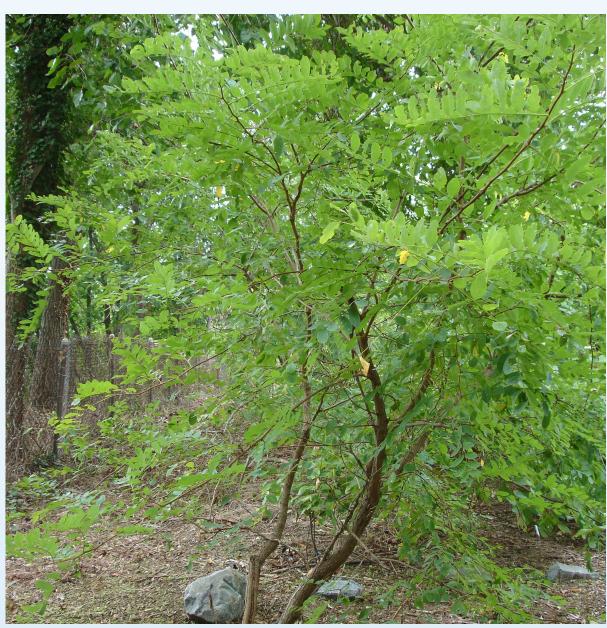Shadbush or Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
When the Shadbush blooms, Shad fish are spawning.

Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
When the Flowering Dogwood blooms, Rockfish are spawning.

Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)
When the Black Locust blooms, Blue Crabs are shedding.

WATERMAN'S GARDEN

A unique highlight of the riparian forest buffer is a Waterman's Garden, that pays tribute to the contributions of men and women whose lives have been shaped by the Bay. People rarely see fish moving up the Bay or crabs shedding, but they do see trees and plants blooming. The Waterman's Garden is beautiful as well as functional. This grove consists of a grouping of native trees which have traditionally been used by watermen to help them in their trade:

Shadbush (or Serviceberry) gets its name from a fish! Shad live in coastal Atlantic waters but migrate upstream from salt to fresh water in early spring to spawn. This migration coincides with the blooming of the Shadbush and was a signal to fishermen that they could catch shad in the freshwater streams in the Chesapeake region. The tree also got its name Serviceberry from its early spring bloom period when traveling preachers would come to small settlements to conduct memorial services for those who had died during the winter months when travel to memorial services would have been very difficult.

Watermen were known to say that the flowering dogwood bloom coincides with the spawning of striped bass or rockfish.

The flower of the Black Locust tree is a traditional indicator for the Chesapeake watermen of the first blue crab molt of the year. (Black Locust is native, but it spreads quickly. If you decide to plant one, be prepared for many small seedlings to pop up nearby.)

Plant List
• Shadbush or Serviceberry (*Amelanchier canadensis*)
• Flowering Dogwood (*Cornus florida*)
• Black Locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*)

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