

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Jaci Micke

Class of 2015

Gardening

How old were you when you started gardening? I'm thinking about my mid 20s.

How did you get interested in gardening and what do you like best about it? I remember loving all the flowers in my grandmothers' yards so I think that is where I get the passion from and who doesn't love all the colors?

Who taught you how to garden? Pretty much a lot of trial and error (sometimes more error).

What was the first thing you ever planted? hostas

What is the strangest thing you ever planted in your garden? A volunteer puff mushroom, loved it.



What is your favorite plant, shrub or flower and why? That is a hard one...the peonys with that fragrant bloom.

What is your strongest motivator to get out and garden? Just to see the progress of each plant emerging from the ground to watching the flowers bloom.

What is your favorite gardening store and why? I don't really have a favorite I like to visit them all.

What are your favorite gardening tools and why? The garden trowel (use it a lot) the pruners well be-



cause there is always something to trim or cut and I just ordered myself a Hori Hori knife. I'm pretty excited about this.

Do you use garden structures or art? I have many garden structures and art from a pergola, signs, glass balls, lightning rods and a small pond with a waterfall.

What is your method of keeping pests out of your garden? Well I must say that I am lucky that I don't have a critter problem thanks to my three barn cats and as for bugs, I use insecticidal soap if needed.

What is your favorite gardening activity? The perennials are my favorite.

What is your favorite master gardener volunteer opportunity? I love working the plant sale from the potting to helping the customers at the sale.

What's the most challenging gardening project you have worked on? Placing hundreds of yards of rock around our home, but worth it in the end.

Is there any part of gardening that frustrates you and why? The weeds of course.

What and where was the coolest garden you ever visited? The gardens at the Walt Disney parks, amazing.

Personal

Do you have any hidden talents? Or what would be two things that your peers would say you do extremely well? I do like creating garden art or points of interest in the yard. I do keep my husband busy.

What do you consider to be your greatest achievement? Turning my yard into many garden beds and building our own pond.

Tell us about your significant other? Kids?

Pets? Between my husband Kelly and I we have four children and three granddaughters. Also living with us are our two dogs and one housecat along with the three barn cats.

Does your family garden with you? We have the grandkids come out and help plant an acre of pumpkins then of course to come help pick them which they love because they get to find the biggest one and get four wheeler rides. We usually end up with a couple of hundred pumpkins that we share with family, friends and neighbors.



General

What do you like to do in your free time- besides gardening? We try to get out and get some camping in as well as hit the four wheeler trails from spring through fall.

What is the best vacation you've ever taken? We've been to so many places here in the states from Key West to Wyoming, I couldn't even choose a favorite. I think I could be a professional vacationer.

Why do you like living in this area? Well, I do like the four seasons we get to experience, but you really don't need to look very hard to find something to do. There is always some sort of festival or activities going on year round.