

A Gardener to Know by Catherine Campbell

Ned Rahis a Beaufort County "well kept secret". It took me 19 years to find him. My first visit was with the Beaufort Garden Club's tour of gardens, last June. Ned and his wife, Faye, own and operate their backyard nursery single handedly. Ned grew up on this site and turned his 3 acres into a gardener's delight. Ned says this was a result of tiring of retirement and too much fishing. The propagation greenhouse is used for new starts and wintering-over. There are rows of container plants that have their roots in stories of friends' cuttings, and seeds, and gathering of like-minded gardeners. Ned fondly reminiscences of a meeting of the Southern Fruit Fellowship when he was given a seed from a giant Russian pomegranate. From cuttings, these have multiplied and live along side miniature pomegranates.

If you're looking for home-grown perennials, Ned's is the place to find them. There were rows of *Odontonema* "FireSpikes" sporting lush green foliage with delicate red flowers. St. Bernard lilies and Northern Sea Oats were among the unfamiliar to me. Ned also carries a variety of unusual cannas and hibiscus. A friend gave him a Fan Palm seed and now it abounds in his garden. I knew of *Tibochina*, but Ned has a big leaf *Tibochina*, and I found it irresistible. I could go on, but I want to save some for your experience. Don't miss this garden of native and unusual plants, all with a fond memory of garden tales and friends. Ned and Faye invite you to their garden, but call first, and don't let the beagle out. Ned Rahn 524-7353 or email plantfolks@charter.net.
