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## GREEN ROOF TERRACE

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### Green Roof Terrace

The Chattahoochee Nature Center's roof top garden is a unique display of plants native to granite rock outcrops in the Piedmont region of Georgia. With over 90% of granite outcrops in the southeast located in the state of Georgia, this landscape is a signature part of the local landscape. Most people are familiar with Stone Mountain, but they are not aware of the unique assemblages of plants that have adapted to the extreme environments of granite outcrops. Many of the species found on these granite outcrops are found nowhere else in the world. Several endangered plants grow on these outcrops. The thin soils, limited water, and extreme temperatures of granite outcrops are remarkably similar to the conditions on green roofs. The plants found on granite outcrops are well suited to thrive on a green roof like the Chattahoochee Nature Center's Discovery Center.



'Dishgarden' on Mt. Arabia



Small's Stonecrop  
*Diamorpha smallii*

A green roof featuring these granite outcrop plants celebrates the local landscape by showcasing plants unique to the Piedmont region. Some of the plants featured include: Little Blue Stem (*Schizachyrium scoparium*), Confederate Daisy (*Helianthus porteri*) Cottony Groundsel (*Senecio tomentosus*), Prickly Pear Cactus (*Opuntia compressa*), Appalachian Fumeflower (*Talinum teretifolium*) and Small's Stonecrop (*Diamorpha smallii*). These plants are massed together to form a colorful tapestry with interest in all seasons. Over 80% of the green roof features a granite outcrop plant palette, and the rest of the roof consists of sedums and other more conventional plants for green roofs. These plants are included in order to extend the seasonal interest of the green roof and to serve as a counterpoint to the granite rock outcrop plants. Visitors are able to compare and contrast the granite outcrop plants with the conventional green roof plants. The green roof has a valuable environmental educational role in two key areas: 1) exposing the public and visitors to a plant palette not currently used in the green roof industry and 2) educating visitors about the underappreciated landscape of granite rock outcrops.

The green roof is made possible by a generous grant from The Home Depot Foundation.



© Hydrotech Garden Roof Systems

A green roof is composed of many different layers, each designed to make the roof system last for many years. In order, from top to bottom these are:

- Native plants
- Light weight soil mix
- Soil retention mat
- Water drainage and retention material
- Root barrier mat
- Foam insulation
- Hot applied asphalt and sheets of asphalt
- Concrete

### Plant Identification Guide to CNC's Green Rooftop Garden



© Alan Cressler  
**Sandwort (February-May)**  
*Minuartia uniflora*



© HvSchmeling  
**Large Flowered Tickseed**  
*Coreopsis grandiflora*



© HvSchmeling  
**Little Bluestem Grass**  
*Schizachyrium scoparium*



© HvSchmeling  
**Hairy Lip Fern**  
*Cheilanthes lanosa*



© HvSchmeling  
**Pine Weed**  
*Hypericum gentinioides*



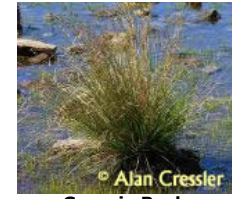
© HvSchmeling  
**Spiderwort**  
*Tradescantia ohioensis*



© HvSchmeling  
**Stone Mountain Daisy**  
*Helianthus porteri*



© HvSchmeling  
**Prickly Pear Cactus**  
*Opuntia humifusa*



© Alan Cressler  
**Georgia Rush**  
*Juncus georgianus*

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The Mission of the Chattahoochee Nature Center is to provide unique learning experiences focused on the Chattahoochee River that connect people to the natural world and empower them to positively impact their local environments.

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