

ets of soil that have accumulated in cliff crevices. The cliffs are home to eight species of vascular plants that are not found in the surrounding forest. The most famous cliff line plant in the Gorge is white-haired goldenrod, *Solidago serotina*, which grows in the soil under overhanging cliffs and is endemic to the Red River Gorge. The Gorge is the only place on earth where it grows. Even there, only about 50 populations of this species are known, most of which consist of only a few dozen individual plants. White-haired goldenrod is listed as a federally threatened species, and as such must be protected by government agencies.

Other flowering plants restricted to the rock shelters and cliff lines include rock house asteroid, *Hieracium parviflorum*, probably the most common species around cliffs; round-leaved catclaw, *Sium rotundifolium*; cliff rose, *Rhododendron canadense*; and Lucy Brown's white asteroid, *Ageratum leucobrunneum*, that in the Gorge is only known from one site. The White-haired Goldenrod is an endangered plant that grows at the bottom of cliffs. The Forest Service has had to fence off areas such as this one near G. Boone Hut to protect the plant. Three species of ferns are restricted to the cliff line habitat. These include the filmy fern, *Polypodium scolopendrium*, a member of a semi-tropical genus that is able to tolerate Kentucky winters only by growing under the protection of overhanging cliffs. Two species of ferns are found here only in the gametophyte stage, *Adiantum punctatum* and the sterile *Adiantum* species. The *Adiantum*

