



## INVALUABLE UNDERSTORY PLANTS THAT PROVIDE FOOD SUPPORT FOR MIGRATORY AND RESIDENT BIRDS

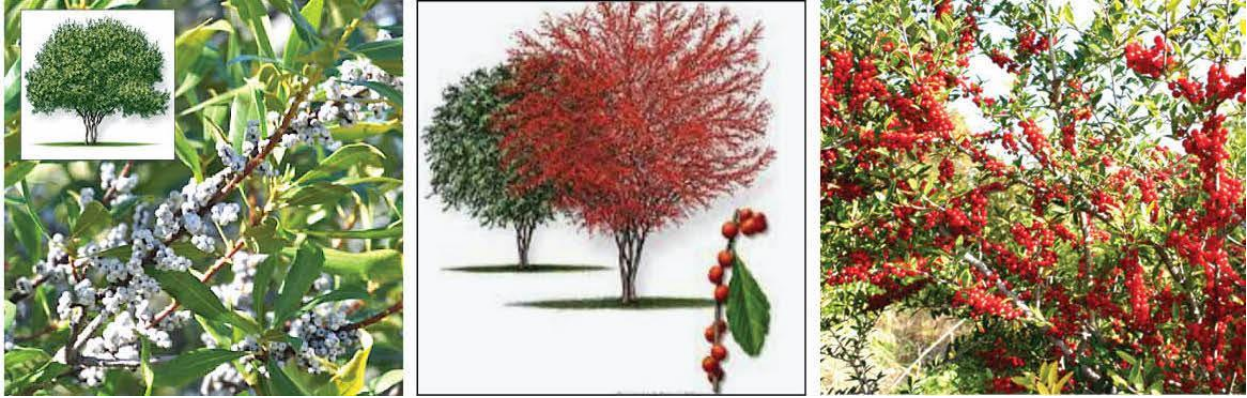
By **ROBBIN MALLETT**

**President, Cullinan Park Conservancy**

Pigeonberry (*Rivina humilis*), left above, and American Beautyberry (*Callicarpa americana*), right, are invaluable understory plants that provide food support for migratory and resident birds. Beautyberries are eaten by more than 40 species of birds, including finches, mockingbirds, robins, cardinals and thrashers.

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These above are great small trees for winter feeding, above, l to r:

- **Wax Myrtle** (*Morella cerifera*),
- **Possumhaw Holly** (*Ilex decidua*).
- **Yaupon Holly** (*Ilex vomitoria*). (Pictured: Yaupon Holly 'Will Fleming')

Yaupon and Possumhaw hollies produce tremendous amounts of colorful berries that Cedar Waxwing and others devour.



Above, more great trees (l to r):

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- **Cedar Elm** (*Ulmus crassifolia*)
- **American Elm** (*Ulmus americana*) Yellow-rumped Warblers, Red-belliedthers.
- **Texas Redbud** (*Cercis canadensis*) Flowers morph into seeds that are eaten by granivorous birds. **(Pictured: *Cercis canadensis* var. Texas)**



For overwintering hummingbirds —above l to r: salvias, Turk's Cap and lantana. (All native salvias pictured are from [npsot.org/wp/story/2010/1428/](http://npsot.org/wp/story/2010/1428/))

More suggestions: [npsot.org/plant lists/HoustonAreaList.pdf](http://npsot.org/plant%20lists/HoustonAreaList.pdf) (download)

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

Contact Robbin at [Cullinan Park Conservancy](http://Cullinan%20Park%20Conservancy).

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