



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article July 16, 2018

Courtesy photo. Pictured, from left: Peter Cole, Janelle Cole, Peg Martinez, Jacob Cole

### Meet the Masters: Three Generations

by Lydia Holley

Peg Martinez is a proud mother and grandmother. She is also a Master Gardener. What makes her unique is that her daughter and two grandsons are also Master Gardeners. She is passing down the love of gardening just as it was passed down to her by her own mother. "My mother always had tons of beautiful flowers as well as vegetables," Peg notes. Peg's garden is full of herbs, wildflowers and native plants. "I enjoy sitting on my patio either in my front yard or my back yard with a glass of wine in the evenings, or a cup of coffee in the mornings, admiring the beauty and watching the pollinators enjoy the flowers."



The garden of Peg's daughter, Janelle Cole, is also filled with pollinators. In fact, the garden was designed to attract them. "We decided to get rid of a front yard of grass and fill it with plants for pollinators. This is the third year for this garden and it is just exploding. We also have a smaller butterfly garden in the back of our house and a few vegetable gardens. In the past we did not have a lot of flowers, but now that we have honey bees we have lots of flowering plants all over our property. It is so much fun to watch the butterflies all around the front yard or even to see plants the bees love so much that they buzz."

Janelle became a Master Gardener because "I love continuing to learn - about new plants, new techniques or just new ideas. The group is a great group of people that I really enjoy being around. They encourage each other and work together very well. I have enjoyed being in this organization and am very thankful for all that it has done for me and to encourage my boys."

Janelle's sons are Master Gardeners Peter Cole and Jacob Cole. Peter's love of gardening can be traced back to his time with 4-H, where he chose gardening and horticulture as his main project. Peter finds that gardening can be a topic people can discuss no matter where they live. "I just got back from Africa and I loved seeing plants over there that I know and that we have in our garden here," he says.

Peter took the Master Gardener class in 2015, and Jacob enrolled the following year. Two of the youngest members of Henderson County Master Gardener Association (HCMGA), they find gardening is a hobby for all ages. "I love getting to hang out and work with so many awesome people. As a teenager, it has been great for me to work with some highly successful adults," Jacob states. Both Peter and Jacob are excellent speakers and enjoy giving presentations.

The love of learning is echoed throughout these three generations of gardeners. Peter enjoys "learning about plants and being able to apply my knowledge." Jacob appreciates "getting to learn more about plants." Janelle loves "going to workshops and talks so I can learn more in certain areas." Peg values "understanding how to help my plants be happy and healthy." Her favorite HCMGA program is "the Library Series because we have new speakers every month on different subjects - and it's educational and free."

It is not hard to imagine the love of gardening, and learning, will continue to be passed down in this family for many generations to come.

*For more information about how you can become a Master Gardener, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [txmg.org/hendersonmg](http://txmg.org/hendersonmg).*