



GARDEN-WORTHY NATIVE PLANTS

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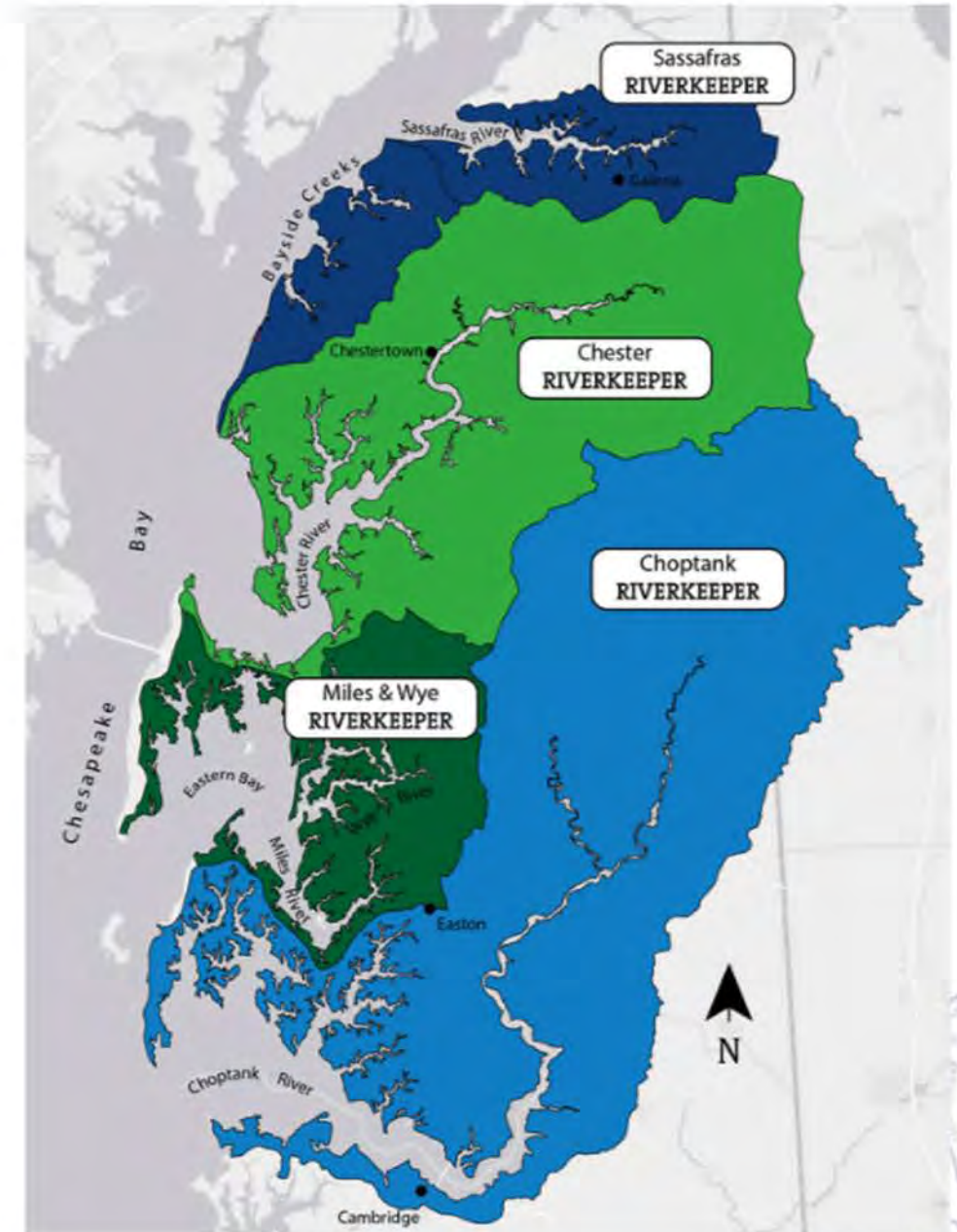


MISSION



SHORE RIVERS

ShoreRivers protects
Maryland's Eastern Shore
waterways through
science-based
advocacy, restoration,
education and engagement



THANK YOU SHORERIVERS STAFF!

AGRICULTURE AND RESTORATION - EDUCATION - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
RIVERKEEPERS DEVELOPMENT - FINANCE AND OPERATIONS





We don't still dress like this

So why do our
yards still look
like this?

Outdated landscaping practices are a major threat to the health of our local waterways. Find out how to make your yard River-Friendly at ShoreRivers.org/River-Friendly-Yards



- **Grass farmers: 1.3 million acres** of turf in Maryland.
 - Residents spend nearly **\$5 billion dollars a year** on turf lawns.
 - **86 million lbs** of nitrogen lawn fertilizer: 44% of the state's total fertilizer is sold for lawns.
 - **Lawn fertilizer elimination** could meet up to 98% of each county's nitrogen-reduction goals.
- 

WHAT IS A NATIVE PLANT?

01

one that occurs naturally in a particular region, ecosystem and habitat without direct or indirect human actions

co-evolved with the insects, animals and other plants in the ecosystem

02

03

requires less care because it adapted over millennia to regional growing conditions

WHY ARE NATIVE PLANTS IMPORTANT?



Essential
habitat for
birds and
pollinators

Improved water
quality

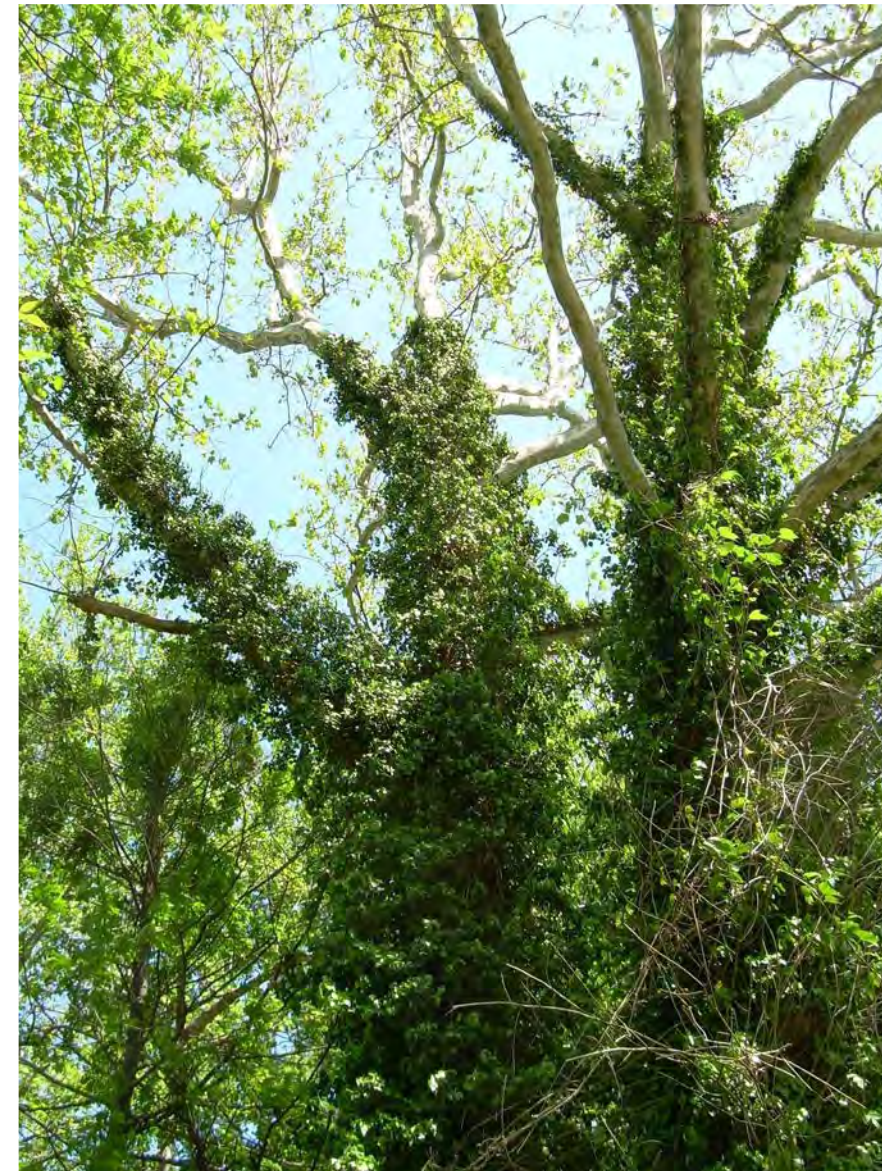
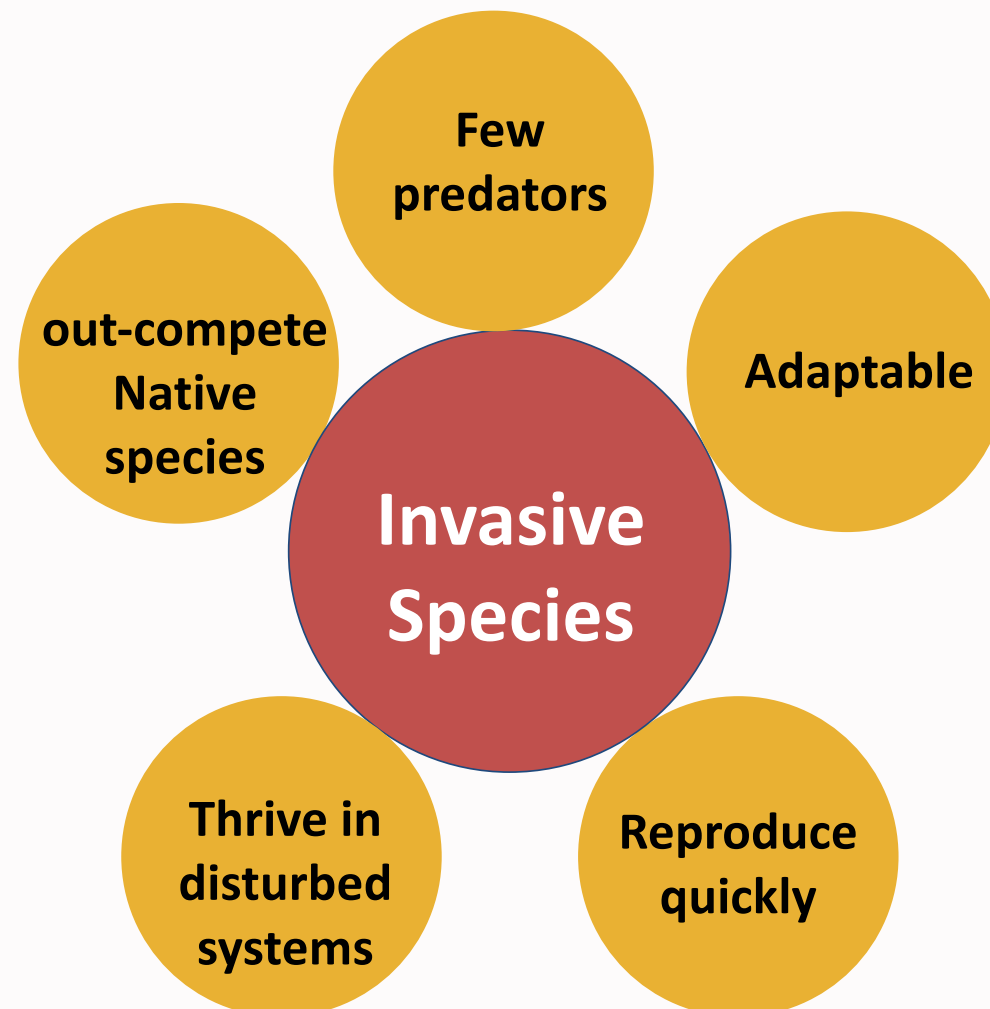
Placemaking &
mental health

Hope in action

PAST ➡ FUTURE

WHAT IS AN INVASIVE PLANT?

a plant growing outside of its native range, which spreads aggressively, out-competing and displacing native plant species, disrupting eco-systems and often resulting in a mono-culture



WHY REMOVE INVASIVE PLANTS?

01



They spread aggressively, crowding out native plants

human

Many vines bring trees down



02

03

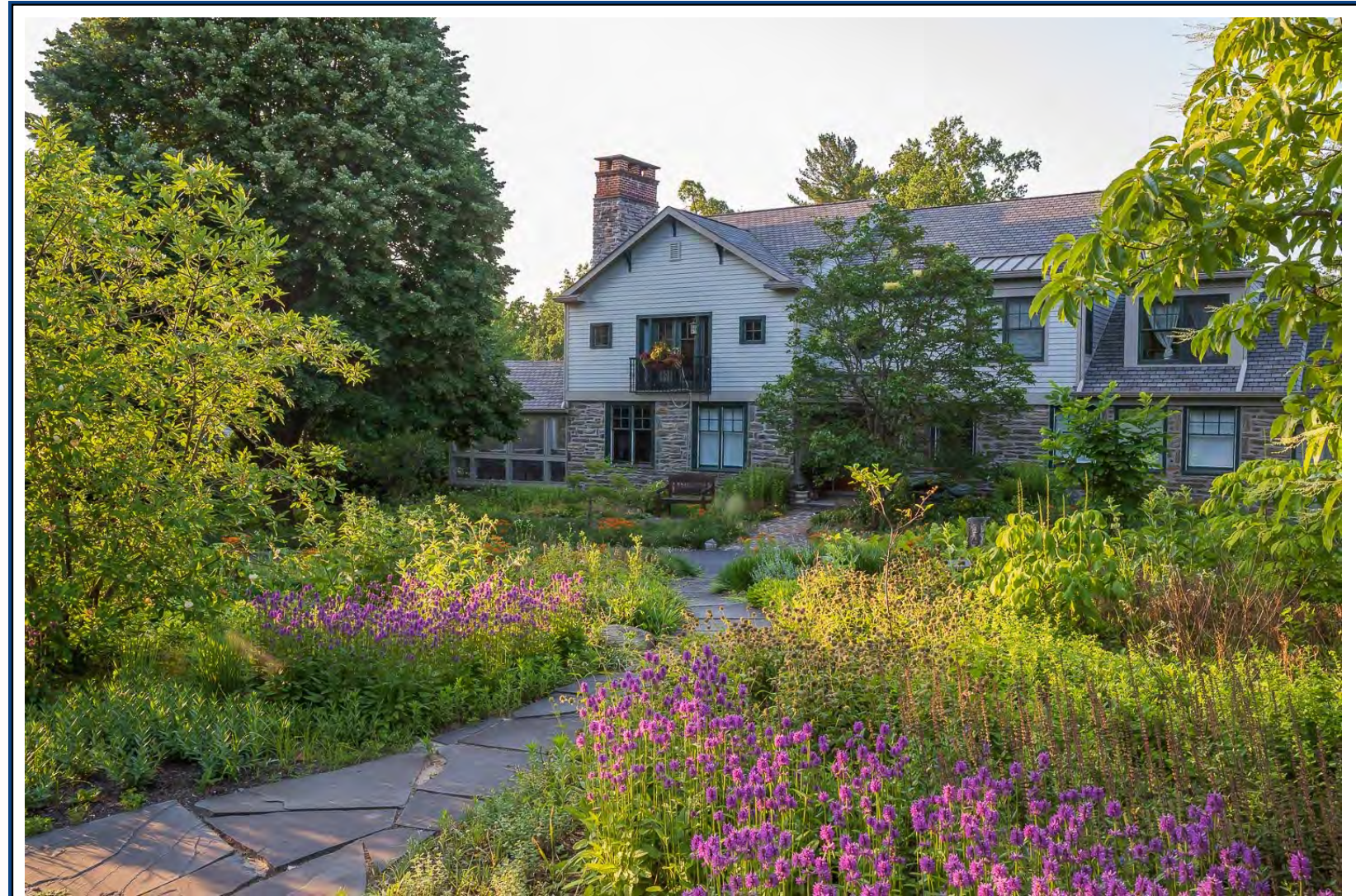


Native birds, insects and other animals aren't evolved to eat them



WHAT SHOULD I PLANT?

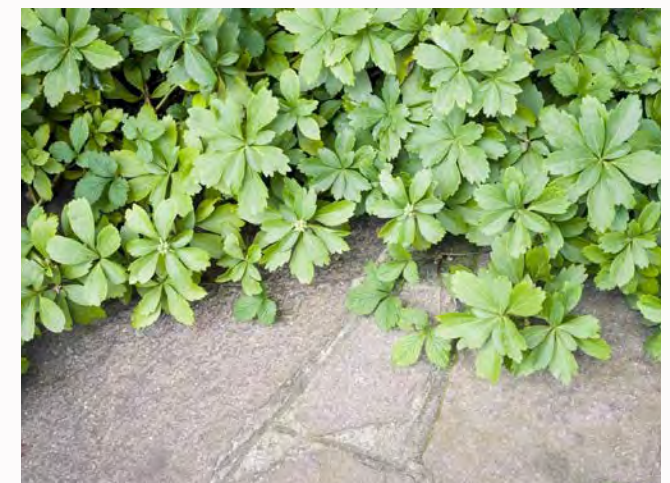
- 01 Groundcovers
- 02 Fall Color
- 03 Ornamental Grasses
- 04 Winter Interest
- 05 Hedging/privacy
- 06 Four Seasons of Interest



GROUNDCOVERS

DON'T PLANT:

- ✗ English Ivy
- ✗ Vinca (periwinkle)
- ✗ Liriope
- ✗ Euonymus (wintercreeper)
- ✗ Pachysandra



GROUNDCOVERS

DO PLANT: *Packera aurea* (golden groundsel)

- ✓ Yellow Flowers in early spring
- ✓ Evergreen foliage
- ✓ Sun to shade
- ✓ Average, medium, moist sites
- ✓ Deer resistant



GROUNDCOVERS

DO PLANT: *Asarum canadense* (wild ginger)

- ✓ Larval host for the pipeline swallowtail butterfly
- ✓ Part to full shade
- ✓ Moist to wet soils
- ✓ Creates a dense groundcover
- ✓ Deer resistant



GROUNDCOVERS

DO PLANT: native *Carex* (sedges)

- ✓ Great substitute for liriope
- ✓ Sun to shade
- ✓ Dry to moist
- ✓ Dense roots
- ✓ Food for birds/insects



GROUNDCOVERS

DO PLANT: *Tradescantia virginiana* (spiderwort)

- ✓ Showy blue-violet blooms
- ✓ Sun, part-shade, shade
- ✓ Dry-moist soils, very adaptable
- ✓ Tolerant of black walnut
- ✓ Nectar for bees and butterflies
- ✓ Of special value for native bumble bees



GROUNDCOVERS

DO PLANT: *Matteuccia struthiopteris* (ostrich fern)

- ✓ Part sun – full shade (full sun with sufficient moisture)
- ✓ Rich soil with consistent moisture
- ✓ Underground rhizomes form dense colonies
- ✓ Deer resistant
- ✓ Provide hiding places for waterthrushes, wood thrushes, robins and wrens; protection for wood frogs, green frogs, tree frogs and toads



GROUNDCOVERS

DO PLANT: *Onoclea sensibilis* (sensitive fern)

- ✓ Part – full shade
- ✓ Loose, acidic, moist to wet soils
- ✓ Shelters salamanders and frogs
- ✓ Deer resistant



GROUNDCOVERS

DO PLANT: *Rhus aromatica* 'Gro-low' (Fragrant Sumac)

- ✓ Full sun to part shade
- ✓ Dry to medium, well-drained soils
- ✓ Tolerates rabbits, drought, clay, poor soils
- ✓ Birds relish the berries
- ✓ Nectar source for adult butterflies
- ✓ Suckering roots are great for erosion control



FALL COLOR

DON'T PLANT:

- ❌ *Euonymus alatus* (burning bush)
- ❌ *Berberis thunbergia* (Japanese barberry)



FALL COLOR

DO PLANT: *Fothergilla spp* (Witch Alder)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Average to moist acidic soils
- ✓ Fragrant white flowers in spring
- ✓ Nectar source for butterflies and bees
- ✓ Stunning fall color
- ✓ Clean, bold textured foliage



FALL COLOR

DO PLANT: *Itea virginica* (Virginia Sweetspire)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Moist to wet acidic soils
- ✓ Fragrant white flowers in spring
- ✓ Nectar source for butterflies and bees
- ✓ Stunning fall color
- ✓ 3-6' (several cultivars)



FALL COLOR

DO PLANT: *Aronia arbutifolia* (Red Chokeberry)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Moist to wet acidic soils
- ✓ Fragrant white flowers in April
- ✓ Nectar source for butterflies and bees
- ✓ Stunning fall color
- ✓ Bright red fruit is eaten by birds in late winter



FALL COLOR

DO PLANT: *Viburnum nudum* (Possumhaw)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Average, moist to wet soils – very adaptable
- ✓ Fragrant white flowers in spring
- ✓ Nectar source for butterflies and bees
- ✓ Stunning fall color
- ✓ Birds and small mammals love the fruits
- ✓ 5-12' (several cultivars)



GRASSES

DON'T PLANT:

- ✗ *Miscanthus sinensis* (Silver grass)
- ✗ *Pennisetum* ssp. (Fountain grass)
- ✗ *Cardaderia selloana* (Pampas grass)



GRASSES

DO PLANT: *Panicum virgatum* (Switchgrass)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Dry to moist soils
- ✓ Many varieties ranging from 3-6' tall
- ✓ Deer resistant
- ✓ Seedheads are beautiful in fall and eaten by many birds
- ✓ Leave standing in winter for beautiful structure and movement (brown IS a color!)
- ✓ Larval host for skippers; nesting material and cover for birds



GRASSES

DO PLANT: *Schizachyrium scoparium* (Little Bluestem)

- ✓ Full sun
- ✓ Dry to medium, well-drained soils
- ✓ Drought tolerant, deer resistant, black walnut tolerant, loves poor soils!
- ✓ Larval host for six different skippers; provides nesting materials for native bees
- ✓ Seeds attract many birds in the fall-winter
- ✓ Fantastic fall color



GRASSES

DO PLANT: *Bouteloua gracilis* (Blue grama grass)

- ✓ Full sun
- ✓ Dry to moist, well-drained soils
- ✓ Drought tolerant, deer resistant, black walnut tolerant
- ✓ Larval host for six different skippers; provides nesting materials for native bees
- ✓ Seeds attract many birds in the fall-winter



GRASSES

DO PLANT: *Sorghastrum nutans* (Indian grass)

- ✓ Full sun
- ✓ Dry to medium soils
- ✓ Tolerates drought, erosion, poor dry soil
- ✓ 5 species of butterflies and moths use this as a caterpillar host plant; larval host plant of the specialist pollinator Pepper-and-Salt skipper butterfly and several grasshoppers and leafhopper species



WINTER INTEREST

DON'T PLANT:

- ✗ *Nandina domestica* (Heavenly bamboo)
- ✗ *Celastrus orbiculatus* (Oriental Bittersweet)



WINTER INTEREST

DO PLANT: *Ilex verticillata* (Winterberry)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Medium to wet acidic soils
- ✓ Bright red berries persist through winter
- ✓ Late winter food for birds
- ✓ Larval host to Henrys Elfin butterfly
- ✓ Need one male plant for every 6 female plants for good fruit set



WINTER INTEREST

DO PLANT: *Ilex glabra* (Inkberry)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Medium to wet acidic soils
- ✓ Evergreen
- ✓ Late winter food for birds



WINTER INTEREST

DO PLANT: *Juniperus virginiana* 'Gray Owl' (red cedar)

- ✓ Full sun
- ✓ Easily grown in average dry to moist soils (very adaptable)
- ✓ Tolerates deer, drought, erosion, dry soil, black walnuts, air pollution
- ✓ Grows 3' tall and 6' wide.
- ✓ Produces blue "berries" beloved by birds
- ✓ Evergreen – provides good cover for birds



HEDGING/PRIVACY

DON'T PLANT:

- ✗ Ligustrum ssp. (Privet)
- ✗ Bamboo
- ✗ Leyland Cypress
- ✗ Arborvitae



HEDGING/PRIVACY

DO PLANT: *Morella pensylvanica* (Bayberry)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Dry to wet soils
- ✓ Semi-evergreen
- ✓ Tolerates drought, salt and wind
- ✓ Preferred food of many birds; excellent nesting and protection for songbirds
- ✓ Larval host for the Columbia Silkmoth



HEDGING/PRIVACY

DO PLANT: *Ilex opaca* (American Holly)

- ✓ Sun – part shade
- ✓ Average to moist, well-drained acidic soils
- ✓ Evergreen
- ✓ Tolerates deer and clay soils
- ✓ Fruit is consumed by song birds, gamebirds and small mammals
- ✓ Larval host for the Henrys Elfin butterfly
- ✓ Great nectar source for butterflies



HEDGING/PRIVACY

DO PLANT: *Juniperus virginiana* 'Canaertii' (Red Cedar)

- ✓ Full sun
- ✓ Average, dry to moist, well-drained soils (very adaptable)
- ✓ Evergreen
- ✓ Tolerates deer, drought, erosion, dry soil
- ✓ Produces profuse highly ornamental, blue, berry-like fruit beloved by birds
- ✓ Great winter cover
- ✓ Larval host for variety of butterflies and moths.



OTHER BAD GUYS

DON'T PLANT:

- ❌ Autumn Olive (*Eleagnus spp.*)
- ❌ Butterfly Bush (*Buddleia davidii*)
- ❌ Wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis* or *floribunda*)
- ❌ Daylily (*Hemerocallis spp.*)



FOUR SEASONS OF INTEREST

Favorite Plants for Year-round Interest

Spring

- Fothergilla spp.
- Amsonia hubrichtii
- Amsonia tabernaemontana
- Baptisia spp.
- Packera aurea
- Packera obovata



Summer

- Echinacea purpurea
- Vernonia 'Iron Butterfly'
- Agastache foeniculum
- Monarda spp.
- Pycnanthemum flexuosum
- Rudbeckia fulgida var. fulgida



Fall

- Aster oblongifolius
- Aster cordifolius
- Aster divaricatus
- Solidago 'Fireworks'
- Solidago 'Golden Fleece'
- Helianthus salicifolius
- Schizachyrium scoparium
- Andropogon virginicus
- Rhus aromatica 'Gro-low'

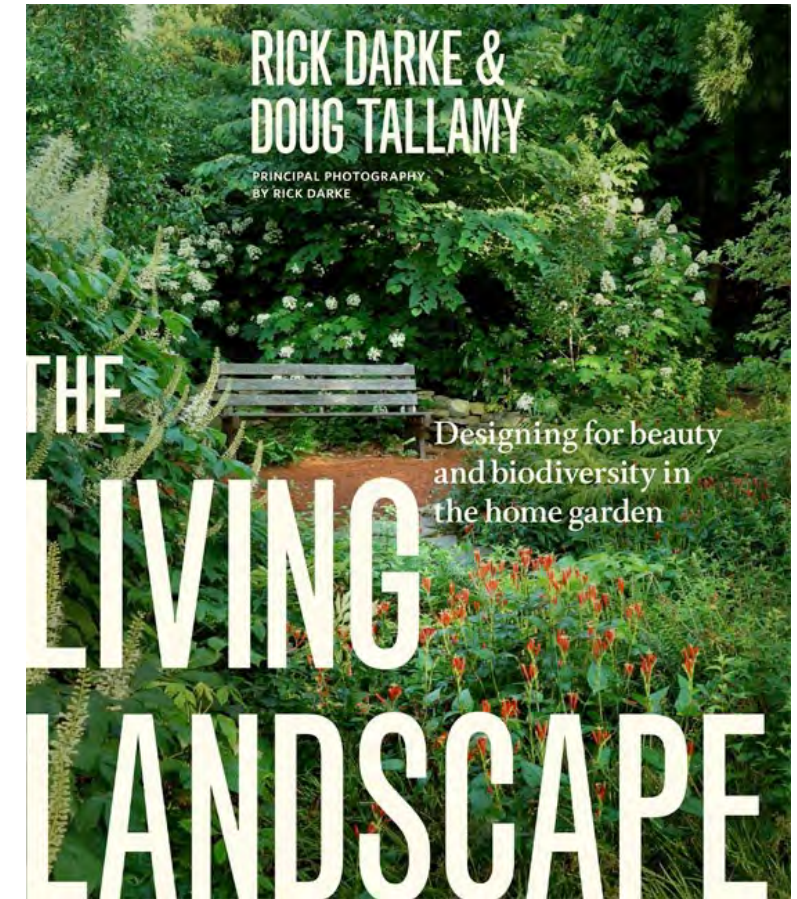
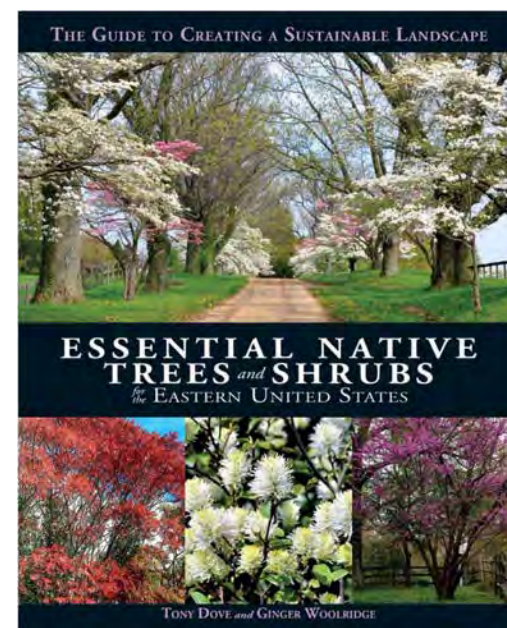
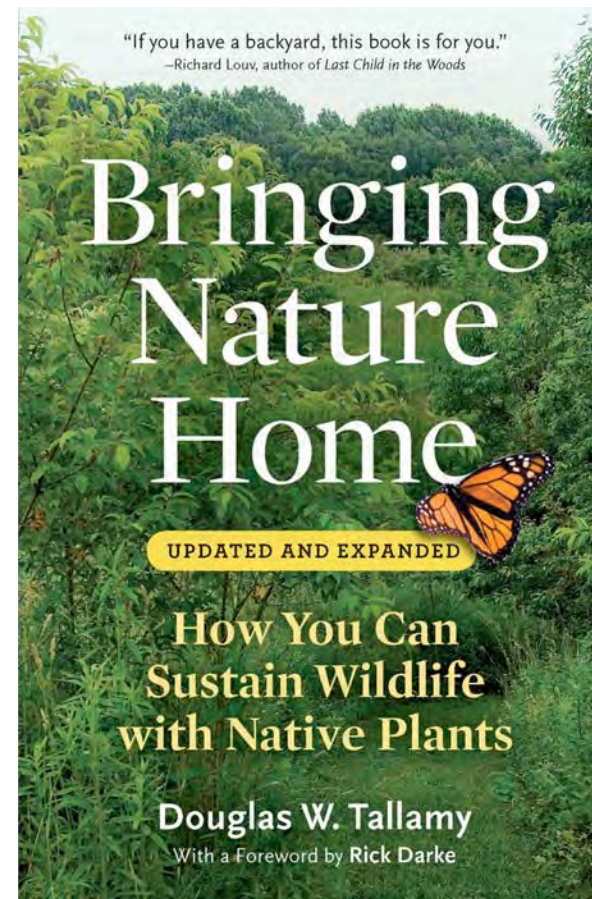
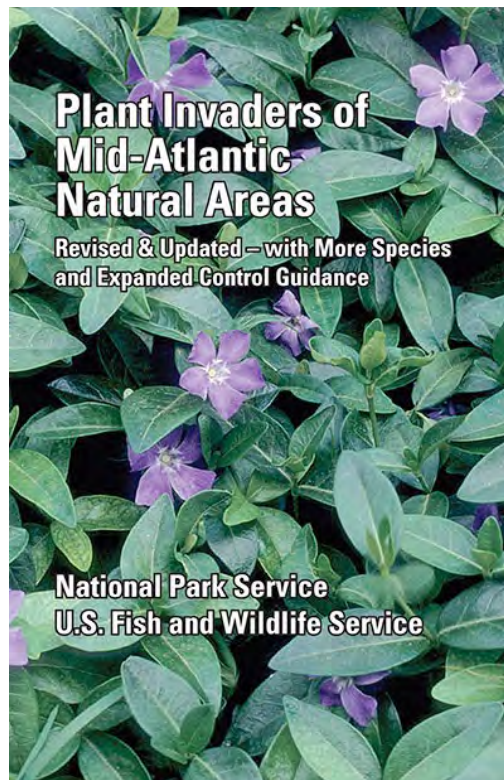
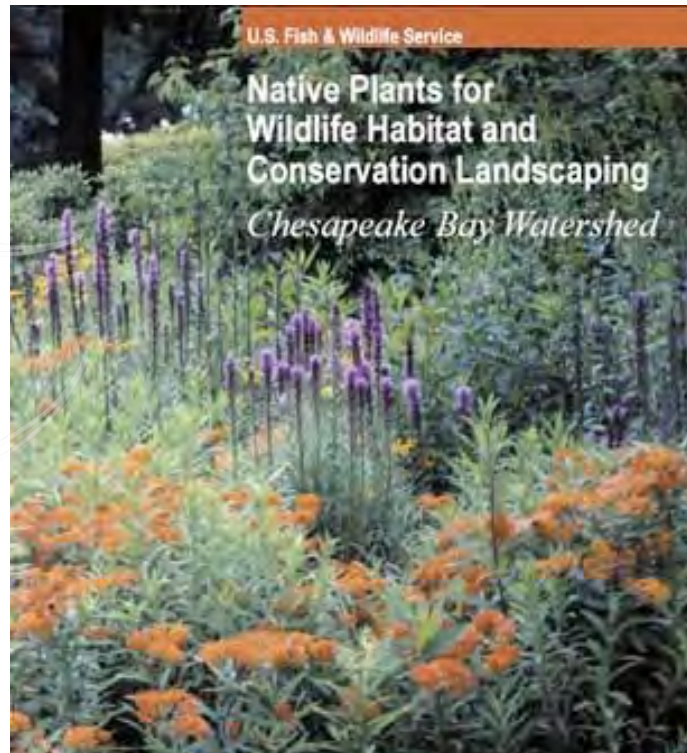


Winter

- Ilex verticillata
- Panicum virgatum 'Northwind'
- Juniperus 'Gray Owl'
- Seed heads from perennials like Echinacea, Monarda, Rudbeckia and warm-season grasses



RESOURCES



mdflora.org

www.northcreeknurseries.com

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

plants.ces.ncsu.edu

www.wildflower.org

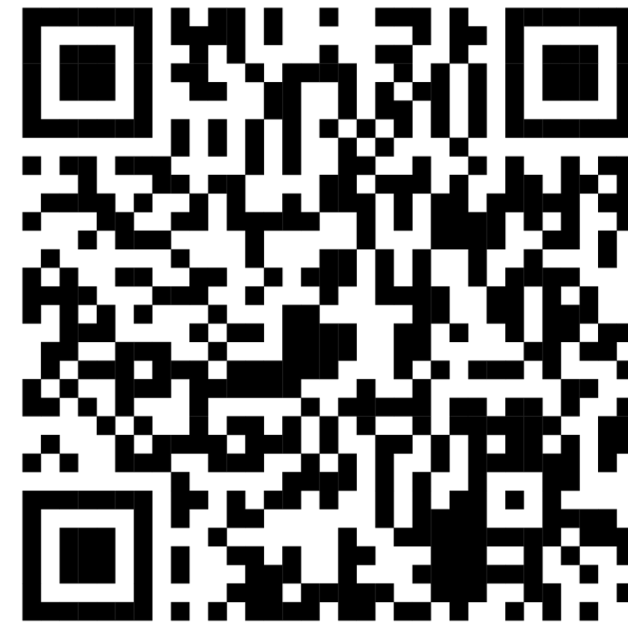
mtcubacenter.org

www.adkinsarboretum.org

Take Action for a Resilient Future



- 💧 Share this information with a friend, neighbor or **landscaper**
- 💧 Help us Tree the Shore!
- 💧 Volunteer with ShoreRivers
- 💧 Be a stubborn optimist
- 💧 And one more way...



Scan to
**TAKE
ACTION!**





**MONTHLY GIVING KEEPS
OUR MISSION AFLOAT**



ShoreRivers is proud to announce the creation of the Buoy Brigade — a growing community of supporters whose consistent, monthly gifts help provide the navigational aid and financial lift to keep us on course for cherished, thriving rivers.

**p.s. our first 30 new members
get an exclusive can koozie!**

SCAN ME



Learn More:
shorerivers.org/buoybrigade





THANK YOU!

Questions?

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