



## Frank Lee Ellis

August 13, 1944 - May 13, 2019

“Renaissance man” is a term commonly used to describe a person who knows a little about a lot of things. In its truest sense it would harken back to its origins during the Renaissance period of history in describing the atypical man who possessed great knowledge in many fields; think Michelangelo. Frank Lee Ellis could certainly be described as a modern-day man of that sort. He was born August 13, 1944 in Newnan and was one of three children born to William Yates and Ida Lee Ellis. “Frankie”, as he came be known, had an innate sense of curiosity about life in general. He graduated from Newnan High School in 1962. He received a degree in biology from West Georgia College in 1966. Owing allegiance to his preferred field of study, Frankie worked for several years at The Yerkes Primate Center associated with Emory University. We’ve all heard about people who took their work home with them, and Frankie did, as well, literally. He was the favorite uncle who had monkeys at his house! He learned that being a tender hearted, passionate caregiver for the primates he cared for would conflict with the research for which the primates were used. He would find his true passion, however, in horticulture. He would spend many happy years working at Callaway Gardens, Moon Nursery and Pike Nursery. His true natural element would be his total immersion in all things of nature, bird watching and caring for his beloved property in Loganville. If one had a question about azaleas, certainly, ask Frankie, but if you had a question about the music of the 60s going forward, you guessed it, ask Frankie. Every song, every artist, every writer – Frankie

was the go-to guy. Renaissance man? Absolutely. Frankie's home in Loganville became a haven for his pristine gardens and a welcoming habitat for his all his pets over the years. Rescue became a very real part of his life. With no children of his own, his giant heart embraced God's creatures in whatever situation he encountered them. In addition to his parents, Frank was preceded in death by his brother Lee Ellis and brother-in-law Terry Lunsford. He is survived by his sister, Frances Ellis Lunsford and sister-in-law, Janet Davis Ellis. His other family includes his nieces and nephews, Janet Lee Whaley (Ham), Terry Chadwick (Chuck), Scott Lunsford (Charlotte), Dub Ellis (Tammy). Also survived by his great-nieces and great-nephews, Caroline and Hamilton Whaley, Joseph and Katie Chadwick, Ida Lee, Sarah and Yates Lunsford, Kenzie and Kimber Ellis. The life of Frank Lee Ellis will be fondly remembered in a service to be held on Sunday, May 19, 2019 at 2:00 PM in the chapel of McKoon Funeral Home to be led by Reverend Matt Sapp and Reverend Steve Cothran. The family will receive friends beginning at 1:00 PM. Those who may wish to honor Frank's life might consider a memorial gift in his name to Central Baptist Church in Newnan or The Newnan Coweta Humane Society. Online condolences may be expressed at [www.mckoon.com](http://www.mckoon.com). McKoon Funeral Home 38 Jackson Street Newnan GA 30263 770-253-4580.

# Cemetery Details

## McKoon Funeral Home & Crematory

38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com  
<http://www.mckoon.com>

# Previous Events

## Visitation

**MAY 19.** 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

McKoon Funeral Home  
38 Jackson Street  
Newnan, GA 30263  
(770) 253-4580  
care@mckoon.com

## Service

**MAY 19.** 2:00 PM (ET)

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# Tribute Wall

CH

“ *France's and family. I was saddened to hear of Frankie's passing. I think everyone in Newnan enjoyed being with y'all on W. Washington St. and at the cabin. Remember when he took us frog gigging-spooky at night but fun! I'll always remember how kind Frankie was to me and how much he enjoyed people and life. Frances- you're in my thoughts and prayers. So sorry.*

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**Cheryl Cole Hyde** - May 25, 2019 at 08:59 PM

SH

“ *As one who shared a unique relationship with Frankie at a uniquely turbulent time in the history of our country and our own lives, I offer witness to his strength and courage. As our frolics and adventures of the '60's turned into misadventures and, for me, confusion and regret, his light shined ever brighter and his friendship lighted the way home. In my rocking chair days, I remember and rejoice in the memory of his life and thank him for the inspiration he offered.*  
*Stanley Harper*

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**Stanley Harper** - May 18, 2019 at 12:01 PM

RC

“ *Frankie introduced me to the music of Aretha Franklin and Bob Dylan. I have many good memories of hanging out at 37 W. Washington St. & the cabin. We have lost a truly unique soul. We send our sympathy to Frances and all the family.*  
*Ray & JoAnne Cavender.*

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**Raymond & JoAnne Cavender** - May 16, 2019 at 11:35 PM

EC

“ Frances and family, please know many are thinking of you now; I hadn't seen Frankie in many years but will always remember him...and watching American bandstand in your den or playing canasta whiling away hot summer days on your screened porch. My sympathy to all.  
ED COLE

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**ED COLE** - May 16, 2019 at 12:45 PM

LB

Frankie and I went all the way through school together. I have only fond memories of him. He was sweet, funny and a friend to all. He will be missed. Linda Hammock Barron

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**Linda Hammock Barron** - May 16, 2019 at 06:35 PM

BD

Frances, many fond memories of W. Washington Street and Frankie and Duffy and kick the can. My deepest sympathy to you and your family.

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**Billy Deacon** - May 17, 2019 at 10:49 AM

NL

Frances and family, I wish I could be there for you. Miss Ida and Dr. Ellis raised three great kids who are/were always kind and fun to be with. So sorry to hear about Frankie. My thoughts and prayers are with you in your sorrow.

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**nann lewellyn** - May 17, 2019 at 02:10 PM