Amelanchier arborea is native throughout most of the eastern half of the United States, from Minnesota south to Texas extending east to the Atlantic states and north into Canada. It is a small to medium-sized tree or shrub that often has multiple trunks. The trunks and branches are typically smooth, gray, straight, slender when young, and turn darker with age. Multi-trucked specimens tend to form a round, open crown.

The five-petaled flowers appear in early spring before the leaves emerge. These white flowers are abundant and attractive, making for a striking spring display. The leaves are simple, alternate, oval, fairly symmetric, and pointed at the tip. The leaves have a serrate margin, are about four inches long, and often have a heart-shaped based. The foliage of many Amelanchier hybrids and cultivars have brilliant fall color, and therefore they do well in group plantings in natural areas as well as formal landscapes.

Another common name for serviceberry is Juneberry, as this is when the fruit appears. The fruit, a small, darkly colored sphere, is edible for humans and prized by birds. Having a blueberry-like flavor, it is often baked into pies and other pastries as well as eaten raw. If you visit natural areas, bike paths, and local parks, you are likely to still see fruit still hanging on some serviceberry shrubs. Between the fruit, flowers, fall color, and branches, Amelanchier arborea and related species have something to offer all year round.

For more information on this species, please contact trees@openlands.org.