

SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

Replacing steep areas of lawn next to a stream with a *ledge garden*...

...ledge garden

- * reduces erosion by stabilizing the slope with rock-supported planting pockets
- * minimizes energy use by reducing mowing and the use of fertilizers
- * improves water quality by providing a more effective stream buffer than lawn
- * shades the stream to minimize summer temperatures and retain soil moisture
- * increases biodiversity (variation of life forms within a given ecosystem)
- * creates more habitat and nesting sites for songbirds and other wildlife
- * provides a more diverse food supply for wildlife, especially insects
- * brings beauty, visual interest, and seasonal variation to the landscape

- A Elderberry *Sambucus canadensis*
- B Crossvine *Bignonia capreolata*
- C River Oats *Chasmanthium latifolium*
- D Cherokee Sedge *Carex cherokeensis*
- E St. Andrew's Cross *Hypericum hypericoides*
- F Coralberry *Symphoricarpus orbiculatus*
- G Oakleaf Hydrangea *Hydrangea quercifolia*
- H Limestone Ledge
- I Sycamore *Platanus occidentalis*
- J Dwarf Red Buckeye *Aesculus pavia*
- K Ironwood *Carpinus caroliniana*
- L Leaf litter or Duff

