Plants don't have prejudices, gardening is for all

kind of person you are?

Gardening more than pro-

most basic acts finding and growing plants is undercurrent communities, both subtle and overt, with their own cultures and world views.

Yet if you step outside the highly-personal confines of your own

garden you might discover ways to share with you.

FELDER

RUSHING

Four of the most basic about "outsider" love of it.

them are, what you believe, ers think. who you love, or whether I call them determined inor not you vote. Freed from dependent gardeners, or just artificial human constructs, DIGrs, They're not rebelthey simply want a good lious, they're escaping - tryplace to grow that meets ing to provide for themselves

Do your plants signal what who make them more or less socially acceptable.

Which brings me to my vides people with food, fiber, main point, that for too long medicine, shelter and beau- gardeners have held up some ty; woven throughout the plants as okay while sneer-

ing that others are grown only by 'certain people." You know what I mean: Country people. Old ladies. Various ethnicities. Anything that can be used to peg people by the style of their garden or the plants they

What got me started on that, in spite of societal con- this was a deep discussion straints, other gardeners are with Jenks Farmer, a dear looking for nonjudgmental friend in South Carolina who is working on a new book garden approaches and their ers. He's long struggled to often-overlapping communi- reconcile his horticultural ties are folks who grow for training with his country subsistence, scientific-inter- gardening upbringing and est horticulturists, preening find ways to bring marginfashionistas, and amateurs alized gardeners and those who garden simply for the who toil physically in the gardens of others, usually What they have in com- without recognition, into the mon are plants, which are mainstream. The ones who nonjudgmental. They don't go home and garden just for care about education, in- themselves in ways they like, come, who your mama 'n without regard for what oth-

their minimum needs. It's we physically, mentally, emo-



Po'folk plants have social connections.

tionally and even spiritually. I remember clearly how irked my horticulturist greatgrandmother became when a local garden center owner sniffed about her wildflowers and native azaleas, which weren't fashionable with

folks clamoring for new varieties of petunias and azaleas. And yet she herself criticized her country bumpkin daughter-in-law - my grandmother - who proudly displayed a concrete chicken in a front-yard circle of striped

monkey grass.

Sadly, neither wanted to Jenks, they are looking for a grow common folk plants chance to "push back against such as cannas, orange day- the azalea wall." Sharing lilies, white iris, milk-andwine crinums, purple cane, elephant ears, or castor bean, because they were other folks' plants.

These plants, of course, are typically easy to grow, share, and usually showy in rushingfelder@yahoo.com. an everyday gaudy sense the glass bottle trees of the plant world, what I call poor man's Chihuly art glass.

It wasn't exactly racist, because it applied to everyone. It was more attempting to degrade the horticultural value of commonly-shared plants and objects that lacked a sense of cultural finesse. They were guilty of a class thing, of assigning status to plants and accessories.

Funny, though, how gardeners of all stripes are lightening up on this now. Those once-derided old cemeterytough plants are now being displayed in the finest botanic gardens. And gardeners embracing them are finding unexpected social connections in the process, discovering that, inside, all plants have green sap.

for Reedy as his health de-

clined for many years later

in life. After he passed, she

quickly started preparing

meals to bring to sick or shut

in people around town that

she "just hadn't gotten over

She is survived by her sis-

ter Elizabeth Montgomery

Lacey, her sons, Reedy E.

McLellan, Jr. (Maria), and

David M. McLellan (Eliza-

beth), and daughter Tina

McLellan Hester (Lamar).

She was "Mamoo" to 11

grandchildren: Cory (Pam),

Golda, Ivy, Christian, Sar-

ah Beth (Bill), Liza, Laura

(Dan), Matthew, Anna (Jeff),

Emily (David), Will (Anna),

and 13 great grandchildren.

to see yet".

To borrow a phrase from plants without prejudice is a good way to open the dialog,

start the discussions. Felder Rushing is a Mississippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gardener" on MPB Think Radio. simple to propagate and Email gardening questions to



Blain, Billy and Beverly Hathcock, Ray and Jeri Jo McCleskey June 26 - Billy and Sylvia

Nations, Cham and Angie

Wigley, Michael and Kacie Sanford

June 27 - Robert and Dawn Ashley

June 28 - Wayne and Pat Ellis, Mr. and Mrs. Danny Robertson, Frankie and Robin McCrory

June 29 - Sherman and Debbie Partain, B.J. and Britney Johnson

June Charles Christopher and Teresa Bates, Chuck and Nikki Edwards, Michael and Dea Bowling, Frankie and Lane Vargas, Blake and Brittany Powell, Jarrett and Karey Johnson, Brooks and Joy Ables, Alex and Kasey Killebrew

July 1 - Chris and Christina

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; 662-834-1074; email hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington.



No phone calls, please.

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MONTGOMERY MCLELLAN

Stella Carol Montgomery McLellan (Carol) entered Heaven's Gates on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at the wellearned age of 89 years. Her family rejoices with her as she is healed and now reunited with her husband and love of her life, Reedy McLellan, Sr., her parents Stella Carroll Montgomery and Herbert Johnson Montgomery and other beloved friends and relatives who died in Christ before her.

Carol was born on April 14, 1931 at her family home in Durant, MS. That home, built by her paternal grandfather in the early 1900s, was home to Carol for most of her life. She and her younger sistheir father, who was a postman, and mother, who was an educator. Carol met her love, Reedy, in Durant, and before they finished at Durant High School, they were married. Carol brought the stabilizing consistency that made life with Reedy and his many wild dreams possible. Carol and Reedy worked hard and loved each other deeply. After ventures in several other Southern states, Carol and Reedy settled back into her family home in Durant in 1967 where she lived

until she was 84. Carol and Reedy were business owners in Durant for many years. They owned o' things". Perhaps the best

women's clothing store, and Seven Oaks Nursery. Prior to those ventures, Carol held many other jobs, most notably making and selling her famous yeast rolls, and hosting a radio show in Bay Minette, AL. Her favorite job, however, was as a church secretary in Breman, GA. She loved seeing the inner workings of the church and aiding in ministering to the community. She even once talked a man down from harming himself when he called the church office while the pastor was out to lunch. She recalled that all she knew to do was to keep talking to him. "I knew I couldn't let him get off the phone with me. We talked about everything: his famter, Liz, grew up there with ily, my family, the weather, have a private graveside seranything to keep him on the

Good conversation with honest and interesting people was what Carol loved. She was always around, but never sought attention. She held her own in a discussion, yet was not one to pontificate. She loved plants. And reading. And chatting with customers. She made the best boiled custard, and yeast rolls, and chess pie, and dressing. Carol was quiet, witty, diligent, practical, shrewd, and put on no aires. She was very interested in people but never

too impressed by "people's

The immediate family will vice in Durant at a later date.

Donations may be made to the Palmer Home for Children or French Camp Academy in her memory.

LYNDA "PAT"

BRUMBY HOLDER Lynda "Pat" Brumby Holder passed away peacefully in Mobile, Alabama on June 21, 2020. Funeral services have not been set at the time of this newspaper printing but Southern Funeral Home will be in charge of the arrangements. Please call Southern Funeral Home for the most up to date informa-

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CSLC's Project F.A.I.R. is funded by a grant from the U.S. HUD Fair Housing Initiative Program (FHIP) Education and Outreach Initiative (EOI).

The Fair Housing Act makes it unlawful to discriminate in housing because of these protected characteristics: Race, Color, National Origin, Religion, Sex Familial status (families with children under the age of 18, or who are expecting a child), and Disability (if you or a person are associated with has a disability).

