

ARE YOU READY?



The fabulous *Median Iris Rules Supreme in 2017* convention in Lafayette, Indiana is getting close (May 18-20, 2017)! It's time to register and secure your hotel room. We've extended the most economical cost deadline to February 15, so don't wait – get registered today! Wonderful clumps of blooming medians will be waiting for you, and you will have a blast with all the exciting activities planned. The guest iris in the Indiana gardens have been growing, multiplying, blooming and reblooming too, so the iris are almost ready for us! More than 46 different hybridizers have sent over 278 varieties of medians for

our gardens. Workers have planted over 800 rhizomes in the six convention gardens, four of which are in the immediate Lafayette area. This may include the best collection of MTBs ever assembled...54 cultivars from 21 hybridizers! This mini-convention will be anything but mini!



So what fun might you be in for at *Median Iris Rules Supreme in 2017*? Registration starts on Thursday May 18, with a bag full of goodies and key information on the upcoming convention adventures. We may have a couple of optional tours to local research farms in the afternoon, but at 6 pm, the excitement really begins! At the opening *hor d'oeuvres* and greetings gathering, you can start to invest



in your "Maybe Get Lucky Tickets." These tickets will be used for drawings throughout the weekend in which every purchase wins a prize. Our really lucky winners will receive 2017 Median introductions, while a second section of tickets will focus on bottles of wine. All prize wines will be delightful, but some bottles will be truly exceptional. You won't want to be shy in purchasing these tickets, as everyone will be a winner!

The next day will be jam-packed with exploration and beauty, as we head out to three masterfully planted Median Iris Gardens. The lovely Avon Gardens will be our *al fresco* lunch stop on Friday. This commercial garden covers over five acres of beautiful, mature perennial display gardens, which are immaculately manicured and maintained to host special events, like weddings. After this day of immersion in median irises and beautiful settings, prepare for a convention dinner unlike any you've ever attended. Our hosts have arranged to feed your mind, soul and body on Friday night. More than just a delicious meal, we'll have all kinds of games and opportunities to secure new median iris! The fun will begin with a backyard barbeque, complete with hamburgers, brats, and delicious sides. Then come the games: Median Bingo, Median Trivia, Median Crossword Puzzles, and maybe even a fast-paced team game of Iris Chain Reaction.



There will be a great photo booth for you and the friends you've made on the garden tour bus to snap silly pictures (or maybe you can even get a pic with your favorite hybridizer!). And to top it all off: a thrilling live auction of median iris! The convention committee is composing "Marvelous Median Bags" – mixes of median irises seen in the tour gardens – to be auctioned off after the dinner and games.



Come Saturday morning, it's back to the buses. We will explore the sensational master planting at the garden of Chuck and Barbara Bunnell, as well as two more fabulous garden stops. The Garden Judges' training will be held in the Bunnell's garden on Saturday morning and afternoon; you don't want to miss this special opportunity to learn amongst a master planting of medians! And of course, there will be more opportunities for voting your ballot for your favorite medians. Following our final garden tours, we will gather for a marvelous Closing Banquet. Memories and stories will be shared, awards will be given out, and



we will all enjoy a presentation by our esteemed Keynote Speaker, Lynda Miller (to learn more about Lynda, see the article about her below).

The Courtyard Marriott in Lafayette, IN will be the conference center for the MIS Convention. It's a brand-new venue with great amenities and warm hospitality, close to Purdue Research Park, Purdue University, shopping and entertainment. Each guest room features wireless internet, luxurious bedding, a large work desk, sitting area, 32-inch TV, weekday newspaper and individually controlled heating and air-conditioning. Other hotel amenities include a 24-hour food market and restaurant serving breakfast and light dinner.



LYNDA MILLER-Judge's Trainer and Keynote Speaker

We are delighted to announce that Lynda Miller will be the judge's trainer and Banquet Keynote Speaker at *Median Iris Rules Supreme in 2017* in Lafayette, Indiana (May 18-20).

Lynda Miller's hybridizing contributions, especially with MDBs and MTBs, are notable. Both the MDB and MTB classes suffered from a lack of attention and recognition in the late 1990s and 2000s, but Lynda continued hybridizing these iris. She worked with diploid MTBs when few others were doing so, and focuses on both diploid and tetraploid MTBs today. In addition to producing some excellent diploid MTBs, Lynda has been a pioneer in tetraploid MTBs, which are only now beginning to look like "real" MTBs all over, thanks to hybridizers like Lynda. Although MDBs are not strictly "medians," Lynda also continued working with the MDBs when few other hybridizers were interested in doing so. By working at the pumila hybrid level, Lynda produced MDBs that were more "true dwarfs" than many of the small segregates other hybridizers pursued through SDB breeding.

Lynda has introduced many award-winning and innovative irises in all of the median categories - 84 as of 2016 – as well as a number of TBs, and even one Siberian! She has also introduced 30 MDBs, including Caparne-Welch Medal winners 'Snuggles' (1998), 'Scruples' (2002), and 'Squiggles' (2003). Lynda's MTB 'Bangles' is the only iris to have won both the President's Cup (at Detroit in 1991) and the Franklin Cook Cup (at New York in 1999). 'Bangles' also won the Williamson-White medal in 2001, and Lynda's other Williamson-White winners include 'Ace' (2005) and 'Baubles and Beads' (2006).

Lynda was the recipient of the 2016 Bennett C. Jones Award for Outstanding Median Hybridizing, in recognition of her many contributions to median irises. Her striking diploid MTB 'Moose Tracks' made a stir at both the 2015 and 2016 national conventions, winning the Ben R. Hager Cup for best median iris both years! Four of her IBs ('Oodles', 'Parts Plus', 'Startled' and 'Up And Atom') were some of the first space-age medians to be introduced; and her SDBs include 'Dark Vader' (introduced with her husband Roger), which won the Cook-Douglas in 1993, and 'Bowl of Cherries', which received an AM in 2009.

In addition to her many hybridizing contributions, Lynda has conducted more judges training sessions over the years than many AIS judges. Not only is Lynda an entertaining instructor, but she keeps the attention of everyone in attendance; students in her classes, old and new alike, always come away with more than they started with. She has also held a wide range of positions in her local and regional iris societies, donating freely of her time and effort. A good many AIS members know Lynda from her bubbly presence at AIS conventions and regional meetings. She has always been generous to the clubs she belongs to, and is always willing to spend time helping new members get started with irises. We hope you will get the chance to meet and learn from Lynda Miller at *Median Iris Rules Supreme in 2017*!