

Eric Simpson  
Cavalier Daylily Gardens  
Tipton, IN  
Region 2

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This past weekend, I had the honor and pleasure of sharing my hybridizing program with DESI (Daylily Enthusiasts of Southern Indiana), near Evansville, Indiana. Being one of the newcomers in the region (5 years hybridizing) and speaking in just my second meeting (both this Summer), I made the 4 hour drive south, along with my friend, Bob Faulkner, who insisted on tagging along to lend his support. Not knowing what to expect, I could not help but feel excited, humbled, and truly blessed to have the opportunity to share my story, my flowers, some space saving methods for germinating seed, and some photos of my new pups with a room full of strangers. When we arrived at the property of my gracious hosts, Lea Ann and Don Williams of Lakeside Daylilies, I was overwhelmed at the sight of their amazing scenic property.

Their lovely home rests on a 6 acre lake with rolling hills, (13 acres total) private, quiet wooded areas and several open clearings along the picture perfect lake. Ah, what a splendid paradise, indeed! The shocker was when they told us it is for sale, and quite reasonably, I might add. They made me feel right at home, as we shared some stories and played with Lea Ann's new kitten, Elvis (a real cutie). We got a tour of the lovely home and gardens before we rode over to the meeting. As the members arrived, along with some of the best food I have eaten in a long while (especially Lea Ann's dumplings and Barb's lemon cake), in a matter of minutes, I felt welcome, appreciated, and oddly, important. Not bad, for an auto factory worker who raises dogs and maintains a hybridizer's garden on his own. My deepest, heartfelt thanks to the club for taking a chance on inviting a newcomer to speak and for your warm welcome and kind enthusiasm for my flowers. It was such a joy to share my passion with you all and to make new friends of such notable quality. I look forward to seeing many of you again. Blessings to all!  
(<http://www.ericofdaylilies.com>)