## Situational ethics of plant liberations

press permission?

slope this week, by admitting described

and wrong justifications, and methods, for er, liberating plants from other gardeners. Hear me out.

Not talking about outright Using stealing. sleight of hand to snag seeds from a botanic garden display, surrepti-

tiously digging wildflowers from roadsides, or blatantly snatching potted plants from front porches are illegal, period. Just last year a nefarious visitor to last year's state fair flower show filched a big chunk off one of my prize-winning but rare potted plants. That was just plain stealing, and I hope Santa

Most of the time those plants can be gotten from legal sources, or sometimes just for the asking, making this behavior, well, despicable. And too many times the stolen plants die, leaving a little hole in the fabric of the universe.

was watching.

But I'm confessing here that I once deliberately nicked a plant for the greater good, by appropriating a small cutting from a branch brought to my family's garden center to propagate.

It was the antique green rose, Rosa viridiflora, a stur-

Ever pocket a handful of dy small utterly disease-free seeds on the sly, without ex- shrub that flowers profusely from spring to late fall with Going down a slippery kinda small blossoms once as "engaging that I believe there are right monstrosities." The many

> narrow petals on each flower are green that later fade to coppery splashes; to me they look like green zinnias with spider mite damage. In addition to being real curiosities, the conversation-starters hold up well as fillers in

flower bouquets.

**FELDER** 

RUSHING

Anyway, a customer had brought several branchy stems to me to root for her, which is super easy to do from small cuttings taken in late fall or winter. In late fall I put fresh cuttings in plastic bags in the 'fridge until I can work up some good flowerbed dirt, then after making fresh cuts on the bottoms I shove them between pansies. By midspring they're well-rooted.

But the lady miffed me with a stern warning that, because the rose was "a very rare family heirloom," if I kept even a single cutting for myself she would sue my garden center for all it's worth.

Balderdash. Not that I want to demean the woman's integrity, but this antique rose isn't proprietary; it has been shared countless thousand times since being discovered in Japan nearly two hundred years ago; you can easily get



Purloined green rose - an engaging monstrosity.

it today through many mailorder rose nurseries.

So, before delivering a dozen or so rooted cuttings to the shrub's owner several months later, I of course embezzled one for myself. I went on to share cuttings from that one to I don't know how many gardeners over the years; who knows, the one now growing by my old bottle tree may have come roundabout from a cutting I fenced with horticulturist and nursery friends so long ago.

Call it situational ethics, but I justified this behavior as an opportunity to set free a selfish guardian's prisoner. My

taking it did no harm to the plant or diminish the original stock; in fact, it made the original plant bushier with more flowers later. And I shared the liberated creature far and wide.

Besides, the plant-hoarding lady has now passed on, which is sorta like an expired statute of limitations. Only you and I know about this now.

Still, I want to make atonement by planting green roses this fall in the historic Greenwood Cemetery, one block north of our state capitol in Jackson. You are welcome to come take all the cuttings you want. Please share my

AND AROUND EXINGTON BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

Napolean Young (deceased) tember 19. So keep the Haythe Young family uplifted uplifted in prayer. with prayer.

Scott gas company drivers, comes to the church, you passed recently. Keep Mr. still owe God your tithes and Tommy's family uplifted in offerings. Holmes County prayer. Mr. Tommy drove has a lot to be thankful for. around delivering gas for Plenty food boxes were many years. I don't think given and still being given anybody had any complaints away. Even masks and saniabout Mr. tommy deliver- tizer were given away. But ing gas. I imagine most gas Holmes County isn't thankcustomers thought he was an ful enough because a lot of A-1 driver. He will be truly the citizens will not wear a missed.

Bernice Mayfield Brown mandated by the governor. passed recently. She was funeralized Saturday, Septem- not mistaken, September 26 ber 12. Keep the Mayfield is National Day of Prayer. and Brown families uplifted Let us get in on the prayin prayer.

Folks appreciate Supervisor Hampton for the food availeth much." Let's treat box give away on Saturday, this National Day of Prayer September 12.

way department is paving the day of Pentecost. On that Highway 17 north. Goodbye pot holes.

Vera Harmon has a sick their own language.

Felder Rushing is a Missis-

host of the "Gestalt Garden-

guilt with others.

Willie James Young, a na- brother that she takes care of. tive of Tchula, passed recent- His son was in an accident a ly. When he passed he was while back. As a result of the living in Natchez, Missis- accident he passed and was sippi. He was the brother of funeralized Saturday, Sepwho lived in Tchula. Keep mon and Harmon families

To the people that want Mr. Tommy, one of the to do what is right; when it mask, even though they are

Watch the news; If I'm ing. According to the Bible "the prayer of the righteous as if it is an international Praise the Lord the high- day of prayer. Let it be like day everyone present heard the speaker, Apostle Peter, in

er" on MPB Think Radio. Email gardening questions sippi author, columnist, and to rushingfelder@yahoo.

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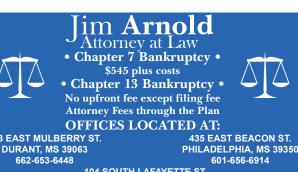
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