

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

NEWSLETTER

New York - Ontario - Quebec



Autumn 2026

IN THIS EDITION

WHO WE ARE	2
RVP MESSAGE	3
FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK	4
REGION 2 ANNUAL MEETING.....	5
MEMBERSHIP REPORT	9
JUDGES' TRAINING REPORT	10
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS	11
CAPITAL-HUDSON IRIS SOCIETY	12
GREATER ROCHESTER IRIS SOCIETY.....	13
ONTARIO IRIS SOCIETY	15
WESTERN NEW YORK IRIS SOCIETY	17
WHO ARE IRIS JUDGES?.....	18
2027 AIS NATIONAL CONVENTION.....	27
AIS REGION 2 ONLINE	27

Who We Are

Region 2 of the American Iris Society

AIS Region 2 website: [Home Page \(aisregion2.org\)](http://aisregion2.org)

Officers

Regional Vice President (RVP)

Debi Chowdhury -
debichowdhury@yahoo.com

Assistant RVP – Position Open

Secretary

Kate Brewitt – just1moreiris@gmail.com

Treasurer

Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com

Affiliate Chairpersons

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

Kathryn Mohr – kemohrke@aol.com

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

Cara Hutchings – thehutchings@mac.com

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

Terrance Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

Ida Blasak – iblasak7113@gmail.com

Committee Chairpersons

Archives – Cara Hutchings
(thehutchings@me.com)

Awards & Exhibitions – Position open

Bylaws

Kate Brewitt - just1moreiris@gmail.com

Judges Training

Wendy Roller – gwr67@frontier.com

Membership

Georgette Martin
martingeorgette@aol.com

Webmaster

Kate Brewitt (See Bylaws)

Newsletter Editor

Leto Solla -
aisregion2.newsletter@gmail.com



SPX 'Yarai'
(H. Shimizu by C. Warner, 2011)
© Alex Solla

RVP Message

Debi Chowdhury, AIS Region 2 RVP

Hello to Region 2 members! I am excited to work with all of you in making our region a wonderful place to be. Our last regional was hosted by CHIS; this year, our regional meeting will be hosted by GRIS, and will be held in Honeoye Falls, New York. The national convention was held in our region in Newark; I hope you had a chance to attend.

I would love to see an increase in our numbers and also our affiliates; please let me know how I can be of assistance!

And of course, I am looking forward to seeing you at our events whether in person or virtual!

Debi Chowdhury



Region 2 Bi-Monthly Zoom Meetings

Region 2 Zoom meetings are scheduled for the second Wednesday of every other month. **Start time is 7:00 PM ET.** Members are encouraged to attend.

Our next meeting will be in September

Meeting minutes for selected Region 2 board meeting are available on the [Region 2 website](#)

From the Editor's Desk



LA 'Heavenly Glow' (Morgan, 1988)
© Alex Solla

Summer is well and truly here in Region 2! In my garden, although many irises have finished their blooms, *Iris domestica* and *Iris x norrisii* are keeping the color alive while I wait to collect this year's seedpods.

Amidst the flurry of color and excitement, I hope you will have the time to join Region 2 and the American Iris Society in celebrating all things iris!

Region 2 will be having our annual meeting this October 3rd, a Saturday, in Honeoye Falls, New York! Every member of Region 2 is welcome and encouraged to attend! Our speaker this year is Jody Nolin, the former AIS president. Jody will be speaking on Iris Species for Every Garden, followed by a Judges' Training of Species X, Species, and Exhibition Training.

More details about our schedule are available on page 7; information about accommodation is available on page 6.

AIS has also released the website and registration link for the national AIS 2027 Meeting, Iris Heaven in 2027! This meeting will be held in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Registration is now open, and early registrants have a chance to win 3 free nights at the convention hotel.

More details can be found on the [AIS convention website](#), as well as on page 16.

I hope to see many of you at our Region 2 meeting this fall!

Wishing everyone a beautiful and restorative garden!

Leto (aisregion2.newsletter@gmail.com)

AIS Region 2 Annual General Meeting

Saturday, October 3, 2026

The Greater Rochester Iris Society is hosting this year's meeting. Mark your calendar and join your fellow Region 2 friends for a weekend of fun!

If you are unable to join us in person, events will be available via Zoom. All members will be sent a pre-registration link via email for the Zoom option.

Jody Nolin, from Ohio, will be this year's keynote speaker. Jody is an emeritus judge (R06), 2021 AIS Distinguished Award Recipient and the past president of the American Iris Society 2019-2021.

Location: First Presbyterian Church of Honeoye Falls, 27 N. Main St. Honeoye Falls, New York 14472

Judges' Training: There will be a 2-hour judges training session Saturday afternoon.

Registration Fee: \$20 USD. Waived for R2 AIS Youth members.



SPEC 'Brown Recluse' (Moores, 2011)
© Alex Solla



Species 'Iris ensata' seedling
Seed from SIGNA
© Alex Solla

Accommodations:

If you are staying overnight and booking a hotel room, you are in control of booking your own hotel room.

Here are some helpful hints for on-line booking.

1. Expedia, Priceline, Trivago, Travelocity and Super all have variable rates
2. If booking through a hotel's website look for Senior's rates, special AAA/CAA rates, package deals.
3. Most offer free breakfast, free parking and free internet.
4. All the hotels listed here are within 15 to 20 minutes (drive-time) of Honeoye Falls.
5. The lowest rate provided is a non-refundable 'pay now' rate; the higher rate is what you pay if you want free cancellation. Please note, this is only a guide - all prices are subject to tax and change.

I90 Exit 45 (Henrietta, NY area) (all rates are in US dollars):

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Pay Now (non-refundable)</u>	<u>Free Cancellation</u>
<u>RIT Inn and Conference Center</u> (no breakfast)	(585) 359-1800	\$129	\$239
<u>TownePlace Suites</u>	(585) 444-8901	\$246	\$246
<u>Super 8</u>	(585) 359-1630	\$105	\$105
<u>Econolodge</u>	(585) 334-7000	\$76	\$90
<u>Red Roof</u>	(585) 643-1992	\$98	\$109

I90 Exit 46 (Victor, NY area) (all rates are in US dollars):

<u>Hotel</u>	<u>Phone Number</u>	<u>Pay Now (non-refundable)</u>	<u>Free Cancellation</u>
<u>Best Western Plus</u>	(585) 924-3933	\$169	\$199
<u>Holiday Inn Express</u>	(585) 672-2100	\$196	\$215
<u>Homewood Inn and Suites</u>	(585) 869-7500	\$189	\$212
<u>Hampton Inn and Suites</u> (2017's meeting was held here)	(585) 924-4400	\$197	\$231
<u>Microtel Inn and Suites</u>	(585) 869-9399	\$128	\$148

Schedule of Events

(subject to change)

FRIDAY – First Presbyterian Church, 27 N Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY

5:00 – 5:30 pm MEET at the restaurant in Honeoye Falls. Two restaurants are under consideration. Those interested should email Cara (thehutchings@me.com) before September 20 so reservations can be made. You will be advised of the restaurant once determined. You are responsible for your own dinner expenses.

SATURDAY – First Presbyterian Church, 27 N Main Street, Honeoye Falls, NY/Virtual via ZOOM

8:00 – 9:30 am SILENT AUCTION SETUP

9:00 — 10:00 am REGISTRATION (Pastries/Coffee/Tea set up all morning)

9:30 – 1:00 pm SILENT AUCTION BIDDING - Bidding will close promptly at 1:00 pm

10:00 – 11:00 am GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING (In-Person and Via Zoom) - Business meeting and Awards presentations.

11:30a – 12:30 pm JODY NOLIN PRESENTATION – ‘Iris Species for Every Gardener’– Open to the Public

1:00 – 1:45 pm LUNCHEON – registration required.

FOLLOWING LUNCH – Announcement of Silent Auction winners followed by a LIVE AUCTION of Beardless Iris from GRIS.

2:30 – 4:30 pm JUDGES’ TRAINING presented by Jody Nolin - Species X, Species and exhibition training



'Iris brevicaulis'
© Alex Solla

Fall Meeting Registration Form

(one form per person, please)

To Register: Mail completed registration form with your check made payable to GRIS or Greater Rochester Iris Society to: Cara Hutchings, 1996 N. Clinton Ave. Rochester, NY 14621

Region 2 AIS Youth members do not need to pay the registration fee.

Confirmation will be sent by e-mail only.

Please make a copy of this form for your records.

Questions: Please e-mail thehutchings@mac.com.

For our Canadian members, you may email the registration form to Cara and pay at the door.

Registration

☐ \$ 20 US per person – Full Registration (**before September 20, 2026**)

Name _____

Name to appear on your name tag _____

Affiliate Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State/Prov. _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

Preferred phone _____

E-mail _____

☐ I will be attending the Saturday Judges' Training - Species X, Species and exhibition training (2 hrs)

Please specify any dietary requests _____

Membership Corner

Georgette Martin, Membership Chair



Welcome New Members to Region 2 of the American Iris Society

As of August 1, 2026, AIS Region 2 consists of four affiliates (Capital Hudson Iris Society, Greater Rochester Iris Society, Ontario Iris Society, and Western New York Iris Society), four organizational memberships (Brooklyn Botanical Garden, Royal Botanical Gardens, Cornell University Library, and Bibliotheque du Jardin Botanique de Montreal) and 75 members.

Six members joined with the 2026 membership drive. Ten new members joined since the October 2025 regional meeting. Welcome to our new members:

Patricia Bartholomew, Greg Mohr, Jodi McMenamin, Dusty Garner, Andrea Fillier, Stacey Buck, Mike Just, Terry Godlove, Dianne Costantini and Venessa Mason-Mitchell.

The 2026 AIS Membership Drive Continues

The 2026 Membership Drive offers to NEW members a one-year FULL membership and a second year free!

See page: [2026 Promotional Membership - AIS Integrated System](#)

Both Print and Full Memberships qualify for this offer.

Join the American Iris Society



Full Membership (Printed bulletin + online access)

Annual: \$45 US – Single / \$50 US – Dual

Triennial: \$115 US – Single / \$130 US - Dual

Basic Membership (Printed bulletin, no online access)

Annual: \$30 US – Single / \$35 US - Dual

Triennial: \$70 US – Single / \$85 US - Dual

E-Membership: One-year online access includes online version of bulletin and online iris register database of registrations and introductions – Single/Dual - \$15 US.

Annual Youth Rates (under age 19) - \$8 US without a Bulletin / \$12 US with a Bulletin (print).

The AIS website, [AIS Members – American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](https://irises.org) has a list of additional membership types. There is also a link that allows you to pay with PayPal.

Judges' Training Update

Submitted by Wendy Roller, JT Chair for AIS Region 2

REGION 2 OF THE AMERICAN IRIS SOCIETY – JUDGES and STUDENT JUDGES

Status Roster – as of January 1, 2026

Active Master Judges (served as a judge for over 15 years)

David Baehre *	Chuck Chapman	Wendy K. Roller
Joanne Bassett *	Terrance Laurin	
Kate Brewitt	Donna J. Lowry *	

Garden/Exhibition Judges (served as a judge for less than 15 years)

Marilee Farry *	Jinny Missons	Suzanne Perry
Annette Kuhn *		

Retired Master Judges (may serve as show judge if joined by at least one fully accredited judge. Must be AIS member in good standing).

John Colley	Daniel McMillen	Helen Schueler
Donna James	Gloria McMillen	Kathleen Shadrack
Maureen Mark	Vaughn Sayles	Dorothy Stiefel

* AIS Artistic Design Judge

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Please note that two changes have occurred in the Region 2 Judges Roster for 2026:

Annette Kuhn has completed her apprentice judge training requirements. On January 1, 2026, she was appointed as an accredited American Iris Society Garden / Exhibition Judge and as an Accredited American Iris Society Artistic Design Judge.

Region 2 mourns the recent passing of one of its American Iris Society Retired Master Judges:

Janette Smith, an active member of the former Central New York Iris Society, died at home surrounded by her family on March 16, 2026. Janette became an Apprentice Judge in 2006, a Garden / Exhibition Judge in 2007, a Master Judge in 2020, and a Retired Master Judge in 2025 due to poor health. Janette loved the outdoors and was in garden all season long - typically in her bare feet! She grew many types of bearded and beardless irises in her lovely gardens in Pulaski, New York.

SPRING 2026 JUDGES TRAINING COURSES IN REGION 2

One in-garden judges training session was offered within Region 2 during the past year. We thank Master Judge Chuck Chapman for presenting a two-hour course on Spuria Irises in his large country iris gardens in Guelph, Ontario, Canada.

During the period August 1, 2025 – July 31, 2026, four accredited Region 2 judges earned eight hours of credit for attending or presenting the in-garden judges training session held within the region. Eight judges also collectively earned twelve credit hours for attending the American Iris Society ZOOM Meeting classroom course sessions which aired from the states of California and Nebraska.



Looking for Volunteers

Volunteers are fundamental to the success of our region. They are what makes the region 'tick'. When you volunteer you meet new people. You can also put an existing skill to effective use, or you might decide to learn a new one. Additionally, you could find out more about the AIS organization that you joined, and more about irises and the people who grow and hybridize them.

If you are interested in volunteering, we are currently looking for an Assistant RVP and an Awards & Exhibitions Chairperson. Inquiries can be made with Debi Chowdhury, our RVP (email address on [page 2](#)).

Assistant Regional Vice President (ARVP) –

This individual shall be required to perform the duties of the RVP in the event of the RVP's absence plus assist him/her in all regional activities. The ARVP also organizes and chairs the Nominations Committee.

Bylaws for Region 2 AIS

<https://aisregion2.org/2020%20bylaws.pdf>

Awards and Exhibitions Chairperson – This individual shall oversee the rotation of the regional show awards plus arrange for the engraving of award trophies and/or the printing of award certificates for presentation at the fall annual general meeting. The chair also provides basic guidelines to any affiliate that is staging a show for the first time. Being an AIS Judge is helpful but not required.

Support and training will be provided by the Board of Directors.

Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS)

The Capital-Hudson Iris Society is part of The Garden Alliance (Capital Area Garden Societies). They meet at the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Albany County, 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY. Meetings are at 10 am unless noted otherwise and usually include a guest speaker and a “dish-to-pass” luncheon. All meetings are open free to the public. Why not join us and consider becoming a member.

CHIS President:

Kathryn Mohr - kemohrke@aol.com

Secretary: Michelle Young

Treasurer:

Don Salhoff - driris2000@hotmail.com

Acting Vice-President: Barbara Valicenti



2026-27 CHIS Events

September 19 - Native Gardens

October 17 - Albany County Soil and Garden

November 21 - Care of Holiday Plants - Lee Ryan

December 12 - David Seber - Holiday Floral Arrangements

January - Xerex Society

February - Spring Garden Day

March – To Be Announced

April - Gade Farm visit



Stay connected with the Capital-Hudson Iris Society (CHIS):

On the Region 2 website: [CHIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS)

GRIS meets on the second Sunday of the month at St John's Episcopal Church, 11 Episcopal Avenue, Honeoye Falls, NY starting at 2:00 pm unless otherwise noted.

GRIS President:

Cara Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Secretary/Treasurer:

Nate Hutchings - thehutchings@mac.com

Vice-President: Alex Solla



2026 GRIS Events

August 8-9 – Rhizome sale at Bristol's Garden Center (Victor, NY)

August – Picnic and planning meeting for 2027.

September 13 – Growing Iris From Seed – Alex and Leto Solla

October 3 – Region 2 Annual Meeting in Honeoye Falls, NY; all Region 2 members are welcome!

October 11 – Growing Iris From Seed Part 2 – Alex and Leto Solla

The Greater Rochester Iris Society has had an active spring and summer and will have an even more active fall!

Our first meeting in March we watched an AIS webinar, "Bloom with us – Welcome to the Iris Garden". It was very informative and we enjoyed it very much. Afterwards, we discussed what to do in the garden in the spring.

Our next meeting in April was a class on designing for a show. Wendy Roller critiqued the arrangements, using AIS Judges' rules. We all discussed what worked and didn't work for the arrangements.

Up next was our show, held on June 7th. We had a very good turnout, with over 65 entries and lots of beautiful seedlings! It was another Roller family Queen's Table, with Wendy Roller's 'Money in Your Pocket' winning Best of Show and Aubrey Roller's 'Baby Sister' winning the McGarvey Award for the highest placed beardless iris.

Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS) – continued



Our sale took place on August 8th and 9th this year. We had a pretty good sale! It started out slow with a deluge, but the rain ended soon and we were back on track.

In September and October, Alex and Leto Solla will be presenting a two-part program on iris seeds. I have a seed pod from our 'Magenta Moment' Siberian, and I'm hoping to pot up the seeds and see what I can get! I have tried

growing iris from seeds a few years ago, but they only lasted 2 years before the plants died, so I for one am looking forward to re-visiting the seed starting process, and hopefully I will have more luck this time!

GRIS is excited to be hosting the Region 2 fall meeting this year, which takes place on October 3rd. We will have Jody Nolin, past president of AIS as our speaker. It will be good to get back into having in-person meetings, seeing all our fellow irisarians from New York, Ontario and Quebec.



Stay connected with the Greater Rochester Iris Society (GRIS):

On the Region 2 website: [GRIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://GRIS.aisregion2.org)

Facebook: [Greater Rochester NY Irises](#) | [Facebook](#)

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS)

ONIS events are held at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG), 777 Lawrence Avenue East, Toronto, ON unless otherwise noted.

ONIS President: Terry Laurin – tlaurin@rogers.com **Secretary/Treasurer:** Kate Brewitt – kbrewitt@rogers.com
Vice-Pres.: Jinny Missons - jojimis@sympatico.com



2026 Events

Our season opener, *Get the Jump on Spring*, was held at the Toronto Botanical Garden (TBG) on February 21. This well-attended event is for curious gardeners and/or people dreaming of warmer days. Many visitors stopped by the booth to see which potted irises we were offering for sale.

On March 7, ONIS took part in *Seedy Saturday at Evergreen Brick Works* in Toronto (see picture right). With temperatures rising above freezing, enthusiastic gardeners were eager to purchase potted irises and iris seeds for the upcoming season.



Our Annual Iris Show & Sale was held at the TBG on June 7. The Best in Show specimen, and recipient of the Ruth V. Blenis Award, went to an historic iris, 'Superstition', exhibited by Kate Brewitt. Thirty visitors participated in the popular People's Choice ballot which saw 'Bumblebee Deelite', exhibited by Izzy, and 'Summer Shadow' (*pictured left*), exhibited by Terry Laurin, tie for first choice. It's always fun to watch people agonize over choosing their favourite irises because, as one participant lamented, "they are all so beautiful".

Ontario Iris Society (ONIS) – continued

Our annual online rhizome sale, held this year from July 20 to 25, was a resounding success, making it our best online sale since its inception in 2020. Interested buyers chose from nearly 200 iris cultivars. The top two sellers were 'Plum Pretty Whiskers' (*pictured right*) and 'Raspberry Silk', both introduced by the late Don Spoon of Winterberry Gardens.



On August 9 the ONIS Annual Iris Rhizome Auction and Sale is scheduled to be held in the Garden Hall at the TBG. For the auction, Thomas Johnson of Mid-America Garden has supplied us with over thirty (30) 2026 iris introductions. At the time of writing, this event had not yet occurred; however, if it was anything like last year, bidding cards will have been waving amid some fierce bidding. After the auction, great bargains will be found at the 'Table Sales' where iris rhizomes dug from our members' gardens will be featured.

Upcoming 2026 Events

October/November – ONIS will hold its annual meeting in the autumn. The date and place will be announced in the autumn edition of *The Iris Standard*, ONIS' newsletter. The agenda will include reviewing the events of 2026 and making plans for 2027.

Sadly, ONIS treasurer Lyn Hickey passed away suddenly in May. For more than 30 years, she was an active member of Ontario's iris community, first with the Toronto Regional Iris Society when it was part of the Canadian Iris Society, then, after its name changed, with the Ontario Iris Society. Lyn took pride in serving as an ambassador for ONIS, answering questions and sharing stories. She will be deeply missed by her ONIS friends. Lyn is pictured here at this year's 'Get The Jump On Spring'.



Stay connected with the Ontario Iris Society (ONIS):

On the Region 2 website: [ONIS \(aisregion2.org\)](https://aisregion2.org)

ONIS website: [Ontario Iris Society \(google.com\)](https://ontarioirisociety.google.com)

Facebook: [Ontario Iris Society | Facebook](https://facebook.com/ontarioirisociety).

Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS)

WNYIS meets the first Sunday of the month at the Julia Boyers Reinstein Library, 1030 Losson Road South, Cheektowaga, NY starting at 1:30 pm unless otherwise noted.

WNYIS President:

Ida Blasak - iblasak71113@gmail.com

Secretary:

Chris Krzal – cjktoybay@yahoo.com

Vice President:

Annette Kuhn – akuhn43@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Ann Marshall – annferret3@aol.com

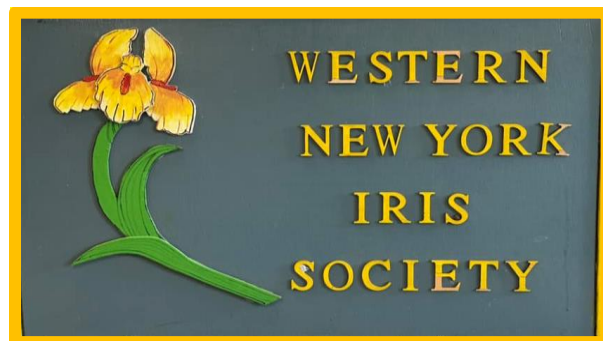


Stay connected with the Western New York Iris Society (WNYIS):

On the Region 2 website: [WNYIS \(aisregion2.org\)](http://WNYIS(aisregion2.org))

WNYIS website: [HOME | Wnyiris](http://HOME|Wnyiris)

Facebook, [Western New York Iris Society | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/WesternNewYorkIrisSociety)



Who Are Iris Judges?

By Harriet Robinson, Maine (AIS Region 1)

This article originally appeared in IRISES, the Bulletin for the American Iris Society – Winter 2025 edition. It is reprinted here by permission.



Wendy Roller, Master Judge and JT Chair, conducting a JT session at Western New York Iris Society's 2024 Spring Gathering in Buffalo, NY. © Dave Baehre.

Judges are members of The American Iris Society (AIS) and members of clubs around the country. They are gardeners and all of them love irises. You can see judges at work at iris shows. You also can see the result of their work when you read the list of award-winning irises from the Dykes Medal on down through Honorable Mention in each class of iris.

Judges are expected to grow irises, but that is what all iris club members do. Judges are expected to see irises. This means visiting gardens where irises are grown, which is something that most iris club members like to do. Judges should enter shows, so they know what goes into exhibiting irises. If you are a member who does these things, and want to learn more about irises, how do you become a judge?

It all starts by taking judges training classes. These are offered at regional meetings, national conventions, and perhaps in your iris club. Since the pandemic, training sessions have also been offered online. This has made the path to becoming a judge easier since the requirement to complete ten hours of training within three years could be difficult if your area doesn't offer lots of training opportunities. The training sessions are basically information programs that anyone interested in learning more about irises would enjoy. Each class ends with a test, but because the goal is for people to learn, all the answers are discussed. Some training sessions are held in a garden setting. Even if some members don't think they want to be judges, they usually enjoy the informational talks, which are open to anyone.

After completing ten hours of training as a candidate, the judges training (J T) chair of your region can recommend you for the next level, apprentice judge. Apprentices are tutored one-on-one in a garden, evaluating irises. They are also tutored on judging shows. Either as a candidate or an apprentice, the training session on the AIS awards system must be passed. The apprentice will continue taking training sessions for a total of 10 hours.

Who Are Iris Judges? – continued



Wendy Roller, Master Judge, giving in-garden JT at the 2024 Spring Gathering © C. Hutchings



Terry Laurin, Master Judge, giving in-garden JT on tall bearded iris in Newburgh © K. Brewitt

Your AIS region's judges' training (JT) chair can help with the application and the other details of becoming a judge. JT chairs want to help qualified members, because the AIS can always use more judges. Once you have met all the requirements, your JT chair will recommend your appointment as a garden/exhibition (G/E) judge to the AIS judges chair. As an approved G/ E judge, you will be expected to vote the AIS Ballot, which lists all the irises eligible for awards that year. Although the Ballot is long, you are expected only to vote for those irises with which you are familiar. You will be expected to have or have access to an updated edition of the *Handbook for Judges and other Show Officials* (which is available on the AIS Iris Encyclopedia, [Info2025AISJudgesHandbook < Hist < Iris Wiki](#)). You will be expected to fill out a yearly activity report of the shows you have judged, gardens you have visited, and recently introduced irises you grow. All this is perfect for the lifelong learners among us.

If you think you would enjoy being a judge, talk to the judges in your club. Get in touch with your AIS Region's JT chair to begin learning more about the flowers you love.

In Region 2 our JT chair is Wendy Roller. You can reach her at gwr67@frontier.com. More information on the Judges' Training can be found on the Region 2 website, [Judges' Training](#).



*Donna Lowry, Master Judge, giving classroom JT on artistic design at the 2024 Spring Gathering.
© Greg Mohr*

2027 American Iris Society National Convention
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
April 27 – May 1, 2027

Iris Heaven

9 Gardens on Tour

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
and
Mel and Bailey Schiller of
Smokin Heights Iris

**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

Watch the convention website for details about the 2027 AIS National Convention in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. [2027 AIS Convention website.](#)

Registration is currently open! Please use the [AIS registration website](#) to register.

REGISTRATION INCENTIVE!
REGISTER BY 1/31/2027 TO BE ENTERED INTO A DRAWING FOR THREE FREE NIGHTS AT THE CONVENTION HOTEL TO BE USED DURING THE CONVENTION WEEK. STANDARD ROOM RATE (\$154/night rate) AND TAXES ARE ALL THAT ARE COVERED.

The [convention hotel](#) is the Embassy Suites OKC Northwest in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

AIS Online

You can find the American Iris Society Online

American Iris Society Website: [American Iris Society \(irises.org\)](http://irises.org)

AIS Iris Encyclopedia [WebHome < Main < Iris Wiki \(irises.org\)](http://irises.org)
including the Ben R Hager – Sidney DuBose Memorial Online Iris Library

[The American Iris Society - YouTube](http://irises.org) contains past webinars, including JT sessions, presented by the AIS.

[World of Irises \(theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com\)](http://theamericanirissociety.blogspot.com)

The American Iris Society is also on social media,

[The American Iris Society | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/theamericanirissociety)

[The American Iris Society \(@theamericanirissociety\) • Instagram photos and videos](https://www.instagram.com/theamericanirissociety)



The newsletter of Region 2 of the American Iris Society is published twice a year and emailed to all members of the American Iris Society residing in Region 2 (New York State, Ontario, and Quebec). Members without email may receive a paper copy by mail upon request. It is the member's responsibility to advise of email changes and to submit a written request for paper copies to the editor. Permission is granted to reproduce articles, with proper attribution, unless otherwise noted. It is appreciated that a copy of the publication is provided to the editor. (Please note, submissions may be edited for style and clarity.)

COPY DEADLINES

Spring Issue February 1

Fall Issue August 1

Editor: Leto Solla – aisregion2.newsletter@gmail.com