Our mission is to protect and conserve Georgia's natural resources through advocacy, engagement and collaboration.

During the next 12 months the Georgia Conservancy's Stewardship Trips Program will lead hundreds of people on hiking, paddling, camping, and service trips to far-flung places, all while celebrating conservation, culture, food, music, diversity, and family.

We want folks breaking bread on Georgia’s riverbanks or singing songs around a campfire, from the mountains through the coastal plain and to our amazing saltwater marsh and barrier islands.

Our goal is simple: Create a connection between some of Georgia’s most precious places and the people needed to protect them.

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Invest in Your Georgia

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www.gaconservancy.org/trips

BECOME A MEMBER OR DONOR TODAY!

The Georgia Conservancy is a statewide, member-supported conservation organization working to protect Georgia’s natural resources through environmental advocacy, coastal protection, sustainable growth, and outdoor stewardship initiatives.

We hope you enjoy the experience of visiting this special place. Help to ensure that places like this continue to be protected and add to Georgia’s quality of life.

www.gaconservancy.org/donate

#thisismyGA

And remember: Leave No Trace!

Leave No Trace is a set of outdoor ethics promoting conservation in the outdoors. It consists of seven principles: 1) plan ahead and prepare, 2) travel and camp on durable surfaces, 3) dispose of waste properly, 4) leave what you find, 5) minimize campfire impacts, 6) respect wildlife, 7) be considerate of other visitors.

Check with a State Park Ranger if you have any questions!
History

The Davidson family owned Arabia Mountain during much of the 20th century, and by the 1980s Davidson Granite Enterprises was the largest producer of granite in the world. In the 1970s, the Davidson family generously donated 500+ acres of Arabia Mountain and surrounding lands to DeKalb County as a nature preserve for local residents to enjoy. Since then, the park has been expanded several times and now includes 2,550 acres, several granite outcrops and two lakes. On October 12, 2006, the mountain and Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve were designated as nationally significant as a part of the Arabia Mountain National Heritage Area in recognition of its cultural, historical and natural features.

Cultural and Ecological Significance

Arabia Mountain, a granite monadnock, is one of the most distinctive features of DeKalb County. The Arabia Mountain monadnock, or an isolated and exposed rock hill, is one of the few found in Georgia besides Stone Mountain and Heritage Area sister Panola Mountain. The unique topography and geology of a monadnock allows for unusual plant and animal species to thrive. Arabia Mountain has five species that are listed as both state and federally endangered, including the bright-red diamorpha plant that lives in small pools of water that form on the monadnock.

Historically, Arabia Mountain was one of several locations where the quarrying of granite took place in the Area. Granite from Lithonia quarries, including Arabia Mountain, can be found throughout the United States, including in buildings at the U.S. Naval Academy, the Brooklyn Bridge, and as curb blocks.

Issues Facing Conservation

The pool sprite, black-spored quillwort, and red diamorpha are three species that depend heavily on their habitats of vernal pools on granite outcrops. They do not adapt well to new environments, making habitat loss detrimental to their survival. Georgia is home to the majority of the habitats for these endemic species, but their home is under siege. Georgia is also one of the biggest exporters of granite, making habitat loss detrimental to their survival. Georgia is home to the majority of the habitats for these endemic species, but their home is under siege. Georgia is also one of the biggest exporters of granite, and many of the habitats are desirable sites for quarrying. The majority of the populations are now on protected lands in Georgia, such as Arabia and Panola Mountains, but even in protected areas, they face threats from recreation, like waste or being trampled under bicycles, boots, four wheelers, pets, and other native animals. Species like these are not very resilient, so even minor disturbances can have an impact. Watch your step!

Preserve the Biodiversity

Biodiversity is the variability of plant and animal (flora and fauna) species in an ecosystem as well as the genetic diversity within species. Each species uses a different part of the environment and are interdependent on the other species to survive. Biodiversity is what made Earth into what it is today and what makes each ecosystem unique. The more biodiverse an ecosystem is, the better suited it is for energy transfers through the food chain, energy storage, decomposition and recycling.

Look for Tracks!

DID YOU KNOW? Southern flying squirrels are one of two species of flying squirrel in North America and the only one found commonly in GA. Extra flaps of skin between the wrists and ankles and a wide, flat tail, allows this critter to glide up to 250 feet!

DID YOU KNOW? Eastern box turtles are one of two species of box turtle in North America and the only one found commonly in GA. Bobcat (Lynx rufus) Coyote (Canis latrans) Southern Flying Squirrel (Glaucomys volans) Eastern Coachwhip (Masticophis flagellum) Eastern Box Turtle (Terrapene carolina carolina) / American Bullfrog (Lithobates catesbeianus)

flora

Pool Sprite (Amphianthus puillus) (VU) Also known as little amphianthus, this small plant is only found in a couple of states in the southeast and in very specific habitats: seasonal (vernal) pools on granite outcrops. During the summer months, vernal pools usually dry up, leaving the species to survive only in seed form until the next rainy season, normally in winter.

Black-Spored Quillwort (Loesel melamopon) (EN) Though usually found together, black-spored quillwort is not related to little amphianthus, but they are close neighbors. The quillwort shares the same habitat of vernal pools on Arabia Mountain and only a couple of other locations. It has been found in 11 locations in Georgia, but due to habitat loss to quarrying it is now only found in three. Unlike most plants, they reproduce through spores which generally stay within the vernal pool.

Red Diamorpha / Elf Orpine (Diamorpha smallii) (VU) Another vernal pool resident of a few southeastern granite outcrops, red diamorpha is the most abundant of our three subject plant species. A large amount of sunlight is necessary for this species to thrive, but too much can kill it. To balance these levels, Diamorpha smallii develops red leaves to act as a sort of sunscreen. It absorbs blue-green and ultraviolet light, repelling the rest and hence protecting the interior cells from being damaged from too much light. The brilliantly red leaves are most visible in the spring and are the defining image of Arabia Mountain’s Diamorpha.