Fall is generally a great time for planting trees and shrubs. If space is available, these plants can provide excellent habitat benefits. Oak, hickory, and beech trees are known to be some of the best tree species for supporting wildlife. The sheer size of their canopies can provide similar year-round benefits on a slightly smaller scale. Some attractive trees really adds to their habitat benefits, and they also provide varying benefits for mammals and birds.

Doug Tallamy, states that oak trees (as a group) support 534 species of larvae! Cornus sericea (dogwood) is also a winner for sure! Swamp sunflower, Helianthus augustifolius, is generally done using them for nests and the shrubs will respond.

Fallen leaves in a stream. Photo: Angela Padeletti

We'll also take a look at trees and shrubs and the important role they play in our native landscapes. What's "ugly" space invaders and how you can remove them. With invasive species on the rise, these can really take a toll on our native plants and wildlife. This month we'll focus on how to remove invasive species. Space Invaders:  Leaves provide food for a vast array of butterfly and moth larvae,

Photos: Sarah Bouboulis

If you have a gardening question that you want answered, email sbouboulis@delawareestuary.org

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