Sweetbay Swamp Quest
RAVENSWOOD PARK, GLOUCESTER

DIRECTIONS
481 Western Avenue (Route 127). From Route 128E, take Exit 14 (Route 133) east, towards Gloucester for 3 miles until it ends. Take a right onto Route 127 and follow for 2 miles to entrance and parking on the right.

HOW TO QUEST
Use the clues and map to find a hidden treasure box and learn the Sweetbay Swamp Story. Along the way you'll have fun, and learn to see (and read) land use clues and history. At the end of this Quest you'll find a hidden treasure box, where you can sign in, collect a copy of our Quest's stamp, and then replace the box for the next visitor. We recommend you take 1 1/2 hours to enjoy this stomp the swamp adventure.

THE TRUSTEES OF RESERVATIONS
Ravenswood Park is owned and cared for by The Trustees of Reservations. We are over 100,000 people like you from every corner of Massachusetts. We love the outdoors. We love the distinctive charms of New England. And we believe in celebrating and protecting them – for ourselves, for our children, and for generations to come. With one hundred special places across the state, we invite you to find your place.

Visit us at www.thetrustees.org.

© Erv Evans
Welcome to the Trustees’ Ravenswood Park, a place with hidden history and lots of charm. Long known as the “people’s park,” this 600 acre woodland provides the citizens of the City of Gloucester and Cape Ann a wonderful refuge. The Great Magnolia Swamp is your destination, enjoy the greens in all their variation! Keep in mind—How many shades of green can be seen?

Start
From the bulletin board
Head up Old Salem Road
On your way the Sweetbay Magnolia story will be told.

Stop A. Dirt, Rocks and Trees
Scoured by a mile-high glacier, the soil is acidic with huge boulders left behind as deposits. Most trees in this forest are oak, hemlock and pine. Typical hardwoods that are easy to find. But one uncommon species you’ll see on this romp is the Sweetbay Magnolia* which lives here in the swamp.

Stop B. Magnolia Swamp Trail
Colonists started settling Gloucester in 1622 as a fishing port, home to both captains and crews. The harbor-side bustled with business and trade. This backwoods area was left mostly in shade. Horse-and-buggies drove by on Old Salem Road. But few stopped to explore this wooded abode.

Go left onto the trail and get ready to stomp, down hill and up you’ll head for the swamp.

Stop C. Balance Rock
Not ’til 1806 was the Sweetbay discovered.
And the Great Swamp was visited by Thoreau and others.
Have magnolias lived for centuries on this spot?
What do you think? Are they native or not?
One prosperous fellow, Daniel Fuller his name, bought waterfront nearby and developed acclaim.
His elegant resort became a destination for people all over the world on vacation. The place that was once called Kettle Cove, was renamed Magnolia, perhaps after this grove?

After the balance rock stay to the right, because of the rock, the trail seems a bit tight.

Stop D. Cross Roads (#4)
This intersection was the old, Old Salem Road, leading visitors to/from Magnolia we’re told. Young boys used to meet arriving trains and buggies with Sweetbay blossoms to present to the ladies. But by 1875, tourist’s eager hands had ravished this precious Magnolia stand.

The seaside destination was a bustling resort, 750 rooms, 22 cottages, pools and tennis courts. Lexington Ave featured Bonwit Teller, and FAO Schwartz a toy-store seller. The Oceanside Hotel a fire did destroy, maybe the sweetbay’s re-growth we’d again enjoy?

From the path you came, go straight through, then slow down and balance on the boards.

Stop E. Mid-Swamp Board Walk
With the future of the Sweetbay in Massachusetts in danger, help would come from a local man, not a stranger, Samuel Sawyer, who, in his will, left his mark. And the land that is now your own Ravenswood Park. Yet, for the Magnolia, was the effort in vain?

For, in 1913, only two plants remained.

After the boardwalk stay on the trail, look for a tall fence, not a rail.
Peer in closely towards a flag or a tie you’ll see sad sweetbay plants ready to die.

Stop F. Fencing
First to report the Sweetbay’s sad situation, was J.G. Jack from Arnold Arboretum. The stewards of Ravenswood went to work, landscaping carriage paths, Old Salem Road was re-routed. The Trustees continue to work with plant experts, to save the Sweetbay from leaving our part of our earth.

Our conservation efforts include this very tall fence, to keep deer from chewing the sweetbay evergreen leaves.

Stay straight along the winding trail. At the #14, cross the last of the Great Swamp’s Boardwalks, to the right. Uphill, climb out of the swamp, till Old Salem Road again is in sight.

Stop G. Old Salem Road
Monitoring, inventories, and thinning the canopy, are efforts the Trustees take to save the sweetbay. We’ve discovered some harder stands, and saving seeds is part of our plans.

Restoring the vibrant Sweetbay Magnolia population, and re-route the Great Magnolia Swamp Trail destination. For public education and visitation to these gems, and sharing the sweet-smelling sweetbay’s flowers again.

What do you think of these intensive efforts?
From the Post #15, walk back down the trail 15 steps. On the left is were the **Quest Treasure Box** is kept. Look inside to discover more about our unique Sweetbay Magnolia. Sign your name in our log book, and stamp your own passbook. Thank you for returning the **Quest Treasure Box** for other Questers to find.

Once back on Old Salem Road, take a right to go back to the parking area. (Takes about 10 minutes.)

With tremendous thanks to the Cape Ann Summer 09 Education/Conservation Intern, Natasha Smith. This Quest was created by volunteers and community members. If you would like to help us create a Quest on one of our Cape Ann properties, contact us at: 978.281.8400 or capeanneducator@chte trustees.org.

---

* *Magnolia virginiana*

Gloucester is sweetbay magnolia’s northern most native site. Sweetbay flowers in late June early July, with a fragrant smell and a creamy off-white color.
YOUR CLUES

Welcome to the Trustees’ Ravenswood Park, a place with hidden history and lots of charm. Long known as the “people’s park,” this 600 acre woodland provides the citizens of the City of Gloucester and Cape Ann a wonderful refuge. The Great Magnolia Swamp is your destination, enjoy the greens in all their variation! Keep in mind—How many shades of green can be seen?

Start
From the bulletin board
Head up Old Salem Road
On your way the Sweetbay Magnolia story will be told.

Stop A. Dirt, Rocks and Trees
Scoured by a mile-high glacier, the soil is acidic with huge boulders left behind as deposits. Most trees in this forest are oak, hemlock and pine. Typical hardwoods that are easy to find. But one uncommon species you’ll see on this romp is the Sweetbay Magnolia* which lives here in the swamp.

Stop B. Magnolia Swamp Trail
Colonists started settling Gloucester in 1622 as a fishing port, home to both captains and crews. While the harbor-side bustled with business and trade, this backwoods area was left mostly in shade. Horse-and-buggies drove by on Old Salem Road, but few stopped to explore this wooded abode.

Go left onto the trail and get ready to stomp, down hill and up you’ll head for the swamp.

Stop C. Balance Rock
Not till 1806 was the Sweetbay discovered and the Great Swamp was visited by Thoreau and others. Have magnolias lived for centuries on this spot? What do you think? Are they native or not?

One prosperous fellow, Daniel Fuller his name, bought waterfront nearby and developed acclaim. His elegant resort became a destination for people all over the world on vacation. The place that was once called Kettle Cove, was renamed Magnolia, perhaps after this grove!

After the balance rock stay to the right, because of the rock, the trail seems a bit tight.

Stop D. Cross Roads (#4)
This intersection was the old, Old Salem Road, leading visitors to/from Magnolia we’re told. Young boys used to meet arriving trains and buggies with Magnolia blossoms to present to the ladies. But by 1875, tourist’s eager hands had ravished this precious Magnolia stand.

The seaside destination was a bustling resort, 750 rooms, 22 cottages, pools and tennis courts. Lexington Ave featured Bonwit Teller, and FAO Schwartz a toy-store seller. The Oceanside Hotel a fire did destroy. Maybe the sweetbay’s re-growth we’d again enjoy?

From the path you came, go straight through, then slow down and balance on the boards.

Stay on this long-great swamp trail veering right, stomp the swamp till the next boards are in sight.

Stop E. Mid-Swamp Board Walk
With the future of the Sweetbay in Massachusetts in danger, help would come from a local man, not a stranger, but Samuel Sawyer, who, in his will, left his mark. And the land that is now your own Ravenswood Park. Yet, for the Magnolia, was the effort in vain? For, in 1913, only two plants remained.

After the boardwalk stay on the trail, look for a tall fence, not a rail. Peer in closely towards a flag or a tie you’ll see sad sweetbay plants ready to die.

Stop F. Fencing
First to report the Sweetbay’s sad situation, was J.G. Jack from Arnold Arboretum. The stewards of Ravenswood went to work, landscaping carriage paths, Old Salem Road was re-routed. The Trustees continue to work with plant experts, to save the Sweetbay from leaving this part of our earth.

Our conservation efforts include this very tall fence, to keep deer from chewing the sweetbay evergreen leaves.

Stay straight along the winding trail. At the #14, cross the last of the Great Swamp’s Boardwalks, to the right. Uphill, climb out of the swamp, till Old Salem Road again is in sight.

Stop G. Old Salem Road
Monitoring, inventories, and thinning the canopy, are efforts the Trustees take to save the sweetbay. We’ve discovered some harder stands, and saving seeds is part of our plans. Restoring the vibrant Sweetbay Magnolia population, and re-route the Great Magnolia Swamp Trail destination. For public education and visitation to these gems, and sharing the sweet-smelling sweetbay’s flowers again.

What do you think of these intensive efforts?

From the Post #15, walk back down the trail 15 steps. On the left is were the Quest Treasure Box is kept. Look inside to discover more about our unique Sweetbay Magnolia. Sign your name in our log book, and stamp your own passbook. Thank you for returning the Quest Treasure Box for other Questers to find.

Once back on Old Salem Road, take a right to go back to the parking area. (Takes about 10 minutes.)

With tremendous thanks to the Cape Ann Summer 09 Education/Conservation Intern, Natasha Smith. This Quest was created by volunteers and community members. If you would like to help us create a Quest on one of our Cape Ann properties, contact us at: 978.281.8400 or capeanneducator@thetrustees.org.

* Magnolia virginiana
Gloucester is sweetbay magnolia’s northern most native site. Sweetbay flowers in late June early July, with a fragrant smell and a creamy off-white color.
The Great Magnolia Swamp

- To Fernwood Lake
- To Stage Fort Park
- Evergreen Rd
- Hemlock Grove
- Ridge Rd

- Sweetbay Magnolia
- Red Maple Swamp
- Ferns
- Poly scalp Fern
- Blue Flag Iris
- Mountain Laurel

- Original Old Salem Road
- Old Salem Rd

- Quest Treasure Box
- Bulletin Board
- Parking Area
- Cape Ann Discovery Center