

Blooming waters and opossum chunking

A garden is good for many things, including amusement, especially for those who have an appreciation of the absurd.

Mine is more than a never-ending Mobius strip of chores for keeping flowers, herbs, and vegetables coming all year, though this week I'm planting more summer veggies for fall harvest. But this week I don't know which was funnier to me, having a water garden turn so pea-soup green even the frogs wouldn't swim in it, or rescuing a baby opossum that I found trapped waist deep in a bucket of overripe figs.

My main water garden is a large antique cast-iron sugar kettle with a central fountain and sculpture. No plants, no fish, just an attractive, splashy white noise focal point in the garden, set amongst Spanish moss-draped stumps and lots of ferns and hostas.

By day there's a queue of thirsty birds and butterflies, and lizards poised to pounce; it also attracts dragonflies, which I learned to catch by my young daughter who I found wandering around the garden with one perched on a stick like they do on the ends of fishing poles. After dusk it becomes a crucial watering hole for 'possums and raccoons, and a court-ing place for toads and noisy

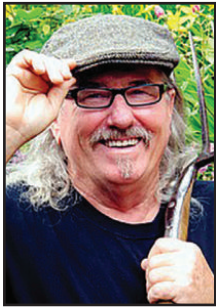
little tree frogs. The water feature's only maintenance is an annual cleaning to remove settled gunk from fallen tree leaves, a twice-yearly rinsing of the pump filter, and an occasional topping off to replace evaporated water.

That is, until it got hot recently. Because it's in a mid-day sunny spot, the heat, coupled with no plants to shade the water, fomented an algae bloom, turning it green as a leprechaun's waist coat. It was so vivid I wanted to celebrate it.

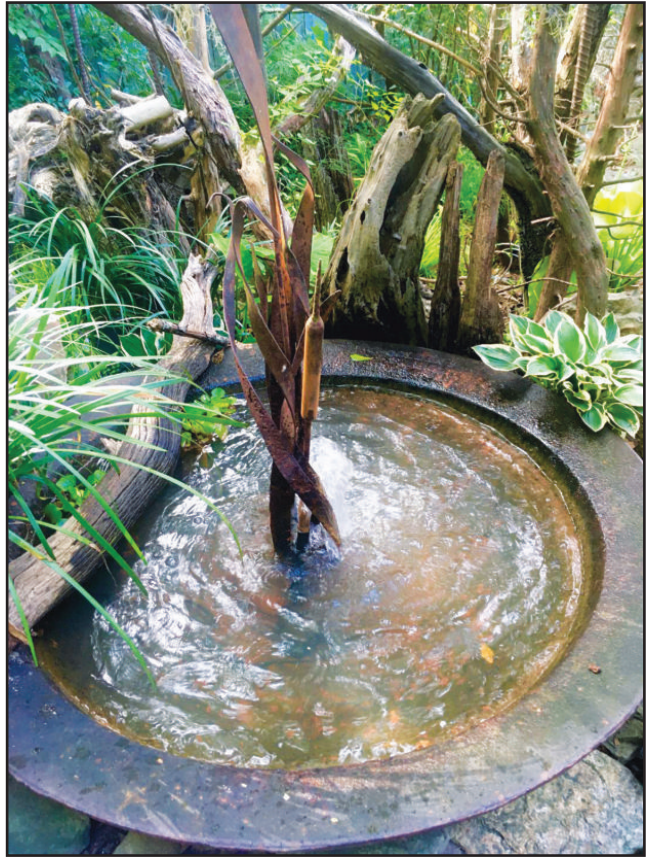
I could have bought some algaecide from the pond supply store, but wanted fast results, so instead I poured in some chlorine bleach (which had I any fish they would have gone blind), but it just turned the water brown. So I ended up just bailing it all out and starting over with fresh water. Fish would have needed to be kept overnight in a bucket of water until the tap-water chlorine evaporated.

One of the easiest ways to reduce algae is to plant lots of aquatic plants that cover most of the water surface, but why go to the trouble to create a water scene and then hide it? Might as well just stick regular plants in dirt in the first place.

I recently set up another water feature beside a backyard deck where I spend a lot of time staring into a fire,



FELDER RUSHING



An easy water garden.

even on warm evenings. It was easy, just a smaller iron cooking kettle with a water pump and fountain to make splashy sounds closer to where I sit. Because it's in the shade, there's no algae, and the moving water from the fountain prevents mosquito larvae.

The other humorous incident followed my cooking down a couple dozen jars of preserves from fresh-picked home-grown figs. To me they are worth their weight in gold - one of the prime benefits of summer garden-ing in the South.

But that night I set a plas-tic bucket of overripe figs

and trimmings outside the door, and the next morning I was surprised by a hissing baby 'possum that was all but swimming in the sticky muck churned up by his go-ing around and around all night. I had to fish out the possum and hose it down in a separate bucket to get the fig goo and fruit flies out of his fur.

Maybe I shoulda just chunked the 'possum into the fountain.

Felder Rushing is a Mis-sissippi author, columnist, and host of the "Gestalt Gar-dener" on MPB Think Radio.

Email gardening questions to rushingfelder@yahoo.com.

Former Canton Police Officer pleads guilty to insurance fraud

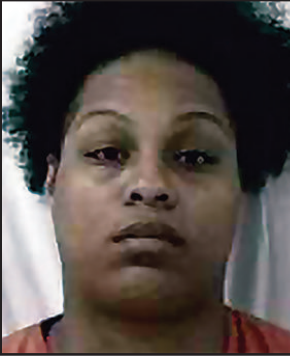
Press Release

Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced that Toni Tameka Borden, a former police officer in Canton, pleaded guilty to one count of insurance fraud and was sentenced Monday in Madi-son County Circuit Court.

"I am grateful for the work of my Public Integrity Divi-sion in ensuring those who hold positions of public trust do not use their positions for personal gain," said General Fitch.

In her plea, Borden admit-ted to falsifying an accident report to recover compensa-tion from Safeco Insurance for a wreck earlier in the year. In the report, she claimed she was driving the vehicle at the time of the wreck, when, in fact, her uninsured and unli-censed daughter was driving the vehicle.

Judge Dewey Arthur sen-tenced Borden to three years in the custody of Mississippi Department of Corrections,



TONI BORDEN

with two years to serve on the Intensive Supervision Program followed by one year of supervised proba-tion. Borden must also pay the amount of \$21,131.85 to Safeco Insurance Company, as well as all related court costs. She must surrender her Law Enforcement Certi-fication.

This case was investigated by the Insurance Integrity Enforcement Bureau of the Mississippi Attorney Gen-eral's Office and prosecuted by Special Assistant Attorney General Brad Oberhausen.

Happy Anniversary

July 30 - Chuck and Nikki Edwards

July 31 - Paul and Kristy Hager

August 1 - Bubba, Jr. and Angela Spell

August 2 - Sammy and Diane Niven, Jeff and

Carrie Sims, Jeff and Mandy Burrell, Kirk and Mackenzie Douglas

August 3 - William and Pauline Tomlinson, Matt and Maegan Meeks

August 4 - Johnny and Mary Jane Allen

To add your birthdays and anniversaries to our list, please send your information by mail to P.O. Box 60, Lexington, MS 39095; fax 662-834-1074; email to hcherald@gmail.com; or stop by our office at 308 Court Square in Lexington. No phone calls, please.

Businesses and Services Directory

LEXINGTON HOME CENTER

662-834-9007



Affordable FUNERAL HOME OF DURANT

James and Veronica Smith, Owners

390 East Madison Street
Durant, Mississippi 39063
662-653-3770 / 662-653-3711 fax
www.affordablefuneralhomeofdurant.com



Jim Arnold Attorney at Law

• Chapter 7 Bankruptcy • \$545 plus costs

• Chapter 13 Bankruptcy • No upfront fee except filing fee

Attorney Fees through the Plan
OFFICES LOCATED AT:

333 EAST MULBERRY ST.
DURANT, MS 39063
662-653-6448

435 EAST BEACON ST.
PHILADELPHIA, MS 39350
601-656-6914

104 SOUTH LAFAYETTE ST.
STARKVILLE, MS 39759
662-324-1666



Close-out Prices on 2019 Models

FINANCING LOW AS

0%

UP TO 72 MONTHS ON SELECT MODELS

2020 MODELS NOW IN STOCK

REBATES AVAILABLE!

CHECK OUT OUR PRE-OWNED VEHICLES @

www.hammettmotorco.com

HAMMETT MOTOR CO.

INTERSECTION OF
HWY. 12 W & 51 N

662-653-3141
DURANT



SCOTT PETROLEUM CORPORATION

www.scottpetroleuminc.com



KENNY JOINER
Division Manager

309 Depot St.
Lexington, MS 39095

Office: 662-834-1089
Fax: 662-834-6082
Cell: 662-299-7461

Visit us in Tchula, Lexington, Durant, Pickens and Canton.

Need help getting approved for Long Term Care?

Let us guide you through the application process.

Durant Healthcare, LLC

MON. - FRI. 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. • 662-653-4106
15481 BOWLING GREEN ROAD • DURANT, MS