

NDS Person—Scott Keller

By Scott and Linda Ferguson

Scott has been a member of NDS for the last 10 years. He is our current Treasurer, and has previously served on the Board of Directors. Before retirement, Scott worked as an agricultural statistician for the USDA.

Working as the Treasurer for our club is a natural fit for him.

Scott has 110 named varieties of daylilies in his home garden called "Pick-A-Daylily". His sales are made from his home garden,

which includes about 600 seedlings. Because his garden is smaller, he only brings in about 30 new plants each year, which means 30 older ones must leave. He feels that selling does two things. First it gives him a chance to educate customers that come to the garden. Most customers think of daylilies as 'Stella de Oro', and are surprised to find that there are over 86,000 registered varieties. The second reason is that selling allows him income to buy new breeding stock to hybridize with to support his "habit". Scott is planning to have two of his own registrations by the time you read this article.

When asked what his two favorite daylilies are, he laughed and said, "You're kidding, only two?" He really likes Joseph Hudson 'Memorial' (double) and 'Rolling Raven' (spider). However, nothing stays in his garden long if it is not a favorite for one characteristic or

another. His current hybridizing goals include tall, over 30 inch, reds. The second goal is tall, dark doubles for which he is assembling parent plans. His wife Di helps with the sorting and preparation of

orders and tolerates his repeated early morning requests to "Come out into the garden....you've GOT to see this!" Scott's grandkids help out by trying to keep their soccer balls and Frisbees out of his daylily beds.

He is very happy with the software PlantStep

used to catalog daylilies. This year he has started a website: pickadaylily.com to display his introductions and provide a list what is available for sale. He feels gratitude for the encouragement he has received from so many over the years especially David Hansen. The encouragement has set in motion a 'pay-it-forward' attitude that continues to grow.



NDS Person—Scott Keller
Seedlings

