

## Dodd & Dodd Native Nursery, Inc



**Dodd & Dodd (mostly) Native Nursery, Inc.** will be bringing for sale a selection of plants native to the Gulf Coast to the **Earth Day Mobile Bay** at Fairhope Pier on **Saturday, April 25, 2009**. Thayer and Tom Dodd, III and our grower, David Taylor, will be on hand all day to answer questions and help you select the right plant for the right place. If you want a plant identified, bring a picture or a branch with leaves.

Here in LA (lower Alabama) we are blessed with an incredible diversity of plant and animal life. This is because we are at the former southern tip of the Appalachian mountain range, and many species were pushed down by glaciers (as Bill Finch loves to point out) and stayed here. We are also at the confluence of many rivers, and some species have drifted south. We have bogs and wetlands and beaches. Our soils are sandy and our water is plentiful. Mobile and Baldwin, the two coastal counties of Alabama, have more plant species than all of Europe. For example, **Kalmia latifolia** or Mt. laurel grows right here on the Gulf Coast, mostly along rivers up on the bluffs. You may be familiar with them from North Carolina and Tennessee, but those plants will not live here in our hot, humid, buggy Southern summers. But we grow the southern form.



We will also bring a yellow native azalea known as '**Admiral Semmes**'.

It will have finished blooming by April 25th, but it was developed for the hot, humid south. Have you seen the yellow or pink native azaleas growing near the creeks and rivers? This one was developed by Tom and his father and another breeder to have big fragrant blooms like ones that do well farther north but do not grow here. The local yellow

**Rhododendron austrinum** or **flame azalea**, was used to make 'Admiral Semmes' heat tolerant and grow well here.

We will bring **dahoon hollies** that were selected from local rivers and grow here in wet sunny places. Also some **Hypericums** that like dry, sandy beach conditions. Also **Illicium floridanum** (**florida anise**) and **Hydrangea quercifolia** (**oakleaf hydrangea**) and **Leucothoe axillaris** (**fetterbush**) for **shady woodland gardens**, and **much more**.

*Why should I buy what grows wild???* An excellent question, which has lots of different answers. For starters, many of them do not transplant well, like native

azaleas and believe it or not, wax myrtle. So your chances of success are higher when you buy one from a nursery. Then there is the question of the proper time of year to dig and transplant, if you must, or want to rescue a particular plant from destruction. So many of our wild and natural areas are being destroyed and developed for houses and malls. We can reverse some of this loss by choosing what we plant. For example, we are down to less than 10% of the pitcher plant bogs remaining. Migrating butterfly and songbird populations are struggling because their normal routes have been disturbed and they cannot rest or eat where and what they used to and this area is a major stopping off point for flocks migrating to and from Mexico. The butterflies also need specific host plants in their reproductive cycles. And then there is the answer that because it grows here...it will grow here...if you put it in the right location and take care of it.

Our native plants are among the most beautiful in the world. The world-renowned Japanese and English gardeners use our plants as much or more than we do. So many of the plants that are used here routinely in "landscaping" are from China and Japan: Crepe myrtle, Oleander, Indian hawthorne, evergreen azaleas, Loropetalum, Camellias, Junipers, Gardenias, Cleyera and many of the hollies. Folks think they are native because they are used so routinely.



RHODODENDRON X FLAMMEUM "DOUBLE PLEASURE"

So come to the **Earth Day Mobile Bay Celebration** and learn about our beautiful truly environmentally friendly native plants.

**Website:** <http://www.doddnatives.com/>