

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month

JULY 2015

NC NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

REEDY CREEK NATURE PRESERVE



Photos by Will Stuart



Eastern Kingbird

Amelanchier arborea Downy Serviceberry

Natural Native Bird Feeder

The *Amelanchier* genus supports a wide variety of wildlife with fruit, flowers and foliage. Birds, such as wood thrush, bluebird, oriole, eastern kingbird, downy



woodpecker and scarlet tanager munch the high-energy fruits during breeding season. *Amelanchier* also supports 124 species of caterpillars including the tiger, pallid tiger, two-tailed tiger, viceroy, white admiral and western hairstreak. Don't forget about the pollen and nectar it produces for our pollinator friends.

So how did Downy Serviceberry get its name?

The name, Serviceberry, appears to refer to its early spring bloom time, heralding the opportunity to gather for community religious services such as weddings or funerals after the cold weather. Also known as Shadbush in the piedmont, the bloom time coincided with the running of the shad, a tasty fish favored by colonists.

Landscape Uses

Amelanchier arborea is an easy tree to grow. Naturally found in moist forests and rocky slopes *Amelanchier arborea* tolerates moist to dryish soil in sun or part shade. Serviceberries range from small shrubs to understory trees. No matter the size of your yard, there is a Serviceberry that will fit your needs as a useful and attractive addition to your landscape. When

using *Amelanchier arborea* in your garden, consider companion plants -- Dogwood, Sourwood, Fringe

Find out More!

Visit these sites for more info:

ncwildflower.org
ncaudubonblog.org/tag/native-plant-profile
wildflower.org/plants

Tree, Gingers, native Azaleas, Wild Columbine and Redbud.

With vibrant fall color of red, orange or yellow, it would be an unusual alternative to spring flowering Crabapples or Cherries and an excellent alternative to the non-native Crape Myrtle.

Bird Friendly Native Plant of the Month is a joint effort of the NC Native Plant Society and Audubon North Carolina

