

# SAMAB NEWS

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## SAMAB CALENDAR



### SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting

May 2, 9:00-5:00; May 3, 8:00-12:00,  
NC Arboretum, Asheville, NC

### Executive Committee Meeting

May 3, 1:30-4:00 p.m., NC Arboretum

### SAMAB Annual Fall Conference

November 6-8, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

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## Spring Meeting Will Hone SAMAB Action Plan

Just as does nature, in the spring SAMAB renews itself and begins another cycle. The SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting will be held May 2-3, 2001 at the North Carolina Arboretum in Asheville. The meeting will provide a forum for planning and seeking synergy in the work to be done by SAMAB and its many partner organizations in the next year or two. This planning will build on the new SAMAB strategic plan (see <http://samab.org>) and emphasize SAMAB's current focal areas to build a plan of work that "gives legs" to the general direction set in the strategic plan.

"The completion of SAMAB's new long-term strategic plan is creating excitement in our partners. This spring planning meeting will provide focus for the shorter term, and help identify gaps between what is needed by resource managers and what is being studied by researchers," said meeting planner Dr. Larry Hartmann, Vice-Chair of SAMAB's Executive Committee, and Chief of Resource Management and Science at the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Time is reserved on the agenda for dialogue among scientists and resource managers about these "gaps."

Current SAMAB emphases are invasive plants, community sustainability, watershed management, the Southern Appalachian Regional Information System, and environmental monitoring that employs the Appalachian Trail as a focal point. The spring meeting pulls together federal and state agencies, local and regional governments, and community and private partners who are working in these areas to explore synergy among existing activities and plan new activities. ■

## Development of Regional Node of NBII Begins

The National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) sponsored by USGS will develop a new regional node in the Southern Appalachians. The NBII is a broad, collaborative program to provide increased access to data and information on the nation's biological resources. Regional nodes encourage the development of active coalitions addressing locally important biological issues. They facilitate the sharing of expertise and resources. The Southern Appalachian Information Node will provide the framework to bring together regional information resources to create an infrastructure to aid science, management decision making, and public education and outreach relating to the region's biological resources.

**Have a question about the  
Spring Planning Meeting?  
E-mail [samab@utk.edu](mailto:samab@utk.edu), or call  
865-974-4583.**

A partnership including SAMAB, Oak Ridge National Laboratory, The University of Tennessee (at Chattanooga and Knoxville), The Tennessee River Gorge Trust, The Tennessee Aquarium, the Southeastern Aquatic Research Institute, the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency, Information International Associates, and others is developing the Southern Appalachian regional node. Robb Turner, SAMAB Executive Director, will spend half time as Technical Director for the node.

... continued on page 7

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# First-Generation SARIS Is Up and Running

“Try this” was the message from Wolf Naegeli, lead developer of the Southern Appalachian Regional Information System (SARIS), when he delivered SARIS’ Web address to SAMAB Executive Director Robb Turner. It seemed a bit understated for this much-anticipated product.

SARIS, which currently provides a Web-based geographic interface to a cross section of data from the Southern Appalachian Assessment, is being built to make the existing SAA data more usable and provide a mechanism for adding up-to-date data as it becomes available. The distributed-processing technology that will allow SARIS to serve updated data will be added in subsequent “generations” of SARIS. Processing the SAA data so that users can read information about individual objects that appear on user-generated maps is also needed in subsequent generations of SARIS, Naegeli says.

So, you ask, “What can SARIS do for me?” SARIS lets you see how different data “pieces” relate to each other. One can create maps showing where ozone monitoring stations are in relation to the Blue Ridge Parkway, or the proximity of Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) sites to water supplies, or fish advisories for bodies of water in your watershed. Other data show jurisdictional boundaries, population change, sources of various pollutants (e.g., sulfur dioxide and particulate matter), public land ownership, recreation site information, and more.

Because of current server crowding during the transition to new hardware and ongoing performance-tuning of SARIS components, SARIS is not quite ready for a general release. If you would like to join our “tire-kicker” group of site testers, please contact the SAMAB office at samab@utk.edu. Otherwise, watch the next newsletter for the SARIS address. ■

## Worlds Apart The Politics of Development

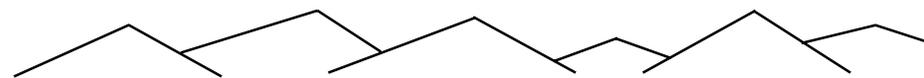
*A synopsis of “Worlds Apart” presented by Dr. Ron Eller (University of Kentucky) at the SAMAB Fall Conference, November 2000*

There are often different cultural realities for traditional communities and the programs and agencies that serve them. Many programs that purport to foster development and improve resource management in traditional communities impose modern notions of progress on them. Attributes of tradition and modernity may set traditional communities and public agencies worlds apart from each other.

Tradition	Modernity
family/kin	individualism
sense of place	global citizenship
stability	growth, progress
fatalism (faith)	rationalism (science)
person oriented	object oriented
time as cyclical	time as linear
soft technology	hard technology
egalitarianism	professionalism
independence	dependence
regional networks	international markets
local politics	national politics
rural	urban
Republican ideology	broker-state ideology
- “commonwealth”	- individual wealth
- civic virtue	- private virtue
- personal politics	- interest groups
- citizenship	- apathy

These cultural poles affect the way we talk to and the expectations we have of each other. What is imperative is to respect these differences and build links between the two worlds.

Dialogues are most easily opened and trust built through telling one’s story. The counterpart to telling is, of course, listening, which is the most important approach to linking these two worlds. Another approach is to have agency personnel “take root” in a community, increasing the agency’s visibility in a non-threatening manner and providing opportunities for listening. Also important is education, especially environmental education in schools, and efforts to improve awareness of these cultural differences. ■



## The SARIS - NBII Link

The concept behind both SARIS and the NBII is to index and disseminate data, information, and analytical capabilities in a usable format for the general public, decision makers, researchers, resource managers, and other stakeholders (see related articles on page 1 and above).

SARIS was conceived as a means of updating and extending the wide range of atmospheric, terrestrial, aquatic, and socio-economic information and analyses contained in the 1996 Southern Appalachian Assessment. NBII is a national gateway to biological and other environmental data, information, and analytical tools that the USGS is extending to regional nodes.

SARIS already has developed a regional Web-based mapping interface for the SAA and has taken initial steps to build the capacity for processing and serving distributed data sets. The NBII brings substantial mapping experience and other information resources to the region.

“SARIS and the NBII can leverage each other’s capabilities and resources to hasten dissemination of usable information and improve decision making for economic development and resource management region-wide,” says Robb Turner, Executive Director of SAMAB and Director of the Southern Appalachian Node of the NBII. ■

## Fall Conference and Beyond

SAMAB Fall Conference participants—through plenary sessions, 80 presentations and posters, and “hall-way” discussions—help to define regional needs for research and resource management. They also identify and explore agency and non-government organization activities working to meet these needs. Plenary speaker Skila Harris (TVA Director) spoke of the importance of partnerships and building synergy among agency programs to sustain the web of natural and economic resources that define our region. David Crockett (City of Chattanooga) discussed opportunity as the driver of change, the challenges of population growth and waste, and the need to help the public see the relevance of these issues to them. Session summary reports, including suggestions for SAMAB activities, are found below.

### **Ecological Implications of the Changing Appalachian Landscape** *Reported by Wolf Naegeli*

This session highlighted projects that seek to assess and better understand how human-induced change affects ecosystems at the landscape-scale and how impacts may be mitigated. Rick Durbrow (EPA) gave an overview of federal programs that can help communities improve the effectiveness of their greenspace planning. Fragmentation of natural areas, and the protection of rare and endangered species and place-based community values, such as “Bob’s fishing hole,” drive greenspace planning. Awareness of larger ecological processes at work inside and outside of the political jurisdiction is important to achieving local conservation goals.

Roger Tankersley (TVA) reported preliminary results of his research that uses weather radar data and GIS to analyze the significance of landscape patterns to migrating birds. The study aims to identify features and patterns that influence migration routes and

stopover habitats. This knowledge may allow us to identify how the juxtaposition of landscape features, such as ridge lines, river basins, and the distribution of quality habitats, affect their suitability to migrating birds. This will help to identify areas that must be protected and to estimate how a changing landscape or the loss of specific sites would affect populations.

Niki Nicholas (TVA) presented an update on TVA air quality research, which (in collaboration with several research partners) monitors, assesses, and models the concentrations of pollutants and their environmental and economic impacts. Research results enable modeling of the relationships between NOx emissions and environmental nitrogen saturation and help identify the most cost-effective ways to reduce emissions at fossil-fired power plants, including permanent measures and temporary controls such as revising the units’ dispatch order when atmospheric conditions favor high ozone levels.

Participants suggested that the SAMAB Foundation could help bring communities together with each other and with government agencies to coordinate greenspace planning. The objective would be to merge local greenspaces into regional networks of greenways and wildlife corridors that connect them to ecosystem hubs.

### **Community Visioning** *Reported by John Peine*

This session focused on examples of people joining to conduct community visioning and project development. Those involved in these projects represent an untold number of true leaders in the sustainable-communities movement

in the Southern Appalachians that SAMAB needs to engage and empower as mentors for others.

The presentation by Connie Backlund (Carl Sandburg National Historic Site) and David Quinn (NC Dept. of Commerce) documented a very successful community visioning, zoning and subdivision ordinance in Flat Rock, NC. The community, NPS, and state planners collaborated

to craft exemplary ordinances reflecting the historic and scenic qualities of the landscape surrounding the Carl Sandburg home.

This community is a model for others adjacent to protected areas such as national parks.

Robert Cassada (VA DOT) documented an extraordinary partnership between federal, state, and county governments, two corporations and a non-government organization that resulted in the “Foot Bridge” over the James River. At 625 ft, it is the longest pedestrian-only bridge in the national park system and is supported by historic bridge pilings. The bridge is named for Bill Foot, who led a community and regional visioning process and championed the project for years. This kind of leadership and personal commitment is critical to realizing visions of community character.

### **Smart Growth: Integrating Human and Natural Communities** *Reported by John Peine*

The presentation by Virginia Faust (NC Div. of Community Assistance) was a compelling illustration of the principles of designing for livable communities. She contrasted places that adhered to principles of design consistent with “livability” to places

## **“Leadership and personal commitment are critical to realizing visions of community character.”**

- John Peine, summarizing the visioning and planning activities discussed at the Fall Conference

# 2000 SAMAB Annual Conference Reports

where they were ignored. The juxtaposed visual images illustrated the aesthetic, economic and safety related benefits of the design principles. Those concerned about livability/sustainability should get a CDROM copy of the presentation and share it in their communities.

Paul Baxter (Pellissippi State Tech. Community College) described an approach to developing and managing

databases and tools to support site selection. The inevitably competitive site selection process would be improved if it were not restricted to usual factors—labor force, transportation and utilities. A more holistic process would consider community livability and engage citizens. Technical expertise and relevant databases are available at Pellissippi for use in planning and recruitment for economic development.

The presentation by Andrew Schiller (Clark U.) provided an opportunity to compare social, economic and environmental indicators of sustainability among metropolitan areas nationwide. The highest-scoring areas in the southeastern U.S. were in the southern Appalachians—Asheville scored highest. For the U.S. as a whole, environmental degradation increased with population size. The comparisons generated by this research offer a starting point for designing a community-based set of sustainability indicators.

These three presentations represent key tools for application in the SAMAB Sustainable Communities Ini-

tiative. The graphic portrayal of the benefits of progressive community design, tools to attract sustainable economic development and the comparison among indicators/benchmarks of the sustainability of communities should be promoted aggressively among the SAMAB family.

## Improving Communication and Decision Making with GIS: Part 1

*Reported by Robb Turner*

This session highlighted the benefits of using spatial information in communication and decision making. Wolf Naegeli (U. of Tennessee) presented a survey of technologies and GIS capabilities that are revolutionizing the collection, presentation, and use of spatial information. He then

David Gardner (Big Sandy Development Dist.) illustrated the Kentucky PRIDE (Personal Responsibility in a Desirable Environment) program, showing applications of geographic information at 40-county and local levels. Multi-agency partnerships use map layers on open dumps, straight pipes, failing septic systems, and stream non-attainment to bolster solutions to these problems through revolving loan funds, community grants, and EPA earmarks.

Wide-ranging discussion revolved around issues of privacy, pinpointing locations of rare and endangered species, scale dependency, availability of data, and the promise of this technology and its potential uses.

## Improving Communication and Decision Making with GIS: Part 2

*Reported by Wolf Naegeli*

The session examined recent applications of information technologies in planning and resource management. Jay Tomlinson (NC State U.) reported on an NPS project that generated visual sensitivity maps for the entire Blue Ridge Parkway. They developed an automated methodology using three-dimensional digital landscape models, advanced cartographic visualization, and computer simulations of driving along the Parkway. The resulting maps indicate the viewshed boundaries, not accounting for the effects of vegetation.

Karen Burhenn (U. of Tennessee) discussed a TVA project that uses GIS technologies to identify recent surface mining activities. Mining that took place in the 1990s is discovered by calculating normalized vegetation difference indices between Multi-Resolution Land Cover datasets from the early '90s and 1999. The technique revealed relatively minor new activities at existing mines, but the audience's attention was



Jon Loney (TVA; Chair of SAMAB Executive Committee) pauses with Skjla Harris (TVA Director) after she delivers the opening plenary talk (above). Bob Shepherd (right), Conference Chair, welcomes participants.



summarized the vision, objectives, and design of the Web-based Southern Appalachian Regional Information System that SAMAB is developing to update and “bring alive” the Southern Appalachian Assessment.

Tom Tribble described goals of the North Carolina Geographic Information Coordinating Council and its Center for Geographic Information and Analysis using examples of cooperation in disaster management, transportation planning, hog farm location, flood-plain mapping, and others.

# The Public Agency - Community Interface

grabbed by examples showing the effects of mountain-top removal. Future projects will analyze the relationship between surface mining and various environmental indicators.

Wayne Owen (USFS) delivered a presentation (prepared by colleague David Meriwether) on the Forest Service Inventory and Monitoring Program, revamped to better meet current USFS and interagency needs. Forest health and sustainability and concerns about species viability, water use, and watershed conditions drove these changes. The new framework facilitates the use of data on resource conditions and ecosystems at levels that transcend the boundaries of individual forests and regions, traditionally the principal units of data collection and analysis.

Jeff Pfitzer (Chattanooga-Hamilton Reg. Planning Agency) highlighted a low-cost methodology for integrated cumulative analysis of sensitive natural resources. The methodology requires a minimum of technical and financial resources to analyze and present geospatial information. His test case, based on SAA data, illustrated the methodology's effectiveness at generating sensitivity maps that empower communities to make more informed and sustainable land-use decisions.

Participants noted that in most communities environmental impacts originate on private land. Readily available environmental information, such as monitoring results and thematic maps would help landowners recognize how to avoid or mitigate environmental damages. It also would empower citizens to participate more meaningfully in local decisions. Elected officials would find it easier to verify claims by developers who want zoning changes and permits. It was suggested that SAMAB should offer a sensitivity-mapping service—on a cost-recovery basis—to less-affluent counties and cities that cannot afford their own planning department and GIS.

## Options for Improving Air Quality *Reported by Paul Muller*

The purpose of this panel was to identify existing and possible future efforts to improve the air quality of the southern Appalachians. These efforts are intended to address both human-health and environmental concerns associated with ozone, acid deposition, and visibility. In general, the pollutants of concern for both human health and environmental issues are sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides.

Karen Borel (US EPA) reviewed EPA regulatory actions related to air quality, including implementation of the new 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for ozone, the new NAAQS for fine particulate (PM-2.5), the regional haze rules, and the NOx SIP call. She also reviewed EPA initiatives designed to achieve clean gasoline and clean diesel fuel.

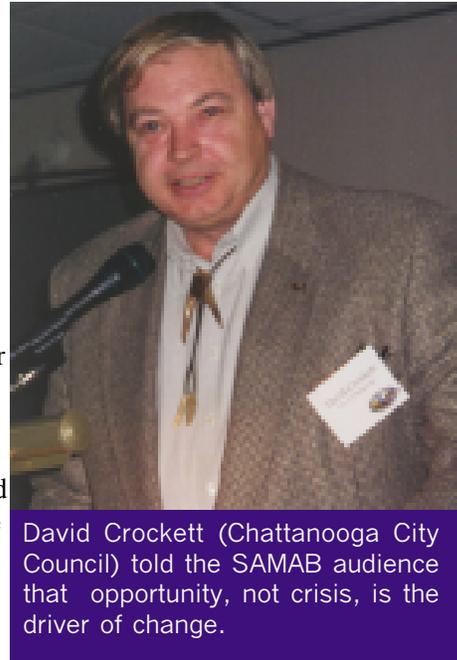
Gary Harris (TVA) discussed TVA's Green Power Program that offers consumers the option of purchasing power generated by wind, solar, and biogas from landfills. Consumers pay a higher price for green power than conventional power and can decide how much green power to purchase. While green power is a small fraction of the total generating capacity of TVA, the company is continuing to look at options to expand that capacity and lower the price of Green Power.

Andrew Goldberg discussed the Mountain Air Quality Coalition (MAQC), which covers 23 western NC counties and seeks to partner with existing organizations and agencies to increase public awareness and understanding of both human health and

environmental issues related to air quality. Currently the MAQC is preparing a video on air quality for use in schools and is recruiting movie theaters to present a public service announcement on air quality.

Alan Jones (State of TN) discussed some Tennessee efforts to reduce air emissions and outlined the challenges faced in improving air quality in the

Southern Appalachians. He noted the relationship between development, the number of miles driven, and vehicle emissions affecting air quality. As growth continues in the Southeast, it will be important to look at the impacts of land use planning and associated vehicle miles traveled if we hope to reduce emis-



David Crockett (Chattanooga City Council) told the SAMAB audience that opportunity, not crisis, is the driver of change.

sions of nitrogen oxides and thereby reduce ozone concentrations.

Panelists and the audience discussed many issues related to air quality. Clearly, emission reductions are needed from electric utility power plants, but emissions from vehicles are a large and growing problem. Technologies such as fuel cells may ultimately help reduce these emissions, but energy conservation, better land use planning and mass transit are also needed if we hope to significantly improve our air quality.

## Environmental Education

*Reported by Libby Wilcox*

This discussion addressed the role of education in resource management and sustainability, justifying education programs in the face of budget cuts, and

## 2000 SAMAB Annual Conference Reports

evaluating the outcome of education programs. Libby Wilcox led the session with an introduction to North Carolina's environmental education program that has a current focus on environmental certification.

Al Fritsch (Appalachia-Science in the Public Interest Nature Ctr) discussed the mission of this center—to nurture the spirit of Appalachian people by fostering appreciation of our natural heritage and regional environment among adults and children. The center was funded first by the National Science Foundation and then by EPA. Children tour the center's non-profit television station that features "green" lighting, water supplies, and bathrooms.

Anthony Rabern (GA Dept. of Natural Resources) spoke about how the state's six environmental education centers contribute to the department's mission of promoting the conservation and wise use of Georgia's natural resources. This wildlife and environmental education initiative, started in 1996, is extremely popular with schools and other organizations. The programs emphasize stewardship and nature-based recreation.

Ina Warren (Bartram Trail Society) presented ways junior and senior high school educators could enhance their science curricula by teaching stewardship and conservation of plant diversity. She showed examples from botany, including the history of medicinal plants in our southern Appalachians, that can be used as "hooks" to build students' awareness and interest.

### **Grassy Balds Management Panel**

*Reported by Judy Murray*

This session provided historic, ecological, and aesthetic justifications for retaining the globally endangered southern Appalachian high elevation community known as the grassy bald. It also explored successful management strategies utilized in the National Forest and National Park systems.

Nora Murdock (US FWS) presented a case for the restoration and management of the region's largest and highest quality grassy balds complex located on the Roan Mountain massif straddling the NC/TN state line. Among the Roan balds' 14 federally listed and 33 state-listed species are some endemic species and several northern disjuncts (glacial relicts).

Peter Weigl (Wake Forest U.) reviewed some sources of controversy surrounding management of grassy balds, heard largely in academic and public policy circles, contending that lack of consensus on management could pose a threat to the balds' long-term survival. It is sometimes questioned whether succession should be allowed to proceed. While many argue that these balds have anthropogenic origins and therefore succession should be permitted, others argue that some balds have natural and quite ancient origins and should be preserved and studied. Based on information drawn from regional history, community ecology, and paleontology, Weigl and colleague T. W. Knowles hypothesized that open grasslands probably existed in mountain landscapes during the Pleistocene, and that these were first maintained by large herbivores, then by bison, elk and deer, and since the early 1800s by domestic livestock. A rapid decline of the grassy bald community followed public acquisition and the cessation of grazing in the mid- and late-1900s. This suggests that a suitable method for restoring and maintaining these balds and their rare biota may involve the reintroduction of grazing herbivores. Without intervention, encroachment of woody species threaten this valuable remnant of natural and cultural history.

Panelists with management responsibilities agreed that recreational use of grassy balds presents a challenge for maintaining rare species populations. Panelists agreed that management tools must be tailored to the character

of each bald, the encroaching species, and the cost of treatment. Paul Bradley (Pisgah National Forest) manages the balds on Roan Mountain and has found that many groups with varying interests share the common goal of balds restoration and maintenance. Representatives of state and federal agencies, non-profits, and academics form a nucleus of cooperators that to develop and implement a balds management plan. Partners contribute thousands of hours of hand mowing, fence building, and monitoring.

Tom Blevins (Mount Rogers NRA) presented the results of 20 years of management of natural and man-made grassy balds on the NRA. Many of these balds result from prior catastrophic fire events and subsequent sowing with domestic grasses and maintenance by livestock. When grazing pressure was removed, areas reverted to forest in less than 30 years. While Ms. Murdock found fire a totally unacceptable tool for Roan Mountain due to its stimulation of blackberry growth, Mr. Blevins uses it in combination with grazing. He also employs hand cutting and mowing in some instances but found them cost- and terrain-restrictive.

Ben Lawhon (Appalachian Trail Conference) shared ATC's commitment to maintaining open area to fulfill the purposes of the Appalachian National Scenic Trail. The ATC role is to inventory open areas along the Trail, mesh objectives and coordinate activities with management partners, and identify and mobilize resources.

Jenny Beeler (GSMNP) reported on the Smokies' active management of Gregory and Andrews Balds. The Park's efforts focus on restoring the historic boundaries through tree and shrub cutting with some application of herbicide; hand mowing is utilized for maintenance. Turf disturbance by wild boar followed by seedling establishment is a problem unique to the Park.

# The Public Agency - Community Interface

Challenges common to maintaining the balds include persistent encroachment by woody species, increasing soil acidity that favors those woody species, and finding reliable sources of funding to maintain the exceptional ecological and scenic values that grassy balds possess.

## **Invasive Species**

*Reported by Jack Ranney*

The southern Appalachians are under sustained and aggressive invasions by an increasing number of exotic pest plants. The awareness of and the quality of available information about invasive species must be improved to meet the challenges of these invasions. This session was a step toward that goal.

Dane Kuppinger (UNC) reviewed the results of a SAMAB-sponsored survey of resource managers responsible for exotic pest plant management. This survey complements a SAMAB-sponsored review of published literature on the topic. Patrice Cole (U.Tennessee) reviewed invasive species issues and focused on value judgments and public roles for addressing these issues. Jerome Grant (U.Tennessee) discussed work showing that Tennessee Interstate highways apparently function as major pest plant invasion pathways.

This session demonstrated that there is an increasing network of information, expertise and interest in exotic pest plants as well as a growing network of people involved in these issues in the southern Appalachians (Kuppinger). Yet, with some notable exceptions, much of the public and many resource managers are sadly lacking in awareness and adequate information to address exotic pest plant challenges. Effectively setting priorities is complex but essential given limited dollars to address the challenge (Cole).

Grant clearly showed how private and public land relationships are important in addressing exotic pest plant problems. Thoroughfares offer avenues for

invasive species to enter natural areas. Of the more than 500 plants identified within public thoroughfares, one-third were exotic species. Dialogue among the scientists, communities, and policy makers is imperative to address the biology and concept terminology of the invasive species problems (Cole).

## **Directions for Watershed Management**

*Reported by Jerry Ryan*

Jim Herring (USFS) discussed an evaluation of the aquatic habitat and fauna of sub-basins within the Forest Services' Southern Region. This assessment was done in order to guide planning and prioritization of investments for protection and restoration.

In an overview of the Little Tennessee Watershed Association, Sharon Taylor (LTWA) stressed the importance of organizations within a watershed working together—people from local, state and federal agencies and conservation groups compose the LTWA Advisory Board. LTWA relies on volunteers and is currently involved in education programs, a restoration project, and sedimentation and biological monitoring projects.

Randy Fowler (USFS) provided an update on the large-scale restoration project in the Chattooga Watershed that aims to restore high-quality water and aquatic habitats by coupling a conservation education program with relocation of recreation facilities, roads, and trails.

Kent Evans (USFS) provided a history of the growth of the Conasauga River Alliance Watershed Project and the integration of the Forest Service into this public/private initiative. USFS, in concert with the Alliance, has established a Conasauga River coordinator position to handle Conasauga issues for both the Cherokee and Chattahoochee National Forests and assists with projects such as conservation education field days, interpretive materials and teacher workshops.

Tere McDonough (TVA Clinch-Powell Watershed Team) traced TVA's watershed improvement strategy in the Clinch-Powell watershed from the 1990s to present. She described the formation of a successful coalition and its watershed improvement projects.

Tom Holmes (USFS) discussed the costs and benefits of riparian restoration and protection activities in the Little Tennessee watershed. Costs were derived from previous field activities; benefits were determined through a "willingness to pay" survey of Macon County residents. The survey explored different levels of restoration and determined that residents are willing to fund some restoration and protection projects.

Discussion focused on the importance of local community involvement and intra- and inter-agency learning and cooperation in watershed management activities. SAMAB was encouraged to provide opportunities for dialogue among agency watershed management teams and to provide citizen watershed and clean water associations information about each other and funding opportunities. ■

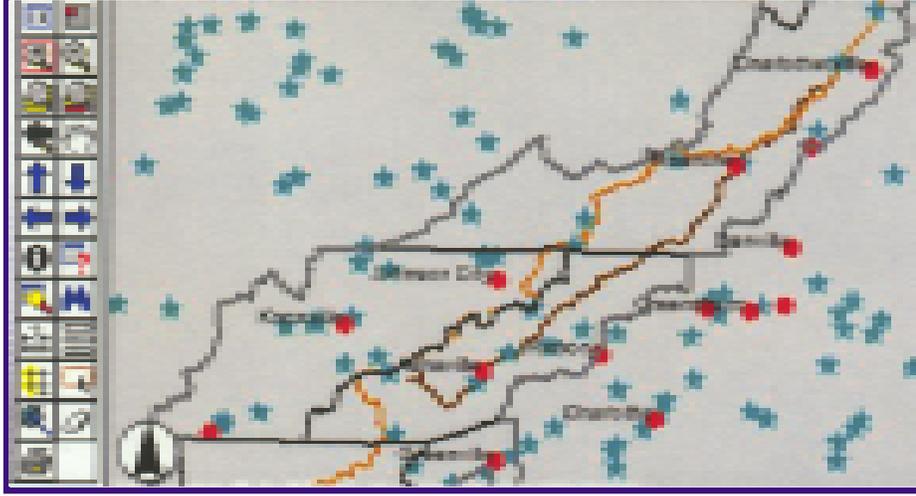
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**NBII**, continued from p.1

The partnership's approach to developing this node is to undertake infrastructure-building activities—integrate existing data inventory and information systems and build additional capacity where needed—while focusing on a specific place-based pilot project. The pilot project will demonstrate how biological and other environmental information can be used in local and regional resource management and growth planning by the Tennessee River Gorge Trust and by the neighboring town of Walden, working through the Chattanooga-Hamilton County Regional Planning Agency. ■

# SARIS Mapping Capability

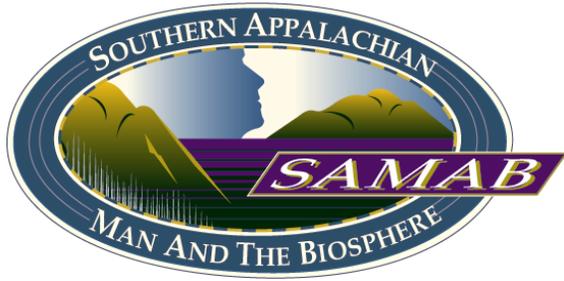
The map below was generated by SARIS, the Southern Appalachian Regional Information System, a Web-interfaced mapping tool that makes the Southern Appalachian Assessment data usable by anyone with a Web browser. Users can define maps with layers that show, for example, bodies of water and water quality, and their relation to public land ownership. One can also map, as below, the relation among ozone monitoring stations and the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Trail. See the article on p. 2 for additional detail.



## Herbert, Briggs Win SAMAB Honors

Nancy Herbert, Assistant Director of the US Forest Service's Southern Research Station, and George Briggs, Executive Director of the North Carolina Arboretum, received SAMAB awards at the Fall Conference. For dedication during her two terms as Vice-chairperson of the SAMAB Executive Committee and for stepping up to fill the vacated Chairperson's position, Herbert received SAMAB's Hinote Award. The SAMAB Foundation recognized George Briggs for outstanding service as Foundation President from 1997-2000.





October 2001

# SAMAB NEWS

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## SAMAB CALENDAR



### Executive Committee Meeting

November 5, 1:30-4:00 p.m., Holiday Inn-SunSpree Resort, Gatlinburg

### Foundation Board Meeting

November 5, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., Holiday Inn-SunSpree Resort, Gatlinburg

### Executive Committee/ Foundation Board Combined Meeting and

“Mixer” November 5, 4:00 -6:00 p.m.

### SAMAB Annual Fall Conference:

November 6-8, Holiday Inn-SunSpree Resort, Gatlinburg

## RELATED EVENTS

April 3-5, 2002, 4th Annual Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Symposium, Nashville, Tennessee, <<http://www.se-eppc.org>>

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**Conference Agenda**

**SAMAB Foundation Membership Form**



## Opportunities for Stewardship in the Southern Appalachians

### SAMAB Fall Conference, 2001

Join your colleagues and friends at SAMAB's 2001 Fall Conference. This year's conference explores how issues can be (and are being) resolved by actions that link resource managers, citizens, scientists, community groups, political leaders, and policy makers as stewards of our region's natural resources and communities.

The conference will include sessions on: activities to sustain Southern Appalachian resources and communities, invasive exotic plant management actions, cultural resource protection and perspectives, and watershed partnership opportunities. Also featured at the conference are: research that informs resource management, coordinating environmental review activities, and making resource information accessible. Altogether there will be 80 presentations, panels, and posters.

In the opening session of the conference, Denny Fenn and Briane Adams will highlight USGS efforts to work with others to provide resource information to aid management activities and to set priorities for scientific research in the Southern Appalachians. Fenn is the USGS Associate Director for Biology; Adams is the USGS staff hydrologist for this region. Dave Wear and John Greiss, USFS, will reveal the results of the Southern Forest Assessment, which has examined whether the South's forests can continue to meet growing resource demands for forest products and amenities for the long term.

An overview of the conference agenda and the registration form are included in this newsletter. A complete, detailed agenda is available at the SAMAB website <<http://samab.org>>. Click on the link to the Fall Conference information. ■

## SAMAB Foundation Membership

Demonstrate your support for the Southern Appalachian region by becoming a member of the SAMAB Foundation. Your membership in the SAMAB Foundation will support activities that protect the beauty and biological diversity of the region and encourage sustainable development and economic growth.

Your membership helps both directly—by providing funds for the SAMAB programs—and indirectly. Having active and ongoing support from individual members is crucial to raising additional funds from corporations and foundations.

The magnitude of the challenges we face—the threats to our region's air and water quality, biological diversity, and our cultural heritage—and the time that remains for us to address them is such that we need your support now. These

... continued on page 2

# From Issues to Action: Opportunities for Stewardship in the Southern Appalachians

## Agenda for the SAMAB Fall Conference, November 6-8, 2001

	Tuesday, Nov. 6		Wednesday, Nov. 7		Thursday, Nov. 8	
8:30-10:00	Welcome, SAMAB Leadership Dennis B. Fenn (USGS, Associate Director for Biology) Why the Appalachians? A USGS Integrated Science Planning Effort, Briane Adams		Agencies and NGO Programs: Opportunities for Local Watershed Organizations	Roles and Actions of Non-governmental Groups in Exotic Invasive Plant Management	Achieving Sustainable Appalachian Communities (this session will end at 12:30 p.m.)	Research for Resource Monitoring (this session will end at 12:30 p.m.)
10:30-12:00	Speaker (invited) Results of the Southern Forest Assessment, Dave Wear and John Greiss		(cont'd)	(cont'd)		
12:00-1:30	Lunch on your own		Lunch on your own <i>or</i> Roundtables (by registration) 1- Discussion among Gateway Communities about the Value of Collaboration in Problem Solving  2- NEPA in the Region: SAMAB Environmental Coordination Ctte		<b>12:30 p.m. Conference Adjourns</b>	
1:30-3:00	The Potential of Citizen-based Environmental Monitoring Activities	Roles and Actions of Agencies in Exotic Invasive Plant Management	Monitoring and More: Watershed Association and Government Efforts to Improve Watershed Health	Cultural Resources in the Southern Appalachians: Current Research and Cherokee Perspectives		
3:30-5:00	(cont'd)	(cont'd; this session will end at 5:30 p.m.)	Accessible Resource Information for Communities, Resource Managers, and Researchers	Environmental Streamlining: Coordinating Activities to Improve Impact Assessment		
Evening Events	6:00-7:30 Interactive Poster Session and Reception		6:00-8:00 Reception and premier viewing of <i>The Southern Appalachians: A Changing World</i> , a USGS movie. At the Sugarlands Visitors Center, Great Smoky Mountains National Park			

### Foundation Membership, cont'd

factors also mean that no organization and no government agency can address these problems single-handedly. That is why the SAMAB Foundation creates and fosters partnerships that cross institutional, jurisdictional, and geographic boundaries. The SAMAB Foundation is the private-side partner of the

SAMAB Cooperative, the Federal and state agency "arm" of SAMAB. The Foundation builds partnerships among Southern Appalachian communities, universities, SAMAB member agencies, and other foundations and organizations to encourage stewardship of the region's natural, cultural, and economic resources.

The quality of life that we enjoy in this region depends on the region's magnificent beauty and resources. We need your investment in the future of this quality of life. Please fill out and return the SAMAB Foundation membership application now!





# Tools and Information You Can Use! Region-wide, Map-based Watershed Organization Locator



SAMAB's Watershed Initiative has built an interactive web site to identify the watershed organizations of each basin in the Southern Appalachians. The site is located at <<http://samab.org/saris/watershedorg>> and is an initial "building block" of the Southern Appalachian Regional Information System.

The web page delivers detailed information about local organizations working toward watershed protection in the Southern Appalachian region. This product was developed to increase dialogue within the region among local watershed organizations, SAMAB members, and federal and state agencies.

The focus of the site is on the Southern Appalachians rather than individual states because the shared geology, hydrology, vegetation types, and wildlife habitat types of the region all contribute

to similar watershed management and protection issues. Thus, organizations within the region that face similar issues may benefit from dialogue with other organizations in the region, even if they are located in different states or river basins.

As a component of SARIS, this site is one of many "layers" of information—in this case human activities on the land—that help people see the relationships among human activities and settlement patterns, water quality, geology, and vegetation. Understanding these interactions is critical to good land management and development.

To use the web page, locate the basin of interest on the site's interactive regional map and click on it. A list of organizations and how to contact them is then displayed. Basins are identified

by their name, e.g., Watauga Basin, and delineated by the US Geological Survey 8-digit hydrologic unit codes, e.g., HUC 6010103. There is also a link from each basin to the respective EPA Surf Your Watershed site where you can find an environmental profile of the basin. The original source of information on watershed organizations is the 2000 survey of watershed activities conducted by the Southeast Watershed Forum. As other organizations notify us, we are updating the database with their information. Updates are made on the 5<sup>th</sup> of every month.

Please provide feedback on this web site, including content you would like to see, other organizations that should be listed, or other ideas using the feedback link on the page or emailing to Jerry Ryan at <[glryan@usgs.gov](mailto:glryan@usgs.gov)>.



## **SAMAB**

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## **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*

# SAMAB Fall Conference November 6-8, 2001