

February 1995

## Spring Planning Meeting Slated For April 27-28

The Spring Planning Meeting has been scheduled for Thursday and Friday, April 27-28, in Asheville, North Carolina. (See the box at right for details.) This was decided at the last Executive Committee meeting.

On the morning of April 27, there will be a joint meeting of all standing committees with the Executive Committee and other interested parties. This meeting will begin with reports from the Southern Appalachian Assessment Team, which will be of value to the standing committees. Also, Executive Committee members will provide guidelines for the committees, many of which have just been reconstituted with all-new membership, and will also answer questions they may have.

After the lunch break, the standing committees will go into separate work sessions to plan their activities for the coming year.

On Friday morning, three special speakers will be heard, as follows:

8:30 a.m. Karen Wade, superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

9:00 a.m. Gene Lessard of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, who is executive secretary of the interagency task force for the national assessment program.

9:30 a.m. Dean Bibles, chairman of the U.S. MAB National Committee and special assistant on land tenure to Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt.

From 10:30 to noon, the standing committees will report their conclusions and recommendations to the Executive Committee and other interested ones, based on their discussions the previous day.

From 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. there will be an Executive Committee business meeting.

A registration fee of \$25 will be charged to cover costs of the spring meeting. Checks should be made out to the SAMAB Foundation.

The spring planning meeting agenda was developed by a special committee that included Executive Committee Chairman Briane Adams, Co-Chairman Charles C. Van Sickle, Executive Committee Member Terry Seyden, and Executive Director Hubert Hinote.

The last of the standing committee chairpersons was named at the Executive Committee's meeting in Atlanta February 3. The complete list follows. Anyone interested in serving on a committee should contact the chairperson before the spring meeting.

**Environmental Education and Training** Gene Cox, Chief, Division of Interpretation and Visitors Services, Great Smoky Mountains National Park, 107 Park Headquarters Road, Gatlinburg TN 37738. Phone (615) 436-1255. Fax (615) 436-1220.

**Research and Monitoring** Betsy Smith, TVA Forestry Building, 17 Ridgeway Rd., Norris TN 37828. Phone (615) 632-1658

**Sustainable Development** John Peine, National Biological Survey Cooperative Park Studies Unit, 128 Henson Hall, University of Tennessee, Knoxville TN 37996-1191. Fax (615) 974-5229

**Resource Management** Larry Luckett, District Ranger, Chattahoochee National Forest, Brasstown Ranger District, P.O. Box 9, Blairsville GA 30512. Phone (706) 745-6928

**Cultural & Historic Resource** Ruthanne Mitchell (acting chair), Southeast Region National Park Service, 75 Spring St. SW, Atlanta GA 30303. Phone (404) 730-2249. Fax (404) 7309487

**Public Affairs** Terry Seyden, U.S. Forest Service, P.O. Box 2750, Asheville NC 28802. Phone (704) 257-4202. Fax (704) 257-4263

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## **Van Sickle to Co-chair Cooperative Under New Transition Procedure**

A new procedure has been developed to smooth out the transition whenever a new chairman of the SAMAB Executive Committee is named. It works this way:

A co-chair of the Executive Committee will be appointed and this person will, in most circumstances, become chairman when the incumbent's two-year term expires.

To begin the process, Briane Adams of the U.S. Geological Survey, Atlanta, will continue to serve as chairman for another year. Charles C. Van Sickle of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station at Asheville, North Carolina, will begin serving as co-chair and will become chairman next year.

Under a waiver of rules, Adams was asked by the nominating committee to remain chairman for this third year, with Van Sickle starting his term as co-chair immediately.

Both Adams and Van Sickle expressed appreciation for the new arrangement.

"I like this idea of continuity," Van Sickle said. "I am heavily involved in the Southern Appalachian Assessment this year and could not have handled these duties and the chairmanship very well at the same time."

The assessment work is scheduled to end in a year.

Suzette Kimball of the National Park Service served as chairman of the nominating committee, which recommended the new transition procedure. Serving with her were G. Robert Kerr, president of the SAMAB Foundation, Russ England of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Boyd R. Rose of the U.S. Economic Development Administration, and Randy Phillips of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service.

The new procedure was approved unanimously by the Executive Committee.

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## **Tennessee Joins SAMAB**

Tennessee has signed on as the newest member of SAMAB. J.W. Luna, the state's Commissioner of Environment and Conservation, signed the interagency and cooperative agreement in Nashville on July 28.

Tennessee thus becomes the third state member of SAMAB. Georgia and North Carolina already are members.

The Corps of Engineers is expected to sign the agreement this month and will be represented by its South Atlantic and Ohio River Divisions. The Appalachian Regional Commission is expected to respond momentarily to an invitation to join. The Soil Conservation Service and the Office of Surface Mining are expected to sign by the end of September.

The southeastern regional offices of the following Federal agencies already are SAMAB members: the Environmental Protection Agency, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Park Service, the Forest Service, TVA, the U.S. Geological Survey, the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, the Economic Development administration, and the National Biological Survey.

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## Executive Committee to Meet April 28

The next meeting of the SAMAB Executive Committee is scheduled Friday, April 28, starting at 1:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Comfort Suites Hotel, 890 Brevard Road, Asheville, North Carolina 28806.

To make reservations for the Spring Planning Meeting and the Executive Committee Meeting, call the hotel at (704) 665-4000. Be sure and use code 426 when making reservations.

The block of rooms for these meetings has been reserved under the name of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service. Rates are \$48 a night, double occupancy, tax included. A free continental breakfast is included in the price.

For those driving, the hotel is just off exit 2 of I-26. It is 2 miles from the Asheville airport and there is a shuttle service.

Forrest Carpenter of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and Cory W. Berish of the Environmental Protection Agency gave a status report on the Southern Appalachian Assessment at the Executive Committee meeting in Atlanta February 3. They serve as co-chairs of the Policy Committee for the assessment.

To give an idea of the intensity of the effort, Carpenter said approximately 100 Forest Service people are currently working on the project, serving on various teams. The project will wind up later this year, and results will be printed and distributed to regional decision makers.

Other agencies also have people active on the assessment teams. These include EPA, TVA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Biological Service. Opportunities remain for other agencies to help in the assessment.

Brigadier General Ralph Locurcio of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers suggested that the report be made available to a broader audience and include industry in particular.

In response, Berish said a marketing plan for the information will be developed. He also noted that the report is not viewed as an end in itself but will be reviewed and updated from time to time as agencies continue their work.

The goal of the Southern Appalachian Assessment is to provide comprehensive ecological, social, and economic data that can serve as a foundation for improved natural resource management.

As various assessment teams have met with community leaders in the region, response has been very positive, Carpenter noted. As a result of these public meetings, the scope of the assessment has grown and now extends from the Talladega National Forest in Alabama to the George Washington National Forest and the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia.

The teams are focusing on four specific resource areas: air, water, terrestrial, and social/cultural/economic.

The assessment is now publishing a newsletter, called SAA Update, reporting progress of the assessment. Anyone wanting to get on the mailing list or find out more about the assessment should contact: Cory Berish, EPA Region IV - PPEB, 345 Courtland Street NE, Atlanta GA 30365.

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## **Assessment Recognized By National Program**

The Southern Appalachian Assessment effort, which seeks to identify and set priorities for managing the region's natural resources, has been recognized as an exemplary part of national assessment efforts.

Gene Lessard of the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, who is executive secretary of the interagency task force for the national assessment program, wrote the following to SAMAB:

"We wish to welcome you as an official participant in the National Assessment Program. The purpose of this program is to provide guidance to assessment teams in integrating the biological, physical, and human dimensions of assessments and to provide consistency among regional-level assessments."

Lessard said the Southern Appalachian Assessment and two others have been selected as prototypes for the nationwide effort. The others are the Columbia River Basin Assessment and the Mid-Atlantic Assessment.

An interagency team designated by the White House Office of Environmental Policy is providing the framework and protocols for conducting such large-scale assessments.

Lessard's letter to SAMAB also said: "As you progress through your assessment process, we hope both the scientists and managers developing your assessment will continue to develop and refine the principles and guidelines."

Lessard said a workshop is planned in October 1995 for participants in the three prototype programs. Its purpose is to evaluate and enhance performance in the three assessments. The workshop, to be held under the auspices of the National Research Council, has been fully funded.

More information is available in SAA Update, the assessment newsletter.

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## **Adams Reviews Results Of Two Years' Service**

At the Executive Committee meeting in Atlanta February 3, Chairman Briane Adams reviewed highlights of the

work done during his two years as Cooperative chairman.

He cited the integrated assessment workshop held last spring as a turning point in SAMAB's success. At that workshop, the Cooperative's agencies laid the groundwork for the Southern Appalachian Assessment, one of the most important projects ever undertaken by SAMAB.

Adams called the assessment "a bold initiative," and said it is now moving along pretty much on schedule with the U.S.D.A. Forest Service and EPA taking the lead.

Also last spring, the SAMAB Action Plan was developed, spelling out for the first time specific goals and objectives, with timetables for meeting them. That plan has since been reformatted and printed in booklet form for distribution to a wide audience, including the U.S. Congress and the Washington headquarters of the SAMAB Cooperative agencies.

Continuing, Adams noted that three more agencies have signed the Interagency and Cooperative Agreement; the National Biological Service, the Appalachian Regional Commission, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. There now are 11 federal agencies and three states officially represented in the Cooperative.

Adams said conversations with other prospective members are continuing. These include the U.S. Office of Surface Mining, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service), and additional southeastern states.

Another Biosphere Reserve Unit may be added soon to the five already in the Cooperative, Adams said. It is the land near Chattanooga that is administered by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust, a non-profit organization.

### **Other milestones cited by the chairman:**

- Restoration of the red wolf to the Smoky Mountains.
- Environmental education programs involving the red wolf, water resources, threats to the flowering dogwood, and threats to the region's forest health.
- Testimony to Congress last spring in ecosystem management.
- Visits to the region by a White House interagency task force and a General Accounting Office task force, both of which were examining SAMAB's role in Southern Appalachian ecosystem management.
- Official expressions of support for SAMAB from the Southeastern Natural Resource Leaders Group.

**Adams credited Executive Director Hubert Hinote with much of the progress made in the last year in attracting widespread attention to SAMAB. He thanked all the Cooperative members for making the past two years so successful.**

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## **Plans Under Way To Improve SAMAB's Annual Fall Conference**

SAMAB is taking a fresh look at its annual Fall Conference with a view to broadening participation and making registration easier. A report presented at the last Executive Committee meeting cited problems in these and several other areas of conference administration.

It was suggested that this year's Fall Conference be held in the Knoxville/Oak Ridge area during the week of

November 13. Details are being worked out and should be in the next issue of SAMAB News.

Complaints were heard from private industry after last year's conference because they had not been informed and therefore missed the opportunity to attend. Executive Committee Chairman Briane Adams acknowledged the problem and said ways need to be developed to get the word out to more people.

Terry Seyden, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, said efforts are under way to get SAMAB News to a wider audience through electronic networks. He suggested this will serve to alert more people to the Fall Conference and to other activities in SAMAB.

A report on last year's conference cited several problems, including failure of participants to prepare their abstracts in the required format. The report recommended that a temporary worker be hired to ensure uniform handling of abstracts and proper preparation of the conference proceedings.

In the past, volunteers from SAMAB agencies have taken care of all aspects of the conference. They have had to juggle conference work with their regular job demands, which at times can produce uneven results on both ends.

The conference report was high in praise for these volunteers.

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## **EMAP Seeking Help In Planning Symposium**

EPA's Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Program (EMAP) is in the early stages of planning for a five-day international symposium and is looking for ecological professionals who are willing to help developing it.

SAMAB has endorsed this symposium and will cooperate in its planning and execution.

The symposium will focus on issues of scale in the development of ecological indicators and other areas of monitoring and assessment. The symposium coordinator is Laura Jackson. Her phone number is (919) 541-3088. The Fax number is (919) 541-3615.

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## **The Southern Appalachian Home Page, An Information Gateway**

Karl A. Hermann is setting up a comprehensive new communications program that will enable more people to tap in to SAMAB information through their personal computers. Karl is the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) coordinator for SAMAB, on assignment from the National Biological Service at the University of Tennessee.

The program is called the Southern Appalachian Home Page. While not yet complete, some basic information is already available to acquaint users with SAMAB. Eventually the Home Page will contain descriptive information about the Southern Appalachian region, details of SAMAB's organization and operations, a bibliography, some of the Geographic Information System data on Southern Appalachia that Karl is compiling, as well as other information.

Graphics are included in the Home Page to make the information easier to understand and more attractive to the

eye.

The Home Page has been established on the University of Tennessee Library's World Wide Web (WWW), which is a part of a network of registered sites on the Internet.

The Home Page gives the individual user a direct link to topics of particular interest to him or her. It is a "layered" program, which allows clicking on a particular topic to get more detailed levels of information.

For example, for someone interested in the Southern Appalachian Assessment's Terrestrial Team, a series of highlighted topics is provided. Clicking on the topic SAA in the top level, a new Home Page appears. One of the topics in Home Page will be the terrestrial team. By clicking on that topic, the desired information may be found.

Karl said users will be able to retrieve the information displayed. Thus, for example, the SAMAB newsletter can be copied for circulation in an individual user's locale.

The Home Page can be accessed through the Internet with either Mosaic, Netscape, or Lynx software. A user who has full Internet access and Mosaic or Netscape will have no problem. They can open the Home Page through Internet by keying in the Southern Appalachian Home Page locator which is as follows:

**<http://www.lib.utk.edu/samab>**

Lynx software offers a solution to Internet users who don't have full graphics capabilities.

The UT Library Home Page will reference the Southern Appalachian Home Page. So will the National Biological Service's Home Page and the Southern Regional Natural Resource Leaders Home Page.

For more information, Karl says you can call him at his office in the TVA Forestry Building at Norris, Tennessee, telephone (615) 632-1452. His computer address is samab@utk.edu

Karl has a masters degree from Colorado State University, where he studied resource economics with an emphasis in geographic information systems, natural resource management, agriculture, and remote sensing. He did some doctorate course work at North Carolina State University in forestry, focusing on remote sensing and GIS. His career includes service as project scientist in GIS analysis at Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, and as a project leader for the state of North Carolina GIS.

Karl also found time to serve as a Peace Corps volunteer in Togo, West Africa for more than two years, working on a cooperative agricultural development project.

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## Gen. Locurcio Attends First SAMAB Meeting

Brigadier General Ralph Locurcio of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers attended his first SAMAB Executive Committee meeting in Atlanta February 3.

Both the South Atlantic and Ohio Divisions of the Corps signed the SAMAB Cooperative Agreement last fall. General Locurcio currently serves in the South Atlantic Division with offices in Atlanta.

Executive Committee Chairman Briane Adams welcomed the general and expressed appreciation for the Corps'

active interest in SAMAB.

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## SAMAB Assisting National MAB Brochure

SAMAB is preparing the draft text and layout for a brochure showcasing Biosphere Reserves all over the country. The national MAB organization is funding the project through the SAMAB Foundation.

Executive Director Hubert Hinote said U.S. MAB was impressed with various SAMAB products, particularly the general brochure explaining SAMAB. This led them to enlist SAMAB's help when it was determined that the national organization needed a similar brochure featuring the national network of Biosphere Reserves.

"It is quite an honor that MAB asked this Cooperative to prepare its brochure," Hinote said. A committee under the direction of Executive Committee Co-Chairman Charles C. Van Sickle is at work on the MAB brochure.

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## SAMAB Logo As Lapel Pin?

The new SAMAB logo may soon appear in another eye-catching fashion — a lapel pin. Public Affairs Committee Chairman Terry Seyden said his committee also will try to include a color version of the new logo on plaques that are awarded to friends of SAMAB who are cited for their support of Cooperative activities.

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## Southern Rivers Council Seeks Role With SAMAB

The Southern Rivers Council is very much interested in working with SAMAB. The council is an informal working group made up of resource specialists from federal agencies who are committed to improving aquatic resources on a watershed basis by means of restoration projects.

The council is made up of employees of agencies already represented in SAMAB under the Interagency and Cooperative Agreement. Its projects include a program known as "Restore Our Southern Rivers," in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

On another front, your Executive Director recently made a presentation to the Townsend Advisory Committee which is seeking SAMAB support for its work in the vicinity of Townsend, Tennessee. This is a gateway community to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park.

The town is trying to plan for the future along the same lines that Pittman Center did. As you will recall, one of SAMAB's most successful projects was development of the Pittman Center Plan, which is helping that community guide its growth in ways that protect its natural character and community values.

Here are other examples of growing interest in SAMAB:

Appalachian State University has asked for a SAMAB exhibit and a presentation on the Southern Appalachian Assessment as part of its observance of North Carolina's "Year of the Mountains."

John Peine, chairman of the Sustainable Development Committee, has contracted to edit a book on ecosystem  
[samab.org/Pubs/.../news\\_0295.html](http://samab.org/Pubs/.../news_0295.html)

management. SAMAB will be used as the case study and a number of SAMAB members will prepare chapters. Proceeds from the sale of the book will be donated to the SAMAB Foundation.

The tourism survey last year, which was supported by funds from the Economic Development Administration, is receiving attention now in magazines and technical journals.

The Tennessee Department of Education has expressed much interest in SAMAB's Environmental Education and Training work.

SAMAB was used as an example of ecosystem management at a Nevada workshop where the audience was made up of Department of Energy land managers.

SAMAB also continues to attract attention internationally. Our work will be featured at a Man and the Biosphere meeting in Seville, Spain, this year. And the World Bank has been asked to fund an exchange program between SAMAB and the Czech Republic.

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## Assessment to Provide Best Data Base Ever

The Southern Appalachian Assessment, scheduled for completion by the end of this year, will provide resource managers the best data base they have ever had for making decisions. This was the message from Forrest Carpenter, policy co-chair of the assessment, at the SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting.

Eleven agencies in seven states are working on the assessment. One objective is to provide a report to the public on the health of the region's natural resources and the social implications arising from this.

Four teams are assessing the health of terrestrial, aquatic, and atmospheric ecosystems, and the social, cultural, and economic consequences. Carpenter noted the "impressive professionalism" of the 156 people who make up these teams. Many more people are involved, feeding information to the team leaders.

The Southern Appalachian Assessment is a joint effort of SAMAB's member agencies. Much information already has been gathered, and various team members gave short reports on their activities. The following summarizes their remarks:

Karl Hermann: A massive amount of information from the assessment is already in hand and is being fed into a Geographic Information Systems data base. Some data already are available to assessment team leaders. When completed, the data base will be housed at the University of Tennessee and available to computer users on Internet. Data themes include: Public land ownership, hydrography, transportation, topography, soils, geology, demographics, land cover, ecological classifications, forest pest and disease occurrence, pollution point sources, forest stand inventories, Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA) monitoring, Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) monitoring, timber supply and demand, recreation sites, historic cultural sites, climate, air quality, mines, fire occurrence, distinctive landscapes, and climatic disturbances. Many of these themes have multiple scales of data.

Marisue Hilliard: The terrestrial team has a sub-team working on forest health. It is made up of representatives from six agencies. They will determine current trends, the effects of air pollution, the results of past management practices, and the effects of fires on the forests.

Steve Oak: The terrestrial team is conducting a literature survey of forest problems in past years - for example, the chestnut blight - and how these relate to the forest ecosystem now, particularly to the decline of oak species.

Brian Spears: Spears explained how data for the plant and animal assessment are being gathered and from what sources these data are derived.

Glen Gaines: The status of threatened and endangered species is being assessed. The team will try to determine what habitat conditions are best for maintaining existing populations. The focus is on 27 species groups.

Jack Holcomb: Part of the aquatic team's work is like a physician looking at the bloodstream. He examines the nutrients and their impacts on the body as a whole. The aquatic team is looking at impacts on the aquatic stream from such sources as hydrologic stress, pollution, and habitat conditions.

Jim Harrison: The water quality team is examining standards set by the various states and how these can be integrated on a regional scale. Selected streams are being examined for key indicators. One product of this study

will be a map defining the condition of the region's aquatic resource.

Ken Cordell: The social, cultural, and economic team is assessing the "human component" of the overall assessment. It is surveying the values people put on the natural and physical resources of the region, and the demands they place upon the ecosystem. Four sub-regions of Appalachia are being surveyed by means of focus-group meetings.

Gerald Helton: The social, cultural, and economic assessment will try to answer questions such as, How have social patterns changed in the past two decades? How have these changes affected resource management? How, in turn, have resource management strategies affected the people of the region? By means of a telephone survey, this sub-team will try to determine, among other things, the importance people place on recreation, their attitude toward current approaches to ecosystem management, and the effects that ecosystem management has on people's lifestyles and livelihood.

John Peine: The assessment is looking at the way "community capital" is expended on such things as education, school dropout rates, etc. The dynamics of population growth are being examined.

Larry Hayden: The recreation sub-team is gauging the supply and demand for recreation. One thing learned so far is that strip development has a tremendous impact on recreation. The team plans to produce a regional recreation atlas.

John Romanowski: Wilderness areas and roadless tracts are being catalogued. Fourteen public meetings and open houses have been held since February to gather information on these and other recreation topics.

Bill Jackson: The atmospheric team is examining factors affecting visibility in Appalachia. At some sites, photographs are being taken three times a day to characterize conditions. Illustrating the scope and complexity of the study, ozone data must be gathered from 11 states.

Stephanie Neal: Public involvement has been an important part of the Southern Appalachian Assessment from the start. The public involvement team plays a support role for the rest of the teams, providing input and getting feedback on the public's concerns. A newsletter is mailed periodically to 3,000 people.

Jane Singleton: The technical writing team will report key findings of the assessment. There will be a lengthy general report, and a brief summary.

No costs are involved, so no budget was set.

### **Sustainable Development John Peine, Chairman**

1. To assist the community of Townsend, Tennessee, a gateway to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, in community planning.
2. To establish an awards program for communities that make exemplary use of sustainable development strategies.

The Executive Committee voted to support the Townsend project with technical assistance to come from the SAMAB Cooperative's members, and will consider any future request for funds.

It voted to ask the Sustainable Development Committee to develop criteria for its proposed awards program for

consideration at the next Executive Committee meeting. Some small costs would be involved, but no budget was set.

### **Environmental Education** Gene Cox, Chairman

1. To print additional copies of a brochure - and possibly a video tape and a poster - to educate the public on the habits of black bears and the danger of trying to feed them.
2. To produce or assist in the production of educational materials that describe the region's migratory neotropical birds and their value to society.
3. Assist in distributing USGS posters on water resources.

The Executive Committee approved a budget for this committee of \$15,000 over two years.

### **Cultural Resources** Kirk Cordell, Chairman

Report will be delayed.

### **Public Affairs Committee** Terry Seyden, Chairman

1. To update the SAMAB brochure. Supplies of the old brochure are about exhausted.
2. To redesign SAMAB's table-top exhibit.
3. To update the color-slide presentation used by the Executive Committee and others (if funds are available).
4. To reproduce the new SAMAB logo on presentation plaques and on a new lapel pin (if funds are available).

The Executive Committee approved a budget of \$10,000 for this committee.

### **Resources Management** Larry Luckett, Chairman

This committee's report will be delayed.

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## **Executive Committee To Meet On July 11**

The SAMAB Executive Committee's next meeting will be July 11, 1995, in Chattanooga, Tennessee, starting at 9:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in TVA's Signal Place Building, Room S-301, the "Emory River Room." Members of the standing committees and other interested ones are encouraged to attend.

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## **SAMAB Committees Rev Up After Spring Planning Meeting**

SAMAB's standing committees, reorganized and ready for action, hit the ground running at the Spring Planning Meeting in Asheville April 27-28. Executive Director Hubert Hinote and Executive Committee Co-Chair Charles Van Sickle gave the revitalized committees their marching orders.

Hinote reminded the committees that they were formed for the purpose of identifying issues and developing

cooperative strategies for addressing these. He said the current Southern Appalachian Assessment being conducted by SAMAB agencies should be a focus of committee actions this year, and should shape their approach to activities next year and thereafter.

"The committees also have a major role to play in implementing the SAMAB Action Plan," he said. Copies of the plan were distributed at the meeting.

Van Sickle said the committees "serve as the eyes and ears of SAMAB," adding: "We need to use them to network here in the region and across the nation."

He urged the committees to continue to be opportunistic in their approach while they also follow the guidelines of the Action Plan.

The committees spent Thursday afternoon planning their activities for the year, and reported back to the Executive Committee the following day. The Executive Committee endorsed the following initiatives:

**Research and Monitoring** Dr. Elizabeth Smith, Chairman

1. To provide a report on the Southern Appalachian Assessment to the Natural Resource Leaders group in Atlanta.
  2. To invite college and university representatives to join the committee.
  3. To draft a peer-reviewed document on the Southern Appalachian Assessment.
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## Fall Conference to Feature Partnership Theme

Plans for SAMAB's annual Fall Conference were rounded out at the Executive Committee meeting July 11 in Chattanooga. The theme of the conference will be, "Assessing the Appalachian Landscape: Getting to Action Through Partnerships."

The conference will be held November 14-16 at the Radisson Hotel on Summit Hill Drive in Knoxville, Tennessee, across the street from the TVA headquarters.

A major objective of this year's Fall Conference will be to share the initial findings of the Southern Appalachian Assessment, scheduled for completion by the end of the calendar year. It will also hear reports on efforts to resolve environmental and economic issues in the region.

The Southern Appalachian Assessment is a cooperative effort of SAMAB members to assess the environmental and economic condition of the region. It has been called the most comprehensive assessment ever in the region.

"The Fall Conference is intended to be an educational event," Hubert Hinote, SAMAB Executive Director, said. "It is a working meeting of scientists, land managers, and the public to discuss regional issues."

A call for papers has been issued. Abstracts should be sent as soon as possible to Hinote at 1314 Cherokee Orchard Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738. They can be faxed to (615) 436-5598.

The Executive Committee designated Hinote to head the command team directing preparations for the conference. Robert C. Boone of Chevron Corporation, a member of the SAMAB Foundation Board, will serve as co-chair. Charles Van Sickle, co-chair of the Executive Committee, and Briane Cole of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will be in charge of planning and operations.

The chairpersons of SAMAB's committees will assist the command team, recruiting speakers and providing logistical help throughout the conference.

These adjustments in the planning structure for the Fall Conference became necessary when David Cawrse of the U.S. Forest Service, who was originally in charge of conference planning, resigned due to a job change.

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## SAMAB Strengthens Czech Relationship; Mutual Benefits Seen

Six representatives from SAMAB visited the Czech Republic June 4-11 for what proved to be a mutually valuable exchange of information about the management of Biosphere Reserves.

One important outcome of the visit was a formal agreement to exchange information on various environmental and economic development topics, including air pollution, environmental education, the inventory of cultural and historic resources, risk assessments, more public involvement in Biosphere Reserve activities, and resource monitoring.

Hubert Hinote, SAMAB Executive Director, said the Czechs were particularly interested in planning for resource

sustainability and a public affairs program patterned after SAMAB's. SAMAB will provide technical assistance to the Czechs in developing materials such as videotapes and printed information packages for educating the public about Biosphere Reserves and their value to the community.

Others attending from SAMAB were Briane Cole, manager of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Asheville, North Carolina, John Peine, researcher with the National Biological Service's cooperative studies unit at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, Jim Ryan, retired chief of planning for the Blue Ridge Parkway, Charles Van Sickle associate director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station, and Eugene Cox, director of the Division of Interpretation and Visitor Services at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Cole said the visit was structured like a workshop, with meetings held in the city of Krivoklat, a small town about 30 miles northwest of Prague. Twenty representatives of the Czech Republic attended.

Peine noted that the host Krivoklatsko Biosphere Reserve more closely follows the "classic" pattern envisioned by originators of the concept in that, unlike U.S. Biosphere Reserves, it incorporates nearby communities. He said the Czechs "have some very sophisticated programs in place that we could well use."

Peine added, "I think more people will support SAMAB as they learn what we are doing in the international context."

Ryan, a member of the SAMAB Public Affairs Committee, said he believes SAMAB "will benefit enormously" from the exchange.

The Czech Republic paid the in-country expenses of the SAMAB delegation.

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## **Executive Committee To Meet August 29**

The next Executive Committee meeting will be held August 29 at 9:30 a.m. at the new offices of the Forest Service and Fish and Wildlife Service in Asheville, North Carolina, at Highland Park just off Broadway.

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### ***Reports From the Committees***

## **Program to Honor Those Who Reflect SAMAB Ideals**

The SAMAB Foundation Board met June 26 and took action to expand its membership. A special effort will be made to enlist representatives from education, the tourist industry, the forest products industry, private foundations, and other businesses.

Foundation President G. Robert Kerr said the aim is to create a better balanced and more diversified Board of Directors.

Four have already accepted invitations to join the Board. They are:

Paul Pritchard, president of the National Parks and Conservation Association, headquartered in Washington DC. This organization has 450,000 members.

Melinda Taylor, director of the Environmental Defense Fund, Raleigh, North Carolina. This is an environmental organization that among other things helped achieve a consensus on reauthorization of Superfund legislation.

James B. Coykendall, head of the planning commission for Pittman Center, Tennessee. This community has become a model for others seeking to maintain its cultural and historic identity in the face of tremendous pressures for tourism development.

Lynn Leopper, director of marketing of WBIR-TV in Knoxville, Tennessee, which as a SAMAB cooperator produced several award-winning television shows fostering balanced development and environmental protection.

A reception is planned in September to greet all new members of the Foundation Board and to begin briefing them on current activities of SAMAB, including the Southern Appalachian Assessment.

In other actions, the Foundation Board voted to have Robert C. Boone of the Chevron Corporation serve as cochair of the sixth annual SAMAB Fall Conference. Boone is a member of the Foundation Board.

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## **Assessment Work Enters Intensive Phase**

Cory Berish of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says the Southern Appalachian Assessment is now in a very intensive period of activity as it moves toward completion by the close of 1995.

At the SAMAB Executive Committee meeting July 11, Berish said the assessment is on schedule. He cited two key issues for SAMAB to begin considering: (1) how best to get results of the assessment out to the public, and (2) how the assessment's Human Dimensions Team can best integrate all the information being gathered from the hundreds of assessment workers.

Berish provided copies of reports, including timelines, for each of the teams and subteams working on the assessment. These teams and subteams include Policy, Aquatic, Atmospheric, Forest Health, Plant and Animal, Forest Products, Human Dimensions, Recreation, and Roadless Areas/Wilderness.

A printed report of assessment results is expected to be published in January, 1996.

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## ***From the Executive Director***

Can SAMAB Help Improve Small Streams? SAMAB has been asked to consider adopting a project to improve conditions in small streams in the region. It would be patterned somewhat after the "adopt-a-stream" program and would depend largely on the efforts of citizens whose property borders these small waterways.

The suggestion was made to SAMAB by William O. McLarney. McLarney directs a joint project to develop monitoring criteria for an Index of Biotic Integrity on 32 streams that feed into the Little Tennessee River.

McLarney said he has found that most of these streams are badly degraded and abused. But he adds that with better public awareness and some badly needed guidance, they could be cleaned up considerably. He suggests that SAMAB support this kind of program on other small streams in the region.

McLarney's suggestion, I believe, merits consideration. At the suggestion of the Executive Committee, I have referred this proposal to the Resource Management Committee and asked it to respond in time for the Executive Committee to consider it at its next meeting.

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### **On other matters:**

The Renew America organization has nominated SAMAB for an Environmental Sustainability Award. The Public Affairs Committee is responding to this.

The national MAB program has published a handsome brochure containing 12 case studies of U.S. Biosphere Reserves. SAMAB's Biosphere Reserves and TVA's Land Between the Lakes Biosphere Reserve are both included. Copies of the brochure were handed out at the Executive Committee meeting.

The Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI) has published a brochure explaining its work in improving air quality in the region. SAMI, you may recall, was organized as an outgrowth of the 1991 SAMAB fall conference.

Terry Seyden, chairman of the Public Affairs Committee, will chair one of the sessions of the Appalachian Consortium meeting November 3-5 in Boone, North Carolina. Your executive director will be among the speakers.

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## **New USGS Initiative Aimed At Defining Agency Priorities**

Briane Adams of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), who serves as chairman of SAMAB's Executive Committee, says his agency is evaluating its priorities in Southern Appalachia to support SAMAB agency needs as part of the agencies' management responsibilities."

A workshop was held in Atlanta June 22 for federal agencies to begin developing a list of information needs from USGS. Participants included representatives of the U.S. Forest Service, National Biological Service, Department of Energy, Corps of Engineers, TVA, Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, and Environmental Protection Agency.

The workshop's purpose was to define priorities and the kinds of information these agencies need from USGS. These needs were identified in various categories, including geology, hydrology, water quality, aquatic habitats, erosion potential, maps, etc.

Adams, Acting Program Officer for the USGS Southeastern Region and developer of the initiative, said work should be completed by September 1. Final draft proposals will be submitted to SAMAB for a final prioritization, based on the level of available funds. The proposals will then go forward to USGS national Headquarters.

If anyone has questions about this, Adams said they can call him at (404) 409-7700.

Hubert Hinote, Executive Director of SAMAB, said the USGS initiative will be most helpful to SAMAB. "No doubt other agencies, facing similar issues, can use the USGS procedure as a model for setting priorities and

improving efficiency.

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*September 1995*

## Make Reservations Now for SAMAB's Fall Conference

The program for SAMAB's annual Fall Conference in Knoxville November 14-16 is nearly complete. It is expected to be one of the best meetings yet, with dozens of speakers covering a variety of topics.

Participants and others planning to attend are urged to make hotel reservations right away. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Knoxville Radisson Hotel. The phone number is (423) 522-2600. The FAX number is (423) 522-7200.

Rates are \$54 single occupancy, \$64 double, \$74 triple, and \$84 quad. Reservations received after October 13 will be provided only on a space-available basis.

Those planning to attend should fill in their registration forms as soon as possible. The registration fee is \$50 until October 14 and \$60 thereafter. The fee for students and retirees is \$25 before October 14 and \$35 thereafter.

Registration forms will be published in the next issue of the Southern Appalachian Assessment newsletter and also in the conference announcement which will be mailed by the end of September. If you fail to receive either of these, call the SAMAB office at (423) 436-1701. Please make registration checks payable to "SAMAB Foundation" and enclose with your registration form.

The theme of the Fall Conference is "Assessing the Appalachian Landscape: Getting to Action Through Partnerships." It will feature a report on the findings of the Southern Appalachian Assessment. The assessment, to be finished by January 1996, is a cooperative effort of SAMAB members to assess the environmental and economic condition of the region.

The overall purpose of the Fall Conference is to address policy and management implications of environmental and cultural issues affecting the region's ecosystems. As always, it will encourage an interagency, multidisciplinary approach to resolving issues related to environmental protection and development.

The program begins at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 14. Details will be included in the printed program to be mailed to all those on SAMAB's mailing list. Meanwhile, here are some of the highlights of the Fall Conference:

### **Tuesday Morning, Nov. 14**

A plenary session moderated by Karen Wade, superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, who will also chair the entire morning program. Invited speakers include Bruce Babbitt, secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior, Dr. H. Ronald Pulliam, director of the National Biological Service, and Katie McGinty, who chairs the President's Council on Environmental Quality.

Presentations by Dr. Pete Roussopoulos, director of the Southern Forest Research Station, USDA Forest Service, and Dr. Bob O'Neill, senior scientist in the Environmental Science Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

### **Tuesday Afternoon**

A panel discussion on the integration of sustainable development into government policy. It will be chaired by Dr. Milton Russell, director of the Joint Institute for Energy and Environment at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville. Invited participants include Dave Crockett, Chattanooga City Commissioner; Hugh Morton, owner of Grandfather Mountain, a SAMAB Biosphere Reserve Unit, who also is chair of the North Carolina Year of the Mountains Initiative; and a representative of private industry.

A report on the Southern Appalachian Assessment led by Dr. Cory Berish, Chief Scientist of EPA Region IV, and Dr. Elizabeth Smith, ecologist with the TVA Environmental Research Center.

### **Wednesday, Nov. 15**

A discussion of the National Assessment Program. Participants include Dr. Bob Bailey, program manager for Land Management Planning Systems of the USDA Forest Service; Kurt Ritters, project leader for the SAMAB landscape ecology project; Charles Van Sickle, associate director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station in Asheville, North Carolina; and Gene Lessard of the USDA Forest Service, Executive Secretary of the National Assessment Program.

Concurrent sessions on the Southern Appalachian Assessment teams for air/water and terrestrial/people. These sessions continue in the afternoon.

### **Thursday, Nov. 15**

Three workshops running until 1 p.m. will be conducted. Topics will be: the Chattooga River Ecosystem Classification program; introduction of the CD-ROM computerized data base from the Southern Appalachia Assessment; and an open discussion exploring the likely consequences of the Southern Appalachian Assessment.

Karl Hermann of the National Biological Service requests suggestions and assistance in planning the workshop on the CD-ROM data base, and also on the conference poster session of which he is in charge. You can call Karl in Norris, Tennessee, at (423) 632-1452, or on the internet by keying in the code, karl@utkux1.utk.edu. Or you can call the SAMAB office. In any case, please do so by October 13.

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## **Gibson Named Assistant to Executive Director**

When you call the SAMAB office in Gatlinburg, you may hear a new voice on the line. Phillip Gibson has joined SAMAB as Environmental Planner and the Assistant to Hubert Hinote in the SAMAB headquarters.

Gibson, who has broad experience in ecological affairs, works directly with Executive Director Hubert Hinote. Hinote expressed appreciation to the Executive Committee for authorizing the position. "It's no longer a one-man show up here," he commented. "Phill has already demonstrated the initiative and ability needed to make this office operate more efficiently."

Gibson, 28, is a graduate of the University of Louisville, with a BA in political science. He attended graduate school at Southern Illinois University, pursuing a degree in Geography and Environmental Planning, and also taught a meteorology course while there.

A native of Cecilia, Kentucky, Gibson is no stranger to the region. He worked on a Man and Biosphere project

at TVA's Land Between the Lakes as a research apprentice in 1991-92. He credits Dr. Tom Forsythe of TVA's Land Between the Lakes with sparking his interest in SAMAB.

Other previous experiences include the National Wildlife Federation (Washington, DC), the Ecological Society of America's Sustainable Biosphere Initiative (Washington, DC), Zabel Wastewater Filter, Inc. (Louisville, KY), and the Center for Sustainable Systems (Berea, KY).

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## Parkway Turns 60

The Blue Ridge Parkway celebrated its 60th anniversary, dating from start of construction, on September 10 with a mountain festival at Cumberland Knob that featured music, dancing, and speeches.

Two bands were on hand to provide the music for traditional mountain dancing. There were craft demonstrations and a parade of antique cars.

Author-lecturer Wilma Dykeman was the featured speaker. Parkway Superintendent Gary Everhardt also addressed the crowd

Public Affairs specialist Ina Parr coordinated planning for the celebration.

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## National Biological Service Publishes Trends/Issues Report

The National Biological Service (NBS) has published its first major report, entitled "Our Living Resources." It is a collection of nearly 200 articles on the distribution, abundance and health of biological resources across the country. The handsome publication is illustrated with colorful charts, graphs, and photos.

H. Ronald Pulliam, NBS director, announced the publication. "We have made a great effort to find contributors from a wide variety of sources including NBS, other federal and state agencies, academia, and nongovernmental organizations," Pulliam said. "This partnership style is and will remain a hallmark of how NBS conducts its scientific activities."

The 530-page report is for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington DC, 20402. The document's stock number is #024-010-00708-7.

Comments on the report may be sent to: Michael J. Mac, Status and Trends Report Manager, Mailstop 3660-MIB, 1849 C. St NW, Washington DC 20240.

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## SAMAB Supports USGS Initiative

At its meeting in Asheville, the Executive Committee authorized Executive Director Hubert Hinote to write a letter supporting the U.S. Geological Survey's Critical Ecosystem Program for Southern Appalachia. The central objective of the USGS initiative is to provide scientific information as a basis for a better understanding of relationships between human-induced disturbances and habitat degradation.

## Executive Committee To Meet November 13

The SAMAB Executive Committee will hold its next meeting Monday, November 13, at 1 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel on Summit Hill Drive in Knoxville. This is the day before the SAMAB Fall Conference opens.

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## Black Bear Education Project Funded for Great Smoky Mountains

Funding has been obtained to produce an education package on the black bear, it was announced at the Executive Committee meeting in Asheville, North Carolina, August 29.

Karen Wade, Superintendent of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, reported this development. She spoke for Gene Cox, chairman of SAMAB's Environmental Education and Training Committee, who was unable to attend the meeting.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park Conservation Association, the Natural History Association, and Friends of the Park have donated funds to produce the materials.

The package will include posters and signs for campgrounds. The objective is to educate park visitors and others on the dangers of contact with the wild bears. It provides tips on how to dispose of food and garbage and not attract the animals.

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## Two Reports Recognize Importance of SAMAB Model

It is tremendously gratifying that recent reports by the Interagency Ecosystem Management Task Force and the President's Council on Sustainable Development both recognize the importance of the SAMAB Cooperative as a model for others.

Teams from both these organizations visited Southern Appalachia last year to gather information on ecosystem management. Their reports now confirm that they were impressed with the fine example of interagency cooperation found in SAMAB.

The Task Force report is entitled, "The Ecosystem Approach: Healthy Ecosystems and Sustainable Economies." Here are just a few of the things it says about SAMAB:

"The organization facilitates cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies. The vision for the region is stated in general terms - the achievement of a sustainable balance between the conservation of biological diversity, compatible economic uses, and cultural values across the Southern Appalachians. [SAMAB] intends to achieve this balance by collaborating with stakeholders through information gathering and sharing, integrated assessments, and demonstration projects aimed at solving critical regional issues."

The report cites examples of what works and what does not, and commends SAMAB for its "extensive public education and outreach program that uses different media to reach diverse publics." It adds:

"Because of its nonpartisan reputation, the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere program can bring to the table groups that had not participated previously."

In another section, the report notes:

"[SAMAB], although containing federal agency partners, has developed an identity separate from the agencies. This gives the Cooperative a unique ability to forge cooperation in all aspects of science and information dissemination. Many interviewees viewed the Cooperative as a resource and facilitator. Individual management agencies might, by contrast, be viewed as a threat. The Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Cooperative has become an accepted translator of technology. It facilitates science by increasing awareness among agencies of other agencies' missions and functions. It also helps eliminate duplication of effort ... "

The report from the President's Council on Sustainable Development does not specifically mention SAMAB or other agencies. But it lists 10 national goals to put the country on a path toward sustainable development. All of the goals fit within the SAMAB mission. Notable in this regard are the goals of achieving a healthy environment, economic prosperity, sustainable communities, and civic engagement.

The report identifies five themes for sustainable development and related policy topics, and these too fit our model.

All of this demonstrates that SAMAB is a recognized model for interagency cooperation and that it gets results.

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**\*\*\* On other matters:**

A presentation about SAMAB is on the agenda for a conference at Appalachian State University that is sponsored by the Appalachian Consortium. The conference will focus on North Carolina's "Year of the Mountains" initiative.

The national Man and Biosphere program has increased funding for its Biosphere Reserve Directorate, which I chair. The additional funding will support publication of a MAB brochure and a small grants program to assist Biosphere Reserve Units across the country. For details, watch for the next issue of the U.S. MAB Bulletin.

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*December 1995*

## Fall Conference Goes On Despite Shutdown

The government ran out of money, but SAMAB's annual Fall Conference didn't run out of steam. The show went on (with some last-minute modifications) despite the government shutdown that sent many federal employees and SAMAB members home.

That meant a slimmer crowd than was expected. Nevertheless, there were 202 registered.

A major conference focus was the **Southern Appalachian Assessment**, now near completion. Technical reports from the assessment are due to be published by mid-January, 1996, and the summary report shortly thereafter.

A common thread in many of the presentations was that the assessment, as rigorous and time-demanding as it was, is really only the beginning. A presentation on the last day of the conference captured it best with the title, "Where Do We Go From Here?" This was a panel discussion moderated by Stephanie Neal of the U.S. Forest Service.

Jim Loesel, secretary of the Southern Forest Appalachian Coalition, said experience gained in the assessment created "leaders for the future," and that this was "an extremely important product" of the assessment. The big need now, he said, is to get the information out to the decision-makers.

Gary Pierson of the Forest Service, in charge of land management planning and environmental coordination, said there are three key areas in which the assessment will be of future value to the Forest Service: better coordination of work, more organized data for monitoring at different scales, and in the development of individual forest plans. The assessment, he said, will bring greater consistency to the forest plans, which must be updated periodically.

Deborah Baker, executive director of the Southern Timber Purchasers Council, urged everyone to be sure and read the technical reports coming from the assessment.

Panel member Rob Turner, an ecological planner at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, said he hopes the assessment will lead to establishment of an "ecological data center" that would be a model for the rest of the country.

He took issue with some of the terminology in preliminary reports of the assessment, such as "final report" and "end of the assessment." The assessment, he contended, was a process. He said it would be a great mistake to read the assessment and then go back to business as usual.

Charles Van Sickle, assistant director of the Southern Forest Research Station, characterized the assessment as "priming the pump." He invited the audience to comment on the panel discussion. Among suggestions that were offered:

- Use the assessment to set a research agenda.
- Develop an educational program to take assessment findings to students from kindergarten through high school.
- Set up a speakers bureau involving assessment team members.

- Sponsor local workshops to share information with the public.
- Use the assessment data for solving ecological problems.
- Update the assessment periodically.
- Use the assessment to educate elected officials.
- Include human health in the next assessment, possibly utilizing the U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

Van Sickle summed up the session, observing that the assessment seemed to serve three functions: (1) It produced an archive of information valuable to many people, (2) it provided a framework for integrating future activities, and (3) it will give a valid benchmark against which to measure future work.

Van Sickle suggested that next year's SAMAB Fall Conference report on what various agencies accomplished with the Southern Appalachian Assessment data.

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## **Wade Offers Reminder: Appalachian Assessment Doesn't Make Decisions**

Karen Wade, superintendent of the **Great Smoky Mountains National Park**, opened SAMAB's Fall Conference with a tactful reminder: The Southern Appalachian Assessment is not a decision-making exercise. But it does give decision-makers the tools to make better-informed decisions than ever before.

Decisions, she said, will be made locally. "*But for the very first time, we will understand the impacts of these decisions in a truly regional sense.*"

Her remarks set the tone for the entire fall conference.

Wade emphasized the need for "strong, healthy, vital partnerships," which the assessment helped develop. About 20 different organizations were involved in the assessment, and scores of individuals were involved.

The assessment she said, greatly increases our knowledge base and widens our viewpoint. Knowledge gained from the assessment will lead to better decisions. She pointed out that the public will be very much involved "and this could be one of the more important benefits of this assessment."

Bob Joslin, regional forester for the Southern Region of the Forest Service, Atlanta, spoke next. He praised SAMAB for "providing the mechanism" for the assessment. "As we work together to address common issues and needs, it's good to know that we all have a common data base."

"It is critical that people who manage have the latest and best scientific information to go on," he said.

Joslin sees possibly far-reaching consequences for SAMAB as a result of the assessment. He said the needs of the agencies and of private landowners will be better identified than ever before, and "this will drive SAMAB's future actions."

Bob O'Neill, senior research ecologist at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, said there is a need for new ways to address regional problems that don't involve studying the problem in minute detail. He said many experiences have demonstrated that "scientific certitude" can't be achieved on many things.

Hugh Morton, who operates Grandfather Mountain as one of SAMAB's Biosphere Reserve Units, made a slide presentation dealing with North Carolina's "Year of the Mountain" observance.

Milton Russell spoke on "Concepts for Regional Assessments and Sustainability." He is former deputy administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and currently director of the Joint Institute for Energy and Environment at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Russell discussed the origin of the concept of "sustainable development" and offered three propositions or principles for sustainability:

- Aspirations for growth to provide what the present generation wants are valid.
- The next generation must be given the ability to satisfy their wants, too.
- There must be special regard for natural systems so as to avoid losses that could impoverish future generations.

James Sweeney of Champion International Corporation gave an industry perspective on sustainable development. He said that Champion, a major producer of paper, recently named a vice president devoted exclusively to sustainability. Reforestation is practiced, best management practices are employed to protect water and wildlife, and timber cutting is managed so as to minimize the impact on scenic views.

Dave Crockett, City Councilman in Chattanooga, chairs the council's Environmental and Economic Development Committee. Incentives for restoring cities are of paramount importance, he said, adding that the "throwaway" design of commercial products is eating up city budgets. There needs to be a fundamental change in the way things are designed to reduce the load on city waste management. There should be more recycling and "zero-waste" design in products for sustainability to succeed in the nation's cities.

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## **Tommy Gilbert Returns,**

### **Still Touting SAMAB**

Tommy Gilbert, who was instrumental in getting the Man and Biosphere program established back in the 1970s, paid a visit to the Executive Committee meeting in Knoxville November 13.

He has been in Indonesia the past year, assisting in development of a Man and Biosphere program. Seeing the need for help in other lands, Gilbert said he hoped SAMAB would consider setting up a training program to reach out to other countries on a regular basis.

SAMAB, he said, is still the best model around for promoting interagency cooperation on a worldwide scale.

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## **Executive Committee Sets Tentative Meeting Dates**

The SAMAB Executive Committee is scheduled to meet next on February 15 in Atlanta. Tentatively, this meeting will be a joint meeting with the Southeastern Natural Resources Leaders. Most of the organizations in this group are also represented in SAMAB.

Subsequent meetings of the Executive Committee are planned for April 24-25 at the annual Spring Planning Meeting in Asheville, North Carolina; on July 18 at Oak Ridge, Tennessee; September 26 in Franklin, North

## Team Leaders Give Assessment Overview

Four major team leaders for the Southern Appalachian Assessment gave an overview of the assessment in a panel discussion at the Fall Conference.

Bill Jackson, who heads the assessment's air quality team, said the team gathered existing data and tried to identify the major sources and effects of air pollution.

Marisue Hilliard, deputy supervisor of Cherokee National Forest, who headed the Terrestrial Team, said her group addressed changes in trends in forest health and the mechanics of disturbance. The damage caused by exotic pests such as pine beetles and gypsy moths were examined, as were the effects of fire on the forest environment.

Jack Holcomb of the Forest Service, who headed the Aquatic Team, said the assessment will turn up some gaps in the data, which can then be researched and filled.

Ken Cordell reported for the Socio-economic and Cultural Team. Questions his team addressed included the changing demographics of the region, social and cultural impacts on natural resource management, and the status of private lands. Population growth, he said, has contributed to constant change in the demographic scene.

Stephanie Neal of the Forest Service pointed out that the work of the Public Affairs Team brought credibility to the entire process by engaging the public throughout the process.

Dr. Elizabeth Smith of TVA said some 150 scientists and research analysts took part in the assessment, representing 20 agencies. Results are intended for decision-makers and the general public, to help them identify priority areas for attention.

Karl Hermann of the National Biological Service at the University of Tennessee said much time has been spent developing the computerized data base from the assessment. The information will be made available on five CD-ROM discs, one of which will include all the graphics developed for the assessment.

The summary report of the assessment will probably be the most popular printed product from the assessment, according to Forest Carpenter, co-chair of the whole assessment. It will be available by the end of January, 1996.

In a question and answer session that followed his report, Carpenter was asked how the assessment will affect public policy. He said that each agency will no doubt use the report in different ways, but that the Forest Service would make it an integral part of their continual planning process. "We see it ultimately resulting in local projects," he said.

The Southern Appalachian Assessment will be extremely useful for future assessments, according to Gene Lessard of the National Assessment Program in Washington, D. C. Lessard said his office is developing guidelines and protocols for regional assessments. This will provide a national framework for integrating ecological assessments of all kinds.

The Southern Appalachian Assessment and assessments in the Columbia River basin and the Mid-Atlantic region are being used to develop the national guidelines. A workshop is planned next spring to analyze what was done in the three assessment, and the results will be included in the national guidelines.

The Forest Service plans to publish a guidebook for future assessments, he noted.

Many other presentations were made at the Fall Conference. A copy of the proceedings can be had by calling SAMAB headquarters.

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## SAMAB Hosts Visitors from Czech Republic, Poland

SAMAB hosted visitors from the Czech Republic and Poland in September.

The Czech visitors were Petr Stepanek, Director of the Krivoklatsko Biosphere Reserve, and Eva Jelinoka, Executive Secretary of the Czech National Man and Biosphere Committee. They were in the Southern Appalachians September 23-30.

The visitor from Poland was Andrzej Raj, Assistant Director and Head Forester for the Karkonosze National Park in Poland. This park is part of the binational Karkonosze Biosphere Reserve maintained by both Poland and the Czech Republic. From August 23 to September 20, Raj was hosted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service office in Asheville, North Carolina, and the National Forests of North Carolina. His tour also included the Ceweeta Hydrological Laboratory, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

All the visitors wanted to learn about tourism and its effects on Biosphere Reserves. Their mission was to learn about issues and problems facing the Southern Appalachians and what SAMAB and other agencies are doing to try to resolve them. The concept of visitation at a Biosphere Reserve was relatively new to them. They wanted to know how U.S. Biosphere Reserves operate visitor centers, about visitor relations in general, and public education programs associated with U.S. Biosphere Reserves.

Money-raising activities to support Biosphere Reserve activity was also an area of much interest. The visitors were briefed on the way SAMAB is funded by the cooperative agencies themselves and by the SAMAB Foundation.

All the visitors were hosted in the homes of various SAMAB people. The visitors seem especially to appreciate this kind of informal, personal contact.

Executive Director Hubert Hinote cited the mutual benefits of visitor exchanges with other countries. "There are Biosphere Reserves all over the world and each one is unique," he said. "We can learn from them and they can learn from us."

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## SAMAB Awards Presented

Several awards were presented at the Fall Conference. A new one, the "**Hinote Award**," went to Executive Director Hubert Hinote for "sustained personal dedication to SAMAB." The Executive Committee established

the award without telling Hinote. The presentation was a total surprise to the Executive Director who was, for once, speechless.

Subsequent Hinote Awards will be presented annually.

Four organizations were honored with plaques presented by the Sustainable Development Committee chaired by John Peine. They went to Randy Brown, Executive Director of the Foothills Land Conservancy of Maryville, Tennessee, Bill Nickle, head of the Narrow Ridge Earth Literacy Center and New Earth Publications in Washburn, Tennessee, the town of Pittman Center, Tennessee, and the Parks as Classrooms program of Pi Beta Phi Elementary School in Gatlinburg, Tennessee.

The Foothills Conservancy received a Leadership Award for raising \$1,300,000 to purchase 4,600 acres of land adjacent to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. It maintains the land as an undeveloped buffer zone to the park.

Bill Nickle's organization received the Business Award because it promotes the principles of sustainable development in practical ways, including the use of solar heat and a "simple lifestyle" in its facilities.

Pittman Center was given the Community Award because of its continuing effort to balance development with conservation through community planning.

The Education Award to Pi Beta Phi school was made because the school redefined its curriculum to include frequent school trips to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park to build student appreciation for the need to maintain the natural environment.

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## **Bob Thatcher Receives Forest Service Award**

Bob Thatcher, retired Forest Service scientist and a long-time SAMAB supporter, was presented the Emeritus Scientist Award on November 13 at the Executive Committee meeting in Knoxville. The award was made on behalf of the Southeastern Forest Research Station by Charles Van Sickle, assistant director.

Thatcher became the fourth person ever to receive the award. He was honored for outstanding leadership in pine beetle research while with the Forest Service.

Thatcher served for several years as secretary of the SAMAB Foundation and currently keeps the minutes of the Executive Committee. SAMAB Executive Director Hubert Hinote commended Thatcher for keeping "the most complete and comprehensive minutes we have ever had."

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## **Reports From the Committees**

### **Black Bear Educational Package, New SAMAB Brochure**

The following committee reports were made at the last Executive Committee meeting:

Environmental Education: Chairman Gene Cox reported that posters and other educational materials dealing with

black bears in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park are in the design stage. The brochure is expected to be available by the first of the year. Other materials should be ready by spring, when the bears become more active after the hibernation season.

The black bear package will include posters, a brochure, and signs that will help people properly store and dispose of food while in and around the park. It is hoped that this educational effort will avert dangerous confrontations between the bears and people visiting the park.

Those interested in ordering these materials are urged to contact Gene at the park as soon as possible. The number is (423) 436-1255. Or you can call Karen Ballentine at (423) 436-1237.

Two teacher workshops on neotropical migratory songbirds are being planned for early 1996, one in North Carolina and one in Tennessee. Several agencies will cooperate in producing six educational posters to promote student activity on various species of flora and fauna.

A brochure is being developed with the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant council that will offer suggestions to help people avoid exotic species and instead use native plants in landscaping. To reserve copies, contact Kristine Johnson at (423) 436-1707. This committee is also preparing a manual on how to get rid of pest species of exotic plants.

**Public Affairs:** An updated brochure describing the SAMAB program is being prepared and copies should be available soon. The text was written by the Public Affairs Committee. Terry Seyden, Committee Chairman, said personnel at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory will handle page layout. The committee is almost finished with a new table-top exhibit to be used to publicize SAMAB at various public functions.

**Sustainable Development:** Chairman John Peine announced that plaques will be presented to four organizations or individuals whose work reflects dedication to the principles of sustainable development. (See story above for details.)

**Resources Management:** Hubert Hinote reported briefly for this committee in the absence of Chairman Larry Luckett. He said work is progressing on a cooperative project with the Little Tennessee Watershed Association.

**Research and Monitoring:** Hinote reported for this committee, chaired by Betsy Smith. Betsy made a presentation to the Mid-Atlantic Highlands Conference on the Southern Appalachian Assessment.

**Cultural and Historical Resources:** No report.

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## ***Executive Director's Report:***

### **Mailing List Computerized for Selective Distribution**

Phillip Gibson, Environmental Planner and Assistant to the Executive Director, has done a marvelous job organizing SAMAB's mailing list. The 3,800 names on the list are computerized and can be sorted into smaller groups for selective mailing.

The newsletter now goes to more than 700. All of us in SAMAB need to be thinking about whether we should

expand the list, and the most economical way to distribute the newsletter. Mail distribution can be very expensive. Faxing and E-mail were discussed as possible future alternatives.

Cost management remains a matter of great concern. We are in generally good shape for 1996. However, looking to 1997, we need some commitments now from the cooperative agencies. I am happy to report that the Executive Committee has agreed to poll the various agencies to see what support they can give in '97.

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, there continues to be great demand for SAMAB assistance in other lands. In that connection, a Memorandum of Understanding on Mutual Cooperation between SAMAB and the Slovak National Committee for the Man and Biosphere program is ready for signing.

This paves the way for specific cooperative projects. Funding for these would in most cases be provided by the country benefiting from a particular project.

Thanks to favorable action by the Executive Committee, SAMAB will be represented at the National Conference on Wilderness and Natural Areas in Eastern North America May 19-23, 1996. This will be in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. SAMAB will be a joint sponsor, will have a part on the program, and will have its new table-top exhibit on display.

Events like these serve in a fine way to spread the word about SAMAB and the benefits of cooperative work in behalf of the biosphere.

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## **Wildlife Initiative Stresses Diversity**

Pete Wyatt of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency stationed at Morristown, Tennessee, outlined a new TWRA funding initiative at the SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting.

The "Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative" is a national program, and is aimed at improving the conservation, management and enjoyment of wildlife species.

Such nonconsumptive use of wildlife is growing while consumptive use is declining, Wyatt said. For decades, hunting licenses and other fees for consumptive use provided the needed income. The new trend puts pressure on wildlife managers to seek new sources of funds.

Wyatt discussed a number of strategies for addressing the problem. He said more than 100 conservation and recreation groups are championing the national effort in a program called "Teaming With Wildlife." Consumers are being asked to use their buying power to influence companies to invest in conservation by charging a fee on items such as binoculars, cameras and outdoor gear used in non-consumptive wildlife activities such as birdwatching .

The fee would go to wildlife management agencies and other conservation groups.

Wyatt said Tennessee has more endangered species than any other non-shoreline state. It also has a greater diversity of species than the coastal states.

"We've got a lot to be grateful for, but we've got a lot to protect," he said.

## USGS to Renew Effort to Raise Funds for SAMAB

The U.S. Geological Survey will try again to get funding for a new ecosystem initiative, Executive Committee Chairman Briane Adams says.

USGS nominated SAMAB for funding earlier this year but the award went instead to the Chesapeake Bay initiative. Adams said SAMAB came in second, so the chances are good that when the next proposal is submitted, SAMAB will get favorable consideration.

USGS and other agencies are responsible for making nominations.

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