



Ken and Shelby Reese are very familiar faces to most club members. Ken is tirelessly working on club events, Gathering of the Green planning and the scholarship program within the club. Shelby helps keep the ship afloat by being the only female on Board of Directors. As Bill Cunningham stated at the banquet last year she keeps us all honest and makes sure that we focus on the right things and don't miss the details.

Ken was born in Moline and grew up in Hillsdale and attended Morrison High School. Shelby grew up in the Kewanee area and spent many summers on her Grandparents farm. Her Grandfather thought that Case was the only tractor to have and she's certain that he's not happy about her fondness of the John Deere Green as well as her participation in a club of John Deere enthusiasts.

Ken and Shelby met in 1957 while attending Western Illinois University. Shelby and her friends were hanging around watching the gymnastics teams work out when she noticed Ken wearing a Morrison High School football shirt. Ken had played on the Morrison High School football team but had switched to gymnastics in college. Shelby especially noticed the Morrison football shirt because her high school team Kewanee Weathersfield had suffered their only loss in the final game of the season to Morrison. With that loss still causing painful memories she was compelled to approach Ken and mention that game to him. As you can imagine the rest is history and they are still together.

After college both Ken and Shelby got teaching jobs in the Chicago area. Shelby was teaching PE at Niles East and Ken got a job coaching gymnastics and teaching drivers education at Maine East. After 3 years there he moved to Maine South where he remained for 33 years. Ken had Hillary Clinton as a student in Drivers Ed. Later during the Clinton administration, Hillary and Bill visited Maine South and used Ken's office during their stay at the school. After their two daughters were born, Shelby returned to the educational field in administration eventually working for the Superintendent of Schools in District 62 in Des Plaines. She also served as the school board secretary to which our club is now the benefit of all that experience.

Ken's Grandfather was the John Deere dealer in Hillsdale for 50 years. I think that statement alone says it all about where Ken got his interest in the JD two cylinder

tractors. I remember fond memories of going to the local JD dealer for parts with my Dad but I can't imagine being able to hang out at a dealer that my Grandfather owned!

Ken and Shelby always had the two cylinder bug and began to pursue it more actively after their two daughters were grown. They came to Grand Detour and shortly after that joined the club somewhere around 1994. Shortly after that, they bought their 1950 B out of the club newsletter. Ken joined the board about 10 years ago with Shelby joining 6 years ago.

Ken and Shelby lived in Des Plaines for 35 years during which time Ken and Shelby were featured in an article in Green Magazine about restoring the JD B in a single car garage in suburban Des Plaines. Ken has served on the Gathering of the Green planning committee since its inception. He has written articles about the GOG event that have been published in Green Magazine and Agri-News.

Ken and Shelby built a new home in McHenry with a four car garage but I think they are now starting to fill that capacity with three tractors at last count.

At your next opportunity, please stop by and let Ken and Shelby we appreciate all of their contributions to the success of our club.