

One of my favorite quotes is from Monte Don, the famous English garden guru;
“A garden is not a place, it is a journey”.

When we moved into this home 30 years ago, the yard was a typical suburban yard with neat green lawns in the front and back. There were several nice large evergreen trees, as well as some overgrown shrubs, but not a single flowerbed. The yard was a very functional area for our three children and large dog to play in, but it lacked color and charm.

My Mom, grandmothers and great grandmothers all had gardens with all sorts of bulbs and flowering plants to enjoy all Spring and Summer. My Dad and Grandpa were the vegetable growers. My mother-in-law was also an avid gardener who was doing xeriscape before most people even knew what it was. She just called it her “rock garden”, and it was amazing! My gardening style reflects a combination of the lovely gardens I knew as a child and the use of xeriscape to conserve water.

My garden has truly been a 30 year journey of learning how to create and build rock walls, a waterfall with a goldfish pond, flagstone pathways, and dry riverbeds. My current journey is to create more spaces specifically for pollinators and birds. Most of the plants I have used for decades are bulbs and perennials, so that I have some sort of flowers blooming from early Spring until Fall. Many of the plants I love are also especially attractive to bees and butterflies. I’m learning more about beneficial insects and what they need to survive our harsh winters. My gardening style may appear a bit wild to some, but it turns out that by not being too tidy I am providing a habitat for all sorts of insects and small animals. Our favorite place is sitting by the pond to watch the birds and insects before the sun sets in the evening, or to have a cup of coffee and listen to the birds greeting each other.

Monty Don is right, good gardens are never really finished...here’s to continuing the journey!