Natural solutions to constructed tribulations.
Conventional storm water detention basins are great tools for improving and infiltrating storm water, however most fall short. Turf lined shores, and riprap reinforcement provide very little function in any of these situations. The shallow roots of the lawn grasses do little to hold soil in place, while potentially adding pollution to the water with fertilizers and sediments. Riprap might temporarily stabilize the shore, but often times it is installed incorrectly and can be very unsightly.

Realize the complexity of Nature.
Naturalized detention basins are attractive landscapes with an immense diversity of native plants that bloom all through the growing season and can even be designed to add fall and winter interest with native shrubs and trees. These natives are not only beautiful, but they fill a technical function. The deep roots of the native plants help stabilize the soil, and even help infiltrate water deeper into the ground before it enters the pond. With the addition of these plants, treatment of open water ponds can be expected to be reduced as well since many of these plants will absorb a huge amount of nutrient and pollutants within the water directed through them. Additionally, those that have embraced naturalized detention have seen an abundance of butterflies and song birds that call these plants home.

“When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the universe.”
—John Muir