Shagbark Hickory
SHAGBARK HICKORY
_Carya ovata_ (Mill.) K. Koch

**FAMILY:** Juglandaceae

**IDENTIFICATION CLUES**

- **SIZE:** large tree, 70 - 90 feet tall

- **LEAF:** compound with 5 oval leaflets, each leaflet 3 - 7 inches long with the terminal leaflet being the longest. Leaflets are toothed around the edge and hairy underneath

- **FLOWER:** female flowers are small and inconspicuous; males flowers in a catkin, usually three in a cluster

- **FRUIT:** a rounded nut with a thick hull and edible seed

- **BARK:** gray and shaggy (flaking), hence the name

**Where to Look**

Shagbark hickory occurs throughout the Georgia foothills and mountains, southwest Georgia and the Piedmont. It is typically found along rivers and streams and swampy areas.

**Importance to Humans**
The wood of shagbark hickory is very strong and is used for hammer and axe handles. It also makes excellent fuel for smoking meat.

**Importance to Wildlife**
Squirrels and other small mammals enjoy eating the sweet hickory nuts.