

Chuck Salter

Memorial

Lt. Col. Charles (Chuck) E. Salter, 83, forester and botanist, and member of FNPS since 1981, died March 10, 2002. Chuck Salter, known and admired statewide for his work in propagating endangered and rare native plants, may have been best known for organizing the Upsy Daisy Plant Uplift Society, whose estimated 60,000 participants rescued 200,000 plants (in 14 digs) and received national television coverage by Charles Kurault. A delightful and inspiring profile of Chuck Salter, by Fritz Wettstein, appeared in the Fall 1994 issue of *The Palmetto*, Vol. 14, #3 (worth retrieving and rereading!). Here we have some parting words from Larry Alsobrook, Breezy Oaks Nursery owner and Paynes Prairie Chapter member:

“When the rhododendrons bloom, I think of Chuck. It was a true joy to visit Salter’s Nursery, to see the plants and hear the wonderful stories. The how and whens of seed collection, the remote locations in the wild, the perilous steephead walks, the beauty of the plants, the difficulties of growing, reflected a wealth of knowledge.

A comparison to Aldo Leopold could be made, but for me, Charles Schultz’ cartoon character Charlie Brown comes to mind, “You blockhead! Don’t you see the futility?” No, he didn’t, he never gave up on his mission. Chuck’s answer was to try to disseminate the plants through propagation and plantings, the Johnny Appleseed approach. He had an impact on many people with his steadfast devotion to the importance of our native flora. We’ll miss you, Chuck.”
