS member and former SDIS president Steve Rocha

AIS Region 15

Local Chapter Presidents

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society

Sue Brown

irisfor15w@gmail.com

[HDIDS Facebook](#)

Inland Region Iris Society

Beth Train

inlandregionirissociety@gmail.com

[IRIS Facebook](#)

Lompoc Valley Iris Society

Cindy Martin

lompocvalleyiris@gmail.com

[LVIS Facebook](#)

Orange County Iris & Daylily Club

Derry Gerald

562-420-9190

[OCIDC Facebook](#)

Prescott Area Iris Society

Marty Boxer

martin.boxer@asu.edu

PAIS [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

San Diego Iris Society

Claire Schneider

itsaclearday.claire@gmail.com

[SDIS website](#)

San Fernando Valley Iris Society

Andi Rivarola

andinsky@gmail.com

SFVIS [website](#) and [Facebook](#)

Southern California Iris Society

Brian Moon

briankmoon88@gmail.com

[SCIS Facebook](#)

Sun Country Iris Society

Sharon Petterson

sharonpet29@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
maryehanson2016@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
and Janis Shackelford
jgshackelford@cox.net

Editor: Olga Batalov
olga_batalov@yahoo.com

Historian: Sue Brown
irisfor15w@gmail.com

Membership: 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
2024 Spring Trek	Inland Region Iris Society	Riverside, CA
2024 Fall Meeting	Prescott Area Iris Society	Prescott, AZ
2025 Spring Trek	Inland Region Iris Society	Riverside, CA
2025 Fall Meeting	Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society	TBD, CA
2026 Spring Trek	Sun Country Iris Society	Phoenix, AZ
2026 Fall Meeting	SoCal Iris Society or TAIS	TBD

Get more info about upcoming Region 15 Treks
from our website

www.region15ais.org

Visit us on Facebook

Membership Update (as of 3/4/2024)



By Mason Train, Membership Chair

TOTAL AIS MEMBERS:	211 (198 individuals)
TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS:	Incomplete (see below)
TOTAL YOUTH:	1
TOTAL AFFILIATES:	10 (No change)

AFFILIATE CLUB MEMBERSHIPS

HDIDS: 29 members: 0 youth, 12 AIS members

IRIS: 53 members: 1 youth, 16 AIS members

LVIS: 49 members: 1 youth, 8 AIS members

PAIS: 114 members, 5 youth

SCIS-AZ: 48 members*, 0 youth

SDIS: 75 members, 1 youth, 25 AIS members (including one youth)

SFVIS: 45 members*, 1 youth, 13 AIS members

TAIS: 55 members, 2 youth, 6 AIS members

* Many members still in process of renewing/paying their dues, not included in count.

No report from OCIDC or SoCal-IS

TOTAL AIS MEMBERS: 211 (197 adults, 1 youth, 3 libraries, 10 affiliates)

AZ = 71 (68 adults, 0 youth, 3 affiliates)

CA = 140 (129 adults, 1 youth, 7 affiliates, 3 libraries)



AIS Region 15 RVP Message

By Beth Balaney-Train, Region 15 RVP

Hello Region 15! The winter rains came and went (wait, there's more?). It may feel like a lot of atmospheric rivers crossed our way but 2023 actually had more total rainfall. The weeds don't seem to care and keep on sprouting (and thriving)!

I am looking forward to this year's Region 15 Spring Trek. Inland Region Iris Society is hosting. It may be a one-garden event, but fear not, there are over 150 guest irises and more than 500 club irises waiting for that lovely warm spring day on APRIL 20, 2024 to show off their gorgeous blooms.

Douglas Kanarowski's program on tall bearded irises should be interesting and informative. Don't miss it!

Thank you Lompoc Valley Iris Society for hosting the well-attended Region 15 Fall Meeting. I had a wonderful time getting acquainted with LVIS members again and seeing familiar faces. The warm hospitality, smiling faces, Thomas Johnson's entertaining program, and delicious food more than made up the long albeit scenic drive. The Fall Meeting this year will be hosted by another lovely group of iris lovers from Prescott Area Iris Society. Mark your calendars and save the date - October 12, 2024.

The Trek Wheel is open in Fall 2026 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.

This year's AIS National Convention is scheduled for June 26-29 in Portland, OR. This event will highlight Japanese irises. I am hoping to attend and learn more about Japanese irises.

AIS is offering another membership drive this year. Each new full (print + e-membership) membership gets a free one-year print membership for two youths. An upgrade to a full membership qualifies for the same offer. This is a great opportunity for iris lovers ages 18 and under in your club.

Thank you Region 15 affiliates for sending in your affiliate renewals in a timely manner. All officers are required to be AIS members during their term, so be sure to take note of your AIS membership expiry dates at system.irises.org/membership/web-based-lookup.

Lastly, thank you Janis Shackelford for your three years of service as Region 15 RVP. It's an honor to be in the company of these great women (see photo).

Wishing you all a gorgeous iris bloom season this spring!

I hope to see most of you at the Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center on April 20th!



Region 15 RVPs, past and present

Front, L-R:

Sue Brown, Beth Train

Back, L-R:

Cheryl Deaton, Winona
Stevenson and Janis
Shackelford

*Photo credit: Claire
Schneider*



AIS Judges Training

By Mary Hanson, Region 15 Asst. RVP

and Judges Training Chair

Greetings Region 15 iris lovers,

We have had some unusual weather this winter. We had a rare tornado warning in San Diego County. The funnel cloud never touched down to become a tornado. We have had multiple atmospheric rivers bring plenty of rain leading to local flooding. For a few days my bearded iris, planted in raised beds were flooded. Hopefully the rain will produce a beautiful spring bloom season.

Region 15 has already held three judges trainings this year. Sun Country Iris Society held a training on February 6th. Dale Liggett of Sun Country Iris Society held a training on plicata iris bloom patterns. Also on February 6th, Inland Region Iris Society judge Beth Train held a training on Iris terminology and color patterns (1.5 hour). The San Diego Iris Society hosted Bonnie Nichols to speak about novelty iris. In the upcoming months, several more judges training opportunities have been approved. On April 6th, Sun Country Iris Society will be hosting an in-garden training presented by Denise Stine in which the blooming iris will serve as examples for vocabulary. The training will take place in Ardi Kary's garden. On May 11th, Nancy will present on Spuria and Louisiana iris at Darol's garden. On June 8th, Dale Liggett will presents a training on collections in the iris show. Trainings listed are classroom unless designated as garden and will earn 1 hour of credit unless otherwise noted.

Region 15 currently has 4 retired judges, 1 Emeritus/Artistic Design judge, 6 Master judges, 2 Master/Artistic Design judges, 13 Garden-Exhibition Judges, 6 Garden-Exhibition/Artistic Judges and 1 apprentice judge. Region 15 also has 3 judges training students.

I encourage our members to become a judge. I am a relatively new judge. I started in October of 2018 and become a garden-exhibition judge in January of 2023. I have learned many interesting facts about growing and showing iris. The requirements are reasonable. Become and maintain an AIS membership. Complete an application to become a student. Over the course of three years, attend and pass the exam for ten training sessions. Once the requirements as a student are complete, you become an apprentice where, in addition to classroom and garden trainings, you get to be tutored by four certified judges. Two of those tutoring sessions will be in the garden and two will be at iris shows. Becoming a judge has helped me become a better iris gardener.

Mary

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

AIS REGION 15 2024 proposed budget

By Cheryl Deaton, Region 15 Treasurer

	2024 Budget	2023 Expenses
RVP Travel	\$1000	\$ 0
OFFICER FUND		
RVP	\$ 500	\$ 56.89
aRVP	\$ 500	\$ 206.25
Secretary	\$ 500	\$ 0
Treasurer	\$ 500	\$ 26.87
Website	\$ 495	\$ 495
JT expenses	\$ 50	\$ 52.31
Newsletter	\$1500	\$1011.43
Awards	\$ 200	\$ 50
Shipping	\$ 200	\$ 82.81
AIS Convention	\$ 250	\$ 250
Spring Trek	\$ 800	\$ 800
Fall Meeting	\$ 600	\$ 0
Misc.	\$ 100	\$ 70
 TOTAL	 \$7,195	 \$3,101.56
 DONATIONS		 \$3,559.00
		 +\$457.44

The balance as of August 2023 was:

Checkbook balance: \$13,102.06

Investment account: \$16,111.02

Total balance: \$29,213.08



AIS Youth Program Report

By Cheryl Deaton, Region 15 and AIS Youth Chair

We currently have 1 youth member on the roster who renewed recently. There have been no new youth members.

Fall 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

AIS REGION 15 FALL BOARD MEETING

October 7, 2023

Lompoc, CA

Welcome and introduction - Janis Shackelford, Region 15 RVP

Gift of an iris pin, presented to Janis by Claire Schneider in honor of completing outstanding service as Region RVP.

Treasurer Report by Cheryl Deaton

Judges Training by Beth Train - 19 G/E, 8 Master, 1 Emeritus judge and 3 retired judges. Of the 25 active judges, 5 are certified AD judges, 3 apprentices and 6 students. Reminder for judges to submit Activity Report yearly, AIS Ballot on time and keep current AIS membership and contact information.

Membership Report by Mason Train - 2023 AIS Membership Drive open until December 31st, 2023. Renewals and New members qualify for a FREE annual section membership, which must be chosen within 3 months of regular application.

Awards Report by Claire Schneider - Trophy awards have been replaced with monetary check award.

Youth Report by Cheryl Deaton - Region 15 has only 1 youth member. Please seek out more youth members. Membership is only \$8 with electronic bulletin.

Editor Report by Olga Batalov - not present

Historian Report by Sue Brown - Sue requested that all affiliate newsletters be sent to her.

Ways and Means - open position, no report

AFFILIATE REPORTS

Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society - Sue Brown reported that an upcoming presenter will speak about photography using your phone. There is also an upcoming Fall Sale and Antelope Valley Fair display. They have 4 new members. Mary Escarcega passed away in September at 96 years old - services will be on October 21, 2023.

Inland Region Iris Society - Beth Train reported 50 members, 12 AIS members. They completed a Fall Sale and leftover irises were potted or planted in the garden. Meetings are fun, with costumes and games in October. A reblooming iris display is planned and members who bring flowers will receive a raffle ticket. Riley Probst will be the November speaker. December is the Christmas Party and gift exchange. February will be a Judges Training on iris terminology and color patterns. They will host the Region 15 Spring Trek on April 20, 2024.

Lompoc Valley Iris Society - Cindy Martin - The Fall Meeting prepared by this club with member cooperation results in a great event. Tom Johnson is the speaker, topic is Iris Names and Naming.

Orange County Iris and Daylily Club - Lois Farr - The club meets on the second Wednesday at 2:00. Successful auctions and gatherings, annual Christmas party planned for December.

San Diego Iris Society - Claire Schneider - Balboa Park has no entrance fee; the iris sale is indoors. November meeting is on Bee Pollinators by a Master Gardener. December is the Holiday Party. January will be rock painting. February will be the 59th Birthday Party, and Bonnie Nichols will present on Novelty Iris. Show and sale on May 4-5 in Balboa Park.

San Fernando Valley Iris Society - Cheryl Deaton - 2023 Spring Trek information: 62 attendees, profit made from the raffle items. They need more members.

Southern California Iris Society - Cheryl Deaton - Successful bearded and beardless iris auctions. A show is scheduled for April. There will be a 4 day annual garden sale event at South Coast Plaza in Costa Mesa on the last weekend of April.

No report from Prescott Area Iris Society, Sun Country Iris Society or Tucson Area Iris Society.

New Business:

- Region 15 basket for AIS 2024 Convention - all clubs requested to send \$25 to Treasurer by January 5, 2024.
- Budget for 2024 presented by Cheryl Deaton
- Voting for 2024 Region 15 Officers - Claire Schneider - Call for vote
RVP: Beth Train, aRVP: Mary Hanson, Secretary: Lois Farr, Treasurer: Cheryl Deaton

Trek Wheel: Fall 2023: Lompoc Valley Iris Society
Fall 2024: Prescott Area Iris Society
Fall 2025: Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society
Fall 2026: Open

Spring 2024: Inland Region Iris Society
Spring 2025: Inland Region Iris Society - Yucaipa La Quinta Hotel
Spring 2026: Sun Country Iris Society
Spring 2027: San Diego Iris Society

Winter Meeting: Zoom meeting on January 13, 2024, 9:00 am.

Meeting Adjourned: Motioned by Cheryl Deaton, seconded by Sue Brown.

Submitted by Lois Farr, Region 15 secretary

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) 864-7962
E-mail: memsec@irises.org



www.AISYouth.com

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

AIS CONVENTIONS

2024 AIS/Japanese Convention

2024 June 26-29, Portland, OR

2024 Convention Co-Chair: Chad Harris

PO Box 346, Washougal, WA 98671-0346
chadharris@prodigy.net

2024 Convention Co-Chair: John Ludi

PO Box 956, Sandy, OR 97055-0956
kludi@juno.com

2025 Convention

2025 June 2-7, Billings, MT

2025 Convention Co-Chair: Delane H. Langton

eagleridgeiris@gmail.com

2025 Convention Co-Chair: Jane Tibbs

eagleridgeiris@gmail.com

2025 Convention Co-Chair: Tina Muller

tdirisgarden@gmail.com

FUTURE SECTION CONVENTIONS

2024 Louisiana & Spuria Iris Joint Mini-Convention

April 26-28, 2024: Dallas, TX

2023 Convention Chair: Bonnie J. Nichols
(214) 676-9892 • bjnhtn@aol.com

For most current additional information, visit
irises.org/aismembers/conventions/

FUTURE REGION 15 TREKS

2024 Spring Trek

Inland Region Iris Society

April 20, 2024: Riverside, CA

2024 Fall Meeting

Prescott Area Iris Society

October 12, 2024: Prescott, AZ



We're hooking up!!

DOUBLE TREAT



The Joint Convention of the **Society for Louisiana
Irises** and the **Spuria Iris Society** Dallas , TX,
Friday, April 26 – Saturday, April 27, 2024

- Five gardens on tour displaying both Louisianas and Spurias
- Learn how these beardless irises share the same gardens
- Expand your iris friendships

Adult Registration: \$229, Youth Registration (younger than 19 on 3/25/2024): \$129
Registration deadline is March 25, 2024.

For more information, visit: <https://spuriairissociety.org/spuria-sli-convention>

GREATER PORTLAND IRIS SOCIETY

INVITES YOU TO

AIS/SJI CONVENTION JUNE 26-29, 2024

greaterportlandirissociety.org/national-convention-2024



Request For Guest Irises

The Sun Country Iris Society will be hosting the 2026 Spring Trek for AIS Region 15. The garden tour will feature 3 gardens in the Greater Phoenix area and will be held in mid-April.

We are requesting Tall Bearded, Border Bearded and Arilbred irises; both recent introductions and seedlings. Please ship up to 3 plants of each variety (note Trek 2026 on your package) to:

Dwayne Booth; 8683 E. Golden Cholla Dr., Gold Canyon, AZ 85118.

DBooAnn1@msn.com

Please ship for plants to arrive between August 19, 2024 and August 29, 2024.

In addition to noting the name/seedling number on each plant, please include a packing list that includes the name/seedling number, hybridizer name and address, iris class and any other pertinent information.

In early 2026, hybridizers will be asked for their instructions on disposition of plants after the Trek. Plants requested by hybridizers to be returned to them will be charged shipping costs. No guest plants will be offered for sale on the internet.

The Trek Committee and the individual garden owners will adhere to the code of ethics as shown in the AIS Convention Handbook.

If you have any questions, please contact either of the 2 Trek co-chairs, Sharon Petterson, sharonpet29@gmail.com or Ann Booth, annbooth_hr@hotmail.com.

Tall Bearded 2023 Symposium Results sorted for AIS Region 15

By Claire Schneider

The Tall Bearded Iris Symposium (hereafter called Symposium) is a popularity contest held once a year. The tall bearded irises included on the Symposium ballot are the 100 top cultivars from last year's Symposium, the irises eligible for last year's Dykes Medal and Wister Medals, the irises eligible for last year's Awards of Merit, and the irises eligible for Honorable Mentions in the year before last year. For 2023, the total number of registered tall bearded irises on the Ballot was 480.

The Symposium Ballot is posted online and is usually included in *IRISES: The Bulletin*. Anyone can vote the Symposium ballot - AIS members and non-members, AIS judges and non-judges. It is a popularity contest. The 100 irises with the most votes collected from the USA and Canada are listed as Symposium winners in The Bulletin, usually in the winter issue.

Over the years, I have planted many of the Symposium winners. However, most have done poorly in my southern California garden. They had no flower stalks, no increases, and died. Thinking I might be doing something wrong, I have planted these so-called top cultivars several times, growing them in different places, with different sunlight and irrigation and had the same results: pitiful!! But wait a minute!! Southern California, in AIS Region 15, has its own horticultural properties. The top irises from the Symposium have received the most votes in the USA and Canada. I should be looking for the top irises in AIS Region 15. Thanks to Janis Shackelford, here they are: the top tall bearded irises from Region 15.

Region 15: Southern California, Arizona

Voting: Thirteen people cast 252 votes

Top irises

'Bottle Rocket' = 8 votes

'Blinded by the Light' = 6

'Mesmerizer' = 6

'Belle Fille' = 5

'Boundless' = 5

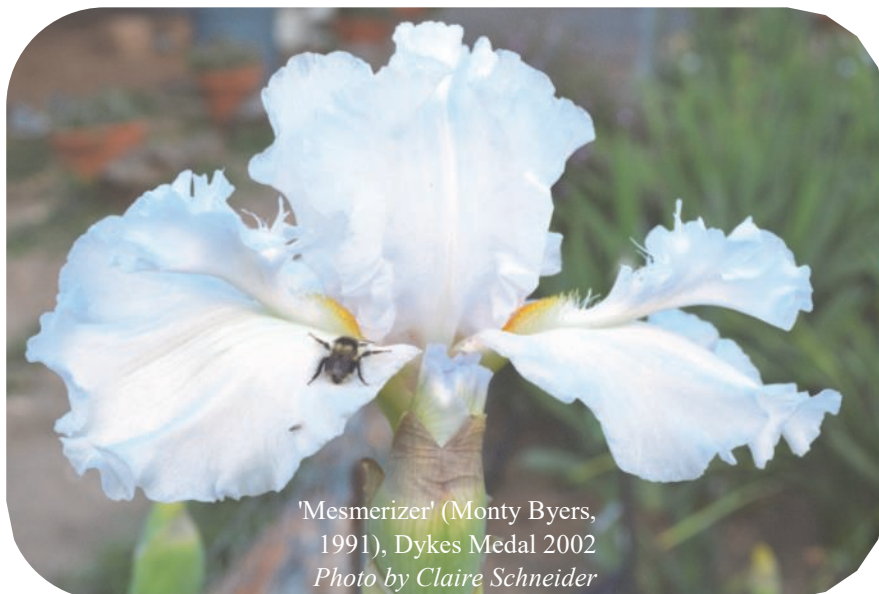
'That's All Folks' = 5

'Autumn Explosion' = 4

'Don't Doubt Dalton' = 4

'Glitter Gulch' = 4

'Notta Lemon' = 4



'Mesmerizer' (Monty Byers,
1991), Dykes Medal 2002
Photo by Claire Schneider

About the data: only 13 people from AIS Region 15 voted on the 2023 Symposium Ballot, which is to say the results probably are not very reliable. Nevertheless, each person who voted must have had a good experience with the cultivars for which they cast votes. So, regardless of reliability, you might consider planting some of them. And next year, I hope that you'll consider voting the 2024 Symposium Ballot. It will be available online and anyone can vote. The results would make a more reliable tool if more people voted. Don't you want to know which cultivars do best in AIS Region 15?

Thanks to Janis Shackelford for providing the AIS Region 15 data.

Join the Affiliate Work Group!!

By Claire Schneider

Last year, Jody Nolin, former AIS president and current AIS affiliate chair, formed a Google group whose goal is to share successful ideas and strategies for iris clubs, societies, and affiliates.

At a previous meeting, Michael Kowolchyz talked about how he has recruited and kept over 400 members for his Oklahoma Iris Society. He described how last year at their sale, they sold out of 1200 pots of irises in two hours. At another meeting of the group, we learned how to maximize Facebook and other social media for advertising our sales and club events. Veronica Johnson was the speaker at another meeting and talked about the issue of non-profit and the umbrella of the American Iris Society. Successful fund-raising strategies is a topic that comes up at most meetings. There are lots of great ideas out there that will make our clubs, affiliates, and societies more fun, interesting, and successful. We would love to hear yours!!

The Affiliate Work Group meets once a month via Zoom. Most of the attendees are club presidents, but Jody welcomes anyone from any club to attend. She has emphasized that information shared is valuable no matter who shares it. If you are interested or know someone who would be interested in this group, send Jody an email requesting the link to the next Zoom meeting.

Jody Nolin, AIS Affiliate Chair - affiliatesliaison@irises.org



'Blinded by the Light'
(Larry Lauer, 2017)

*Photo by Olga Batàlov from 2022
Spring Trek hosted by SDIS*



'Bottle Rocket' (Mike Sutton 2010)
Dykes Medal Winner of 2019

Photo by Mary Hanson

The "Iris of the Year" for 2024

The American Iris Society (AIS) is pleased to announce its "Iris of the Year" for 2024: tall bearded iris 'Don't Doubt Dalton.' This outstanding iris is the result of hybridizing work conducted by plant breeder Tom Burseen of Grand Prairie, Texas. He introduced 'Don't Doubt Dalton' to the public through his commercial iris garden in 2015. Tom named this iris for a friend's grandson who rides bulls. Tom is known for his tall bearded iris hybrids with unusual names. He received the AIS Hybridizer Award in 2022.



About 'Don't Doubt Dalton'

The Iris Encyclopedia describes this iris as having early to late bloom; its standards (top petals) pure white with random red-purple splattering; style arms (center of flower) white, washed gold; falls (bottom petals) pure white, yellow-gold washed hafts (top portions of falls), random dark purple splatters; beards poppy orange with tattered and feathered white horns; flared and ruffled; slight sweet fragrance.

When asked to describe his iris, originator Tom Burseen said "'Don't Doubt Dalton' grows and blooms profusely, and is not only a color breaker (describing the unusual splatters of a different color on the solid color background) but a space ager also." A "space ager" has a horn, spoon, or flounce appendage at the end of the "beard" on the fall. These are uncommon additions to a bearded iris flower. The combination of broken color and a horn appendage is highly unusual and 'Don't Doubt Dalton' is the first American Dykes Medal winner to display both.

Additional AIS Garden Awards

Tall bearded irises are judged chiefly of their qualities as perennial garden plants, with more emphasis on strong growth characteristics and disease resistance than on mere beauty and distinctiveness of the flower. Judges accredited by the AIS cast votes that resulted in 'Don't Doubt Dalton' earning an Honorable Mention in 2017, an Award of Merit in 2019, a Wister Medal in 2021, and AIS's highest award, the American Dykes Medal, in 2023.

About the American Iris Society

The mission of AIS is to organize and disseminate knowledge of the genus *Iris* and to foster its preservation, enjoyment, and continued development. The Society is welcoming to all people, regardless of race, religion, socioeconomic status, ethnic background, gender or sexual orientation. Members collaborate locally, regionally, and nationally to encourage the cultivation, enjoyment, and preservation of all irises. Activities often include educational programs, judges' training, exhibitions, and garden observation of irises in 15 horticultural iris classifications. The AIS also maintains the official world registry for non-bulbous irises. Visit the AIS website for more information, including a Commercial Directory of iris growers and hybridizers.

www.irises



The American Iris Society Membership Drive 2024



Thinking about the Future

The purchase of one new full AIS membership qualifies the purchaser for up to two free, one-year, youth print memberships. In addition, if an AIS member upgrades to a full membership from a print or e-membership, they also will qualify for up to two free, one year, youth print memberships.

From seedling to plant

Youth membership is for gardeners aged 18 and younger. (FYI, the regular rate for each youth print membership is \$12.) The Membership Drive will run from March 1 to December 31, 2024.



MD2024

www.irises.org



Inland Region Iris Society
invites you to the
AIS REGION 15 SPRING TREK
Saturday, April 20, 2024
Picnic in the Garden

Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center
7621 Granite Hill Drive, Riverside, CA

Featured Speaker

DOUGLAS KANAROWSKI

Mariposa Iris, Mariposa, CA

On Tall Bearded Irises

"The Most Important Iris Things that I Know and Have Learned over the Years"

Registration received by April 7, 2024: \$100.00

Registration received thereafter: \$110.00

Registration at the door (cash or check only): \$110.00

Schedule:

8:00 am to 9:30 am	Registration
8:45 am to 10:00 am	Region 15 Board Meeting and Welcome Address
10:00 am to 12 noon	Garden Tour
12 noon to 1:00 pm	Lunch (tacos and fixings)
1:30 pm to 2:30 pm	In-Garden JT (Sue Brown or Claire Schneider)
3:00 pm to 4:00 pm	JT with Douglas Kanarowski (classroom-type)
4:30 pm to 5:00 pm	Region 15 General Meeting
5:00 pm to 6:00 pm	Program by Douglas Kanarowski
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm	BBQ Dinner, Texas-style
7:00 pm	Awards and Raffle
7:30 pm	End

For more information: www.region15ais.org OR Inland Region Iris Society on FB

AIS REGION 15 SPRING TREK 2024

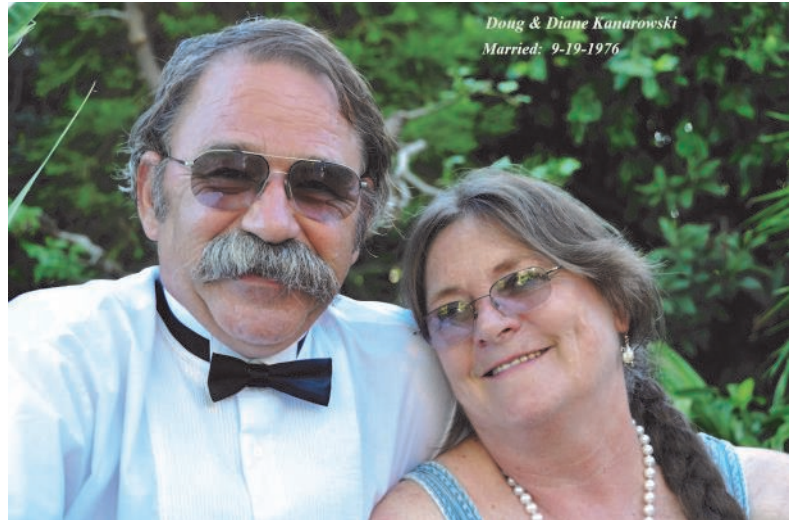
Guest Speaker: Douglas Kanarowski

Iris Hybridizer and Owner of Mariposa Iris, Mariposa, CA

Originally from Michigan, Doug met and married his wife to be in Mariposa, a small, sparsely-populated community on the edge of Yosemite National Park, California. Both gardeners from a very young age, Diane was the "flower person" while Doug's priority was growing all of the family fruits and vegetables. "They're pretty, but you can't eat them." But that is not how this story will end.

Around 1995, three pivotal events took place in fairly rapid succession. First, Diane got a bit overwhelmed with the upkeep of her flowers. As an act of kindness, Doug volunteered to help her with part of her flower work. So she delegated the growing of her iris to him. Second, during one of their joint visits to Superstitions Iris Gardens, Rick Tasco showed him how to breed an iris. "At that moment, I felt like the recipient of the secret recipe for Coca-Cola." And clearly remember practically shouting out loud, "Do you have any idea of what you've just done?"

The third event occurred during a trip to the nursery of a world-renown, miniature rose breeder, Ralph Moore. Moore shared that of the hundreds of promising seedlings that he sees each year, he would only introduce a rose that was either 20% different or 20% better than what was already on the market. To Doug, that made perfect sense.



Doug is hyper-critical of his own seedlings and therefore only introduces an average of 3 iris per year. As an aid, he has designed his own seedling evaluation form that reminds him to evaluate more than 50 different aspects. While minor faults can be tolerated, a major fault will always result in a one-way trip to the compost pile. "My goal is to advance the iris world and to do this by only advancing the best of the best."

In 2010, he began marketing his Iris From The Future on his website: www.mariposairis.com He has initiated a number of industry leading innovations. Some of which are: a 100% satisfaction guarantee, 2 rhizomes for the price of one, and no shipping charges for orders over \$100.

He is semi-active in three iris societies, involved with Region 14 activities, active in iris judging, visits many area gardens and has conducted an annual, public, open-garden event for over 20 years. He also makes a research trip to all the major Oregon gardens every second year to keep abreast of future developments.

"I look at what they are working on, and then go home and work in different directions. From what I am seeing in my own seedlings beds and in the beds of others, the future of iris is far more interesting and exciting than we have imagined. The iris horizon isn't narrowing, it's actually widening!"

AIS REGION 15 SPRING TREK 2024

Picnic In The Garden

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Riverside, CA

DIRECTIONS: Coming from the East or West on the 60 Freeway, take the Pyrite exit.

From the West: turn left at the bottom of the off-ramp, take a right turn onto Granite Hill Road and continue to the JMDC entrance.

From the East: exit at Pyrite, turn right at the bottom of the off-ramp. At next stop sign, turn right on Granite Hill Road and continue on to the JMDC entrance.

Hotel Suggestions:

Marriott Riverside at the Convention Center 3400 Market St, Riverside, CA, 92501 • +1 951-784-8000

Raincross Hotel Riverside 4045 University Ave, Riverside, CA, 92501 • +1 951-686-6666

Hampton Inn Riverside Downtown 3505 Market Street, Riverside, CA, 92501 • +1 951-788-5000

AirBnBs

Hotels near the Ontario Airport

Hotels in surroundings towns

Area Attractions:

Downtown Riverside – local restaurants, shops, museums

Mission Inn Hotel and Spa Riverside – historic 1900s mission-Revival style hotel famous for its Festival of Lights during the Christmas holidays. Award winning restaurants and bars, spa. www.missioninn.com

Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center – museum, cacti and succulent garden & nursery; iris garden jmdc.org

UCR Botanic Gardens – 1 Botanic Gardens Dr, Riverside, CA 92507 (951) 827-7090 gardens.ucr.edu

A 40-acre living plant museum with more than 3,500 plant species and thousands of specimens from around the world, focusing on plants from Mediterranean climate (dry summer) and arid lands. Hiking trails.

California Botanic Garden – 1500 N College Ave, Claremont, CA 91711 (909) 625-8767 www.calbg.org

The largest botanic garden dedicated to California native plants, 86 acres of curated collections of more than 22,000 CA native plants, with a good collection of pacific coast irises; nursery selling CA native plants.

Crafton Hills Iris Farm – This small, residential iris farm is home to a multitude of tall bearded irises. A class-2 business licensed through the California Department of Food and Agriculture to sell nursery stock, and is permitted to sell & ship iris rhizomes throughout the United States; listed on the American Iris Society Commercial Iris Farm Directory, and the Historic Iris Preservation Society's Garden Directory. Owned and operated by the Rhodes family. Lori Rhodes, iris hybridizer, has introduced several TB irises to date, with some on display at the guest garden for this spring trek. Tours by appointment only, book online. **OR** see your confirmation email for optional tour instructions with special days and times for Region 15 trek attendees (no booking required) craftonhillsirismfarm.com



Inland Region Iris Society

welcomes you to a

Picnic In The Garden

AIIS REGION 15 SPRING TREK 2024

Saturday, April 20, 2024

Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Riverside, CA

GUEST SPEAKER: DOUGLAS KANAROWSKI of MARIPOSA IRIS

REGISTRATION FORM

Name: _____ Club: _____

Name: _____ Club: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

E-Mail: _____ Phone: _____

Includes LUNCH, DINNER, REGISTRATION PACKET with TREK BOOKLET

Judge's Training: Yes ___ No ___ Please indicate if you will participate in Judges Training.

Registration received by April 7, 2024: \$100.00

Attendees ___ X \$100.00 = _____ TOTAL

Registration received on or after April 8, 2024: \$110.00.

Attendees ___ X \$110.00 = _____ TOTAL

Please make check payable to Inland Region Iris Society (IRIS)

Please send completed registration form and

your check to

Carolyn Nielsen

14150 Bush Avenue

Riverside, CA 92508

Contact Carolyn Nielsen with questions at <Cando6@att.net> phone: 951-486-1630

For more information and schedule: www.region15ais.org

Or contact:

Mason Train <inlandregionirissociety@gmail.com>

NOTE: HOTEL ON YOUR OWN

Prescott Area Iris Society



SAVE THE DATE

Join us on October 12, 2024
for the wonderful
Region 15

'Iris in the Pines' Fall Conference

The conference will be held at the
Highlands Center for Natural History
in the Prescott National Forest.

You won't want to miss our
Speaker

Rick Tasco

Mark your calendars now.
Registration will be open soon.

In Memoriam, Joan Citron and Randy Squires

Joan Citron passed away on January 22nd, after several months of declining health. She was 88. When Joan joined the SFVIS nearly 15 years ago, she was already well known for her horticultural knowledge. Indeed, as the editor of the book, *Selected Plants for Southern California Gardens* (Copyright 2000), the down to earth commentary provided by ordinary home garden owners on a variety of plants was well received by plant lovers everywhere.

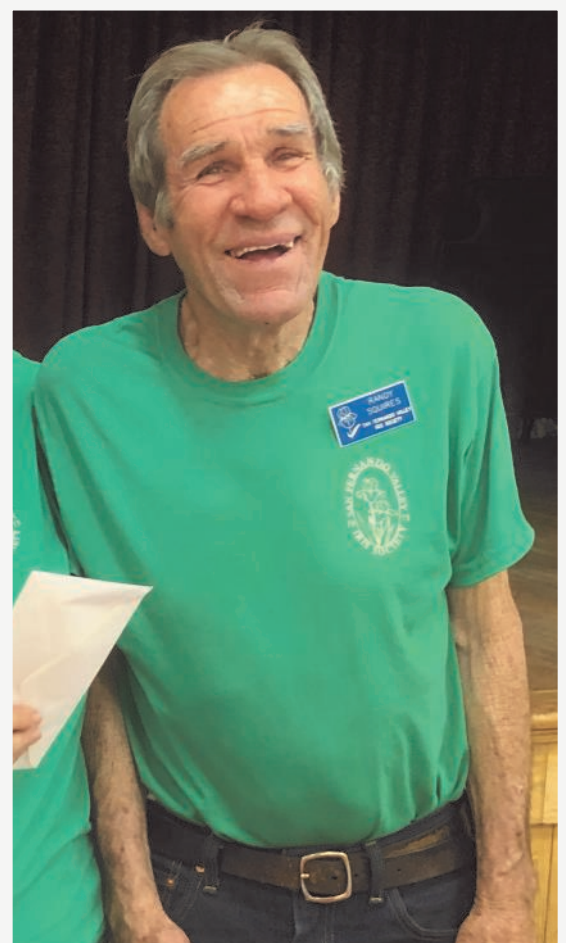
Joan's enthusiasm for iris took off when she joined our club, and irises just thrive in her sunny and well organized garden on Tampa Avenue. In recent years, she provided our club with an endless supply of rhizomes for our sales and raffles. Her garden was profiled on club treks and she served as secretary from 2018 to 2023. I will miss her wry humor and honest appraisal of plants, people, and news of the day.

And, as if Joan's passing weren't bad enough, our dear, much loved Randy Squires passed away from an apparent heart attack while working in his garden on February 6th. He was 77.

Randy and his late mother, Betty, joined the SFVIS some forty years ago. By 1990, the Squires large lot contained dozens of iris beds and he participated in shows, treks, and sales. For years, he arranged for the irises hybridizers provided for our club auction. Whenever a helping hand was needed, Randy was there. Over the last 20 years, Randy has been an integral part of our club's endeavors. And, he did so with that calm, friendly manner that we are all going to miss.

To both of them I say, let's keep cultivating our inner garden, growing, adapting, changing until the dawn of time.

~ Loren Zeldin, San Fernando Valley Iris Society, VP



Left photo: Joan holding her award for outstanding service; right photo: Randy Squires (June 2019)
Photos by Andi Rivarola

REGION 15 PRESIDENTS' REPORTS



Hi Desert Iris and Daylily Society Report

By Sue Brown, President

February 2024 had many continuous rainy days. The soil in my garden is saturated and can no longer hold the water. I cannot walk in the garden without stepping on puddles of water. The Louisianas like the extra water. I do not have any bloom stalks yet. I have numerous weeds. I hope that when the weather is warmer, there will be many blooms.

On a cold and windy October weekend, we had the fall sale at our new club garden. Because it is a new venue, some of our customers had difficulty finding us. It was a successful sale because so many members participated. We had customers from Riverside and San Diego. All the unsold rhizomes were potted for our spring sale.

Jill Bonino presented "Iris From 2023 AIS National Convention and Region 15 Spring Trek" at our November meeting. It was breathtaking to see so many gorgeous irises and fabulous gardens.

At the holiday party in December, the officers of 2024 were inducted: President - Sue Brown, Vice President - Allie Deaton, Secretary - Nancy Lemos, Treasurer - Marilyn Kiger.

There were 29 members at the February meeting. We lost a long time member, Pat Dourney, due to a lengthy illness. The program on Composting was canceled due to inability to access WiFi.

At the March meeting, we will have a PowerPoint presentation on flower arrangement from AIS.

The Elks Lodge in Palmdale will be the venue for our Show and Sale on April 27 and April 28.

www.facebook.com/hidesertiris/



Orange County Iris and Daylily Club Report

By Derry Gerald, President

We have two new members, husband and wife, that are still coming off and on to meetings. We changed the meeting time to the daytime on

Wednesdays instead of at night since several people could not drive at night anymore. Members give talks at some of the meetings. The depth of knowledge within our club's membership is amazing. Meetings center around iris and daylilies. 8-10 members regularly attend meetings. We are trying to make our money last as long as it can. We still have our annual member's only iris sale and now also a companion plant and bulb sale, bulbs that will naturalize. Club members still donate to the plant table for sharing.

The rain has put a damper on the garden, but not the weeds. One rebloomer is blooming.

Love, Derry

www.facebook.com/ocirisanddaylilyclub



Lompoc Valley Iris Society Report

By Cindy Martin, President

Lots in the works here within the Lompoc Valley Iris Society! Just where to begin? Well, in addition to welcoming several new members, we have elected new officers with great ideas and aspirations to build upon the 55 year legacy of LVIS. Tanya Belluz has excitedly accepted the responsibility of Secretary, and new member Megan Drap has boldly assumed the role of Vice President. Both of these ladies share a passion for building community and a love for gardening, and are incredible assets of support for LVIS and myself, newly appointed LVIS President Cindy Martin. With my very first year of membership at LVIS under my belt, I have learned so much so quickly from our long-term members, whom I proudly consider to be my friends and mentors. I have fallen in love with this incredible group of people and the beautiful and vast world of Iris that comes with them. My hope and goal is to serve them well.



Vice President Megan Drap



Some of our plans for spring 2024 include hosting a potted iris pop-up sale in April, followed by our annual LVIS garden tour- to be held on Saturday, May 4th. I'll also be submitting proposals to various establishments and properties in Lompoc that may be interested in allowing us to build and maintain iris beds for the community to enjoy. In addition, we plan to streamline our systems by implementing the use of easily accessible Google Documents. In



President Cindy Martin

keeping with plans of modernization, we have a goal to begin broadcasting our meetings so that members and the interested public may enjoy the convenience of joining us remotely.



Secretary Tanya Belluz

Last Fall, our society was blessed with an incredible donation from iris Hybridizer Nathan Crockett, of Crockett Farms. Membership Chair Ken Ainsley and I drove out to Nathan's garden in Visalia, California, and had a joyous afternoon adventure digging, dividing, and storytelling. He sent us home with hundreds of iris to use for our club as we see fit. He included an array of his own named and registered hybrids, as well as several un-named and un-registered seedlings, which you may expect to see on exhibition at Region 15 Spring Trek 2025. (Spoiler Alert!)



Membership Chair Ken Ainsley (left) and Hybridizer Nathan Crockett (right)

Thank you for reading and may your soils be rich, your weeds pull easily, and your blooms be abundant. "Iris" you a happy spring!

www.facebook.com/LompocValleyIrisSociety



Inland Region Iris Society Report

By Beth Train, President

Spring has sprung? The abundant winter rains have been a blessing to all the plants in the garden. Reblooming irises did better this year, as the temperatures were not as cold. Paperwhite narcissi blowing in the wind, violas nodding their pretty little heads, iris leaves growing taller each day, weeds sprouting everywhere...signs of spring for sure.

Inland Region Iris Society had a full calendar these past months. The September Fall Sale was a success. We sold most of the potted irises and the freshly dug rhizomes were in big demand. Unsold rhizomes were potted for future sales. We had a fun Halloween Celebration with members attending the meeting in costumes. Mason and I won 'Best Costume' along with another couple, Ken and Jane. Riley Probst, award-winning iris hybridizer and owner of Fleur de Lis Iris Gardens, taught us the ins and outs of iris hybridizing. In December, the Christmas Party and Gift Exchange was well attended. We savored delicious food amidst gorgeous table settings prepared by Jan (*photo of one at right*). Fast forward to February (IRIS went dark in January) with a Judges Training program on Iris Terminology and Color Patterns. Future events are as follows:



- March 5 — "Backyard Composting" by George Podowski from the City of Riverside
- April 2 — "Creative Floral Design" - program and demonstration by Patricia Clayes, NGC Judge.
- APRIL 20 — AIS REGION 15 SPRING TREK *"Picnic In The Garden"*. Jurupa Mountains Discovery Center, 7621 Granite Hill Drive, Riverside, CA.
- April 27-28 — Spring Sale: Potted Irises at the Riverside Community Flower Show and Garden Tours, Elks Lodge, Brockton Avenue, Riverside, CA
- May 7 — Nomination of Officers
- June 4 — Election of Officers

You are welcome to attend IRIS meetings and events. Our meetings are held at the Janet Goeske Senior Center in Riverside, CA with a 6 pm start time – potluck dinner followed by the business meeting, then the program at around 7 pm or so. IRIS decided not to have a spring show this year because we are busy with the upcoming spring trek.

Thank you Lompoc Valley Iris Society for the lovely Fall Meeting! Nine IRIS members attended the event! We had a great time and always look forward to supporting the activities of fellow affiliate iris societies.

You are all invited to attend the AIS REGION 15 SPRING TREK this APRIL 20th! We are hosting and have been busy preparing for this event. There are well over 150 guest irises, plus the club grows more than 500 irises, bearded and beardless, so there should be a lot to see in this one garden spring trek. Douglas Kanarowski is the guest speaker. Judges Training, both in-garden and classroom-type, are available. Registration fee is \$100 – includes gift bag, trek booklet, lunch, and dinner. The registration form and other information is in this issue as well as on region15ais.org

This will be my last year as President of Inland Region Iris Society. It was a nice experience. I will continue to serve the AIS and IRIS as RVP of Region 15. See you at the iris gardens.

Beth 3/2/2024

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



*Top left***: Ken as farmer, Jane as Maleficent, October meeting; *top right***: Beth as Little Red Riding Hood and Roslyn as Witch with a Wand, October meeting; *middle photo**: Mason, unmasked, October meeting; *bottom left**: Carol, Sharon, Rita, Beverley (L-R) at Christmas Party; *bottom right**: Mason with Riley Probst, November meeting

*Photo credits: *Beth or **Mason Train*





San Diego Iris Society Report

By Claire Schneider, President

Hello, everyone!

With all the rain we have had this winter, this should make for a wonderful spring bloom. As of March 1st, my home has had 11.5 inches of rain, which makes us on course for a good year. We are all looking forward to the San Diego Iris Society spring show and to the Region 15 Spring Trek 2024.

Beekeeping in the city was the topic of our November program. Denise Bienias of the Master Gardeners program told interesting stories about native bees and honeybees. The December Holiday Party was at my house in Ramona. People saw several blooming irises during their walk around the gardens. In January, we were lucky to hear Mason Train talk about color patterns in irises. He had wonderful slides to illustrate the intricacies of color blends. At our February meeting, Bonnie Nichols gave a program on novelty irises and followed up with a judges training session. The program for our March 10th meeting will be "Louisiana irises: from the bayou to the garden," by Brian Shamblin. On April 14th, SDIS members will travel to Mary Hanson's and Janis Shackelford's gardens to "oooh" and "ahhhh" over the iris. May 4th and 5th will be the SDIS Spring Show and Sale in room 101, Casa del Prado, Balboa Park. The last meeting of 2023-2024 will be June 9th, an award ceremony and ice cream social.

The SDIS meetings, except for the show and sales and the summer hiatus, are held at the Lakeside Historical Society, 9906 Maine Ave, Lakeside. This is a wonderful venue for us, with a kitchen, plenty of tables and chairs, and a set up for programs. We meet the second Sunday of every month except for July, August, and September.

For more information about our programs and events, please visit our website: www.sandiegolrissociety.org. We're on Facebook, too: Facebook.com/SanDiegoIrisSociety

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Spring Trek 2024!

Claire Schneider

[facebook.com/SanDiegoIrisSociety](https://Facebook.com/SanDiegoIrisSociety) (private)
SanDiegoIrisSociety.org



Top left photo: Claire Schneider, Jim Hanson, Mary Hanson and Janis Shackelford at the 2023 Fall Meeting in Lompoc, CA. Photo provided by Claire Schneider

Bottom left photo: Bonnie Nichols, guest speaker (and soon-to-be president of AIS) at our February birthday party, with Claire Schneider advancing her slides. Photo by Tammie Clark, out-of-town visitor and now one of our newest SDIS members

Bottom right photo: TB 'Blue Fin' blooming in Janis Shackelford's garden in January 2024. Photo by Janis Shackelford





San Fernando Valley Iris Society Report

By Andi Rivarola, President

The San Fernando Valley Iris Society is in a sad place, mourning the loss of two very dear and supporting members. Joan Citron and Randy Squires died a couple of weeks apart from each other. We're going to miss them terribly. Our club is preparing a celebration of life for both of them during our June 6 meeting. We will share images and stories of our dear friends.

Our March 7th meeting involves three of our members. Peggy Carpenter and Jan Lauritzen will talk about flower arranging, and give us pointers and ideas for entering the show and coming out a winner. Leigh Moon will provide us with a series of steps most gardeners will need when entering a stalk of irises to the show, and ending up with a blue ribbon or a best in show award.

Our April meeting will be moved by one day, to Friday, April 5th. This move will allow everyone in attendance to help prepare the room to become ready for the Spring Show, the next day, Saturday, April 6th.

The May 2nd meeting will feature our normal, beardless mini-show, when we ask our members to bring beardless irises. We hold a mini show of spuria and Louisiana irises, which many of the members grow. A popular vote is normally held at this meeting.

Our June 6th meeting, as usual, will be the Awards Night, Election of Officers, and as I mentioned above, this year we'll celebrate the lives of the two members we just lost. It is also a potluck dinner with many scrumptious dishes brought by those in attendance.

We go dark for July.

Photos from December holiday party by Andi Rivarola



Bottom left: Marianne and Richard Davis. *Bottom right:* Brian Moon waving hello!

facebook.com/SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety
www.SanFernandoValleyIrisSociety.org

Top right: Mitch Miller, scholarship recipient, receiving a check from Marianne Davis.



Southern California Iris Society Report

By Brian Moon, President

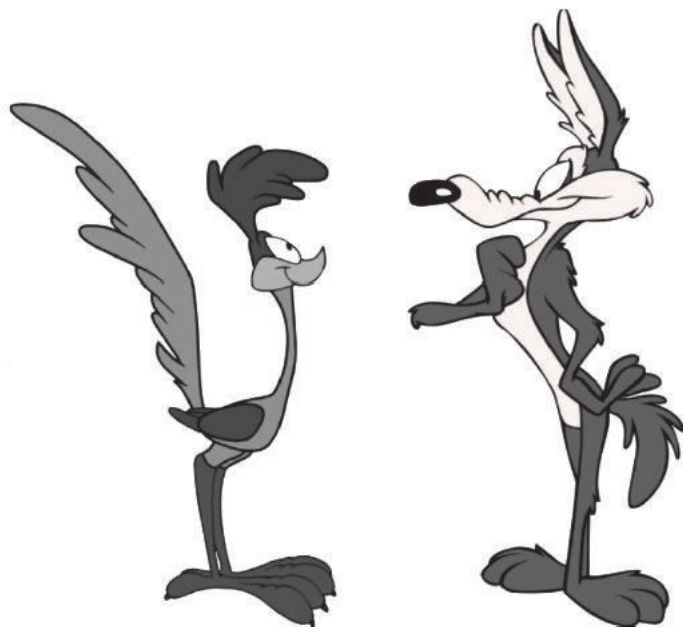
The Club is back having in person meetings at the Los Angeles Arboretum, after nearly a year of remodeling. We had a wonderful end of year party at the Northwoods Inn in December. February's meeting had us hosting Bob Van Liere from Iris4U. Bob has some exciting new crosses he is working on.

Upcoming events are the spring iris show at the Arboretum on April 13th & 14th. All are welcome to show or come see our horticultural and artistic displays. We will have plenty of iris for sale at the show. At the end of April, we will have our big four day sale at the South Coast Plaza's Spring Garden Show, April 25th – 28th. Come early for the best selection of rhizomes since last year we sold out on the second day. Our club is smaller due to the sad loss of several beloved members, and others have moved away. Acquiring new members continues to be a challenge and increasing membership continues to be a top priority.

facebook.com/SouthernCalifornialIrisSociety

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IRIS SOCIETY

An Affiliate of the American Iris Society



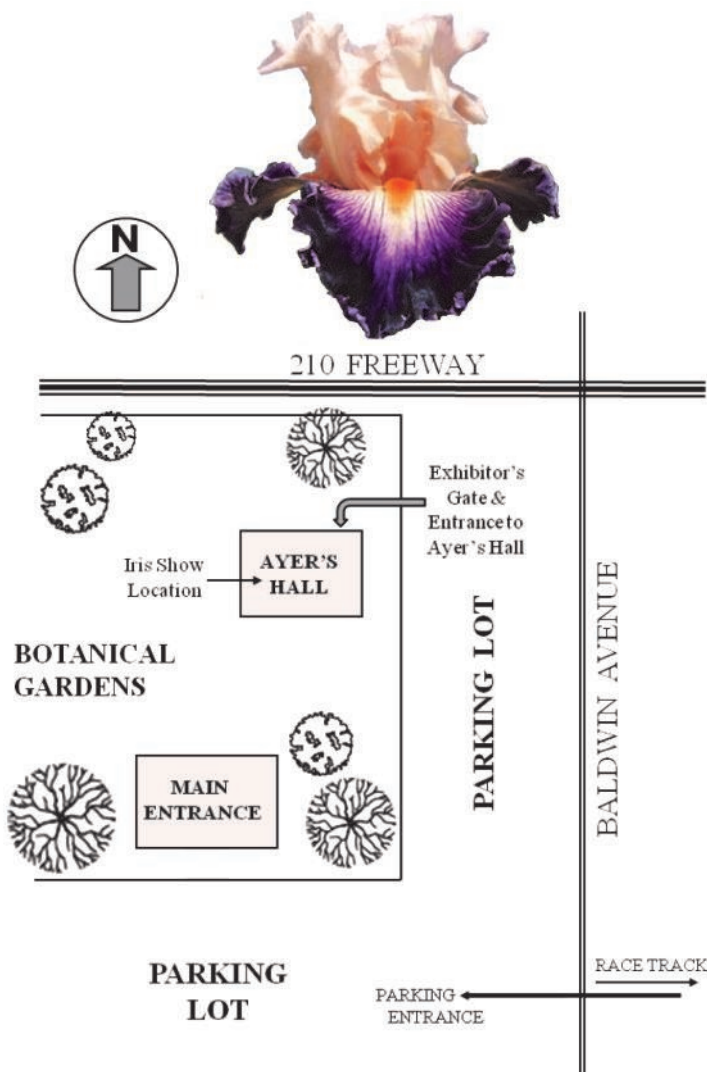
“Iris Gets Hot in the Desert”

THE ARBORETUM

Los Angeles County Arboretum & Botanic Garden
301 N. Baldwin Avenue, Arcadia, CA

Open to the Public - Free of Charge

Saturday, April 13	9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, April 14	9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.





Prescott Area Iris Society Report

By Marty Boxer, 1st Vice President

Here in Prescott, the snow has finally melted, and we are looking forward to another great season of iris events. Of course, we will have our shows and sales, our photography contest and ice cream social... but this year there is more!

We invite Region 15 members to "Iris in the Pines," the fall trek we will host on October 12, 2024.

Our guest speaker will be award-winning hybridizer Rick Tasco. There will be ample opportunities for exploring the mile-high beauty of Prescott, our lakes, hiking trails, and renowned downtown and Whiskey Row.

Recent club activities have included two excellent presentations. First, David Toth of Indian Creek Iris in Pickrell, NE enlightened us with stories of his goals for new iris, and the way his two daughters have joined him in hybridizing. Then, our member Sandy Schilling spoke on the joys and perils of beekeeping.

We continue to fund scholarships for local horticulture students and maintain the amazing iris gardens at Yavapai College, Embry Riddle University, and the Sharlot Hall museum.

We hope to see many of you in October,

Marty Boxer, President



[facebook.com/groups/1048378225226372/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1048378225226372/) (public)
<https://www.facebook.com/prescottiris>
www.prescottirissociety.org

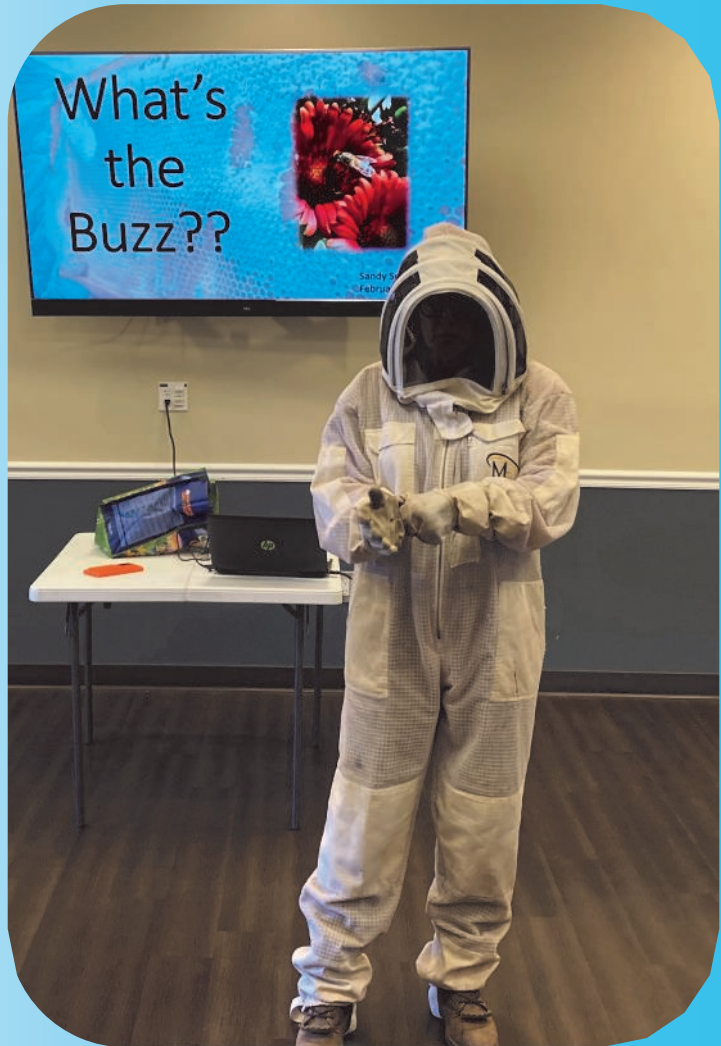
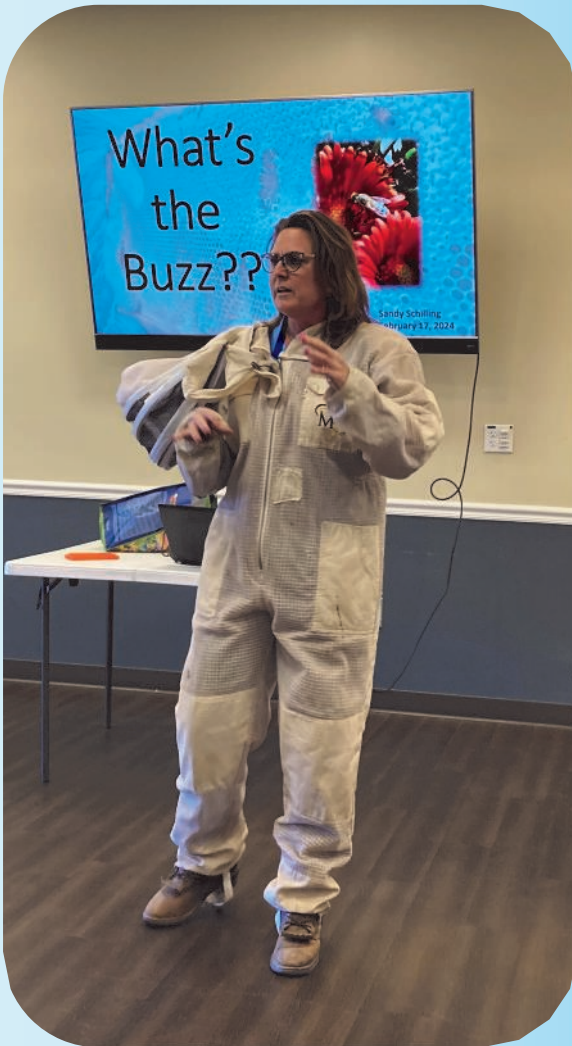
*Above: Working at the
Yavapai College iris garden.
Photos by Marty Boxer*



At left: David Toth giving his presentation

Below left and right: Sandy Schilling's bee presentation

Photos taken by Marty Boxer





Sun Country Iris Society Report

By Sharon Petterson, President

Sun Country Iris Society is blessed with new active members, and grateful for members of many years. We hold informative programs for our monthly meetings except July. Members give many of our programs. We invited David Toth from Nebraska as a guest speaker in February. We are perfecting Zoom for members not able to attend our night meetings. We have 3 gardens selected to grow guest iris for the 2026 Region 15 Trek. We give many judges training opportunities to provide more judges.

Our members enjoy great refreshments at meetings, an ice cream social in August and a Holiday dinner.

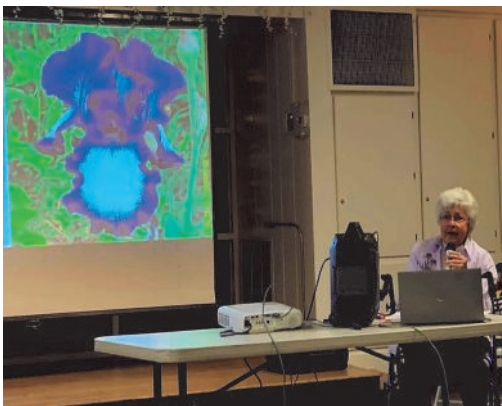
Our members dig and mark rhizomes for sales to the public in August in higher elevation and in October in the Valley of the Sun. Rhizomes left from sales are potted to sell in the spring and at our AIS show April 13 2024 at Berridge Nursery in Phoenix.

Kaleidoscope of photos by Sharon Petterson, unless otherwise noted:



Above left: Julie Grove, member and Master Gardener program 3/5/24 on Vermicomposting. She gave bags of worm castings to start your own composting; above middle: David Toth, hybridizer from Nebraska, was our guest speaker on February 3, 2024; above right: Tallest iris - TB 'Bay Front' - 60" tall, Sharon Petterson's garden in Gilbert

Below left: Judges' training on plicatas was given by member Dale Liggett on February 5, 2024; below middle: Invitation to David Toth's program, which brought new people. David donated 6 gift certificates for rhizomes; below right: Julie Grove, Dwayne and Ann Booth plan for 2026 trek at Julie's garden.



www.suncountryiris.org



Above left: Dubai Miracle Garden with millions of blooms like a Disneyland of plants, program given by member Dennis Knecht; above right: Installation of officers, December - Ardi Kary, board; Bill DeHaven, treasurer; Valerie Wielgus, secretary; Dale Liggett, past President; Mary Platner, Vice President; Russ Carlson, board; Sharon Petterson, President, *photo by Luis Verger*

Below left: Holiday Dinner Celebration, *photo by Luis Verger*; below middle: Aric Huebsch, Dwayne and Ann Booth plan for guest iris in Aric's garden for AIS 2026 Trek; below right: Holiday Dinner with turkey, ham and potluck



Above left: member Darol Jurn gave program on Spurias; above right: Mary Platner hosted 11 members to pot 160 rhizomes for spring sales

At left: October rhizome sale - (L to R) Mary Platner, Christine Smith, Russ Carlson, Sharon Petterson, Dale Liggett; *photo by Whitfill Nursery manager*

At right: Plant sale - members bring plants to sell





Tucson Area Iris Society Report

By Sue Clark, Secretary

The Tucson Area Iris Society members had a chance to bid on recent rhizomes at our Fundraising Auction in August. We grossed over \$4000 at our Rhizome Sale in September. In October, many gorgeous irises were highlighted in photos submitted in our annual photo contest and we relocated the iris bed at the Tucson Botanical Garden. The winning pictures were featured in our November newsletter. Members enjoyed excellent food and comradery, as well as exchanged seeds and plants at our November potluck in a member's home and backyard. After no meeting in December, we resumed in January with a panel discussion about common iris growing issues. Upcoming: Asian-style arrangements using irises, tips and techniques for preparing for an iris show, and then our show itself!



Photos above taken by Dave Smith.

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

Middle photo: January meeting; bottom photo from November potluck



Photos above and on page 34 taken by Dave Smith, except above middle left photo taken by Sue Clark. Photos above from TAIS iris dig at the Tucson Botanical Gardens. Photos below and at right taken by Joyce Knill at TAIS rhizome sale.



AIS Region 15 2024 Calendar

Month	Day	Event	Location
March, 2024	5	IRIS Monthly Meeting - "Backyard Composting" by George Podowski	Riverside, CA
	5	SCIS Monthly Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
	7	SFVIS Monthly Meeting - show pointers and flower arrangements	Canoga Park, CA
	9	TAIS Monthly Meeting: Pat Olsen on exhibiting irises at shows	Tucson, AZ
	10	SDIS General Meeting - guest speaker: Brian Shamblin on LA iris	Lakeside, CA
	16	HDIDS Monthly Meeting - flower arrangement	Lancaster, CA
	23	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
April, 2024	2	IRIS Monthly Meeting - "Creative Floral Design" program and demonstration by Patricia Clayes, NGC Judge	Riverside, CA
	2	SCIS Monthly Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
	5	SFVIS Monthly Meeting - show prep	Canoga Park, CA
	6	<u>SFVIS Spring Show</u>	Canoga Park, CA
	13	<u>Sun Country Iris Society Spring Show</u>	Phoenix, AZ
	13-14	<u>Southern California Iris Society Spring Show</u>	Arcadia, CA
	14	SDIS General Meeting: likely garden tour(s)	Lakeside, CA
	20	PAIS Monthly Meeting - Speaker: Lisa Fahey of Bloomer-Rang	Prescott, AZ
	20	<u>TAIS Iris & Rose Show</u> at Trinity Presbyterian Church	Tucson, AZ
	20	<u>Region 15 Spring Trek</u> hosted by IRIS (refer to pages 16-19)	Riverside, CA
	25-28	<u>SCIS sale</u> at South Coast Plaza's Spring Garden Show	Costa Mesa, CA
	26-27	Spuria Iris Society and Society for Louisiana Iris joint <u>convention</u>	Dallas, TX
	27-28	<u>HDIDS Spring Show</u>	Palmdale, CA
	27-28	<u>IRIS' Spring Sale</u> : potted irises	Riverside, CA
May, 2024	2	SFVIS Monthly Meeting - beardless mini-show	Canoga Park, CA
	4	Annual LVIS garden tour	Lompoc, CA
	4-5	<u>SDIS Spring Show and Sale</u> , Balboa Park, Casa del Prado	San Diego, CA
	7	IRIS Monthly Meeting - Nomination of Officers	Riverside, CA
	7	SCIS Monthly Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
	11	<u>PAIS Spring Show</u> : Kaleidoscope of Color, Prescott's Festival of Iris	Prescott Valley, AZ
	11	TAIS Monthly Meeting: Kevin Kartchner on growing iris from seed	Tucson, AZ
	18	HDIDS Monthly Meeting	Lancaster, CA
June, 2024	4	IRIS Monthly Meeting - Election of Officers	Riverside, CA
	4	SCIS Monthly Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
	6	SFVIS Monthly Meeting - Awards Night, Election of Officers, Celebration of the lives of Joan Citron and Randy Squires	Canoga Park, CA
	9	SDIS General Meeting: ice cream social, awards ceremony, elections	San Diego, CA
	15	HDIDS Monthly Meeting	Lancaster, CA
	15	PAIS Monthly Meeting: Photo Contest and Ice Cream Social	Prescott, AZ
	22	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
	26-29	<u>AIIS National</u> / Society for Japanese Iris <u>Convention</u>	Portland, OR

Month	Day	Event	Location
July, 2024	27	PAIS Rhizome Sale (10 am - 2 pm)	Prescott, AZ
	27	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
August, 2024	1	SFVIS Monthly Meeting	Canoga Park, CA
	6	IRIS Monthly Meeting	Riverside, CA
	6	SCIS Monthly Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
	10	TAIS Monthly Meeting: members-only rhizome auction	Tucson, AZ
	24	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
	24-25	SDIS fall rhizome sale , Balboa Park, Casa del Prado	San Diego, CA
	31-9/1	SDIS fall rhizome sale , Balboa Park, Casa del Prado	San Diego, CA
September, 2024	3	IRIS Monthly Meeting	Riverside, CA
	3	SCIS Monthly Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
	5	SFVIS Monthly Meeting	Canoga Park, CA
	21	TAIS Rhizome Sale at Harlow Gardens Nursery	Tucson, AZ
	21	PAIS Monthly Meeting: Creative Design by Isabel Olsen, members-only iris silent auction	Prescott, AZ
	28	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA
October, 2024	2	IRIS Monthly Meeting	Riverside, CA
	2	SCIS Monthly Meeting	Phoenix, AZ
	4	SFVIS Monthly Meeting	Canoga Park, CA
	12	Region 15 Fall Meeting (flyer on page 20)	Prescott, AZ
	20	SDIS General Meeting - members-only Region 15 iris auction	Lakeside, CA
	26	Southern California Iris Society monthly meeting	Arcadia, CA

AIS REGION 15 AFFILIATE SOCIETY MEETINGS

Hi Desert Iris & Daylily Society (HDIDS) meetings: 1-3 pm on the 3rd Saturday of each month at the Antelope Acres Community Center, 8820 West Avenue E-8, Lancaster, 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, 5257 Sierra Street, Riverside, CA. Visit: facebook.com/Inland-Region-Iris-Society

For Lompoc Valley Iris Society meetings contact the LVIS president or visit: facebook.com/Lompoc-Valley-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 Stoneridge Community Center, 1300 Stoneridge Drive, Prescott Valley, AZ 86314. For calendar of events go to www.prescottirissociety.org or [Facebook](https://facebook.com/paisirissociety).

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/sanfernandovalleyirissociety

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. First in-person meeting since September 2022 was on August 26th. 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: scottsirsgardens@outlook.com



Bloomer-rang Iris Farm

(330) 958-0319

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

email: craftonhillsirifarm@gmail.com

Facebook: [Facebook/craftonhillsirifarm](https://www.facebook.com/craftonhillsirifarm)

www.craftonhillsirifarm.com



Wild Oaks Farms

(909) 307-4565

Tony & Cheryl Hicks

32036 Live Oak Canyon Rd

Redlands, CA 92373

email: wildoakfarms.redlands@gmail.com



Waddell Iris Gardens LLC

(602) 448-6309

J Scott Seely

6242 N 181st Ave, Waddell, AZ 85355

email: WaddellIrisGardens@gmail.com

<https://waddell-iris-gardens-llc.business.site/>

For advertising information contact
olga_batalov@yahoo.com

Region 15 Fall Meeting 2023



Top left: Tom Johnson giving his talk on iris names



Top right: silent auction iris in grow bags

Middle right: Happy Birthday cake for Winona Stevenson



Bottom left: leftmost side of auction table

Bottom right: fabric pumpkin centerpieces and giveaway iris for the lucky winner



Thank you Lompoc Valley Iris Society!

Photo Credits: Claire Schneider

Some Douglas Kanarowski Introductions

Photo credits: AIS Encyclopedia



TB 'Apron Strings' (2019)
HM 2023



TB 'Arizona Cave Painting' (2020)
HM 2022



TB 'Big Hat No Cows' (2016)
AM 2023



TB 'Chinese Lantern Factory' (2020)
HM 2022



TB 'Keep Calm Grow Iris' (2021)



TB 'Live Long And Prosper' (2024)



TB 'Phasers On Stun' (2015)
AM 2023



TB 'Tijuana Taxi' (2014)
Wister Medal 2022



TB 'Zebra Butter' (2017)
AM 2022