SITE PREPARATION:
• Remove current (unwanted) plant community – eradicating non-natives and invasives prior to planting
  o Manual removal (hand weeding, layered cardboard/paper/mulch)
  o Research chemicals, read the label, evaluate license requirements (typically not needed for your own property), proper application, safety
  o Chemical removal – See State Botanical Garden of Georgia Invasive Management Guide (available online) for more information
• Selection of proper planting medium (avoid compost, chemical fertilizer; use composted pine bark, pine bark mulch)
• Planting in Spring and Fall is ideal

PLANT SELECTION:
• Appropriate plants for your area (physiographic region > gardening “zone”, e.g. Piedmont vs. Coastal)
• Understand your site’s characteristics (sun, soil, drainage)
• Planting for biodiversity – diverse plant communities and diversity amongst plant structures allow for more diverse wildlife assemblages
• Identifying reliable native growers – see State Botanical Garden and/or Georgia Native Plant Society websites for nursery lists

HABITAT CREATION BEST PRACTICES

HELPING WILDLIFE IN YOUR BACKYARD

- Manage non-native/invasive plant growth
- Nest boxes
- Bird Feeders
- Support native insects
- Water features
- No outdoor cats