

MARCH 1998

SAMAB-NEWS

March 1998

Spring Planning Meeting May 14 & 15

SAMAB's annual Spring Planning Meeting is planned for May 14-15 (Thursday and Friday) at the UNC Arboretum in Asheville, NC. SAMAB's Executive Committee will meet on Wednesday May 13 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the Arboretum's Library. This year's meeting will begin with a session titled "What's New with SAMAB?" that includes an overview of the SAMAB plan of work and initial planning for the fall conference. The Thursday morning session will be followed by a catered luncheon. That afternoon, SAMAB standing committees will meet in break-out sessions to discuss committee participation in planned initiatives and other issues of interest to SAMAB. Following a general session featuring committee reports, the meeting will adjourn at 4:00. At 4:15 there will be an optional tour of the Arboretum lead by Ron Lance, Education Program Specialist. On Friday morning there will be working meetings for the 3 SAMAB initiatives. Anyone interested in the Watershed Conservation Initiative, the Sustainable Development Initiative, or the Native Plants/Exotic Pests Initiative is encouraged to attend (we need your help!). The meeting will adjourn at 11:30 on Friday. Registration fee is \$25.00, plus an additional cost for the catered lunch.

DISCOVER LIFE IN AMERICA: All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory

Great Smoky Mountains National Park (GRSM) held a workshop in mid-December in Gatlinburg, TN, to gauge interest in and feasibility of doing an All Taxa Biodiversity Inventory (ATBI) in the Park. Over 100 scientists, educators, federal, state, and non-governmental agency personnel attended, including representatives from Costa Rica and Canada. For two days, the group discussed the concept and initiation of an ATBI in the Smokies. The participants were uniformly enthusiastic about the project, and the workshop ended with high hopes and expectations. Since then, representatives from the Park visited the White House to brief Office of Science and Technology Policy on the project; taxonomic working groups, or TWIGS have been formed, each having coordinators and 20 to 30 taxonomic specialists signed up to work on the GRSM biodiversity project. Workshops are being planned to tackle such issues as study design, databasing, public outreach and the World Wide Web, collecting, sorting, and curating specimens, among other issues.

A formal announcement of the start of the Smokies ATBI will be made at a special 24 April event that will be attended by Bob Stanton, the director of the National Park Service. This event will dovetail with Director Stanton's announcement of his new initiative on natural resources in the Park Service.

The objective of an ATBI is to inventory all the biodiversity within a specific geographic area. In addition to the basic research of collecting, identifying, describing, and documenting information on each species, the park envisions conducting an inventory with a strong educational component that will increase the public's general understanding of the diversity of life and the benefits to society from conserving biodiversity within our parks.

By using the World Wide Web and other means to disseminate information, the Park proposes to make nature more accessible to the general public and scientific communities alike. One goal is to use modern technology and information systems to allow Park visitors to identify most of the species within the Park and access information on the natural history of each species.

GRSM will gather and disseminate information on the identification, natural history, whereabouts, and known characteristics and uses of each species. The ATBI will give resource managers a fuller understanding of the complexity of ecological communities and thus help them to conserve species and improve ecosystem health.

estimated nine million visitors per year, more than any other national park worldwide. Because of the Park's central location, many species occurring in the eastern United States are likely to be included in the Park's ATBI. Finally, the Park is biologically rich, possibly containing 100,000 species.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN NATIVE PLANT INITIATIVE

The need for SAMAB's involvement in a native plant initiative grew out of a September SAMAB sponsored 1996 Biocontrol workshop in which those attending agreed that the invasion of non-native species was the greatest threat to the region's flora and fauna. The group also agreed that public outreach was needed to help combat this ever-growing problem. In August 1997, a group of biologists and educators met to discuss what role SAMAB could play in this effort and what the priorities should be. These initiatives are outlined in the SAMAB Program of Work.

The first and main project is based on the well organized efforts of the National Native Plant Initiative. SAMAB plans to follow their lead and coordinate a Southern Appalachian Native Plant Initiative. The SAMAB Executive Committee has agreed to join the National Initiative so the Regional Initiative can "piggy-back" on the National group's ongoing projects that include numerous outreach materials. Additionally, many of the partners involved in the National initiative are located in the Southern Appalachians. It is our hope to work closely with those groups to develop a Regional Outreach Plan and outreach materials that can be shared among all those involved.

The Southern Appalachian Initiative will involve coordinating a Regional Outreach Strategy, the creation of outreach materials that can be used throughout the Region, creating a mechanism for sharing information about on-going efforts, and writing grants for future outreach initiatives. Some seed money has already been provided to develop basic outreach materials including tabletop exhibits, and several brochures. The brochures will provide information on natives vs. non-natives, list of native plant species, list of native substitutes for nonnatives, list of nurseries that specialize in native plants, and a list of demonstration areas. For this initiative to be successful we will need help. If you have information or contacts that may be helpful or you would like to be involved in developing the Regional Initiative, designing materials, reviewing materials, or just being on the mailing list to keep up with what is going on please contact Hilary Vinson. Hilary Vinson at 704/258-3939 ext.234 or e-mail: hilary_vinson@fws.gov.

There are still Watchable Wildlife Posters available to SAMAB members. They include the *StreamCafe* which depicts aquatic diversity in a swift-flowing stream; *Limestone Honeycomb* which shows a limestone cedar glade and cave; *Muddy Meanderings* explores the diversity in a slow-moving meandering river and bottomland forest; *Narrow Niches* depicts the life of a tiny catfish and freshwater mussel; *Tiny World Travelers* explores the life of a pair of scarlet tanagers; and *Trouble At Home* highlights four exotic species. All posters include background information and educational activities on the back.

The posters can be picked-up at the SAMAB spring planning meeting. To place an order and arrange a pick-up time, please call Hilary Vinson at 704/258-3939 ext.234 or e-mail: hilary_vinson@fws.gov.

To implement SAMAB's Watershed Conservation Initiative, we are forming a team of watershed advisors to help us develop an information clearing house and a website. Please volunteer to work with us, contact: Ruthanne Mitchell at ruthanne_mitchell@nps.gov.

It's easy to find information on water resources related subjects on the Internet. Several federal and state websites deliver useful news, data, and maps to gather water quality information. A starting point is EPA's *Clean Water Initiative* (<http://www.epa.gov/cleanwater/>) which will link up with EPA's Surf Your Watershed (http://www.epa.gov/surf/surf_search.html).

You can view maps of your watershed and review the Index of Watershed Indicators (the IWI or Index) which is the EPA's first national picture of watershed health. The Index organizes and presents aquatic resource information on a watershed basis. You can review information from your state agency, universities, and

organizations such as the Izaak Walton League.

Also look at The Nature Conservancy's *River of Life* web page:
www.consci.tnc.org/library/pubs/rivers/index.htm.

SAMAB PUBLISHES SUMMARY REPORT ON THE COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS WORKSHOP

Charlie Van Sickle (ret.USDA Forest Service/SAMAB Advisor) prepared the Summary Report on the Community Sustainability Indicators Workshop (held in Asheville in July 1997). Copies were mailed out to all the workshop participants. Additional copies were mailed to the Presidents Council on Sustainable Development, to the USDA Rural Development Program and to SAMAB Executive Committee Members. A few copies are available.

The report contains an overview of workshop's program and the procedures for determining the list of sustainable community indicators as they were finally developed by community representatives from Hancock and Sevier Counties in Tennessee, Buncombe, Swain, and Henderson Counties in North Carolina, Russell County, Virginia, and the City of Chattanooga.

Transition Team Looks at Options for SAMAB Cooperative's Future

With the upcoming retirement in December 1998 of Hubert Hinote, the Cooperative's Executive Director, SAMAB is looking at options for how this office will operate in the future. A Transition Team consisting of Karen Wade (NPS), Nancy Herbert (USFS), Jon Loney (TVA), Brian Cole (FWS), and Charlie Van Sickle (retired USFS/SAMAB) is evaluating alternatives for staffing and office location.

A discussion was held at the recent Executive Committee meeting in Atlanta on March 4. It was agreed that a more visible, accessible office is desirable for outreach and coordination with the SAMAB foundation as well as a closer working relationship with the Natural Resource Leaders group. An evaluation of the roles and responsibilities of the coordination office is also being undertaken by the working group.

The Transition Team is developing a recommended action plan to present at the next Executive Committee meeting (May 13 in Asheville at the North Carolina Arboretum from 1:00 to 4:00 pm).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

1998 promises to be an exciting time to be a part of the SAMAB team. Already, this year the SAMAB Foundation selected a new president, George Briggs, Executive Director of the North Carolina Arboretum. Also, the Foundation has selected some additional directors. Moreover, a transition team is hard at work looking at options for the SAMAB Cooperative's future (as I will be retiring as the executive director at the end of this year). Most importantly, however, is the program of work that is emerging for the next several years.

The Program of Work began to develop at the 1997 spring planning meeting. Discussed elsewhere in this newsletter are the three major focus areas that have emerged: (1) Native Plants and Exotic Species Initiative; (2) Watershed Conservation Initiative; and (3) Community Sustainable Development Initiative. An implementation phase for each of the initiatives is expected to emerge from this year's Spring Planning Meeting in Asheville on May 14 and 15 (see the lead article for details).

We are in the process of printing a succinct brochure on the work program and more details may be found on the SAMAB web page.

Already in 1998, there has been one significant event -- the briefing of the agency leaders in Atlanta on March 4. In this briefing, we reviewed some of the 1997 highlights, for example:

* The Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAMAB Policy Team) received the prestigious Hammer Award. This award was presented by a representative of Vice-President Gore in Atlanta in August. We continue to receive requests for the SAA, but unfortunately all the printed 5 volume sets have been distributed. There continues to

be a significant number of requests for the CDs and some are still available from the coordinating office.

*SAMAB sponsored two very successful workshops on the (1) *Integration of Human Health and Natural Resources* and (2) *Community Sustainability Indicators Workshop (Summary Report is discussed on p.5)*. Follow up activities have been approved by the Executive Committee. We are currently seeking ways to update and maintain the SAA database.

* As a result of SAMAB's institutional structure, programs and projects, and being viewed as a model to be emulated, its outreach and technology transfer functions continue to grow, for example: (1) we hosted delegations from India and Turkey, and made presentations to delegations from the Slovak Republic and Macedonia; (2) presented the SAMAB experience at the Glacier Bay-Admiralty Island area in Alaska, the Coastal Carolina area in Georgia, and the Voyageurs National Park area in Minnesota; (3) worked cooperatively with a number of regional and local groups such as SAMI, Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition, Western North Carolina Tomorrow, East Tennessee Tourism Coordinating Council, and a number of others.

* The SAMAB Foundation also played a significant role during 1997. It provided support to: the USMAB Biosphere Reserve Directorate, the Southeastern Natural Resources Leaders Group, and cosponsored with EPA and others the *EPA Pollution Prevention/Green Manufacturing Conference for Business and Industry*.

Mark your calendar -- see front page, and participate in the SAMAB program in 1998!

OUTSTANDING NATIONAL RESOURCE WATERS

The Tennessee Division of Water Pollution Control has nominated portions of the Little River, Abrams Creek, West Prong of the Little Pigeon River, and the Middle Prong of the Little Pigeon River to receive the classification of Outstanding National Resource Waters (ORNW).

The Obed River within the federal Wild and Scenic River, the Big South Fork of the Cumberland River within the Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area were also nominated for ORNW status.

The ORNW designation, which must be formally adopted by the Tennessee Water Quality Control Board, is based upon excellent water quality, ecological importance, outstanding scenery, and valuable public recreational opportunities. The rivers provide habitats for a very diverse community of plants and animals, including some endangered. The ORNW designation would give a special level of water quality protection in order to preserve these special places. Only portions of these streams within the parks were nominated.

Forest Service Offers "Passport in Time"

Volunteers can pick up a trowel and delve into North Carolina's past this Spring by signing up now through April 15 for an archaeological dig in the Nantahala National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service is sponsoring the excavation, held June 1-13 at Appletree Campground near Andrews, NC. The event is part of the Forest Service's nationwide program, "Passport in Time." The program gives volunteers an opportunity to assist in survey, excavation and restoration of significant historic and archaeological sites on public land. "Passport in Time" also unlocks the doors of Native American history. Volunteers can expect to find artifacts that could date from 200 to 10,000 years ago.

For more information, please contact Forest Archeologist Rodney Snedeker at 704-257-4255 or the information receptionist at 704-257-4200. Volunteers may pick up applications at Forest Service offices in Asheville or at the Wayah District Ranger Office in Franklin.

Making the SAA Database More Accessible to Communities

One of SAMAB's major goals is to encourage use of the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) database for

local decision-making and to continue to update and improve the database so that it remains a viable tool for resource conservation. Our Sustainable Development Initiative is one means of achieving this goal. SAMAB agencies are working with the Tennessee Conservation League, the Izaak Walton League, and the University of Tennessee to develop multi-resource atlases for counties in the Southern Appalachian Region. Work is currently underway in Cocke and Polk Counties in East Tennessee, to 1) identify what information from the SAA is most useful to communities; 2) what other information can be added to the currently available data; and 3) what is the best format to make the resource information available to local decision-makers (i.e. hard-copy published atlases, access to GIS through training, assistance in setting up computer facilities).

In Cocke County, SAMAB is working with TVA's Quality Communities Program, part of Economic Development. This program includes a series of facilitated workshops where local people identify a vision of what they would like their communities to look like in the future and also identify specific problems that are hindering the achievement of this vision. Through this process, SAMAB partners hope to gain insight into what might be useful indicators of sustainability. In an iterative process we will develop a set of GIS coverages that will empower the people of Cocke County to make informed decisions about future development opportunities.

The University of Tennessee, Department of Forestry, Wildlife, and Fisheries is taking the lead in working with community leaders in Polk County. As in Cocke County, the goal is to assess what is the communities' vision of a desirable future and through an iterative process, identify suitable indicators that will help track progress toward that future. Other partners in Polk County include the Tennessee Conservation League and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency through their involvement in the Tennessee Gap Analysis Program. For more information on this initiative contact: Betsy Smith at ersmith22@tn.gov.

Riparian Restoration Partnership: Cartoogechaye Creek, Macon County, NC

Coweeta Hydrological Laboratory is measuring the restoration efforts being conducted on Cartoogechaye Creek, a tributary of the Little Tennessee River in Macon County, NC, near the town of Franklin. This multi-partner project includes: the Southwestern North Carolina Research Council, the Macon Soil and Water Conservation District, the Little Tennessee Watershed Association, the Southern Highlands Conservancy, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Duke Power Company, and the US EPA.

Calendar

April 19-24: International Bear Conference in Gatlinburg (423-974-0739)

April 25: Earth Day in the Smokies (423-494-7008)

April 21: Hiwassee Interagency Team meeting in Cleveland, TN (423-751-3747)

May 3-6: National Conference on Environmental Decision Making (www.ncdr.org)

May 13: SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting in Asheville (423-436-1701)

June 23-24: North Carolina Stream Restoration and Protection Workshop, NC Cooperative Extension Service/NC State University (337-401-8025)

July 23-25: Native Plant Conference-Western Carolina University, Sue Deetz, 828-227-7397

August 12: SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting in Cleveland, TN

Nov. 4-6: SAMAB Annual Fall Conference in Gatlinburg 423-436-1701

SAMAB NEWS

SAMAB email: samab@ix.netcom.com
 WebPage <http://sunsite.utk.edu/neighborhoods/SAMAB/samab/>

1314 Cherokee Orchard Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738
 Phone (423) 436-1701 FAX (423) 436-5598

Calendar

Southeast Water Supply Symposium August 24-26 in Chattanooga. Contact David Feldman, Energy, Environment & Resources Center, UTK at 423-974-4252

2nd Annual Statewide Watershed Conference, June 19-20 in Salisbury, NC. Contact: Save Our Rivers, Inc. at 828-369-7877

15th Annual Landscaping with Native Plants Conference, July 22-25 in Cullowhee, NC. Contact Sue Dietz at 828-227-7397

SAMAB Fall Conference: Call for Papers Deadline August 15. See SAMAB Web Page for details.

American Water Resources Association Annual Conference, Nov. 15-19 in Point Clear, AL.

George Wright Society: Call for Papers. Visit the conference Web Page: www.portup.com/~gws/gws99.html

SAMAB 9th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE, November 4-6, Gatlinburg, TN, Days Inn-Glenstone Lodge

SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting is scheduled for August 5 at the U.S. Forest Service Office in Cleveland, TN.

See the Announcement about the SAMAB Executive Director Position on the SAMAB Web Page <http://sunsite.utk.edu/neighborhoods/SAMAB/samab/>

Spring Planning Meeting Highlights Three SAMAB Initiatives for 1998-2000

George Briggs, Director of the North Carolina Arboretum welcomed an enthusiastic crowd to the annual Spring Planning Meeting on May 14th. Karen Wade, Chair of the Executive Committee, and Nancy Herbert, Vice-Chair set the tone for the two day event by presenting a background on the three Program of Work initiatives.

Hilary Vinson, Environmental Education Committee Chair, discussed the progress of the Native Plants and Exotic Species Initiative. Outreach Coordinator, Ruthanne Mitchell, and "Chip" Ramsey, Resources Management Committee spoke about organizing the Watershed Initiative. Current activities under the Sustainable Development Initiative were outlined by Betsy Smith, Research and Monitoring Committee.

The Working Committees met in the afternoon and reported back to the assembly. A guided tour of the NC Arboretum concluded the first day's program. Initiative Discussion Sessions on Friday morning, May 15 were energetic and productive. Each discussion group sent a report back to the SAMAB Executive Committee. Those reports are included in this newsletter.



Watershed Conservation Initiative Discussion

Twenty-three people participated in the Watershed Initiative Discussions. Everyone was asked to describe their agency or organization's activities and to consider the types of information to include in the SAMAB Watershed Clearinghouse Web site. In addition, Briane Adams of USGS presented a video entitled "U.S. Regional Climate Impact Workshops." Adams asked for volunteers to assist with local arrangements for the American Water Resources Association Symposium scheduled for next Spring in Gatlinburg. SAMAB will cosponsor the event.

The watershed discussion group selected the following activities to implement SAMAB's Watershed Initiative:

- 1) Publicize the Backyard Conservation Kit developed by USDA-NRCS and others. Consult the NRCS Web Page, <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/Backyard.html> or order the \$12.00 video and booklet by calling 1-800-825-5547, extension 32.

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2) Focus on grazing lands information and coordinate with SAMAB's Resources Management Committee.

3) Encourage and support the Clean Water Action Plan. Gather and disseminate information on riparian restoration and protection. Keep up with the latest restoration techniques.

4) Provide information for community organizations, contractors, developers, county and state highway engineers about best management practices.

5) List restoration projects and accomplishments on the SAMAB Web Page.

6) Identify educational materials, workshops, seminars, and relevant publications for the SAMAB Clearinghouse Web page.

7) Coordinate with the discussion group participants and establish working relationships with SAMAB's Executive Committee and the working committees.

8) Organize a session for SAMAB's Fall Conference. Katherine Baer, Upper Chattahoochee Riverkeeper and a participant in the discussion, volunteered to organize the session. For more information call her at 770-538-2619.

We need your assistance to collect the information needed for the Watershed Conservation Clearinghouse Web Page. As stated above, we will search for a variety of materials including: photographs, riparian restoration project reports, community accomplishments, news items, and sources of educational materials.

Anyone who wants to help maintain this Web Page should call the

SAMAB Coordinating Office. Please contribute to this initiative with your ideas and assistance. Contact Ruthanne Mitchell (NPS) at 423-436-1701 or Chip Ramsey (NRCS) at 423-525-9361 for more details.



Native Plant Outreach

Representatives attending this discussion included state and federal partners, Western North Carolina Tomorrow, and the University of Tennessee- Knoxville. Private interest groups including regional nurseries, landscaping businesses, and educational institutions will be included in the development and review of the outreach materials. To begin the meeting the group reviewed the initiative's Vision and Goals:

Vision:

Reduce the use of invasive non-natives to protect native flora and fauna, thus promoting regional biodiversity and restoring native ecosystems.

Goals: Form a regional coalition among scientists, agencies, and private and commercial interest groups to share expertise, resources, and time to coordinate a native plant outreach effort.

- Educate the public, policymakers, and land managers about the advantages of native plants, and disadvantages of invasive non-native plants.

- Facilitate commercial interest in promoting native plants for landscaping use.

- The group then discussed the target audiences and proposed projects.

- The target audiences include home owners, nursery owners, landscape architects, landscaping businesses, farmers and other large land owners, Department of Transportation, extension service, and County soil conservation offices.

Activities and projects begun to meet the initiative's goals for this year include: involving stakeholders, completing the Southern Appalachian Native Plant Outreach Initiative Strategy; developing a basic homeowners brochure, a detailed landscapers brochure, traveling exhibits, and slide show, and submitting grant applications for future projects.

Proposed projects for next year, contingent on funding, include: expanding the Tennessee Exotic Pest Plant Manual and developing fact sheets from it; developing a booklet with detailed planting information on native plants; planning and implementing a public outreach campaign through TV, radio, and printed media; organize native plant demonstration areas; and facilitate native /invasive non-native plant workshops for various audiences.

Stephanie Wilds of Blue Star Consulting volunteered to compile native plants lists to be used in a brochure for homeowners interested in planting natives in their backyard and a brochure for landscape architects and businesses.

The group discussed the difficulty of planting natives in many yards because of poor soils in developed areas. Another potential difficulty with planting natives successfully is the numerous geographic variables throughout the Southern Ap-

palachians, including aspect, elevation, moisture, etc. It was decided to include other site specific categories to make growing natives more feasible.

A list of alternative native plants for invasive non-native plants will be developed by Robin Suggs of the Yellow Creek Botanical Institute and Phillip Gibson of WNC Tomorrow.

Methods to inform the public to avoid planting non-natives were discussed. Suggestions included 'Wanted' posters, and a fact sheet featuring the worst exotics and best natives. We discussed providing this information on various web sites in the region.

If you are interested in receiving and commenting on these outreach products and the plan please call Hilary Vinson at 828-258-2929 ext.234 or e-mail: hilary_vinson@fws.com. Please provide your name, affiliation, and mailing address in order to receive the materials.

Tennessee Exotic Pest Plants Council President's Message from Kristine Johnson

The annual TNEPPC symposium, held March 26-28 in Chattanooga, provided a unique opportunity for exchange of information and generating energy for our organization in the coming year. The meeting brought together two complimentary spheres of interest - managing exotic species and landscaping with natives - in a city dedicated to environmental quality and sustainable growth.

Darrel Morrison's (University of Georgia) keynote address illustrated the tremendous potential offered by native species and ecosystems in landscaping.

Other speakers, including David Webb of TVA and John Englert of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, presented new developments in the technology of using native species in revegetation and restoration.

Joyce Bender of Kentucky's State Nature Preserves, Lisa Jamison from the Blue Ridge Parkway, and Nancy Fraley of UT Botany Dept. presented examples of their work in survey and eradication; we heard from the research contingent as USFS scientists described chemical and biological control of kudzu and Bernd Blossey of Cornell discussed biological control of purple loosestrife.

Altogether there were 18 speakers and over 120 participants, representing a wide variety of educational institutions, state and federal agencies, private businesses and media organizations.

The last event of the symposium was a roundtable discussion led by Brian Bowen on the establishment of a regional EPPC for the southeast.

Interesting Web Pages

USGS Biological Resources Division
National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII)

<http://www.nbio.gov/clearinghouse.html>

National Park Service - **Native Plant Conservation Initiative**

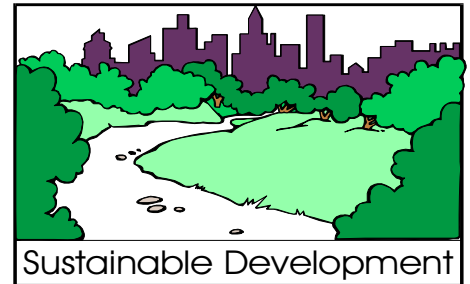
<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/npci>

National Library for the Environment

<http://www.cnle.org>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Clean Water Action Plan

<http://www.epa.gov/cleanwater/>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

SAMAB Chattanooga Indicators Task Force Announced

Individuals are being sought from several SAMAB member institutions to participate with The Chattanooga Institute to formulate indicators of environmental sustainability as part of their Sustainable Chattanooga Program. The concept is to team up technical specialists from SAMAB member federal and state agencies with appropriate local expertise to explore the potential formulation of appropriate indicators of environmental sustainability.

Critical themes to be covered include open lands, rivers and trails, agricultural resources, natural ecosystems, wildlife habitat, rare and endangered species habitat, surface and ground water quality and air quality. The primary source of data for the work will be that assembled for the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) by the SAMAB member institutions.

Along with helping Chattanooga, the effort is seen as an opportunity to explore how to apply the SAA data base at the community level. The first meeting of the task force is scheduled for June 25 at the office of The Chattanooga Institute. For information contact John Peine at 423-974-5229.

Committee Reports

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The committee met with the Public Affairs Committee and discussed how to support one another. One idea was expanding the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service public radio commentary *Southern Appalachian Creature Feature* to SAMAB partners. To find out more about the commentaries call Hilary Vinson at 828-258-3939, ext. 234 or Email to hilary_vinson@fws.gov.

The committee's primary focus is the Southern Appalachian Native Plant Outreach Initiative, for which additional assistance and funding sources are needed (see article on page 2).

ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

The committee plans to send letters of invitation to environmental coordinators and preparers of environmental reviews seeking papers for the SAMAB Fall Conference, Nov. 4-6 in Gatlinburg. Papers on recent National Environmental Policy Act reviews, Endangered Species Act consultations, permitting reviews, and National Historic Preservation Act consultations in the 6-state SAMAB region will be sought.

The committee will support the SAMAB Program of Work initiatives by providing lists of recent and ongoing environmental reviews related to the three initiatives. The primary effort will be placed on reviews related to stream restoration and exotic species control which will enhance the economic and environmental health of the region. For information contact: Harold Draper at 423-632-6889 or Email hmdraper@tva.gov.

RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The working session of the committee focused on selecting action items to support the SAMAB Program of Work. Issues of concern to the group are: 1) reintroduction of elk; 2) Backyard Conservation program from the National Association of Conservation Districts, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service - <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/Backyard.html>; 3) grazing land; 4) coordination and dissemination of resource/environmental information and assistance available; 5) emphasizing resource management as it affects threatened and endangered species; 6) promoting the control of exotic pests; and 7) promoting riparian zone restoration and protection. Contact "Chip" Ramsey at 423-523-3338 for more information.

RESEARCH AND MONITORING COMMITTEE AND GIS SUBCOMMITTEE

The SAA Data Base was the topic of the joint committee meeting. The discussions focused on (1) brainstorming for ideas, projects, and funding, (2) deciding what to work on besides the SAMAB initiatives, and (3) figuring how to keep the SAA data updated, useful, and used by more people. Allen Ratzlaff (US Fish & Wildlife Service) suggested that improvement of the SAA data base be a committee initiative.

The SAA data base has been relatively static since 1996. Mechanisms were discussed to update it, make more data available through internet, and promote more analytical use. The need to prioritize areas and fill important gaps was also discussed. To do this, knowledge on the use and need of SAMAB data (and local applications) is essential as well as where data may be found and how it may be regularly updated. This clearly needs to be a round table approach. Please contact Betsy Smith by Email (ersmith22@tva.gov) for more information.

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

Members of the committee did not meet during the spring Planning Meeting on May 14. Members continue to support the Sustainable Development Initiative through the identification of "Community Treasures" to support historic preservation. Contact Ruthanne Mitchell at 423-436-1701 about a date for the next committee meeting.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

The following work program was identified by the Public Affairs committee:

- Participate in the Fall Conference Planning effort.
- Develop slide presentation on SAMAB to reflect current SAMAB initiatives.
- Provide editing and layout for Executive Director's Annual Report.
- Provide support to SAMAB's three initiatives: Native Plants and Exotic Species, Sustainable Development, and Watershed. This could include brochures, publicity and press releases about accomplishments and activities.
- Recruit participation from other agencies to the public affairs committee. Match up new members with specific action items.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Program of Work Prepared: Help Needed to Implement

In the September 1996 Newsletter, the headline for my report stated "Its Time to get our Action Plan Together." I am pleased to report that we have done just that! Those of you who regularly read this newsletter realize that SAMAB began a process at its Spring 1997 Planning Meeting. A "Program of Work: 1998-2000" has now been published (copies may be obtained from the Coordinating Office). The 1998 planning Meeting highlighted the three initiatives outlined in the Program of Work and began to initiate implementation activities. Various aspects of these efforts are reported elsewhere in this newsletter.

In the December 1966 newsletter, the headline for my report stated "Why not have a Volunteers for SAMAB?" Although SAMAB never formulated a volunteers program, per se, a few individuals did step forward and have made valuable contributions. Implementing the 1998-2000 work plan will require many different skills and many person-hours. Now is the time to step forward and offer your talents and time – whether you are a state employee, federal employee, community leader, or just want to see more projects and programs implemented "on the ground." The one criticism that I must often hear is that SAMAB "does not put enough projects on the ground." To put projects "on the ground" requires resources and people, mostly people; therefore please step forward and offer your services and we will see a lot more "projects on the ground." Please read this newsletter carefully, evaluate where you can provide guidance and assistance, and then call one of the leaders and/or the coordinating office to offer your help.

The SAMAB program has grown to such an extent that the coordinating office, with at most two positions, cannot effectively carry out all the functions that have been delegated to it. One area where immediate help is needed is the planning and organization for the 9th Annual Fall Conference -- November 4-6 in Gatlinburg, the Call for Papers and Posters can be found on page 6 of this newsletter. Additional help is needed on the planning committee, help is needed to review abstracts, help is needed with organizing the poster session, etc.

"SAMAB's stature continues to grow" – this is the message that some would say sounds like a broken record repeating itself. It is however, a true message. Just a few examples might illustrate this point:

1) SAMAB will cosponsor with the American Water Resources Association, in Gatlinburg in the Spring of 1999, a symposium on "Water Resource Management in a Changing Climate."

2) The President's Council on Sustainable Development will be holding a "Summit on Sustainable Development" in Detroit on May 3-5, 1999 (this summit is now called "National Town Meetings for a New American Dream"). The Energy, Environment and Resources Center at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville, the Chattanooga Institute, and SAMAB are being asked to host an event(s) in conjunction with the "Summit."

3) The Gatlinburg Chamber of Commerce, Gatlinburg Tourism Advisory Board, and SAMAB has formed a team to support an effort on "Land Use and Economic Development Assessment" for the city. Mr. Luther Propst, Executive Director of the Sonoran Institute and a co-author of a recently published book entitled Balancing Nature and Commerce in Gateway Communities, will lead the effort. If this effort moves forward as expected, it could be a model for several of the "gateway" communities to parks and national forests throughout the Appalachians.

4) A book entitled Ecosystem Management for Sustainability Principles and Practices Illustrated by a Regional Biosphere Reserve Cooperative has recently been published by CRC Press LLC. This book edited by Dr. John Peine, of the USGS Biological Resources Division and a supporter of SAMAB since its inception, offers a case study approach to implementing the principles of sustainable living and ecosystem management. SAMAB is the case study with chapters written by members of the "SAMAB family." All proceeds from the book are being contributed to the SAMAB Foundation.

5) At the request of the Appalachian Studies Association, whose executive offices are located at West Virginia University and whose membership consists of about 600 scholars, teachers, and regional leaders, SAMAB will cosponsor in the Spring of 2000 in Knoxville, the Appalachian Studies Conference.

Call for Papers & Posters:

Fall Conference Theme: **Think Clean, Think Native, Think Sustainable**

You are invited to submit abstracts that relate to the conference theme: "Think Clean, Think Native, Think Sustainable." This theme is linked to SAMAB's three initiatives for 1998-2000: Native Plants and Exotic Species, Sustainable Development, and Watershed Conservation.

We intend to share information and research activities with students, scholars, private and community-based organizations, private land owners, public land managers, government agencies, and industry in support of natural and cultural resources management in the Southern Appalachian region.

Guidelines for Papers and Posters

A one page abstract for papers is required and oral presentations will not exceed 20 minutes. Please submit your abstract by Email to: samab@ix.netcom.com. Include the following

information: your name, abstract title, organization or institution, address, email address, phone and fax numbers. Describe any audio-visual equipment needed.

Poster size must be specified in your abstract. SAMAB cooperating agencies have a limited number of free-standing display units. You should consider bringing your own exhibit or display units to the conference.

Deadline: Submit abstract by August 15, 1998. Notification of abstract accepted: September 15, 1998. A draft agenda will be posted on the SAMAB Web Page in early September; a final agenda will be available in early October.

Email abstracts to: <Samab@ix.netcom.com>. For additional information, please call the SAMAB office at 423-436-1701.

SAMAB 9th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE, November 4-6, Gatlinburg, TN, Days Inn-Glenstone Lodge

*Tennessee
North Carolina
Georgia
State Members*

*Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Department of Energy's
Biological Resources Division
Water Resources Division &
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Appalachian Regional Commission
Economic Development Administration
Tennessee Valley Authority
Conservation Service
U.S.D.A. Natural Resources
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
National Park Service
Federal Members*

**SAMAB
1314 Cherokee Orchard Rd.
Gatlinburg, TN 37738**



September 1998

SAMAB NEWS

SAMAB email: samab@ix.netcom.com
WebPage <http://sunsite.utk.edu/neighborhoods/SAMAB/samab/>

1314 Cherokee Orchard Road, Gatlinburg, TN 37738
Phone (423) 436-1701 FAX (423) 436-5598

Calendar

SAMAB Executive Committee

Meets - Nov. 3, 1998 from 1:30 to 5:00 pm at the Glenstone Inn in Gatlinburg.

SAMAB Fall Conference Nov. 4-6, 1998 in Gatlinburg, TN at the Glenstone Inn (see draft agenda inside)

American Water Resources Association Annual Conference, Nov. 15-19 in Point Clear, AL.

George Wright Society: Call for Papers. Visit the conference Web Page: www.portup.com/~gws/webgs99.html

Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition 4th Annual GRASSROOTS Conference - Sept. 25-27. Contact SAFC office (828) 252-9223.

Call for Papers: Appalachian Studies Conference - March 19-21, 1999 in Abingdon, VA. contact Tal Stanley at Emory & Henry College (540) 944-6817.

SAMI Winter Meeting - Nov. 16-18, 1998 at the Glenstone Lodge in Gatlinburg, TN. Contact: sami@landofsky.org

Southeast Water Pollution Biologists Association Meeting in Helen, Ga on Nov. 2-5. Contact (404)656-4905

Karen Wade Appoints Committee To Select New SAMAB Executive Director

SAMAB Executive Committee Chair Karen Wade announced that a small working committee was appointed to review the "expressions of interest" received for the new Executive Director to replace Hubert Hinote who retires at the end of the year. Nancy Herbert is heading the committee reviewing information provided by approximately 40 well qualified candidates. Evaluation criteria were prepared and presented at the August 5 Executive Committee Meeting in Cleveland, Tenn. The preliminary rankings of applicants was shared with SAMAB Executive Committee members. Based on responses received from the full committee, the working group narrowed the list down to six final candidates. A new Executive Director will be selected after interviews with these finalists. Herbert expects the committee will name the new SAMAB Executive Director by mid-November.

Sustainable Indicators Task Force Prepares Maps for Chattanooga Region

The SAMAB Sustainable Indicators Task Force is making progress in it's working relationship with Chattanooga. Rick Durbrow and his colleagues of EPA Region IV are using the SAA GIS data base to produce a series of maps for the four county metropolitan region. Their work will be utilized in the development of county-wide land use plans as required by the new Tennessee Growth Policy Act. This should be of help to all 36 Tennessee counties in the SAMAB region. The Task Force will be identifying good indicators of land use change.

Allen Ratzlaff of the USFWS is evaluating habitat requirements of species of concern such as threatened and endangered. TVA's Dennis Yankee and Linda Harris are working to identify indicators of water quality. A key component here is to link the land use and water quality via the condition of the riparian zone. Water quality is a particularly difficult topic but there is a large amount of data available. EPA staff will also be looking at defining cumulative risk indices from the toxic release inventory data. This will help the water quality component of the program.

Louis Kearney of the USFS is coordinating a review of state forest inventories and the USFS funded City Green project ongoing in Chattanooga to look for relevant indicators. Kathy Daugherty of NRCS is compiling a series of indicators concerning resources related to agriculture and characterization of the agricultural industry in the region.

All in all, a productive working relationship has begun among the SAMAB member institutions and the city of Chattanooga. The next meeting of the Task Force is scheduled for September 24 at The Chattanooga Institute from 10:00am til 3:00pm.

North Carolina Watershed Coalition, Inc. Is Officially Formed

Following three years of networking and planning, North Carolina Watershed Coalition, Inc. was officially formed at the Second Statewide Watershed Conference held at Catawba College in Salisbury, NC, in June. The statewide organization is committed to the conservation, protection, and enhancement of NC's watersheds and their rivers and streams. It does so by encouraging the founding and growth of local groups devoted to those ends through information sharing and cooperation.

Peg Jones, president of Save Our Rivers, Inc., was chosen to be Executive Director. Ann Seaton, who had served as secretary-treasurer of the Little Tennessee Watershed Association, was asked to be treasurer of the group, also serving on the board of directors. Dr. John Wear of Catawba College was chosen as President, with Steve Johnson of Duke Power Company to serve as Vice-President. Also represented on the board of directors are Trout Unlimited, the NC Zoo, Land-of-Sky Regional Council, Cape Fear River Assembly, Neuse River Foundation, and the Rockingham County Watershed Preservation Committee.

Both having worked with the formation of the new organization, Jones and Seaton are pleased to be in leadership roles, knowing the importance of keeping pollution out of the rivers from their headwaters. Serving as members of the Little Tennessee River Basin Non-Point Source Team, they have worked with TVA and others to prevent erosion and to procure funding and programs for environmental education to do so.

With nine NC river basins being located in the SAMAB region, the NC Watershed Coalition can assist involvement of citizens, agencies, universities, and other stakeholders in becoming aware of problems of silt, trash and toxins going into our rivers. Using a GIS map of the state showing the 17 river basins, each in a different color, the Coalition is educating those upstream to become more responsible to those downstream. The map easily shows whether the rivers flow to the Atlantic Ocean or the 1,500 mile trip to the Gulf of Mexico. Even children can easily pick up the watershed concept by being shown where they are on a map, in respect to the ridge lines and the towns located upstream and downstream.

The Coalition will have a web-site which will list activities in North Carolina and beyond. The address will be posted in a future publication. For more information regarding North Carolina Watershed Coalition, Inc., call 828-369-7877 or 828-524-6981 or e-mail at rivers@dnet.net or aseaton@dnet.net



FIRST GOVERNMENT REGULATION

Source: EPA's Non-Point source listserv
npsinfo@valley.rtpnc.epa.gov
by Barry Tanning of Kentucky:

--Governor Gage of Virginia,
Proclamation for Jamestown, Va.
(1610)

"There shall be no man or woman dare to wash any unclean linen, wash clothes, nor rinse or make clean any kettle, pot, or pan or any suchlike vessel within twenty feet of the old well or new pump. Nor shall anyone aforesaid, within less than a quarter mile of the fort, dare to do the necessities of nature, since by these unmanly, slothful, and loathsome immodesties, the whole fort may be choked and poisoned."

ON THE INTERNET

River Network at
www.rivernet.org

Appalachian Studies Association
www.wvu.edu/~appalach/index.html

EPA's Grant Writing Tutorial at
www.epa.gov/seahme/grants/src/open.htm

USGS Biological Resources Division Project Summaries On the Internet

USGS Biological Resources Division (BRD) is trying to make its research activities known to the world through their Science Information System (SIS) on the Internet. BRD's mission is "to work with others to provide scientific understanding and technologies needed to support the management and conservation of our nation's biological resources. The SIS WWW site can be used to extract summaries of BRD project work. The SIS is hosted at the USDA and is a cooperative effort between the USDA and the USGS. You are invited to visit the SIS WWW site often and to encourage your friends and colleagues to do the same <<http://cristel.nal.usda.gov:8080/star/brd.htm>>. You can also click on "Current Projects (SIS)" link of the BRD Home Page, which is located at <<http://biology.usgs.gov>>.



EPA Sustainable Development Challenge Grant (SDCG) Program

EPA announced the FY 1998 program deadline for submitting proposals. Detailed guidance information is available via the Internet at: www.epa.gov/ecocommunity.

The Sustainable Development Grant Program notice was published in the Federal Register on August 24, 1998.

EPA is soliciting proposals and has a total of \$5 million available for this program in FY 1998. The program provides an opportunity to develop place-based approaches to problem solving that can be replicated in other communities.

Approaches should address problems related to current patterns of growth and public investment/disinvestment that accelerate loss of open space and wetlands, fragment habitat, and increase consumption of fossil fuels for energy and transportation.

The program encourages partnering among community members, business and government entities to work cooperatively.

Applicants may compete for funding in two ranges: (1) requesting \$50,000 or less, and (2) requesting between \$50,000 and \$200,000.

Project proposals must be postmarked by November 24, 1998. For additional information contact: Annette N. Hill, US EPA ERgion 4-OPM, 61 Forsyth Street, S.W., Atlanta, GA 30303, (404) 562-8287.

Report: EuroMAB Biosphere Reserve Coordinators' Meeting in Finland

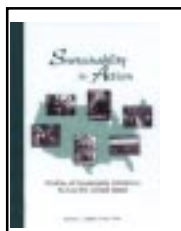
The third EuroMAB Biosphere Reserve Coordinators' Meeting was held August 31 through September 5 in Finland. There were over 100 individuals (primarily Biosphere Reserve Coordinators) from 24 different countries. U.S. MAB sent 2 representative-both from SAMAB.

Hubert Hinote made a presentation "The Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve Experience" on the opening day of the meeting. His examples of the SAMAB Cooperative interactions which have resulted in significant products (e.g., posters, assessments, databases, handouts, etc) was impressive. The SAMAB Program of Work generated much interest among other Biosphere Reserve Coordinators and many expressed the intent to do something similar for their reserve. Hubert also participated in a working group on "Tourism".

Pat Parr participated in the pre-meeting email discussion groups on Biosphere Reserve management with respect to science and research. Her input and examples of approaches used at the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park Biosphere Reserve were included in the preliminary draft distributed at the meeting. As a result of her early involvement, Pat was invited to attend the EuroMAB meeting where she participated in the working group "Science and Local Involvement" and assisted in preparing recommendations from the coordinators to the EuroMAB Committee and UNESCO.

While the recommendations are not yet finalized, key points and concerns raised by EuroMAB Biosphere Reserve managers do not differ considerably from what we deal with at SAMAB. Issues include: funding (how to get it), support from higher levels (need it), communication (among and about reserves), data (what's available, identify gaps, prioritize needs), improved integration with the Biosphere Reserve's human component, initiation of inter-Biosphere Reserve research programs, and WWW (updating and expanding information).

Other recommendations include: establishing a Scientific Advisory Committee for Biosphere Reserves (similar to SAMAB's Research and Monitoring Committee) along with a Manager's Board (similar to SAMAB's Executive Committee); preparing regular updates of on-going research; developing and publishing case studies of Biosphere Reserves that demonstrate successful approaches to local involvement; pursuing increased tourism (sustainable); and, implementing the Seville Strategy.



Sustainable Communities Case Studies Available on the Internet

Sustainability in Action features 51 casestudies (one for each state and the District of Columbia), originally written in 1995 and updated in 1998. Each case study is two pages in length including update, and provides current contact information (including email and web site addresses) and capsule summaries of participants, project type, methods used, and lessons learned. It is available at no charge on the Sustainable Communities web site (<http://www.sustainable.org>) as a PDF file, or in print (110 pp.) from the Community Sustainability Contact: Susanna MacKenzie Euston at Community Sustainability Resource Institute, PO Box 981, Arden, NC 28704. Email: sustain@primeline.com

9th ANNUAL SAMAB CONFERENCE

November 4-6, 1998
Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Conference Theme:
Think Clean, Think Native, Think Sustainable

Who Should Attend?

Cultural and Natural Resource managers, planners, consultants including local, state, and federal government agency staff
Students, researchers, and educators, Community and environmental groups, Policy makers and elected officials, And the general public interested in cultural and natural resources management, environmental issues, and sustainable economic community development

Day's Inn Glenstone Lodge
504 Airport Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738
Call 1-800-362-9522 for Room Reservations (mention SAMAB)

Room Rates for the SAMAB Conference: Group rate of \$54.00 per room daily, one to four person occupancy. This rate will apply to king or double queen room types. Current room sales tax is 11.5%. If your organization qualifies for a tax exempt status, the hotel will need a copy of your Tennessee Tax Exempt Certificate .

Conference Registration fee:

Federal and State employees \$45.00
General public, retirees, and students \$25.00
Fee covers cost of the Proceedings publication and other conference supplies and materials.



SAMAB Coordinating Office
423-436-1701
FAX: 423-436-5598
Email: samab@ix.netcom.com



1998 SAMAB Conference Registration Form Nov. 4-6, 1998

Name _____

Organization or Agency _____

Street Address or PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone _____

FAX _____

Email _____

Complete this form and send it with your check or purchase order made payable to the SAMAB Foundation

SAMAB Foundation
1314 Cherokee Orchard Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

The SAMAB Foundation cannot accept credit cards.



9TH ANNUAL SAMAB CONFERENCE



**NOVEMBER 4-6, 1998 GATLINBURG, TN
DAYS INN - GLENSTONE LODGE**

Preliminary Agenda

Tuesday, Nov. 3

5:00 - 7:00 pm **Open Registration,**
5:00 - 9:00 **Poster Setup, and Refreshments**

Wednesday, Nov. 4

8:30 - 12:00 **Plenary Session**

Welcome & Announcements - Karen Wade, Supt. Great Smoky Mountains N. P.
Keynote Speakers - Wilma Dykeman, regional author & newspaper columnist
- Elizabeth Estill, Regional Forester, USDA Forest Service
Others to be announced

12:00-1:30 Lunch on your own

Wednesday, Nov. 4

1:30 - 5:00 Concurrent Session: **Forest Planning - Public Involvement**
Concurrent Session: **Chattanooga Sustainability Indicators**

5:00 - 7:00 Gala Social Event - Reception at the MEGA MAX Theater

Thursday, Nov. 5

8:30 - 9:00 **Guest Speaker: Commissioner Milton H. Hamilton, Jr.**
Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

9:00 - 12:00 Concurrent Session: **Environmental Coordination**
Concurrent Session: **Sustainable Development**

12:00 - 1:00 Lunch on your own

1:00 - 5:00 Concurrent Session: **Watershed Conservation**
Concurrent Session: **Sustainable Development**

5:30 - 7:30 **Interactive Poster Session** - Presentors must be present
Cash Bar

Friday, Nov. 6

8:30 - 9:00 Guest Speaker to be announced

9:00 - 11:30 Concurrent Session: **Appalachian Ecology & Native Plants**
Concurrent Session: **Appalachian Round Table**

11:30 - 12:00 **Charge Statement: Summary of Sessions**
12:00 Conference Adjourns



THE ALL TAXA BIODIVERSITY INVENTORY (ATBI) IN THE GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK IS NOW OFFICIAL!

A formal announcement of the multi-year project to inventory all life in the park was made on April 24, 1998 at the Twin Creeks Resource Center, in Gatlinburg. National Park Service Deputy Director, Denny Galvin, was in attendance, as well as many other Park Service officials, scientists representing a broad range of disciplines, and local and national media. The inventory is expected to take 10-15 years to complete and will be funded through a new volunteer science and education non-profit organization referred to as 'Discover Life in America' (DLIA). This group encompasses a variety of public and private financial sources, including Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. The park and DLIA will form a Cooperative Agreement to conduct this project, and currently, Keith Langdon, Supervisory Biologist for the park, and John Pickering, University of Georgia, are serving as co-coordinators.

Since the April announcement, there have been several developments. In May, at Western Carolina University, the first Board of Directors meeting was held. At this meeting, draft bylaws were adopted, and officers were elected. The officers of DLIA are as follows:

- Chairman John Pickering (University of Georgia, Athens)
- Vice Chairman Peter White (University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill)
- President Mary Williams (Board Member, Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park)
- Vice President Frank Harris (University of Tennessee, Knoxville)
- Secretary Tom Kiernan (National Parks and Conservation Association, Washington, D.C.)
- Treasurer Charles Maynard (Friends of Great Smoky Mountains National Park)

A website for the ATBI has been developed, and is accessible at www.discoverlife.org. The site gives details on the mission and recent activities, and also offers a way for anyone to get involved and receive updates by following the link to "get involved". Also, a brochure about the ATBI has been developed through the Great Smoky Mountains Natural History Association, and is available either by requesting one through the website, or by writing to:

ATBI—GSMNP 1314 Cherokee Orchard Road
Gatlinburg, TN 37738

A General Planning meeting will be held from 14-17 December 1998 in Gatlinburg, TN. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting, during which we will discuss the pilot field season, which is scheduled to begin in March 1999.

SAMAB 9th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE, November 4-6, Gatlinburg, TN, Days Inn-Glenstone Lodge (conference registration forum on page 4)

*Tennessee
North Carolina
Georgia
State Members*

*Oak Ridge National Laboratory
Department of Energy's
Biological Resources Division
Water Resources Division &
U.S. Geological Survey
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Appalachian Regional Commission
Economic Development Administration
Tennessee Valley Authority
Conservation Service
U.S.D.A. Natural Resources
U.S.D.A. Forest Service
National Park Service
Federal Members*

**SAMAB
1314 Cherokee Orchard Rd.
Gatlinburg, TN 37738**





<http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>

December 1998

SAMAB News

314 UT Conference Center, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138

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

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

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

9th Annual Fall Conference in Gatlinburg a Big Success

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

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

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

SAMAB's Executive Committee Selects New Executive Director

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FY 99 Project Needs Include:

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

Other Initiative Needs:

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

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

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

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

SAMAB 1998 Annual Conference Reports

Reports on Concurrent Sessions

Concurrent Session #1

Revising National Forest Plans

(Terry Seyden, Reporter and Terry Tipple, Moderator)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concurrent Session #3

Environmental Coordination

(Harold Draper, Reporter and Moderator)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concurrent Session #4: Appalachian Sustainability

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

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

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

Concurrent Session #5

Appalachian Watersheds

(Jack Ranney, Reporter and Greg Upham, Moderator)

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

Watershed Activity Coordination

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

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

Riparian (Watershed) Restoration

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

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

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

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

Watershed Education

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

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

Concurrent Session #6

Appalachian Sustainability Planning

(Pat Parr, Reporter - Stacy Fehlenberg Moderator)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Concurrent Session #7

Southern Appalachian Ecology

(Brian Cole, Reporter - Allen Ratzlaff, Modertor)

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

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

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

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

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

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Concurrent Session #8

Appalachian Studies Panel

(Richard Straw, Reporter and Moderator)

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

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

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

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

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

Interactive Poster Session

(Ruthanne L. Mitchell, Reporter and Moderator)

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

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

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

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

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

