The Irisarian



Region 7

The American

Iris Society

Fall 2026

Region 7, The American Iris Society

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Photo to right: 'Gag Gift', SDB, Paul Black 2013

Cover: 'Mezzo Forte', TB, R. Van Liere 2016

Photos courtesy of Ernie Royal, Susan Driver, Jeremy Swain, Stephanie Plummer, Janet Wilson and Barb Pappenfus.

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RVP's Corner by Lorene Crone



Hello fellow Irisarians! I hope you are staying cool and comfortable during this stormy heat wave. The rain has been much needed by some, but some areas got a little too much. I hope none of you have been negatively affected by weather. The weeds in my yard really love it.

This is the last note from me as your RVP. It has been a roller coaster ride, but I love roller coasters. Thanks to all of you who have made my job easier over the past three years. Special thanks to my homies in Jackson Area Iris Society. They always step in when I need a helping hand. Have you ever wondered why so many Region 7 RVPs come from JAIS? That's why. I couldn't ask for a better support system.

Also, the regional officers that have supported me are the best. Region 7 rocks! I plan to continue as judges training chair for a little while longer but if there is anyone out there that would like to learn the job, please let me know. It takes a person with an eye for detail and documentation. There are plans for making some of the information electronic but that is still in the works.

I hope you will support the new officers as you have me. I am sure our nominating committee has put together another awesome team.

I also hope you will read the standing rules and operating procedures that were sent separately to allow you time to consider the changes. We will be voting on these at the fall meeting. Be sure to register for the fall meeting and support the club that has taken on this task. We will need more clubs to volunteer for future meetings so please look over the calendar and pick a time slot. If you have questions, please ask. Several clubs have held their first region meetings over the past couple of years and found it wasn't as bad as they thought. Everyone does something different and different is good.

In closing, please support your local clubs by attending sales and shows and region meetings. We come for the flowers but stay for the people!

Lorene



THE IRISARIAN

The Irisarian is published semiannually by Region 7 of the American Iris Society (in March and August). Members of the AIS residing in Region 7 will have issues of The Irisarian emailed to their AIS address of record for 2025. Email address changed should be submitted to the AIS Membership Secretary. Articles included represent the opinions of the editor or the authors, and may not necessarily reflect the "official views" of Region 7 of the AIS. Articles may be reprinted by permission only - please contact the editor.

Deadlines

Articles and ads:

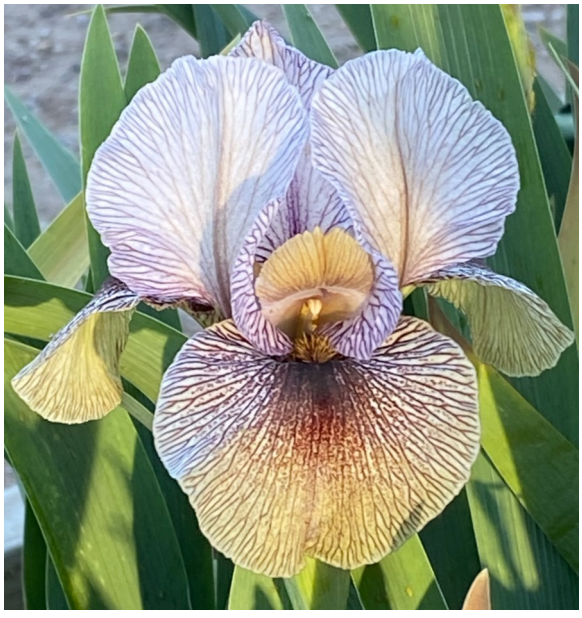
Fall issue - August 1

Spring issue - March 15

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Region 7
The American Iris Society



'Blue Blue Heaven', JI, Terry Aitken 2018



'Hachita', AB, Howard Dash 2023



'See Ya Later, SIB, R. Hollingworth 2006

From the Editor by Susan Driver



Greetings from Middle Tennessee

It seems that I always start off talking about the weather, and this Spring was no exception. Despite bloom season being extra early this year, our region still managed to have a good amount of entries in our shows. I requested at the Spring regional meeting that more clubs send me pictures and information on their shows, so that I could represent as many as possible in the newsletter, and you did not disappoint me! You will see pictures from clubs who have not been represented in the newsletter in the 9 years that I have been editor. In addition, there are some very nice pictures from the Old South Iris Society "Peoples Choice" show. We are so glad to have them in our region, and hope to get to know the members better.

Our Fall regional meeting is coming up soon, and I hope you all have sent in your registration and made hotel reservations. If you have never attended a regional meeting, you are missing out! We always have a great time visiting with friends and enjoying guest speakers. This meeting will include a "changing of the guard", as Lorene steps down as RVP. She has down a wonderful job, and I know I have some big shoes to fill.

As a reminder, the AIS Judge's Activity Report is due to Lorene no later than August 1. It is very important that you get them in the mail as soon as possible. Also, the AIS ballot is due by August 1, so if you have not mailed in your ballot, you need to vote online in order to meet the deadline. You can find the online ballot on the AIS website.

Susan

Region 7 Meeting Schedule

Meeting	Dates	Location	Hosted By	Judges' Training Speaker
Fall 2026	Sep 11-13	Knoxville, TN	SMIS	Bonnie Nichols
Winter Potluck	Feb 27-28	Bon Aqua, TN	Region 7	TBD
Spring 2027	May 14-16	Louisville, KY	LAIS	TBD
Fall 2027	TBD	TBD	WTIS	TBD

Region 7 Spring Meeting
April 24 - 26, 2026 Comfort Suites Hotel, Jackson, TN.
Hosted by Jackson Area Iris Society

RVP Lorene Crone called the meeting to order at 3:49 pm thanking all those in attendance and welcoming also those who were attending for the first time. Those in attendance were Barb Pappenfus, Susan Driver, Denise Flowers, Belinda Bowers, Jim Vernon, and others.

Minutes: Minutes were posted in the Irisarian with no need to read again, approved as posted with no additions or corrections.

Treasurers Report: Jim Vernon passed the treasurers report to the board members stating the total expenses were $947.64 income 4,194.00, ending balance as of 12/31/25, is $34,086.46.

Awards Committee: Denise Flowers said she needs to receive nominations for awards and July 1st is the deadline for sending to her either email or text. Jim Vernon suggested we send out an email to all club presidents to remind them of the need for award nominees.

Judges Report: Lorene advised us that we have 3 people up for approval for apprentices which are Nancy King, Stephanie Plummer, and Debra Mell. Also Lorene said Old South Iris Society is now part of Region 7 based in Tupelo, MS.

Youth Chair: Denise Flowers said for everyone to encourage our youth to enter AIS photo and essay and color contest. Region 7 has had winners in the past.

Web Master: Ron Thery is working on making some changes to Region 7 website. Barb Pappenfus said Ron has requested old newsletters from Susan Driver also he would like to get new pictures from all the societies.

Newsletter Editor: Susan Driver said send her club pictures and articles and show pictures. Also the fall edition is always large so she may split the newsletter into two editions. The newsletter should represent all the clubs.

New Business: Lorene advised us that a nominating committee is needed for board members whose term is up and she will ask for volunteers tonight from the General assembly. All officers must be AIS current members.

Jim Vernon discussed going back to Lake Benson in the fall and that we are just waiting on them to get back with us with the contract. Lorene called for any other business, with no further discussion, she adjourned the meeting at 4:14 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Batson

AIS Region 7 General Assembly Meeting
April 25, 2026

RVP Lorene Crone called the meeting to order at 7:12 pm welcoming all in attendance. She thanked the Jackson Society for hosting the spring meeting.

Minutes: Minutes from the fall meeting were posted in the Irisarian.

Treasurers Report: Jim Vernon discussed the report with an ending balance of 34,086.46.

Awards Report: Denise Flowers said send to her award nominees by July 1st.

Youth Chair: Denise said to remind the youth the essay and coloring contest is coming up. We have 1 or 2 youth up for the Cosgrove Award to be awarded at convention.

Webmaster: Barb said send Ron Theiry your club pictures and articles for the website. Ron would also like pictures of irises other than tall bearded so more varieties of irises are represented.

Publication: Susan Driver discussed the Irisarian newsletter that if the fall issue is so large she may need to split into two editions. She needs club show pictures sent to her.

Judges Report: Lorene said we now have 11 clubs in Region 7 and 232 current members. Lorene advised us we need volunteers for a nominating committee to replace officers whose term is up. These officers will be voted on at the fall meeting. Those who volunteered for this committee Barb Pappenfus, Denise Flowers, and Belinda Carroll. Lorene said ask current officers first to see if they will stay on.

Barb discussed the fall meeting, Sept 11-13, 2026 in Knoxville with Bonnie Nichols as judges trainer.

Lorene called for any other business, with no other discussion, meeting adjourned

at 7:35 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brenda Batson

TREASURER'S REPORT
A.I.S. REGION 7
April 13, 2026

Previous Balance as of December 31, 2025	**$34,086.46**
Income:	
02/27/26 Room Payments at Lake Benson	$732.00
TOTAL INCOME	**$732.00**
Expenses:	
01/6/26 check #1124 Lifegreen Checks	$ 48.17
02/22/26 check #1113 Jody Nolan-Honorarium, Travel, Judges Training	$601.97
02/22/26 check #1114 Lake Benson-Rooms and Facilities	$952.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	**$1,602.14**
Ending Balance as of April 10, 2025	**$33,216.32**

Respectfully Submitted by

James D Vernon
Treasurer

OLD SOUTH IRIS SOCIETY SHOW - APRIL 25, 2026



















YOUTH

Wyatt Willis tied for 2nd place in the 10-12 age group category of the AIS Foundation Essay Contest for his essay entitled “My Garden for America’s 250th Birthday.” He will receive $50.00, plus a 2026 iris introduction.

CONGRATULATIONS, WYATT!



SPRING REGIONAL MEETING AND SHOW

April 24-26, 2026 Hosted by JAIS, Jackson, TN

Silver Award: Denise & Mike Flowers (8) Bronze Award: Deb Mell (5)

Best in Show: 'Juke Box Hero', exhibited by Pat LaPradd

1st Runner Up: 'Over In Gloryland', exhibited by Nancy King

2nd Runner Up: 'Sharp Dressed Man', exhibited by Pat LaPradd

3rd Runner Up: 'Flambeau Dancer', exhibited by Denise & Mike Flowers

4th Runner Up: 'Well Balanced', exhibited by Deb Mell

Honor Court:

'Giganticerulea', exhibited by Deb Mell

'Gulf Shores', exhibited by Denise & Mike Flowers

'Such A Sweetheart', exhibited by Marilyn Vernon

'Daemon Imp', exhibited by Denise & Mike Flowers

'Heat Is On', exhibited by Nancy Thompson

'Don't Doubt Dalton', exhibited by Marilyn Vernon

Best Artistic Design: Marilyn Vernon

Number of entries: 91

Number of Exhibitors: 13








Marilyn Vernon won
Best in Design
"Blue Moon of Kentucky"






U-V-W


Division 2
Unintroduced Seedlings
Section C Beardless Iris




SCULPTURES

Mid-State Iris Association May 2, 2026

Show Chairs: Pat McDonald and Kay Boyd







Silver: Carol Reese

Bronze: Andrew Buhler

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Best in Show: 'Rings of Romeo, exhibited by Andrew Buhler

First Runner Up: 'Perihelion Pass', exhibited by Sue Craddock

Second Runner Up: 'Hot Wired', exhibited by Carol Reese

Court:

'Total Surprise', exhibited by Lecia Anderson

'Goldkist', exhibited by Carol Reese

Entries: 20






SECOND PLACE



Smoky Mountain Iris Society May 2, 2026

Show Chair: Kathy Hall

Silver Medal: Elaine Garner **Bronze Medal: Rebecca Anderson**

Queen of the Show: 'Under Dog', exhibited by Linda Bissonnette

Queen's Table:
1st Runner Up: 'Trillion', exhibited by Leedra Scott
2nd Runner Up: 'Be Of Good Cheer', exhibited by Kathy Hall
3rd Runner Up: 'Elainealope', exhibited by Kelley Croisdale
4th Runner Up: 'Little John', exhibited by Rebecca Anderson
5th Runner Up: 'Flower Angel', exhibited by Sierra Noe
Youth Award: 'Black Is Black', exhibited by Ravyn Smith

18 exhibitors; 91 entries



Linda Bissonnette with 'Under Dog'



Ravyn Smith with 'Black Is Black'



Queen's Court



Debbie and Earnie Royal



Elaine Garner



Rebecca Anderson

Middle Tennessee Iris Society Show May 2, 2026

Show Chairs: Marilyn Vernon and Stacey Cawthon

Silver Medal: Jim and Marilyn Vernon Bronze Medal: Stacey Cawthon

Best Specimen/Best Beardless: 'Reverchon Snowfall', exhibited by Marilyn and Jim Vernon

1st Runner Up: 'Strike A Chord', exhibited by Pat LaPradd

2nd Runner Up: 'Dixie Deb', exhibited by Marilyn and Jim Vernon

3rd Runner Up: 'Vermeer', exhibited by Stacey Cawthon

4th Runner Up: 'Charm Offensive', exhibited by Stacey Cawthon

Best Historic: 'Silverado', exhibited by Brenda Batson

Best Bearded (not a TB): 'Scoundrel', exhibited by Marilyn and Jim Vernon

Best Specimen (Youth): 'Wedding Bells', exhibited by Cora Sullivan

Honor Court: 'Bluebird Of Happiness', exhibited by Stacey Cawthon
'Sing Like Never Before', exhibited by Stacey Cawthon
'Countess', exhibited by Stacey Cawthon
'Roy Davidson', exhibited by Marilyn and Jim Vernon
'Wedding Bells', exhibited by Jennifer Sullivan
'Coral Splendor', exhibited by Pat LaPradd

Entries: 69 Horticulture Exhibitors: 14 Single Blossoms: 16



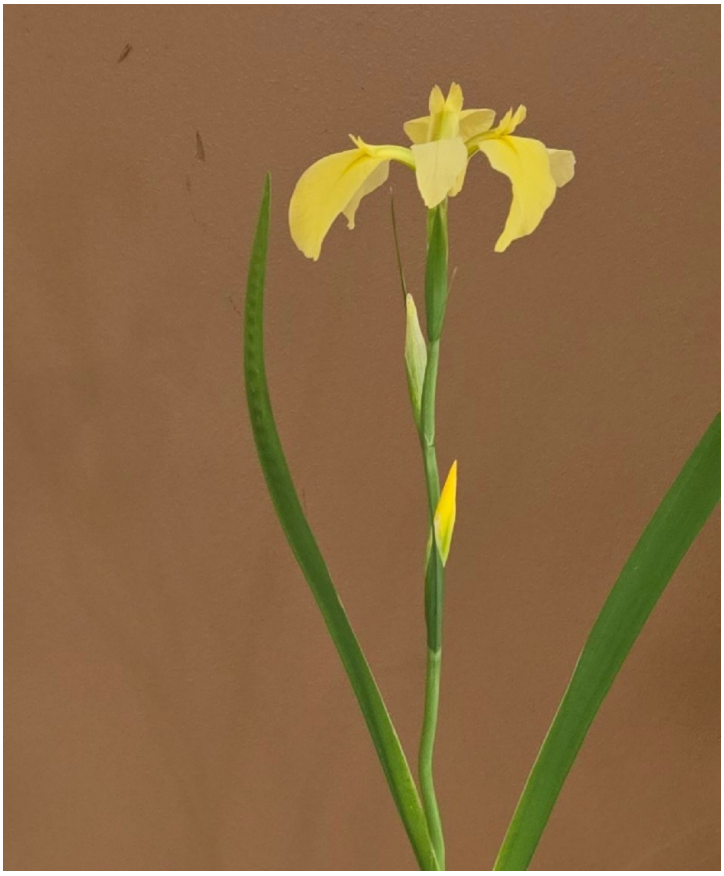




Best Specimen/Beardless ‘Reverchon Snowfall’



1st Runner Up ‘Strike A Chord’



2nd Runner Up ‘Dixie Deb’



3rd Runner Up ‘Vermeer’



4th Runner Up ‘Charm Offensive’



Best Historic ‘Silverado’



