



Green is Green

By Nancy Lottridge Anderson

I've been chasing armadillos—those prehistoric looking creatures with long noses, hard shells, and clawed toes. In my youth, this was our favorite activity while visiting our country cousins. Spot one, jump from the truck, and race after them through the dusty, gravel roads. Did you know they jump when startled? Like, straight up in the air.

They're fast, and I'm not as quick as I used to be, but righteous indignation fuels me. They're tearing up my garden! These days, my gardening takes place mostly in the mountains of North Carolina, and armadillos don't belong here. When my New York neighbors first saw them, they were terrified having no idea what species this was. Now I'm just looking for someone who can rid me of this meddlesome beast!

This garden has become my sacred spot. I've loved digging in the dirt and watching green shoots come up as my vision came to life. Mountain gardening is very different from my Mississippi roots, but green is green. I've been tending this garden for the past few years as we gradually extended our time in the mountains to escape the southern heat. In 2020 when COVID hit, we closed the office and I stayed in North Carolina manning the office remotely. The change in how we work has been profound. Remote work has become the norm, and I admit to liking juggling financial questions while doing laundry and preparing the evening meal. That flexibility has allowed me to shift responsibilities to Ryder.

My garden is growing, and so is New Perspectives. I will be making regular rounds to our Mississippi office, but most of my time will be spent roaming the country while our very able staff handles the day-to-day details. My role these days is to mentor those advisors coming after me. Ryder joined me 13 years ago and has proved up to the challenge. He shares my values and philosophy and my love of learning. He is taking the lead with his own vision and youthful energy and building a top-notch team to carry on our tradition. And I'm having a grand time watching these young people catch fire and grow. Green is green.

You still have my presence and insight, but it may be on a tighter schedule. Don't hesitate to ask for me! I still enjoy the challenge of financial planning, but I may be answering your call while I'm on a hiking trail... or chasing an armadillo. I'm told they're edible. Know any good armadillo recipes?

**"Don't wear perfume in the garden unless you want to be pollinated by bees."
—Anne Raver**