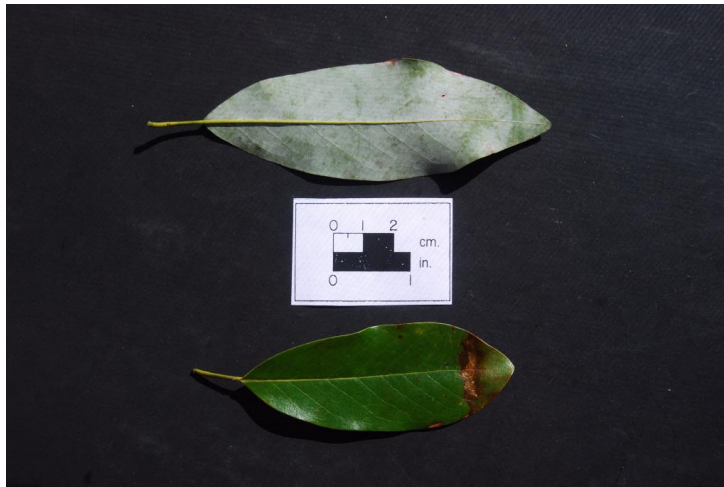


2018 February *Guess that Plant*



Magnolia virginiana L. Sweetbay Magnolia

The February *Guess that Plant* was native sub-canopy tree *Magnolia virginiana*. This is a semi-evergreen species with a distribution that reflects New Jersey's Coastal Plain and similar landscapes of glacially deposited soils. Sweetbay is an obligate wetland species, and it is only found in or immediately adjacent to perennial native Coastal Plain forested wetland habitats.

Sweetbay flowers mid-summer. It produces large, multi-petal blossoms at the twig tips. These large white flowers are scented with an extraordinarily beautiful, sweet smell. It often is in bloom with swamp honeysuckle azalea (*Rhododendron viscosum*). The two native species create an intoxicating sweet aroma in our red maple, pitch pine and Atlantic white cedar forests.

JRA 3/2018