



From all of us at Eating for the Ecosystem, we wish you a wonderful new year! May 2020 bring you closer to your goals and deeper in your relationships with plants, people, and the many other magical, important lives on this planet!

PLANT SPOTLIGHT OF THE MONTH



(Image from Edible Wild Plants: A North American Field Guide by Thomas S. Elias & Peter A. Dykeman)

Northern Bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*)

There are many reasons to love Bayberry—the fragrant foliage, the interesting gray-blue berries that persist through winter, its adaptability and hardiness, and

so much more! Its form is typically a dense, semi-evergreen shrub that is often used for hedges. The density is one reason birds love the bush for shelter, but they also love the fruits. Since the berries have a waxy coating, not all birds are attracted to them, but they provide good nutrition for those who can digest them. Interestingly, human historical use of the berries extends beyond edibility into making candles with the wax. If you're looking for great fragrant, beneficial, beautiful, native additions to your landscape, do consider *Myrica pensylvanica*!



Although it has been unseasonably warm during the last week of December and first week of January, don't forget that we have officially entered wintertime. While many species will survive just fine without human intervention, there are a number of things gardeners, homeowners, and/or animal-lovers can do to make that survival just a little bit easier for local wildlife.

- Set up a bird feeder, sprinkle seeds on the ground (research the best kinds for local species), or hang a birdseed ball.
- Better yet, plant species with fall fruits and long-lasting berries so the birds aren't reliant on your seeds. For your upcoming spring or fall planting, how about Viburnum, Dogwood, Juniper, Sumac, Holly, Chokecherry, or of course, Bayberry?
- Provide a source of fresh water—set up a birdbath in a sunny location where it can melt after potential freezes. If you have a pond, try not to let it freeze over. One safe way is to melt a little hole by placing a hot pan/pot gently on top of the surface.

- Let some of your outdoor areas remain disturbed. Piles of wood, compost piles, heaps of leaves, etc. might all be potential shelters for animals, whether hibernating or not.
- Intentionally create a shelter using old branches by stacking them in a way that creates lots of nooks and crannies.



EFTE winter services include:

- Removing lanternfly egg masses (this is the best preventative measure, much more effective than trying to eradicate once hatched)
- Hardscape planning and installation
- Garden design
- Pruning as needed

Contract Climber

EFTE Eco-landscaping seeks a contract climber to join our tree service crew for specific jobs to be scheduled at mutual convenience. We use ISA Best Practices for arborist safety, pruning, and removal. We work with ropes (climbing and rigging) and occasionally with ladders. [Click here for more details](#) on job description, requirements, and how to apply!



UPDATES FROM OUR APPLIED RESEARCH AND EDUCATION BRANCH

One of our major goals since 2019 has been to start our nonprofit branch, and we're happy to say we are officially here! Each month you can find updates especially relevant to the ARE branch in this teal box. Throughout 2020, you can expect to hear about new online and live resources, workshops, and projects. Our goal is to learn about and support making life changes—from really small to really big—that strengthen our ecosystems. We share knowledge and sponsor programs that help build ecologically, socially, and economically sustainable communities (remember—for us, community includes the more-than-human!).

NEW ONLINE RESOURCE

If you're interested in the link between carbon, soil health, and climate change, you'll definitely want to check out our new article called [Dark Night of the Soil: Restoring the Human-Humus Relationship](#).



BEAUTIFUL BARK FOR WINTER

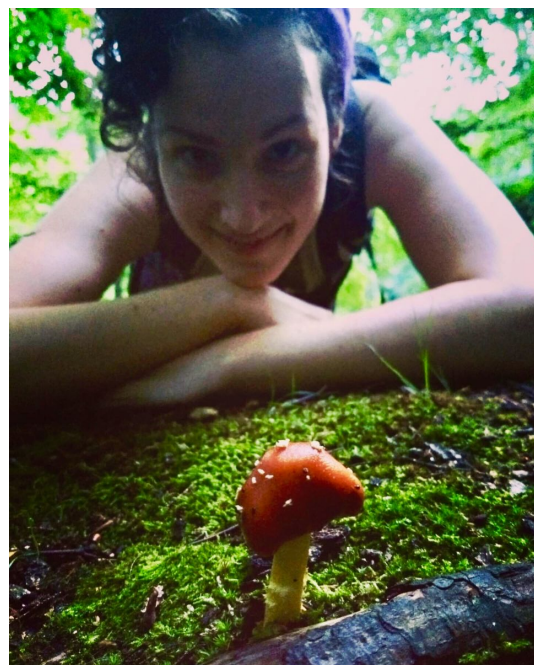
Besides our interest in providing winter nourishment, as eco-landscapers we're also concerned with plantings providing thoughtful beauty. Below is a brief list of some of our favorite trees and shrubs that show off interesting bark during the winter season.

- Striped Maple
- Red Twig Dogwood
- River Birch
- Shagbark Hickory
- American Sycamore and London plane
- Black Cherry
- Staghorn Sumac

Meet Our Employees

Get to know us! Each month we'll spotlight a different team member.

January's employee spotlight is Victoria Maria Moyer, who wears many hats at EFTE including writing, administrative research, operations management, eco-landscaping crew, apprentice tree-worker, and more. Victoria enjoys bringing together the worlds of art, ecology, stewardship, movement, community development, and wellness and is excited to facilitate



educational and immersive experiences for Philadelphians via the EFTE-ARE branch.



Eating for the Ecosystem is a woman-owned business with predominately-female work crews. In addition to our meticulous and eco-friendly practices such as limiting our carbon footprint and composting landscape debris, we are also committed to helping clients learn more about—and develop stronger relationships with—the plants in our ecosystem.

Help us Grow

If you believe a friend or family member would like to learn about Eating for the Ecosystem, please [forward this newsletter](#).



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