



Biography

Monica Milla has been a serious (*some might say addicted!*) gardener for nearly two decades. She is an advanced master gardener and master composter who enjoys sharing her knowledge and getting people excited about gardening. She has spoken to various gardening groups and community organizations and at the 2005 International Master Gardener Conference in Canada and the 2006 Michigan Master Gardener Conference in Lansing. She teaches adult enrichment gardening classes through Washtenaw Community College and Hidden Lake Gardens.

Monica has worked in communications for twenty years, primarily in technical and marketing communications for high-tech companies. She enjoys researching and writing about a variety of topics, and is the author of *Fun with Winter Seed Sowing: A Hands-On Practical Guide* and *Full Bloom*, an MLive blog. Her work has also been published in *The Ann Arbor News*, *Michigan Living*, *The Washtenaw Gardener*, *Matthaei Botanical Gardens' Friends* and *The Dirt*, and various academic publications. She holds a bachelor's degree in public relations, a master's degree in written communications, and a certificate in web technology.

Monica is and has been involved in a number of gardening projects in the community. In 2003, she created a garden for older cats living in a cat retirement community at For The Love of Cats in Lodi Township. She researched the plants, and designed, planted, and maintains the garden. It was one of a kind in Michigan, and perhaps the entire country.

In 2005, Monica became involved with the Cobblestone Farm historic property in southeast Ann Arbor. She researched and planted a fountain garden with plants that would likely have been grown in Michigan in the 1860s.

Monica is a long-time Washtenaw County Conservation District plant sale volunteer, and participates in the annual frog and toad survey through Ann Arbor Parks' Natural Areas Preservation.

In previous years, Monica has worked as a gardener for private clients, been the steward of the native plant demonstration garden at Leslie Science Center, and served as webmaster and publicity chair for the Good Thyme Garden Club. She has served on Matthaei Botanical Gardens and Nichols Arboretum's Editorial Advisory Board and its Volunteer Committee. She once won a Green Thumb residential award from the Saline Parks & Beautification Commission.