FELDER

Moving forward into a brighter New Year

year? This is my 40th annual year-end summary, which I customarily admit some of my failures and foibles - of which there are plenty and offer hopes for a better next year.

RUSHING

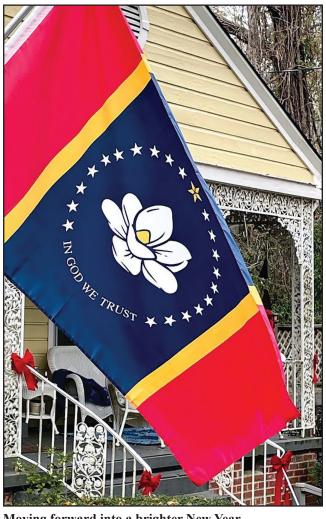
Wasn't all bad, of course. I certainly can't our beautiful state flower! eleven months apart from than actual gardener. my sweetheart who's been In my eagerness I set out

The adage that "hindsight a grandfather for the first is 2020" is usually pretty time - welcome, little Alapropos; but, looking back, ice Jeanne, a 12th generahow about changing it to tion American Rushing! I "let's put 2020 in hindsight" rescued and rehabbed some and say g'bye to a weird baby possums, and, after

years of serious lobbying, managed to get the approving attention of the flag commission members who thoughtfully winnowed thousands of wonderful proposals to finally select a proud new pennant that includes

complain, what with so On the garden side, after many frustrated and hurt- over a decade of planting ing people suffering ter- summer gardens and then rible pains and losses. All abandoning them to months I lost, other than a dearly of traveling overseas, 2020 loved horticulture and travel provided a perfect opportufriend who passed away last nity to try my hand at actumonth, was a few dozen can- ally maintaining summer celled lectures around the and fall plantings. Some of country, along with all the it worked, some not so well, international flower shows a stark reminder that I'm a that I usually report on. And better horticultural expert

cooped up in our home in way too many flower and burgundy okra, produced sive sweet potato vines with vegetable plants which, On the upside, I became other than jalapenos and



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poorly. Too much fertil- nothing but skinny little orizer, judging from the mas- ange strings underground.

passable fried green tomatoes before the bugs and include building a new blights and squirrels got the raised bed, reconfiguring my rest. And I harvested some compost pile, adding a triandecent birdhouse gourds.

seed simply scatted atop fashioned an above-ground bare dirt, were magnificent water garden from a galvaall summer and fall; I cov- nized horse water trough, ered them a couple of cold made a concrete bird bath, nights last month to get an- designed a corner English other few weeks of big cut cottage garden, made Christflowers for my little cabin.

planted this fall got devas- mine through a year or two. And dashed hopes.

stand the problems and why Out in a couple of months. gardens for the very first year. time this year the learning own neighborhood, offer- Radio. Email gardening ing advice and hoping they questions to rushingfelder@ didn't notice my own miser- yahoo.com.

I managed to make some able lack of results.

A few accomplishments gular porch to my cabin with The giant zinnias, from a three-level bird condo, mas decorations from garden The cabbage, broccoli, materials, and put up enough kale, and other cole crops I fig preserves to get me and

tated twice by night raiding Oh, and wrapped up Mavrodents, costing me not just erick Gardeners, my latest the money for the plants, but book, about the outlier DIthe time it would take to get Grs (Determined Indepenmore planted before winter. dent Gardeners) with whom I've had the pleasures of Luckily for me, I under- meeting and sharing plants.

I couldn't or wouldn't do So...my garden and I much about them; but for the survived an abysmal year. countless newbies around Buh-bye, 2020, no love lost! the state who set out little Here's hoping for better next

Felder Rushing is a Miscurve was steep. I stopped sissippi author, columnist, on my walks to chat with and host of the "Gestalt many of the dozens in my Gardener" on MPB Think





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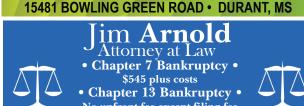


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