



# SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE

*...fostering a harmonious relationship between people and the Southern Appalachian environment*

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## E-Mail News Briefs--December 4, 2002

13th ANNUAL SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE ROCKS! -- Over 230 people participated in the November 5-7 event in Gatlinburg. Enthusiasm for the plenaries, concurrent sessions, workshops, field trips, posters/displays, and evening events was so great that planning for next year is started already. Mark your calendars now for November 4-6, 2003 at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville, NC. [Gary Peeples](#) of the Fish and Wildlife Service is 2003 Conference Chair. See <http://samab.org/Events/Conf/Conf02/conf02.html> for this year's Program and Abstracts, the multimedia presentations on Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining in Transportation Planning and Project Decision Making, and the presentations on Hemlock Adelgid Invasion in the Southern Appalachians: If You're Not Concerned Now, You Need To Be.

SAMAB 2003 SUMMER INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE -- The ten-week summer internship program runs from June 2 through August 8, 2003 and places interns with environmental decision-making organizations in the East Tennessee area. The program is open to advanced undergraduate and graduate students in public policy and administration, environmental science, planning, natural resource management, business, decision research, information, and related fields. See <http://samab.org/Opps/intern.html> for full program description and application procedures.

NEW SEQUOYA PROFESSOR -- Tom Hatley, SAMAB Foundation Board Member, has taken a position at Western Carolina University as the Sequoyah Distinguished Professor of Cherokee Studies. Tom is interested in creating better dialogue between academia, Native Americans, and the environmental community. He can be reached at [hatley@wcu.edu](mailto:hatley@wcu.edu).

**BUBBLING CRUDE? REALITIES AND PERCEPTIONS** -- Have you heard about CBS' plan to create a Beverly Hillbillies reality show, with real live Appalachian "hillbillies" transplanted to the real hills - Beverly, that is? Some folks think this may not be a good way of enhancing appreciation of our regional human and cultural resources. See perspectives of Rudy Abramson, [http://www.rupri.org/articles/realities.html](http://www.latimes.com/news/printedition/suncommentary/la-oe-abramson1dec01001516,0,1330308.story?coll=la%2Dheadlines%2Dsuncomment; and Thomas Rowley, <a href=).

**INVASIVE SPECIES** -- A report on non-native, invasive plants on the Oak Ridge Reservation (prepared by Sara Drake, Univ. of Georgia; Jake Weltzin, Univ. of TN; and, Pat Parr, ORNL) has been published by Oak Ridge National Laboratory. The report includes an assessment (using a USGS ranking system) of the distribution, abundance, impact, and potential for control of the 18 most abundant invasive plant species on the reservation with a focus on natural areas. For copies of the report, please contact Pat Parr ([parrpd@ornl.gov](mailto:parrpd@ornl.gov)) and provide your name and mailing address.

**FADING FORESTS II** -- This is a new report by Faith Thompson Campbell, leader of the Invasive Species Program at American Lands Alliance and member of the Invasive Species Advisory Committee created by Executive Order 13112, and Scott E. Schlarbaum, Professor of Forest Genetics in the Department of Forestry, Wildlife and Fisheries at the Institute of Agriculture, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Its executive summary concludes, "Invasive exotic insects and pathogens already harm the integrity of North American forests. The ecological, economic, and fiscal consequences threaten to rise substantially due to rapidly expanding imports and the weakening of phytosanitary safeguards prompted by international trade agreements and national trade promotion policies. Now is a crucial time: by changing relevant treaties, laws, regulations, and policies, and through providing additional funding, policy makers can minimize damage to forest ecosystems. See full report at <http://fwf.ag.utk.edu/Schlarbaum/Fading%20Forests%20II.pdf>.

**ATBI NEW HIGHS** -- Robert Keller and student Jim Brinson report two new elevational records for species in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. They captured a cotton rat (*Sigmodon hispidus* Say and Ord) at Parson Bald (elevation 4746 ft.) The previous published elevational record for this species inside of the park was 1700-1750 ft at Greenbrier Cove and 1700 ft at Mt Sterling (Linzey 1995). A golden mouse (*Ochrotomys nuttalli* Harlan) was captured at Gregory Bald (elev. 4940 ft). The previous published elevational record for this species inside of the park was 2700 ft at Elkmont (Linzey 1995). This is the third golden mouse captured at upper elevations within the last year (one by Keller at Parson Bald (elev. 4746 ft) and one by Ed Pivornam at Andrews Bald (elev. 5700 ft)). Keller thinks these findings may suggest a migration by this species into previously unoccupied habitat.

Other findings of the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in the Smokies are being presented at the Discover Life in America Annual Conference in Gatlinburg, TN this week. To date, over 300 species new to science and 2500 species new to the Smokies have been found.

**CERULEAN WARBLER STATUS** -- On October 31, 2000, the Fish

and Wildlife Service received a petition to list the cerulean warbler as a threatened species. In response to the petition, on October 23, 2002, the Service announced in the Federal Register that the petition contained substantial information indicating that there may be a need to list the cerulean warbler and that they will expand their review of the status of the species. This finding initiates a further evaluation of the status of the cerulean warbler, and opens a 90 day comment period for interested parties to provide any additional information that they may have on the cerulean warbler. After review of all the information a decision will be made whether to propose the cerulean warbler as a threatened species. For detailed information on the finding and the biology of the cerulean warbler, see <http://southeast.fws.gov/es/hot%20issues.html>.

**WILDLIFE CROSSINGS TOOLKIT** -- The USDA Forest Service's San Dimas Technology and Development Center, Utah State University's Jack H. Berryman Institute, University of Montana-Bozeman's Western Transportation Institute, and the Federal Highway Administration announce the public launching of the Wildlife Crossings Toolkit. You can find the Toolkit at [www.wildlifecrossings.info](http://www.wildlifecrossings.info)

**SOUTHERN FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FINALIZED** -- See <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain> for a web version of the recently completed 650-page USFS Gen. Tech. Report, Southern Forest Resource Assessment. Hard copies may also be obtained from this page or by calling 828-257-4830 or by emailing [pubrequest@srs.fs.fed.us](mailto:pubrequest@srs.fs.fed.us)

**NEW JOURNAL ON INDICATORS** -- The new international journal, "Ecological Indicators: Integrating, Monitoring, Assessment, and Management" is soliciting manuscripts in the areas of biology and ecology, addressing indicators of condition, research, case studies, and assessment. More information is available at: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/ecolind>

**OUR ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT?** -- Redefining Progress' Sustainability Program has released its latest "Ecological Footprint of Nations" report that outlines the ecological impact of 146 of the world's nations. The issue brief shows to what extent a nation can support its resource consumption with its available ecological capacity. It also illustrates the degree to which a nation could reproduce its consumption at a global level. <http://www.redefiningprogress.org/publications/ef1999.pdf>

**RED COCKADED WOODPECKER SYMPOSIUM** -- Dates: 27-31 January 2003. Location: Savannah, Georgia. Early registration due 31 December. Registration, hotel, draft program, etc. can be found at <http://rcwrecovery.fws.gov/draftprogram.htm>.

#### NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission--

- On November 20, 2002, a Certificate was issued to East Tennessee Natural Gas Company/Duke Energy allowing construction to begin on the Patriot Project, a natural gas pipeline extending across Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. The project involves pipeline upgrades in the Cumberland Plateau and Ridge and Valley of Tennessee and Virginia, and new pipeline

construction between Wytheville, Virginia and Eden, North Carolina across the Blue Ridge Mountains. Natural gas would be provided to the Duke Energy Murray power plant in Georgia and the Duke Energy Wythe and Henry County Power plants in Virginia and to residential, commercial and industrial customers in Virginia and North Carolina. A copy of the certificate may be obtained from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov) or from the FERC website, [www.ferc.gov/ferris.htm](http://www.ferc.gov/ferris.htm) docket number CP01-415. Approvals for the project are also needed from TVA, National Park Service, Forest Service, and state agencies.

- The Draft EIS for the Greenbrier Pipeline, a natural gas pipeline from Clendenin, West Virginia to Granville County, North Carolina was released on November 4, 2002. Copies from [www.ferc.gov/ferris.htm](http://www.ferc.gov/ferris.htm), docket number CP02-396.

#### Federal Highway Administration--

- A final supplemental EIS for Appalachian Corridor H, construction of a 16-mile highway between Kerene and Parsons, West Virginia is available from Thomas J. Smith at 304-347-5928.

#### Forest Service--

- On October 25, 2002, the Record of Decision was signed for the Final Supplemental EIS for vegetation management in the Appalachian Mountains. It and the FEIS may be viewed at [www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/planning/vmeis/index.htm](http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/planning/vmeis/index.htm). The decision amends forest plans for national forests in the Appalachians and allows more flexibility in evaluating the potential for impacts to sensitive species. Other information from [rwilhelm@fs.fed.us](mailto:rwilhelm@fs.fed.us).
- The New River Valley Ranger District, Mount Rogers National Recreation Area, and Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services are considering treating 34,287 acres of private and 27,989 acres of National Forest lands for control of gypsy moth. Information from Cynthia Schiffer at 540-552-4641.
- The Chattahoochee-Oconee National Forest is proposing to designate some roads as routes for ATVs. Details at [www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/nepa\\_docs.htm](http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/nepa_docs.htm). Additional information from [tfarrington@fs.fed.us](mailto:tfarrington@fs.fed.us)
- The Clinch Ranger District is proposing to undertake forest and wildlife management activities in the Kane Gap Project Area, including 1227 acres in Scott County, Virginia. Information from [skuennen@fs.fed.us](mailto:skuennen@fs.fed.us)

#### US Army Corps of Engineers Nashville District Public Notices (<http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm>)--

- 02-77 - Expires 12/19/2002, Rarity Communities, Inc., Proposed Residential and Commercial Development, Roberts Branch, tributaries and adjacent wetlands, Roane County, TN
- 02-RP-01 - Expires 12/09/2002, Notice for Establishment of a Regional General Permit for Discharge of Dredged and/or Fill Material into Waters of the United States.
- 02-72 - Expires 12/04/2002, Tennessee Department of Transportation, Proposed Improvements to Middle Creek Road, Sevier County, TN
- 02-37 - Expires 11/10/2002, Waste Industries, Inc., Proposed

Wetland Fill Associated with the Development of a Class I Sanitary Landfill, Upper Reach of Dry Fork Creek, Tributary to Cane Creek, and Samples Branch, a Tributary to Rocky River Approximately 6 miles south of Spencer in Van Buren County, TN

- 02-71 - Expires 11/10/2002, South Blount County Utility District, Proposed Submarine Waterline Crossing, Lackey Creek Mile 1.5L, Opposite Tennessee River Mile 625.5L, Fort Loudoun Lake, Blount County, TN

TVA decisions (copies from hmdraper@tva.gov)--

- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for Section 26a approval of the widening of I-40 across Fourth Creek in Knox County, Tennessee
- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for Section 26a and deed modification actions related to the Sunset Bay Residential Development on Norris Reservoir, Union County, Tennessee
- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for modernization of the Boone Hydro Plant, Sullivan County, Tennessee.
- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for Section 26a approval of stream relocations and culverts associated with the construction of Phase II of the Roane County Industrial Park, Tennessee.
- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for an economic development loan to Aeroflex USA for purchase and expansion of their manufacturing facility in Monroe County, Tennessee
- The Draft EA for expansion of Blue Springs Marina, Watts Bar Reservoir, Roane County, Tennessee may be viewed at <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/bluesprings/index.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 4-7 - ATBI Annual Meeting, Photo Workshop on Wednesday, General Sessions Thursday and Friday, and DLIA Board Meeting on Saturday, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. For agenda and to register contact Jeanie Hilten at [jeanie@discoverlife.org](mailto:jeanie@discoverlife.org)
- January 11-19, 2003 - Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN
- March 28-30, 2003 - Appalachian Studies Association 26th Annual Conference, Richmond, KY. Presentation/session proposals due OCTOBER 4. <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>

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## E-Mail News Briefs--October 31, 2002

BLOCKBUSTER FALL CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK! --  
 SAMAB's 13th Annual Fall Conference promises to be the biggest and best ever! November 5-7 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree, Gatlinburg, TN. Check the web page for final program of presentations, workshops, field trips, and posters on the theme, "Measuring, Mitigating, and Managing Human Impacts in the Southern Appalachians." Welcome by Mike Tollefson, Superintendent of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Plenary talks by Gene Cleckley, Director of Field Services, South, U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration; Bill Ross, Secretary, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and Joel Hirschhorn, Director, Natural Resource Policy Studies, National Governors

Association, will set the stage for sessions on stewardship and streamlining in transportation planning, opportunities in the 2002 Farm Bill, sustainable gateway communities, managing for ecological integrity - terrestrial and aquatic, restoring native species, assessing invasive species, implications of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment for the Southern Appalachians, and just added - the hemlock adelgid invasion in the southern Appalachians - if you are not concerned now, YOU NEED TO BE.

**EUROMAB 2002 EXAMINES BIODIVERSITY DATA HANDLING**  
-- NBII co-sponsored a session at the October 7-12 EuroMAB meeting in Rome on handling biodiversity data in protected areas. Robb Turner, Executive Director of SAMAB and Technical Director of SAIN, presented the lead paper outlining the SAMAB-SAIN partnership for making biodiversity, ecosystem, and socioeconomic data, information, and tools more accessible and useable in the southern Appalachians. John Mosesso of USGS facilitated the session, and Emily Medley of Information International Associates assisted with program development and identification of informatics experts in central and eastern Europe to be sponsored by NBII at the session. The EuroMAB meeting also addressed topics of urban areas as biosphere reserves, ecotourism, quality economies, world heritage sites, and changing land uses and values in central and eastern Europe.

**REPRESENTING "SMOKIES-NESS"** -- Using quantitative methods to delineate ecoregions allows 1) assessment of representativeness and mapping of geographic locations of regions that are similar, and 2) network site analysis to show how well a particular network of sites represents a larger area containing the sites. See <http://research.esd.ornl.gov/~hnw/networks/>. Bill Hargrove and Forrest Hoffman of the Environmental Sciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory are SAIN partners, and also are developing a quantitative mapping tool to show connectivity in the landscape.

**CHECK IN TO THE LEN FOOTE HIKE INN AND BP'S PROJECT HELIOS** -- For a relaxing time, check out/check in to the Len Foote Hike Inn at Amicalola Falls State Park, near Springer Mountain, in northern Georgia. You can only get there on foot (except of course virtually - <http://www.hike-inn.com> - for info, pix, and reservations). While there, notice BP Solar's Project Helios photovoltaic panels or visit them virtually at <http://www.bpsolar.com/Contentdetails.cfm?Page=310>.

**BLUE RIDGE PAPER REDUCING NOX EMISSIONS** -- Blue Ridge Paper Products in Canton, NC is investing \$14 million over 3 years to reduce NOx emissions by 2000 tons annually. Although emissions to the air will be reduced all year, benefits may be greatest during the May-September "ozone season."

**INSPIRATIONAL LANDSCAPES ON-LINE CONFERENCE** -- Register now for an on-line conference November 6 and 7 addressing landscapes that evoke a response, that people take action to protect. See <http://heritageforum.truenorth.net.au/register.asp>

**NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION COMMUNITY GRANTS AVAILABLE** -- The NFF Community Assistance Program (CAP) will provide "start-up" grants in the \$5,000-15,000 range, as well as basic resources, tools, and guidance, to newly-forming and recently-formed

community groups nationwide to organize and engage more effectively in natural resource management issues on and around national forests.

Deadline for proposals is November 27, 2002. See

<http://www.natlforests.org/cap.htm>

#### DEVELOPMENT AND OUTREACH POSITION AVAILABLE --

See complete job description with the Carolina Mountain Land

Conservancy at <http://www.main.nc.us/cmlc> or [email](#).

#### NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

##### US Army Corps of Engineers--

- US Army Corps of Engineers has released a Draft EIS for the Operation and Maintenance of Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia. Information from [glendon.l.coffee@usace.army.mil](mailto:glendon.l.coffee@usace.army.mil)
- Nashville District, US Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices, available for viewing at <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm>
- 02-37 - Waste Industries, Inc., Proposed Wetland Fill Associated with the Development of a Class I Sanitary Landfill, Upper Reach of Dry Fork Creek, Tributary to Cane Creek, and Samples Branch, a Tributary to Rocky River Approximately 6 miles south of Spencer in Van Buren County, TN
- 02-71 - South Blount County Utility District, Proposed Submarine Waterline Crossing, Lackey Creek Mile 1.5L, Opposite Tennessee River Mile 625.5L, Fort Loudoun Lake, Blount County, TN
- 02-69 - Hales Bar Marina, Proposed Commercial Marina Expansion, Tennessee River Mile 431.1L, Nickajack Lake, Marion County, TN
- 02-56 - Casa di Lago Homeowners Association, Proposed Excavation, Riprap Bank Stabilization, and 10-Slip Community Dock, Tennessee River Mile 602.5L, Fort Loudoun Lake, Loudon County, TN
- 02-62 - Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources, Proposed Boat Launching Ramp and Associated Access Road and Parking Lots, Fishing Creek Mile 2.8L, Opposite Cumberland River Mile 508.0R, Lake Cumberland, Pulaski County, KY
- 02-59 - Alabama Department of Transportation, Proposed Wetland and Stream Fill for Alabama 157, Morgan County, AL
- Wilmington District, US Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices, available for viewing at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/notices.htm>
- 0231262, US 321 Improvements near Blowing Rock, Caldwell and Watauga Counties, NC
- 0231254, Riverlink, Inc., French Broad River whitewater improvements, rock V-dams spanning the channel of the French Broad River, Buncombe County, NC
- 0231303, Biltmore Park Corporate Technology Center and Town Square adjacent to Ducker Creek, Buncombe County, NC
- Mobile District, US Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices, available for viewing at <http://www.sam.usace.army.mil/op/reg/public.htm>
- AL02-02764H, Jefferson Metropolitan Industrial Park, Jefferson County, AL
- AL02-02568, riprap on Logan Martin Lake, Calhoun County, AL

## Commodity Credit Corporation--

- An EA is available for the administration of the Farm and Ranch Lands Protection Program, a new program established by the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002. See the notice at Federal Register 67, pp. 65907, October 29, 2002. It is expected to be available for viewing at [http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/env\\_assess/](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/env_assess/) or by contacting [denise.coleman@usda.gov](mailto:denise.coleman@usda.gov)

## Forest Service--

- Gypsy moth suppression activities in the George Washington and Jefferson National Forests are proposed in the spring of 2003. Information from Russ McFarlane at 540-291-2188.
- Warm Springs Ranger District information on FY 2003 Timber Stand Improvement Program and the FY 2002 Prescribed Burn program, Bath County, VA and Pocahontas County, WV is available from Patrick Roy Sheridan at 540-839-2521.
- Clinch Ranger District information on timber stand improvement and prescribed burn programs, Lee and Wise Counties, Virginia is available from John Stallard at 276-328-2931.
- Toccoa Ranger District is proposing a number of activities to reduce wildland fuel buildup in the wildland/urban interface in Fannin County, GA. Information from [rsemingson@fs.fed.us](mailto:rsemingson@fs.fed.us)

## National Park Service--

- A is available for mussel recovery in the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Kentucky and Tennessee. Horse trails cross the BSF at areas inhabited by endangered mussels, and the EA investigates options for reducing impacts. Contact Big South Fork at 423-569-2404 to obtain a copy.
- An EA and FONSI on the Obed Climbing Management Plan, Obed National Wild and Scenic River, Tennessee is available from Kris Stoehr at 423-346-6294.
- The Draft EIS for the General Management Plan for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, Henderson County, NC is available by calling the park at 828-693-4178.
- The Final EIS for the National Coal Heritage Area Strategic Action Plan in West Virginia is available from Peter Samuel at 215-597-1848.

## Nuclear Regulatory Commission--

- An EA is available for the request of Nuclear Fuels Services, Erwin, Tennessee to construct a Low-Enriched Uranyl Nitrate Storage Building. See the Notice at Federal Register 67, pp. 66172-66176, October 30, 2002 or [www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.htm](http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.htm). Publicly available records component, accession no. ML021790068.

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN
- December 4-7 - ATBI Annual Meeting, Photo Workshop on Wednesday, General Sessions Thursday and Friday, and DLIA



Board Meeting on Saturday, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. For agenda and to register contact Jeanie Hilten.

- December 12 - Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Annual Meeting, Cumberland Mountain State Park.
- January 11-19, 2003 - Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN
- March 28-30, 2003 - Appalachian Studies Association 26th Annual Conference, Richmond, KY. Presentation/session proposals due OCTOBER 4. See <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>

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## **E-Mail News Briefs--September 2002**

SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5-7 -- SAMAB's 13th Annual Fall Conference is November 5-7 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree, Gatlinburg, TN. Presentations, workshops, field trips, and posters on the theme Measuring, Mitigating, and Managing Human Impacts in the Southern Appalachians are planned. Plenary talks by Gene Cleckley, Director of Field Services, South, U.S. DOT Federal Highway Administration; Bill Ross, Secretary, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources; and Joel Hirschhorn, Director, Natural Resource Policy Studies, National Governors Association, will set the stage for sessions on stewardship and streamlining in transportation planning, opportunities in the 2002 Farm Bill, sustainable gateway communities, managing for ecological integrity - terrestrial and aquatic, restoring native species, assessing invasive species, and implications of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment for the Southern Appalachians. See the conference page under "Events" for the full agenda and hotel and registration information.

NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION AT FALL CONFERENCE -- A "partners meeting" of organizations funded by the National Forest Foundation (NFF) in their Southern Appalachian focus area will be held on Tuesday morning, November 5, before the SAMAB Conference begins. The NFF also will sponsor the SAMAB Conference reception Tuesday evening at the Gatlinburg aquarium.

SAMAB FALL NEWSLETTER ON-LINE -- More on the conference and related subjects is in the Fall SAMAB News, at the printer and on-line. See articles on conference plenary speakers, changing southern forests, and restoring native grasses at "Read the Newsletter" from SAMAB's home page.

CHEROKEE-NATIONAL PARK SERVICE LAND EXCHANGE -- On September 11-13, Robb Turner, SAMAB Executive Director, facilitated a meeting for the NPS discussing the findings of 28 technical studies conducted on the proposed land exchange. Those studies are available at <http://npslandexchange.com>. The group identified potential effects of the no-action, exchange-without-restrictions, and exchange-with-restrictions alternatives, and discussed potential mitigation measures associated with those effects. Participants included NPS staff from Great Smoky Mountains, Blue Ridge Parkway, Atlanta regional office, and Washington office; the Eastern Band of the Cherokee Indians; the consulting firm writing the EIS; the A&E firm designing the proposed

schools; the NC State Historic Preservation Officer; the National Parks Conservation Association; several contractors for the technical studies; and others. A decision on the preferred alternative is expected next, followed by the draft EIS, in this complex proposal.

**COUNTY ORDINANCE SOMETHING DIFFERENT --** On September 9, 2002 the Macon County (NC) Board of Commissioners unanimously passed the "Clean Water Amendment" to the county's existing Watershed Protection Ordinance. In passing this legislation, as recommended by the Macon County Watershed Council, the Commissioners created a new water quality category, Excellent Quality Waters, tantamount to the State of North Carolina's Outstanding Resource Waters (ORW) category. The legislation was sparked by the realization that there is still no point source discharge to the 25 miles of the Little Tennessee River between Lake Emory Dam at Franklin and Fontana Reservoir in Swain County, and that this may have something to do with the extraordinary biological health of this reach of the river. The new amendment prohibits any new NPDES permitted discharges to the river or any of its tributary systems downstream of Lake Emory (approximately half of the county). It also mandates vegetative buffers and restricts built-upon area and area of impervious surface within 1,000 ft. of the river or 500 ft. of tributaries. This may well be the first time that a county government in this region has acted based on considerations of biodiversity conservation.

**SAMI FINAL REPORT ON-LINE --** Results of the 10-year assessment of emissions, deposition/exposure, air-pollution effects, and alternative solutions are posted at <http://www.saminet.org>. The study indicates what sources contribute to air-quality problems in the region and recommends actions to improve air quality.

**TWO OAK RIDGE RESERVATION LAND-USE PLANNING-PROCESS REPORTS AVAILABLE --** The "Land Use Technical Report" evaluates the potential environmental and socioeconomic impacts, positive and negative, associated with four future-land-use scenarios. These scenarios were defined based on discussion and other input from a Focus Group and the public. The "Focus Group Report" includes suggestions on the utilization of land in the northwest portion of the Oak Ridge Reservation (around East Tennessee Technology Park). The Focus Group Report was unanimously signed by the Focus Group members at their final meeting on September 13, 2002. Both documents are available online at the Land Use Planning website <http://landuseplanning.ornl.gov/>. Some hard copies of the report and a newsletter including summaries of both reports are available from Pat Parr ([parrpd@ornl.gov](mailto:parrpd@ornl.gov)).

**RIVER NEIGHBORS NEWSLETTER --** The October 2002 issue of TVA River Neighbors - a newsletter for people who live near the Tennessee River, its tributaries and reservoirs - features an interview with Bridgette Ellis, Vice President of Resource Stewardship. In the interview, Ellis talks about the challenges involved in protecting the Tennessee Valley's natural resources while promoting economic growth, as well as various other topics related to TVA's management of reservoir lands, shorelines, recreation, and watershed protection. This issue also includes new reservoir ratings for black bass, bluegill, and crappie; an article about how TVA dams got their names; and news about Clean Marina award winners, Valley wildlife refuges, and recent efforts to work more

closely with Native American tribal representatives in protecting the region's archaeological resources. (See <http://www.tva.com/river/neighbors/>)

"STATE OF THE NATION'S ECOSYSTEMS" IS MISSING DATA -  
 - The H. John Heinz III Center for Science, Economics, and the Environment has released a report using existing data to assess the health of the nation's environment. The 270 page report concludes that almost 50 percent of the information needed to make environmental policy decisions is missing or inadequate. Check out the "indicators at a glance" sections in the report at <http://www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems> to see questions that cannot be answered without more information. Citizen-science monitoring, performed as in SAMAB's Appalachian Environment Monitoring Program, could supply much of the missing data. The Southern Appalachian Information Node and other nodes of the National Biological Information Infrastructure can index, synthesize, map, and provide access to existing data to make local, regional, and national ecosystem assessments easier to do.

HOME-SCALE WIND WORKSHOP -- Nov. 15 & 16, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC. Instructor: Mick Sagrillo; topics include wind assessment, siting, equipment overview, towers, wind/pv hybrids, system sizing, & how to do it right. For additional information call 828-262-6358 or 6361 or email [scanlindm@appstate.edu](mailto:scanlindm@appstate.edu).

COMMUNITY FORESTRY RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS -- The U.S. Community Forestry Research Fellowship Program provides fellowships to graduate students to support their field work in communities in the United States, and also funds undergraduate internships and assistantships. Students at any institution of higher learning may apply to either the graduate or undergraduate program. While the graduate program is open to all students enrolled in degree-granting programs in the social sciences or related natural resource sciences, the undergraduate program is specifically for minority students. Applications are due February 3, 2003. See [http://nature.berkeley.edu/community\\_forestry/](http://nature.berkeley.edu/community_forestry/)

#### NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

--US Fish and Wildlife Service has designated critical habitat for the Appalachian elktoe (a clam or mussel) in North Carolina and Tennessee. River reaches affected are the Little Tennessee River from Lake Emory Dam in Franklin to the backwaters of Fontana Reservoir; Tuckasee River from Cullowhee to Bryson City; Cheoah River from Santeetlah Dam to the confluence with the Little Tennessee River in Calderwood Reservoir; Little River from Cascade Lake Power Plant to the French Broad River east of Brevard; Pigeon River and West Fork Pigeon River upstream from Canton; and the Nolichucky, Toe, South Toe, and North Toe Rivers upstream from Erwin, Tennessee. This designation primarily affects federal agencies who propose activities that may affect these rivers or which issue permits on these river systems. Information from John Fridell at 828-258-3939 x225.

--The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has issued the Final EIS for the Patriot Project of Duke Energy/East Tennessee Natural Gas. This project involves 140 miles of new pipeline uprates and loops, mostly in middle and eastern Tennessee and 100 miles of new natural gas pipeline

construction, mostly in the Blue Ridge and Piedmont of North Carolina and Virginia. New pipeline construction would cross the Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia. Copies from FERC at 202-208-1371 or on the [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) web site. Harold Draper of TVA at 865-632-6889 can also provide information and copies of selected portions of the report.

--TVA has issued its FONSI for expansion of the Buffalo Mountain Wind Farm in Anderson County, Tennessee. A total of 18 new wind turbines generating 27MW of electricity would be installed. Copies from Chuck Nicholson at 865-632-3582.

--National Park Service has issued a Final Environmental Impact Statement for activities in the National Coal Heritage Area in 11 counties of southern West Virginia. The management plan sets forth the integrated cultural, historical, and land resource management policies and programs related to historic sites in the area. The National Park Service will provide technical and financial assistance to the state of West Virginia for a period up to 10 years. Copies from [peter\\_samuel@nps.gov](mailto:peter_samuel@nps.gov)

--The Forest Service, Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District, is proposing to relocate approximately 1500 feet of Paint Creek Road in Greene County, Tennessee. The road suffered flood damage in August 2001 and the proposal would remove the road from the floodplain. Information from Tom Rowe at 423-638-4109.

--The Forest Service, New River Valley Ranger District, is proposing to implement prescribed burns on 2,615 acres in Montgomery and Bland Counties, Virginia. Information from Jesse Overcash at 540-552-4641.

--The Bureau of Land Management is preparing an Environmental Assessment on a proposed lease of 64 acres of federal coal under the Daniel Boone National Forest in Whitley and McCreary Counties, Kentucky. Information from John A. Lewis at 601-955-5437.

--TVA has issued a draft EA for a proposed deed modification affecting Knox County park property on Fort Loudoun Reservoir, Tennessee. The document may be viewed at <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/knoxcounty/index.htm>

--TVA has issued a draft EA for a proposal by the Hallsdale-Powell Utility District to withdraw water from Melton Hill Reservoir in Anderson County, Tennessee. The document may be viewed at <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/hallsdale/index.htm>

--TVA has prepared a summary of issues and alternatives to be evaluated in its ongoing Reservoir Operations Study. The scoping document may be viewed at [http://www.tva.gov/feature\\_rostudy/index.htm](http://www.tva.gov/feature_rostudy/index.htm)

--From July through September 2002, TVA completed the following environmental reviews that affect the southern Appalachians:

- TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for stream modifications in Dudley Creek associated with the widening of US 321 east of Gatlinburg along the northern boundary of Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee (Blue Ridge ecoregion). The FONSI may be viewed at <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/dudleycreek/index.htm>

- TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for fill and culverts associated with the four-lane construction of Alabama 157 in the Flint Creek watershed of Lawrence County, Alabama (Southwestern Appalachians ecoregion). Copies available from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov)
- TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for stream relocations and culverts associated with the four-lane construction of Tennessee 30 around Decatur in Meigs and McMinn Counties, Tennessee (Ridge and Valley ecoregion). Copies available from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov).
- TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for a launching ramp, retaining wall, and community dock associated with the Vineyard Cove subdivision on Watts Bar Reservoir in Loudon County, Tennessee (Ridge and Valley ecoregion). Copies available from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov)
- TVA decided to issue approval for the proposal of the Riverbrook Property Owners Association to provide shoreline property to TVA in exchange for residential access rights for 14 private docks on Fort Loudoun Reservoir in Blount County, Tennessee (Ridge and Valley ecoregion). Copies available from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov)
- TVA decided to issue approval to the Nature Conservancy to use TVA funds to purchase a demonstration forest for the Clinch Valley Forest Bank in southwest Virginia or eastern Tennessee (Ridge and Valley ecoregion). Copies from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov).
- TVA decided to implement a natural resource and recreation management plan for its properties on Boone Reservoir in Sullivan and Washington Counties, Tennessee (Ridge and Valley ecoregion). Copies from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov).
- TVA decided to issue approval for an underground coal mine involving TVA-owned coal to be known as US Coal Deep Mine No. 10 in Campbell County, Tennessee (Central Appalachians ecoregion). Copies from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov)
- TVA decided to construct a new 9-mile transmission line between Sweetwater and Madisonville in Monroe County, Tennessee (Ridge and Valley ecoregion). Copies from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov)
- TVA decided to construct a new 11-mile transmission line between Cullman and Hanceville in Cullman County, Alabama (Southwestern Appalachians ecoregion). Copies from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN
- December 4-7 - ATBI Annual Meeting, Photo Workshop on Wednesday, General Sessions Thursday and Friday, and DLIA Board Meeting on Saturday, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. For agenda and to register contact Jeanie Hilten at [jeanie@discoverlife.org](mailto:jeanie@discoverlife.org).
- December 12 - Tennessee Citizens for Wilderness Planning Annual Meeting, Cumberland Mountain State Park.
- January 11-19, 2003 - Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN
- March 28-30, 2003 - Appalachian Studies Association 26th Annual Conference, Richmond, KY. Presentation/session proposals due OCTOBER 4. <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>

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## E-Mail News Briefs--August 2002

**SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5-7 CALL FOR PARTICIPATION** -- Contribute to the SAMAB Fall Conference, focusing on measurement, mitigation, and management of human impacts in the Southern Appalachians. Join other caretakers of the Southern Appalachians--state and federal resource managers, scientists, and NGO and community members--in networking and sharing information. The conference features workshops, presentations, and field trips that convey the latest assessments, planning activities and tools, restoration challenges and successes, and natural-resource related legislation. Deadline for summaries/abstracts is September 3. Conference details are available on the SAMAB web site ([samab.org](http://samab.org)).

**SAMAB SUMMER NEWSLETTER ON-LINE** -- SAMAB News is at the printer and on-line. See articles on citizen monitoring, partner agency long-term planning, stewardship and transportation, and the new SAMAB work plan at [http://samab.org/Pubs/Newsletters/news\\_0802.pdf](http://samab.org/Pubs/Newsletters/news_0802.pdf).

**CLEAR DAY ON MOUNT MITCHELL** -- The SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee met August 16 at Mt. Mitchell State Park in North Carolina. They were treated to cool, sunny weather and a discussion with Walter Gravely, western district manager NCDENR Division of Parks and Recreation, of issues faced by western North Carolina state park resource managers. Mt. Mitchell is one of SAMAB's Biosphere Reserve units. The Committee reviewed progress on the new work plan being developed from Spring Planning Meeting discussions and the Fall Conference, which promises to become SAMAB's biggest and best. Larry Hartmann of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Jerry Ryan of the USGS were selected to be the Executive Committee's next chair and vice chair -- their two-year terms of office begin after the Fall Conference.

**NEW GIS CAPACITY** -- SAIN has reviewed applications from over 50 GIS/Conservation Biology candidates from around the world, interviewed four, and selected an excellent candidate to begin work in September. We also have interviewed and selected three students from the University of Tennessee Geography Department to assist. These folks will be working with public agencies, private organizations, and community groups to identify, synthesize, and make more accessible information from the region that is of value to resource managers, planners, citizens, students, researchers, and entrepreneurs in environmental decision making.

**PLANNING FOR "CRITTER CROSSINGS"** -- The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), along with the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the National Cooperative Highway Research Program (NCHRP), sponsored a visit by federal, state, and conservation group representatives to Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, France, and the Netherlands to observe and document efforts in Europe that address transportation-related habitat and wildlife issues. The team formed conclusions and recommendations for U.S. applications in the areas of policy, communications, guidance manuals, and research. These conclusions and recommendations, along

with extensive color imagery of European solutions, have been published in a new FHWA technical report: Wildlife Habitat Connectivity Across Europe. An ecologist with FHWA's Southern Resource Center in Atlanta, Mr. Alex Levy, was a member of this delegation and a contributor to the technical report. Mr. Levy is currently assisting the North Carolina Department of Transportation with research about whitetail deer crossings. For copies of the report or to learn more about "Critter Crossings" initiatives, contact Mr. Levy at (404) 562-3920 or [alex.levy@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:alex.levy@fhwa.dot.gov).

**BIOSPHERE RESERVES: SPECIAL PLACES FOR PEOPLE AND NATURE** -- This new UNESCO/MAB publication presents a wide-ranging and beautifully illustrated overview of the international system of over 400 biosphere reserves. Two chapters and ordering information are available on the web at <http://www.unesco.org/mab/wssd.htm>.

**ARC&D REQUEST FOR RESOURCE BENEFIT STUDY PROPOSALS** -- The Appalachian Resource Conservation & Development Council and the Upper Nolichucky Watershed Alliance call for proposals to conduct a Resource Benefit Study in Unicoi County/Erwin, Tennessee. Resources of concern are clean water and natural areas in the county. Proposals from planning or design firms and Universities must be received by the ARC&D no later than September 30. For copy of the RFP, contact Roy Settle, Project Coordinator, Appalachian RC&D Council, Five Worth Circle, Ste B, Johnson City, TN 37601. (423) 854-9621 Ext 2, FAX (423) 282-6451, [anetrcd@preferred.com](mailto:anetrcd@preferred.com).

**CORPORATE OZONE AWARENESS** -- There are many ways that organizations, public and private, can raise awareness of effects of and means for reducing ozone and other air pollutants. See (<http://daq.state.nc.us/cgi-bin/aanews.cgi?art=20020804&fmt=single>) for a report on how the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC is approaching air quality education.

**DIGITAL DATA COLLECTION FOR VOLUNTEER STREAM ASSESSMENT** -- Jason Anderson's thesis titled "Developing Digital Monitoring Protocols for Use in Volunteer Stream Assessment" is downloadable from the Virginia Tech digital library and archives. <http://scholar.lib.vt.edu/theses/available/etd-12102001-163111/>. The abstract is as follows:

The traditional paper-based method of field data collection has always been a time-consuming and cumbersome process. Agency personnel in the field complete a standard evaluation form, which is then returned to the office and entered into a computer database for storage and analysis. Throughout this process, data can easily be lost or misinterpreted. As data requirements continue to expand, field data collection can quickly overwhelm a regulatory agency's manpower and resources, which only serves to exacerbate these problems. Recent technological developments can help agencies and organizations keep up with this growing demand and have begun to change the method of data collection and management. The overall goal of this study is to develop, demonstrate, and evaluate a digital protocol for the use of technology in a volunteer stream monitoring application and draw conclusions on its applicability as a more effective means of data collection in a wide variety of fields. The protocol includes digital evaluation forms and integrated help files for use

in the field. The digital evaluation forms are based on paper evaluation forms developed by researchers conducting a stream corridor assessment of Stroubles Creek in Blacksburg, Virginia.

The protocol was developed using available hardware and software. Collected data can be downloaded directly from a Personal Digital Assistant (PDA) and stored on a hard drive or system server. The data can then be input directly into a Geographic Information System (GIS) database to enhance the visualization and usefulness of the information. The GIS allows surveyors to view the relationships among the many factors affecting the stream, as well as preparing the data for advanced analysis. Two examples are provided: a field application of the protocol on streams currently listed for Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) development; and an environmental education setting in a Virginia elementary school. Conclusions drawn from these applications are also described.

FROM THE SOURCE: PROTECTING DRINKING WATER IN TENNESSEE -- The Tennessee Clean Water Network's 5th Annual Conference will be held on Friday, Sept. 20 and Saturday, Sept. 21 at The Factory in Franklin, TN. On Friday, the conference will feature speakers on a variety of topics addressing drinking water quality and opportunities to protect drinking water. The day will close with a panel discussion and, on Friday evening, a benefit concert for TCWN featuring bluegrass and folk music from regional musicians. Saturday's agenda is designed specifically for watershed associations and will include two tracks of workshops on topics such as organizational development and raising awareness about drinking water issues. Harpeth River field trips in the afternoon will involve watershed surveying by participants from land and canoe. For a full registration form and agenda, email May Sligh at [maysligh@yahoo.com](mailto:maysligh@yahoo.com).

NFAIS METADIVERSITY II SUMMARY AVAILABLE -- NFAIS (National Federation of Abstracting and Information Services) has published MetaDiversity II: Assessing the Information Requirements of the Biodiversity Community. This report is the summary of findings that emerged from a two-day symposium, jointly sponsored by NFAIS and the U.S. Geological Survey, in Charleston, South Carolina, June 25-26, 2001. The international symposium was organized with the purpose of identifying where and how biodiversity information users' needs are being met, where there are gaps in biodiversity information, and who might be priority users of biodiversity information. The 38-page report is at <http://www.nfaais.org/MetaDiversity2.asp>. The next MetaDiversity meeting, MetaDiversity III: Global Access for Biodiversity Through Integrated Systems is to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 18-19, 2002. For further information, see <http://www.nfaais.org/EventDetails.asp?EventID=12>.

#### NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

- TVA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have released a draft Environmental Assessment for comment on proposed deed modifications and community dock permits associated with Sunset Bay, a large private development on Norris Reservoir, Union County, Tennessee. Copies available from Stan Davis at 865-632-2915 or [sedavis2@tva.gov](mailto:sedavis2@tva.gov).
- TVA has released a draft EA for comment on a proposed access



rights exchange project with the Riverbrook Shoreline Owners Association on Fort Loudoun Reservoir in Blount County, Tennessee. Copies available from Harold Draper at [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov).

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, has announced its intent to prepare a supplemental EIS on the Lower Mud River Watershed Project, Cabell County, West Virginia. A channel modification project and levees in the vicinity of Milton are being investigated. Information from Louis E. Aspey at [louisa@usace.army.mil](mailto:louisa@usace.army.mil)
- U.S. Forest Service has issued a draft EIS on the proposed exchange of Daniel Boone National Forest lands with Leslie Resources. The lands involved are in Leslie, Perry, and Owsley Counties, Kentucky. About 92 acres of federal lands would be exchanged for 98 acres of private lands. Information from William Rock at 859-745-3100.
- Northwest Power Services has filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to construct a one Megawatt hydroelectric facility at the existing Bayview Lake in Jefferson County, Alabama. Information from James Hunter of FERC at 202-219-2839.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- September 15-18 - Symposium on Ecological and Economic Benefits of Mountain Forests, Innsbruck, Austria.  
<http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iy/ecology.html>
- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN
- December 4-7 - ATBI Annual Meeting, Photo Workshop on Wednesday, General Sessions Thursday and Friday, and DLIA Board Meeting on Saturday, Gatlinburg, Tennessee. For agenda and to register contact Jeanie Hilten at [jeanie@discoverlife.org](mailto:jeanie@discoverlife.org).
- January 11-19, 2003 - Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN

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### E-Mail News Briefs--June/July 2002

(new acronym? NBII/SAIN = National Biological Information Infrastructure/Southern Appalachian Information Node, see <http://sain.nbii.gov>)

**SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 5-7 CALL FOR PARTICIPATION** -- Contribute to the SAMAB Fall Conference, focusing on measurement, mitigation, and management of human impacts in the Southern Appalachians. Join other caretakers of the Southern Appalachians--state and federal resource managers, scientists, and NGO and community members--in networking and sharing information. The conference features workshops, presentations, and field trips that convey the latest assessments, planning activities and tools, restoration challenges and successes, and natural-resource related legislation. Deadline for summaries/abstracts is September 3.  
(<http://samab.org/Events/Conf/Conf02/conf02.html>)

**BUSY SUMMER** -- June and July have been busy -- some highlights for

## SAMAB Executive Director Robb Turner and the Coordinating Office:

- Oriented SAMAB-JIEE summer interns in environmental decision making on June 3rd in Knoxville. Weekly seminars by each of the 12 interns at their diverse places of work included lively discussions among interns and mentors, providing insight into how each organization functions, and its capabilities and needs for operating effectively and sustainably.
- Participated June 11th in Franklin, NC in the Little Tennessee Watershed Association Advisory Board meeting as a member of the Board. SAMAB and NBII/SAIN are working with Carla Norwood, Association Director, and Bill McLarney, aquatic biologist, to assist with environmental monitoring and to help them visualize and disseminate 12 years of aquatic-biomonitoring data that Bill has collected for the Upper Little Tennessee basin. TVA has been the primary sponsor of this work, this year with a matching-grant from SAMAB and the National Forest Foundation. McLarney's work with community volunteers is being used as a prototype by SAMAB and TVA for expanding such biomonitoring effort to other watershed groups in the region.
- Participated in Denver on June 17th in the NRC Committee on Geophysical and Environmental Data review of the NBII as a World Data Center for biodiversity information.
- Attended National Forest Foundation partners meeting June 18-19 in Portland, OR, hosted by Sustainable Northwest. Reviewed activities of 14 Oregon community and watershed organizations engaged in various types of resource management and restoration. Discussed capabilities of SAMAB and SAIN as an "anchor partner" for the National Forest Foundation in the Southern Appalachians, along with those of Sustainable Northwest as an anchor partner in the Pacific Northwest.
- Presented SAMAB and SAIN accomplishments and capabilities to the National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry (NCSSF) at a Commission and Principle Investigators meeting in Portland on June 19. Attended the June 20th NCSSF Symposium on Biodiversity in Forest Planning and Management: Science Status and Needs.
- Participated June 24-25 in Bryson City, NC in a planning meeting of the Little Tennessee Land Trust project on sustainable forestry for conservation of biodiversity.
- Assisted in presentation of a Discover Life in the Smokies Museum concept to the Gatlinburg Gateway Foundation on June 25 in Gatlinburg. The Discover Life Museum would be an indoor-outdoor real-life and virtual introduction to the biodiversity of the Smokies region, promoting the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) and highlighting its results. SAMAB and SAIN are working with the ATBI to assist with data and information needs of the project and anticipate doing so with the museum.
- Participated June 26th and July 21-22 in workshops on improving rural journalism in the Appalachians. Researchers at the University of Kentucky and other universities around the Appalachian region are developing a proposal for an Institute for Rural Journalism and Community Issues. The June workshop in Knoxville gathered perspectives from a range of community and environmental organizations. The July workshop in Charleston, WV focused on news media coverage of water-resources issues in Appalachia.

My keynote presentation in the Charleston meeting focused on information needs for journalists and decision makers to view water-resource issues from a range of environmental, economic, and social sustainability perspectives.

- Presented SAMAB and SAIN information resources and capabilities as a plenary speaker at the Nine-Counties-One-Vision Sustainability Summit in Seymour TN on June 29. Wolf Naegeli organized the meeting as a function of the Task Force on Environmental Preservation.
- Met July 10th in Atlanta with USGS and Canaan Valley Institute (CVI) leaders to plan a USGS partners meeting scheduled for Beckley, WV in early October. The meeting, to be jointly sponsored by SAMAB and CVI, will evaluate opportunities for interagency research on effects of mountain-top removal in central Appalachia and on improving resource management on public lands in the southern Appalachians. It is anticipated that SAIN will provide information management for the initiative and a mechanism for dissemination of research results.
- With Jack Ranney, facilitated a meeting July 17-18 of university, National Park Service, and other agency researchers and resource managers at The Purchase Learning Center in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The meeting generated several conceptual models that will be used as the basis for selecting "vital signs" indicators to be monitored in the region's national park units as part of the NPS Natural Resource Challenge Program. SAIN is partnering with the NPS to assist with management, synthesis, and dissemination of the NPS inventory and monitoring data.
- Worked throughout June and July with SAMAB Appalachian Monitoring Project staff to develop data input forms and training and field identification materials for invasive species and aquatic biomonitoring. Volunteer training has been held and monitoring started. SAIN is coordinating with the SAMAB project to assist with data management and dissemination of results.
- Evaluated over 40 applications for the SAIN GIS/Conservation Biology/Environmental Management position. Interviews of selected candidates are in process.
- Worked with international NBII planning for the upcoming CODATA meeting in Montreal and the MAB meeting in Rome.

FINAL SAMI MEETING! -- Come to the SAMI Finale at the Grove Park Inn in Asheville, North Carolina. The rate is \$99.00/night, call 828 252-2711 or 800-438-5800 for reservations by August 8 (<http://www.groveparkinn.com>). Wednesday, August 28, there will be two symposiums and Thursday, August 29, 1/2 day of presentations and lunch. See <http://www.saminet.org> for registration form and agenda. RSVP BY August 5 on your choice of symposium and for attendance as they need to arrange transportation and food. Linda Herrera at 828 252-6622 or email [linda\\_h@landofsky.org](mailto:linda_h@landofsky.org).

ACT NOW FOR NRCS WHIP FUNDING -- The 2002 Farm Bill authorized \$15 million in funding for the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) -- funding that will be lost if it is not spent by the end of this fiscal year in September. Take advantage of this excellent opportunity to enhance wildlife conservation by applying to NRCS before the end of August. A list of State NRCS contacts and other program information on WHIP can be found at <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip/>. In

addition, there are links to States with specific program information. Landowners, and those assisting landowners, can go to <http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov> and click on "eForms" in the center of the page to complete a WHIP application form to send to their local NRCS office. State wildlife agencies, conservation districts, and conservation groups worked hard to secure this funding. Now everyone needs to work fast to ensure that it is used!

**SCIENCE NETLINKS - ONLINE RESOURCE FOR K-12 EDUCATORS** -- This collection of reviewed lesson plans and Internet resources is produced by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The site is part of an Internet-based learning initiative called MarcoPolo, sponsored by the WorldCom Foundation, and is a partnership among the AAAS, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Council of the Great City Schools, the National Council on Economic Education, the National Geographic Society, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. The free interdisciplinary lessons and linked resources cross ecology, history, economics, art, and many other subjects. See <http://www.sciencenetlinks.com/> or <http://marcopolo.worldcom.com/>.

NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items:

Bureau of Land Management:

- A resource management plan will be prepared for lands and minerals under the administration of the BLM in Alabama and Mississippi. This includes 2,080 acres of land in Alabama and 200,000 acres of mineral rights. The potential for coal development also will be assessed. Information from [Elizabeth\\_Allison@blm.gov](mailto:Elizabeth_Allison@blm.gov).

Federal Highway Administration:

- The draft EIS for US 321 Highway Improvements near Blowing Rock, Caldwell and Watauga Counties, North Carolina is available for review. Copy available from 919-856-4346.
- The Final EIS for WV-65 Transportation Improvements from Belo to Naugatuck, Mingo County, West Virginia has been published. Copies from Thomas J. Smith at 304-347-5928.
- An EA for improvements and relocation of Tennessee State Route 30 between the Tennessee River and Decatur, Meigs County, Tennessee has been issued. Information from Charles Bush at 615-741-3653
- An EA has been completed for 15 miles of proposed State Route 52 improvements in Overton County. The future road would be a four-lane portion of the Upper Cumberland Development Route across northern Tennessee between Lebanon and Caryville. Information from Charles Bush at 615-741-3653.

Forest Service:

- Southern Appalachian forest plan meetings are taking place in several forests on August 22, 23 or 24. The Chattahoochee and Oconee National Forests plan revision open meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 24, 2002 from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the

Forest Supervisor's Office, 1755 Cleveland Highway, Gainesville, Georgia. Information at <http://www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/planning.htm>.

- The Jefferson National Forest Open House at the Forest Supervisor's Office, 5162 Valleypointe Parkway, Roanoke, Virginia, will be held on Friday, August 23, from 6-9 p.m., followed by a Citizen Workshop at Holiday Inn Roanoke Airport on August 24 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Information at <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/lrmp>.
- The Cherokee National Forest will hold a public meeting on August 22, 2002 from 1:30 to 4:30 and an identical second meeting from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ, 611 Sherwood Drive, Maryville, Tennessee. Information at <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/charokee/planning/revisions.htm>.
- The Monongahela National Forest has issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on the Gladly Fork forest health management project. The project includes 797 acres of thinning, 689 acres of crop tree release, 51 acres of clearcuts, 96 acres of shelterwood, 345 acres of two-age harvest, and 20 acres of overstory removal, along with road construction and stream habitat restoration. One 10-acre stand would be converted to savannah and 56 acres of red spruce release would occur to improve wildlife habitat. Information from Michelle Jones, 304-636-1800.
- The Clinch Ranger District, Jefferson National Forest has issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on oil and gas leasing on Pine Mountain in Wise County, Virginia. Information from Sten Olsen, Clinch Ranger District, 276-328-2931
- -The National Forests in Alabama have released a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on forest health and red-cockaded woodpecker habitat initiatives in the Talladega National Forest, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega Counties, Alabama. Information from Jeff Seefeldt at 256-362-2909.
- The Cheoah Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, is seeking public comment on the Cornsilk Area Analysis Project, adjoining Santeetlah Lake in Cheoah County, North Carolina. Approximately 1000 acres of forest management and wildlife habitat improvement projects are proposed. Information from Mark Robison at 828-479-6431. <
- The Tusquitee Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, has made a number of proposals to restrict vehicle use in the Upper Tellico OHV area. These restrict uses of certain trails and certain types of vehicles. Information from Charles N. Miller, 828-837-5152.
- Pisgah Ranger District, Pisgah National Forest, is considering approving the Capital Improvements Plan for the North Carolina Arboretum in Buncombe County. The proposals involve an entrance gate and gatehouses, utility lines along the entrance road, and parking lots for school buses. Information from R. Clement Riddle at 828-698-9800.
- The New River Valley Ranger District, Jefferson National Forest, proposes to relocate two sections of the Appalachian Trail to reduce the grade and construct witchbacks. Information from Dave Hrdlicka at 540-552-4641.
- Warm Springs Ranger District, George Washington National Forest, proposes a 2,336-acre prescribed burn on North Short Mountain, Bath County, Virginia. Information from David Bostic at

540-839-2521. Also, the Open Trail Timber Sale, part of efforts to manage gypsy moth damage, is being evaluated. Information from Peter Fischer at the same telephone number.

#### Nuclear Regulatory Commission:

- NRC has released an EA on the proposal of Nuclear Fuel Services to construct a Low-enriched Uranyl Nitrate Storage Building in Erwin, Tennessee. A summary of the EA was published in the Federal Register on July 9, 2002, pages 45555-45559.

#### Tennessee Valley Authority :

- Comments on the proposed commercial recreation and residential developments on Tellico Reservoir are being received through August 16. TVA is being asked to make 115 acres of land available for enhancement of a residential resort and golf community being constructed on non-federal lands. Information from Rick Toennisson at 865-632-8517.
- The Finding of No Significant Impact for Section 26a approval of stream crossings related to US 321 east of Gatlinburg may be viewed at <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/index.htm>.
- From April through June 2002, TVA completed the following environmental reviews affecting the Southern Appalachians:
  - TVA decided to enter into a Power Purchase Agreement with Cogeneration Technologies to purchase 4 MW of electrical capacity from the Summit Landfill Gas Generation Project in Hamilton County, Tennessee
  - TVA decided to install and operate selective catalytic reduction systems at Bull Run Fossil Plant in Anderson County, Tennessee and Kingston Fossil Plant in Roane County, Tennessee
  - TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for the US 11 Tennessee River Bridge, Watts Bar Reservoir, Loudon County, Tennessee and the US 231 Tennessee River Bridge, Wheeler Reservoir, Madison and Morgan Counties, Alabama
  - TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for the NC 191 improvements over Bent Creek at the Blue Ridge Parkway entrance in Buncombe County, North Carolina
  - TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval and grant 25 acres of land for the proposed AL 13 crossing of Upper Bear Creek Reservoir, Franklin County, AL.
  - TVA decided to change the location of an independent spent fuel storage installation at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant in Hamilton County, Tennessee. The new site is within the existing security perimeter.
  - TVA decided to renew and consolidate its easements for Alabama Wildlife Management Areas into one easement document to provide long-term tenure for the Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and allow ADCNR to qualify for federal wildlife management funding. Four wildlife management areas in the Southern Appalachians were affected: Crow Creek WMA and Refuge,

North Sauty Refuge, Raccoon Creek WMA, and Mud Creek WMA. These are located in Jackson and Marshall Counties, Alabama.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 16 - SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting, Mount Mitchell State Park, NC
- August 28-29 - Final SAMI meeting, Asheville, NC (see newsbrief above)
- September 15-18 - Symposium on Ecological and Economic Benefits of Mountain Forests, Innsbruck, Austria.  
<http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iym/ecology.html>
- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN
- December 4-7 - ATBI Annual Meeting, Photo Workshop on Wednesday, General Sessions Thursday and Friday, and DLIA Board Meeting on Saturday, Gatlinburg, Tennessee.
- January 11-19, 2003 - Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN

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### **E-Mail News Briefs--May 17 and 31, 2002**

**SUSTAINABLE FORESTS ROUNDTABLE--**Charles Van Sickle represented SAMAB at the Roundtable on Sustainable Forests meeting in Washington, DC May 29-31. The Roundtable presented the findings of the National Report on Sustainable Forests. Charlie presented the SAMAB poster at the meeting. See <http://www.fs.fed.us/sustained/siteindex.html>, and <http://www.sustainableforests.net/events.html> for the draft report and related information.

**SAMAB SPRING PLANNING MEETING--**SAMAB hosted its annual spring planning meeting at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville May 14. Over 40 participants discussed opportunities for cross-boundary, regional partnerships in environmental monitoring, community sustainability, watershed restoration, fire management, invasive species, and information management. Results of these discussions will be the basis for new and ongoing SAMAB projects. The SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee met on May 15 to discuss the results and how they can be incorporated into agency priorities and planning.

**SAMAB FOUNDATION ORIENTS NEW BOARD MEMBERS--**The SAMAB Foundation Boards of Directors and Advisors met jointly May 16 at the NC Governor's Western Residence above Asheville. Board members expressed their visions for SAMAB, reviewed past and ongoing projects, and discussed roles the Foundation and Board members can play in furthering the goals of the SAMAB Program.

**OAK RIDGE RESERVATION LAND USE PLANNING PROCESS--**As the Department of Energy changes its mission priorities, it is considering alternative land uses on parts of its Oak Ridge Reservation, one of SAMAB's core biosphere reserve units. Oak Ridge National Laboratory is assisting with a variety of means of obtaining stakeholder

participation in the process, including focus groups, public meetings, newsletter, website with maps of alternative scenarios, and others. Visit the website <http://landuseplanning.ornl.gov> or contact Pat Parr

**CADES COVE OPPORTUNITY PLAN**--Cades Cove in Great Smoky Mountains National Park has experienced the pressure of increasing visitation for decades. This area has become so popular that it often takes up to four hours during a peak autumn day to travel the 11-mile one-way loop road. The National Park Service and the Knoxville Regional Transportation Planning Organization have undertaken a development concept and transportation management planning project for Cades Cove. The public scoping process for this action began last week, with a well-attended meeting in Townsend, the closest entrance to the Cove. This is a brainstorming phase of the project, where the planners want the concerns and ideas from the public on what the problems are and what should be done at Cades Cove. A new website, [www.cadescoveopp.com](http://www.cadescoveopp.com), will be up in a few days, and will show how to make comments. Or, mail a letter to Superintendent, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738. The comment period is open until June 22, 2002.

**"GIVE BACK A PIECE OF OURSELVES"**--Addressing the graduating class at the Appalachian School of Law, Appalachian Regional Commission Federal Co-Chairman Jesse L. White told the class of 2002 they represented part of a "new generation of leadership committed to the mountains." The Appalachian School of Law was envisioned by its founders, White said, "to be a crucial piece of the infrastructure for sustainable economic development; a law school based on public service, born out of a commitment to this region and to its people." White told the graduates, "Your message is one that America needs to hear: that there is deep in the mountains of Virginia a school, a dream, a call -- a call to all us of us to give back a piece of ourselves to the communities and the family and friends who nurtured us." To obtain a copy of White's address contact Duane J. DeBruyne, [ARCnews@arc.gov](mailto:ARCnews@arc.gov), 202-884-7663.

**HEMLOCK WOOLY ADELGID INVADES PARK**--Biologists at Great Smoky Mountains National Park have confirmed five locations in the Park having infestation by the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid, a tiny aphid-like insect that attacks and kills hemlock trees. The Hemlock Woolly Adelgid is native to China and Japan and is a close relative of the Balsam Woolly Adelgid that has killed over 90% of the Park's Fraser firs at areas like Clingmans Dome and Balsam Mountain. The hemlock adelgid was first detected in the mid-Atlantic states in the 1920's but was not recognized as a serious pest until its population exploded when it reached large forested areas such as Shenandoah National Park in the 1970's. In Shenandoah about 80% of the Park's hemlocks are now infested and most are expected to die. Throughout the 1990's federal and state biologists monitored the adelgid's slow spread north into Maine and south along the Appalachians. The tiny insect can be spread by larger insects, on the feet of birds, and by wind, but the fastest spread occurs when infested landscape materials are brought in for planting in developed areas.

**SAMAB AT ASB MEETING**--Charles Van Sickle presented a paper on SAMAB and the Southern Appalachian Assessment on April 13 at the meeting of the Association of Southeastern Biologists in Boone, NC.



The paper was part of a panel on developing partnerships for ecosystem management.

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE

VALUATION AVAILABLE--A recent bibliography of reference and research materials on environmental resource valuation and cost-benefit analysis is posted on the SAMAB Web site <http://samab.org>. The bibliography was prepared by the Federal Highway Administration Southern Resource Center Planning and Environment Team.

2002 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS--2002 has been designated internationally as Year of the Mountains. See the international IYM web site at <http://www.mountains2002.org>, and the U.S. Year of Mountains web site at <http://mt2002.er.usgs.gov>. Provide suggestions for additional content to Antoinette Condo, [condoaj@state.gov](mailto:condoaj@state.gov).

LAST CALL: NBII JOB OPENING--The National Biological Information Infrastructure Southern Appalachian Information Node (SAIN) has a position available in Knoxville, TN, for a GIS/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY/ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT -- Masters-level person to synthesize, integrate, and disseminate inventory and monitoring data being collected by federal, state, and non-profit/private organizations in the Southern Appalachians and beyond. Candidate will identify relevant data/information; coordinate protocols through which data can be indexed, searched, and made accessible through SAIN; develop web map services and other information synthesis products; identify opportunities for cross-boundary collaborations in resource-management information needs; and communicate results via the SAIN web site and other appropriate outlets. Candidate must have demonstrated skills in GIS, information analysis and synthesis, and communication. Send one-page statement of career goals, complete resume, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and contact information for three references to Robb Turner, 314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138; or by email to [rsturner@utk.edu](mailto:rsturner@utk.edu); or fax to 865-974-4609. See <http://sain.nbii.gov>.

#### NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items:

##### Department of Energy--

- An Addendum to the 1996 EA for parcel ED-1 adjacent to the East Tennessee Technology Park, Roane County, Tennessee is available for review from DOE. DOE proposes the transfer ownership of the 957-acre Horizon Center parcel to the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee. For more information, contact David Allen at [NEPA@oro.doe.gov](mailto:NEPA@oro.doe.gov) or view the EA at [www.oro.doe.gov/Foia/NEW.htm](http://www.oro.doe.gov/Foia/NEW.htm).
- The Oak Ridge Operations Office will prepare a Programmatic EA on a comprehensive long-term management program to store, transport, and dispose of excess low enriched uranium, natural uranium, and depleted uranium. The draft EA is on the internet at [www.oakridge.doe.gov/Foia/NEW.htm](http://www.oakridge.doe.gov/Foia/NEW.htm)

##### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission--

- An EIS is being prepared for the Dominion Transmission Corporation's Greenbrier Pipeline Project, which is proposed to

extend across 278 miles of West Virginia, Virginia, and North Carolina. The pipeline would serve natural gas power plants in Person and Granville Counties, North Carolina. More information on the project can be obtained from the [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) web site, under the RIMS link, and entering PF01-1 as docket number, and 000 as the subdocket number.

#### Fish and Wildlife Service--

- The Initial Restoration and Compensation Determination Plan for the August 27, 1998 Clinch River Chemical Spill in Tazewell County, Virginia, has been released. The tanker truck spill on US 460 killed fish and aquatic life for 7 miles downstream, including 18,600 or more freshwater mussels, including three endangered species. It is likely the largest single take of federally listed endangered species since the enactment of the Endangered Species Act. One of the last two known remaining reproducing populations of the tan riffleshell mussel was destroyed. This document considers a number of restoration alternatives, including propagation of freshwater mussels, riparian habitat protection, and community education. For more information, contact John Schmerfield at 804-693-6694 x 107.

#### Forest Service--

- Several National Forests are conducting road policy meetings over the next few months. Forest road system studies will help focus future maintenance expenditures and ensure that the road system meets the current and future needs of forest visitors and natural resource managers, while lessening the impacts of the roads on the environment. The National Forests in North Carolina are conducting open houses at each ranger district. The study team leader is Ruth Berner (828) 257-4862.
- The Notice of Intent to prepare a revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Monongahela National Forest was issued on May 3, 2002. Information from Doug Adamo at 304-636-1800 or [r9\\_monong\\_website@fs.fed.us](mailto:r9_monong_website@fs.fed.us)
- Cheoah Ranger District is proposing construction of a new visitor information station at the eastern end of the Cherohala Skyway at Santeetlah Gap. For more information, contact Mark Robison at 828-479-6431.
- An EIS will be prepared for forest health initiatives in the Bankhead National Forest in the Appalachians of northern Alabama. The program involves restoration of native upland dry oak forest and woodland communities and restoration to native longleaf/bluestem woodland communities. For more information contact John Creed, EIS Team Leader at 205-489-5111.
- The New River Valley Ranger District plans to relocate two short sections of the Appalachian Trail in Bland County and Montgomery County, Virginia. For more information contact Dave Hrdlicka at 540-552-4641.

#### National Park Service--

- An EA and General Management Plan Amendment for construction of a new science laboratory in the Twin Creeks area of Great Smoky Mountains National Park is available for review

Tennessee Valley Authority--

- The Riverbrook Shoreline Owners Association has requested access rights for construction of water use facilities on Fort Loudoun Reservoir, Blount County, Tennessee. This property is currently unavailable for these facilities. In accordance with TVA's Shoreline Management Policy, the association proposes to transfer approximately 10 acres of property elsewhere on the reservoir to TVA and to extinguish existing rights to construct water use facilities on that property. For more information, contact Janet Duffey at 865-988-2460.
- Tennessee Emmons proposes to construct a residential subdivision on Norris Reservoir in Union County, Tennessee. Approximately 1,000 acres of private land would be developed. In order to enhance their development, they have requested a deed modification from TVA over 15 acres to allow the construction of residential dwellings and a parking lot below the 1044-foot contour. TVA and U.S. Army Corps of Engineer permits are also needed for a community dock, boat ramp, and entrance road. A public notice may be viewed at <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/notices.htm>
- TVA's environmental reports web page contains recent FONSI's for NC 191 over Bent Creek and Alabama 13 over Upper Bear Creek Reservoir. Other Southern Appalachian documents include plans for Boone, Norris, and Tellico reservoirs, activities at Kingston Fossil Plant, and TVA's EA for new wind generation. For more information, see <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/index.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 16 - SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting, Mount Mitchell State Park, NC
- September 15-18 - Symposium on Ecological and Economic Benefits of Mountain Forests, Innsbruck, Austria.  
<http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iym/ecology.html>
- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN
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- January 11-19, 2003 - Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN

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## E-Mail News Briefs--May 1, 2002

REGIONAL INFORMATION SYSTEM VISIONING--Robb Turner and Wolf Naegeli presented examples of the SAMAB/NBII internet mapping capabilities and applications at a Remote Sensing and GIS Planning Meeting of the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group (SENRLG) in Atlanta on April 26. SENRLG is exploring means for making more spatial data, at higher resolutions, available for resource planning and use in the region. These efforts dovetail nicely with the

SAMAB and NBII goals and directions for making resource information and tools available and useable by decision makers in the region.

**EASTERN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL REGIONALISM**--Tommy Gilbert represented SAMAB at the April 24-25 workshop of the Harvard Environmental Regionalism Project at the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy in Cambridge, MA. The workshop reviewed several regional case presentations, history of ecological regionalism, and strategies for supporting regional initiatives. Tommy promoted the SAMAB experience and plans for the future as a test case in networking, intergovernmental interactions, and education and training of practitioners.

**NBII BRIEFING FOR DOE-ORO**--Bonnie Carroll and Robb Turner briefed Michael Holland, Acting Manager for the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Operations Office, on April 19. The presentation and discussion centered on NBII goals and examples of applications and on opportunities for leveraging the substantial informatics capabilities in the region for the benefit of the region, DOE, and the NBII.

**PARKWAY AND DOT COORDINATION PLANNED**--Blue Ridge Parkway and the Departments of Transportation of North Carolina and Virginia, along with the Federal Highway Administration, are initiating a joint effort to streamline coordination, planning, design and permitting of maintenance and system improvements to crossings of the Parkway by existing State Primary and Secondary Highways. At a meeting in Jonesville, NC, on April 17th, consensus was reached to pursue joint funding for a compilation of Best Management Practices for minimization and mitigation of potential impacts on the Parkway by such Transportation activities. An Implementation Plan will likely be prepared, as well as appendices to the Parkway's General Management and Transportation Plans, to formalize these interactions and procedures.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY ON CUMULATIVE IMPACTS AVAILABLE**--A recent bibliography of reference and research materials on Secondary & Cumulative Impacts of Transportation Projects is posted on the SAMAB Web site main page. Major topics include Sprawl, Sustainability, Externalities and Life Cycle Cost Analyses, Land Use and Land Development Patterns and Modeling, Economic and Social Impacts, and Community Impact Assessment. The bibliography was prepared by the Federal Highway Administration Southern Resource Center Planning and Environment Team.

**ANNOUNCING FIRST ISSUE OF SOUTHEASTERN NATURALIST**--This is a broad-based effort to develop a strong regional journal for the Southeast. It is available online (<http://www.bioone.org/bioone/?request=get-toc&issn=1528-7092&volume=001&issue=01>) in the full-text version. See subscription information at <http://maine.maine.edu/~eaghill/JSGENINF.html>.

**2002 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF MOUNTAINS**--2002 has been designated internationally as Year of the Mountains. See the international IYM web site at <http://www.mountains2002.org>, and the [U.S. Year of Mountains web site](#). Provide suggestions for additional content to Antoinette Condo ([condoaj@state.gov](mailto:condoaj@state.gov)).

**AUDUBON SPRING BIRD CONSERVATION NEWSLETTER**

ONLINE-- Visit <http://www.audubon.org/bird/news.html> to see Important Bird Area Program updates, as well as policy, sanctuary, and educational news along with upcoming meetings and events, as they relate to bird conservation.

3 NBII JOB OPENINGS--The National Biological Information Infrastructure Southern Appalachian Information Node (SAIN) has two positions available in Knoxville/Oak Ridge, TN. Another NBII position is located in Reston, VA.

1. GIS/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY/ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT--Masters-level person to synthesize, integrate, and disseminate inventory and monitoring data being collected by federal, state, and non-profit/private organizations in the Southern Appalachians and beyond. Candidate will identify relevant data/information; coordinate protocols through which data can be indexed, searched, and made accessible through SAIN; develop web map services and other information synthesis products; identify opportunities for cross-boundary collaborations in resource-management information needs; and communicate results via the SAIN web site and other appropriate outlets. Candidate must have demonstrated skills in GIS, information analysis and synthesis, and communication. For this full-time position, send one-page statement of career goals, complete resume, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and contact information for three references to Robb Turner, 314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138; or by email to [rturner@utk.edu](mailto:rturner@utk.edu); or fax to 865-974-4609.
2. GEOSPATIAL APPLICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR--Responsible for administration of ESRI products (ArcSDE, ArcINFO, ArcIMS, etc.) in Unix environment. Requirements: Experience with systems in Unix environments, a good understanding of basic GIS concepts, knowledge of GIS data structures, and experience tuning ArcSDE for Oracle/Oracle Spatial. Familiarity with Oracle Enterprise database administration procedures a plus. This position is expected to be a half-time position. For this position, send one-page statement of career goals and complete resume including contact information for three references to Martha Wallus, Information International Associates, 122 S. Jefferson Circle, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; or by email to [mwallus@infointl.com](mailto:mwallus@infointl.com); or fax to 865-481-0390.
3. BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION SPECIALIST--Energetic self starter sought to work on team that is building the biological-informatics (biodiversity and ecosystem) specialty of the National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII). Required: communication, professionalism, analytical and information-content retrieval skills. Degrees and/or training desirable: library, informatics, biodiversity, ecology, conservation biology, ESRI. Location: Reston VA. Send cover letter, resume, and name, phone number, and e-mail address of 3 professional references to attest to your latest 3 years of professional experience to: Martha Wallus, Director of Administration, IIA, 122 S. Jefferson Circle, Oak Ridge, TN 37830. Fax: 865-481-0390. or e-mail: [mwallus@infointl.com](mailto:mwallus@infointl.com). Electronic communication preferred. IIA is an EEO/AA employer. Women and minorities are encouraged to apply.

## NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items--

## --Farm Service Agency:

The Commodity Credit Corporation has issued a Notice of Intent to prepare a programmatic EIS for the Conservation Reserve Program and Emergency Conservation Program. Alternatives for the administration of these programs will be evaluated. The CRP assists farmers in conserving and improving soil, water, air and wildlife resources. This is accomplished by converting highly erodible and other environmentally-sensitive acreage normally devoted to the production of agricultural commodities to a long-term resource-conserving cover. For more information contact Don Steck at [don\\_steck@wdc.usda.gov](mailto:don_steck@wdc.usda.gov) or 202-690-0224

## --Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

The Draft EIS for the Patriot Project of Duke Energy North America has been published. This project includes gas pipeline upgrades in East Tennessee and Southwest Virginia and new pipeline construction in Virginia and North Carolina, crossing the Blue Ridge Parkway. The project would provide additional gas supply to the Duke Energy Murray Project in Georgia and two proposed power plants in Virginia. A limited number of copies are available from the FERC Public Reference and Files Maintenance Branch at 202-208-1371 or the Office of External Affairs at 202-208-1088.

## --Federal Highway Administration:

A Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Transamerica Transportation Corridor (I-66) between Somerset and London, Kentucky was issued on April 29, 2002. For further information contact Evan Wisniewski at 502-223-6740 or [evan.wisniewski@fhwa.dot.gov](mailto:evan.wisniewski@fhwa.dot.gov)

## --National Park Service:

The Notice of Intent for the Cades Cove Development Concept and Transportation Management Plan was issued. To get on the mailing list, contact the park at 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee 37738 or call 865-436-1207.

The Notice of Intent for the Benefits Sharing EIS has been issued. Benefits-sharing agreements use research specimens for qualified scientific purposes and occasionally result in commercial applications. The EIS will examine the impacts of various methods of implementing the provisions of the law while ensuring the integrity of resources. For more information, contact Sue Mills at 307-344-2203.

## --Tennessee Valley Authority:

The Final Environmental Assessment for a proposed 20-MW windfarm and associated energy storage facility was completed in April 2002. Paper copies are available from [akrose@tva.gov](mailto:akrose@tva.gov) and will be available on the [www.tva.gov](http://www.tva.gov) web site after May 3. Sites on Buffalo Mountain in Anderson County and Stone Mountain in Johnson County, Tennessee were evaluated. A site on Buffalo Mountain is TVA's preferred alternative. Three wind turbines with a combined capacity of 2 MW are currently operating on Buffalo Mountain.

## --US Army Corps of Engineers:

The Lake Cumberland Shoreline Management Plan is currently being updated. The 1994 version resulted in a policy whereby no new private docks were authorized on the lake. For more information contact

craig.s.shoe@usace.army.mil

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 10 - Governors' Summit on Air Quality, Charlotte, NC.  
Nann Guthrie, nann.guthrie@ncmail.net, 828/251-6208 or visit  
<http://daq.state.nc.us/quick/summit/>.
- May 14-15 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina  
Arboretum, Asheville, NC
- May 16 - SAMAB Foundation Board of Directors and Board of  
Advisors, Western Governor's Residence, Asheville, NC
- August 16 - SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting, Mount  
Mitchell State Park, NC
- September 15-18 - Symposium on Ecological and Economic  
Benefits of Mountain Forests, Innsbruck, Austria.  
<http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iym/ecology.html>
- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

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### E-Mail News Briefs--April 16, 2002

SUMMER INTERNS SELECTED--SAMAB and the Joint Institute for Energy and Environment have selected 12 interns from among 150 applicants to participate in the 2002 summer internship program focusing on environmental decision making. Among the interns are six graduate students and six undergraduate students. They hail from Miami University, University of Alabama, University of Florida, Indiana University, Vermont Law School, University of Colorado-Boulder, Monmouth College, McGill University, Carnegie Mellon University, and University of Virginia. Interns will work from June 3 - August 9 on policy analysis, information management, data collection, community involvement, and resource-management activities for their host organizations including: Great Smoky Mountains National Park, NPS Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance, Tennessee Valley Authority (River Operations, Environmental Policy and Strategy, and Resource Stewardship), Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park, Knox County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Alcoa Corporation, Ijams Nature Center, National Parks and Conservation Association, Tennessee River Gorge Trust, and Tennessee Clean Water Network.

PROTECTING THE APPALACHIAN TRAIL COUNTRYSIDE--SAMAB Foundation leaders met in Asheville on April 11 with Bob Williams, Director of Land Trust Programs for the Appalachian Trail Conference, to discuss ideas for protecting the values of lands in the vicinity of the Appalachian Trail that create the Appalachian and Trail experiences. Ideas expressed by Williams dovetail directly with SAMAB's goals and ongoing projects for citizen-science/community monitoring of these areas, gateway-community stewardship of the areas, and dissemination of information about these areas that facilitates better public and private decision making. Bob left with many new thoughts on how land trusts, in partnership with organizations providing information and other tools, can work together with innovative approaches to protect the Appalachian countryside.

SOUTHEAST EPPC ANNUAL MEETING--Jack Ranney, SAMAB's

leader of the Invasive Species Initiative, and Shelaine Curd, NBII-SAIN's information specialist, attended the 4th annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium in Nashville, TN April 3-5. Symposium speakers indicated that the woodland invasive-plant situation is getting worse, although there are some notable local control successes. Two invasive plants of serious concern working toward the southern Appalachians are purple loosestrife and cogon grass.

2 NBII JOB OPENINGS--The National Biological Information Infrastructure Southern Appalachian Information Node (SAIN) has two positions available in Knoxville/Oak Ridge, TN.

1) GIS/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY/ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT--Masters-level person to synthesize, integrate, and disseminate inventory and monitoring data being collected by federal, state, and non-profit/private organizations in the Southern Appalachians and beyond. Candidate will identify relevant data/information; coordinate protocols through which data can be indexed, searched, and made accessible through SAIN; develop web map services and other information synthesis products; identify opportunities for cross-boundary collaborations in resource-management information needs; and communicate results via the SAIN web site and other appropriate outlets. Candidate must have demonstrated skills in GIS, information analysis and synthesis, and communication.

For this (full-time) position, send one-page statement of career goals, complete resume, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and contact information for three references to Robb Turner, 314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138; or by email to [rsturner@utk.edu](mailto:rsturner@utk.edu); or fax to 865-974-4609.

2) GEOSPATIAL APPLICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR--Responsible for administration of ESRI products (ArcSDE, ArcINFO, ArcIMS, etc.) in Unix environment. Requirements: Experience with systems in Unix environments, a good understanding of basic GIS concepts, knowledge of GIS data structures, and experience tuning ArcSDE for Oracle/Oracle Spatial. Familiarity with Oracle Enterprise database administration procedures a plus.

This position is expected to be a half-time position. For this position, send one-page statement of career goals and complete resume including contact information for three references to Franciel Azpurua, Information International Associates, 122 S. Jefferson Circle, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; or by email to [fazpurua@infointl.com](mailto:fazpurua@infointl.com); or fax to 865-481-0390.

ECOSYSTEMS OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS CLASS--Dr. Mac Post of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Environmental Sciences Division is teaching a new class at University of Tennessee during the mini-term May 8-29. It's an ecosystem field-camp style, student-initiated-investigation class. More information can be found at <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/~wmp/Class/>.

NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items--

Army Corps of Engineers:

--A DEIS has been issued for permits related to the Hobet Mining Company's surface coal mining operation in Logan County, West



Virginia. Information may be obtained from  
 teresa.d.hughes@usace.army.mil or by calling 304-529-5710

#### Federal Highway Administration:

--I-40 in Knoxville. The Final Environmental Impact Statement for I-40 Construction through downtown Knoxville has been issued. The major issue in the analysis was impacts to the Fourth and Gill Historic District. The preferred alternative has three traffic lanes in each direction with five-lane sections at main junctions. A new Fifth Avenue Connector route from I-40 to Summit Hill Drive is proposed as part of the project.

#### Forest Service:

- The New River Valley Ranger District is evaluating a proposal to enhance oak regeneration on lands in the Jefferson National Forest on Potts Mountain in Craig County, Virginia and Sinking Creek and Fork Mountains in Montgomery County. Information from Ed Leonard at 540-552-4641. The Warm Springs Ranger District proposes to prescribe burn approximately 70 acres in Bath County, Virginia. Information from pfischer@fs.fed.us or 540-839-2521
- The Chattahoochee National Forest proposes to take actions to suppress southern pine beetle outbreaks in wildlife management areas and Table
- Mountain pine ecosystems. Information from jpetrick@fs.fed.us

#### National Park Service:

--A DEIS has been issued for management of the National Coal Heritage Area, consisting of 11 counties in southern West Virginia. Information from peter\_samuel@nps.gov

#### Rural Development:

--An EA for funding the proposed expansion of the Big Cherry Reservoir on the South Fork Powell River in Wise County, Virginia by the Town of Big Stone Gap has been issued by USDA Rural Development. Information from judy.allen@vatappahan.fsc.usda.gov

From January through March 2002, TVA completed the following environmental reviews affecting the Southern Appalachians:

- TVA decided to modernize turbines at the Apalachia Hydroelectric Plant on the Hiwassee River, Cherokee County, North Carolina
- TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for three road projects: (1) the University of Tennessee bridge in Knoxville, Knox County; (2) Depot
- Street Extension in Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina; and (3) US 27 construction between Dayton and Spring City, Rhea County, Tennessee.
- TVA decided to grant a loan to Omni-Sil Technology to purchase equipment for a new manufacturing facility in McCaysville, Fannin County, Georgia.
- TVA decided to issue approval to use its lands for construction of a natural gas pipeline to serve the Duke Energy Murray Project in Georgia. The TVA lands are on Chickamauga Reservoir in Hamilton County, Tennessee. Copies of the above reviews are available from hmdraper@tva.gov

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 26-28 - American Hiking Society, the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, and Georgia State Parks visioning, networking, and education gathering of hiking trail advocates in the Southeast. Unicoi State Park, Helen, GA. Call Liz Dooley at AHS 301-565-6704 x212, or visit <http://www.americanhiking.org>.
- April 28-30 - Building Creative Economies: The Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Development in Appalachia, Asheville, North Carolina. Laurie Huttunen at HandMade in America, 828-252-0121, or [lauriehuttunen@aol.com](mailto:lauriehuttunen@aol.com)
- May 10 - Governors' Summit on Air Quality, Charlotte, NC. Nann Guthrie, [nann.guthrie@ncmail.net](mailto:nann.guthrie@ncmail.net), 828/251-6208 or visit <http://daq.state.nc.us/quick/summit/>.
- May 14-15 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC
- May 16 - SAMAB Foundation Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, Western Governor's Residence, Asheville, NC
- August 16 - SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting, Mount Mitchell State Park, NC
- September 15-18 - Symposium on Ecological and Economic Benefits of Mountain Forests, Innsbruck, Austria. <http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iy/ecology.html>
- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

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## E-Mail News Briefs--April 5, 2002

3 NBII JOB OPENINGS -- The National Biological Information Infrastructure Southern Appalachian Information Node (SAIN) has three positions available in Knoxville/Oak Ridge, TN:

1. GIS/CONSERVATION BIOLOGY/ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT -- Masters-level person to synthesize, integrate, and disseminate inventory and monitoring data being collected by federal, state, and non-profit/private organizations in the Southern Appalachians and beyond. Candidate will identify relevant data/information; coordinate protocols through which data can be indexed, searched, and made accessible through SAIN; develop web map services and other information synthesis products; identify opportunities for cross-boundary collaborations in resource-management information needs; and communicate results via the SAIN web site and other appropriate outlets. Candidate must have demonstrated skills in GIS, information analysis and synthesis, and communication. For this (full-time) position, send one-page statement of career goals, complete resume, undergraduate and graduate transcripts, and contact information for three references to Robb Turner, 314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138; or by email to [rturner@utk.edu](mailto:rturner@utk.edu); or fax to 865-974-4609.
2. GEOSPATIAL APPLICATIONS ADMINISTRATOR -- Responsible for administration of ESRI products (ArcSDE, ArcINFO, ArcIMS, etc.) in Unix environment. Requirements: Experience with systems in Unix environments, a good

understanding of basic GIS concepts, knowledge of GIS data structures, and experience tuning ArcSDE for Oracle/Oracle Spatial. Familiarity with Oracle Enterprise database administration procedures a plus.

3. DATA QUALITY AND CONVERSION SPECIALIST -- Responsible for quality check and quality assurance of data sets and information to be loaded in Oracle database, convert data to appropriate formats before loading and then loading data and information within Oracle database. Requirements: Knowledge of GIS data structures and Oracle. These two positions may each be part time, or combined to a full-time position. For these positions, send one-page statement of career goals and complete resume including contact information for three references to Franciel Azpurua, Information International Associates, 122 S. Jefferson Circle, Oak Ridge, TN 37830; or by email to [fazpurua@infintl.com](mailto:fazpurua@infintl.com); or fax to 865-481-0390.

NC CHAPTER OF SE-EPPC OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED -- On March 21 the North Carolina Chapter of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council officially came into existence. Its purposes are to: Provide a focus for issues and concerns regarding exotic pest plants in North Carolina; Facilitate communication and the exchange of information regarding all aspects of exotic pest plant control and management; Provide a forum where all interested parties may participate in meetings and share in the benefits from the information generated by Council; Promote public understanding regarding exotic pest plants and their control; Serve as an advisory council regarding funding, research, management, and control of exotic pest plants; Facilitate action campaigns to monitor and control exotic pest plants in North Carolina; Review incipient and potential pest plant management problems and activities and provide relevant information to interested parties. A Board of Directors represents the nursery industry, landscape industry, arboreta, conservation organizations, citizens, and state government. Dick Bir, NC State University is President; [dick\\_bir@ncsu.edu](mailto:dick_bir@ncsu.edu); <http://se-eppc.org>

ECOSYSTEMS OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS CLASS -- Dr. Mac Post of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory Environmental Sciences Division is teaching a new class at University of Tennessee during the mini-term May 8-29. It's an ecosystem field-camp style, student-initiated-investigation class. More information can be found at <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/~wmp/Class/>.

WHERE THERE ARE MOUNTAINS: AN ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY OF THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS -- Donald Davis will speak on the topic of his book on Tuesday, April 9, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in Room 253 of Hodges Library at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. The book, published by University of Georgia Press in 2000, received the Southern Environmental Law Center's 2001 award for Outstanding Literary Writing on the Southern Environment. Davis, now a Professor at Dalton State College, is a graduate of the doctoral program in Sociology at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION WITH NATIVE COMMUNITIES AND THEIR LANDS -- Presentation by Thom Alcoze and Sally Oran, Northern Arizona University, 10:00-11:30, April 19 at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, NC. Alcoze and Oran have been working on an innovative project to tap oral traditions about the use of fire by the

Eastern Band of Cherokee in NC and the Kaibab Paiute in Arizona. They are visiting Western Carolina University as part of the Little Tennessee Sustainable Forestry Initiative. For information contact Professor Peter Bates, email [bates@wcu.edu](mailto:bates@wcu.edu); phone 828-227-3914.

CULTURE, ENVIRONMENT, AND CONSERVATION IN THE APPALACHIAN SOUTH -- a new book edited by Benita Howell, professor of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee. "Debunking the nature/culture dichotomy, contributors examine how physical space is transformed into culturally constituted "place" by a variety of factors, both tangible (architecture, landmarks, artifacts) and intangible (a sense of place, long-term family habitation of land, tradition, "a way of life worth fighting for"). Archaeologists, cultural geographers, and ethnographers examine how the land was used by its earliest inhabitants and trace the effects of agricultural decline, industrial development, and tourism in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries."  
(<http://www.press.uillinois.edu/s02/howell.html>)

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL FOOT TRAILS CONFERENCE -- Friday through Sunday April 26-28 at Unicoi State Park in Helen, GA. Join American Hiking Society, the NPS Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, and Georgia State Parks for a visioning, networking, and education gathering of hiking trail advocates in the Southeast. Call Liz Dooley at AHS 301-565-6704 x212, or visit <http://www.americanhiking.org>.

NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items --

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:

--An EA has been prepared to support a proposed decision to grant nonregulated status for corn genetically engineered by Monsanto for insect resistance (corn rootworm). APHIS determined that field use of the corn would not present a risk of plant pest introduction or dissemination. Copies are available from [Kay.Peterson@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:Kay.Peterson@aphis.usda.gov)

Forest Service:

- An EA has been prepared for Managing Visitor Use in Bent Creek Experimental Forest, Pisgah National Forest, Buncombe County, North Carolina. The proposal would designate a trail system in Bent Creek, limit the use of bicycles and horses to trails identified for those uses, prohibit overnight camping, and increase overall directional and educational signing. Information or copies available from Mary Noel at 828-257-4259.
- A Decision Notice and FONSI has been signed for wildlife fields maintenance in the Appalachian Ranger District, Madison and Yancey Counties, North Carolina. About 25 acres of wildlife fields will receive grass and clover plantings, prescribe burns, herbicide spraying for fescue control, and soft mast plantings. For more information contact Paul Bradley at 828-682-6146.

Department of Energy:

--The Record of Decision for the future operation of the Y-12 National Security Complex was signed on February 4, 2002 by the Secretary of Energy. DOE would construct and operate a highly enriched uranium materials facility and special materials complex, in addition to continued operation of Y-12 to meet national nuclear security needs. For more

information contact Gary Hartman at 865-576-0273.

**National Park Service:**

The Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the General Management Plan for the Blue Ridge Parkway was published on March 13. The management plan will address provision of a quality visitor experience and resource protection on 82,000 acres of public land. To get on the mailing list, contact Superintendent, Blue Ridge Parkway, 1999 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803. Information also will be available on the NPS web site.

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:**

--The Draft EIS on Resident Canada Goose Management is available from Jon Andrew, Chief, Division of Migratory Bird Management at 703-358-1714 or <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov>. The programmatic EIS evaluates alternative strategies to reduce, manage, and control Canada goose populations. The decision process in the EIS would result in a regulatory mechanism to allow federal, state, and local agencies to respond to damage complaints and damages by resident Canada geese. The proposed action would authorize direct and indirect population control strategies including aggressive harassment, nest and egg destruction, gosling and adult trapping and culling, and expanded hunter harvest.

**Federal Highway Administration:**

--The Draft EIS for I-66 construction between Pikeville, Kentucky and Williamson, West Virginia is available for review. Contact Jose Sepuveda at 502-223-6764.

**UPCOMING EVENTS--**

- April 10-13, 2002 - Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. <http://asb.appstate.edu/>
- April 28-30 - Building Creative Economies: The Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Development in Appalachia, Asheville, North Carolina. Laurie Huttunen at HandMade in America, 828-252-0121, or [lauriehuttunen@aol.com](mailto:lauriehuttunen@aol.com)
- May 10 - Governors' Summit on Air Quality, Charlotte, NC. Nann Guthrie, [nann.guthrie@ncmail.net](mailto:nann.guthrie@ncmail.net), 828/251-6208 or visit <http://daq.state.nc.us/quick/summit/>.
- May 14-15 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC
- May 16 - SAMAB Foundation Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, Western Governor's Residence, Asheville, NC
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- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

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**E-Mail News Briefs--March 18, 2002**

**PLANNING AN AGENDA-SETTING ROLE FOR SAMAB--**The SAMAB Foundation Executive Committee and Chair of its Advisory Committee met March 11 to discuss how SAMAB can more effectively facilitate discussion of regional issues and assist in setting and supporting agendas for public and private organizations in the region. The Advisory Board is being enlarged with savvy business and media folks from inside and outside the region to assist in building awareness, fund raising, and government relations. The Board of Directors and Advisory Board will meet on May 16 for an orientation program and to discuss ongoing projects and new directions.

#### **FOREST CHANGES ON CUMBERLAND PLATEAU**

**DOCUMENTED--**The University of the South Landscape Analysis Laboratory has released "An Assessment of Forest Change on the Cumberland Plateau in Southern Tennessee." Funded by the EPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the study evaluated forest change since 1981 in a seven-county, 620,000-acre area in southern Tennessee. About 66,000 acres of native forest has been lost since 1981 and most of this loss was caused by conversion to pine plantations. The rate of conversion has doubled during the last three years of the study (1997-2000). Native hardwood forests were found to have the highest levels of bird diversity, as measured by the number and distribution of bird species and Partners in Flight conservation scores. Pine plantations had substantially lower bird diversity. Water quality was lower in disturbed sites, but increased as the width of streamside management zones increased. The study was a sub-study of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment project on methodologies to track land use change. To read the report, go to <http://lal.sewanee.edu>. For more information, contact Jonathan Evans at 931-598-1304 or Ben West at EPA (404-562-9643)

**FOREST SERVICE SEEKS USES FOR BIOMASS--**The Forest Service is looking for some good ideas to utilize biomass from creating fire breaks and defensible space as part of the National Fire Plan. If you have ideas that a small rural community could use, visit the following web site for guidance, the RFP, and information: <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/spf/coop/rca> [see link on very bottom right of page] or contact Alan E. Pigg, Regional Program Manager, 404-347-7486, [apigg@fs.fed.us](mailto:apigg@fs.fed.us)

**TENNESSEE EROSION CONTROL WORKSHOPS--**Developers, contractors, plan preparers, site superintendents, engineers, inspection and enforcement personnel, and others are invited. Topics include, best management practices, permitting, agency roles, and the erosion process and its impacts on natural resources. Dates and locations are:

- March 19, 2002 Memphis
- March 20, 2002 Nashville
- March 22, 2002 Chattanooga
- March 25, 2002 Knoxville
- May 21, 2002 Jackson
- May 22, 2002 Cookeville
- May 24, 2002 Johnson City

For information or to register contact Gail Farris at (865) 974-4774 or [gfarris@utk.edu](mailto:gfarris@utk.edu). For course content questions, contact Tim Gangaware at (865) 974-2151 or [gangwrrc@utk.edu](mailto:gangwrrc@utk.edu).

ALL TAXA BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY SPRING EVENTS--The ATBI has a long calendar of Spring volunteer training and special events. See listing below and/or contact [jeanie@discoverlife.org](mailto:jeanie@discoverlife.org).

INTEGRATING SCIENCE TEACHER WORKSHOP--Announcing a weekend workshop April 5-7 aimed at training teachers to integrate real scientific research into their classroom curricula, with a special focus on research in Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Review the research process with hands-on science activities, including studies of salamanders and insects. Brainstorm ways to make research work in a classroom setting, and interact with teachers who have successfully involved their students in real research. Contact Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont ([mail@gsmit.org](mailto:mail@gsmit.org)) or 865-448-6709; ask about the Integrating Science Teacher Workshop.

EASTERN FORESTS DIRECT ACTION CAMP--Activists, forest dwellers, concerned citizens, and others ready and willing to act on behalf of forests are invited to attend from May 28-June 3. Focus is on non-violent direct action tactics, with workshops in nonviolence, climbing, blockades, organizing, medic training, security culture, market campaigns, forest watch, media, legal, street theatre, banner making, and more. You must register to attend. Andrew George, 828-285-8855, [andrew@forestadvocate.org](mailto:andrew@forestadvocate.org) or go to the web site: [www.forestadvocate.org](http://www.forestadvocate.org). [Note: SAMAB encourages open debate, dialogue, and awareness of natural and human dynamics affecting change in the Southern Appalachians. It does not necessarily endorse or support specific approaches advocated by any particular organization - Ed.]

#### NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items--

- The Forest Service has published its Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement on Vegetation Management in the Appalachian Mountains. A copy is available at [www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/planning/vmeis](http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/planning/vmeis). The proposal is to clarify requirements for Biological Evaluations and make the BE process more efficient and consistent throughout the Southern Region. Under the proposal, site-specific inventories would not need to be conducted for every proposed project. The decision on whether to conduct site-specific inventories would be based on the presence of suitable habitat and the potential for the action to affect the rare species. Also, if protective measures associated with the proposed action would protect the species whether or not they are present, they would be assumed to be present and would be protected. For more information, contact Robert Wilhelm at [rwillhelm@fs.fed.us](mailto:rwillhelm@fs.fed.us) or 404-347-7076.
- The Forest Service, Appalachian Ranger District, has released an EA on the proposed Northside Timber Sale in Yancey County, North Carolina Information at <http://www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/nepa/appalachian/northside.htm> or from Karen Compton at 828-682-6146.
- The Forest Service, Lee Ranger District, is proposing the creation of a trail system involving 25 miles of hiking and mountain biking trails on Great North Mountain, Shenandoah and Rockingham Counties, Virginia and Hardy County, West Virginia. Potomac Appalachian Trail Club would provide a trail construction crew to assist with the project. Lee Ranger District, 109 Molineu Road, Edinburg, Virginia 22824

- The Forest Service, Clinch Ranger District, is proposing construction of a new section of the Pine Mountain Trail in Wise County, Virginia and Letcher County, Kentucky. The Pine Mountain Trail Conference would contribute volunteer labor. Contact Julia Waller-Eling at 276-328-2931 for more information.
- The Forest Service, Pisgah National Forest has announced that it is preparing the Wilson Creek Comprehensive Management Plan. Wilson Creek was designated a unit of the National Wild and Scenic River System on August 18, 2000. The plan will provide for the protection of river values that led to its designation. For more information, contact Bonnie Amaral at 828-257-4253.
- The US Army Corps of Engineers has issued public notice 02-19 for a proposed dam on Boardtree Creek in Grundy County, Tennessee (Cumberland Plateau). A 27-foot high dam would impound 65 acres near Altamont and Beersheba Springs. The notice can be viewed at <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/notices.htm>. Other notices on the site describe a boat launching ramp at Concord Park, Fort Loudoun Reservoir, Knox County, Tennessee (02-20), a barge dock for Lakeside Barge and Erosion Control, Inc. on Watts Bar Reservoir, Roane County, Tennessee (02-14), and additions to community docks at Tellico Village, Tellico Reservoir, Loudon County, Tennessee (02-13).
- Rural Utilities Service has completed an EA and FONSI for the proposed financing of transmission line construction by Georgia Transmission Corporation for a 4-mile transmission line in Gwinnett and Hall Counties, Georgia. Information from Wende Martin at [wende.martin@gatrans.com](mailto:wende.martin@gatrans.com) or 770-270-7591
- The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is preparing an EA for the proposal of Nuclear Fuel Services in Unicoi County, Tennessee to prepare blended low-enriched uranium from surplus highly-enriched uranium. The fuel blending would be for TVA's Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant in Athens, Alabama. Information from Mary Adams at 301-415-7249 or [mta@nrc.gov](mailto:mta@nrc.gov)
- Federal Highway Administration has announced its intent to prepare an EIS for the US 29 South Bypass Improvement project in Campbell County and City of Lynchburg, Virginia. Information from Jerry Combs at 804-775-3340 or see the Federal Register, March 4, 2002 (67 FR 9801).

#### UPCOMING EVENTS--

- April 1-6 - Biological Woodsmen Week, Glasgow, Virginia. Jason Rutledge [rutledge@swva.net](mailto:rutledge@swva.net), 540-651-6355, <http://community.roanoke.com/HealingHarvestForestFoundation>.
- April 3-5, 2002, Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN. <http://www.se-eppc.org/>
- April 10-13, 2002 - Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. <http://asb.appstate.edu/>
- April 28-30 - Building Creative Economies: The Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Development in Appalachia, Asheville, North Carolina. Laurie Huttunen at HandMade in America, 828-252-0121, or [lauriehuttunen@aol.com](mailto:lauriehuttunen@aol.com)
- May 10 - Governors' Summit on Air Quality, Charlotte, NC. Nann Guthrie, [nann.guthrie@ncmail.net](mailto:nann.guthrie@ncmail.net), 828/251-6208 or visit



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- May 14-15 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC
- May 16 - SAMAB Foundation Board of Directors and Board of Advisors, Western Governor's Residence, Asheville, NC
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<http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iym/ecology.html>
- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

ATBI Calendar of Events--In the coming year, Discover Life in America is coordinating more ATBI volunteer training and several exciting special events--"Bio-Quests." If you interested in becoming a volunteer and have not yet participated in one of the orientation sessions, please note the two offered in 2002. Enroll soon because space is limited. There will also be specialized training and other educational programs in conjunction with the Bio-Quests. Scientists and educators who would like to participate are encouraged to get in touch with Jeanie Hilten.

For more information about upcoming events, contact Jeanie Hilten (DLIA Administrative Officer), [jeanie@discoverlife.org](mailto:jeanie@discoverlife.org) or Tom Rogers (DLIA Board and Science/Taxonomy volunteer team leader, [trogers@rollinscorp.com](mailto:trogers@rollinscorp.com) or Pat Cox (University of Tennessee) for the Fern Forays)

- Saturday, March 23-Sunday, March 24: Volunteer Orientation I. Sugarlands Training Room. Optional field/lab activities on Sunday.
- Saturday evening, March 23: "Millipede March" Bio-Quest. Meet Sugarlands Training Room.
- Saturday, May 18-Sunday May 19: Volunteer Orientation II. Purchase Knob, NC. Optional field/lab activities on Sunday.
- Saturday, June 8: "Fern Foray I". Meeting place to be announced. (The Fern Forays, coordinated by Dr. Patricia Cox at the University of Tennessee, involve trail hikes with sampling points to identify ferns. Pat provides at least one "real botanist" with each group of volunteers, so don't hesitate to join the fun.)
- Sunday, June 9-Thursday, June 13: A variety of activities centered around the June 10-11 "Lepidoptera Quest". Scientists please contact Dave Wagner, [dwanger@unconnvm.uconn.edu](mailto:dwanger@unconnvm.uconn.edu), Brian Scholtens, [scholtensb@cofc.edu](mailto:scholtensb@cofc.edu), or Tom Rogers, [trogers@rollinscorp.com](mailto:trogers@rollinscorp.com), to participate in the collecting and sorting. There will be volunteer training on June 9 and programs for students and teachers on June 12-13.
- Saturday, June 22: "Fern Foray II". Meeting place to be announced.
- Thursday, June 27-Sunday June 30: "Protista Pursuit" Bio-Quest. Sugarlands Training Room. (This venture will survey not only protozoans and algae, but also other life forms collected along the way, such as tardigrades.) Contact Tom Rogers, [trogers@rollinscorp.com](mailto:trogers@rollinscorp.com)
- Saturday, July 13: "Fern Foray III". Meeting place to be announced.
- Saturday, July 20-Sunday, July 21: "Snail Search" Bio-Quest. Sugarlands Training Room.
- Saturday, July 27: "Fern Foray IV". Meeting place to be

announced.

- Late July-early August: "Bat Blitz" Bio-Quest. Volunteers and the public will not be involved directly in this work, but will be invited to bat awareness education programs. Get in touch with Jackie Belwood, [ohiobats@aol.com](mailto:ohiobats@aol.com).

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## **E-Mail News Briefs--March 1, 2002**

**SAMAB MONITORING COORDINATOR ON BOARD--** Andy Brown assumed program coordinator responsibilities for SAMAB's Appalachian Trail Region Environmental Monitoring Program in February. Andy is an environmental planner who has coordinated partnership-driven watershed restoration projects, conducted watershed- and conservation-easement assessment, and leads the NC/TN Appalachian Trail land trust activities. He works through his own firm, Equinox Environmental in Asheville. You can reach him at [equinoxab@earthlink.net](mailto:equinoxab@earthlink.net) or 828-253-6856.

**APPALACHIAN MONITORING PLANS GEL--** Andy Brown, Robb Turner, Jack Ranney and others met over the past month in Franklin, NC, Erwin, TN, Abingdon, VA, and Norris, TN to set up agreements for watershed alliance/association participation in the SAMAB/National Forest Foundation program for monitoring and stewardship in the region. The groups have proposed a number of monitoring and restoration projects to accomplish under the first year of the matching-grants program. They also are very interested in the capabilities of the SERIS/NBII/Southern Appalachian Information Node for information management and dissemination.

**THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS: A CHANGING WORLD VIDEO--** SAMAB has distributed over 2,400 copies of the USGS video, "The Southern Appalachians: A Changing World," and the companion teacher's guide and information booklet. Recipients are 1800 schools, environmental educational centers, and state parks in the Southern Appalachians. Agencies with resource management/educational programs also have received videos. The video has been extremely well-received, and is up for a number of awards. Limited copies through SAMAB are still available free to schools and learning centers, and at a wholesale cost to non-profit sales outlets. They also may be purchased through the USGS ([http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/so\\_app/](http://pubs.usgs.gov/gip/so_app/)).

**HISTORIC REAUTHORIZATION BILL FOR APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION PASSED--** An historic, five-year reauthorization bill for the ARC (a SAMAB Cooperative member agency) received final approval from the U.S. Congress on February 26 and was sent to the President for signature. This would be the longest reauthorization of the ARC in its history. "This caps an incredible comeback for the ARC," said Federal Co-Chairman Jesse L. White, Jr. "We've come a huge distance -- just like the Appalachian Region itself. Our unique partnership of federal, state and local participation serves as a model for the nation."

**USGS APPALACHIAN SCIENCE PROCEEDINGS ON-LINE--** The proceedings for a workshop summarizing USGS research in the

Appalachians held in Gatlinburg last October is available as a pdf file at <http://www.AppalachianRegionScience.usgs.gov>.

BIOENERGY WORKSHOP MARCH 6 IN OAK RIDGE--Topics include bioenergy policy, benefits, techniques, successes. Keynotes by Douglas Kaempf, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary, U.S. Department of Energy and Ronald Buckhalt, Co-Director, National Biobased Products and Bioenergy Coordination Office, USDA-Agricultural Research Service. Hosted by the Cumberland Resource Conservation and Development Council at Pollard Auditorium on the campus of Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Oak Ridge, TN. Contact Alan Neal, 865-494-2343, [aneal@tn.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:aneal@tn.nrcs.usda.gov).

BIOLOGICAL WOODSMEN WEEK APRIL 1-6--The Healing Harvest Forest Foundation sponsors the Biological Woodsmen Week this year at Voyager Foundation Farm in Glasgow, Virginia to harvest timber during the week and have an invitational horse pull on Saturday the 6th. This event is primarily a public educational opportunity to see modern horse logging and restorative forestry in action. Horse logging practitioners and around 6 teams of horses and mules from around the region will work in the woods throughout the week. Contact Jason Rutledge ([rutledge@swva.net](mailto:rutledge@swva.net), 540-651-6355, <http://community.roanoke.com/HealingHarvestForestFoundation>).

GOVERNORS' SUMMIT ON AIR QUALITY MAY 10--This spring, southeastern leaders will meet in Charlotte, North Carolina to continue their discussion on air quality challenges across the region, share information, and work toward regional solutions to air problems. The conference will benefit from the work of the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI), a multi-year assessment of current and potential future air quality the region. It also will review a report on the progress being made under the Southern Air Principles, an agreement between the governors of Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee calling for a joint strategy to address smog, acid deposition and haze. Contact Nam Guthrie, ([nann.guthrie@ncmail.net](mailto:nann.guthrie@ncmail.net), 828/251-6208 or visit <http://daq.state.nc.us/quick/summit/>).

#### NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items:

- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service--APHIS has completed an EA on a proposal to designate tobacco genetically engineered for reduced nicotine as a non-regulated organism. Public comments are sought on whether this tobacco presents a plant pest risk. For more information contact [kay.peterson@aphis.usda.gov](mailto:kay.peterson@aphis.usda.gov) or 301-734-4885.
- Bureau of Land Management--A Land Use Analysis/Environmental Assessment is being prepared to consider leasing federal coal underlying 315 acres of Daniel Boone National Forest Land in Clay County, Kentucky. For more information, contact John Lewis at 601-977-5400.
- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission--Alabama Power Company proposes to relicense 9 hydroelectric dams on the Coosa and Warrior Rivers in northern Alabama and Georgia. FERC is requesting comments on environmental issues to be analyzed prior to preparation of an Applicant Prepared EA. For more information, contact [ronald.mckitrick@ferc.fed.us](mailto:ronald.mckitrick@ferc.fed.us)
- Forest Service--Clinch Ranger District is evaluating alternatives for

suppressing southern pine beetles in white pine plantations. For more information contact Julia Waller-Eling at 540-328-2931 or oolsen@fs.fed.us

- Tennessee Valley Authority
- TVA has issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on Reservoir Operating Policies. Policy alternatives to be evaluated will be determined after review of agency and public comments which are being solicited at 21 public information meetings. At this time, alternative operating policies are likely to include increasing or decreasing seasonal reservoir pool levels depending on hydrology and project constraints, and increasing or decreasing the timing and amount of releases from reservoirs. For further information, contact David Nye at 888-882-7675 or [www.tva.gov](http://www.tva.gov)
- TVA has released a Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment on Boone Reservoir. The document discusses proposed natural resource management and recreation management on 566 acres of TVA property in Sullivan and Washington Counties, Tennessee. For further information, contact Stanford Davis at 865-632-3792 or [boone-eacommments@tva.gov](mailto:boone-eacommments@tva.gov)

#### UPCOMING EVENTS--

- March 6 - Bioenergy Workshop, Pollard Auditorium on the campus of Oak Ridge Associated Universities in Oak Ridge, TN. Alan Neal 865-494-2343, [aneal@tn.nrcs.usda.gov](mailto:aneal@tn.nrcs.usda.gov).
- March 8 - Workshop on how to use the Clean Water Act to protect and clean up your local waterways: the Total Maximum Daily Load Clean-up Program, Joe Wheeler State Park near Rogersville, AL (northwest of Huntsville), Call Beth Wentzel with Alabama Rivers Alliance at 877-862-5260 or Danielle Droitsch with Tennessee Clean Water Network at 865-522-7007 or email [danielle@TCWN.ORG](mailto:danielle@TCWN.ORG).
- March 15-17, 2002 - Appalachian Studies Association 25th Annual Conference, Unicoi State Park, GA. Patricia Beaver, [beaverp@appstate.edu](mailto:beaverp@appstate.edu), <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>
- April 1-6 - Biological Woodsmen Week, Glasgow, Virginia. Jason Rutledge [rutledge@swva.net](mailto:rutledge@swva.net), 540-651-6355, <http://community.roanoke.com/HealingHarvestForestFoundation>.
- April 3-5, 2002, Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN. <http://www.se-eppc.org/>
- April 10-13, 2002 - Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. <http://asb.appstate.edu/>
- April 28-30 - Building Creative Economies: The Arts, Entrepreneurship, and Sustainable Development in Appalachia, Asheville, North Carolina. Laurie Huttunen at HandMade in America, 828-252-0121, or [lauriehuttunen@aol.com](mailto:lauriehuttunen@aol.com)
- May 10 - Governors' Summit on Air Quality, Charlotte, NC. Nann Guthrie, [nann.guthrie@ncmail.net](mailto:nann.guthrie@ncmail.net), 828/251-6208 or visit <http://daq.state.nc.us/quick/summit/>.
- May 14-15 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC
- August 16 - SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting, Mount

Mitchell State Park, NC

- September 15-18 - Symposium on Ecological and Economic Benefits of Mountain Forests, Innsbruck, Austria.  
<http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iy/ecology.html>
- November 5-7 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

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## E-Mail News Briefs--February 15, 2002

**SAMAB COOPERATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS--** At its quarterly meeting February 15th at the new Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters the SAMAB Cooperative heard proposals for a review of the state of science on atmospheric deposition and its effects in the Southern Appalachians and a proposal for educating various publics on invasive species extent, damage, and control in the region. The committee also heard about the National Park Service's Appalachian Highlands Network Inventory and Monitoring progress and were introduced to SAMAB's new regional environmental monitoring coordinator, Andy Brown. We reviewed highlights of agency activities in the region and priorities for future directions, and made preparations for the Spring Planning Meeting (May 14-15 in Asheville) and the Fall Annual Conference (November 5-7 in Gatlinburg). The committee also viewed an on-line demonstration of the latest capabilities of the SERIS/NBII-SAIN internet map server capabilities.

**SAMAB FACILITATES SCOPING MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK-EASTERN BAND CHEROKEE INDIAN LAND EXCHANGE--** SAMAB Executive Director Robb Turner facilitated three public scoping meetings for the National Park Service February 12-14. In Cherokee, NC, 32 speakers provided their thoughts on the proposed exchange. The next evening in Knoxville, 46 people spoke, and on Thursday in Asheville, 60 speakers voiced their opinions on what should be considered in the environmental impact statement as well as what should be the outcome of the decision process. 110 to 160 people attended each meeting. The comment period is open until February 28--comments can be sent to [NPSlandexchange@saic.com](mailto:NPSlandexchange@saic.com)

**ADMINISTRATION BUDGET CUTS COULD HIT SAMAB REGION HARD--** The Bush Administration budget proposed to Congress for FY 2003 would eliminate funding for the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory (a SAMAB core biosphere reserve unit) near Franklin, NC and the Bent Creek Experimental Forest near Asheville. Both of these facilities are components of the Southern Research Station of the US Forest Service. Substantial cuts also are proposed for watershed management efforts by the Natural Resources Conservation Service and from the Water Resources Division of the US Geological Survey. Word is that Congress is planning to start from FY 2002 funding levels in their deliberations rather than from the President's budget, but providing justification at all opportunities for the values of natural resource research and conservation to the region will be as important this year as ever.

**DISCOVER LIFE IN AMERICA INSECT SORTING CLASS--** DLIA is offering several training classes this spring, beginning with a

session on sorting insects and other arthropods, led by Science/Taxonomy team leader Tom Rogers, with help from Jim Lowe, Chuck Parker, and Ian Stocks. This class will be Sat. Feb 23 at 9:00am at the Twin Creeks Center in Gatlinburg, TN. If you'd like to attend, please call Jeanie Hilten at 865-430-4752. The purpose of this training is to allow volunteers to help sort samples that come in from the ATBI plot traps to the level of Order so they may then be mailed to experts for ID. For other events, see the ATBI newsletter at <http://www.discoverlife.org> under research, then under publications.

#### SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY COORDINATOR POSITION

AVAILABLE--The Little Tennessee Sustainable Forestry Project seeks a talented and energetic Program Coordinator for an innovative land conservation and management program based in Franklin, NC. The Project is a collaboration of The Land Trust for the Little Tennessee or LTLT (which will be the institutional home of the Coordinator), The Conservation Fund, Western Carolina University, and Duke University. With major support from national foundations, the project seeks to explore new ground in building sustainable forestry, conservation, and community-based land protection. The Little Tennessee River basin is a hotspot of biodiversity, recreational opportunity, and high quality of life in western North Carolina's Appalachian Mountains. For full position description and application instructions, mail or e-mail: Search Director, P.O.Box 1148, Franklin, NC 28744 or [llt@dnet.net](mailto:llt@dnet.net) before April 15.

#### EPA-NSF FUNDING FOR DECISION MAKING AND

VALUATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY--Funding is available for research that will contribute to the development of practical, credible approaches for estimating the benefits and costs of environmental policies and improving decision making about environmental issues. The three specific research areas focus on 1) ecosystem valuation, 2) research linking individual environmental values with group or community valuation of environmental amenities, and 3) the role of environmental information in environmental decision making. See <http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/>

#### AUDUBON BIRD CONSERVATION NEWS ON-LINE--

Read the Winter 2002 edition of Audubon's Bird Conservation Newsletter at <http://www.audubon.org/bird/news.html>. Highlights include IBA Program updates, as well as policy, sanctuary, and educational news along with upcoming meetings and events, as they relate to bird conservation.

#### KNOXVILLE I-475 BELTWAY DRAFT EIS ON WEB, HEARINGS

SCHEDULED--The draft EIS on this proposed project has been published, with limited numbers of paper copies available in local libraries. It is also available at [http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/Chief\\_Engineer/assistant\\_engineer\\_Planning/environmental\\_permits/I475DEIS.pdf](http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/Chief_Engineer/assistant_engineer_Planning/environmental_permits/I475DEIS.pdf). Hearings are scheduled for:

- Tuesday, February 19, 2002 4:00-8:00 p.m., Oak Ridge Civic Center Gym.
- Wednesday, February 20, 4-8 p.m., North Middle School Gym, 421 Hickory Creek Road, Lenoir City
- Monday, February 25, 4:30-8:30 p.m., Anderson County High School Lobby, 2131 Andersonville Highway, Clinton
- Tuesday, February 26, 4-8 p.m., Karns Primary School Gym, 8108 Beaver Ridge Road, Knoxville

- Tuesday, March 5, 5-8 p.m., Roane County High School Cafeteria, 540 West Cumberland Street, Kingston.

Other NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items:

--US Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices:

- Issuance of new nationwide permits. View final Nationwide permits at [www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/2002nwps.pdf](http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/2002nwps.pdf)
- The Draft Supplemental EIS for Proposed Changes to the Chickamauga Lock Project, Hamilton County, Tennessee is available from Wayne Easterling at 615-736-7847.
- 01-94, Widening of I-75 in Rockcastle County, Kentucky. Contact Deborah T. Tuck at 615-369-7518
- 01-96, East Tennessee Natural Gas Patriot Project, facilities in Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. Contact J. Ruben Hernandez at 615-369-7519
- 01-97, Stream relocation for a retail development in Collegedale, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Contact Deborah T. Tuck at 615-369-7518.
- 05, Fill of Friar Branch tributary to construct Home Depot, Hamilton County, Tennessee. Contact Carl Olsen at 615-369-7513.
- 02-07, Road crossing to island and docks associated with subdivision construction on Douglas Reservoir, Jefferson County, Tennessee. Contact Carl R. Olsen at 615-369-7513.
- 01-V2065, Wythe County Progress Park access road and grading involving 3.9 acres of wetland fill, Wythe County, Virginia. Contact Thom Leedom at 540-382-6740.
- 01-B2171, Rehabilitate a failing dam at Cockram's Millpond, Patrick County, Virginia. Contact Thom Leedom at 540-382-6740.
- Bureau of Land Management. An EA will be prepared for the leasing of federal lands for oil and gas development around Carr Creek Lake in Knott County, Kentucky. Contact Clay Moore at 601-977-5400.

Department of Energy:

DOE announces the availability of the EA and FONSI for Transportation of Low-Level Radioactive Waste from the Oak Ridge Reservation to Off-Site Treatment and Disposal Facilities. Copies available from [McMillanWG@oro.doe.gov](mailto:McMillanWG@oro.doe.gov). Also, a Draft EA for the Proposed Conveyance of the American Museum of Science and Energy is available at [www.oro.doe.gov/Foia/DOE\\_Public\\_Reading\\_Room.htm](http://www.oro.doe.gov/Foia/DOE_Public_Reading_Room.htm) under "New Documents."

Federal Highway Administration:

The final EIS for the construction of the Shawnee Highway, McDowell, Raleigh, and Wyoming Counties, West Virginia is available from Thomas J. Smith at (304) 347-5928.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

The Draft EIS on Double-crested Cormorant Management is available from the Chief, Migratory Bird Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Room 634, Arlington, VA 22203; [cormorant\\_eis@fws.gov](mailto:cormorant_eis@fws.gov).

**Forest Service:**

The New River Valley Ranger District is proposing to establish an oak progeny test in an old agricultural field in Smyth County, Virginia. For more information, contact Ed Leonard at 540-552-4641.

**Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control:**

A Public Notice of the availability of proposed total maximum daily load for fecal coliform in First Creek, Second Creek, Third Creek, and Goose Creek, Fort Loudoun Lake Watershed was issued. For more information, contact Dennis Borders at 615-532-0706.

From October through December, TVA issued the following environmental decisions affecting the Southern Appalachians. Copies are available from [hmdraper@tva.gov](mailto:hmdraper@tva.gov):

- Record of Decision, Guntersville Reservoir Land Management Plan, Jackson and Marshall Counties, Alabama and Marion County, Tennessee (Southwestern Appalachians ecoregion). TVA decided to adopt a land allocation plan for 40,236 acres of TVA-managed lands. Of the 40,236 acres, 37,662 acres would be allocated to natural resource management-oriented uses, 1,704 acres would be allocated for developed recreation areas such as marinas, campgrounds, parks, and boat ramps, 543 acres would be allocated for residential lake access, and 327 acres for industrial access or commercial uses.
- Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), Issuance of Section 26a Regulations. TVA concluded that the impacts of proposed regulations for non-navigable houseboats, storage tanks, marina sewage pump-out stations, wastewater outfalls, and septic systems would likely have insignificant environmental impacts (publication of final regulations in Federal Register is pending; final regulations also will implement TVA's decision to adopt residential water use facility standards in the Shoreline Management Initiative Record of Decision).
- FONSI, Elizabethton-Pandora Transmission Line, Carter and Johnson Counties, Tennessee (Blue Ridge ecoregion). TVA decided to construct a new 8.8-mile transmission line to improve electrical service to the Mountain City Electric Cooperative service area.
- FONSI, Sequoyah Leading Edge Flow Measurement System, Hamilton County, Tennessee. TVA decided to install a new flow measurement system for steam generators to allow a power increase of 1.3 percent at Sequoyah Nuclear Plant.
- FONSI, Blue Ridge Dam Low Level Outlet, Fannin County, Georgia (Blue Ridge ecoregion). TVA decided to install a second low-level outlet to allow deep drawdown of the reservoir during hydroelectric facility renovation, including the penstock and tunnel.
- FONSI, Watts Bar Hydro Modernization, Meigs and Rhea Counties, Tennessee (Ridge and Valley Ecoregion). TVA decided to upgrade hydroelectric facilities at Watts Bar Dam.
- FONSI, Nuclear Fuels Services Stream Relocation, Unicoi County, Tennessee (Blue Ridge Ecoregion). TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for stream alteration and containment associated with decommissioning and remediation activities at Nuclear Fuels Services in Erwin.
- FONSI, Blennerhassett Island Bank Stabilization, Madison



County, North Carolina (Blue Ridge ecoregion). TVA decided to issue Section 26a approval for bank stabilization of an island in the French Broad River to protect a school and sewage treatment facilities in the town of Marshall.

- FONSI, Phillips Wetland Restoration, Jackson County, Alabama (Southwestern Appalachians ecoregion). TVA decided to grant \$250,000 to the Alabama Waterfowl Association to acquire 80 acres of property near Fackler, Alabama. AWA would construct levees and water control structures to restore wetland functions on agricultural land.
- FONSI, Loan to Intex Enterprises, Anderson County, Tennessee. TVA decided to loan a company in the Clinton/I-75 Industrial Park monies to purchase equipment for a metal finishing process.

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- March 8--Workshop on how to use the Clean Water Act to protect and clean up your local waterways: the Total Maximum Daily Load Clean-up Program, Joe Wheeler State Park near Rogersville, AL (northwest of Huntsville), Call Beth Wentzel with Alabama Rivers Alliance at 877-862-5260 or Danielle Droitsch with Tennessee Clean Water Network at 865-522-7007 or email [danielle@TCWN.ORG](mailto:danielle@TCWN.ORG).
- March 15-17--Appalachian Studies Association 25th Annual Conference, Unicoi State Park, GA. Patricia Beaver (see <http://www.appalachianstudies.org/>) April 3-5--Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN. <http://www.se-eppc.org/>
- April 10-13--Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. <http://asb.appstate.edu/>
- May 14-15--SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC
- September 15-18--Symposium on Ecological and Economic Benefits of Mountain Forests, Innsbruck, Austria. <http://fbva.forvie.ac.at/iym/ecology.html>
- November 5-7--SAMAB Fall Conference, Gatlinburg, TN

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### E-Mail News Briefs--January 15, 2002

ALL TAXA BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY OF GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK GRANTS AVAILABLE -- \$100,000 is allocated for research activities to be conducted in the 2002 field season in support of the Smokies ATBI. Proposals are solicited for award amounts not to exceed \$7500. Email Jeanie Hilten ([jeanie@discoverlife.org](mailto:jeanie@discoverlife.org)) for full RFP and visit the web site (<http://www.discoverlife.org/sc/>) for an overview of the ATBI activities.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY PROJECT GRANTS AVAILABLE -- National Commission on Science for Sustainable Forestry seeks proposals for competitively funded grants for ten specific projects identified by the Commission to fulfill their mission. Investigators and practitioners in a wide range of organizations including universities, institutes, professional organizations, consultants, NGOs and

governmental organizations at the local, state and federal levels are eligible. See the web site (<http://cnie.org/NCSE/NCSSF/page.cfm?FID=1433#List>) for information on projects and proposals due February 4.

MAB YOUNG SCIENTISTS AWARDS AVAILABLE -- Objectives of the MAB awards are 1) to encourage young scientists (not older than 40 years) to use MAB research and project sites and biosphere reserves in their research and training efforts, 2) to encourage young scientists who already use such sites to undertake comparative studies in other sites in or outside their own country, and 3) to assist exchange of information and experience among a new generation of scientists. Proposals for awards up to \$5000 are due July 1. See the web site (<http://www.unesco.org/mab/capacity/mys/awarmab2.htm>) for more information.

#### NEPA/Environmental Coordination Items:

- Effective February 13, 2002, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has reclassified *Scutellaria montana* (large-flowered skullcap) from endangered to threatened status under the Endangered Species Act. *S. montana* grows in the Ridge and Valley area of southeast Tennessee and northwest Georgia. For further information contact Allen Ratzlaff at 828-258-3939 or see the notice at 67 Federal Register 1662 (January 14, 2002).
- Federal Highway Administration has released the Draft EIS for Knoxville Beltway. Three alternative routes to the north and south of Oak Ridge are evaluated. For copies contact Mark Doctor at 615-781-5770 or Charles Bushof Tennessee DOT at 615-741-3653.
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has released a Draft Supplemental EIS for the Chickamauga navigation lock on the Tennessee River. Copies are available from Wayne Easterling at 615-736-7847.
- TVA released a draft environmental assessment on its proposal to construct and operate a wind-electric facility either on Buffalo Mountain in Anderson County, Tennessee, or on Stone Mountain in Johnson County, Tennessee. The windfarm would consist of 13 to 16 turbines. TVA's proposal includes the possibility of constructing a Regenesys(tm) Energy Storage facility near the selected windfarm site. The draft EA can be viewed at: [www.tva.gov/environment/reports/index.htm](http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/index.htm).

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- February 15, 2002 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Blue Ridge Parkway Headquarters, Asheville, NC
- March 15-17, 2002 - Appalachian Studies Association 25th Annual Conference, Unicoi State Park, GA. Patricia Beaver, [beaverp@appstate.edu](mailto:beaverp@appstate.edu), <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>
- April 3-5, 2002, Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Annual Meeting, Nashville, TN. <http://www.se-eppc.org/>
- April 10-13, 2002 - Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting, Appalachian State University, Boone, North Carolina. <http://asb.appstate.edu/>

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