

## February 2012 Guess that Plant



5-parted capsule, Photo by W. Olson ©



Swamp Azalea, pink form; Photo by M. Hogan ©

The February 2012 *Guess that Plant* was ***Rhododendron viscosum*, swamp azalea.**

The February **Guess that Plant** was our most common native deciduous azalea, swamp azalea *Rhododendron viscosum*. This plant is also known as swamp honeysuckle because of its sweet fragrant flowers. The shrub is found throughout the State wherever acidic wetlands exist. It is especially common on the Coastal Plain and is one of the sweet summer smells associated with the Pine Barren's wetland forests in the middle of summer.

The flower buds burst in late June and July producing long glandular white trumpet-line corolla. The surrounding woodland is inundated with its rich sweet smell whenever this shrub flowers. The distinguishing checkered bud and 5 parted-capsules (photo, right) provide the clues for the winter identification for New Jersey's sweetest of shrubs. JRA 3.2012