



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 18, 2003

SEASON'S GREETINGS AND APOLOGIES! -- Our best wishes to all for happy holidays and a great new year! I also wish to apologize for the email formatting and address-list problems of the last month. After three and a half years of a growing distribution list with relatively problem-free communication, we hit a server glitch that stripped the subject line, unsuppressed the distribution list, and removed all formatting from the message body. Thanks to all you helpful hinters, wise guys, and patient souls for bearing with such annoyances.

SMOKIES ALL TAXA BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY ANNUAL CONFERENCE DRAWS 120 -- Hailing from 23 states, 120 scientists, students, retirees, and others reviewed progress of the ATBI in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park from December 2-5 in Gatlinburg. Presentations and discussions covered reports from most taxonomic working groups, web-page and data-base advances, habitat modeling and mapping, volunteer action, education, funding opportunities, and a nation-wide alliance for ATBIs. Participants viewed spectacular images, micro to macro in scale, of some of the over 400 species new to science and over 3,000 species new to the Park. They were treated to an inspiring keynote address by Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and world leader in conservation biology - he effectively linked the value of this local Smokies ATBI with opportunities for conserving regional, national, and global biodiversity. Folks, if you

want to see an example of something right with the world, that draws together diverse people of all ages, attend one of these meetings!
<http://discoverlifeinamerica.org>

PROGRESS ON BIOSPHERE RESERVE PROGRAM RENEWAL -

- Tom Gilbert, through the US Biosphere Reserves Association and support by SAMAB as well as the renewed USMAB National Committee, has scheduled two meetings in the new year. In February, Peter Raven and the Missouri Botanical Garden will host a visioning meeting to explore what a renewed biosphere reserve program might look like. In April, SAMAB will host a meeting of US, Canadian, and Mexican biosphere reserves to discuss a North American network of biosphere reserves and potential cross-boundary interactions and benefits. These meetings are by invitation to keep costs down and numbers/discussions manageable - but, if you have ideas or a burning desire to attend, please communicate with Tom Gilbert (vgilbert@volexpress.com).

INVASIVE PLANTS WATCH OUT! -- Jack Ranney, SAMAB invasive species project coordinator, lead a multi-agency discussion at Bent Creek Research Forest near Asheville on December 11. The group examined opportunities for demonstration of cooperative invasive-plant control in the Asheville area. SAMAB has funding from the National Forest Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Appalachian Trail Park Office to coordinate state, federal, and private/community partners in monitoring and controlling invasive plants in the region. See <http://samab.org/Focus/Monitor/Invasives/invasives.html> for information, photos, and maps on the monitoring program or <http://seris.info/ArcIMS/samab-cm-is/> for an interactive map hosted by SAIN. Contact Jack Ranney (jwranney@utk.edu) or Andy Brown, SAMAB Community Monitoring Coordinator (andy@equinoxenvironmental.com).

SOUTHERN ROUNDTABLE ON SUSTAINABLE FORESTS, FIRST WORKSHOP -- This meeting, held November 18-19 in Charleston, SC, began a dialogue about how the Montreal Process criteria and indicators for forest resource sustainability might be applied in the South to assist in local and regional decision making on use of forest resources. Diverse stakeholders having a wide range of expectations demand broad considerations in management and use of public and private forest resources in this rapidly changing region. SAMAB is exploring ways it can work through the Roundtable with public and private partners to achieve sustainable forests in the broader context of regional environmental, economic, and cultural sustainability. Contact Charlie Van Sickle (cvans1@juno.com), (jennifer Crawford@fs.fed.us), or (samab@utk.edu) to contribute your ideas.
<http://www.sustainableforests.net/>

LAST GASP OF THE EAST FORK HEMLOCKS -- Will Blozan,

former Smokies Park employee and President of the Eastern Native Tree Society, reports that the hemlock woolly adelgid has destroyed the grove of unsurpassed tall hemlocks along the East Fork of the Chattooga River in the Ellicott Rock Wilderness (South Carolina section). The world record hemlock, with a girth of 11 feet 4 inches and a height of 168 feet, 9 inches is now defoliated and dead at all its growth tips. Its neighbors are at the same stage or completely defoliated and dead. Will and others are documenting the hemlock decline and assisting in assessment of adelgid control measures.

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGIDS WATCH OUT! -- Will the exotic hemlock woolly adelgid win, or can it be controlled? The Forest Service and the Park Service have received additional funding this year for study and biological and chemical control. SAMAB's HWA Action Team is coordinating interagency, intraregional efforts. SAIN is assisting SAMAB and the Action Team with the <http://saveourhemlocks.org> web site, and will soon have an adelgid-sighting reporting form available for public reporting and mapping of adelgid occurrences throughout the region. The University of Tennessee and Clemson University are starting predatory beetle-rearing facilities, with the first beetles expected to be available in February.

The saveourhemlocks web site was responsible for a contribution of \$1,100 from the six Girl Scout Troops of St. Thecla Catholic School located in Clinton Township, Michigan. 57 Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes participated, along with their leaders and countless volunteers, November 1st and 2nd in a community-service-project can-and-bottle drive to benefit the hemlock trees of the Great Smoky Mountains. The Friends of the Smokies organization is coordinating regional fundraising efforts with a goal of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Can the imported hemlock woolly adelgid be controlled? Working together, we'll give it our best shot! To get involved, see <http://saveourhemlocks.org/involve.shtml>.

AFTER-THE-SOUTHERN-PINE-BEETLE WORKSHOP -- A native pest, the southern pine beetle, has killed large areas of pines throughout the region. Many land managers are not aware of all their options for management of these areas. This SAMAB field trip and workshop on January 21-22 in Murphy and Brasstown, NC, for land managers and researchers, will address options, barriers, and success stories for different approaches to management following beetle damage. See the SAMAB home page for more information, agenda, registration form, and lodging options.

NIKI NICHOLAS MOVING ON -- TVA ecologist and long-time SAMAB participant is moving in January to Yosemite National Park to join former SAMABer Mike Tollefson as chief of resources

management. We wish her all the best!

NATIONAL FOREST FOUNDATION NAMES NEW VP -- Wilkie Nelson will move from the National Park Foundation to the National Forest Foundation in January. "Wilkie is a well-respected conservationist with extensive experience in program management, agency relations and fundraising," said NFF President Bill Possiel. "We are pleased to have him join the NFF." As Vice President, Nelson will cultivate mutually beneficial relationships between the Forest Service and the private sector; he will oversee NFF's grant programs and partner initiatives in the Southern Appalachians; and he will secure funding and public support for national and regional programs.

GERMAN BIOSPHERE RESERVE PROMOTES ORGANIC APPLES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT -- The international apple workshop held in the Rhön biosphere reserve, Germany, was an informal meeting promoting the mutual exchange of practical experience and ideas on organic/extensive fruit production, processing, and marketing in regions which are committed to a sustainable development. The documentation on the "International Apple Workshop", 03.-05 July 2003 in Hausen, is now available at <http://www.biosphaerenreservat-rhoen.de/projekte/apfelwork.html>.

LEADING EDGE 2004 - THE WORKING BIOSPHERE -- Meeting of the Canadian Niagara Escarpment Biosphere Reserve March 3-5 in St. Catharines, ON. See <http://www.escarpment.org> for information and registration materials.

CANON NATIONAL PARKS SCIENCE SCHOLARS PROGRAM COMPETITION NOW OPEN -- This program, a collaboration among Canon U.S.A., Inc., the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the National Park Service, will be awarding eight \$78,000 scholarships to Ph.D. students throughout the Americas to conduct research critical to conserving the national parks of the region. Research projects in the biological, physical, social, and cultural sciences are eligible, as well as projects in technology innovation in support of conservation science. Applications must be received by May 3, 2004. For more information, go to www.nature.nps.gov/canonscholarships.

COURSE OFFERING - BALANCING NATURE AND COMMERCE IN GATEWAY COMMUNITIES -- The Conservation Fund has announced the 4th offering of "Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities," March 2-5, 2004 in Savannah, GA. The 3 ½ day course will help teams of local elected officials, public land managers, non-profit representatives, and other interested citizens learn to promote economic development and land protection strategies that sustain and enhance the special character of their communities through partnerships between gateway communities and land management agencies. For information and application contact

kristin_peppel@fws.gov.

MOUNTAINTOP-REMOVAL-MINING COMMENTS DUE JANUARY 6 -- Comments on EPA's draft programmatic environmental impact statement are due January 6. See <http://www.epa.gov/region3/mtntop/index.htm> and <http://www.korrnet.org/tcwp/mountaintop.html> and links from those pages for the DEIS and additional information.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS Environmental Coordination Items --

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service -- The Record of Decision for the management of double-crested cormorant in the U.S. may be viewed at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/ws/eafrontpage.html>.

Army Corps of Engineers (Public Notices <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/notices.htm>) --

- 03-74- Tennessee Department of Transportation, Proposed Wetland Fill and Channel Relocations Associated With State Route 32 (US 25E) Improvements, From: North of Indian Creek to South of Little Sycamore Creek in Claiborne and Grainger Counties, Tennessee
- 03-97- Midpark Development Inc., Proposed Channel Relocation and Culvert Unnamed Tributaries to First Creek, Tennessee River Mile 647.8R, Knox County, Tennessee
- 03-58- Lowe's Company, Inc., Proposed Fill and Encapsulation of an Unnamed Tributary to Little Tennessee River Mile 17.8, Left Bank (Tellico Lake), Monroe County, Tennessee
- 03-92- Waste Industries, Inc., Proposed Wetland Fill Associated with a Development of a Regional Subtitle D Solid Waste Landfill at the upper reach of Dry Fork Creek, a Tributary of Cane Creek, and Tributaries of Samples Fork Branch, a Tributary to Rocky River, Van Buren County, Tennessee
- 03-88- U.S. Fence, Inc., Proposed Fill and Encapsulation of an Unnamed Tributary to Whitehorn Creek, Hawkins County, Tennessee
- 03-76 - The Point Development Group, Proposed Commercial Marina (Phase II), Modified Harbor Limits, No-Wake Buoys, Channel Excavation, Courtesy Slips, Beach, Boat Ramp and Gravel Parking Lot Fill at Dandridge Point Marina, French Broad River Mile 45.3L, former Dandridge Dock site, Douglas Lake, Jefferson County, Tennessee

Other notices --

- A new regulatory field office to serve 9 counties in southwestern Virginia has been opened by the Norfolk District, Corps of

Engineers. Counties served will be Bland, Buchanan, Carroll, Grayson, Pulaski, Smyth, Tazewell, Washington, and Wythe. For more information contact carolyn.m.beatty@usace.army.mil

- The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, and Norfolk District, Corps of Engineers are considering requiring the inclusion of low impact development practices (LID) in permit applications to minimize impervious cover and conserve natural cover and to replicate pre-development runoff volume and timing. For more information, contact bruce.f.williams@usace.army.mil
- The Nashville District, Corps of Engineers is preparing an EA for a proposed Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration project along Pistol and Browns Creeks, Blount County, Tennessee. Preliminary alternatives that will be considered include wetland creation, streambank stabilization, riparian plantings, sediment retention facilities, and dredging of Greenbelt Lake. Information from Wayne Easterling at 615-736-7847.
- The Nashville District, Corps of Engineers is considering flood damage reduction measures along the North and South Forks of the Clinch River, Tazewell County, Virginia. Information from Chip Hall at 615-736-7666.
- The Nashville District, Corps of Engineers is considering repairs and possible operational changes to the powerhouses at Wolf Creek Dam in Kentucky and Center Hill and Dale Hollow Dams in Tennessee. For more information, contact wayne.s.easterling@usace.army.mil

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission -- Applications for hydroelectric license renewal have been filed for four Duke Power projects in the Little Tennessee River watershed of North Carolina. These are Bryson Project, Oconaluftee River, Swain County; Dillsboro Project, Tuckasegee River, Jackson County; Franklin Project/Lake Emory, Little Tennessee River, Macon County; and Mission Project, Hiwassee River, Clay County. The company has proposed removal of the Dillsboro Dam. For more information, contact lee.emery@ferc.gov. The notices are found at Federal Register 68:65271-65276 (November 19, 2003).

Federal Highway Administration --

- The Notice of Intent to prepare a Supplemental EIS for the new location extension of US 411 between US 41 and I-75, Bartow County, Georgia was published on November 17, 2003 at Federal Register 68:64943. Information from Robert Callan at 404-562-3630.
- The Notice of Intent for the construction of the Northern Arc, Bartow, Cherokee, and Forsyth Counties, Georgia, has been rescinded. The state of Georgia has withdrawn the proposal to construct the 50-mile long project. Information from Jennifer

Giersch at 404-562-3653.

- The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the I-81 corridor improvement project was published on November 14, 2003 at Federal Register 68:64674. Concepts to be studied include highway as well as rail improvements. For more information contact John Simkins at 804-775-3342.
- The Finding of No Significant Impact for improvements to Tennessee Route 320 (East Brainerd Road), Hamilton County, Tennessee was issued on October 14, 2003. Copy from hmddraper@tva.gov.

Forest Service --

- The Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District has issued a Decision Notice and Finding of No Significant Impact for reconstruction of the cultural landscape of the historic Wasp community along Wolf Creek, Cocke County, Tennessee. The project will aid in preserving Appalachian history by partially reconstructing and interpreting the cultural landscape. In addition, improved habitat for the golden-winged warbler would be provided and improved recreational opportunities in the form of hiking, biking, and horseback riding would be provided. Information from Marcia Carter at 423-638-4109.
- The Watauga Ranger District has issued a Decision Notice and FONSI for the Flatwoods Habitat Enhancement and Forest Health Improvement Project. Part of the project will be to create a Basal Area Demonstration Site to demonstrate different visual mitigation techniques and the effects of varying overstory stocking levels on early successional habitat development. Information from Vern Maddux at 423-735-1500.
- The Supervisors of the Cherokee and Nantahala National Forests propose to designate 84.5 miles of trails as the Benton MacKaye Trail. The project would involve 22.2 miles of new construction. For information, contact Janan Hay at 423-253-2520.
- The Brasstown Ranger District proposes to exchange 90 acres of National Forest land near Young Harris in Union County, Georgia for 66 acres in the Gum Log Mountains of Union County. Proposed benefits are consolidation of inholdings and acquisition of high elevation wildlife habitat. Information from The Brasstown Ranger District proposes to prescribe burn 8218 acres of National Forest lands in 17 areas ranging in size from 80 to 1000 acres in Union and Fannin Counties, Georgia. Information from pmyers@fs.fed.us
- The Clinch Ranger District proposes to prescribe burn 1025 acres in Scott County, Virginia. Information from oolsen@fs.fed.us

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration -- The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for new facilities at the Canaan Valley institute,

Tucker County, West Virginia was published at Federal Register 68:64860 (November 17, 2003). Information from Jim Rawson at 304-463-4739.

National Park Service --

- The EA for the construction of new horseback riding facilities at the Gatlinburg entrance to Great Smoky Mountains National Park may be viewed at <http://data2.itc.nps.gov/parks/grsm/ppdocuments/ea-shrs.pdf>
- The Record of Decision for the Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site General Management Plan may be obtained from the park Superintendent, 1928 Little River Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731 or by calling 828-693-4178.

Tennessee Valley Authority documents (copies from hmdraper@tva.gov)

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- EA and FONSI for Section 26a approval of a proposal of Ms. Angela Palank to fill in a portion of Nottely Reservoir, Union County, Georgia.
- FONSI reevaluation for an additional Section 26a permit area on Dudley Creek associated with the US 321 project in Gatlinburg, Sevier County, Tennessee.
- EA adoption and FONSI for Section 26a approval of the relocation of Tennessee State Route 61 between Luttrell and Blaine, Union, Knox, and Grainger Counties, Tennessee.
- EA and FONSI for an economic development loan to Universal Holdings, Marion County, Tennessee.
- Supplemental EA and FONSI on the inclusion of additional construction area for the modernization of hydroelectric facilities at Appalachia Powerhouse, Polk County, Tennessee. In addition, TVA proposes to utilize the abandoned railroad from Etowah, Tennessee to the Apalachia powerhouse to ship heavy equipment.
- The draft EA for the proposed auction of TVA's Customer Service Center in Johnson City, Tennessee may be viewed at <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/johnsoncity/index.htm>

UPCOMING EVENTS --

--March 26-28, 2004 - Appalachian Studies Association 27th Annual Conference, Cherokee, NC. Proposals due October 3, 2003.
<http://www.appalachianstudies.org> or cbogges@mhc.edu

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14th ANNUAL SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE -- Over 230 people

participated in the November 4-6 event in Asheville, NC. The new locale for the conference drew many first-time participants. Early feedback is overwhelmingly positive. If you attended and didn't submit your evaluation form, please send comments to samab@utk.edu. If you have ideas for next year's conference, send them as well.

SAMAB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING and FOUNDATION BOARD GATHERING -- In advance of the conference, 25 members of the SAMAB Executive Committee and Foundation Board met to track SAMAB's progress on its 2003-2006 work plan and to update one another on important issues at each agency and site. One significant event outlined on the workplan, a workshop about site remediation after southern pine beetle infestation, will be held in January in Murphy, NC.

SAMAB AWARDS -- At the Fall Conference, the SAMAB Executive Committee awarded its "Hinote Award," SAMAB's highest recognition, to Pat Parr (ORNL) and Jon Loney (TVA). These two individuals --both founding members of SAMAB-- were recognized for their sustained personal dedication in promoting the objectives of SAMAB both within and beyond their agencies. Jon was recognized for his leadership of the Executive Committee during difficult negotiations with the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group about SAMAB's future and for his quiet leadership in support of TVA involvement in SAMAB Cooperative and Foundation activities and open discussion of cross-agency issues. Pat Parr was recognized for her energy and leadership in promoting stewardship and ecosystem management at the Oak Ridge Reservation and in addressing the invasive species issue. She has offered ongoing support, including in-kind contributions of services, to further our multi-agency efforts and work across boundaries to address issues that affect us all.

The SAMAB Foundation presented its service award to Gary Peeples (FWS) for his SAMAB outreach work relating to invasive plants, for his leadership on the outreach efforts related to the hemlock woolly adelgid, and for his success as chairperson of the 2003 SAMAB Conference. Susan Schexnayder also received a SAMAB service award in recognition of her service to the SAMAB Coordinating Office.

SAMAB also recognized the volunteer efforts of participants in the S. Appalachian Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Program and the Asheville Weed Team. Receiving awards for their significant volunteer service were Kent Akin, Richard Guinn, and Jane Hargreaves.

OTHER AWARDS -- Jane Hargreaves, leader of the Asheville Weed Team, in addition to receiving recognition from SAMAB for her volunteer efforts to reduce the threat of invasive plants, received Quality Forward's Volunteer of the Year award. Quality Forward is an Asheville volunteer environmental organization.

Laura Rotegard, Management Assistant to the Superintendent at Blue Ridge Parkway, has received the Hartzog Fund's first "Fran Mainella Outstanding Woman in Park Resources Award" for her work to identify and protect views seen from the Parkway. Under Laura's leadership, the Blue Ridge Parkway developed and implemented a process through which citizens have completed assessments of over 700 views from the Parkway. The data has influenced planning decisions by communities and land trusts. She subsequently led work to determine how visitation to the Parkway and associated tourism expenditures in Parkway communities would change if Parkway veils change.

HWA DOCUMENTATION SOUGHT -- The SAMAB Coordinating office is building a library of documentation (reports, articles, presentations, etc.) relating to the hemlock woolly adelgid, its ecological effects, and the various control mechanisms. This library of information (both hard copy and, preferably, electronic) is being built to support the development of an template for an environmental assessment of HWA and HWA control activities. Send any reference materials, reports, publications, bibliographies, etc. to the SAMAB office at samab@utk.edu. For more information, contact Susan Schexnayder, schexnayder@utk.edu.

ATBI NEWS -- The All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory / Discover Life in America Conference, December 2-5, 2003, features a keynote address by Dr. Peter Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and one of the world's leading botanists and advocates for conservation and biodiversity. See the ATBI October newsletter at http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/dlia/pdfs/October_2003.pdf for more information about the ATBI conference.

A color version of the ATBI Quarterly is available at the ATBI website. To "subscribe" and receive an email reminder when new issues are posted, go to <http://www.discoverlifeinamerica.org/atbi/press/quarterly.html>.

OPPORTUNITIES -- A Rockefeller Humanities Fellowship offered through the University of Kentucky's Appalachian Center will be awarded to an Appalachian activist with community-based experience who works to increase participation in community development efforts. See www.appalachiancenter.org for more information.

The US EPA has announced a funding opportunity for pilot projects that test creative approaches to waste minimization, energy recovery, recycling and land revitalization that may be replicated widely. See <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/iwg/announcement.htm>.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

--Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service -- An EA and FONSI for the continued release of nonindigenous leaf-mining flies to control the aquatic weed hydrilla may be viewed at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq. Click on the link for Document/Forms Retrieval System, then click on 6-Permits-Environmental Assessments, then click document number 0035.

--Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

--An EA was prepared by for the expansion of the marina at Bridge Club, Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia, and may be obtained from www.ferc.gov. Click on the elibrary link, then enter Docket Number P-2210. For further information contact Heather Campbell at 202-502-6182.

--The EA for approval of the revised Shoreline Management Plan for the Catawba-Wateree Project, North and South Carolina, may be obtained from www.ferc.gov, by clicking on the elibrary link. Enter Docket Number P-2232. For further information, contact Brian Romanek at 202-502-6175.

--Forest Service:

--The Watauga Ranger District is proposing to construct a multi-use trail between Laurel Bloomery, Tennessee, and Damascus, Virginia. Information from Roby Phillippi at 423-735-1500.

--The Watauga Ranger District is proposing forest health and vegetation management projects in white pine plantations in eastern Tennessee. Information from Jim Stelick at 423-735-1500.

--The draft EIS for the Gray Mountain Coal Lease, Leslie County, Kentucky may be obtained from Corey Miller at 859-745-3149.

--Nuclear Regulatory Commission -- An EA on the proposed authorization of operations at the Blended Low-Enriched Uranium Preparation Facility at Nuclear Fuels Services, Erwin, Tennessee was published in the Federal Register, October 27, 2003, volume 68, pages 61235-61238. Information from Kevin Ramsey at 301-415-7887 or kmr@nrc.gov.

--U.S. Army Corps of Engineers -- A notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for flood damage reduction measures in Floyd County, Kentucky was issued on October 30, 2003. The project would consider floodwall and levee systems protecting Prestonsburg, Kentucky and non-structural floodproofing. Information from Tammy Conforti at 304-399-5834 or tammyr@lrh.usace.army.mil.

--USACE Public Notices, Nashville District

(<http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/notices.htm>):

--03-86 - Expires 11/27/2003, Harbor Crest Homeowners Association, Inc., Proposed Community Dock, Excavation, and Bank Stabilization, Mile 38.0 Right Bank, French Broad River, Douglas Lake, Jefferson County, Tennessee.

--03-84 - Expires 11/22/2003, Interstate Development Company,

Proposed Adjacent Wetland Fill and Stream Fill of an Unnamed Tributary of Whitetop Creek Mile 0.5, Right Bank, Beaver Creek Mile 5.2, Left Bank, Sullivan County, Tennessee.

--03-83 - Expires 11/27/2003, Beals Landing Homeowners Association, Proposed Bank Stabilization, Tennessee River Mile 605.5R, Fort Loudoun Lake, Loudon County, Tennessee.

--03-79 - Expires 11/20/2003, Knox County Department of Engineering, Proposed Wetland Fill and Meadow Creek Channel Relocations Associated with Ball Camp Pike Improvements, Meadow Creek, Knox County, Tennessee.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- November 18-19 - Southern Forests Sustainability Workshop, Charleston, SC. (<http://sustainableforests.net>)
- December 1-6 - 7th Annual Discover Life in America/All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Conference, Gatlinburg, <http://dlia.org/atbi/events.html>
- March 26-28, 2004 - Appalachian Studies Association 27th Annual Conference, Cherokee, NC. Proposals due October 3, 2003 (<http://www.appalachianstudies.org> or cbogges@mhc.edu)

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E-Mail News Briefs--October 8, 2003

REGISTER NOW FOR SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE -- The keynote speaker for this year's conference is Barbara Weber, Associate Deputy Chief for Research and Development of the USDA Forest Service, Washington DC. See <http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html> for conference agenda, registration form, and hotel information. Over 75 presentations, panel discussions, posters, and field trips will stimulate your thinking on how the region and its communities are confronting many types of change.

NRCS TOUTS "GOLDEN AGE OF CONSERVATION" -- Many regional landowners and communities are receiving increased funding and benefits through 2002 Farm Bill program funding. Programs in Environmental Quality Incentives, Conservation Reserves, Wetland Reserves, Wildlife Habitat Incentives, Grassland Reserves, and others have provided millions of dollars to landowners in each state in the region. Visit <http://www.se.nrcs.usda.gov/> and linked state sites for information on programs, or see <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/> for a full range of information on program implementation.

US BIOSPHERE RESERVES SURVEY FINDINGS -- Though survey results are still being tallied and interpreted, a preliminary conclusion is that 90% of the respondents would like to participate in planning a

renewed biosphere reserves program. Contact Barbara Weber (bweber@fs.fed.us), Tommy Gilbert (vgilbert@volexpress.com), or your local biosphere reserve or agency committee representative if you would like to participate in continuing discussion. See <http://www.unesco.org/mab/> for info on biosphere reserves and contacts.

COMPREHENSIVE LIST OF INVASIVE PLANTS OF THE SOUTH -- This is a compilation of invasive plants listed by any of the 13 Southern States and those by Federal agencies pertaining to these States as of December 2002. Plants listed include those from the Federal Noxious Weed List as of September 2000, State laws, and State exotic pest plant councils. The list is easily sorted and has links to images and information about the plants. <http://www.invasive.org/seweeds.cfm>

OAK RIDGE RESERVATION ENVIRONMENTAL DATA -- A 2-page Research Park Brief about environmental data that have been compiled from the Oak Ridge Reservation includes a short listing of topics of geographic data, how GIS has been utilized, and other sources of data for the Oak Ridge Reservation. Contact Pat Parr (parrpd@ornl.gov) with your request, name, and mailing address or view this Brief and others about the Oak Ridge Reservation at <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/biobriefs.html>.

NEW SALAMANDER FROM E. TENNESSEE -- Herpetologists Jennifer A. Anderson and Stephen G. Tilley, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts, recently discovered and formally described as new to science a salamander from the Cumberland Plateau of eastern Tennessee. Their article, entitled "Systematics of the *Desmognathus ochrophaeus* Complex in the Cumberland Plateau of Tennessee" appeared in the Fall 2003 issue of *Herpetological Monographs*. Dubbed the Cumberland Dusky Salamander, this small amphibian was given the scientific name *Desmognathus abditus*. The species name "abditus," meaning hidden, concealed, or secret, was used because for so long it had remained hidden from science in the heavily-populated eastern United States. See color image at <http://www.cnah.org/detail.asp?id=1238>.

SOUTHERN FORESTS SUSTAINABILITY WORKSHOP -- First in a series will 1) Begin a dialogue about forest resource sustainability in the South involving diverse stakeholders to achieve a greater understanding of the opportunities and challenges associated with the goal of sustainable forests. 2) Identify measures of regional forest-resource sustainability for assessing influence of policies and actions at local to regional scales. November 18-19, 2003, Charleston, SC. <http://www.sustainableforests.net/> or (jennifer Crawford@fs.fed.us).

TOOLS FOR COMMUNITY DESIGN AND DECISION MAKING -- Information Technology in Action: Explore how new approaches and tools for planning can improve local decisions about growth and

development. December 11-13, 2003, San Francisco Renaissance Parc 55 Hotel. <http://www.placematters.us/TCDDMV/>

PLANT NATIVES THIS FALL! -- Native-plant sales at nature centers and elsewhere are in full swing. One local to East Tennessee is October 12 at Ijams Nature Center. Private nurseries also are working hard to increase variety and supply of native species. Native Gardens in Greenback, Tennessee has an "open nursery" October 10 -18. They also supply by mail. <http://www.native-gardens.com>. A web search for native plants will provide you with many contacts for native plant sources, societies, and assistance for landscaping with natives.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS --

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation --The Advisory Council is proposing amendments to regulations setting forth how Federal agencies take into account the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The new regulations would recognize recent federal court decisions which held that the Council could not force a federal agency to change its determinations on whether its undertakings affected or adversely affected historic properties. Information from Javier Marqueacutes at 202-606-8503.

Department of Energy --DOE is amending its Record of Decision on Long-Term Management and Use of Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride to recognize the decision to ship cylinders from East Tennessee Technology Park to Portsmouth, Ohio for treatment. Information from hartmangs@oro.doe.gov

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission --An EA has been issued on the application of Appalachian Power Company to allow Williard Construction of Roanoke Valley to construct water use facilities for the South Pointe Condominium project, Smith Mountain Lake, Virginia. Information from Heather Campbell at 202-502-6182.

Federal Highway Administration --The Draft EIS for Appalachian Development Highway System Corridor K (Ocoee Gorge Bypass), Polk County, Tennessee has been released. Copies from Charles Bush at 615-741-3653.

Fish and Wildlife Service -- Copies of the Holston River/Saltville National Priority List Site Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan, Smyth and Washington Counties, Virginia and Hawkins and Sullivan Counties, Tennessee may be obtained from John Schmerfeld at 804-693-6694x107. Natural resource trustees for this matter include U.S. Department of the Interior, Commonwealth of Virginia, State of Tennessee, and Tennessee Valley Authority.

Forest Service --

--A Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for recreation improvements at Cave Run Lake, Daniel Boone National Forest, was published on September 29, 2003. Information from jefflewis@fs.fed.us or 606-784-6428.

--The New River Valley Ranger District proposes oak enhancement and pre-commercial thinning on 482 acres in Giles County, Virginia. Information from Ed Leonard at 540-552-4641.

--The Clinch Ranger District proposes to prescribe burn 3 areas totaling 2174 acres in Wise and Lee Counties, Virginia. Information from John Stallard at 276-328-2931.

--The Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District, Cherokee National Forest, has decided to prescribe burn 253 acres near Erwin, Tennessee. Information from Vern Maddux at 423-735-1500.

National Park Service -- Harpers Ferry National Historical Park will prepare an environmental impact statement for the general management plan, which will describe the resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained in the park over the next 15 to 20 years. Information from Donald Campbell at 304-535-6224.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers --

--The Corps of Engineers, Nashville District, has published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on dam powerhouse rehabilitations and possible operational changes at the Wolf Creek (Lake Cumberland), Center Hill, and Dale Hollow Dams in Kentucky and Tennessee. Information from wayne.s.easterling@usace.army.mil

--The Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, has published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for flood damage reduction measures for the Levisa Fork and Russell Fork basins, Pike County, Kentucky. Floodwall and levee systems are being evaluated, along with non-structural alternatives. Information from mark.d.kessinger@usace.army.mil

--Environmental Assessments for dredging at Looney Island and Post Oak Island, Fort Loudoun Reservoir, Knox County, Tennessee may be viewed at http://www.lrn.usace.army.mil/pmgt/Environmental/public_notices.htm

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public notices (view at <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/notices.htm>):

--03-77 - City of Kingsport, TN, Proposed Submerged Sewerline Extensions and Improvements Crossing Straight Branch at Various Locations Between Mile 1.4 to 3.4, Opposite South Fork Holston River Mile 7.9, Left Bank, Sullivan County, Tennessee

--03-62 - Proposed Reissuance Regional Permit for Tennessee Valley Authority Clean Water Initiative Program, Waters of the US in the Tennessee River Basin within the regulatory boundaries of the Nashville District, excluding those waters located within the State of Mississippi

--03-73 - Word and Boggus Contracting, Inc., Proposed Land Excavation of a 33-Acre Harbor within Lindsey Hollow, Adjacent to Guntersville Lake between Tennessee River Miles 358.0 and 359.0, Guntersville, AL

--03-42 - William J. Farnham, Proposed Commercial Marina, Channel Dredging, and Community Dock Facilities, Mile 3.5 - 4.3 R, Emory River, Watts Bar Lake, Roane County, Tennessee.

--03-70 - United States Gypsum, Proposed Installation of Five (5) Tripod Dolphins for Mooring Twelve (12) Loaded Barges at Tennessee River Mile (TRM) 417.8, Right Bank, Guntersville Lake, Marion County, TN.

Tennessee Valley Authority --

--TVA approved an Economic Development Loan Fund for Accel Color in Knox County, Tennessee. The funds would be used to purchase laboratory and production line equipment for manufacturing pigmented color concentrates for the plastics industry.

--TVA approved modification of the scrubber on Widows Creek Fossil Plant to allow compatible operation with Nox control technology also being installed. The result would be an increase in the efficiency of removing sulfur dioxide from 88 percent to 95 percent.

--TVA issued section 26a approval for stream mitigation measures associated with construction of Home Depot in Bradley County, Tennessee.

--TVA issued Section 26a approval for construction of a dike to reduce erosion at Lakeshore Park in Knox County, Tennessee. This document may be viewed at www.tva.gov/environment/reports

UPCOMING EVENTS --

- October 15-17 - Mountain Longleaf Conference, Jacksonville State University, AL. Dean Gjerstad (gjerstad@auburn.edu) or Rhett Johnson (johnsee@auburn.edu).
- October 17-19 - 2nd Southeast Regional Foot Trails Conference, Monteagle, Tennessee.
<http://www.americanhiking.org/alliance/sai.html>.
- November 3 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Asheville, NC.
- November 4-6 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC. See <http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>

- November 18-19 - Southern Forests Sustainability Workshop, Charleston, SC. See <http://sustainableforests.net>
- December 1-6 - 7th Annual Discover Life in America/All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Conference, Gatlinburg. See <http://dlia.org/atbi/events.html>
- March 26-28, 2004 - Appalachian Studies Association 27th Annual Conference, Cherokee, NC. Proposals due October 3, 2003. See <http://www.appalachianstudies.org> or cbogges@mhc.edu

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E-Mail News Briefs--September 5, 2003

Celebrating SAMAB's 15th Birthday! An Interagency and Cooperative Agreement dated August 10, 1988 provided for establishment and operation of the SAMAB Cooperative.

SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE--LAST CALL FOR ABSTRACTS -
- Today is the deadline for abstracts! If you intend to participate--with a talk, poster, panel discussion or other presentation--send your abstract to samab@utk.edu. We will continue to accept abstracts into next week. For more information see <http://samab.org>.

US BIOSPHERE RESERVE SURVEY UNDERWAY -- Tommy Gilbert and SAMAB are assisting the newly incorporated US Biosphere Reserves Association with a survey of the status of the US Biosphere Reserves. If you are sitting on a survey, please complete and return it. If you are associated with a US Biosphere Reserve and have not received a survey, you may download it from <http://samab.org>. The current survey results will be compared with a similar survey conducted in 1995 and help shape future directions for biosphere reserves in the US.

INTERGRAPH AWARDS INTEROPERABILITY GRANT TO SAMAB -- SAMAB is to receive a grant comprising software licenses, training, technical support, and passes to their User Conference valued by Intergraph at \$55,000. The grant will be used to test/demonstrate interoperability of web-based GIS software from various vendors. We are seeking a Windows server machine to use as a dedicated Geomedia server. Contact Wolf Naegeli (wolf@naegeli.net) if you have one to donate or lend.

DISCOVER LIFE CENTER RECEIVES EDA GRANT -- Pittman Center has received a matching grant from the Economic Development Administration to do a feasibility study for a Discover Life in the Smokies Center that would be analogous to the Arizona Sonoran Desert Museum. It would highlight the activities and results of the Smokies All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI), be a center of the ATBI educational function, and contribute space and funding for the research function.

SAMAB assisted with the EDA proposal and, along with numerous local municipalities, organizations, and individuals, is contributing to the required 1:1 match.

SAMAB COOPERATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS -- At its quarterly meeting held at Great Smoky Mountains National Park August 28, the agency leaders reviewed plans for the Fall Conference and progress on projects and initiatives. They were particularly impressed with the work of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid Action Team including its new web site. Visit <http://www.saveourhemlocks.org> to find information on the extent of the problem, what is at stake, great photos including IPIX and QuickTime 360-degree views of hemlock stands, and how you can help.

BIOSPHERE RESERVE PLANNING IN ISRAEL -- Robb Turner, SAMAB Executive Director and SAIN Technical Director, was invited to Israel August 10-17 to participate as an outside expert in planning meetings for three biosphere reserve areas in Israel. He toured the areas with authorities and stakeholders, presented a lecture on the experiences of SAMAB and SAIN in the Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve, and provided feedback to the Israelis in workshops held at Tel Aviv University and in the field. Doris Pokorny from the Rhoen Biosphere Reserve in Germany provided a complementary perspective from the German experience.

SMOKY MOUNTAINS PHOTOS FROM THE 30'S THROUGH 50'S -- The University of Tennessee Digital Library Center is digitizing and posting on-line photographs of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park taken by Albert "Dutch" Roth. View them at <http://diglib.lib.utk.edu/cgi/i/image/image-idx?c=rth;g=gsmc;page=index>.

CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD TRANSPORTATION STUDY UPDATE -- An updated Web site provides the first newsletter about this project, a public survey form, and information from the public meeting held in July. The Web site is hosted by GDOT. Go to <http://www.dot.state.ga.us> and click on "What's New." The next public meeting is tentatively scheduled for the last week of this month. The date will be posted at the Web site. This traffic impact and transportation study aims to balance the diverse transportation needs within and outside the National Park, and stakeholder input is paramount to its success.

HELLBENDER PRESS FUNDRAISER! -- The Hellbender (a large Southern Appalachian salamander considered to be an indicator species) Press will hold its inaugural fundraiser with auction and entertainment at the ThinkTanq in Knoxville's Old City from 6pm Friday, September 12. Come for fun and to support East Tennessee's environmental journal!

TDOT SEEKS INPUT! -- Tennessee Department of Transportation is trying to become more ecologically sensitive. See native plant news on

their web site <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/information-office/2003pr/wildflower.htm> and encourage their new orientation using their on-line customer response survey <http://www.tdot.state.tn.us/survey/custsvc/>.

COMMENTS SOUGHT ON OAK RIDGE RESERVATION CONSERVATION -- Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation has requested public comments on how 3,073 acres of the Oak Ridge Reservation (part of the Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve Oak Ridge core unit) should be managed under a conservation easement from the Department of Energy. For more information see <http://www.kornet.org/tcwp/orreservation.html>.

OAK RIDGE RESERVATION INVASIVE PLANTS -- A 2-page Research Park Brief about the invasive plants on the Oak Ridge Reservation includes short discussions of harmful effects, types of habitats the invasives are infesting, and some photos. Contact Pat Parr (parrpd@ornl.gov) with your request, name, and mailing address or view this Brief and others about the Oak Ridge Reservation at <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/biobriefs.html>.

CONNECTING PEOPLE AND PLACES BY FOOT -- The 2nd Southeast Regional Foot Trails Conference will be held in Monteagle, Tennessee October 17-19, on the Cumberland Plateau. See <http://www.americanhiking.org/alliance/sai.html>.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

--U.S. Army Corps of Engineers--

- Discovery Lands Company, new master planned residential community, Jackson County, North Carolina, public notice may be viewed at http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/Notices/Current_notices.html
- 03-69, Safe Harbor Ecological Development, Tennessee, proposed establishment and development of a bank of wetland and stream mitigation credits for commercial sale by restoring, enhancing, creating, and/or preserving wetlands and streams, including stream channels, instream habitat, and adjacent riparian zones; public notice may be viewed at <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm>
- The Draft Supplemental EIS for the Milton, West Virginia flood reduction project may be viewed at <http://www.lrh.usace.army.mil/PD/LowerMud/>

--Federal Energy Regulatory Commission--An application for a permit to increase the size of Santeetlah Marina, Graham County, NC has been filed. Information from shana.high@ferc.gov.

--Federal Highway Administration--

- The Final EIS for the New River Parkway Project, Raleigh and Summers Counties, West Virginia, is available from Greg Akers at 304-558-2885.
- The FONSI for Tennessee State Route 30 improvements between Athens and Etowah, McMinn County, Tennessee is available from hmdraper@tva.gov.

--Fish and Wildlife Service--The Final EIS for double-crested cormorant management is available for viewing at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/issues/cormorant/cormorant.html>.

--Forest Service--

- The Draft EIS for the Forest Health and Red-Cockaded Woodpecker Initiative, Talladega National Forest, Calhoun, Cherokee, Clay, Cleburne, and Talladega Counties, Alabama is available from Jeff Seefeldt at 256-362-2909.
- The Brasstown Ranger District proposes reconstruction of 3 miles of forest roads in Towns and Union Counties, Georgia. Information from emartin@fs.fed.us
- The Cheoah Ranger District proposes to control vegetation along trails in the Tsali area, Graham and Swain Counties, NC, with herbicides. Information from Mark Robison at 828-479-6431.
- The Clinch Ranger District proposes to develop an all-terrain vehicle trail system in Scott County, Virginia. Information from dsturgill@fs.fed.us.
- The Clinch Ranger District proposes to construct 7 miles of new trail in Wise County, Virginia and Letcher County, Kentucky. The segment is part of the Pine Mountain Trail, which will traverse 110 miles from Breaks Interstate Park to Pine Mountain State Park. Information from Julia Waller-Eling at 276-328-2931.
- The Brasstown and Toccoa Ranger Districts are proposing to plant hardwood seedlings on pine beetle killed stands. For more information on the Hardwood Restoration Project, contact jshenderson@fs.fed.us
- The Watauga Ranger District has issued an EA for the Flatwoods Habitat Enhancement and Forest Health Improvement Project, Sullivan County, Tennessee. Copies from trowe@fs.fed.us

--National Park Service--The draft EA and plan of operations for drilling and production of gas wells by Excel Energy within the Gauley River National Recreation Area, Fayette County, West Virginia, may be obtained from john_perez@nps.gov

--Tennessee Valley Authority--The following TVA FONSI and EA documents may be obtained from hmdraper@tva.gov: Rate Change (modification of rate structure) for pricing of wholesale electricity to

distributors within the TVA Power Service Area Section 26a approval for fill and bridge replacement of State Route 35 over the Tennessee River, Jackson County, Alabama

UPCOMING EVENTS--

- October 2-3 - Enhancing the Southern Appalachian Forest Resource, Hendersonville, NC.
<http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium>
- November 3 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Asheville, NC.
- November 4-6 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC. Abstracts due September NOW!.
<http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>
- December 1-6 - 7th Annual Discover Life in America/All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Conference, Gatlinburg,
<http://dlia.org/atbi/events.html> March 26-28, 2004 - Appalachian Studies Association 27th Annual Conference, Cherokee, NC. Proposals due October 3, 2003.
<http://www.appalachianstudies.org> or cboggess@mhc.edu

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E-Mail News Briefs--August 1, 2003

SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE--CALL FOR ABSTRACTS -- "Meeting the Challenges of a Changing Region" is the focus of the 2003 SAMAB Conference, November 4-6, 2003 in Asheville, NC. Focal areas of the conference include

- Appalachian Heritage as an Economic Opportunity
- Prescribed Fire and Ecosystem Restoration
- Facing the Threat of the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid
- Air Quality: Understanding the Issues
- Dealing with Invasive Plants
- Managing Growth Around Protected Areas
- Environmental Monitoring by Communities and Citizens: The Public's Role in Research and Management
- Protecting and Restoring Southern Appalachian Streams and Rivers
- Mapping and GIS for Planning and Protection

To participate--with a talk, poster, panel discussion or other presentation--send your abstract to samab@utk.edu by September 5. As information about sessions and field trips becomes available, it will be posted on the "Annual Conference" page.

NBII MODELERS MEET -- About 20 ecological modelers and NBII staff met July 28-31 at the Maui Supercomputing Center to evaluate

approaches to modeling biodiversity and data needed to support those approaches. The group made recommendations for how NBII might make models and supporting data available for a range of users, along with educational information on appropriate uses of the models. Robb Turner, SAIN's technical director, presented Bill Hargrove's and Forrest Hoffman's spatial clustering modeling approach developed on the ORNL Stone Souper computer. Lou Gross from UTK discussed various aspects of biodiversity and adaptive management, and uses of several static and dynamic modeling approaches to addressing them. Recommendations from the meeting will help shape NBII support for modeling tools in future years.

FOREST SERVICE INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM REVIEW --
Jack Ranney, SAMAB Invasive Species initiative lead, was invited to participate in a review of the Forest Service Invasive Species R&D Program July 30 in Chicago. The meeting was facilitated and set to review the Forest Service program and gain "outside stakeholder" input.

FOREST INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS IN SOUTHERN REGION -- Shelaine Curd (IIa, SAIN) and PJ Nabors (TVA, SAIN) attended the USFS FIA Technical Assistance Visit held July 22-23 in Knoxville, TN. The TAV is a first step in the development of a new Research Work Unit Description for the unit. It was a formal opportunity to review work by the SRS-FIA unit and plan work priorities over the next five years. Shelaine and PJ were able to provide constructive comments regarding progress and potential areas for future research priorities and talk to numerous individuals working at all levels in the SRS-FIA about possible collaborations with SAIN for increased capabilities in environmental decision making.

SAIN WELL REPRESENTED AT RECENT CONFERENCES --

- UTK's Wolf Naegeli gave a presentation titled "How to Plan and Build a Successful Public Participation GIS" in the PPGIS Practice, Monitoring, and Evaluation track at the Second Annual Public Participation GIS Conference of the Urban and Regional Information Systems Association, in Portland, OR, July 20-22, 2003.
- UTC's Andy Carroll presented an invited talk entitled "Enhanced Historical Installation Assessment: Volunteer Army Ammunition Plant of Chattanooga, TN" at ESRI's 23rd International Users Conference July 7-11 in San Diego, CA.
- PJ Nabors (TVA/UTK) presented a map gallery exhibit for SAIN's Appalachian Inventory and Monitoring Information Synthesis project by highlighting maps that were created for the SAMAB Appalachian Volunteer Environmental Monitoring program (<http://samab.org/Focus/Monitor/monitor.html>).
- Wolf Naegeli demonstrated SAIN's ArcIMS map viewers during the opening reception of the Internet and Multimedia Exhibition

and by appointment at other times during the course of the conference. The "Community Monitoring" map viewer was featured on the Internet and Multimedia Exhibition's self-serve Internet applications kiosks.

- UTC's Robert Keller presented "Keystone with a Vengeance: Examining the Effects of the Exotic European Wild Boar (*Sus scrofa* Linnaeus) on the Great Smoky Mountains National Park" in Duluth, Minnesota at the 17th International Annual Meeting of The Society for Conservation Biology June 28-July 2.

SAMAB FOUNDATION RECEIVES NFWF GRANT FOR INVASIVE PLANT CONTROL -- The SAMAB Foundation has received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for an invasive exotic plant control project in Asheville, NC. The effort is headed by a coalition of the Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Program, the Asheville Audubon Society, the Asheville Botanical Gardens, the North Carolina Arboretum, and the University of Tennessee. Other cooperators include the NC Exotic Pest Plant Council, US F&WS, Blue Ridge Parkway, Warren Wilson College, Pisgah National Forest, and Equinox Environmental. The \$34,000 NFWF grant will be matched by \$36,000 of in kind services and equipment use from the project partners.

Control of prevalent exotic invasive plants, such as Oriental bittersweet, miscanthus, porcelainberry, and others, will be conducted at the Asheville Audubon Society's Beaver Lake Sanctuary, the University of North Carolina-Asheville's Botanical Garden of Asheville, and the North Carolina Arboretum located on the Pisgah National Forest's Bent Creek Research and Demonstration Forest. Development and delivery of educational materials will accompany the control efforts at each location.

Asheville is considered a key urban area for invasive species control because of its proximity to so many natural resource conservation areas. The heavy infestations of invasive species in Asheville threaten the Blue Ridge Parkway, the Pisgah and Nantahala National Forest, and the Appalachian and Bertram Trails, all neighboring or traversing Asheville.

SAMAB SUPPORTS NPS-CHEROKEE LAND-SWAP HEARINGS -- SAMAB Executive Director Robb Turner assisted the NPS with facilitation of public meetings on the draft environmental impact statement for the proposed land swap in Knoxville, Asheville, and Cherokee on July 6-8.

RIPARIAN RESTORATION FACT SHEETS -- TVA has produced a new series of "riparian restoration" fact sheets to help shoreline property owners with landscape planning using native vegetation. See article on use of native plants in the June issue of River Neighbors at <http://www.tva.com/river>, and more information on the fact sheets at <http://www.tva.com/river/landandshore>.

TREES AND TRAILS: A MEETING WHERE PATHS CROSS --

This conference on August 28-29 in Kingsport, TN will focus on Greenways and Urban Forestry and how they intersect in our communities. As communities strive to become more livable, viable and environmentally friendly, the Urban Forest and the number of Greenway and Trail projects have increased dramatically. Featured speakers include Landscape Architects, Planners, Engineers, Professional Arborists, Greenway Coordinators from Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and the District of Columbia. Online Registration is available at <http://www.appalachianrcd.org> or contact roy@appalachianrcd.org.

HIKER HEALTH STUDY -- A study to assess relationships between air pollution levels and hikers' pulmonary function is being carried out by the University of Tennessee, Western Carolina University, and Emory University, with funding from EPA. Adult hikers on the Charlies Bunion Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are being sought to participate in the study. Data collection occurs at Newfound Gap, weekends through August 17 and most weekdays, weather permitting.

PRIVATE FORESTRY WEB SITE -- The USDA Forest Service provides information to private landowners at <http://www.privateforest.org/>. Links also are provided for subjects such as landowner assistance, forestry 101, wildlife management, and others.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS --

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

- 03-60 - Smoky Mountain Transfer Corporation, Proposed Maintenance Dredging, Mile 17.2L, Hiwassee River, Bradley County, TN
- 03-56 - Waste Management, Inc. of Tennessee, Proposed Wetland Fill, Unnamed Tributary of Andy Branch, Opposite Clinch River Mile 63.6L, Anderson County, TN
- 03-57 - Richard and Freeda Allegrati, Proposed Recessed Boatwell Excavation, Lindsey Hollow Embayment Mile 1.0R, Opposite Big Spring Creek Mile 3.0R, Marshall County, AL

Army Corps of Engineers (Wilmington District notice from http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/WETLANDS/Notices/Current_notices.html)--
-The Cherokee County Airport Commission to discharge fill material into Ricket Branch in conjunction with a runway/taxiway extension and safety area construction at the Andrews-Murphy Airport located off of SR 1428 west of Andrews, Cherokee County, North Carolina

Department of Energy--The Final EA Addendum and FONSI for the

proposed title transfer of East Tennessee Technology Park Land and Facilities may be obtained from the DOE information center at 865-241-4780.

Federal Communications Commission--The Nationwide Programmatic Agreement for review of communications towers under the National Historic Preservation Act may be purchased from qualexint@aol.com.

Federal Highway Administration--The Final Supplemental EIS for US Route 29 between Charlottesville and Albemarle, Albemarle County, Virginia, is available from Edward S. Sundra at 804-775-3338.

Fish and Wildlife Service--The Final Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Lone Mountain Processing Coal Slurry Spill Natural Resource Damage Assessment, Lee County, Virginia is available from John Schmerfeld at 804-693-6694, extension 107.

Forest Service--

- The Draft EIS for the Forest Health and Restoration Project on the Bankhead National Forest, Alabama, is available for comment by contacting John W. Creed at 205-489-5111. Proposed projects include thinning of overstocked loblolly pine stands and reforesting southern pine beetle damaged stands on a total of 16,000 acres. The long-term goal is to return the loblolly sites to one of six native upland forest community types.
- The draft EA for Wolf Creek project, Cherokee National Forest, Cocke County, Tennessee is available for review from Marcia Carter at 423-638-4109. The Forest Service proposes to reconstruct and interpret the cultural landscape of the historic community of Wasp. The project would re-create a portion of historic fields, restore orchards, and create a network of multi-use trails.
- The Jefferson National Forest proposes to build a new horse camp in the Flat Top Mountain area, Giles County, Virginia. Information from Bill Compton at 540-552-4641.
- The Mount Rogers National Recreation Area is considering the continuation of livestock grazing on the Cripple Creek Grazing Allotment, comprised of 10 separate pastures in the New River watershed. Information from Cecil Thomas at 276-783-5196.
- The FONSI for wildlife and vegetation management activities in Compartment 330 on the Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District, Cherokee National Forest, Carter County, Tennessee is available from Vern Maddux at 423-735-1500. the project would diversify the age class distribution of the area and provide mast tree release in previously regenerated stands.

National Park Service--The Final EIS for the General Management Plan, Carl Sandburg Home National Historic Site, Henderson County, North

Carolina is available for viewing at
http://www.nps.gov/carl/gmp_news.htm

Nuclear Regulatory Commission--The EA and FONSI for the release from NRC license of the Richemont North America building in Winchester, Virginia was published in the Federal Register, volume 68, page 43236 (July 21, 2003). The building was used for the manufacture of watch dials and hands containing luminous paint activated with tritium.

TVA--

- An EA and FONSI was completed on the provision of funding and technical assistance to acid mine drainage remediation in the Ely and Puckett Creek area, Lee County, Virginia. Copy from hmdraper@tva.gov
- An EA and FONSI was completed on the Southern Heritage Maintain and Gain proposal on Guntersville Reservoir, Marshall County, Alabama. The project involved donation of 71 acres of undeveloped reservoir land in exchange residential water use facility access rights over 7 acres at the Buck Island subdivision. Copy from hmdraper@tva.gov.
- An EA and FONSI was completed on Section 26a approval of stream relocations related to the Midtown Retail Development in Roane County, Tennessee. Copy from hmdraper@tva.gov
- A Record of Decision was signed on TVA approval of a natural gas line easement on Fort Patrick Henry Reservoir, Sullivan County, Tennessee for the Patriot Project, a new natural gas pipeline project extending across Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina. The project also involved approvals to cross the Appalachian National Scenic Trail and Blue Ridge Parkway. The ROD may be viewed at Federal Register volume 68, page 43779-82 (July 24, 2003).

UPCOMING EVENTS--

- August 28 (New Date!) - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Gatlinburg.
- September 2-4 - Appalachian Regional Commission 2003 conference on the importance of entrepreneurship, business incubation, and equity capital to rural economic development, Asheville, NC (<http://www.arc.gov/incubation>).
- October 2-3 - Enhancing the Southern Appalachian Forest Resource, Hendersonville, NC (<http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium>).
- November 3 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Asheville, NC.
- November 4-6 - [SAMAB Fall Conference](#), Asheville, NC. Abstracts due September 5th
- December 1-6 - 7th Annual Discover Life in America/All Taxa

Biodiversity Inventory Conference, Gatlinburg
(<http://dlia.org/atbi/events.html>).

- March 26-28, 2004 - Appalachian Studies Association 27th Annual Conference, Cherokee, NC. Proposals due October 3, 2003 (<http://www.appalachianstudies.org> or cbogges@mhc.edu).

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E-Mail News Briefs--July 5, 2003

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID FACT SHEET--The Outreach Committee of the Save the Hemlocks Action Team has produced a fact sheet about hemlock woolly adelgid. The fact sheet is posted at http://sain.nbio.gov/savethehemlocks/pdf_docs/hwafactsheet.pdf. The fact sheet provides information about the threat posed by hemlock woolly adelgid (HWA), what responses are being used on the landscape level, how homeowners can treat HWA, and how individuals can contribute to the effort to SAVE THE HEMLOCKS.

SAMAB INVASIVE SPECIES INITIATIVE SYNERGIES--This initiative is developing and involved in exciting partnerships that are beginning to yield some substantial results. In addition to its leadership role in SAMAB's Southern Appalachian Volunteer Environmental Monitoring Program, SAMAB's Invasive Species Initiative is partnering with exotic pest plant councils and the University of Tennessee to reach out to the nursery industry, urban areas where many invasive plants originate, right-of-way managers, and city councils.

A new development is interest in state-oriented invasive species management plans generally fashioned after the National Invasive Species Management Plan, an effort strongly encouraged by members of the National Invasive Species Council. Through a JIEE-SAMAB internship, a University of Tennessee student, Patty Day, is collecting information on how to organize a state task force or advisory council that would guide the development of a state plan. At the same time, an effort is being funded by the Waste Management Research and Education Institute at the University of Tennessee to develop an invasive plant program in the city of Knoxville to educate the city populace, define the threats, and develop solutions as a community. This activity is to be a prototype for other urban areas in the state and region--a kind of bottom-up approach toward building a state invasive species management plan.

What started out as individual projects is now building into a thriving and ever-increasing network with far-reaching implications on invasive plant management in the southern Appalachians and beyond.

VOLUNTEER MONITOR HOURS ADD UP--The SAMAB Volunteer Environmental Monitors--more than 150 people at seven different project areas--contributed approximately 1,000 hours of their

time for monitoring efforts between Fall 2002 and Spring 2003. See them in action at <http://samab.org/Focus/Monitor/monitor.html>.

MONITORING IN THE MID-APPALACHIANS AND BEYOND?--

On June 6 Andy Brown, Robb Turner, John Peine, and Tommy Gilbert met at the New York Academy of Sciences with folks from the Appalachian Trail Conference, National Park Service, and a number of organizations involved in or interested in citizen monitoring along the AT in other regions and the full length of the Trail. Presentations and discussion on progress to date and ideas for future collaborations were lively, but the current outlook for funding new activities dampened spirits a bit.

RUSSIANS VISIT--Wayne Swank, retired Forest Service Project Leader from Coweeta Experimental Watershed in North Carolina, hosted a group of Rotary-sponsored visiting Russian ecologists and park managers in June. Kent Cave and Carroll Schell presented educational and resource-management activities in the Smokies to them on June 16, and Robb Turner presented regional collaboration in resource management and information sharing through activities of SAMAB and SAIN.

HIKER HEALTH STUDY--A study to assess relationships between air pollution levels and hikers' pulmonary function is being carried out by the University of Tennessee, Western Carolina University, and Emory University, with funding from EPA. Adult hikers on the Charlies Bunion Trail in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are being sought to participate in the study. Data collection occurs at Newfound Gap, weekends through August 17 and select weekdays, weather permitting.

PUBLIC MEETING ON TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN AND AROUND CHICKAMAUGA BATTLEFIELD--The Georgia Department of Transportation, in partnership with the National Park Service, Coosa Valley Regional Development Center, Chattanooga Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the Federal Highway Administration, will hold an open house meeting on Monday, July 14th at Constitution Hall, 201 Forest Road in Ft. Oglethorpe, GA from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. The Department recently launched a study to address traffic in and around the Chickamauga Battlefield unit of Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park. The July 14th meeting is the first of several meetings to solicit public input and comments. The study's goal is to develop a balanced transportation program that will address the needs of area citizens and preserve the historic character of the nation's first National Military Park for this and future generations. Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park is a national historic resource attracting over one million tourists annually. It is also neighbor to fast growing communities with increasing traffic and demands for regional connectivity and access.

OAK RIDGE RESERVATION INVASIVE PLANT ACTIVITIES--

An article assessing non-native invasive plant species on the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park was published in the March 2003 issue of *Castanea*. The study was conducted by Sara Drake (now at the University of Georgia), Jake Weltzin (University of Tennessee), and Pat Parr (Oak Ridge National Laboratory). For a reprint of the article contact Pat Parr (parrpd@ornl.gov) with your name and mailing address.

In April, Oak Ridge National Laboratory held an invasive plant workshop for individuals who make land management decision or provide management actions on the Oak Ridge Reservation. The ~50 participants represented 11 different agencies and organizations involved with Reservation land management. Steve Manning and Lee Patrick of Invasive Plant Control, Inc. led the workshop that included presentations by Sam Rogers (UT) and Mike Berkley (Growild Native Plant Nursery.)

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER AND FIELD RESEARCH

STATION TO BE DEVELOPED-- The Department of Biological and Environmental Sciences at University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, in partnership with the Tennessee River Gorge Trust, has received a \$350,000 grant from the Lupton Renaissance Fund. The Tennessee River Gorge Trust is making available a portion of its land for animal rehabilitation and research, including an animal hospital and area for re-acclimation to the wild.

BUILDING ENTREPRENEURIAL COMMUNITIES IN RURAL

AMERICA-- Attend Appalachian Regional Commission's 2003 conference on the importance of entrepreneurship, business incubation, and equity capital to rural economic development September 2-4 in Asheville, NC. <http://www.arc.gov/incubation>.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS--

DOE-- DOE issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS on the Western Greenbrier Co-Production demonstration Project, Rainelle, West Virginia. The project is to be funded under the Clean Coal Power Initiative. The demonstration facility would use an innovative atmospheric-pressure circulating fluidized bed boiler for co-production of electricity, steam, and structural brick. Information from mmckoy@netl.doe.gov

EPA-- The Draft EIS for policies related to mountaintop mining and valley fills in the Appalachian coal fields may be viewed at www.epa.gov/region3/mtntop/index.htm

Fish and Wildlife Service-- Critical Habitat designation has been proposed for 13 stream reaches for five mussels. Southern Appalachians units are located on the Obed River (Cumberland and Morgan Counties, Tennessee), Powell River (Claiborne and Hancock Counties, Tennessee

and Lee County, Virginia), Clinch River, Indian Creek, and Copper Creek (Hancock Co., TN, and Scott, Russell, and Tazewell Cos, VA), Nolichucky River (Hamblen and Cocke Counties, TN), Beech Creek (Hawkins County, TN), Rock Creek (McCreary Co, KY), Big South Fork and tributaries (Fentress, Morgan, and Scott Counties, TN and McCreary Co., KY), Buck Creek (Pulaski Co., KY), Sinking Creek (Laurel Co., KY), Marsh Creek (McCreary Co., KY), and Laurel Fork (Claiborne Co., TN and Whitley Co., KY). Information from robert_tawes@fws.gov.

Forest Service--

--A proposal for prescribed burning on 9375 acres in Great North and Massanutten Mountains, Shenandoah and Page Counties, Virginia and Hardy County, West Virginia is being evaluated by the Lee Ranger District. For more information contact Jim Smalls at 540-984-4101.

--The EA for Bent Creek Experimental Forest has been withdrawn in order to develop one or more new alternatives that will address maintaining the existing levels of mountain bike trail opportunities. Information from Michael Hutchins at 828-682-6146.

--Rich Mountain Road, Toccoa Ranger District, Gilmer County, Georgia. Alternatives for the use of Rich Mountain Road, which provides access to the Rich Mountain Wilderness Area, are being evaluated. The proposal is to close a portion of the road and to upgrade the remainder to a service level acceptable to high clearance vehicles. Information from jwentworth@fs.fed.us.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Public Notices--view at <http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm>)--

--03-51 - Alabama Department of Transportation, Alabama 35 bridge at Scottsboro, Proposed Fill, Tennessee River Mile 385.8, Guntersville Lake, Jackson County, AL --03-50 - Tellico Pointe Marina, Proposed Commercial Marina, Dredging, and Bank Stabilization, Mile 2.3R Little Tennessee River, Tellico Lake, Loudon County, TN

--03-47 - Commonwealth of Kentucky, Existing Riprap Bank Stabilization, Clover Fork Cumberland River between Miles 2.0 and 6.0, Harlan County, KY

--The USACE, Norfolk District, has decided to amend its Nationwide Permit requirements for projects in the Tennessee River Basin. The requirement for a pre-construction notification will now only apply to areas of designated critical habitat and adjacent tributaries one mile upstream of their confluences with the designated critical habitat. Streams affected are certain reaches of the Clinch River, Powell River, Indian Creek, Copper Creek, and North Fork Holston River. The pre-construction notification requirement is removed from all other streams.

Information at

<http://www.nao.usace.army.mil/Regulatory/PN/DCH/DCHPN.htm>

National Park Service--The DEIS for the proposed land exchange

between the National Park Service and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, Swain County, North Carolina may be viewed at <http://www.npslandexchange.com/>

TVA--

--The Final EIS for the Rarity Pointe Commercial Recreation and Residential Development, Tellico Reservoir, Loudon County, Tennessee may be viewed at www.tva.gov/environment/reports/index.htm

--The Draft Reservoir Operations Study (ROS) EIS for proposed changes in TVA's reservoir operations policies may be viewed at www.tva.gov/environment/reports/index.htm. The purpose of the ROS is to enable TVA to determine whether changes in its reservoir operations policy would produce greater overall public value. A range of 8 alternatives with emphasis areas of recreation, hydropower, navigation, and minimization of flood risk are evaluated.

--Recent TVA EA and FONSI documents. (copies from hmdraper@tva.gov)--

-Section 26a approval of the Chattanooga 21st Century Waterfront Development. -Approval to use TVA land for USDA's Oral Rabies Vaccination Program.

UPCOMING EVENTS--

- August 14 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Gatlinburg.
- October 2-3 - Enhancing the Southern Appalachian Forest Resource, Hendersonville, NC.
<http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium>
- November 3 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Asheville, NC.
- November 4-6 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>
- December 1-6 - 7th Annual Discover Life in America/All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory Conference, Gatlinburg,
<http://dlia.org/atbi/events.html>

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E-Mail News Briefs--June 5, 2003

SAMAB SPRING PLANNING MEETING: The Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) Cooperative met last week at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville for its annual spring planning meeting. Several working groups focused on implementation of the SAMAB multi-year work plan

(<http://samab.org/about/docs/programwork.html>), developed at last year's planning meeting. Specific topics discussed included invasive species; volunteer environmental monitoring; air quality; hemlock woolly adelgid predator beetle inter-agency NEPA process; cultural resources;

and sustainable development focused on the region's cultural and natural heritage. If you want to become more involved with the group, contact the SAMAB office.

SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE IN ASHEVILLE: The SAMAB fall conference is planned this year for Asheville, North Carolina, November 4-6, 2003. The conference is in the planning stages, with sessions including air quality, invasive plants, hemlock woolly adelgid, managing growth around protected areas, impact analysis, mapping and GIS, stream restoration, community and citizen monitoring, role of fire in ecosystem, and Southern Appalachian cultural heritage. As a special treat, former Smokies Superintendent Karen Wade will return as a featured speaker. There will also be poster sessions, an evening reception, and lots of fun and networking. Check out <http://samab.org> for the most recent information. Contact Gary Peeples (gary_peeples@fws.gov), 2003 Conference Chair, for more information.

SAMPAA RESOLUTION SUPPORTS NORTH AMERICAN BIOSPHERE RESERVES: Participants at the Fifth Conference of Science and Management of Protected Areas Association (SAMPAA), held in Victoria, BC, Canada, May 12-16, 2003, acknowledge the value of the UNESCO Biosphere Reserve program as a practical means to achieve collaborative conservation of biodiversity, through integrated ecosystem-based management with the participation of local communities and indigenous cultures. We recognize the efforts to strengthen a network of biosphere reserves in North America have been initiated by biosphere reserve representatives from the three North American countries of Mexico, the USA, and Canada. We, the participants at SAMPAA 5, hereby resolve to support these efforts for the timely establishment of an effective and functional North American network of biosphere reserves. The resolution was unanimously passed at the Conference, which had about 450 participants. SAMAB is working at several levels to assist in reinvigoration of biosphere reserves and their functions of conservation, economic development, and capacity building in the US and North America -- stay tuned.

CHEROKEE National Forest I&M: Through a special federal appropriation, the Cherokee National Forest will expand its inventory and monitoring activities. Areas of focus include sensitive species, rare communities, and aquatic insects. Representatives from the Forest Service, USGS, and NBII-SAIN met in April to discuss cooperative approaches for the effort. Cherokee National Forest is seeking student help with fieldwork and data management -- if you are a student interested in biogeography, ecology, biology, GIS, or database management, contact Anne Zimmermann (azimmermann@fs.fed.us) or Keith Sandifer (ksandifer@fs.fed.us) in Cleveland, Tennessee.

GRSM EXPLORES LONG-TERM SCIENCE NEEDS: Last week, experts from the Smokies Resource Management and Science Division

and a small number of guests spent a day brainstorming on future research needs for the Smokies. The activity anticipates the completion of the new science center that will expand the Smokies capability to host outside researchers. Participants discussed research needs critical to management actions and scientific questions that can be studied better at the Smokies than anywhere else. Robb Turner (SAMAB and SAIN) and Jack Ranney (UT, SAMAB, and CESU) facilitated the meeting. The next step is to work with university cooperators and science organizations to refine the topics and identify priorities. In the long run, GRSM is looking at cooperating with the University of Tennessee, as a host university, to put together research teams and seek funding to address these key issues.

EPA FUNDS UPPER TENNESSEE RIVER WATERSHED

INITIATIVE: The U.S. EPA will provide \$800,000 to the partnership led by the Upper Tennessee River Roundtable for watershed management and restoration activities. This project, with an area spanning TN, VA, and NC, was nominated by the governors of each of those states. The SAMAB Foundation, through its grant from the National Forest Foundation, has provided support to the Roundtable and SAIN provided maps for the proposal. Some of the planned projects include construction of stormwater management structures, implementation of species protection BMPs in creeks, and several streambank and wetland restoration projects.

MANY THANKS: Bob Thatcher, retired assistant director of the Forest Service's Southern Research Station, has expertly and amiably served as the SAMAB Cooperative's recording secretary. He is stepping away from this service because of family obligations. We express our gratitude to Bob for his many years of volunteer service and wish him well.

OAK RIDGE RESERVATION PUBS: A Research Park brief "Cultural Resources on the Oak Ridge Reservation" is now available. Contact Pat Parr at (parrpd@ornl.gov) with your name and mailing address for a hard copy or see <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/biobriefs.html>

ATBI FIELD SEASON SEEKS VOLUNTEERS: Check out the All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory web site <http://dlia.org/atbi/events.html> for opportunities to explore for new life forms in the Smokies, or contact Jeanie Hilten (jeanie@dlia.org).

JOB OPENINGS:

- TVA seeks an environmental biologist or botanist for projects related to plant issues and T&E and rare species. Position is in Norris, TN. For more information see www.tva.gov.
- The Appalachian Trail Conference is looking for an Associate Regional Representative for the Asheville Regional Office. See <http://www.appalachiantrail.org/about/jobs.html>.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

--Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service:

- An EA for the control of pigeonpea pod fly using nonindigenous parasitic wasps may be obtained from Dale Meyerdirk at 301-734-5220. The flies are serious pests of legumes such as peas and beans.
- An EA for the release of nonindigenous leaf-mining flies as biological control agents to reduce the severity of hydrilla may be viewed at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq. Follow the links to document/forms retrieval and permits/environmental assessments.
- An EA for the release of nonindigenous beetles to reduce the severity of infestations of tropical soda apple may be viewed at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq. Follow the links to document/forms retrieval and permits/environmental assessments. Tropical soda apple is a serious pest of pasture and rangeland in Florida and the plant has now been reported in North Carolina and Tennessee.

--Commodity Credit Corporation and Farm Service Agency: The Record of Decision for implementation of the Conservation Reserve Program may be viewed at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/epb/impact.htm. FSA decided to increase the enrollment authority, change the eligibility and cropping requirements, and implement a nationwide farmable wetland program.

--U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

- The Draft Programmatic EIS on mountaintop mining and valley fills in the Appalachian coal fields is available for viewing at www.epa.gov/region3/mtntop/index.htm. A CD also may be requested.
- The Public Notice on the dredging of accumulated sediment from Lake Chattooga, Jackson County, North Carolina may be viewed at www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/Notices/public_notices.htm
- Nashville District Public Notices
www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm:
 - 03-49 - Expires 6/13/2003, Tennessee Valley Authority, Additions to an Existing Public Boat Launching Ramp, Douglas Dam Recreation Area, French Broad River Mile 32.5L, Douglas Lake, Sevier County, TN
 - 03-45 - Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Program and the Regulation of Surface Coal Mining Activities
 - 03-43 - Expires 6/8/2003, Ronald H. Dean, Dean Construction, Proposed Community Dock Facilities, Fishing Pier, and Boat Launching Ramp, Mile 1.8 to 2.4L, South Chickamauga Creek, Opposite Mile 468.2L, Tennessee River, Nickajack Lake, Hamilton County, TN

--Fish and Wildlife Service:

- The revised EA on taking of nestling American peregrine falcons for falconry may be viewed at <http://migratorybirds.fws.gov>.
- Forest Service
- The Draft EIS for the proposed revised Land and Resource Management Plan at the Daniel Boone National Forest, Kentucky is available for viewing at <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/boone/planning/documents.htm>. A CD also may be requested.
- The Nolichucky/Unaka Ranger District is proosing to prescribe burn 1100 acres in Greene County, Tennessee. Infomration is available from Vern Maddus at 423-735-1500.

--National Park Service:

- The Notice of Intent to Prepare a General Management Plan and EIS for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia, was published at Federal Register 68:32083-4 (May 29, 2003).
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- The Programmatic EA and FONSI for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program may be obtained from Anthony Esser at 202-720-1840. The EA examines impacts of various ways of allocation of EQIP funds, with site-specific reviews to be conducted by local NRCS offices.

--Nuclear Regulatory Commission: The EA for removal of contaminated soil at Nuclear Fuels Services, Unicoi County, Tennessee was published at Federal Register 68:24521-4 (May 7, 2003). More information may be obtained from Mary Adams at 301-415-7249.

--TVA:

- The Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS on future management strategies for its Koppers Coal Properties, which are mineral rights to 53,000 acres of coal in Scott and Campbell Counties, Tennessee has been issued. The property underlies the state-managed Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area. Information from rmhorton@tva.gov or view the notice at Federal Register 68:26371-3 (May 15, 2003).
- The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians has requested that TVA grant a permanent recreation easement for the construction of a resort on 40 acres of TVA land on Tellico Reservoir, Monroe County, Tennessee. Information at www.tva.gov/river/landandshore/sequoyah.htm
- EA and FONSI documents available from Harold Draper
 - Balsam Mountain Preserve, Jackson County, North Carolina. Section 26a approval of stream obstructions

associated with residential development and golf course construction.

- Loudon Infrastructure Improvements, Loudon County, Tennessee. Water system and transmission line improvements to serve Blair Bend Industrial Park.
- Cherokee Dam Turbine Modernization Supplement, Jefferson and Grainger Counties, Tennessee. Supplemental EA addresses shoreline stabilization efforts to protect archaeological sites along Holston River.
- Blue Springs Marina Expansion, Watts Bar Reservoir, Roane County, Tennessee. Section 26a approval for marina facilities.
- Draft EA for the Southern Heritage Maintain and Gain Proposal, Guntersville Reservoir, Jackson and Marshall Counties, Alabama. Proposed water access corridors across TVA land in exchange for 60 acres of new public land on the reservoir.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- August 14 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Gatlinburg.
- October 2-3--Enhancing the Southern Appalachian Forest Resource, Hendersonville, NC.
<http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium>
- November 3 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee meeting, Asheville, NC.
- November 4-6--SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>

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E-Mail News Briefs--May 2, 2003

HEMLOCK WOOLLY ADELGID ACTION TEAM OUTREACH COMMITTEE MEETS--Folks engaged in education and outreach on the invasion and control of this alien killer of the region's hemlocks met April 8 at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park headquarters. The group drew plans for a multimedia blitz to raise awareness of how the insect works, where it is currently found, how to report its occurrence, and what public and private land owners can do to control it. SAIN is developing a web site that will soon be available at <http://savethehemlocks.org>. A draft of the site can be found now at <http://sain.nbii.gov/hwasf/>. For more information, contact gary_peoples@fws.gov.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY USER NEEDS WORKSHOP HELD--The National Council on Science for Sustainable Forestry and the National Forest Foundation co-sponsored a workshop April 22-23 in

Alexandria, VA on linking research projects that they are funding to practitioners' needs. Practitioners provided questions that current researchers could use to focus their projects, and topic areas or needs that projects in the future could fill. Types of information used/needed and means of communication were key areas of discussion. Participants from the Southern Appalachians included Peter Bates, Western Carolina University; Paul Carlson, Land Trust for the Little Tennessee; Harry Hafer, Cradle of Forestry Interpretive Association; Mike Huston, Interdisciplinary Solutions for Environmental Sustainability, Inc.; Mikki Sager, The Conservation Fund; Gary Schneider, Partners of the Cherokee National Forest; and Robb Turner, SAMAB/SAIN. NCSSF will post a summary of the workshop findings next week at www.ncssf.org.

REGIONAL CLEAN AIR ACTION SUMMIT--Over 225 people interacted with Senator Lamar Alexander, Representative Zach Wamp, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation Commissioner Betsy Childs, and many others in a summit/workshop designed to promote an Early Action Compact for the Knoxville metropolitan area. Knoxville is one of the 10 most air-polluted cities in the U.S., and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park one of the most polluted national parks in the nation. The summit demonstrated broad-based political support for cleaning up the air in this region where the economy is dependent in many ways on environmental quality.

CITIZEN MONITORS DINE IN GATLINBURG--Citizens monitoring invasive plants around the northwestern side of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park met April 29 with Andy Brown and Jack Ranney, SAMAB's invasive-plants monitoring coordinators, to discuss last year's progress and plans for this year's field season. Mayor Glen Cardwell of Pittman Center reported on the invasive-species ordinance being drafted for the town in response to the new awareness of invasive plants' prevalence in the town, adjacent to the National Park. Maps of the citizen monitoring efforts around the Smokies and elsewhere in the region can be viewed at <http://sain.nbio.gov/maps.shtml> (scroll to SAMAB Citizen Monitoring Programs for maps of initial invasive species and watershed health data).

OBED-EMORY RIVERFEST SATURDAY MAY 3--Hiking, swimming, regional arts/crafts/food/entertainment, outdoor gear swap, and more in downtown Wartburg, TN. Volunteer donations support Morgan County teachers for water quality sampling and student field trips to the river.

TERRESTRIAL PLANT INVASIONS IN THE TEMPERATE SOUTH--Workshop June 4-5, Greenville, SC will discuss multi-resource and social problems of invasive plants, public- and private-sector responsibilities, identification, monitoring, control, restoration, and information networks. Full details of the workshop are available at

<http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/changes/IS%20web%20brochure.htm>.

Register by May 16 for discount at

<http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/courses/onlineregistration.htm>.

TVA GREEN POWER SWITCH NEWSLETTERS ONLINE--

Quarterly newsletters and other information on Tennessee Valley Authority's Green Power program are at

http://www.tva.com/greenpowerswitch/newsletter/vol3_2/index.htm.

SMOKIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEWS ONLINE--

Weekly updates on resource management and science in the Great Smokies National Park are online at

<http://www.nps.gov/grsm/gsm/site/rmsupdates.html>. To be added to an email tickler list, contact Sharon_P_Williams@nps.gov.

PARTNERS IN STEWARDSHIP CONFERENCE--November 17-

20, Los Angeles CA. Explore the changing nature of communities, examine models of shared leadership, build skills needed to nurture and cultivate partnerships, and influence the emerging nationwide network of public places. During this conference, a diverse body of public and private sector attendees will have the opportunity to delve into both the theory and practice of partnerships, and to share experiences and ideas with colleagues involved in partnership activities ranging from traditional to state-of-the-art. The National Park Service, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are conveners. http://www.partnerships2003.org/session_info.htm

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

* SAMAB will discuss NEPA review strategies for hemlock woolly adelgid control at its Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, May 27, 2003. For more information contact hmdraper@tva.gov

Army Corps of Engineers (Nashville District notices available for viewing at www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm)--

- 03-37 Mr. Ed Loy, Jr., Proposed Channel Dredging and Riprap, Little Turkey Creek Mile 1.9R, Opposite Tennessee River Mile 616.5R, Fort Loudon Lake, Knox County, TN
- 03-34 Town of Grant, AL, Proposed Municipal Wastewater Outfall, Tennessee River Mile 370.2R, Gunter'sville Lake, Marshall County, AL
- 03-27 Kay Archer, Proposed Access Dredging, Private Boat Dock, and Boat Ramp, Muddy Creek, Opposite French Broad River Mile 41.0L, Jefferson County, TN
- 03-35 Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Proposed Overpass, Sinking Creek, Somerset, Pulaski County, KY
- 03-26 Chapman Certified Properties, L.P., Proposed Channel Fill

and Channel Relocation, Unnamed Tributary to Stock Creek, Little River Mile 3.1R, Knox County, TN

- 03-29 Home Depot U.S.A., Inc., Proposed Channel Fill and Adjacent Wetland Fill, Unnamed Tributary to South Mouse Creek, Bradley County, TN
- 03-23 City of Harriman, Proposed Channel Fill and Adjacent Wetland Fill, Unnamed Tributaries to King Creek Opposite Clinch River Mile 2.7R, Roane County, TN
- 03-20 Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, Proposed Discharge of Fill Material to Facilitate the Proposed Modifications to a Segment of US Highway 119, Unnamed Tributaries to the Poor Fork Cumberland River Between Miles 40.5 and 42.0L, Letcher County, KY
- 03-10 Tennessee Department of Transportation, Proposed Improvements to SR-91 Along New and Existing Alignment, Mountain City, Johnson County, TN
- 03-21, Ed Loy, Jr., Proposed Channel Dredging and Riprap, Holder Branch Mile 1.0R Opposite Tennessee River Mile 616.0R, Fort Loudoun Lake, Knox County, TN

Defense Logistics Agency--The Draft EIS for long-term management of the defense stockpile of elementary mercury is available for viewing at www.mercuryeis.com. The mercury is currently stored at four sites, including Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

Department of Energy--

- The National Nuclear Security Administration has amended its Record of Decision of the Surplus Plutonium EIS to allow for the disposition of up to 34 metric tons of surplus weapons-grade plutonium to be irradiated in commercial nuclear reactors as mixed oxide fuel. The ROD is at 68 Federal Register 20134-20137. A copy of the Supplemental Analysis supporting this decision is available from Nitesh Nigam at 800-820-5134.
- The EA and FONSI for the proposed title transfer of 489 acres of Parcel ED-1 on the Oak Ridge Reservation, Roane County, Tennessee to Horizon Center LLC is available at www.oakridge.doe.gov/foia/new.htm

Federal Highway Administration--The Final EIS for I-66 construction between Pikeville, Kentucky and Matewan, West Virginia has been completed. Information from Jose Sepulveda at 502-223-6720.

Forest Service--

- An EA on continued operation of the Bent Creek Experimental Forest, Buncombe County, North Carolina, for silvicultural demonstrations and research may be viewed at www.cs.unca.edu/nfsnc/.

- The Cheoah Ranger District is proposing to modernize the Cheoah Point Recreation Area on Santeetlah Lake. Information from rsemingson@fs.fed.us

National Park Service--The Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIS for the North Shore Road, Bryson City to Fontana Dam, North Carolina, was published in the Federal Register on April 24, 2003. Developments on the project can be tracked at www.northshoreroad.info/

Tennessee Valley Authority--The Final EA and FONSI for a water intake serving Hallsdale Powell Utility District, Melton Hill Reservoir, Anderson County, Tennessee may be viewed at www.tva.gov/environment/reports

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- May 27--SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/About/Docs/programwork.html>
- May 28--SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee quarterly meeting, Asheville, NC.
- June 4-5--Terrestrial Plant Invasions In The Temperate South Workshop, Greenville, SC.
<http://www.clemson.edu/extfor/changes/IS%20web%20brochure.htm>
- October 2-3--Enhancing the Southern Appalachian Forest Resource, Hendersonville, NC.
<http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium>
- November 4-6--SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>

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E-Mail News Briefs--April 3, 2003

SAMAB/SAIN TO PARTNER WITH RIVERLINK ON WEB MAPPER -- Riverlink, in Asheville NC, has selected SAMAB Foundation and its partners, SAIN, the University of Tennessee, Key Associates, and the US Geological Survey, to develop and host its web map information for the French Broad River Basin. The map server will depict over 60 kinds of spatial information, useful for everyone from recreationists to developers, by way of a variety of static and interactive mapping capabilities. "We feel that Riverlink and the SAMAB team share a common outlook and organizational goals," said Phil Gibson, French Broad Riverkeeper. Riverlink (<http://riverlink.org>) received funding for the project from the North Carolina Rural Internet Access Authority (<http://www.e-nc.org/>)

VOLUNTEER CITIZEN MONITORING UNDERWAY -- The SAMAB Foundation's Appalachian Environmental Monitoring Program

is in full swing in its second year. The program trains and assists citizen scientists to collect information about ecological health that is useful to their communities' planning and stewardship activities. The data also contribute to a "picture" of regional ecological health and will help with setting and prioritizing management needs. This year's activities continue the program's initial focus on watershed health and invasive species. Development of forest health monitoring activities is underway.

Through partnerships developed and fostered by this program, watershed monitoring is occurring on the Holston (VA), Watauga (NC), Nolichucky (TN), Little Tennessee (NC and GA), and Coosawatee (GA) Rivers. Training workshops for invasive species monitoring have been held in Hot Springs and Franklin, NC; Pittman Center, Morristown, Erwin, Chattanooga, and Sevierville, TN; and Damascus, VA. Monitoring is underway at each location. Additional outreach activities have been conducted in several high schools and colleges, with training and outreach activities involving upward of 300 people.

Cooperators and volunteers include hiking clubs, watershed alliances, land trusts, community governments, conservation organizations, resource managers from federal agencies, state organizations, exotic pest plant councils, and citizens with no affiliation at all. SAIN and SAMAB are cooperating to make the mapped monitoring data available via the Web. See <http://sain.nbi.gov/maps.shtml> (and scroll to SAMAB Citizen Monitoring Programs) for maps of initial invasive species and watershed health data from some of the monitoring activities. The program is funded by the National Forest Foundation, Appalachian Trail Park Office, and matching funds from TVA, University of Tennessee, and other private sources.

NATIVE GRASS ADVOCACY -- Great Smoky Mountains National Park is conducting the NEPA process of public input into plans for Cades Cove. Each alternative includes a section on management of the fields formerly used for cattle and hay leases. The "no action" alternative will revert management to the 1960's appearance of neatly maintained fescue fields. The other alternatives allow for restoration of streambanks, wetlands and native meadows, while keeping the fields open. Here is an opportunity to comment on restoration of natural plant communities and wildlife habitat. See <http://www.cadescoveopp.com> for more details and to submit comments before April 30.

ON-LINE BUSINESS RESOURCE CENTER -- TVA's Economic Development group has developed a gateway to sources of capital, technical assistance, tax help, and more. See <http://www.tva.com/econdev/obr/>.

GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH FOREST MANAGEMENT -- The Land Trust Alliance, Forest Stewards Guild, and Land Trust for the Little Tennessee present a workshop on practical forest management in

Franklin, NC on April 11. For information and registration see http://www.lta.org/training/lct_se.htm or call 919-286-9260.

SMOKIES RESOURCE MANAGEMENT NEWS NOW ONLINE -
- Weekly updates on resource management and science in the Great Smokies National Park are now online at <http://www.nps.gov/grsm/gsmsite/rmsupdates.html>. To be added to an email tickler list, contact Sharon_P_Williams@nps.gov.

ANNUAL WILDFLOWER WALK -- 3.2 mile loop at small wild area along the Clinch River at Norris Dam known for spectacular trout lilies, celandine poppies, spring beauties, toothworts, and more - guided walks at 10am and 1pm April 5th.

NATIVE PLANT SOURCES -- Wander around Native Gardens' open nursery, listen to the birds and frogs, relax, and if you find yourself in the mood to choose a few posies, well they'll be happy for that too. Native grasses will be featured along with info on why and how to use them to easily improve your gardens and habitats. Other specials like butterflybush, blueflag iris and atamasco lily may tempt you to be adventurous. Near Greenback, TN April 4-12 (except Sunday). For directions, or to browse remotely, see <http://www.native-gardens.com> or call 865-856-0220. There are of course many other sources of native plants including <http://www.greenindustryyellowpages.com/>, and information on growing with native plants such as <http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/>.

HEINZ CENTER STATE OF NATION'S ECOSYSTEMS POSITION AVAILABLE -- Fellow/research associate position available to assist small team with large project. See <http://www.heinzctr.org/ecosystems/>. Contact Robin O'Malley (omalley@heinzctr.org) for position description and to apply.

ERS/USDA INVASIVE SPECIES COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM AND WORKSHOP -- The USDA's Economic Research Service (ERS) is accepting economic research proposals in three broad areas of importance to USDA's invasive species policies and programs. Awards will be made for research and decision support system development projects ranging between \$50,000 and \$250,000 each. For details and application materials, see <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/invasivespecies/preism.htm>. Deadline is June 2. Those considering applying may also be interested in an upcoming ERS-Farm Foundation workshop on the economics of invasive species, planned for May 12-13 in Washington, D.C. For a description of the workshop and registration form, see <http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/invasivespecies/workshop.pdf>.

EPA SMART GROWTH GRANTS AVAILABLE --
<http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/grants2003.htm>.

BE ENERGY WISE -- <http://www.cleanenergy.org/>

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

Department of Energy--DOE has issued an EA for changes to the land application of sanitary sludge program, located on DOE's Oak Ridge Reservation in Anderson and Roane Counties, Tennessee. Information from Walter Perry at 865-576-0885.

Farm Service Agency--The Draft EIS for the Emergency Conservation Program is available for viewing at <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/cepd/epb/nepa.htm>

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission--

- The Commission is proposing to revise its regulations pertaining to hydroelectric licensing. Under the revised approach, a potential license applicant's pre-filing consultation and the Commission's scoping pursuant to NEPA would be conducted concurrently, rather than sequentially. Also, other enhancements to public and agency involvement in the licensing processes are proposed. Information from John Clements at 202-502-8070
- Alcoa Power Generating Inc. has filed its formal license application for relicensing of the Tapoco Project, consisting of Santeetlah, Cheoah, Calderwood, and Chilhowee facilities in North Carolina and Tennessee. Information from lorance.yates@ferc.gov
- The Final EIS for the Greenbrier Pipeline Project, extending from Kanawha County West Virginia to Granville County, NC is available by calling 202-502-8659.
- Duke Power Company has begun public consultation on relicensing of the Catawba-Wateree Hydroelectric Project, a project covering 11 reservoirs in North and South Carolina.

Forest Service:

- Draft land and resource management plans for the Alabama National Forests, Chattahoochee-Oconee, Cherokee, Jefferson, and Sumter National Forests are available for viewing at <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/planning/sap/default.shtm>
- The Brasstown and Toccoa Ranger Districts, Chattahoochee National Forest, are considering daylighting 5 roads on the Coopers Creek Wildlife Management Area. This would create additional early successional habitat in an area where it is in short supply. Information from jwentworth@fs.fed.us or 706-745-6928.
- The Cheoah Ranger District, Nantahala National Forest, proposes to construct a new district office building on NC Highway 143 in Robbinsville, North Carolina. Information from Frank Findley at 828-479-6431.

Tennessee Valley Authority:

- An EA and FONSI was completed on the issuance of water use facilities on the French Broad and Holston Rivers in Knox, Sevier, and Grainger Counties, Tennessee. Copy available from hmdraper@tva.gov
- The Rarity Pointe Draft EIS is available for viewing at <http://www.tva.gov/environment/reports/tellico2/index.htm>. The proposal involves alternatives for responding to a request for sale of TVA property to support a commercial recreation and residential development on Tellico Reservoir, Loudon County, Tennessee.
- TVA decided to withdraw its draft environmental assessment for a coal lease at Braden Mountain, Scott and Campbell Counties, Tennessee and instead to proceed with an EIS for management of its Koppers Coal Reserve. Information available from hmdraper@tva.gov.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- April 24-26 - Tools for Community Design and Decision Making, San Francisco. <http://placematters.com>
- May 27 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/About/Docs/programwork.html>
- May 28 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee quarterly meeting, Asheville, NC.
- October 2-3 - Enhancing the Southern Appalachian Forest Resource, Hendersonville, NC.
<http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium>
- November 4-6 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>

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E-Mail News Briefs--March 3, 2003

COOPERATIVE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE QUARTERLY MEETING--The SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee's February 13 meeting was hosted by Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park and its Superintendent, Pat Reed. Committee members honed planning for the Spring Planning meeting, which will be organized around the focal areas of SAMAB's 2003-2006 Workplan. These foci are invasive species; environmental monitoring; cultural resources; sustainable communities; and air quality. Jerry Ryan and Nancy Herbert are leading planning for the SAMAB's Spring Planning Meeting. The committee also took steps toward developing National Environmental Protection Act documentation for management activities

relating to the hemlock woolly adelgid. Harold Draper, chair of SAMAB's environmental coordination committee, is leading this effort

SAIN AT REGIONAL GAP--Shelaine Curd represented SAIN at the southeast regional Gap Analysis Project meeting in Athens, GA, February 10-11. Participants are exploring means for regional collaboration in use of Gap Analysis data for conservation and management of rare and game species. SAIN, in cooperation with Jeff Waldon at the Virginia Tech Conservation Management Institute, is planning a southeastern bio-summit to assist state resource and wildlife managers in identifying, sharing, and effectively using available species, occurrence, and habitat information.

MARCH 10 IS SUMMER INTERNSHIP APPLICATION

DEADLINE--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. Full program description and application procedures are under "Opportunities."

FALL CONFERENCE PLANNING--Planning is underway for the 2003 SAMAB Fall Conference (November 4-6 in Asheville). If there are issues you would like to see addressed as a conference session, or if you are interested in organizing a session, please contact Gary Peeples with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 828/258-3939, ext. 234, or gary_peeples@fws.gov.

COMMUNITY BRIEFING ON WIND ENERGY IN WESTERN

NC--Three briefings on wind energy potential will be held at the WNC Alliance on Tuesday, March 4, beginning at 8:00am, 12:00noon, and 5:00pm. Kevin Rackstraw, eastern regional leader for Clipper Wind-power, Inc. and Steve Smith, Executive Director of the Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, will present information on wind-energy generation in other parts of the country and environmental, legal, and economic issues associated with wind energy. RSVP to Pauline Kaltsunis at 828 258 8737 or email asheville@wnca.org.

PLACEMATTERS.COM--Attend a national workshop "Tools for Community Design and Decision Making" in San Francisco, April 24-26. See <http://placematters.com> for more information.

MAKING CITIES WORK--International conference May 26-28 in Tirana, Albania. For information email enhr2003tirana@albnet.net or enhr2003tirana@hotmail.com.

SYMPOSIUM: ENHANCING THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN

FOREST RESOURCE--October 2-3 in Hendersonville, NC.
<http://www.ncsu.edu/feop/symposium>.

NEPA ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS--

Department of Energy:

*The Record of Decision for the Kentucky Pioneer Integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Demonstration Project, Clark County, Kentucky was published in the Federal Register on February 4, 2003 (68 FR 5628-5634). For more information, contact rspear@netl.doe.gov.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

*Universal Electric Power Corporation has submitted application for hydroelectric projects on the Morgantown Lock and Dam, the Hildebrand Lock and Dam, and the Opekiska Lock and Dam on the Monongahela River in Monongalia County, West Virginia. The FERC contact is James Hunter, 202-502-6086.

*Universal Electric Power Corporation has submitted an application for a hydroelectric project on Cave Run Lake Dam on the Licking River in Rowan County, Kentucky. FERC Contact is Lynn Miles 202-502-8763.

Federal Highway Administration:

*Interstate 66 between Somerset and London, Kentucky, across the Daniel Boone National Forest, has been selected as one of 13 national priority projects under Executive Order 13274 (Environmental Stewardship and Transportation Decisionmaking). The Executive Order establishes a cabinet-level task force to expedite environmental review and resolve differences among federal agencies so that projects can move forward.

*The Final EIS for the Memphis to Atlanta Superhighway between Athens, Alabama and the Georgia state line is available from the Alabama Department of Transportation at 334-242-6252. The selected alternative crosses Redstone Arsenal, TVA properties on Wheeler and Guntersville Reservoir, and Lake Weiss. The proposed highway would pass to the south of Little River Canyon National Preserve and Cathedral Caverns State Park, to the north of Wheeler National Wildlife Refuge, and between Bucks Pocket and Lake Guntersville State Parks.

*The Tennessee Department of Transportation EA for the widening of US 27 between Harriman and Wartburg in Morgan and Roane Counties, Tennessee may be obtained from hmdraper@tva.gov.

*The Tennessee Department of Transportation EA for the construction of the I75 Interchange and Volunteer Ordnance Connector Route in Hamilton County, Tennessee may be obtained from hmdraper@tva.gov.

Fish and Wildlife Service:

*The Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment for the Lone Mountain Processing Coal Slurry Spill in Lee County, Virginia is available from John Schmerfeld at 804-693-6694, x107.

Forest Service:

*The Daniel Boone National Forest has issued a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS for the Beech Fork Coal Lease in Leslie County, Kentucky. Information from Corey Miller at 859-744-1568.

*The Clinch Ranger District proposes to sell landscaping rock from an area near Big Stone Gap in Wise County, Virginia. Information from Sten Olsen at 540-328-2931.

*The Cherokee National Forest is considering approval of the route for the Benton Mackaye Trail, a 95-mile hiking trail between the Georgia state line and Slickrock Creek. For maps or other information, contact Janan Hay at 423-253-2520

National Park Service:

*The Supplemental Draft EIS and General Management Plan for Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area can be viewed at <http://www.nps.gov/biso/gmp/gmp.htm>. The revised draft contains detailed information about existing and proposed roads and trails in the park in Kentucky and Tennessee.

*The Appalachian Trail project office is accepting comments on the proposed land exchange in Smyth County, Virginia which is intended to mitigate for the crossing of the Appalachian Trail by the Patriot Project natural gas pipeline. A copy of the FONSI for this project may be obtained from hmdraper@tva.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

*The Environmental Assessment for the Upper Knapps Creek Watershed Natural Stream Restoration Demonstration Project, Pocahontas County, West Virginia is available from Lillian V. Woods, State Conservationist, at 304-284-7545.

US Army Corps of Engineers Public Notices

(<http://www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm>):

*03-19 Tennessee Streams Mitigation Bank, within the State of Tennessee

*03-17 Maxey Boat Dock Expansion, Fort Loudon Lake, Knox County, TN *03-07 Tennessee Route 111 Widening, Sequatchie and Van Buren Counties, Tennessee

*03-06 Proposed Bank Stabilization, Little Turkey Creek Mile 1.5R, Opposite Tennessee River Mile 616.5R, Fort Loudon Lake, Mallard Bay Subdivision, Knox County, TN

*03-03 Proposed Reissuance of Regional Permits for Dock Structures and Minor Water Intakes, Navigable Waters of the United States in the Tennessee River Basin within the Regulatory Boundaries of the Nashville District within Slackwaters of Certain Lakes

UPCOMING EVENTS--

- March 28-30 - Appalachian Studies Association 26th Annual

Conference, Richmond, KY. <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>

- May 27 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/About/Docs/programwork.html>
- May 28 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee quarterly meeting, Asheville, NC.
- November 4-6 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>

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E-Mail News Briefs--February 5, 2003

HEMLOCK WOOLY ADELGIDS BEWARE!--Following enthusiasm generated at the Fall Conference, SAMAB organized a Strike Team of over 50 resource managers and specialists in Gatlinburg on January 24 to evaluate and plan means for a coordinated regional response to the spread of the killer adelgid. Strategies and needs were laid out and next steps and a time line planned. Anyone interested is encouraged to participate in the areas of: Survey, Impact assessment, Public awareness, NEPA coordination, Biological control, Chemical control, and Cultural control.

NBII ALL-NODES MEETING INSPIRES AND ENERGIZES--Over 100 information scientist-biologists spent all too long in dark meeting rooms on Maui from January 6-9, but emerged having reviewed progress and plans toward developing a biological/ecological information system for the nation. The Pacific Basin Node hosted technical and topical sessions ranging from the bits and bytes of ecosystem informatics to the dynamics of the native and exotic-invasive species competing for niches in the diverse, stunning habitats on the Hawaiian islands.
<http://www.nbii.gov>

SEEKING FALL CONFERENCE THEMES--Planning is well underway for the 2003 SAMAB Fall Conference (November 4-6 in Asheville). If there are issues you would like to see addressed as a conference session, or if you are interested in organizing a session, please contact Gary Peeples with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at 828/258-3939, ext. 234, or gary_peeples@fws.gov.

INTERNATIONAL GROUP EXAMINES SUSTAINABILITY IN REGION--On January 16 SAMAB, SAIN, and University of Tennessee's Energy, Environment, and Resources Center (EERC) hosted a diverse group of environmental professionals from 21 countries led by the State Department's International Visitor Program. They heard about and discussed their perspectives on water resources, invasive species, citizen monitoring, environmental education, environmental health, clean products/technologies, regional information systems, and regional experience with interagency and public-private collaboration for resource

management.

SAIN TO HOST GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS ALL TAXA BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY WEB AND DATA BASE--The Discover Life in America Data Committee met with members of the SAIN team in the Smokies on January 31 to develop an understanding of requirements and expectations for SAIN to host and manage the ATBI data base and web pages. SAIN will afford the DLIA Smokies ATBI with much-needed resources and expertise, working with investigators to speed ingest of data to the data base, and providing access to the informatics expertise of the NBII, including coordination with other nodes and ATBIs being planned for elsewhere in the US and the world.

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.

OAK RIDGE WETLANDS BIOBRIEF--A 2-page Biobrief "Wetlands of the Oak Ridge Reservation" has been prepared and is available from Pat Parr, Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park Manager. If you would like a copy or copies, please send your name and mailing address to Pat at parrpd@ornl.gov. Additional information is available about the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park and Biosphere Reserve at: <http://www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/>.

SMOKIES ATBI MINI-GRANTS AND CALENDAR AVAILABLE--Discover Life in America is again requesting proposals for Smokies ATBI mini-grants. The RFP and Science Plan can be found at <http://discoverlifeinamerica.org>. The ATBI calendar of events is posted below at the end of this email or contact Jeanie@dlia.org.

PROTECTED AREAS DISTANCE LEARNING EVENT--February 26, 12:00-2:00pm (Eastern) webcast of Adrian Phillips, Senior Advisor IUCN World Heritage Program, lecture titled, "The New Paradigm for Protected Areas", which he will deliver at the University of Vermont in Burlington. A live panel discussion will follow the lecture, and viewers are encouraged to call in with questions. The panelists for this program are: Jessica Brown, Vice President for International Programs, QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment; Nora Mitchell, Director, NPS Conservation Study Institute; Adrian Phillips, Senior Advisor, IUCN World Heritage Programme and honorary professor, Cardiff University; and Mike Soukup, NPS Associate Director, Natural Resources. For background materials and info see <http://www.uvm.edu/conservationlectures/>. For

technical assistance, contact Jim_Boyd@nps.gov. For questions regarding program content, contact Daniel.Laven@uvm.edu or 802 656 3095.

E-DISCUSSION ON NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS-- Visit <http://www.sfp.forprod.vt.edu/> and click on the scroll down window on the left-hand-side of the screen. This will take you to the e-discussion web-page. Once there, read the introduction and instructions. Then, all you need to do is to submit your ideas, concerns and other thoughts. Organizers are hoping for a free flow of ideas, suggestions and recommendations that crosses geographic and political boundaries. Feel free to participate in all of the discussion groups, but be careful about the information in the subject line. Messages are threaded and sorted by subject line.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service--An EA on proposal to actively suppress the Oriental mealybug when and if it is detected in the U.S. is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppd/rad/webrepor.html. Biological control agents would be imported and reared in preparation for their dissemination into the ecosystem in the event of an infestation.

Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington District Notices:

- The public notice for the proposed widening of US Highway 25 north of Hendersonville in Henderson County, North Carolina may be viewed at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/notices.htm>.
- The public notice for construction of a new Heavenly Mountain Resort golf course development on the Blue Ridge escarpment in Watauga County, North Carolina may be viewed at <http://www.saw.usace.army.mil/wetlands/notices.htm>.

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

- 02-82 - Expires 2/6/2003, City of Dayton, Proposed Fixed Community Dock and Bank Stabilization, Richland Creek, Opposite TRM 504.4R, Chickamauga Lake, in Rhea County, TN
- 02-84 - Expires 1/10/2003, Loren Mooney, Proposed Expansion of Existing Recessed Boatwell, Fixed Dock, and Bank Stabilization, Browns Creek, Opposite TRM 356.3L, Guntersville Lake, in Marshall County, AL
- 02-83 - Expires 1/18/2003, Town of Dandridge, Proposed Water and Sewer Line Crossings, French Broad River, Mile 45.2, Douglas Lake, in Jefferson County, TN

Farm Service Agency--The Final EIS for the implementation and

expansion of the Conservation Reserve Program may be viewed at www.fsa.usda.gov/dafp/

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission:

- The Draft EA for the revised Shoreline Management Plan for the Catawba-Wateree Project Reservoirs in North Carolina and South Carolina may be viewed at www.ferc.gov/ferris, search for docket number P-2232. The plan establishes shoreline classification maps, provisions to protect shallow water fish habitat and maps of these habitats, recreational improvements, and addresses enforcement for non-compliant structures.
- Universal Electric Power Corporation proposes to construct a 2-MW hydroelectric facility at Kentucky River Lock and Dam #13 in Lee County, Kentucky and a 3-MW hydroelectric facility at John W. Flannagan Dam in Dickenson County, Virginia. Information from Robert Bell at 202-502-6062.

Fish and Wildlife Service--An environmental assessment on the approval of tungsten-iron-nickel-tin shot for hunting waterfowl and coots is available by calling John Kreilch at 703-358-1714.

Forest Service:

- The Final EIS and Record of Decision for the proposed Leslie Resources land exchange, Redbird Ranger District, Daniel Boone National Forest may be viewed at <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/boone/FEISleslie/leslieROD.htm>
- The Final Supplemental EIS and Record of Decision for the proposed 765-kV Appalachian Power Company (American Electric Power) transmission line between Oceana, West Virginia and Cloverdale, Virginia across the Jefferson National Forest, Appalachian National Scenic Trail, and R.D. Bailey Reservoir may be viewed at <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/gwj/apco/apcomatrix.htm>.
- A proposal to add three categorical exclusions to allow small timber harvests has been announced. The first new proposed categorical exclusion would allow harvest of live trees not to exceed 50 acres with no more than 1/2 mile of road construction. Even-aged harvests would not be included. The second category would allow salvage of dead and dying trees not to exceed 250 acres. The third new category would allow removal of trees necessary to control the spread of insects and disease not to exceed 250 acres. Details may be found in the Federal Register 68, pp. 1026-1030, January 8, 2003.

National Park Service--Alternatives for potential uses of the Elkmont Historic District, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, have been released for comment. A summary of the alternatives may be viewed at

<http://www.elkmont-gmpa-ea.com/Alternatives>. These range from dismantling the buildings in accordance to the park's General Management Plan (No action) to restoration of facilities for interpretation to restoration of facilities for use in overnight lodging. A public workshop was held February 1 in Sevierville, Tennessee, to refine the alternatives and to receive public comments.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission--The EA for the proposed extension of the construction permit for Bellefonte Nuclear Plant, Jackson County, Alabama, was published in the Federal Register 68, pp. 3571-3573, January 24, 2003. Copy from hmdraper@tva.gov.

Completed TVA NEPA documents (copies from hmdraper@tva.gov):

- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for construction of a new barge unloading facility at Widows Creek Fossil Plant in Jackson County, Alabama.
- TVA completed a supplemental EA and FONSI for Section 26a approval of five stream crossings associated with improvements to US 25E across Little Sycamore Creek in Claiborne County, Tennessee. The text may be viewed at www.tva.gov/environment/reports
- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for Section 26a approval of community dock facilities for the Gold Point Circle South Dock Association, Chickamauga Reservoir, Hamilton County, Tennessee.
- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for providing economic development loan funds for purchase of the Clay County Industrial Park in Hayesville, North Carolina.
- TVA completed an EA and FONSI for Section 26a and land use approval to Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency for construction of the Shields Creek Crappie Impoundment on Cherokee Reservoir, Grainger County, Tennessee.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- February 13 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee quarterly meeting, Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park.
- March 28-30 - Appalachian Studies Association 26th Annual Conference, Richmond, KY. <http://www.appalachianstudies.org>
- May 27 - SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/About/Docs/programwork.html>
- May 28 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee quarterly meeting, Asheville, NC.
- November 4-6 - SAMAB Fall Conference, Asheville, NC.
<http://samab.org/Conf/Conf03/conf03.html>

DISCOVER LIFE IN AMERICA/SMOKIES ATBI CALENDAR OF EVENTS (contact Jeanie@dlia.org)

- Friday, February 21, 9:00-4:00pm: ATBI Houses Annual "Deep Cleaning". Volunteers who can help sweep, dust, wipe, scrub, and mop the Cades Cove and/or Cosby houses, please contact Jeanie Hilten for details of where and when to meet.
- Saturday, March 22, 9:00am-4:00pm: Volunteer Orientation Day. Sugarlands Training Room. We will follow this with a Millipede March Bio-Quest in the evening.
- Thursday, April 10 through Sunday morning, April 13: Bio-Quest, Fern Foray, and Trail Surveys Pre-Training. Sugarlands Training Room. There will be instruction on field methods to use in each event. Volunteers, students, and teachers who wish to participate in these activities should attend.
- Saturday, May 3, 10:00am-4:00pm: Volunteer Orientation Day. Haywood Community College, Waynesville, NC.
- Saturday, May 31, 9:00am-4:00pm: Fern Foray. Greenbrier area. Contact Dr. Patricia Cox, University of Tennessee, pcox@utk.edu
- June 15-20, Tennessee Geographic Alliance "Toolkit of Skills" Teacher Workshop. Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. Contact Kurt Butefish, University of Tennessee, kbutefish@utk.edu, or Michelle Prysby, GSMIT, michelle@gsmiit.org
- Saturday, June 21, 9:00am-4:00pm: Fern Foray. North shore of Fontana Lake ("Road to Nowhere"). Contact Dr. Patricia Cox, University of Tennessee, pcox@utk.edu
- Saturday, July 12, 9:00am-4:00pm: Fern Foray. Purchase Knob area? Contact Dr. Patricia Cox, University of Tennessee, pcox@utk.edu
- Thursday, July 17 through Sunday morning July 20: Beetle Blitz. Coleopterists from around the nation will participate, with the help of trained volunteers, teachers, and students. Scientists contact Victoria M. Bayless of the Louisiana State Arthropod Museum at 225-578-1838 or vmosele@lsu.edu
- Thursday, July 31 through Sunday morning August 3: High Country Quest. We are interested in surveying for a variety of taxa, including slime molds, snails, soil and aquatic insects, and a Fern Foray. We will concentrate on upper elevation ecosystems such as beech gaps, balds, and spruce-fir forests. Interested scientists please Tom Rogers, trogers@rollinscorp.com
- Friday, September 12-Sunday, September 14: Citizen Science for Teachers. Great Smoky Mountains Institute at Tremont. Contact Michelle Prysby, michelle@gsmiit.org
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E-Mail News Briefs--January 2, 2003

NBII/SAIN = National Biological Information Infrastructure/Southern Appalachian Information Node; see the newly updated [SAIN web site](#), including maps of SAMAB's citizen monitoring sites and a 360 degree virtual tour of the region. SAMAB is partnering with SAIN to provide better access to information for decision making in the region.

ATBI ANNUAL CONFERENCE -- Over 125 folks attended the Discover Life in America All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory in the Smokies conference December 4-7 in Gatlinburg. Reports and posters from the taxonomic working groups and education and outreach efforts were accompanied by spectacular photography from photographers documenting the effort, the organisms, and their environments. Richard Conniff amused participants with keynote talks from his books on how real people view invertebrates and a natural history of the rich. The bids-for-Biodiversity auction brought in over \$7,000 for the ATBI. The Discover Life Board instructed its data committee to investigate how SAIN can help support its data base and web page needs, with the possibility of SAIN hosting the ATBI-Discover Life web site and data base.

NBII ALL-NODES MEETING WEBCAST -- NBII will be providing a live Internet broadcast of the first day of its all-nodes meeting Monday, January 6. This will be an opportunity to hear about many of the outstanding projects underway, and to learn more about Hawaiian biodiversity and the efforts by the Pacific Basin Information Node to facilitate information sharing, gathering, and synthesis among scientists, science agencies, and stakeholders in the region. A link to the server, as well as other information, will be posted on the [NBII web site](#) by the morning of 6 January. If you do not have [RealPlayer](#) installed on your computer, you should download a free version in advance of the Webcast. The meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30am Hawaii time (1:30pm Eastern).

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.

TVA LAUNCHES CHILDREN'S WEB SITE -- TVA is inviting younger residents of the Tennessee Valley to visit its web site <http://www.tvakids.com>. The interactive site is geared toward children in the fourth through eighth grades. It provides information on the generation

of electricity, the Tennessee River System, and TVA's dedication to a clean environment.

SCIENCE.GOV -- The formal launch of <http://www.science.gov> permits searching across many Federal scientific and technical data bases, as well as Federal web sites selected for their excellence. Science.gov is seeking user feedback through the comments button on the site.

GRANTS.GOV -- The clearing house for Federal grant sources <http://www.grants.gov/index.html>.

EPA DRAFT DOCUMENT ON ASSESSMENT ENDPOINTS -- EPA's draft document on Generic Assessment Endpoints for Ecological Risk Assessments is available at <http://www.epa.gov/ncea/raf> under the What's New and External Review Drafts menus. Ecological risk assessment is a process for evaluating the likelihood that adverse ecological effects may occur or are occurring as a result of exposure to one or more stressors. A critical early step in conducting an ecological risk assessment is to select assessment endpoints. Assessment endpoints represent valued ecological entities, and their attributes, upon which risk-management actions are focused.

SEEKING HARVESTER INVOLVEMENT IN MONITORING NON-TIMBER FOREST PRODUCTS -- A free workshop February 27 in Atlanta will explore how harvesters might participate in a monitoring program of non-timber forest resources (such as medicinal plants, wild edibles, floral greens, pine straw, wild seeds, etc.) Anyone interested in sustainable management is invited. The workshop is the second of four regional workshops as part of a national study. Preregister before February 20 with Katie Lynch 503-320-1323 or ktlynch@ifcae.org, <http://ifcae.org>.

6TH ANNUAL GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 1 -- The Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition invites individuals and organizations throughout the Southeast to discuss and plan efforts to influence management of native forests in the region. Contact Jackie Dobrinska 828-252-9223 or jackie@safc.org.

NEPA/ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION ITEMS:

Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service--

* An EA and FONSI for the control of rush skeletonweed (*Chondrilla juncea*) was prepared. A non-indigenous organism, the *Chondrilla* root moth, is proposed to be released into the environment as a biological control agent. Eurasian rush skeletonweed has become established in Virginia and West Virginia along roadsides, railways, pastures, and shaley hillsides in mountainous regions. It causes losses in grain fields, reduces forage production and reduces plant and animal diversity. A copy of the EA may be viewed at www.aphis.usda.gov/ppq (follow link

for Documents/Forms Retrieval System, click the EA triangle, and view FONSI number 32).

* An EA and FONSI for the determination that Vector Tobacco, a genetically engineered plant for reduced nicotine, qualifies for non-regulated status is available from Kay.Peterson@aphis.usda.gov.

Army Corps of Engineers--

* The City of Chattanooga 21st Century Waterfront Project proposes to reconfigure its downtown waterfront area, including marina enlargement, new river walk construction, and construction of a riverside amphitheater. More detailed description may be viewed at www.orn.usace.army.mil/cof/Pnlist.htm, public notice 02-80.

Department of Energy--

* The Final EIS for the Kentucky Pioneer integrated Gasification Combined Cycle Demonstration Project, a proposed 540-Megawatt power plant in Clark County, Kentucky was completed. Contact Roy Spears of the Clean Coal Technology Program at 304-285-5460.

Fish and Wildlife Service--

* Intrawest Resorts and Snowshoe Mountain have submitted an application for an incidental take permit and Habitat Conservation Plan approval related to the West Virginia northern flying squirrel. The proposed permit would authorize incidental take during the construction of 55 buildings, an access road, shuttle terminal, and ski trail for the Camp Wilderness Development. A draft EA is available from Jeffrey Towner at 304-636-6586.

Forest Service--

* The Armuchee-Cohutta Ranger District proposes to limit the size of hiking and equestrian groups using the Cohutta Wilderness. The proposal may be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/nepa_docs.htm.

* The Brasstown Ranger District proposes to conduct kudzu eradication activities at 5 locations in Union and Towns County, Georgia. The proposal may be viewed at www.fs.fed.us/conf/sopa/nepa_docs.htm.

* Mount Rogers National Recreation Area is considering requests for communications towers on Whitetop Mountain and Quebec Knob in Smyth County, Virginia. Information from William Compton at 540-552-4641.

HUD--

* Knox County, on behalf of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, proposes to release funds to construct the Burnett Creek Water Line Project. This project would replace drinking water that has been contaminated by hazardous waste recently dumped in sinkholes in the Burnett's Creek community, Knox County, Tennessee. The FONSI and Environmental Review Record may be obtained from Knox County, 400 Main Street, Suite 345, Knoxville, TN 37902; telephone 865-215-3980.

Surface Transportation Board--

* Norfolk Southern Railway Company has filed a notice of abandonment of a 6-mile railroad between Wyatt and Jewell Valley, Buchanan County, Virginia. A copy of the EA on the proposed action is available from the Section on Environmental Analysis at 202-565-1552.

TVA--

* JMP Development is requesting that TVA abandon 0.16 acres of flowage easement along Northshore Drive, Fort Loudoun Reservoir, Knox County, Tennessee to allow construction of a residence.

Information from Janet Duffey, 865-988-2460.

* Braden Mountain EA available for review. TVA proposes to enter into a lease agreement for the mining of coal in the Braden Mountain area of TVA's Koppers Coal Reserve in Campbell and Scott Counties, Tennessee. The mine was previously approved by TVA and other state and federal agencies in 1999. Because of changes in coal-market conditions shortly after the mine was approved, no mining has actually taken place there. However, recent developments in the coal market have made the formerly proposed mining operation more economically attractive, and TVA now proposes to enter into a new lease agreement. The mine would have a permitted area of 665 acres, with about 411 acres disturbed by coal removal or fill disposal. The land surface in the area to be mined is within the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area and is owned by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. A copy of the EA may be viewed at www.tva.gov/environment/reports.

* Shields Creek EA available for review. TVA, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) have jointly evaluated a proposal for construction of a small dam, impoundment, access road, and gravel boat ramp on Shields Creek, Cherokee Reservoir, Grainger County, Tennessee. High and relatively constant water levels during the spring spawning season typically result in good crappie reproduction in Cherokee Reservoir. During periods of drought, crappie spawning success rates drop markedly. This has resulted in low crappie populations observed in Cherokee Reservoir. The purpose of the project is to provide optimum spawning conditions in the Shields Creek embayment even when the reservoir has low water levels during the spring. This would allow TWRA to raise fingerling crappie in the nursery impoundment for release into the reservoir and improve the population of this species. A copy of the EA may be viewed at www.tva.gov/environment/reports.

Completed TVA NEPA documents (copies from hmdraper@tva.gov)--

* TVA completed an EA and FONSI on construction of a new low-level outlet for the Blue Ridge Dam and Hydro Plant in Fannin County, Georgia.

* TVA completed an EA and FONSI for the Basin Area Power Supply Improvement Plan to improve power supply reliability. This project involves two new transmission lines and other electrical upgrades in

Fannin and Union Counties, Georgia and Polk County, Tennessee.

* TVA completed an EA and FONSI for Section 26a approval of stream obstructions related to the widening of State Route 157 in Morgan County, Alabama.

* TVA completed an EA and FONSI for Section 26a approval of stream obstructions related to the widening of State Route 91 east of Elizabethton, Carter County, Tennessee.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- January 11-19, 2003 - Wilderness Wildlife Week, Pigeon Forge, TN
- January 27-31, 2003. - Red Cockaded Woodpecker Symposium, Savannah, Georgia. Registration, hotel, draft program, etc. can be found at <http://rcwrecovery.fws.gov/draftprogram.htm>.
- February 13 - SAMAB Cooperative Executive Committee quarterly meeting, Chickamauga-Chattanooga National Military Park.
- 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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66 South Broad Street, Brevard, NC 28712

*Phone (828) 884-5713 x19 • FAX (828) 884-4671 • E-mail:
samab@samab.org*

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