Learning Objectives:

- What determines a well-grown container plant: liner quality and root structure, potting medium, fertilizer and pesticide regimen, canopy or structure formation, production cycle or longevity of time in the container.
- Research through use of display gardens in determining the value of new cultivars. Examples of display beds include bio swales, xeric locations, shade areas and native perennial and woody beds. Are the new cultivars potential improvements or flops?
- Experimentation with groups of genera and species to determine what can solve specific site problems: deer resistance, compacted soils, shade sites, dry or wet conditions, drainage and water filtering plants, road salt.
- Plant options for sustainable landscapes which combine habitat and food for native animals with aesthetic rewards: i.e., landscape-worthy natives that can handle our changed conditions, while providing significant benefits for wildlife and visual appeal.

Expected Outcomes which attendees should take back with them:

- Knowledge of what containerized plant material can do successfully and effectively when installed in landscapes. Some issues to be covered would be adaptability to site conditions, success and speed of post-transplant growth, and the minimizing of post-transplant maintenance needed.
- Information about what new work is going on in cultivar selections and breeding. Areas in which problem issues are being addressed through plant breeding (sterility bred into potentially invasive but valuable plants, size and shape selections in cultivars, transpiration rate and filtration effectiveness of selections for water run-off problem areas, planting densities for optimal weed control.)
- Information about the relationships between plants and difficult sites – which plants are already adapted naturally to handle issues such as soil conditions, light issues, site challenges, hardiness issues, deer damage, etc. Information provided by the study of plant ecosystems including wetlands, flood plains, upland soil profiles.
- A better grasp of the interactions of sustainability, wildlife support, storm water management, pest damage reduction and increased aesthetic appeal, all enhanced by appropriate plant selection.