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DEKALB COUNTY
NEWS RELEASE

DECEMBER 17, 2012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Excavation Underway to Save Critically Imperiled Plants

LITHONIA– Excavation is underway at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve to create new granite pool habitats for two critically imperiled plant species: the federally threatened pool sprite (*Amphianthus pusillus*) and the federally endangered black-spored quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*). Currently these plants are vulnerable and the protected habitat at Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve is vital for the recovery of these two species.

The effort is funded through a \$10,000 grant from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, which will provide technical advice and oversight. Staff members from Davidson-Arabia Mountain and the Georgia Botanical Garden will remove soil from existing pools for sterilization and relocation to the newly excavated pools. Plant samples will be collected from existing populations on the mountain, grown at the Georgia Botanical Gardens and later planted into the new granite pool habitats. The pool habitats will be protected and educational signage will highlight the program's value in protecting these species.

DeKalb County is committed to safeguarding the cultural and natural resources of Davidson-Arabia Mountain Nature Preserve. Its mission is to preserve these areas of natural beauty today, and leave a legacy of environmental stewardship that lasts for generations.

For more information, contact Charlie Monroe, Natural Resource Manager, 770-484-3060, camonroe@dekalbcountyga.gov, 3787 Klondike Rd. Lithonia, GA 30038.



Left: Pool sprite (*Amphianthus pusillus*) Right: Black-spored quillwort (*Isoetes melanospora*)
Photos courtesy U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Southeast Region

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