



SAMAB NEWS

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Citizen-based Environmental Monitoring Program Begins

Groups of volunteers in eight Southern Appalachian communities are conducting environmental inventory and monitoring activities or being trained to conduct these activities as part of the SAMAB Foundation's Appalachian Environmental Monitoring Program. At the outset the monitoring program is focused on water quality and/or invasive exotic plants, but other resource areas are being explored. Andy Brown, who heads Equinox Environmental in Asheville, NC, coordinates this program of activities for the SAMAB Foundation. The program is funded by the National Forest Foundation, the Appalachian Trail Park Office, and others.

Alliance (TN), the Upper Clinch Headwaters Association (VA), and the Little Tennessee Watershed Association (NC)—are conducting water quality assessments using biomonitoring and chemical analysis. The monitoring sites are selected to supplement state and Federal monitoring and include headwater areas located near or on the Appalachian Trail. Two of these watershed associations will also carry out invasive exotic plant monitoring.

In four other communities, Pittman Center (TN), Fontana Village (NC), Wesser (NC), and Hot Springs (NC), SAMAB is building teams of volunteer invasive-plant monitors. The

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Overall, SAMAB has focused on monitoring protocols, data collection instruments, and volunteer training with a goal of assuring high-quality data. Technical assistance from TVA watershed teams and consultation with USDA Forest Service field biologists was key to adapting monitoring protocols. The specific activities supported by the SAMAB Foundation vary among the volunteer groups, depending on the community's interests and needs. They range from recruiting and training volunteers to making information already collected by a watershed group available and usable by the community.



Four watershed associations in three states are receiving support from this program. These associations—the Friends of the South Fork Holston Watershed Association (VA), the Upper Nolichucky Watershed

*Learning the telltale features of invasive exotic plants is an important component of training to monitor these species. Here, citizen monitors from the Hot Springs, NC area examine leaflets of the *Ailanthus altissima* (Tree of Heaven).*

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SAMAB Fall Conference, November 5-7, 2002

SAMAB Partners Conduct Long-Term Planning

Management and land-use planning for many of the region's parks, forests, and reserves is currently underway.

Oak Ridge Reservation

The Department of Energy's Oak Ridge Reservation, the Blue Ridge Parkway, and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and the Cherokee (TN), Chattahoochee-Oconee (GA), Jefferson (VA), national forest in Alabama each have major long-range planning activities underway that will affect their management and land use.

The Oak Ridge Reservation is conducting a planning process to develop land-use scenarios for portions of the Reservation that in the future may not be needed for the Department of Energy's mission. The scenarios are being developed by a focus group of 20 individuals with expertise in economic development, environmental values, and community needs along with input from the public. "This process is a refreshing approach to Oak Ridge Reservation planning. It allows thoughtful, open, and respectful communication among individuals and groups with a variety of interests—and the process is working," said Pat Parr, Oak Ridge Reservation Manager and member of the SAMAB Executive Committee. Recommendations of the group will be available in late summer and a public meeting is scheduled for September 9. For more information see <http://landuseplanning.ornl.gov> or email parrpd@ornl.gov.

Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains

The development of a "Cades Cove Opportunities Plan" is in its early stages. The plan—a development concept and transportation management plan—is intended to address the qual-

ity of the visitor experience through protecting natural resources, preserving cultural heritage, and managing traffic congestion. Annual visitation of Cades Cove in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park is over two million, impacting park resources and facilities to the extent that the quality of the visitor experience is

compromised. The National Park Service is partnering with the Knoxville Metropolitan Transportation Planning Organization to develop the plan. Several public meetings will be held as the objectives of the plan and alternative strategies are developed. See <http://www.cadescoveopp.com/> for more information and a schedule of public meetings.

Blue Ridge Parkway

The Blue Ridge Parkway is developing its first-ever general management plan, examining its long-range goals and management issues and charting a course for its future. With many opportunities for public input, the plan will explore what range of resource conditions and visitor experiences should be achieved and maintained over time for the Blue Ridge Parkway. With more than 1,000 miles of boundary, 4,000 adjacent landowners, 29 county governments and several town and city governments to interact with, 500,000 acres of scenic landscape outside its boundary, and 181 access points from regional roads, the management plan also will address adjacent land uses and transportation improvements, their effect on park resources and visitors, and strategies for cooperation among public and pri-



Oak Ridge Reservation Manager, Pat Parr (foreground), points out land features at a public meeting about future uses of areas of the Oak Ridge Reservation. The Reservation is a unit of the Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve.

vate land managers. For more information see <http://www.planning.den.nps.gov/plans.cfm> and click on the general management plan link.

National Forests

Efforts to revise the Cherokee (TN), Chattahoochee-Oconee (GA), Jefferson (VA), and National Forests of Alabama forest plans have been underway for the last few years. Forest Service specialists will tailor each forest plan to fit the unique concerns and natural resource issues at the local level in each state. Together, however, the family of plans will strategically address major natural resource issues that affect the Southern Appalachians as a whole. "Southern Appalachian forests have come under immense pressures recently, from a number of sources," said Gary Pierson, the Director of Planning for the Forest Service Southeast Region. "These plans aim to address some of those pressures to ensure national forests remain healthy and productive today and in the future." Specialists will draw the much-needed baseline scientific data from the Southern Appalachian Assessment and Southern Forest Resource Assessment. Both documents provide a comprehensive snapshot of the current state of forest resources

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Citizen-based Environmental Monitoring Program, continued from p. 1

invasive-plant-monitoring activities are focused on areas adjacent to natural heritage sites in the national parks, national forests, and adjacent private lands. Natural heritage sites are places where rare plants or animals or high quality natural habitats occur. The goal is to identify invasive plants that could spread to the protected lands. Monitoring teams are concentrating on twelve species of invasive exotic plants, although many more species occur in the region. "To do more right now could overwhelm our volunteers," says Jack Ranney, leader of SAMAB's invasive plants initiative. Four training sessions have already been held and monitoring has begun at two sites.

The objectives of the Appalachian Regional Environmental Monitoring Program are dual. The first objective is to help citizens in these communities understand firsthand their environment so they are better equipped to make good decisions about their own lands and to participate more fully in the



Citizen-monitors are trained to use GPS equipment to identify the location of the sites they are recording.

decision-making processes of their local governments and the Federal land management agencies whose boundaries they share. The second objective is to collect natural resource data that can inform these very decisions. The aim, ultimately, is to build a program of citizen-based environmental monitoring that extends throughout the Ap-

palachian region, with the Appalachian Trail as the research transect.

The program has developed through SAMAB Foundation and Cooperative partnerships with the Appalachian Trail Park Office, the National Forest Foundation, three southern Appalachian area Resource, Conservation, and Development Councils, and the University of Tennessee, who all have provided funding for these activities. Scientists and program managers of the Tennessee Valley Authority and several of SAMAB's other Federal partners have provided technical assistance and review.

SAMAB is planning to continue to work with the eight communities already involved in the program and to work with additional gateway communities. If your community would like to become involved in the program, please contact Andy Brown, coordinator of the monitoring program, at equinoxab@earthlink.net. ■

Join the SAMAB Foundation

to help with programs like the Citizen-based Environmental Monitoring Program —supporting resource sustainability, creating economic and cultural solutions to growing regional demands, and promoting a harmonious relationship with our Southern Appalachian Region.

<i>Annual Membership</i>	<i>Cost</i>	<i>Payment Methods</i>
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<input type="checkbox"/> <i>Individual</i>	\$35	<i>Account number</i> _____
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SAMAB Partners' Long-term Planning, continued from p. 2

and natural resource challenges facing the Southern Appalachians. During the last two weeks of August, each forest will host at least one workshop aimed at drawing input from the public.

"These forest plans will plot a new management direction that will ensure the long-term sustainability of national forests in the Southern Appalachians. Citizen participation at this juncture is very critical. We're looking forward to some productive discussions," say Pierson. For more information and a schedule of meetings call Robert Wilhelm, USDA Forest Service Planning Office, (404) 347-7076 or see <http://www.southernregion.fs.fed.us/planning/default.shtm>. ■

Focus on

Stewardship and Transportation Planning

This and the next issue of SAMAB News feature articles and information relating to stewardship in transportation planning and assessment. The SAMAB Conference, Nov. 5-7, 2002, also features a session on environmental stewardship and streamlining in transportation planning and project decision making. See <http://samab.org> for conference information.

Coweeta Scientists Monitor Sediment from Forest Roads to Evaluate Road Surfaces and BMPs

By Barry Clinton and Mark Riedel, USDA Forest Service, Southern Research Station, Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, Otto, NC

As part of the USDA Forest Service Large Scale Watershed Restoration initiative—a collaborative project to restore riparian areas across the U.S.—scientists at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory recently began studies on the impact of sediment from different types of road surfaces on streams within important Southern Appalachian watersheds.

The Chattooga River Watershed

The Chattooga River, designated a Wild and Scenic River in 1974, is nationally known for the boulder-strewn rapids that mark its steep descent from North Carolina into Lake Tugaloo on the border between South Carolina and Georgia. The Chattooga, one of the last free-flowing rivers in the Southeast, flows through dense, mature forests managed by the USDA Forest Service: roads in the area provide access for recreational use as well as for forest management purposes.

The Environmental Protection Agency has listed several streams in the Chattooga watershed as impaired by sediment washed down from roads. As part of the watershed initiative, we examined sediment production from four types of forest roads: a 2-year-old paved surface, a

gravel surface receiving routine maintenance, an improved gravel surface where several types of best management practices (BMPs) had been installed, and an unimproved forest road that received little maintenance. We ranked the road surfaces using the mean TSS (total suspended solids) concentration—a measurement of sediment—in road surface runoff. The results show that sediment movement is highly variable among surface types, and is related to levels of maintenance and road drainage. The paved surface contributed the least sediment, followed, in order, by the improved graveled road, the gravel road receiving routine maintenance, and the unimproved road.

Best management practices (BMPs) were first developed in the Appalachians to prevent or minimize the impacts of forestry activities on water quality. When we began the Chattooga study, BMPs were present only on the improved gravel surface and consisted of broad-based dips, silt fences, rip-rap, cribbing in conjunction with rip-rap, and grassed road shoulders. Streams downslope



Sedimentation from unimproved and gravel roads can be reduced when best management practices, such as grassed road shoulders and rip-rap, are installed properly and well maintained.

from improved gravel surfaces with functioning BMPs had greatly reduced concentrations of sediment; however, where BMPs failed, either due to lack of maintenance or improper installation, sediment concentrations were similar to those associated with the other gravel surfaces. Sediment concentration also decreased with the distance water traveled downslope of the road. In order to prevent or reduce the risk of sedimentation to streams and rivers, it is critical to ensure that drainage occurs in locations that are not adjacent to watercourses, and that drainage outlets are set at frequent enough intervals to keep water volumes at a minimum.

Conasauga River Watershed

We have also been monitoring sediment yield from a wide array of forest roads on the Conasauga River watershed of the Chattahoochee National Forest in northern Georgia and southeastern Tennessee. The roads represent a range of usage

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Tools and Information You Can Use!



Two bibliographies, compiled by Dave Sullivan, Federal Highway Association (FHWA) Southern Resource Center, are available at the SAMAB website <<http://samab.org>>. These bibliographies serve as reference tools, cataloging key literature and guidance on their respective topics. The bibliographies cover guidance and literature relevant to the transportation planning and assessment context and other assessment contexts. The bibliographies are “hot-linked” to the literature they reference.

Cost-Benefit and Natural Resource Valuation Tools and Literature

Need help understanding how (and why) a dollar value is assigned to natural resources? This short bibliography of literature on the methods of natural resource valuation and cost-benefit analysis is quick reference for both analysts and those trying to understand or judge the merits of these types of valuations and assessments, which are components of most Federal and state agency decisions.

Bibliography of Indirect and Cumulative Impacts

Federal mandates require that the indirect and cumulative effects of Federal actions be assessed and weighed as part of the decision process. This bibliography guides you through guidance provided by the EPA, the Council on Environmental Quality, and the Federal Highway Administration, as well as international guidelines and related literature.

England & Gilbert Win SAMAB Honors

Russ England, recently retired from the Georgia Department of Natural Resources Wildlife Division, and V.C. (Tommy) Gilbert received SAMAB Awards in 2001. For consistently and productively representing Georgia at the SAMAB table for a decade, En-

gland was awarded SAMAB’s Hinote Award. The SAMAB Foundation recognized Tommy Gilbert for the Herculean effort he devoted to initiating the SAMAB Foundation’s Appalachian Regional Environmental Monitoring Program. ■



Left: Tommy Gilbert wins the 2001 SAMAB Foundation Award. Below: Russ England, left, receives the Hinote award from Jon Loney, Chairperson of the SAMAB Executive Committee.



Monitoring Sediment from Forest Roads, from p. 4

levels: permanently closed, seasonally closed, light usage, moderate usage and thoroughfare roads. The road base materials include native soils, native soils seeded with grass, soils improved with aggregate, and full aggregate bases with grades ranging from zero to 20 percent. Our preliminary results indicate that sediment yields increase with traffic levels: we did find, however, that two of the closed roads had unusually high sediment yields similar to those of moderate usage roads. These closed roads are used as horse trails: frequent use combined with a bare roadbed make them unusually susceptible to erosion. As has been found with unpaved roads traveled by motor vehicles, seeding these roadbeds with grasses would help to mitigate the increased sediment yield from the horse traffic. ■

2001 Conference Session Summaries Available Online

Several of the sessions at the 2001 SAMAB Conference are summarized and online at <<http://samab.org/Events/Conf/prev.html>>. These summaries distill management implications, education needs and messages, and research directions from the many presentations at the conference. They are a record of the conference that captures the ideas and dialogue generated by the individual presentations. These session summaries are a source of input to the 2002-2005 SAMAB plan of work (see p.6). ■

SAMAB Rebuilding Multi-Year Plan of Work

SAMAB members and cooperators met at the North Carolina Arboretum on Tuesday, May 14th to develop a plan of work for the next three years. More than 40 people joined in the break-out sessions to discuss and develop a few project ideas in each of four different areas: invasive species, sustainable communities, ecosystem restoration, and information management. These projects represent ways the SAMAB agency partners, universities, interest groups, and community leaders can implement the goals outlined in our 2002 Strategic Plan.

Through a series of research, educational, or technology transfer projects, SAMAB can help “foster a harmonious relationship between people and the Southern Appalachian environment.”

With this purpose in mind, people attending the Spring Planning Meeting developed 2-4 projects for each of the four areas discussed. This list of projects will be combined with similar plans that will be developed to contribute to improving air quality and protecting cultural resources in the Southern Appalachians. This information will be presented to the SAMAB Executive Committee at its August meeting for approval. The approved projects will be combined into a plan of work for 2002-2005. Agency representatives and cooperators will work together to seek funding for and accomplish these projects over the next three years.



see “Stewardship & Transportation Planning,” page 4.

Plan to Attend!

SAMAB Fall Conference

November 5-7, 2002

Holiday Inn-SunSpree, Gatlinburg, TN

“Measuring, Mitigating, and Managing Human Impacts in the Southern Appalachians”

Sessions, workshops, and field trips:

Supporting state and local efforts to manage ecological integrity • Challenges and progress in gateway communities • Restoring warm season native grasses • Environmental stewardship and streamlining in transportation planning • Implications of the Southern Forest Resource Assessment for the Southern Appalachians • Biotic Integrity and the TMDL process • Enhancing imperiled aquatic populations • Implications of the 2002 Farm Bill

See <http://samab.org>



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SAMAB Fall Conference, November 5-7, 2002

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13TH ANNUAL SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE

NOVEMBER 5-7, 2002

HOLIDAY INN-
 GATLINBURG

MEASURING,
 MITIGATING, AND
 MANAGING HUMAN
 IMPACTS IN
 THE SOUTHERN
 APPALACHIANS

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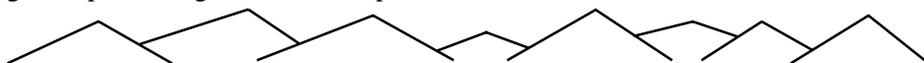
Cleckley, Ross, and Hirschhorn Featured Speakers at SAMAB Fall Conference

Gene Cleckley (FHWA), Bill Ross (NC DENR), and Joel Hirschhorn (National Governors Association) are the featured speakers at SAMAB's 13th Annual Conference.

Cleckley is the Federal Highway Administration's Director of Field Services - South. His keynote address will be Tuesday, November 5 at 1:30. With Cleckley at the helm, the Federal Highway Administration Southern Resource Center has focused on community impact assessment, environmental justice, and achieving FHWA's "Vital Few" goal of environmental stewardship and streamlining, including regional solutions to habitat connectivity, airshed quality, and watershed-based mitigation.

Bill Ross and Joel Hirschhorn will deliver key plenary addresses Wednesday morning, November 6. Ross, as Secretary of North Carolina's Department of Environment and Natural Resources, is spearheading "One North Carolina Naturally," a statewide land and water protection planning initiative that will focus on maintaining functional ecosystems, biological diversity, and stewardship of North Carolina's resources as the state continues to grow.

Joel Hirschhorn is the National Governors Association's (NGA) Natural Resources Policy Director. At NGA, Hirschhorn has attended to growth management, environmental, energy, agriculture, and natural resource issues. He is currently leading an NGA Policy Academy guiding six states (including Tennessee) in their efforts to better integrate transportation and land use planning to address loss of green space, congestion, and air pollution. ■



Changing Southern Forests

The broad findings of the Forest Service-led Southern Forest Resource Assessment indicate that southern forests are affected and will be affected by multiple, complex forces. Among them are

- Urban sprawl—31 million acres of forest developed between 1992 and 2040—especially in the eastern parts of the South;
- Population growth and social change that affect people's use and expectations of the forests;
- A westward shift in forest area in the South as urbanization occurs in the east and conversion of agricultural land to forest occurs in the western parts of the South.
- Expanded timber production—56% increase in softwood production and 47% increase in hardwood production. Investment in pine plantations will allow softwood inventories to gradually increase; hardwood removals will exceed growth regionally by 2025.

The assessment identifies the Southern Appalachians as one of three areas in the South where forces of change—and the implications of change—are concen-

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Changing Southern Forests,

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trated. In addition to population growth and land use changes, pressure occurs from forest-based recreation demands and "competition" among different recreation user groups. Also, forest health issues—including ozone pollution and exotic plants and animals—have the potential to restructure forest ecosystems.

The Assessment was initiated in May 1999 to address the sustainability of southern forests in light of increasing urbanization and timber harvests and the many other factors that influence the region's forests.

For more detailed information on the Southern Forest Resource Assessment see <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/sustain/>. ■

Southern Appalachians Value Their National Forests

The Forest Service recently surveyed 5200 people in the Southern Appalachian region, eliciting what they valued about the national forests. The Service conducted the survey as a way of involving the public in the development of the revisions to the management plans of national forests in the Southern Appalachians.

"We found that people in the region value the national forests in many ways," said project leader, Ken Cordell of the Service's Southern Research Station. "People give top value to protecting sources of clean water, followed by retaining natural forests for future generations, providing protection for wildlife and habitat, providing places that are natural in

appearance, and protecting rare and endangered species." Residents gave lower values to

managing national forests as sources of raw materials, as grazing ranges for livestock, and for tourism.

For information on the public values survey see <http://www.srs.fs.fed.us/trends/sanfrpt.html>. ■

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE SOUTHERN FOREST RESOURCE ASSESSMENT FOR THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIANS AT THE SAMAB FALL CONFERENCE.

Register Now! SAMAB Conference

November 5 - 7, 2002

Holiday Inn - SunSpree, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

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Name:		Affiliation:		phone:	
Address:			email:		fax:
		COST		AMOUNT DUE	
Registration	Full conference rate		\$85 (\$75 SAMAB Foundation members)		
	Student/Senior/Retiree rate		\$65 (\$55 for members)		
	One day rate - Nov 5 (includes Aquarium)		\$60 (\$45 for members)		
	One day rate - Nov 6 or 7		\$50 (\$45 for members)		
	Spouse to attend social at Aquarium		\$20.00		
Luncheon Roundtables	NEPA in the Region - Tues. Nov. 5		\$10.00		
	Gateway Communities - Wed. Nov. 6		\$10.00		
	Boxed lunch for fieldtrips, Wed. Nov. 6 Circle One: Native Grasses Transportation Restoring Sturgeon		\$10.00		
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* Foundation membership is fully tax deductible as allowed by law.					

Measuring, Mitigating, and Managing Human Impacts in the Southern Appalachians Agenda for the SAMAB Fall Conference, November 5-7, 2002

Tuesday, November 5

8:30	National Forest Foundation Partners Meeting (by invitation)	Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining in Transportation Planning and Project Decision-making
12:00	Lunch on your own or "NEPA in the Region" Roundtable	
1:30	Keynote: Gene Cleckley, Director of Field Services - South, U.S. DOT, FHWA	
3:00	The 2002 Farm Bill - Land and Resource Conservation Opportunities	Environmental Stewardship and Streamlining in Transportation Planning (continued)
6:00	Reception at Ripley's Aquarium of the Smokies	

Wednesday, November 6

8:30	Keynote: Bill Ross, Secretary, NC Department of Environment and Natural Resources Joel Hirschhorn, Director, Natural Resource Policy Studies, National Governors Association		
9:45	Challenges and Progress in Gateway Communities	Supporting State & Local Efforts to Manage Ecological Integrity	Restoring Warm Season Native Grasses
12:00	Gateway communities luncheon; or pick up box lunch for field trip; or lunch on your own		
1:30	Challenges and Progress in Gateway Communities (cont'd)	Supporting State & Local Efforts to Manage Ecological Integrity (cont'd)	Field Trips: a. Native Grass Restoration; b. Transportation Planning in Cades Cove; c. Restoring Lake Sturgeon
5:30	Poster Session with light hors d'oeuvres; SAMAB Awards		

Thursday, November 7

8:00	Invasive Species - Impending Change to Forest Ecosystems	Enhancing Imperiled Aquatic Populations
12:00	Lunch on your own	
1:30	Southern Forest Resource Assessment - Implications for the Southern Appalachians	Biotic Integrity and the TMDL Process



**See www.samab.org
for a more detailed
conference agenda.**

Native Grasses Restored to Federal Lands

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park is restoring native grasses and wildflowers to the western end of Cades Cove. This is in contrast to other open areas of the Cove that are dominated by meadow fescue that is mowed for hay twice a year.

About 2,400 acres of open fields surrounded by forests, and a collection of nineteenth century buildings—homes, barns, churches and a mill—make up the Cove. The Cove is visited by two million people annually.

The one native meadow that remained in the Cove provided the seeds for the restoration. These native grasses are bunch grasses that are suitable for nesting spots and allow easier travel for small mammals. A native meadow has more plant species diversity than a fescue field and in turn supports more diversity of other native organisms. The native grasses also provide more suitable cover for wildlife.

Visitors accustomed to the more-manicured look of mowed fields view the taller grasses with concern. They have written Park management and congressional representatives with worries that the Park will let trees and shrubs take over the Cove. “The truth of the matter,” says Jenny Beeler, formerly a vegetation specialist with the GSMNP and now with Big South Fork NRA, “is that the park will continue to maintain the open spaces in the cove. Most visitors don’t realize that the manicured field can actually be detrimental to wildlife.” ■



The Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park, like the Smokies, is restoring native grasses for demonstration and land management purposes. Here, prescribed burning is used to prepare a restoration site for native grass seed planting. For information about the Oak Ridge restoration see www.esd.ornl.gov/facilities/nerp/nativegrass.html. Learn more about these activities at the SAMAB Fall Conference.

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SAMAB Fall Conference, November 5-7, 2002

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 Tennessee Valley Authority
 Economic Development Administration
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 US Army Corps of Engineers
 US Geological Survey Water Resources Division
 Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory

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