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December 1998

# SAMAB News

314 UT Conference Center, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138

**Conference:** Mountain Water Resources: Understanding and Management -- April 27, 1999 in Asheville. For more information access the web page <<http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/CIL/WRR/ news/314.html>>.

**WEB Site:** Water Resources Research Institute in Raleigh <<http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/CIL/WRR/>>

**Educational Grants:** Deadline for Toyota Grants for science teachers is Jan. 15, 1999. Check the National Science Teachers Association Web Page <<http://www.nsta.org/programs/toyota.htm>>

## 9th Annual Fall Conference in Gatlinburg a Big Success

An audience of approximately 190 heard invited speakers: Suzette Kimball (NPS), Elizabeth Estill (USDA-FS), Larry Stritch (USDA-FS), John Shipp (TVA), Milton Hamilton (TDEC), and Luther Propst (Sonoran Institute). Participants were treated to a special presentation by the regional writer Wilma Dykeman, author of the *French Broad*.

A summary report on the concurrent sessions is contained in this newsletter. The list of conference participants can be accessed on the SAMAB Web Page. Authors abstracts are also on the Web Page under the heading "publications."

Bob Kerr (Georgia EPD) served as the Master of Ceremony for the gala event "Toast or Roast" for retiring SAMAB Executive Director Huber Hinote. Although Hinote is retiring he will continue to support SAMAB activities and the SAMAB Foundation.

## SAMAB's Executive Committee Selects New Executive Director

Karen Wade, SAMAB Executive Committee Chair, announced that Dr. Robert S. Turner was selected as the new Executive Director of the SAMAB Coordinating Office. Turner succeeds Hubert Hinote who will retire on January 3, 1999.

Turner is director of the National Center for Environmental Decision-making Research (NCEDR) and is a Senior Research Staff Member at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) Environmental Science Division "on loan" to the University of Tennessee. His work is on interactions between humans and environmental systems, and on use of technology, broadly defined, to address problems facing society. He received a BS in zoology in 1975 from Duke University, a Masters in Regional Planning in 1977 from University of Pennsylvania, and a PhD in geology in 1983 from the University of Pennsylvania.

He joined ORNL in 1983 as a Wigner Fellow, was named leader of the Biogeochemical Cycling Group in 1989, deputy director of the ORNL Center for Global Environmental Studies in 1995, deputy director and later interim director of NCEDR in 1996, and director of NCEDR in 1998.

Dr. Turner has experience in a wide range of research and assessment activities. He directed NCEDR's outreach program as deputy director and lead NCEDR's research and outreach approaches as interim director. Dr. Turner is a member of the American Geophysical Union, American Chemical Society, Ecological Society of America, Soil Science Society of America, and Sigma Xi.

Turner will begin his new duties on Jan.1, 1999. Robert (Robb) Turner can be reached at 423-974-4583. His Email address is <[rturner@utk.edu](mailto:rturner@utk.edu)>.

## Suzette Kimball and Nancy Herbert Team Up for SAMAB Executive Committee Duties in 1999

Karen Wade announced that Suzette Kimball will become the new Chair of SAMAB's Executive Committee in January 1999. Kimball was recently selected as Director of the USGS-Biological Resources Division's Eastern District Office in Kearneysville, WV. Dr. Kimball served as National Park Service, Associate Regional Director, Science & Natural Resources (Southeast Region) from 1993 to 1998. She enthusiastically supports SAMAB programs. Kimball's office phone number is (304) 724-4500. She will be working closely with Executive Vice-Chair Nancy Herbert (USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station - Asheville). Herbert agreed to serve a second term as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee. Herbert' phone number is (828) 257-4302. The SAMAB WebHomepage contains names, addresses and phone numbers for the Executive Committee and Working Committee members.

# Report on SAMAB's Native Plant and Exotic Pests Initiative:

SAMAB's Southern Appalachian Native Plant Initiative (SANPI) organizers: Hilary Vinson (US Fish & Wildlife) and Phil Gibson (WNC Tomorrow) reported to the SAMAB Executive Committee at the November Meeting. Vinson and Gibson are working toward partnerships with nurseries, landscapers, North Carolina State Parks, and NC State University Extension Service to establish native plant demonstration areas in Western North Carolina and encouraging support for SANPI.

A reprint of the colorful brochure, *"Exotic Pest Plants and their Effects on Natural Areas"* was funded by Western North Carolina Tomorrow. Two brochures were drafted with the assistance of a variety of organizations and personal services by volunteers: *"Southern Appalachian Native Plant Initiative"* and *"Western North Carolina: Blue Ridge Mountains Region: Landscaping with Native Plants."* SAMAB Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade said that letters of appreciation would be sent to all those who contributed to this effort.

Vinson talked about project needs for FY 1999 and the Executive Committee strongly urged other government agencies to get involved.

## **FY 99 Project Needs Include:**

**1.** A guide to planting native plants in the *Southern Appalachians, Plant It and They Will Grow* - funds needed \$15,000 - Personnel Needs: People to review project drafts.

**2.** *Invasive Exotic Plant Fact Sheets* - funds needed \$8,000 - Personnel Needs: People to review draft fact sheets.

**3.** Traveling Exhibit - funds needed \$3,000 (2 to 3 copies and cases) - Personnel Needs: educational specialists to develop and coordinate exhibit production.

**4.** Native Plant Slide Show - Funding Needs: \$1,500 for a master slide show - Personnel Needs: educational specialists and native plant experts to write and organize the slide show.



**5.** Finalizing the Southern Appalachian Native Plant Initiative - Personnel Needs: SAMAB Committees to review and finalize.

**6.** Developing educational signs for the native plant demonstration areas - Funding Needs: pending funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation - Personnel Needs: Educational specialists to oversee interpretive writing and planning.

**7.** Erwin Fish Hatchery Native Plant Demonstration Area - Funding Needs: \$10,000 - Personnel Needs: US F&WS and University of Tennessee School of Landscape Design are planning the project.

## **Other Initiative Needs:**

Partners are needed in Tennessee, Virginia, western South Carolina, and northern Georgia to coordinate native plant brochures. Botanists are needed to review educational outreach materials.

SAMAB joined the National Native Plant Conservation Initiative this Fall. Hilary Vinson prepared a draft document, *Native Plant Conservation Initiative for the Southern Appalachian Ecosystem*.

The draft document provides a framework and strategy for linking resources and expertise in developing a coordinated regional approach to plant conservation. Like the national strategy, the regional strategy will be guided by the following vision: *"For the enduring benefit of the Nation, its ecosystems, and its people, to conserve and protect our native plant heritage by ensuring that to the greatest extent feasible, native plant species and communities are maintained, enhanced, restored, or established on public lands, and that such activities are promoted on private lands."*

Vinson will represent SAMAB on the Federal Native Plant Conservation Initiative Committee.

# SAMAB 1998 Annual Conference Reports

## Reports on Concurrent Sessions

### Concurrent Session #1

#### **Revising National Forest Plans**

(Terry Seyden, Reporter and Terry Tipple, Moderator)

This session provided an overview of how five national forests in the Southern Appalachians are utilizing the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) to help chart a new course for forest management in the region.

Forrest Carpenter, one of the SAA's co-leaders gave an historical perspective of how SAMAB agencies worked together to produce one of the best regional assessments ever done. He pointed out that the SAA set the stage for the U.S. Forest Service to continue a true science-based, open, collaborative process in revising national forest land management plans.

Gary Pierson, director of planning for the USDA Forest Service Southern Region, outlined how the Forest Service is responding to the common regional issues identified in the SAA. He highlighted how this was a much more coordinated, collaborative approach than had ever been done in forest planning in this region.

Next, a panel of Forest Service technical experts shared how the Forest Service is structuring consistent analytic procedures to address the major issues identified in the SAA. They went on to describe how the Forest Service will be developing detailed management direction for each of the SAA issues.

The panel pointed out that while there will still be individual forest plans produced, there will be consistent approaches to broad issues that span all of the national forests in the SAMAB region. Also the model of interagency scientific collaboration on methodologies and extensive peer review established during the Southern Appalachian Assessment are being continued in the Southern Appalachian Forest Plan revision process.

Next, workshop participants got a chance to talk with forest planners and view maps for how alternative management approaches might be applied in a consistent manner across all national forests in the SAA landscape.

Finally, a panel discussion shared different perspectives on how the general public and other agencies and organizations can most effectively participate with the Forest Service in the plan revision process.

In summary, the Forest Service in its plan revision process is successfully utilizing the SAMAB Southern Appalachian

Assessment. Management issues are being addressed in a more consistent fashion, and environmental and economic issues are being addressed at a broad landscape level. Also the SAA spirit of interagency collaboration and open, continuing public dialogue has been successfully carried forward into the national forest plan revision process.

### Concurrent Session #3

#### **Environmental Coordination**

(Harold Draper, Reporter and Moderator)

The purpose of the session was to emphasize the decision-making nature of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and other environmental impact assessment (EIA)-type processes and to point out that NEPA is one existing mechanism to integrate environmental, economic, and policy concerns. There were five NEPA-related talks and two other EIA-related talks. In addition, another NEPA-related session on November 4 focused on national forest planning.

The session began with an overview of the expanded environmental audit process performed by Albert Fritsch of Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest (ASPI). ASPI, at the request of property owners, performs environmental resource assessments focusing on enhancing the environmental performance of individual buildings and properties. Mary Jane Aiken of Advanced Waste Management Systems discussed ISO 14001 environmental management requirements. ISO 14000 is a series of international standards that provide a structure for managing environmental impacts. Certification of compliance is especially useful for organizations that are engaged in international trade and is also helpful in community relations and insurance benefits. ISO 14000 compliance is an EIA-type process in that it provides a tool for balancing environmental protection and economic development and it requires attention to the concerns and requirements of all stakeholders.

In presenting an overview of NEPA reviews related to the SAMAB focus areas of watershed management, native and exotic species, and sustainable development, Harold Draper of Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) pointed out that NEPA is a decision process and applies to policies, programs, and plans in addition to specific actions. Therefore, it is possible to find out about agency activities in these areas by assessing their recent NEPA reviews. However, reviews of "good" projects are often minimized by agencies. This means that the environmental reviews for these activities may not always be widely

# SAMAB 1998 Annual conference Reports

## Conference Reports continued from page 3

publicized. Agencies in the region with recent watershed management reviews included Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Army Corps of Engineers (ACE), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Forest Service (FS), Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Recent exotic species reviews were performed by TVA, FS, ACE, and Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS). Other activities in these areas are often embedded in land plans or other programs. While sustainable development is a broader topic, there are numerous reviews for economic development grants and loans, planning efforts, land disposals, and highways that touch on this topic.

Ron McKittrick (FERC) discussed recent efforts to streamline the relicensing process for private hydroelectric projects. There are 50 hydroelectric developments in the Southern Appalachian region, many of which will be relicensed by FERC in the next few years. The streamlined relicensing process allows NEPA to be done before the application is filed, offering flexibility, local solutions, and the building of relationships with stakeholders before decisions are made. By emphasizing cooperation and participation in the regulatory process, FERC hopes to make better licensing decisions at an earlier date.

Mark Cantrell (FWS) reviewed efforts to protect aquatic resources following an extreme rain event in the Toe River watershed of Avery and Mitchell Counties, North Carolina. Extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, farmland, and natural resources occurred. Federal involvement in the recovery effort was through the NRCS Emergency Watershed Program (EWP) and ACE Nationwide Permit 37. Because of the presence of endangered species in the streams being targeted for channel modifications, consultation under the Endangered Species Act was required. In implementing streamlined processes like the EWP, there is a need for better assessment of stream morphology, better understanding of public expectations, and better inter-agency coordination including an interagency, interdisciplinary team. With these changes, a quicker response to the emergency under NEPA can be expected, and resources will be protected as well.

Mark Woods and Jack Collier of the National Park Service discussed the different approach to coal mining regulation that has occurred in Tennessee and Kentucky around the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. In Tennessee, coal mining is directly administered by OSM, using a NEPA review process. In Kentucky, coal mining regulation is delegated to the state. The NEPA process in Tennessee, known as the Fern Lake Petition Evaluation EIS, involved extensive coordination with

NPS and other stakeholders, and ultimately resulted in denial of mining within the viewshed of the park, in part for aesthetic impacts in the national park area. The Kentucky process, in contrast, failed to engage the National Park Service at an early stage of review, even though the impacts were largely the same as in the previous Tennessee application, and was litigated. The litigation resulted in an arbitration process which resulted in an agreement to notify the NPS of any mine within a five-mile radius of the national park area and expanded reclamation requirements. One key technology used by the NPS in proving an adverse aesthetic effect was Geographic Information Systems. The importance of engaging affected agencies such as NPS early was recently shown again when the Red Hills Power Project and lignite mine EIS in Mississippi was successfully completed by the TVA.

The final talk was presented by Robert Johnson of ACE. The Clean Water Act requires agencies to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters. Implementation of the nationwide permit program and individual Section 404 program in western North Carolina provided opportunities for innovative stream channel mitigation and restoration work, especially for highway projects. Mitigation for 10 miles of Interstate 26 in western North Carolina includes over five miles of channel mitigation work, for example. Sizable projects involving stream impacts use a multi-agency stream mitigation review team. The success of this program is highly dependent on a well-coordinated partnership of federal and state agencies and the public.

It was evident from the talks presented at the environmental coordination session that there continues to be a need for greater interagency coordination across state lines in environmental assessment programs and that methods of EIA continue to need refinement.

### **Concurrent Session #4: Appalachian Sustainability**

(Nancy Herbert, Reporter - Charles Van Sickle, Moderator)

Seven speakers addressed the issue of sustainability in the Southern Appalachians—some raised questions on how we achieve it, others gave concrete examples of how their organization is moving towards sustainability. Russ England said that governments tend to promote growth with no consideration of what the optimum human population would be for a particular area. He suggested that government needs to be “growth neutral.” V.K. Saxena showed the results of his analysis of climate change in the Southeast over the past 45 years. He suggested that the U.S. should think twice before

# SAMAB 1998 Annual Conference Reports

## Continued from page 4

signing the Kyoto treaty since it will likely have significant negative effects on the economy of the Southeast. Dan Birch of TVA presented the results of a survey of utility customers in the region that showed that some proportion of these customers would be willing to pay 5, 10, or 20% more for power if they knew it came from a "green" power source. Margaret Lyday interviewed leaders of eleven communities to find out what they learned from their experiences in trying to start a sustainable development project. All said that it took a lot of time to do it right, but that involving the public was a key to their success. Cheri Miller of TVA described several ways that her branch of TVA has found uses for by-products of coal-fired power plants. Fly ash is being used as fill for highways. Scrubber gypsum is being used to make wallboard. Virginia Tolbert and her colleagues at Oak Ridge National Lab showed how farmers could plant a biomass crop as part of their regular rotation of crops on farm lands and actually increase yields on agricultural lands. Cottonwood and other woody biomass crops can stabilize the soil, and decrease runoff and nutrient loss. Charlie Feldlake of the Agricultural Research Service described how agroforestry could be incorporated into land use options for the Southern Appalachians.

## Concurrent Session #5

### **Appalachian Watersheds**

(Jack Ranney, Reporter and Greg Upham, Moderator)

Three watershed themes were discussed in this session. These involved watershed nutrient and chemical balances, restoration of riparian areas with native species, and urban stormwater issues in Chattanooga. The USGS National Assessment concerning potential consequences of climate change on water resources was also presented. General issues and SAMAB's potential response will be discussed without going into the specifics of each presentation.

### **Watershed Activity Coordination**

Many agencies and organizations are involved in watershed studies, management, restoration, and research. Several umbrella organizations have helped coordinate these activities but efforts are still not up to the amount of coordination needed for the entire Southern Appalachians. It appears that **SAMAB** is in a prime position to coordinate for the Southern Appalachian region. This will require facilitating collaboration between state agencies, pertinent river groups, and federal agencies. **SAMAB** is the one organization that can help develop the region's "sense of place" unencumbered by administrative boundaries and should utilize the opportunity. This may be most meaningful in

areas expected or now experiencing accelerated development by the private sector and areas involving topics somewhat neglected by agency policy and watershed group foci (small stream sustainability or cumulative effects of individual permitting) in the region.

### **Riparian (Watershed) Restoration**

Three approaches to riparian (watershed) restoration involve very different solutions. Engineered solutions involving regrading of stream banks, stabilization of banks using native materials, and stream habitat modifications involving physical structures hold direct, immediate solutions for very specific problem areas. These solutions may or may not be supportive of overall watershed restoration needs, native species and terrestrial habitat management needs (native plant initiative), or maintaining the sense of place for the region. Techniques are usually simple and direct but only now beginning to be more widely known.

Native landscaping and riparian restoration are being united in small riparian situations to recognize the more complex habitat and native plant (exotic pest plant) issues in disturbed riparian areas. These too are focused on specific sections of streams for immediate as well as some long term restoration benefits. Techniques for this type of restoration are still not widely known and need marketing.

Private organizations are working in various relationships with public agencies to improve watersheds from a broader but still incomplete perspective. Out of necessity because of public perception and interest, these groups tend to focus on actions along larger streams and rivers. Efforts have involved some tributaries and smaller streams with considerable success in rural areas. Urban streams have been much more problematic to address because restoration actions involve so many interests, liabilities, and requirements. This approach incorporates the first two: 1) engineered solutions and 2) stabilization using native plant materials.

**SAMAB** is in a position to bring watershed interests and interest groups together, help the transfer of information and experiences, and provide a regional perspective to the specific interests of particular watershed groups and particular agency goals. It may also be in a position to encourage a more cultural sense of place in watershed planning and groups that tends to be left out during the engineering of restoration solutions.

### **Watershed Education**

Awareness by the public about watersheds, their management, their connectivity, and opportunities and costs associated with

# SAMAB 1998 Annual Conference Reports

Continued from page 5

the three approaches (engineered solutions, stabilizations using native plants, and stream habitat modifications involving physical structures) is a huge challenge. SAMAB should be working with and encouraging the various regional watershed groups while developing a Southern Appalachian regional education program to market itself.

## Concurrent Session #6

### **Appalachian Sustainability Planning**

(Pat Parr, Reporter - Stacy Fehlenberg Moderator)

Environmental values rank high for rural and urban residents as well as in business location and retention decisions. Surveys of rural and urban residents demonstrated that environmental values of residents in rural areas has become stronger in recent years. And, similarly, surveys show that quality of life and natural resource amenities ranked highest in importance for business location and retention decisions.

Environmental values can be compromised without careful planning. Smart growth visioning and planning processes for non-metropolitan communities have been developed. A draft document "Smart Growth for Tennessee Towns and Counties: A Process Guide" has served as the basis for initial planning in two counties. These processes complement existing sustainable development community initiatives. These initiatives have been pulled together at the Sustainable Communities Network website (<http://www.sustainable.org>).

The Coalition for Jobs and the Environment has implemented (and modified as needed) the model for town meetings developed by the Rocky Mountain Institute. Four communities have, overall, successfully initiated sustainable economic planning. And, sustainable planning in the forestry industry has been implemented through the American Forest and Paper Association. The Sustainable Forestry Initiative now includes 140 member companies that have committed to specific forestry and conservation practices following detailed guidelines.

Forest modeling and projections are important in making decisions regarding special communities or forest resources. Specialty forest products, an economic resource that has been over-looked and under managed, needs more attention and information for appropriate management. Additionally, modeling of special communities, such as old growth forests, and validation of results can provide critical planning data as well as validate methodology used for predicting communities. Understanding species diversity differences related to age of forests is

an important component in modeling and evaluating land-cover changes.

Approaches to sustainability planning in Appalachian communities are as different as the people who live in them.

## Concurrent Session #7

### **Southern Appalachian Ecology**

(Brian Cole, Reporter - Allen Ratzlaff, Modertor)

This was a well-attended (30-50) session featuring high quality presentations on birds, exotic pests, wolves, air quality, beavers, and education. We learned of exciting and innovative efforts to integrate education and science in GSMNP. This bodes well for the knowledge and attitudes of the next generation.

With invasive exotic species being a major threat to the Southern Appalachians, it was good to hear that we know something about how to predict the relative risk that exotics present, as a function of the productivity and diversity of an area. The bad news is that high diversity, low productivity areas, common in the SA, are especially vulnerable to invasion by exotics.

We learned that the composition of the forest bird communities in the Unicoi Mountains (south-southwest of GSMNP) have remained relatively stable since the 1940s. But, it appears that the increased density of roads and associated clearing, especially on the NC side are providing access and habitat for crows, bluejays, and other species more typical of disturbed areas. It was also encouraging to learn that the use of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (Bt) to control gypsy moths in WV and VA is not having significant effects on breeding success of forest birds in treated areas.

We learned that models have been developed on the factors affecting success of past red wolf reintroductions that will help us predict the likelihood of success at future release sites. Important factors include using wild-born wolves, releasing wolves with pups to maintain family units, and avoiding areas with high human, road, and coyote density.

Finally, there was a very interesting paper on the dramatic ecological changes that have occurred since beaver were eradicated in the SA in the 1790s. It seems that they occurred in high densities in the SA and created ecological conditions very important to many species that are now imperiled. Land management agencies are not currently managing for beavers and it looks like maybe they should.

# SAMAB 1998 Annual conference Reports

## Concurrent Session #8

### **Appalachian Studies Panel**

(Richard Straw, Reporter and Moderator)

The Appalachian Studies Panel was planned and organized by Ruthanne Mitchell and Tyler Blethen to highlight the work of academics in the region's colleges and universities. There were five presenters scheduled, however, due to illness, Jean Speer was unable to attend. She is the director of the Appalachian Studies Center at East Tennessee State University, where she oversees programs in the cultural aspects of health care, bluegrass music, rural economic development and planning, plus exchange programs in Scotland and Ireland.

Grace Edwards, director of Radford University's Appalachian Regional Studies Center in Radford, Virginia, gave a very informative talk about its work. Her presentation explained the center's programs in teaching, research, and community outreach including the Selu Conservancy, the Appalachian Students in the Schools program, and *The Appalachian Handbook*.

Tyler Blethen, of Western Carolina University (WCU) is the current chair of the Appalachian Consortium and director of the WCU's Mountain Heritage Center. His presentation focused on the Appalachian Consortium's work in publishing, creating conferences, supporting regional health care and education. The Mountain Heritage Center is WCU's museum of Southern Appalachian history, natural history, and culture. The Mountain Heritage Center's collection of 10,000 regional artifacts supports a variety of exhibitions and educational programs that are presented both in the museum and the community.

Chris Fulwider, a volunteer with the Appalachian Service Project spoke on its work in the region. The Appalachian Service Project is a learning experience for urban youth and adults to learn about the cultural and economic well-being in the Southern Appalachians while providing home repairs to low income families.

Richard Straw, professor of history at Radford University, spoke about the history of the Appalachian Studies Association and the work of *H-Appalachia*. The Appalachian Studies Association was organized in 1978 as the Appalachian Studies Conference - a group dedicated to the study of and dissemination of knowledge about the Appalachian region. *H-Appalachia* is a new listserver, sponsored by H-Net, the Humanities Network at Michigan State University. H-Appalachia, with over 200 subscribers, is an electronic mail service which serves as a forum for online discussions and exchanges about teaching and scholarly work in and about Appalachia.

## Interactive Poster Session

(Ruthanne L. Mitchell, Reporter and Moderator)

At the "interactive" poster session, 20 exhibitors were present to answer questions. SAMAB's exciting new exhibit, designed by ORNL, accented SAMAB's Program of Work: 1998-2000. A highlight of this year's poster session was a multi-media slide program by Windy Gordon of Brevard College. His presentation documented Brevard College students and their community environmental education activities carried out at towns along their kayak trip from the French Broad River in North Carolina down the Mississippi River to New Orleans.

Community organizations presenting exhibits included: the Mountain Conservation Trust of Georgia (Barbara Decker), Sustainable Community Network (Susanna MacKensie Euston), The Appalachian Service Projects (Chris Fulwider), Coalition for Jobs and the Environment (Nancy Bell), and the Appalachian Bear Center (Daryl Ratajczak).

Scholars from Western Carolina University (Tyler Blethen), Radford University (Grace T. Edwards) Oakridge Associated Universities (John C. Nemeth), and University of Tennessee Library (Anne Bridges, et al) and students from Mars Hill College (Crystal Loan), University of Tennessee (Melinda Gibbs, Maureen Cunningham), University of Kentucky (Carol Jo Evans), and Whitman College (Avery Patten) displayed written materials and/or exhibits centering on research projects, public outreach programs, and native plant protection.

Federal agencies: US Geological Survey (D. Briane Adams:Atlanta and Sandra Clark:Reston), Coweeta Hydrological Laboratory (R. McCollum, et al), and US Fish & Wildlife Service (Hilary Vinson:Asheville) presented splendid exhibits and printed materials on a variety of programs and research projects. Hilary Vinson displayed several new publications related to SAMAB's Native Plant and Exotic Species Initiative.

The National Center for Environmental Decision-making Research (Robb Turner) and the Energy, Environment, and Resources Center (Jack Ranney) at the University of Tennessee also presented outstanding exhibits. A video presentation by Nancy Bell from the Coalition for Jobs and the Environment was a terrific addition to the special evening session. Demonstrations of Web sites were also featured. Ruthanne Mitchell, SAMAB Outreach Coordinator, demonstrated SAMAB's Web site <<http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>>. Nancy Keohane demonstrated how to access the Discover Life in America site <<http://www.discoverlife.org>>. The Smart Growth Network <[www.smartgrowth.org](http://www.smartgrowth.org)> and the Sustainable Community Network were presented by Susanna MacKensie Euston.





