SUSTAINABLE LANDSCAPES

...ledge garden

Replacing steep areas of lawn next to a stream with a *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 minimze 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

OAK RIDGE National Laboratory

Environmental Landscape Design Associates

This is a demonstration project of the Sustainable Landscapes Initiative, a collaborative effort involving Oak Ridge National Laboratory and Environmental Landscape Design Associates. The primary goal of this initiative is to enhance both the aesthetic appeal and the environmental quality of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory campus landscape. Please visit http://sustainability-ornl.org for more information.