

**Educational Speaker Biographies**  
**Wednesday, September 11, 2024**

**11:00 am**



Nationally known gardening expert, TV/radio host, author & columnist **Melinda Myers** has over 30 years of horticulture experience and has written more than 20 gardening books, including *Small Space Gardening*, *Midwest Gardener's Handbook, 2nd Edition*, *The Garden Book for Wisconsin*, and *Jackson and Perkins' Beautiful Roses Made Easy*. Melinda hosts the nationally syndicated "Melinda's Garden Moment" TV and radio program and The Great Courses "How to Grow Anything" DVD and instant video series. She is a columnist and contributing editor for *Birds & Blooms* magazine, writes a regular column for *The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, and has a nationally distributed newspaper and magazine column. She appears regularly as a guest expert on national and local television and radio shows. Before her current media work, Melinda hosted "**The Plant Doctor**" radio show on **WTMJ radio** for over 20 years and seven seasons of "**Great Lakes Gardener**" on **PBS**. She was the host of "**Yardworks**," a nationally syndicated yard and garden show where she interviewed celebrities right in their own

backyards. She was a contributing editor and columnist for **Backyard Living** magazine, a columnist for **Chicagoland Gardening** and **Wisconsin Gardening**, and has written articles for **Better Homes and Gardens** and **Fine Gardening**.

**Topic of talk: Adding Native Plants to Your Landscape to Help Protect Our Water**

Incorporating native plants into your landscape whether on a small city lot or much larger space is one way we can help protect our water. Native plants are deeply rooted, helping to capture, clean, and channel rainfall to groundwater, reducing storm sewer overflows, basement backups, and pollutants entering our waterways. Native plants also support our pollinators, other beneficial insects, and birds adding enjoyment and essential functions to our gardens and communities. Melinda Myers will help you select the right native plants for your landscape and gardening goals.

Sponsored by *MMSD* and *Milorganite*





1:00 pm



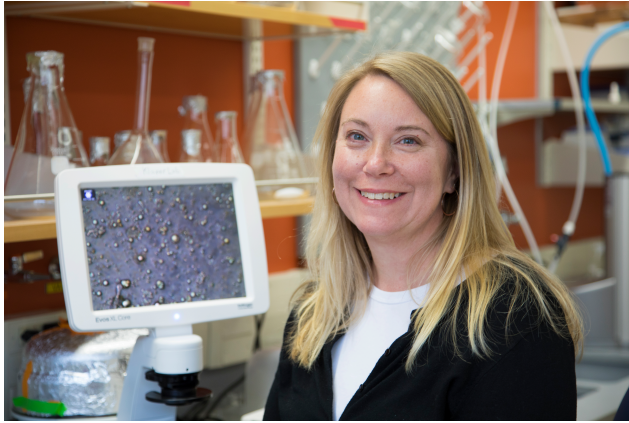
**Jennifer Breceda**, Milwaukee Riverkeeper, attended Marquette University graduating in 1993. After working in health care research related positions in Chicago and Portland, Oregon, Ms. Bolger Breceda returned to Milwaukee and received her law degree in 2000 from Marquette University's Law School. She spent 15 years practicing environmental law at several firms in Milwaukee before leaving private practice to become Executive Director of Milwaukee Riverkeeper.

For the past 8 years, Bolger Breceda has served as a "chief executive officer," including chief ambassador, fundraiser, and leader of this science-based environmental advocacy organization. She has grown the Board of Directors from a reporting entity to a strategic think-tank and believes strongly that working collaboratively with local, state, regional and national partners in advancement of mission is critical to its success. During her tenure, Milwaukee Riverkeeper's annual budget and staff have tripled, all while meeting financial and organizational goals.

Additionally, Ms. Bolger Breceda has coordinated a generational opportunity to remove legacy contamination in Milwaukee area waterways called the Area of Concern. She also led a statewide and regional coalition focused on ensuring that the implementation of the Great Lakes Compact is in keeping with sound management principles, conservation mandates, public engagement, best available science and the spirit and intent of the law. A strategic thinker, she worked tirelessly toward the successful removal of the Estabrook Dam, not only saving taxpayer dollars, but also improving an important area of the Milwaukee River.

Topic of Talk: Bolger Breceda's expertise in environmental law has brought her before many governmental agencies to speak on a variety of environmental and water related matters. She has been active in environmental, charitable and service organizations and has always strived to be an advocate for the environment. Bolger Breceda wants to see Milwaukee thrive and truly become a water centric and healthy community.

2:30 pm



**Rebecca D. Klaper** is a Professor and Dean of the School of Freshwater Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Dean Klaper studies the potential impact of emerging contaminants, such as nanoparticles and pharmaceuticals on aquatic life and how we may design these chemicals to have the least environmental impact. Her research links the impact of these chemicals on the health of aquatic species to that of human health. She uses

genomic technologies to determine how these chemical stressors may impact organisms and how the biochemical response may dictate sensitivity or resistance to stressors. Prof. Klaper received her Ph.D. in Ecology from the Institute of Ecology, University of Georgia.

Topic of talk: Our important freshwater resources from the magnificent Great Lakes to other local water resources: what are the threats from contaminants to invasive species to overuse.