Rain Garden Renovation
From Mud to Magic

Anne White Harrington
Ann Arbor West Side
February 2013
The Problem
• 1998+ clay backyard collected runoff from neighborhood, standing water for weeks
• 2006 original rain garden dug too deep, compounded problem
• 2009 soil amendment failed to help
• 2011 endless rain

2012 Rain Garden Class and Plan
The Plants

Back and Sides  5-20’
- Curly Yellow Willow
- Red Twig Dogwood
- Dappled Japanese Willow

Mid-range  4-6’
- Blue Muffin Viburnum
- Wild Iris: yellow and blue flag
- Siberian Iris, Marsh Marigold

Transition Area  6”-4’
- Ferns: Ostrich, Maidenhair
- Astilbe, Hosta, Lungwort

The Process
- Relocated yard dirt
- Dumped bags of mushroom compost
- Planted and prayed
- Topped with bags of hardwood mulch
February 2012 Mud

January 2013 Magic!
Presentation Suggestions

1. Create your “story”
   - The problem
   - The plan with the plants
2. Keep it short and simple
3. Include photos or drawings
4. Practice for timing
5. Focus on the audience
6. Relax and enjoy the feedback