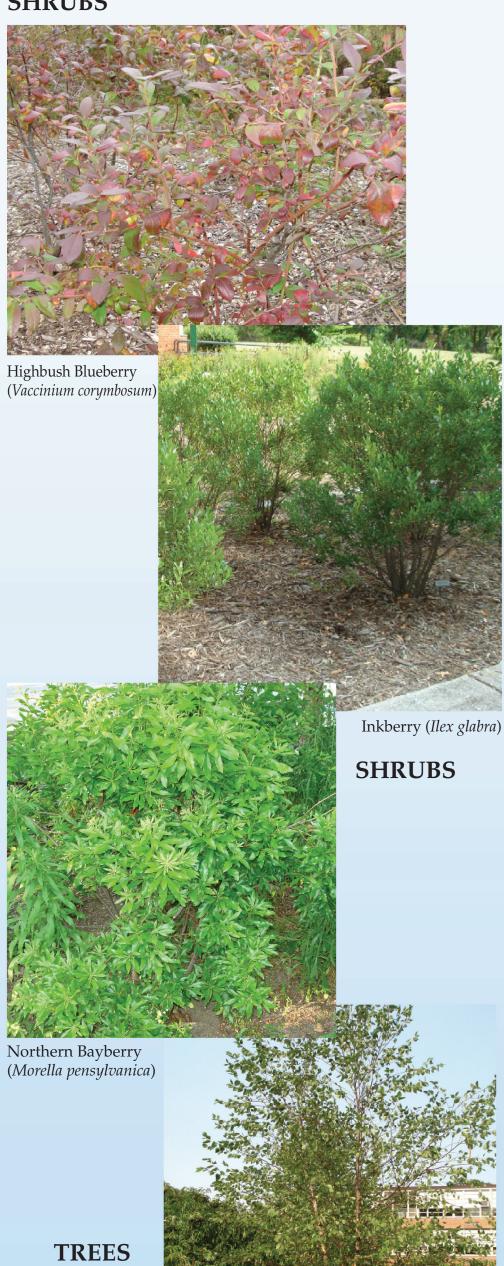
SHRUBS



River Birch (Betula nigra)



Virginia Sweetspire (Itea virginica)



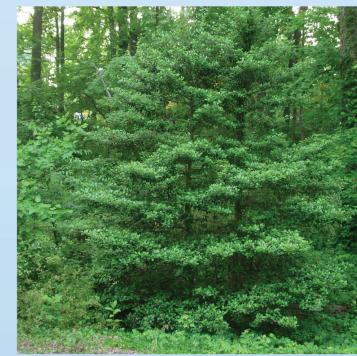
Winterberry (*Ilex verticillata*)

Tips to Benefit Wildlife

Local wildlife, such as birds, insects, and mammals are critically dependent on native plant communities. Consider these tips for increasing the wildlife-friendly character of your yard, campus, or public space.

- Plant native plants appropriate to the soils for your site: wet, dry, salty.
- Plant a variety of trees, shrubs, grasses and other herbaceous plants for food, shelter, nesting, and habitat.
- Provide clean water sources for as much of the year as possible. We often think of providing food for wildlife, however, water can be an even more critical need.
- Choose plants that will grow to varying heights to reproduce overstory, understory, and herbaceous layers found in nature.
- Reduce or eliminate deadheading of flowers. Leaving plants uncut over the winter provides seeds, shelter, and nesting sites for wildlife.
- Leave logs and snags (standing dead trees), as long as safety allows, for habitat.
- Provide brush piles of fallen branches, rock piles, and evergreen shrubs and trees for cover.
- Consider adding nesting boxes and bird feeding stations if they can be properly maintained.
- Add plants that provide winter food.
- Plant native plants with berries and other fruits such as blueberry, blackberry, black chokeberry, winterberry, American holly, dogwoods, pawpaw, persimmon, sumacs, inkberry, cranberry.
- Plant native plants that produce nuts, such as oaks, hickories, American beech, and American hazelnut.
- Plant composites and grasses with seeds enjoyed by wildlife, such as switchgrass, broomsedge, orange coneflower, and other composite flowers.
- Plant nectar flowers for pollinators like butterflies, bees, and hummingbirds. (Hummingbirds especially like red and orange flowers such as cardinal flower, native honeysuckle, wild columbine, and trumpet
- Include host plants for caterpillars, such as turtlehead (Baltimore checkerspot butterfly), milkweed (monarch butterfly), and pawpaw (zebra swallowtail butterfly).
- Consider planting a series of early-, mid-, and late-season bloomers to provide nectar, and then fruit and seed, throughout the year.
- Avoid the use of pesticides, which often kill much more than the intended pests.

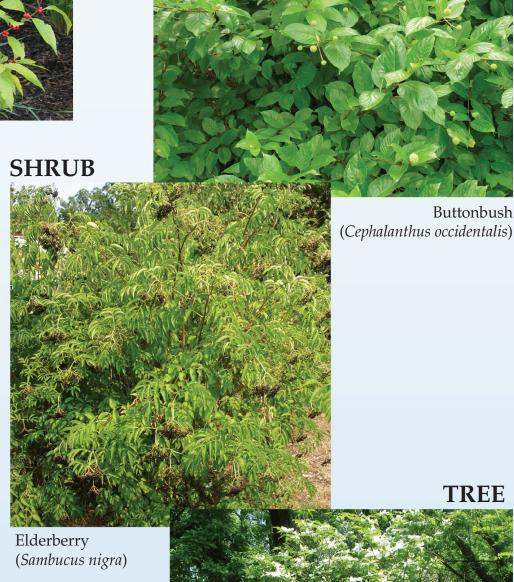
Acknowledgements: Chesapeake Ecology Center sponsors—Chesapeake Bay Trust, Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program, and Spring Creek Foundation.



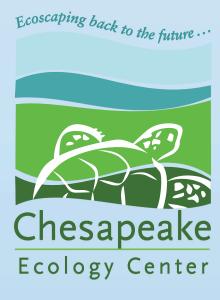
American Holly (*Ilex opaca*)



Sassafras (Sassafras albidum)



Flowering Dogwood (Cornus florida)



www.ChesapeakeEcologyCenter.org