HOLMES COUNTY HERALD - THURSDAY, JANUARY

## Bird feeders offer serene scene and activity for kids

Last week I stepped off more like Oscar Wilde's the never-ending Mö-sinister The Picture of bius strip I call garden Dorian Gray, in which seasons to give a gaggle a portrait ages while its of neighborhood kids a hedonistic subject does little Nature perspective. not. My garden drifts

know You what a Möbius strip is, pop artist M.C. Escher's twistdrawing of large ants crawling forever around what at first glance looks like a simple figure eight. It's also



**FELDER** RUSHING

on belts in car engines. vorite ways to break out Anyway, I see my gar- of the routine, both to den like that, as it ad- enjoy the here and now vances from its current while moving things forpaperwhites and camel- ward, is by sharing little

lias through forsythia, observations and actividogwoods, and azaleas, ties with kids. I have a to summer roses and gar- ton of easy garden-redenias, and then mums, lated activities for kids fiery maple leaves, and ranging from barely able sasanquas back to paper- to focus to sullen teenagwhites. Throw in weather ers, and have put together identifying wild birds, foil and filled with sun-cialty blends, to kinds Felder Rushing is a Misextremes and it's a rol- a free illustrated PDF for and making them stick flower seed; just put it on that squirrels reportedly sissippi author, columnist, licking ride I can't seem anyone who emails for it. with it responsibly as a the ground and watch the won't touch (FYI, red and host of the "Gestalt

seemingly nonstop.

and matures

through the seasons, growing ever-weedier and tumultuous, wallowing entropy, while I cavort in perpetually pristine new growth of botanic gardens always kept in their prime.

used to reduce the wear Anyway, one of my fa-

to fall off, in spite of it This time of year, easi- daily chore. going around and around est way to pry kids for a minute or two from their for young children is flat platform feeders two). But for a couple ing questions to rushing-



Easy bird feeder

Truth is, gardens can be hand-held devices is to disposable, a shoebox with raised edges to keep of decades now I've just felder@yahoo.com.

get them into feeding and top lined with aluminum esting mixes and spe- the neighborhood are for. wild birds come flock- pepper powder only de- Gardener" on MPB Think My go-to bird feeder ing. We've also made ter them for a minute or Radio. Email garden-

seed from blowing off, used "black oil" sunflowand have nailed big plas- er seed bought by the tic pot saucers on posts, 50-pound sack. with drilled rainwater The cheap stuff may drainage holes. Stick have a few broken piecbare branches here and es, sometimes even a few there for perches, and the grain weevils, but it's birds will come flocking, okay because big birds, especially with a shallow from bluejays to redbirds sky- reflective bird bath and lumbering doves.

to attract and enjoy the sparrows, color, motion, and drama finches, and chickadees. of wild birds. That, and I've even seen towhees a big window, and some and woodpeckers, which way to keep the neigh- normally don't come to borhood cats from turn- feeders, come calling. ing a serene scene into a My now-grown chilfeeding frenzy. Oh, and dren were raised out in an appreciation of squir- the yard, which got me rels, which are wildlife, out there, too; my new too, especially to kids granddaughter will unwho don't have to shoul- doubtedly grow up there der the cost of feeding as well. Meanwhile, with expensive bird seed to parental permission I'm

about this and that kind ture fold. of bird feed, from inter- That's what old guys in

And there's also plenty That's about all it takes of action from smaller titmouses.

snagging neighborhood I've heard and read all kids to bring into the Na-





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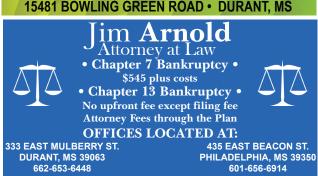
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