

# SAMAB NEWS

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Website: http://samab.org/

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## **SPRING PLANNING MEETING AND ASSOCIATED SAMAB EVENTS**

Location: North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville

### **VISIONING / STRATEGIC PLANNING MEETING**

(SAMAB participants, especially Exec Cttee, Foundation Board, Initiative & Committee Chairs)  
May 1, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, + evening?

### **SAMAB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND FOUNDATION BOARD BUSINESS MEETING**

May 2, 8:30 - 11:30am

### **SPRING PLANNING MEETING**

(Open meeting for all current and prospective SAMAB participants)  
May 2, 1:00 - 5:00 pm; May 3, 8:30 am - 12:00 noon

### **APPALACHIAN TRAIL MONITORING PROJECT WORKSHOP**

(Invited participants)  
May 3 (pm) and May 4

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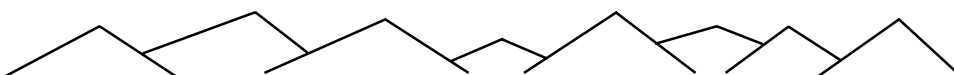


## **"SAA Update" Becomes "SARIS"**

In a culture in love with acronyms, let us offer yet another one: SARIS, the Southern Appalachian Regional Information System. SARIS is SAMAB's newly begun effort to improve access to spatial data and facilitate communication about the state of the region's natural resources. SARIS will build on the data of the Southern Appalachian Assessment, by making data that are more current and compliant with Federal data standards available.

SARIS team leader, Wolf Naegeli, explains that the vision for the new system is that "SARIS makes it so easy to access and understand geographic information that managers, planners, decision makers, and stakeholders at all levels of the public and private sectors use SARIS routinely to find ways of making ongoing and proposed activities more sustainable."

The SAA compiled data from a large number of data sets distributed across many agencies. Putting this data in one place in compatible formats and making them widely accessible were the primary benefits of the SAA. The five-volume SAA report has been used extensively by Federal land managers, state and local governments, non-governmental organizations, environmental consultants, researchers, ... "SARIS" continued on page 3



## **Stewardship Through Plantsmanship Symposium**

### *A Step Toward Improved Understanding and Cooperation*

About 130 people attended the "Stewardship Through Plantsmanship" symposium on invasive species held February 29 at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. Presentations and lively discussion centered on a wide range of issues surrounding definition, effects, introduction, and control of invasive plant species. The symposium was organized and co-sponsored by SAMAB, the Arboretum, and the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service with the intent of bringing together the range of perspectives about invasive species. A synopsis of the day is presented here.

Dick Bir of the NC Cooperative Extension Service and President of the NC Arboretum Society moderated the symposium. Peter White of the North Carolina Botanical Garden provided context with a discussion of how natural biotic communities have evolved, how we are poised for plant invasion by the tremendous increase in movement of plants around the world in trade, and methods the research community has developed for assessing or screening invasiveness of imported plants.

... "Stewardship" continued on page 3

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# SAMAB INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

by Rick Durbrow, Stacy Fehlenberg and John Peine

SAMAB's Sustainable Communities Initiative has as its primary goal combining agencies' expertise and resources to provide information and tools for Southern Appalachian communities to assess and plan their sustainability. Initiative co-leader, John Peine (USGS-BRD), and participants, Rick Durbrow and Stacy Fehlenberg (EPA Reg. IV), have a pilot project underway that aims to provide a simple tool for an individual, government planning unit, or non-profit organization to explore the extensive data compiled for the SAA. The team refers to the project as the Community Sustainability Information Access (CSIA) project.

In 1996, SAMAB accomplished a monumental task—the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA), recognized as an unprecedented interagency effort to gauge the health of natural resources. The Assessment's data is used routinely by agencies as diverse as the US Forest Service and the Knoxville Metropolitan Planning Commission. However, the Sustainable Communities Initiative identified a critical gap between the Geographical Information System (GIS) capacities of many organizations and their desire to create information they can use from the SAA data sets.

The CSIA system is devised to provide access to a wide range of information compiled in the SAA database in a straightforward manner. The initial pilot information sets are designed to be viewed with an Internet browser to provide easy access to information that acts as indicators of sustainability.

A prototype of the program was demonstrated at the SAMAB Fall Conference. The pilot demonstration area is

the greater metropolitan region of Chattanooga, TN (Hamilton County, TN and seven contiguous Tennessee and Georgia counties). This prototype benefits from the Initiative's earlier work with Chattanooga, as well as Polk and Cocke Counties in Tennessee. This focus of the Initiative derives, in fact, from a SAMAB-hosted Sustainability Indicators Workshop (1997) at which communities expressed a strong desire and need for tools to make information more accessible and usable for their planning activities.

For the prototype, SAA data is being updated and supplemented. There is considerable concern about urban sprawl among the citizenry in this area. Indicators can be crafted from multi-year data to illustrate trends in land use, environmental conditions, and social and economic conditions.

The prototype information layers are keyed to the three components of sustainability. The first component analyzes environmental data that can be useful in the identification of stressors on the environment. The Environmental Protection Agencies' regional office in Atlanta has taken the lead on identifying issues that are critical to a community's environmental health and growth. EPA is providing an analysis of the available data sets, and is working to develop the framework for the Internet browser and for the information's organization. The USGS-BRD Research Station at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

has taken the lead in analyzing the other two components of sustainability: the economic and social characteristics of the region.

Inquiry of the system is designed to follow straightforward point and click instructions. Choices (in order of occurrence) are the area of interest—counties or major watersheds; sustainability themes, such as point source pollution, demographics, or natural resource utilization; and current sustainability indicators. At this point, a spatial characterization appears on the screen. Associated tables and/or graphs of information may be selected by county as well. Each indicator will contain metadata describing the source of the information and

caveats concerning its interpretation. An important additional feature will allow the user to be able to conveniently download the maps, figures and tables.

As SAMAB proceeds with the development of the Southern Appalachian Regional Information System (SARIS), components of this prototype will be coordinated with the system. ■

*For more information contact Rick Durbrow <Durbrow.Rick@epamail.epa.gov> or John Peine <jpeine@utk.edu>.*

## Sustainable Communities Initiative Goal

The Sustainable Communities Initiative has as its primary goal combining agencies' expertise and resources to provide southern Appalachian communities with information and tools they can use as they work toward sustainability.

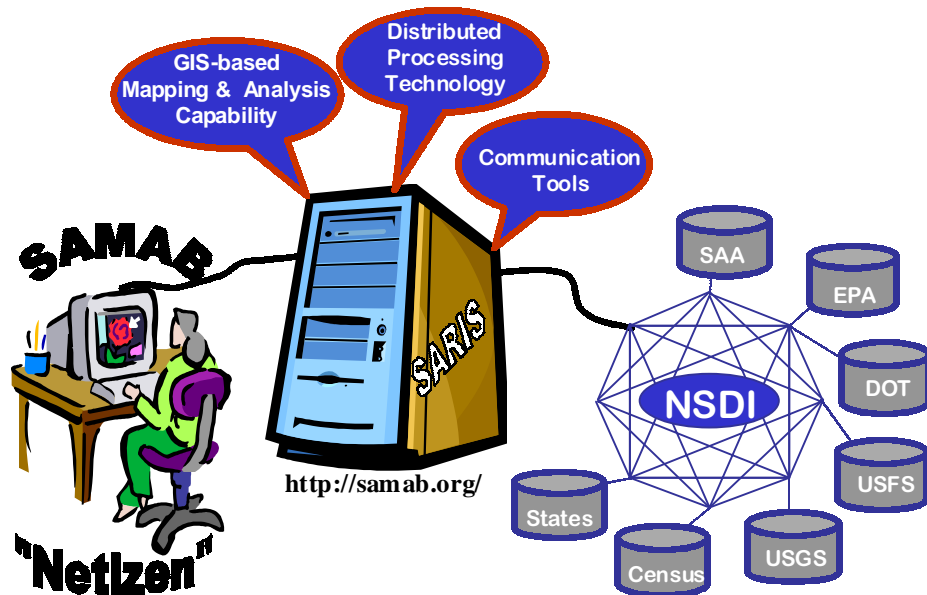


educators, and individual citizens. The SAA database—distributed on CD-ROM and via the Internet—was used for many subsequent studies, but the requirement for geographic information systems (GIS) software and the expertise to use the software limited database access by many potential users. SARIS is designed to overcome that limitation by providing access via standard Web browser software. Thus custom mapping will become available to those who lack expensive computer equipment and GIS knowledge. Developers, elected officials, students, and many others will be able to obtain immediate answers to specific “what if” questions, for example.

Naegeli, a senior research scientist with the Energy, Environment, and Resources Center at the University of Tennessee, and a team of GIS specialists and software engineers at UT’s Systems Development Institute will employ a number of maturing and breakthrough technologies and concepts, including the object-oriented spatial data model, the National Spatial Data Infrastructure, and on-demand distributed processing. These technologies allow the data to remain with the agency or organization that creates and maintains it. SARIS will provide the gateway to these distributed data and the software that allows users to overlay data sets, e.g. ecosystem sensitivity maps with roads, or to model and analyze interactions among overlays. SARIS will also provide tools that facilitate communication among data users and between users and producers.

To begin the project, Naegeli and Robb Turner (SAMAB Executive Director) held meetings in Atlanta and Asheville to assess what SAA users wanted from an information system. Naegeli and Turner agree that interacting with users is a critical component of building the system. To continue user interactions, SAMAB has put together a group of potential users to act as “tire kickers.” If you would like to participate, contact the SAMAB office. ■

**SARIS, depicted graphically. This sketch shows the user accessing data and information through the technologies and capabilities offered by SARIS. The web of data producers is the product of the National Spatial Data Infrastructure.**



**Stewardship** continued from page 1

The problems that non-native invasive plants create for managers of natural areas and the methods and high costs of controlling them were outlined by Kris Johnson of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Paul Myer of the Morris Arboretum in Philadelphia outlined the benefits of plants collected from around the world for developing new varieties and cultivars that have resistance to air pollution and disease or other attributes desired by landscapers and gardeners. He stressed that protecting natural areas is dependent on preventing sprawl by creating desirable, pleasant urban places.

Rick Crowder of the North Carolina Association of Nurserymen stated that the industry is aware of problem varieties and has responded by providing varieties that do not seed freely. Accordingly, he called for lists of invasive plants to be variety-specific. He encouraged deliberate, scientific assessment of invasiveness. Gene Cross of the North Carolina Department of Agriculture discussed the NC Pest Plant Law, regulatory alternatives, and

roles of the recently created NC Invasive Species Advisory Committee.

Darrel Morrison of the University of Georgia School of Environmental Design showed examples of landscaping with native grasses and plants as an alternative to lawns and plantings of imported exotic varieties. Doria Gordon of the Nature Conservancy and University of Florida presented a framework for assessment of non-native plants in Florida’s natural areas and a systematic basis for recommendations for their use.

Wrapping up the day of presentations, Robb Turner, SAMAB Executive Director, led a Q&A discussion with the speaker panel and audience participation. The discussion reinforced the common desire of all parties to avoid plant species invasions in the region but that further delineated the need for more assessment and better communication of invasiveness and appropriate use of exotic species in managed settings. Participants called for another such meeting to be held in the future. ■

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# Meet the SAMAB Foundation Board...

## —OFFICERS AND MEMBERS—

- George Briggs**, Executive Director  
The North Carolina Arboretum  
Foundation Board President
- Charles Van Sickle**  
U.S. Forest Service, retired  
Foundation Board Vice President
- Robert E. Shepherd**, Executive Director  
Land-of-Sky Regional Council  
Foundation Board Secretary-Treasurer
- D. Briane Adams**, Staff Hydrologist  
U.S. Geological Survey
- Bryan Baldwin**, Manager  
Southern Company Services, Inc.
- Noreen Clough**, Executive Director  
Southeast Region Natural Resource  
Leaders Group
- Lynn Cox**, Executive Director  
Southern Appalachian Highlands  
Conservancy
- James Dooley**, Executive Director  
Western North Carolina Tomorrow
- Vernon C. Gilbert, Jr. (Tommy)**  
National Park Service, retired
- Thomas Hatley**, Director  
Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition
- Lark Hayes**, Senior Attorney  
Southern Environmental Law Center
- Suzette Kimball**, Regional Chief  
Biologist-Eastern Region  
USGS-BRD  
SAMAB Cooperative Chairperson
- Douglas M. Orr**, President  
Warren Wilson College
- Guy Laurence Osborne**, Professor  
Carson Newman College
- Michael R. Pelton**  
University of Tennessee, retired
- Donald Pfitzer**  
Outdoor Writers Association
- David E. Reichle**  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory, retired
- N. E. (Ed) Tucker, Jr.**, Vice President  
Western Region of Duke Power
- Robert S. Turner**, Executive Director  
SAMAB

The SAMAB Foundation Board is positioning itself to become a fully functioning “partner” to the SAMAB Cooperative. Accordingly, we think it’s a good time to get to know the members of the Board. We’ve listed all the Board members (left) and advisors (right) and are featuring biographical sketches of a few members.

## —ADVISORS—

- Myron L. “Barney” Coulter**,  
Chancellor Emeritus  
Western Carolina University
- F. Henry Habicht, II**, CEO  
Global Environmental & Technology  
Foundation
- Hubert Hinote**  
SAMAB, TVA, retired
- G. Robert Kerr**, Director  
GA Dept. of Natural Resources
- William O. McLarney**  
The Little Tennessee Watershed Assoc.
- Hugh Morton**  
Grandfather Mountain, Inc.
- Milton Russell**, Senior Fellow  
Joint Institute for Energy and  
Environment
- William H. Skelton**, Attorney  
Bass, Berry & Sims
- Robert C. Thatcher**  
U.S. Forest Service, retired

## Lark Hayes

Lark Hayes is a senior attorney with the Southern Environmental Law Center (SELC) in Chapel Hill, where she has worked since 1987. (SELC is a regional public interest environmental law firm with three offices in the southeast U.S.) During the first ten years of her tenure with SELC she was involved in environmental litigation involving water quality, coastal development, wetlands and public lands. In recent years, Lark has focused on forestry issues on public and private lands, including lobbying federal agencies and Congress on public lands issues. Her current litigation includes intervention on the side of NC’s environmental agency to defend that state’s decision to impose a tighter permitting scheme on new and expanding chip mills, which is being challenged by the timber industry.

Lark has been involved in a range of social change efforts in the South over the past three decades. Originally from Tennessee, in the early 1970s she worked for the Student Health Coalition and Save Our Cumberland Mountains in east Tennessee.

Her favorite recent experience in the Southern Appalachians was spending the eve of Y2K winter camping on Mt. Mitchell. “We got lucky with the mild weather and a sky full of stars.”

*“I’m pleased to be a part of an organization bringing together researchers and resource managers with advocacy and interest groups, which are supportive of the things SAMAB’s trying to do. The Southern Environmental Law Center sees itself and like groups as a pipeline of concerns, issues, and information to the SAMAB organization.” - Lark Hayes*





## Bob Shepherd



Robert E. (Bob) Shepherd has been Executive Director of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council, Asheville, North Carolina since 1973. Before this he was Director of Development Planning and Research for the Economic Development Council of Northeastern Pennsylvania, an agricultural economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and an Army military intelligence officer. Bob served for several years on TVA's Economic Development Advisory Council and is completing a second term on the National Association of Regional Council's Executive Director's Advisory Council. He lives in Asheville, where he is active in numerous civic and church organizations.

*"My interest in SAMAB derives from the realization that environmental problems like air quality are increasingly important and are, indeed, multi-state issues. The Land-of-Sky Council has worked with county and municipal governments toward improving water and air quality, and growth management. I believe it is important to connect our local governments' viewpoint to the bigger picture of the Southern Appalachians. Part of my interest is to encourage SAMAB to make its data and work more scalable for use at a town, county or regional government level. Also, the federal agencies that are so integral to SAMAB must be partners with local officials to have impact "down where the rubber meets the road." - Bob Shepherd.*

## Dave Reichle



Until his retirement in April 2000, David E. (Dave) Reichle is Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Associate Director for Life Science and Environmental Technologies, responsible for the Department of Energy (DOE) Biological and Environmental Research Program at ORNL. He is an Adjunct Professor of Ecology at the University of Tennessee and chaired the Board of Directors of Joint Institute for Energy and Environment (a TVA, UT, ORNL institute). He is a board member and past president of the Oak Ridge Boys Club, chairing the Tennessee Area Council of Boys and Girls Clubs of America. He has represented ORNL with the East Tennessee Eco-

nomic Council, the Community Reuse Organization of East Tennessee, and is a member of the Roane County Environmental Review Board and has served on the Oak Ridge Regional Planning Commission. He has served on the national board of governors and the Tennessee Chapter Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy.

Dr. Reichle holds advanced degrees in biological sciences from Northwestern University, and joined ORNL as a biophysicist in 1966. Shortly thereafter he became involved in leading the laboratory's ecosystem research programs, assuming increasing leadership responsibility, culminating in his being named Associate Laboratory Director in 1990. He has published extensively on the metabolism of ecosystems and the behavior of contaminants in the environment, authoring over 100 technical reports and 3 books. He recently co-lead and co-authored major DOE efforts to examine technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration science. He has received a number of scientific achievement awards and had appointments to several NSF, EPA, NASA, and National Academy of Science advisory committees and research panels. ■

## Tools and Information You Can Use!



### ***Watershed Academy 2000***

Get basic watershed training online. The Watershed Academy, a multi-agency watershed training program hosted by EPA, is now providing a distance learning program to help meet the demand for watershed training <<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/acad2000.html>>. The online training modules provide a basic and broad introduction to watershed management, addressing watershed ecology, change, analysis and planning, management practice, and the community and social context. For a schedule of more in-depth training, see <<http://www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/wacademy/corsched.htm>>.

### ***"Water and the Forest Service"***

The Forest Service returns to its focus on water by examining the role of forests in water supply. Available online at <<http://www.fs.fed.us/.ftproot/pub/water/water.pdf>>.

### ***Terraserver***

Aerial photos, topographic maps, and relief maps at scales down to one meter. "Find a place" features allow you to point and click to zoom in to any site that interests you. Provided through a collaboration of the USGS, Microsoft and other technology partners. <<http://terraserver.microsoft.com>>

### ***SAMAB.org***

SAMAB's web site is updated regularly and features information about project funding opportunities and news of important, regional, and resource management issues. Note the new, easier-to-remember address, <<http://SAMAB.org/>>.

# Spring Planning Time—Come One and All

Would you like to ponder the view from Long-view Rock? Are you a big picture person, interested in SAMAB's next 10 years? Or are you a nuts-and-bolts type good at making things happen? How does your agency or organization fit into SAMAB? What can you contribute? What's in it for you?

Participate in the annual SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting to answer these questions. The meeting is open to anyone wanting to help shape the direction of SAMAB activities.

Monday, May 1 we will look at the big picture in a facilitated visioning and strategic planning meeting. The Foundation Board, the Cooperative Executive Committee, and Initiative and Committee Chairs are expected there, but others interested are welcome. Let us know if you're coming so we can make appropriate plans.

Tuesday morning we'll have a joint Foundation-Cooperative business meeting.

Tuesday at 1-5pm and Wednesday from 8:30-noon we'll plan specific activities for the next couple years—ongoing initiatives, committees, and new projects. All committee members are strongly urged to come and share their ideas. Progress of the Southern Appalachian Regional Information System will be demonstrated. Toward the end of Wednesday morning we'll discuss the concept and status of the proposed Appalachian Trail (AT) Monitoring Project.

Wednesday afternoon and Thursday we'll hold a planning workshop for the AT Monitoring Project with invitees from the Appalachian Trail Conference, member Trail Clubs, the National Park Service and other

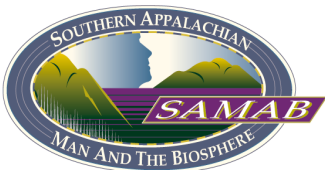
agencies, and other regional stakeholders. Interested SAMABers are welcome, but please let us know so we can plan accordingly.

We have a revitalized Foundation Board, strong interest from the Southeastern Region Natural Resources Leaders Group, a new SAA Regional Information System under development, and some strong applicants for a Foundation Development Director. We will have the services of a top-notch facilitator for the visioning and planning. We are poised to take some fundamental new steps for SAMAB! Be there to help define those steps!

- Robb Turner,  
SAMAB Executive Director

*Complete meeting information, directions to the Arboretum, and hotel reservation information are available at the SAMAB Website, <<http://samab.org/>>.*

**A block of rooms is reserved for the Spring Meeting at the Comfort Suites, Asheville, 800-622-4005**



## **SAMAB**

314 Conference Center Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4138

## **Federal Members**

*National Park Service  
USDA Forest Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Economic Development Administration  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
US Geological Survey Water Resources  
Division and Biological Resources Division  
Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National  
Laboratory*

## **State Members**

*Georgia  
North Carolina  
Tennessee*

**Plan to be there...  
Spring Planning Meeting, May 2-3, 2000**



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## SAMAB CALENDAR



### Executive Committee and Foundation Board Meetings:

August 8, 9:00am to 3:00pm, Cradle of Forestry near Brevard, NC  
November 13, Glenstone Inn, Gatlinburg

### SAMAB Fall Conference:

September 15, Deadline for submitting abstracts  
November 14-16, SAMAB's 11th Annual Fall Conference, Glenstone Inn, Gatlinburg

## RELATED EVENTS

(see <http://samab.org/> for more info)

August 15-17, Conference: "Stream Restoration & Protection in North Carolina: Building on Success," Boone, NC.

August & Sept. (dates vary), Teacher's workshops on river ecology, mountain bogs, and bats

Nov 30-Dec 2, Workshop on "Promoting Participation in Community Development: Models, Methods and Best Practices," Knoxville, TN

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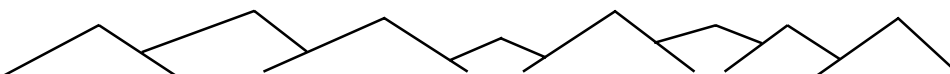
## Monitoring the Appalachian Trail Environment

### *An Exploratory Workshop*

To explore the opportunities of an Appalachian Trail (AT) monitoring project, SAMAB partnered with the Appalachian Trail Conference(ATC) and the National Park Service's Appalachian Trail Park Office in hosting a workshop in early May. Bringing the concept into focus—exploring interest in and the utility of the proposed activity—was the goal of the workshop. Attending the two-day event were nearly 30 participants representing Federal agencies; the Appalachian Trail Conference's headquarters, regions, and trail clubs; universities; and environmental organizations.

The project would develop and implement a program of monitoring and assessment of the Appalachian environment, with a focus on areas traversed by the AT. With the Trail and surrounding environment threatened by potentially serious conditions ranging from air pollution to telecommunication towers to invasive pests, a coordinated program of monitoring and assessment would help managers by providing information to help focus resources and by acting as an early warning system for the Appalachian region.

... "Monitoring" continued on page 3



## Spring Meeting Kickstarts SAMAB Strategic Planning Effort

SAMAB Executive Committee members, committee chairs, and Foundation Board members gathered in May for the annual—but not a typical—SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting. With a tabled proposal from the Southeast Natural Resource Leaders Group to reconstitute SAMAB as one of its committees as a backdrop for the meeting, SAMABers seized the opportunity to evaluate SAMAB's structure and to identify opportunities to expand SAMAB's effectiveness.

The result of the meeting has been critical self-examination and strategic planning. Neither are easy tasks, but a number of SAMAB participants are deeply involved in these activities. A draft strategic plan, project selection criteria, and an articulation of the roles and responsibilities of the various SAMAB participants are currently in development and will be presented for wide review at the August meeting of the Executive Committee and Foundation Board. Watch the SAMAB web site (<http://samab.org/>) for these documents and talk to your agency or organization's liaison with SAMAB, or email SAMAB (samab@utk.edu) to contribute ideas or obtain additional information. ■



# SAMAB's Invasive Plant Assessment

## Information Gathering Component

When asked about the extent of the occurrence of invasive plants and the associated impacts of them on the Southern Appalachian region, resource managers have had only “spotty” information to draw upon. The SAMAB Invasive Plants Assessment hopes to remedy this information shortage.

The assessment has been designed in phases for organizational and funding reasons. The first phase soon to be completed is a review of the published literature. The second phase tackles the harder-to-get information—the reports in agency files and resource managers’ computer spread sheets.

For the second phase, a contractor working under the guidance of leaders of SAMAB’s Invasive Species Initiative has spent several months contacting land managers and invasive plant specialists in the Southern Appalachian region. These contacts were asked to submit information—plant survey data or internal records and reports—regarding the types of invasive plants on their land, the extent of their coverage,

control methods employed (either successfully or unsuccessfully), and any information about the effects the invasions were having. (See “Invasive Plants” for preliminary results.)

This information-gathering is an ongoing activity. Initiative leader, Hilary Vinson ([hilary\\_vinson@fws.gov](mailto:hilary_vinson@fws.gov)) urges any land manager or plant specialist to contribute information. The list of contributors now includes the National Forests and National Parks of the region, The Nature Conservancy, state divisions of natural resources, a few universities, TVA, and ORNL. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Asheville) contributed guidance and oversight to the project and secured the funding for this phase of the assessment.

The information compiled in this phase of the assessment will be shared with others in the region through the SAMAB web site. Sharing information is seen as fundamental to addressing this regional issue collaboratively. Analysis of impacts and assessment of needed research will begin this fall. ■

## Invasive Plants: What Land Managers Report

Although compilation of the information is preliminary, a few species seem to dominate the reports and data submitted to SAMAB. Invasive plants reported with high frequency (i.e., reported by >10 contributors to the assessment) or medium frequency (7-10) are listed here.

### High Frequency

*Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of heaven)  
*Ligustrum sinense* (Chinese privet)  
*Lonicera japonica* (Japanese honeysuckle)

*Microstegium vimineum* (Japanese grass, Nepal grass)

*Pueraria montana* (Kudzu)

*Rosa multiflora* (Multiflora rose)

### Medium Frequency

*Albizia julibrissin* (Mimosa)

*Alliaria petiolata* (Garlic mustard)

*Celastrus orbiculatus* (Oriental bittersweet)

*Eleagnus umbellata* (Autumn olive)

*Miscanthus sinense* (Miscanthus, plume grass)

*Paulownia tomentosa* (Princess tree)

*Vinca minor* (Periwinkle)



## Resources You Can Use

*Landscaping with Native Plants*, both the Western North Carolina and the East Tennessee editions, have been reprinted and are available for distribution. Contact Hilary Vinson ([hilary\\_vinson@fws.gov](mailto:hilary_vinson@fws.gov)) for the WNC version, and the SAMAB office ([samab@utk.edu](mailto:samab@utk.edu)) for the East Tennessee version.

A revised brochure, *Invasive Plants & Their Effects on Natural Areas*, is available from the SAMAB coordinating office.

A limited supply of interpretive signs are available to native plant demonstration gardens in the Southern Appalachians.

Assessing the quality of scenic views was the topic of a presentation and field trip led by Laura Rotegard (NPS, Blue Ridge Parkway; bottom of photo) at the Appalachian Trail Monitoring Project Workshop. The field trip introduced workshop participants to one type of systematic monitoring and assessment, already underway, that could be expanded to other areas traversed by the Appalachian Trail. Along with Laura are (standing, from left) Charlie Van Sickle (SAMAB Foundation Board, FS retired), Jim Hutchings (ATC Board of Managers), Kent Schwarzkopf (Appalachian National Scenic Trail, NPS), and Nancy Herbert (FS Southern Research Station).



## New Faces among SAMAB Leaders

New working committee chairpersons and initiative leaders have joined the SAMAB roster. “Meet” them here.

**Rodney Snedeker** (rsnedeker@fs.fed.us), Forest Archaeologist and Heritage Resources Program Manager for the National Forests in NC, chairs the Cultural Resource Committee. Rodney has held FS positions at the Dixie National Forest in Utah, and the Southern Regional Office in Atlanta. He’s accustomed to working with many partners including state and Federal agencies, American Indian tribes, interested groups, and individuals. Commenting about SAMAB, Rodney says “it’s a welcome forum to share ideas and expertise in the Southern Appalachians. The integration of cultural and historical resources leads to a better understanding of changes in land use over time and peoples’ different values, both necessary to direct sound land management decisions and to ensure preservation of heritage resources.”

**Charles Roberts** (croberts@tn.nrcs.usda.gov) now heads SAMAB’s Resource Management Committee. Charles is the Assistant State Conservationist for Programs, Natural Resource Conservation Service in Tennessee. He began a career with the NRCS as a student and then held positions as a soil conservationist, district conservationist, IRM coordinator, and area resource conservationist—all in Tennessee. Additionally, he has been an instructor and training leader for several NRCS programs. Charles is an officer in the National Organization of Professional Black NRCS Employees and a charter member of its Tennessee chapter.

**Gerald Ryan** (glryan@usgs.gov), District Chief for USGS in North Carolina, assumes leadership of the Watershed Initiative. Jerry’s background is weighted toward surface water, but he has ample experience with groundwater and water quality. His 27-year career with the USGS has spanned four states: Iowa, North Dakota, Mississippi, and North Carolina.



Above (left to right): Charles Roberts joins Robb Turner and Susan Kask (chair of SAMAB’s Research and Monitoring Committee) during a break at the Spring Meeting.

Below (left to right): Tom Gilbert, SAMAB Foundation Board, co-hosted the Appalachian Trail Monitoring Workshop with Dave Startzell, Executive Director of the Appalachian Trail Conference, and Pamela Underhill, Superintendent, Appalachian Trail Park Office.



### Monitoring the AT continued from p. 1

Focusing on the AT has merit, according to Pamela Underhill, the Appalachian Trail Park Office Superintendent. The AT seems to “spark imaginations and attract the people it needs at the right time. The AT is a place that people can relate to in a very personal way.”

The real benefit of this meeting and the proposed activity for ATC Executive Director, Dave Startzell, was “to help the ATC see where data is and isn’t and how it could be used.” Having heard ATC’s plea to not impose new burdens on its existing volunteers, participants discussed using the AT’s cooperative management system as a model for attracting and organizing

new volunteers whose focus would be monitoring.

SAMAB became involved in developing the concept when Drs. Charles H.W. Foster and Karen Filipovich (both of Harvard), who first penned the idea two years ago, approached SAMAB about organizing a Southern Appalachian component of the project. V.C. (Tommy) Gilbert (SAMAB Foundation Board; NPS, retired) received SAMAB Foundation endorsement and funding to explore how SAMAB could contribute to the project. A report of the workshop is available on the SAMAB web site (<http://samab.org>), and a revised concept paper is under review. For more information contact the SAMAB office. ■

# SAMAB Fall Conference—November 14-16, 2000

## *Where the Rubber Meets the Road* The Interface Between Public Agencies and Communities Announcement and Call to Participants

The goal of the 11<sup>th</sup> annual SAMAB Fall Conference is to identify and begin to clarify challenges, possible solutions, and needed actions that will better link communities and public agencies. Stories about what works and what does not are sought to better understand and align needs, capabilities, and constraints of communities, agencies, and other organizations. Individuals, groups, agencies, schools, and organizations are invited to participate.

A brief paragraph describing your short talk, panel discussion, workshop, film/video, poster, or other presentation is required. You may wish to address one of the conference subthemes.

Include with your paragraph, the subtheme, and the type of presentation you propose. Also submit your name, title, address, organization name (if appropriate), phone number, email address, and audio-visual requirements. Notification of acceptance will occur by mid-October. Submit your paragraph (abstract)

by mail: SAMAB  
314 Conference Center Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4138  
or fax: 865-974-4609  
or email: samab@utk.edu

### *Conference subthemes:*

- matching agency and community planning needs;
- grassroots: forming and finding support in Federal, regional, and state agencies;
- information technology for community and agency needs;
- community and regional visioning;
- land banking and land conservancies;
- developing smart: sustainable developments and smart growth;
- watershed-community innovations;
- invasive species: aligning private practices and natural area needs;
- native plants and rare communities: conservation and restoration;
- biodiversity: documenting and conserving;
- air quality solutions for the region;
- environmental education: connecting communities to their natural heritage
- Southern Appalachian forest assessment

Watch for a conference registration form and agenda at <http://samab.org>.

**Deadline for submissions is September 15, 2000.**



### **SAMAB**

314 Conference Center Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4138

### **Federal Members**

*National Park Service  
USDA Forest Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Economic Development Administration  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
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US Army Corps of Engineers  
US Geological Survey Water Resources  
Division and Biological Resources Division  
Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National  
Laboratory*

### **State Members**

*Georgia  
North Carolina  
Tennessee*

**Mark your calendars...**

**SAMAB Fall Conference November 14-16, 2000**

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