

# Is it heritage or heirloom? It's both

Are the concrete chicken, big urn, and home-made toadstools in my garden antiques, heirlooms, or just old? Not too many folks get bogged down in semantics, but there are subtle differences in those terms.



FELDER RUSHING

Got an e-mail the other day from someone who was reading a book about plant collecting and wanted to know the difference between heirloom and heritage roses. Got me thinking about stuff I have from now long-gone gardeners.

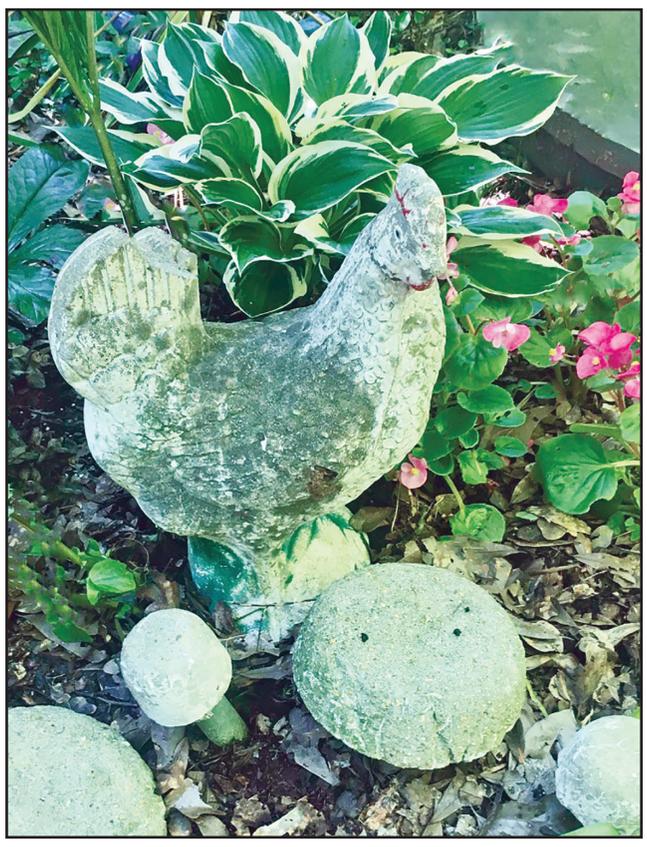
could afford, and for as long as I could remember it stood sentinel over her summer zinnias. One winter day I had asked her why she was looking so wistfully out the window, and she replied that the old chicken, standing alone in a small circle of mulch save for a couple of clumps of monkey grass, reminded her of her zinnias. It was a heart/mind thing I'll never forget.

Her garden club mother-in-law hated the faded faux fowl, calling it tasteless, low-brow.

At the time, I just tossed the tension off as two women with different tastes.

But years later while cleaning leaves from beneath my great-grandmother's cope of ancient cedar trees, I uncovered a small circle of crude concrete toadstools, long buried and forgotten. Ironically, the only difference between it and Granny's chicken was that one was mass produced and store-bought, the other homemade.

I have them all in my garden now. Since they were passed down from family, they are heirlooms, a word that originated from "inherit-



Heirloom antiques conjure garden ancestors

ed tools." And because in the world of garden collectables anything over fifty years old is considered an antique, the

chicken and toadstools are antique heirlooms.

Heritage, not to put too fine a point here, connotes a connection, be it historic, cultural or family. A modern object like a flag can represent heritage.

So, regarding my e-mailer's query, there's no real difference between heritage and heirloom roses; they are just descriptive words to indicate memorable plants shared and passed around, usually over generations.

To throw in one more, the official term "old garden roses" refers to those which were grown, sometimes for centuries, before 1867 when La France, the first modern hybrid tea rose, was introduced. So, The Fairy, a still-popular shrub rose from 1932, is an antique, but not an OGR.

Had enough of this? Back to the chicken. All great gardens, from Versailles and its hundreds of oversized naked statues, to my neigh-

bor's small flowerbed with its little gnomes, have some sort of art or embellishment to personalize them. Regardless of provenance, such hard features, including birdbaths, urns, formal columns, benches and yes, even concrete chickens and toadstools, are important year-round accents that create focal points to draw the eye and to bridge the seasonal comings and goings of plants.

Regardless of what anyone else thinks about them, to this day, when I look at the antique, heirloom chicken and toadstools, I see neither crafty nor tacky. I see sweet reminders of my ancestors playing in their gardens. What they represent is my garden heritage.

Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions to [rushingfelder@yahoo.com](mailto:rushingfelder@yahoo.com).

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR



Dear Editor,

I feel like this is a good time to do some spring cleaning around town. I see in the Liberty Garden they have cut the hedges. It would be nice if they could keep the Liberty Garden looking like it did back in the day.

themselves. I think during this COVID-19, all towns should have a food pantry. It should be more than a food pantry, you should be able to get cleaning supplies and hand sanitizers; because we all run out of food and money before the end of the month.

This is what I've heard about the coronavirus test, you've got to pay for the test, \$185.00, or it will be on your insurance. I was thinking that test was free. That is going to be a problem for some families.

This is my opinion on who would want to be in President Trump's shoes. It is hard and stressful being a president or a leader at this time. I feel like the reporters go to the White House to pick a fight with the president. They ask him a question, he answers them, it may not be what they want to hear, then the fight is on. They take what he says and twists it. I could not be the president, I would not have any reporters at the White House. I would be thinking "They are disrespecting me, this is where I live not you."

This is my opinion about some of the businesses and nursing homes in Holmes County and Durant. In the nursing homes people are dying like flies. They won't give out the names of the nursing homes, the hot spots. I think the families should give out the name of any nursing home, whose loved one has passed away from the coronavirus. Some states are giving out the name of the hot spots and they are telling how the people are getting the coronavirus in the nursing homes. I think if they open up some of the businesses, it is going to be a relapse of the coronavirus like in Wuhan, China. I don't think the coronavirus will be over this year.

I am praying for all workers that are helping with the coronavirus. I read that some sanitation workers have the coronavirus. I try to do my part, I only put household garbage in my trash can. Some workers at the hospitals, nursing homes and caregivers in the homes, have COVID-19.

In my opinion, if you open up a business and you are not following the state and city guidelines, someone might get the coronavirus from your business, You should pay their hospital bill. I understand some people need to go back to work. I am sure some are hitting a brick wall because they are not used to being at home all day. They don't know what to do with

All of the truckers who are keeping America moving, should be able to use rest areas and truck stops. It would be good for the truckers that are going across America. I hope everyone will the coronavirus very serious. There are hot spots where people need to go back to work. I am sure some are hitting a brick wall because they are not used to being at home all day. They don't know what to do with

not coming when you have a complaint. I called to police station on a person, because my dad has Alzheimer's. There are "no trespassing" signs on his house and coronavirus signs in his yard. I don't want no one there, he is 85. This person is ignoring all of the signs. I don't want my dad to get the coronavirus because he could give it to me. My understanding is that you are not going to jail at this time. I think officers should come write the person up and when this is over, the person should go to jail for a very long time. Others should be fined if they are not following the city and state guidelines.

stuff that is going on and will happen at the schools. There will be a food pantry for the parents, there are states sending money to the school. Also, there will be a documentary of the schools in Holmes County. I am thinking the Holmes County schools are going to put the poorest county on the map.

This is my opinion on the hot spots, if the hospitals and nursing homes don't want their place on the hot spot list, they should follow CDC guidelines or their own. The workers are the ones who are bringing the coronavirus to the nursing homes or other places. I think you should wash your hands more, wear gloves and change them when you have germs on them.

On May 10, I was listening to the radio again, what I heard, my mind could not wrap itself around. The superintendent had gotten a heartless, shameful e-mail. The superintendent had a meeting with the school board president. The president said he had changed his mind about putting the school bond on the ballot again. Holmes County needs roads and businesses. In my opinion, somebody or some groups are in control of the school board. They are telling the school board president and members what to do or say. Somebody is calling the shots, they don't want Holmes' schools to be one of the top schools in America. The story should be in the newspapers. The citizens of Holmes County and across America should know what is going on in the Holmes County School Board and with the superintendent. I want to know.

I read that Andy Gibson, agriculture commissioner, wants people to start raising gardens like they did back in World Wars I & II. I hope someone will have a fruit stand in Durant. Towns or the county could raise a garden. I would also hope someone would open up the drive-inn so we can buy hamburgers, hot dogs and ice cream.

If you read my letters to the editor, I've been writing about getting good businesses in Holmes County for a long time. If everyone in Holmes County would fill out the 2020 U.S. Census, Holmes County could have roads, good schools and other businesses. Holmes County could use the \$20 billion. We need to fill out the census. I hope everyone will wear their masks, wash their hands and keep themselves and others safe around them.

Oh yes, I hope Durant workers or somebody would cut the vines off of the Durant library. Cut the hedges because they are not used to being at home all day. They don't know what to do with

Frances Patterson Durant

### 2019 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Accona Water Association  
PWS#: 0260001  
May 2020

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Edwin Tolbert at 662.834.3122. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please attend any of our regularly scheduled meetings. They are held on the last Monday of each month at 7:00 PM at the Accona Water Association Office on HWY 17.

Our water source is from wells drawing from the Meridian Upper Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the Accona Water Association have received a moderate susceptibility ranking to contamination.

We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. This table below lists all of the drinking water contaminants that were detected during the period of January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2019, this table reflects the most recent results. As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity; microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including petroleum and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

In this table you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as is feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l) - one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter - one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

TEST RESULTS									
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/ACL	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination	
<b>Inorganic Contaminants</b>									
10. Barium	N	2019	.0059	.0035 - .0059	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge of natural deposits; erosion of natural deposits	
13. Chromium	N	2019	2.5	No Range	ppb	100	100	Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits	
14. Copper	N	201517*	.2	0	ppm	1.3	AL=13	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives	
17. Lead	N	201517*	1	0	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits	
<b>Volatile Organic Contaminants</b>									
76. Xylenes	N	2019	.0026	.00063 - .0026	ppm	10	10	Discharge from petroleum factories; discharge from chemical factories	
<b>Disinfection Byproducts</b>									
61. HAA5	N	2018*	4	No Range	ppb	0	60	By-Product of drinking water disinfection.	
62. THM [Trihalomethanes]	N	2019	12.54	No Range	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination.	
Chlorine	N	2019	1.6	.8 - 2.70	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4	Water additive used to control microbes	
<b>Unregulated Contaminants</b>									
Sodium	N	2019	65000	50000 - 65000	PPB	NONE	NONE	Road Salt; Water Treatment Chemicals; Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.	

\* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2019.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are in compliance. If we were required or not our drinking water meets health standards. In an effort to ensure systems complete all monitoring requirements, MSDH now notifies systems of any missing samples prior to the end of the compliance period.

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>. The Mississippi State Department of Health Public Health Laboratory offers lead testing. Please contact 601.576.7582 if you wish to have your water tested.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. All drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immunocompromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

The Accona Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.