

June/July 1999

SAMAB NEWS

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CALENDAR



SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting
August 11, 1999, 10:00 to 4:00, SAMAB
Coordinating Office, Knoxville

SAMAB conference abstracts due
September 1, 1999 (see details inside)

SAMAB Fall Conference
Nov. 1-3, 1999, Glenstone Lodge,
Gatlinburg, TN

SAMAB Executive Committee Meeting
Nov. 4, 1999, Glenstone Lodge,
Gatlinburg, TN

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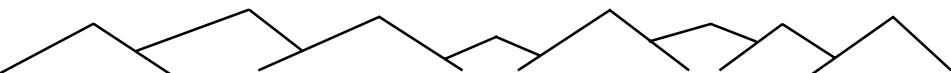
1999 Spring Planning Meeting Marks Progress and Plans Next Steps

On May 19 and 20, an enthusiastic crowd of 35 met to evaluate a year of progress and chart the course for SAMAB's activities in the coming year. Participants in the SAMAB cooperative planned ways to advance the three initiatives on which the organization is focused through 2000—sustainability, watersheds, and native plants/invasive species.

Hosted once again by the North Carolina Arboretum amid the daring colors of the flame azaleas, participants heard from Suzette Kimball, Chair of the Executive Committee; Robb Turner, Executive Director; George Briggs, President of the SAMAB Foundation; Noreen Clough, newly appointed Executive Coordinator of the Southeastern Region Natural Resource Leaders Group; and Rob Sutter, The Nature Conservancy's Southeast Regional Director of Biological Conservation. Together these presentations focused on the status of the SA region and on SAMAB's progress over the past year.

Initiative groups and committees reported accomplishments and outlined a number of activities to be undertaken during the next year. Reports detailing these accomplishments and activities are found on pages 4-5 of this issue.

A number of new interactions, namely cross-fertilization between initiatives and committees, were the product of the meeting. Better implementing the matrix of initiatives and committees is a goal toward which participants will work for increasing efficiency and productivity. ■



Leaders' Group - SAMAB Partnership

"Leaders of the natural resource agencies in the Southeast reaffirmed their commitment to the Natural Resource Leaders Group and to SAMAB at their December meeting," announced Noreen Clough, the newly appointed Executive Coordinator of the Southeastern Region Natural Resource Leaders Group (SRNRLG). Clough believes SAMAB is the perfect vehicle for reinvigorating the relationships among the agencies and lauded SAMAB's proactive approach in the region.

Clough discussed the SRNRLG's status, saying that recent turnover of regional directors had caused the group to lose focus. Clough added, "Now the group is beginning to regain focus and working to break out of its reactive, crisis-oriented mode of action." Under Clough's leadership, the SRNRLG hopes to become more proactive. To achieve this Clough has recommended that the group focus on a smaller agenda. ■

SAMAB INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Native Plants and Invasive Species

submitted by Hilary Vinson

In his 1998 book, *Invasive Plants: Changing the Landscape of America, A Fact Book*, Randy Westbrooks (Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds) defines invasive plants as “plants that have been introduced into an environment in which they did not evolve and thus usually have no natural enemies to limit their reproduction and spread.... In natural areas, the definition expands to include introduced aggressive plants that produce a significant change in terms of composition, structure, or ecosystem function.”

Invasive Plants addresses the impacts, status, and trends of invasive plants in a number of ecosystems. (To order see “Resources,” next page.)

The threat Westbrooks describes is the motivation and justification for SAMAB’s Native Plants and Invasive Species Initiative.

Looking Back

In 1996 Phil Gibson (then SAMAB, now Western NC Tomorrow) and Chuck Parker (USGS BRD) chaired a biocontrol workshop to discuss the impacts of invasive, exotic species on the flora and fauna of the Southern Appalachians. Those in attendance discussed the numerous exotic insects, diseases, and pest plants and agreed that public education is vital and essential to controlling the spread of invasive exotics and garnering support for biocontrol methods. Invasive pest plants were specifically identified as one area in which land managers and the public could play a critical part. Following the lead of this workshop, in 1998 SAMAB adopted the initiative as part of its program of work.

In 1998 SAMAB joined the Native Plant Conservation Initiative (NPCI; see www.nps.gov/plants), made up of 10 Federal agencies and 144 cooperating organizations across the nation. Becoming a cooperating organization

with the NPCI allows the SAMAB initiative to draw on a pool of resources, including funding opportunities and informative materials.

The SAMAB initiative has carried out its public outreach function by contributing to the development of a number of brochures and posters that provide information about and increase the awareness of native and invasive, exotic plants. The initiative also has drafted a regional conservation strategy.



Native Plants and Invasive Species Initiative: Vision and Goals

The initiative’s vision is to promote, conserve, and restore the rich natural heritage of the Southern Appalachians by reducing the use, and controlling the spread, of invasive non-native pest plants.

Its goals are

- To increase the awareness and knowledge of the public, policymakers, and land managers about the advantages of native plants and the disadvantages of invasive non-native pest plants;
- To encourage commercial interest in promoting native plants for garden and landscape use; and
- To form a regional coalition among private and commercial interest groups, public agencies, and scientists to share resources and experience.

Looking Forward

The initiative has developed a vision and goals to guide its continued progress and has established priorities for its continued work. The priorities are shaped by a need—lack of knowledge among resource managers, the public, and policy makers of the threat that invasive pest plants pose to natural communities in the SA region—and a recent event—Executive Order 13112 on Invasive Species, issued February 3, 1999, that provides high-level support and direction for invasive species control at

the ground level. The initiative has several projects ongoing or in development to support the priorities. Some are highlighted here.

Priority 1: Form a steering committee. The committee will finalize the draft strategy as well as initiative goals and objectives, coordinate with partners, make decisions, coordinate with the executive committee and high-level state contacts to promote invasive species control and native plant promotion, and prepare and submit joint grant proposals.

Priority 2: Organize inreach among local, state, and federal agencies. A key activity to be conducted is an Invasive Pest Plant Assessment that will characterize the

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impact of invasive pest plants in the SA region. The assessment will be based on existing data and research that has been conducted by agencies including the National Park Service, the U.S. Forest Service and The Nature Conservancy. It will provide valuable information for on-going invasive plant management, for determining future research needs, and for public outreach. In addition SAMAB is now an active member of the Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council and will coordinate many of its invasive species management and control activities with the Council.

Priority 3: Organize outreach to targeted public audiences. Many products, targeting various audiences, are in development or proposed. For example, in cooperation with six native gardens in the Southern Appalachians and with a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, the initiative is developing interpretive signs and brochures for these gardens. These interpretive products are designed to increase visitors' interest, awareness, and knowledge of native plants, as well as to increase their ability to create their own native gardens. ■

For more information contact Phil Gibson (pgibson@wpoff.wcu.edu) or Hilary Vinson (hilary_vinson@fws.gov).

Native Plant/Invasive Species List Server

SAMAB now hosts a list server for those who want to find or share information and ideas about native plants/invasive species. To sign on, send your request and email address to lbell@utk.edu.



Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council Fights a Silent Biological Invasion

by Kristine Johnson

There are few places on the continent today that are not damaged in some way by invasive exotic species. The Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC) and its state chapters in Florida, North Carolina, and Tennessee formed to prevent future invasive pest plant introductions and to improve public awareness and facilitate the exchange of information about the spread of invasive plants into natural areas. SE-EPPC focuses on natural areas that often are fragmented and susceptible to easy, inadvertent introduction of invasive exotic plants. SE-EPPC promotes cooperation among all land managers, whether managing a large wilderness or urban greenway, in identifying and managing exotic pest plants.

The Great Smoky Mountains National Park, encompassing over 800 square miles, is the largest intact natural area in the eastern United

States, yet new invasions are found there every year. Garlic mustard infestations at trailhead parking lots, Paulownia seedlings at prescribed burn sites several miles into the Park's interior, and a number of agricultural pests at backcountry horse camps and grassy balds are some of the recently identified infestations.

Membership in the SE-EPPC or the TN or NC state chapters helps provide the resources needed to host annual symposia and workshops, and print educational brochures. For general information on the SE-EPPC, see their Web site <www.webriver.com/tn-eppc> or contact Brian Bowen, Executive Director, at bbowen@mail.state.tn.us. For information on membership contact Robin Peeler at Robin@edge.net. ■

Kristine Johnson is President of TN EPPC and Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist for the GSMNP.

Native Plants/Invasive Species Resources

Invasive Plants: Changing the Landscape of America, by Randy Westbrooks. GPO's Online Bookstore, <www.access.gpo.gov>. (\$15) Item 024-001-03607-0

Proceedings of the Southern Appalachian Biological Control Initiative Workshop. Published by USDA, Forest Health Technology Enterprise Team - 800/621-0008

Landscaping with Native Plants in East Tennessee. GSMNP - 423/436-1707

Landscaping with Native Plants in Western North Carolina. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - 828/258-3939

Invasive Pest Plant brochure insert. U.S. FWS - 828/258-3939

Landscaping with Native Plants in Utility Right-Of-Ways. Tennessee Valley Authority - 423/632-1676

Exotic Pest Plants (color brochure); "Western North Carolina Grow Native" bumper sticker. Western North Carolina Tomorrow - 800/621-0008

Native Plant Conservation Initiative - <www.nps.gov/plants>

Native plant events directory
Alien Plant Working Group information
Grant opportunities

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, <www.webriver.com/tn-eppc> (soon changing to <www.se-eppc.org>)

The Nature Conservancy: Wildland Weeds Management & Research Program Web site <tncweeds.ucdavis.edu>

1999 Spring Planning Meeting: Committee Reports

Education Committee – led and reported by Hilary Vinson, hilary_vinson@fws.gov

Focusing on a younger audience and building partnerships, the committee made plans to:

- Team with Carolina Kids Conservancy to (1) develop a student activity book to supplement “An Appalachian Curriculum,” developed by the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Appalachian Consortium about rare SA eco-communities, e.g., mountain bogs and grassy balds; and (2) to help organize and sponsor teacher workshops. Also discussed was the possibility of introducing high school teachers and students to the SAA database for further study of SA eco-communities.
- Work more closely with the Appalachian Consortium’s education committee and possibly do a presentation on the SAMAB Native Plants and Invasive Species initiative at the next Consortium meeting.
- Assist with the development of activities for the mountain bog and high-elevation ecosystem posters.

Environmental Coordination Committee –

led and reported by Harold Draper, hmdraper@tva.gov

The committee plans outreach and “inreach” activities:

- Host a session on NEPA and related laws at the SAMAB annual conference.
- Assist agencies in cumulative-effects analysis and provide information to SAMAB initiatives by developing/maintaining a list of ongoing Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements in the SA region. The list will have documents that agencies make available or publicly announce and will be posted on the SAMAB Web site.
- Designate a representative to be a liaison with each of the three SAMAB initiatives.

Fall Conference Committee – led and reported by Jack

Ranney, jwranney@utk.edu

Melanie Catania (TDEC) and Jack Ranney (UT) will co-chair the conference planning committee. Members include Sue Jennings (NPS), Karen Lorino (UT), Allen Ratslaff (FWS), Katherine Sells (NRCS), and Robb Turner (SAMAB). Members are sought from states other than Tennessee and member organizations that focus on communities and resource management.

The theme for the conference was tentatively identified as “Community Solutions,” with the intent being to increase participation by community and group representatives and resource managers. Toward this end, the committee is developing a marketing strategy and endeavoring to be innovative.

The committee has drafted 1) a schedule of planning activities, 2) a preliminary agenda, and 3) a call for abstracts. The committee needs assistance to identify additional committee members and session organizers/chairs, to identify plenary speakers, and to determine the products to seek from the conference.

Public Affairs Committee – led and reported by Pat Parr, par@ornl.gov

The committee includes representatives of USFS, ORNL, and NPS. It seeks participation by other cooperative members. Recent accomplishments are the repair of the pdf versions of the SAA report and the development of viewgraphs on the program of work for the executive director and others to use when talking about SAMAB. Planned activities include updating the SAMAB program-of-work document when the committee receives updates from the initiatives and assisting the coordinating office by reviewing draft newsletters and the Web site.

Research & Monitoring Committee – led and reported by Susan Kask, kask@wcu.edu

The committee discussed opportunities to involve other SAMAB members and ways to improve interaction of the research community within and beyond the SAMAB cooperative. Specifically, the committee discussed

- Supporting Kerry Britton in her review of FIA plots—a good opportunity for interested persons from other agencies to get involved. If interested, contact Kerry at [Britton_Kerry/srs_athens@fs.fed.us](mailto:Britton_Kerry@srs_athens@fs.fed.us) or Susan Kask.
- Questions about monitoring data and the SAA database, including what data exists, who among the cooperative members conducts monitoring, which SAA data sets are monitoring data, and how the GIS subcommittee and the new SAMAB data specialist could address these questions.
- The potential for promoting more communication among SAMAB Cooperative research scientists. Committee members agreed to explore the possibility of a joint watershed conference, as well as the potential for collaborative research such as the RFP for the SAMI air quality study.
- It was suggested that the need for better interaction between SAMAB and the research community be brought to the executive committee for discussion.

Resource Management Committee – led and

reported by Katherine Sells, ksells@tn.nrcs.usda.gov

There was no formal meeting of this committee. The committee’s foci are the promotion of riparian zone restoration and protection, efforts to control exotic pests, backyard (urban) conservation, and grazing land initiatives. Its long-range objectives are to emphasize resource management as it affects threatened and endangered species, promote and support proper scientific forest and wildlife management, coordinate and disseminate resource/environmental information and assistance that are available and being carried out by the individual agencies at present.

Cultural Resources Committee

Having lost its strong, dynamic leader, the committee needs reconstitution. Interested in participating in or leading the committee? Contact Robb Turner, rturner@utk.edu.

1999 Spring Planning Meeting: Initiative Reports

Watershed Initiative –

led by Briane Adams, dadams@usgs.gov; reported by Jennifer Knoepp, jknoepp@sparc.ecology.uga.edu

Protecting SA-area watersheds is the initiative's primary goal. The wrap-up of the SAMAB-co-sponsored AWRA conference on climate change and water resources completes a major workplan task of the Watershed Initiative. (See "Water Resources..." below.) Many of the initiative's proposed and planned activities build upon the conference.

The conference made available a bulk of national information from which SA-area data could be drawn for use in (1) watershed modeling using runoff information from the USGS gaging stations and different global climate change model scenarios; (2) a historical analysis of streamflow; (3) examining water use trends by watershed for agricultural, forested, and urban lands; (4) examining socio-economic trends; and (5) a case study for the National Assessment and ORNL's proposed regional climate center.

Viewing SAMAB as an information source, the initiative suggested that it should contribute to the Clean Water Action Plan via the Southeast Region Natural Resource Leaders Group and work to involve more stakeholders in the Fall Conference in order to expand the dissemination of information. The initiative also is considering developing a statement about farmland preservation because it is linked to watershed stability and sustainable development. ■

Native Plants/Invasive Species Initiative –

led by Hilary Vinson and Phil Gibson

see SAMAB Initiative Highlights on p. 2 of this issue. ■

Sustainability Initiative –

led and reported by John Peine, jpeine@utk.edu

Through the SAMAB co-sponsored Sustainability Indicators Workshop and subsequent work with the communities to develop sustainability indicators, members of the Sustainability Initiative have determined that communities need a "template" for planning for sustainability. The template would include both data and tools to use and analyze the data.

The initiative's work during the last year has focused on identifying indicators that have meaning for communities. In the next year the initiative plans to build on EPA Region IV's sustainability indicators program and the USGS Southern Appalachian Field Laboratory's research characterizing the landscape setting of the GSMNP. The initiative will use Chattanooga and Sevier County as "testbeds" to develop these templates. A focus of the template development activity is developing procedures for analyzing and mapping SAA data in a way that communities can understand it and use it in indicators. The initiative's past work with communities has found the SAA data useful but not easily used by persons unfamiliar with it. For example, units-of-measure documentation and variable description are incomplete.

Once this work is completed, the initiative will evaluate the best course of action to cost-effectively provide the templates to other communities in the SA region. This activity will be reported at the Fall Conference. ■

Water Resources and Climate Change/Variability

There remains uncertainty in global-climate-change modeling, but two things have become certain. First, it will get hotter and that will affect water resources. Second, better and immediate communication is needed with water managers to encourage adaptive (or flexible) management. These are conclusions of the SAMAB co-sponsored, American Water Resources Association Specialty Conference on Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change to Water Resources in the United States, held in Atlanta in May.

The conference served as a forum for the presentation and review of draft findings of the water-sector assessment of the National Assessment of

the Potential Consequences of Climate Variability and Change (NACC). Briane Adams (USGS; SAMAB executive committee) was the conference's technical chairperson. Mike Sale (ORNL; SAMAB watersheds committee) chaired the meeting.

With climate-change models producing widely divergent projections of precipitation, confidence in these models remains low. Projections about temperature, however, consistently indicate temperature increases that will result in loss of snow pack and winter precipitation occurring more often as rain. The consequence will be a different hydrology, especially in the west and northwest. Stream flows will become more "spiky," and springtime

flow will be reduced. These are changes that reservoir managers will have to begin planning for soon.

In reflecting on the conference's outcome and next steps, AWRA conference planning committee members are considering management response. Among the issues mentioned are framing the issue to demonstrate its relevance to managers and communicating it effectively with managers; the adaptability already in the system; increasing flexibility in management; measures that can be taken now to optimize the current reservoir system; and building the human capital needed to respond to the situation, including a water-resources literate public. ■

From Long-view Rock: Executive Director's Message

As we have been transitioning SAMAB to new leadership, office location, and office staff, we managed to miss the Spring SAMAB News. My apologies to those who have missed the communication, especially those who did not receive notification of the Spring Planning Meeting. We will maintain a quarterly newsletter schedule from now on.

I am attempting to communicate regularly with the Executive Committee, committee chairs, and other interested persons by email. If you would like to be added to our email distribution list, please email your request to samab@utk.edu. We will also post many communications of broad interest on the SAMAB Web site, <http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>.

We had an excellent Spring Planning Meeting at the NC Arboretum as you hopefully can tell from other articles in this newsletter. I encourage you to jump in where you have an interest in an initiative, a committee activity, or as a constructive gadfly—your input is always welcome, and we are always looking for new ways to receive and implement good ideas.

Peter Schwartz, in his book entitled *The Art of the Long View*,* promotes the development of strategic conversations about implications of possible future scenarios. While driving to Asheville I was thinking how SAMAB could use scenario construction and evaluation when I was stopped for 45 minutes in Interstate 40-81 construction traffic, sandwiched among scores of tractor trailers and automobiles. I scratched out the following scenario as we idled along contributing to Great Smokies' haze.

The year is 2025. Population in the Southern Appalachian region has quadrupled since the turn of the century, largely driven by the influx of baby boomers seeking the good life in retirement. The population structure has become quite skewed, with seniors dominating the core mountain counties and younger folks to the east, south, and west where jobs, affordable housing, and schools are more accessible. The Appalachian culture of the 19th and 20th centuries has been totally overwhelmed by the wealthy, urbane retirement/recreation culture of the "big backyard" of the Southeast.

The I40-81-26-77 corridors are completely urbanized with industry, services, and residential development. They are 6-10 lanes each and are usually congested. Newport to Maryville on the west, and Waynesville to Fontana on the east are completely built up with tourist and recreational attractions, residential development, and services. Proportionally similar densities occur to the north and south on both sides of the Appalachian spine. The Blue Ridge Parkway is a narrow band of green surrounded in many places by suburban development.

Air pollution controls in surrounding states have slowly been adopted, but 10-mile summer visibility (instead of 90) persists in

the mountain region. Forty to fifty health-warning days per year are declared. Water pollution has increased, caused by increased runoff from developed areas and runoff of atmospherically deposited contaminants. Water purification technology provides clean drinking water, but few natural aquatic communities persist, because of pollution, extremely reduced flows in more-regular drought years, and greater withdrawals. Water use is restricted in many areas for much of the time. Aggressive stocking of sport fish reduces economic impact to the tourist industry.

Zoning and other means of guiding land development have been tried in places, but variances and lack of community agreement on what was "suitable" or "compatible" have resulted in many areas of sprawl with uses deemed incompatible.

Because of changes in climate and microclimate, and expansion of exotic vegetation types, severe wildfires have wiped out whole subdivisions. Uncontrolled erosion, land slides, and pleas for emergency assistance have followed.

The region is still very green, but the species have changed dramatically over the past 30 years. The vegetative landscape is now almost totally managed, much like Europe and other intensively used parts of the world. National Park, National Forest, and privately "preserved" natural communities are severely degraded by invasive species. Gone are the spruce-fir, hemlocks, and many of the hardwoods to introduced pests, pollution, and temperature and drought stresses. The region's 5th or 6th forest is mostly hardy exotics that

have been planted. What some consider invasive species are seen as desirable by most because they grow fast and are green.

There are hundreds of newly listed endangered species, though concern for such listing is now mostly academic. Over 30 species have been lost in the last 20 years, mostly aquatic species but also over-harvested "rich-cove" native plants.

The concept of designing with nature is now difficult to promote and defend because it is so difficult to see what is natural, or how to emulate or restore it.

I presented this scenario at the Spring Meeting as a possible, plausible future. Clearly there are many possible future scenarios. Whether any is "correct" is impossible to say, but also not important. They should spur discussion that may result in decisions that make agencies or communities more adaptable or resilient to whatever changes may occur. I think proposing ideas that prompt such discussions is one of the most valuable roles that SAMAB can play.

Peter Schwartz's book is about composing "what-if" stories, challenging mental models, and designing strategic conversations. He states "...the point is to make strategic decisions that will be sound for all plausible futures." I recommend his book as a "must read" for all SAMABers. ■

*Peter Schwartz, 1991, *The Art of the Long View*, Doubleday, New York, 272pp. including User's Guide.



City Seeks Part of Oak Ridge Environmental Research Park

The City of Oak Ridge hopes to acquire up to 4,000 acres of the Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park (NERP) from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). This acreage represents about 20% of the area remaining in the OR NERP. The city wants to expand its land base for housing, industrial, and commercial development.

The Oak Ridge NERP is one of six units that together form the Biosphere Reserve around which SAMAB is centered. Reserve units are areas that are shielded from development and on which ecological research and monitoring are conducted.

Unexpectedly, on June 23, 1999 Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson designated 3,000 acres of the Oak Ridge Reservation as a wildlife refuge to be managed by Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). The area includes about two miles of Melton Hill Lake shoreline. While Richardson said the intent is for the refuge to be

permanent, the agreement with TWRA is for five years. Richardson's announcement has resulted in significant communication to him from Oak Ridge development proponents who consider the land prime for residential development.

DOE established the OR NERP and six others to provide protected areas for environmental research and education. The land originally buffered sensitive DOE activities. As activities and facility uses change, DOE is evaluating the use of and need for NERPs. A 1997 report by DOE's Office of Inspector General recommended the sale of 16,000 acres of the Oak Ridge Reservation, most of the area of the environmental park. The report acknowledges some value of the research park but questions the need for DOE to retain ownership.

The woodlands and wetlands that make up the NERP have been the locus of research on watershed hydrology, forest nutrient dynamics, atmospheric deposition and its

effects on canopy processes and soil chemistry, trace element cycling, stream nutrient cycling, and forest micrometeorology. The Nature Conservancy recently completed a biodiversity database of the research park that documents 400 animal and 1,100 plant species.

Many scientists who have conducted research at the NERP or used long-term monitoring data collected there, as well as others who value the park's green space, are concerned—nay, alarmed—by the prospect of a large transfer of land. A group of these individuals have formed AFORR—Advocates for the Oak Ridge Reservation—whose mission is to “encourage and support the preservation of natural resources of the Oak Ridge Reservation, as well as the development of uses of the Reservation that will be of greatest benefit to all affected by its use.” By organizing events such as a 1999 Earth Day Forum on the Future of the Oak Ridge Reservation, AFORR hopes to foster communication to gain support for uses of the Reservation that contribute to growth and economic stability for the city and that respect natural and scientific resources. ■

For more information: V.H. Dale and P.D. Parr, “Preserving DOE’s research parks” *Issues In Science and Technology* XIV(2), 1998; “The Great DOE Land Rush?” *Science* 282(5389): 616-617, Oct. 1998; *ESA NewSource* Newsletter 64, April 1999; US DOE, OIG, “Audit of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Identification and Disposal of Nonessential Land,” DOE/IG-0399, 1997. AFORR Web site <www.kornet.org/aforr> ■

SAMAB Foundation Board Meets

The SAMAB Foundation Board of Directors met in May, with a full agenda before them. Members heard reports on the current status and discussed future roles of the Foundation.

The Board decided to hold a “visioning” meeting in July 1999 to define specific roles for the Foundation consistent with its fundamental role of providing support to the Cooperative. Members of the Foundation Board and the Cooperative’s Executive Committee will meet to consider fund raising, membership, and mechanisms for contributing to the SAMAB plan of work.

With several members’ terms scheduled to end in November, the

Board is preparing to select replacements. Charlie Van Sickle chairs a nominating committee that will establish criteria for selecting new members, based in part on the outcome of the visioning meeting. Direct suggestions for nominations to Van Sickle at cvars@prodigy.net.

Board members were briefed on the outcome of the Foundation’s first audit. The audit found the Foundation’s financial records to be in good shape. Satisfactory filing and audit of IRS tax forms, state corporate annual reports, and financial records are required for the Foundation to receive grants from most funding sources. ■

**Watch for SAMAB’s
updated Web site:
<http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>**

Announcement and Call for Papers SAMAB's 10th Annual Conference

November 1-3, 1999

Glenstone Lodge-Gatlinburg, TN

Individuals, groups, agencies, schools, and organizations are invited to present information that relates to the conference theme, "**Community Solutions,**" and the three initiatives: community sustainability, watersheds, and native plants/invasive species. The goal is for community stakeholders, resource managers, and researchers to discuss challenges, practical solutions, and needed actions that relate to the sustainability of the Southern Appalachian environment, its culture, and its communities.

Submit a brief paragraph or abstract describing your presentation. Include your name, organization (if appropriate), address, phone and fax numbers, email address, and type of presentation.

Send to: SAMAB, 314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138, or email samab@utk.edu, or fax to 423-974-4609.

For more information go to <http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>.

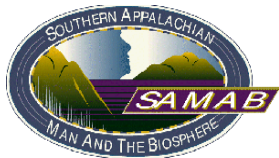
Deadline for submissions is September 1, 1999.

SAMAB Computing, Data, and Information Specialist Sought

To maintain and update the Southern Appalachian Assessment (SAA) Data Base, and to improve its accessibility to users, SAMAB has created a position for a data specialist. SAMAB is seeking someone to make and implement plans to meet the information needs of cooperating agencies and other users of the SAA data base and internet Web site. This position is funded for up to two years. Continuation will depend on success of the effort.

The qualified individual will have expertise in database-management systems, design and analysis techniques, and relational data base systems, as well as knowledge of ArcInfo, ArcView, Web-based GIS applications, Spatial Database Engine, and Web publishing. Additional expectations of the data base specialist and the qualifications required are provided in detail at the SAMAB web site (<http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>).

Applications, accepted through July 30, 1999, should include a vita, letter of intent (include salary expectation), and full contact information for three references and should be submitted to SAMAB Executive Director, 314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138. For more information, contact Robb Turner at rturner@utk.edu or 423-974-4583.



SAMAB

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CALENDAR



SAMAB Foundation Board Meeting
Nov. 1, 1999, 9:00-12:00, Glenstone
Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN

SAMAB Fall Conference
Nov. 1-3, 1999 (see agenda and
registration form, this issue)

SAMAB Executive Committee Meetings
Nov. 4, 1999, 8:30 -12:00, Glenstone
Lodge, Gatlinburg, TN

Feb. 9, 2000, Fernbank Museum of
Natural History, Atlanta

**Stewardship Through Plantsmanship
Symposium**
Feb. 29, 2000, NC Arboretum,
Asheville, NC

**SAMAB co-hosted Appalachian
Studies Association Conference**
March 24-26, 2000, Knoxville, TN

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SAMAB's 10th Annual Conference to Feature Community Solutions

SAMAB celebrates the 10th anniversary of its annual fall conference by focusing on a basic premise of the organization—managing and protecting resources efficiently, effectively, and in a manner that is consistent with the area's cultural values and that promotes sustainable economic development. Traditionally, SAMAB agencies have worked toward this goal by cooperating with one another. Increasingly, SAMAB agencies meet these goals by playing a supporting role in community-based planning, management, and protection actions. Also, agencies increasingly see themselves as members of communities—both geographic based and interest based—that have stewardship responsibilities in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Community solutions—those developed by or in cooperation with communities—are the focus of this year's fall conference.

The conference features a number of speakers, concurrent sessions, and two workshops that highlight the centrality of communities in Southern Appalachian resource management. Sessions about community solutions for watershed management, controlling invasive species, and sustainable forest planning and use will be offered. The conference also offers an interactive, instructional workshop that demonstrates methods for effective partnerships. Other workshops involve invasive plant management and community-based scenic quality assessments. Updates to Forest Service forest management plans are featured in one session, while another features a panel discussion about the role of Federal highway funding in community planning and resource management, led by Robert Wheeler, Environmental Program Specialist of the Southern Resource Center of the Federal Highway Administration.

Featured speakers include the Southeast Region Directors of two agencies—Sam Hamilton of the US Fish and Wildlife Service and Charles Adams of the Natural Resource Conservation Service—and the Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation—Milton Hamilton. Steve Nash, author of the book *Blue Ridge 2020: An Owner's Manual*, associate professor of journalism at the University of Richmond, and a veteran reporter of environmental issues, will close the conference on Wednesday afternoon. ■

**CONFERENCE AGENDA AND
REGISTRATION FORM IN
THIS ISSUE.**

**RECEIVING DUPLICATES OF
SAMAB NEWS? WANT TO BE
REMOVED FROM THE SAMAB
MAILING LIST?**

**CONTACT US AT
SAMAB@UTK.EDU, OR AT THE
SAMAB ADDRESS ABOVE.**

SAMAB Receives National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has awarded the SAMAB Foundation a grant of \$25,000 to produce interpretive materials for four native plant demonstration areas.

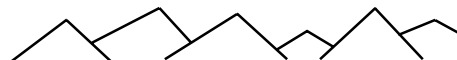
These native plant demonstration areas are being developed throughout the Southern Appalachians at educational and recreational facilities. SAMAB's education committee, which coordinates the Native Plants and Invasive Species Initiative, sought the funding to unify these independently occurring efforts into an integrated public outreach strategy. Education efforts are considered essential to controlling invasive exotic plants in natural areas because uninformed neighbors of natural native areas continue to plant invasive exotic

species that spread into the native communities.

The SAMAB education committee will work with the project partners to develop creative, interpretive signs and other informative materials. In addition, a limited number of interpretive signs will be available to other native gardens in the Southern Appalachians. The project will be completed by January 2000. We invite you to add your garden to the growing list of Southern Appalachian native garden demonstration areas that will be advertised through brochures, the SAMAB Web site, and the soon-to-be-developed Southern Appalachian "Watching Wildflowers" map. Please call the SAMAB office (423-974-4583) or

send an email to samab@utk.edu to register your garden.

A requirement of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant is that the grant be matched by other funds raised by the applicant. The matching funds for the project bring the total value of the award to \$77,300 and include labor, volunteer labor, and materials donated by the demonstration areas—the Botanical Gardens of Asheville, the Western North Carolina Nature Center, the Cradle of Forestry, and the Ocoee Whitewater Center. The Sugarlands Visitors Center of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will also have a native plant demonstration area. ■



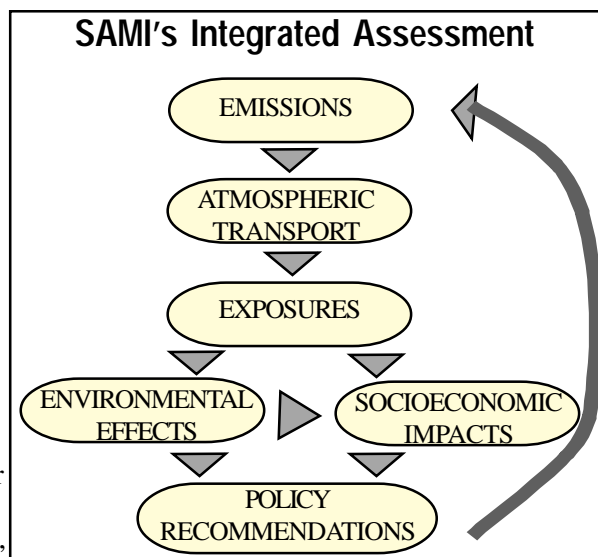
Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative: Assessment Update

The Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI) is a voluntary partnership formed to evaluate and recommend strategies to protect the Southern Appalachian's natural resources from adverse air quality impacts. SAMI is led by the eight southeastern states with participation by the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, industry, environmental groups, academia, and interested members of the public. SAMI is unique in its consensus-based approach to regional strategy development. It provides a forum for stakeholders with diverse interests and viewpoints to work together constructively to conduct the technical and policy assessments necessary to recommend regional solutions.

SAMI was formed by the states in response to a 1992 SAMAB meeting held in Gatlinburg, TN, to highlight air quality concerns in Southern Appalachia. Many of the members of the SAMI Effects Subcommittee are also SAMAB participants and authors that contributed to the Southern Appalachian Assessment. SAMI's

Effects assessments will be founded on the Southern Appalachian Assessment data bases.

SAMI is focusing on the impacts of ozone, regional haze, and acid deposition to the natural resources of the Southern Appalachian Mountains, with particular attention to the Class I national parks and wilderness areas. SAMI's Integrated Assessment links our understanding of air emissions, atmospheric transport, environmental effects, and socioeconomic consequences to assess future emissions strategies. Parallel to SAMI's voluntary mission, Federal air regulations are requiring emissions reductions in the SAMI states to protect human health. SAMI is evaluating the costs and benefits in the years 2010 and 2040 of current air regulations and of emissions management strategies that SAMI might recommend. The assessment results will be summarized in a final report in summer 2001 and will be the



basis of SAMI's recommendations to policy makers.

To date, SAMI has developed emissions inventories for 2010 and 2040 that represent emissions when current air regulations are implemented. SAMI's Policy Committee is designing additional emissions strategies to be tested in the air quality and effects models. SAMI is evaluating performance of the atmospheric

... continued on page 3

The Indiana Bat in Western North Carolina: A Status Update

On July 25, 1999, biologists discovered a small colony of Indiana bats (*Myotis sodalis*)—a species placed on the endangered species list in 1967—in the Nantahala National

Forest in Graham County, North Carolina.

The discovery was made through routine monitoring being conducted in the first year of a long-term forest bat monitoring program, which will determine bat—including Indiana bat—use of the national forests. Biologists began surveying in June, focusing their efforts on the area of national forest closest to the known Indiana bat hibernaculum in eastern Tennessee, about 5 miles from the North Carolina-Tennessee state line.

The small bat colony in western North Carolina was found in a large, dead Canadian hemlock along a stream. As a precautionary measure against accidentally harming this or other colonies, the Forest Service Supervisor temporarily suspended timber cutting on the National Forests in Graham County and three adjacent counties, Cherokee, Macon, and Swain. The Forest Service then continued surveying for bats until August 15—the deadline established in the Indiana Bat Agency Draft Recovery Plan for completing surveys to determine if Indiana bat maternity colonies are present within the survey area. After August 15 the assumption is that the bats are moving back to their winter hibernation sites; any bats trapped then would probably be migrants, not summer residents. Surveys were conducted using the standard mist-netting guidelines and advanced echolocation detection devices. No additional Indiana bats were trapped or observed.

The Forest Service then evaluated the habitat within and adjacent to the

mist-netted project areas to determine if suitable habitat is present and if it would be affected by the proposed timber sales. They found that abundant post-project Indiana bat

Indiana bats are unattractive but fascinating creatures that have an important role in their ecosystems, benefit humans by eating nuisance and pest insects, and add to our biological diversity.

-USFWS, Region 3, "Indiana Bat - Denizens of the Dark"

summer foraging and roosting habitat would be available to the bats if they moved into the area at some time in the future. Based on the mist-netting surveys, the echolocation surveys, and the habitat evaluation, they determined that the timber sales are not likely to adversely affect the Indiana bat. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with their determination. As a result, the suspension on the timber sales where bat surveys had been conducted was lifted.

Currently, the Forest Service is working diligently to evaluate the remaining sales. Because of the short period of time the Forest Service had to conduct and complete the bat surveys, they were not able to survey all the suspended timber sales by the August 15 deadline. The sale areas that were not surveyed will require additional analysis of the actual and potential impacts on the Indiana bat. This review is ongoing and will be completed as rapidly as possible, after which all or some of the sales could be released. The Forest Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to work together to resolve this issue within the respective missions that guide each agency.

The Indiana bat is a small flying mammal with brownish to grayish black fur that weighs about three-tenths of an ounce and has a nine to eleven inch wingspan. Though extremely rare, these bats are found in 27 states in the Eastern United

States. This species has declined about 60 percent since 1960, from roughly 800,000 to nearly 350,000. They require caves or mines for winter hibernation but primarily use

standing dead trees with sloughing bark or live trees with shaggy bark for summer roosts and maternity colonies. Factors contributing to their endangered status include disturbance

and vandalism in their hibernacula and loss of or adverse changes to habitat. Indiana bats are insectivores and pesticide contamination of their food supply may also be adversely affecting them. ■

SAMI Assessment

...continued from page 2

model for two of the nine week-long episodes that are representing air quality and meteorology in the Southern Appalachian Mountains. Contractors have just been selected to assess acid deposition impacts to aquatic and forest resources. During fall 1999, SAMI will release requests for proposals to assess ozone impacts to forests and for socioeconomic analyses.

In April 1999, Governor Hunt of North Carolina hosted a Governors' Summit on Mountain Air Quality in Asheville, NC. Governors Barnes of Georgia and Sundquist of Tennessee joined Governor Hunt in committing to the protection of mountain air quality. The Governors are planning Summits in Georgia in 2000 and in Tennessee in 2001. SAMI intends to present results of its Integrated Assessment and initial policy recommendations at the Governors' Summit in Tennessee in 2001. ■

For more information on SAMI, contact Patricia Brewer at 828/251-6889 or patricia_brewer@aro.enr.state.nc.us, or visit the SAMI Web site (under construction) at saminet.org.

Tenth Anniversary SAMAB Conference

Conference Theme: Community Solutions

November 1 - 3, 1999

Days Inn - Glenstone Lodge, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

504 Airport Road

Who should attend: *Cultural and natural resource managers and planners, including local, state, and federal government agency staff - Students, researchers, and educators - Community and environmental groups - Policy makers and elected officials and the general public interested in cultural and natural resources stewardship, native plants, watershed conservation, sustainability, and other environmental issues.*

Accommodations: Days Inn Glenstone Lodge. Call 1-800-362-9522 for reservations and mention the SAMAB Conference. Conference room rates (if reserved by 10/18): \$54.00 per room daily, one to four person occupancy, king and double room types. Current room tax is 11.5%. If your organization qualifies for a tax exempt status, the hotel will need a copy of your Tennessee Exemption Certificate. Dormitory style housing is available at the Arrowmont School. Call 423-436-5860.

Tenth Anniversary SAMAB Conference

November 1 – 3, 1999

Days Inn – Glenstone Lodge; 504 Airport Road, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

Name _____

Affiliation or Agency(if appropriate) _____

Street Address or PO Box _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

		COST	AMOUNT
Registration	General	\$50.00	
	Student	\$25.00	
Workshops	Invasive Pest Plants of the Southern Appalachians - Nov. 1, 9:30A - 12:30P	\$20.00	
	NEPA Roundtable Luncheon - Nov. 2, 12:30 - 1:30P Circle lunch preference: fried chicken or deli sandwich	\$8.00	
	Community-based Assessment of Scenic Quality - Nov. 3, 3:15 - 5:30P	FREE	FREE <input type="checkbox"/> Check if attending
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED			

Complete this form and send with your check or government purchase order* to the

SAMAB Foundation
314 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-4138

*The Foundation cannot accept credit cards. Make check or purchase order payable to SAMAB Foundation.



1999 Conference: Preliminary Agenda

Monday, November 1		
8:00 - 12:00	Poster Setup	
8:30	Registration Opens	
9:30 - 12:30	Workshop: Invasive Pest Plants of the Southern Appalachians. Learn about the identification, biology, and recommended control strategies for invasive pest plants and methods for planning invasive pest plant control programs. Includes trip to the GSMNP to observe ongoing invasive plant control projects. (see registration form)	
1:00 - 2:15	Plenary Session: Suzette Kimball and Robb Turner, Welcome and opening remarks Charles Adams, NRCS, Director Southeast Region Sam Hamilton, USFWS, Director Southeast Region	
2:30 - 3:30	Indiana Bat Biology & Forest Management	Community Partnering for Watershed Solutions
3:30 - 4:30	Panel Discussion: Proactive Forest Planning/Management with Communities	
4:30 - 6:00	Proposed Forest Plan Revisions in Response to the Southern Appalachian Assessment	
6:00 - 7:30	Poster Session with "wine and cheese" reception (cash bar)	
Tuesday, November 2		
8:30 - 10:15	Partnering to Manage Invasive Species, lead speakers Larry Fowler, USDA, and Bill Gregg, USGS-BRD	Processes for Partnering with Communities, lead speaker, Virginia Seitz, UT Community Partnership Center
10:30 - 12:30	Managing Invasive Plants in the Natural Environment	Interactive Workshop on Partnering with Communities
12:30 - 2:00	Lunch on your own or NEPA Roundtable Discussion (see registration form)	
2:00 - 2:30	Milton Hamilton, Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation	
2:30 - 4:15	Southern Appalachian Forest Dynamics	Community Growth Issues
4:30 - 5:45	Southern Appalachian Air Quality Assessments	Multiple Objectives for Greenways and Trails
6:30 - 8:30	Food and Fun: Gather at Calhoun's for heavy hors d'oeuvres, open bar, and music by the area's best Bluegrass band	
Wednesday, November 3		
8:30 - 9:00	Guest speaker (invited)	
9:00 - 10:30	Community Partnering for Watershed Solutions (cont'd)	Forest Change and Sustainability, lead speaker John Greiss, USFS
10:45 - 12:30	Challenges for Gateway Communities	Information for Community Planning and Resource Management
12:30 - 1:45	Lunch on your own	
1:45 - 2:45	Funding for Community Projects: ISTE and TEA-21	
2:45 - 3:15	Plenary Speaker: Steve Nash, author of <i>Blue Ridge 2020: An Owner's Manual</i>	
3:15 - 3:30	Closing Remarks: Robb Turner	
3:15 - 5:30	Workshop: Community-based Assessment of Scenic Quality. Introduces communities and resource managers to a method of systematically inventorying and assessing scenic views. Community participation is integral and encourages partnerships within communities and between communities and neighboring land and resource managers. The workshop includes a trip to the GSMNP to analyze views. (see registration form)	

Community Solutions? A Challenge from the Executive Director

What should you expect from a SAMAB conference whose theme is “Community Solutions”? What are Community Solutions? Solutions to what? What are communities?

If communities are groups of individuals who have common interests or occupy common geographic areas, what kinds of problems might arise from members’ pursuit of their needs and desires? When different types of communities (e.g. wildlife observers, equestrians, off-road-vehicle enthusiasts, natural-area managers, and developers) coexist in an area, what issues arise as their members interact, or as their numbers increase?

What do individuals value about the communities in which they live? How do community interactions affect values held? How do individuals and communities act on or protect those values? What are the standards of behavior and processes of governance that we use to enable, guide, or regulate actions?

How aware are we of how well our ecological and social systems are

functioning, of the health of our interconnected biophysical and social environment, of the health of our overlapping and interacting communities, of the nature and effectiveness of our individual and community decision-making processes? Can we clarify our views of our current situation?

When we see change, how do we know if it is desirable, or in the right (or wrong) direction? Do we have effective processes for evaluating trends, projecting change into the future, and assessing implications of those changes for our communities? Do we have a vision of where we want to be? Do our multiple coexisting communities share a vision?

How do we set goals and move toward a vision? Do our standards of behavior and processes of governance work to help us do that? Do our communities function in concordance with established formal and informal processes?

How can we develop capacity—learning, communication, and access to information, tools, and resources—to

help our communities govern themselves better? How can we better utilize our region’s tremendous capabilities in scientific analysis (taking systems apart to understand the nature and function of their parts) to support creative methods of synthesis and design by planners, developers, and entrepreneurs that intelligently build communities of intricately functioning parts?

Will you come to Gatlinburg to participate as a member of the SAMAB community to answer these questions—to help develop Community Solutions? Can you contribute experience or solutions from communities of which you consider yourself a part? Will you take ideas or solutions back to your communities? Can you put enough of yourself into this meeting to be able to say a year from now that it helped you make a significant difference in your Southern Appalachian communities? Because change is continuous, can you help build and maintain Southern Appalachian communities that have sustained energy to pursue Community Solutions? ■

SAMAB

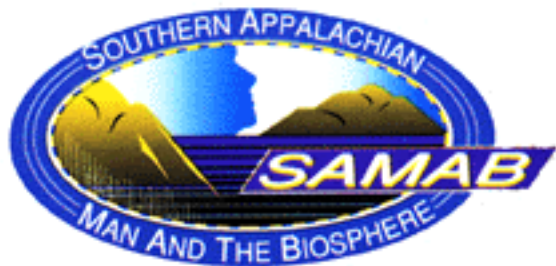
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Tennessee Valley Authority
Economic Development Administration
Appalachian Regional Commission
US Environmental Protection Agency
US Fish and Wildlife Service
US Army Corps of Engineers
US Geological Survey Water Resources
Division and Biological Resources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

State Members

*Georgia
North Carolina
Tennessee*



October 2000

SAMAB NEWS

email: samab@utk.edu
Website: <http://samab.org>

314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138
Phone (865) 974-4583 FAX (865) 974-4609

SAMAB CALENDAR



Executive Committee Meeting:

November 13, noon-4:00 p.m.,
Glenstone Inn, Gatlinburg

Foundation Board Meeting:

November 13, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,
Glenstone Inn, Gatlinburg

SAMAB Annual Fall Conference:

November 14-16, Glenstone Inn,
Gatlinburg

RELATED EVENTS

November 17, Deadline for submitting abstracts for the annual conference of the Association of South-eastern Biologists; see <http://www.loyno.edu/~asb/>

Nov 30-Dec 2, Workshop on "Promoting Participation in Community Development: Models, Methods and Best Practices," Knoxville, TN; see <http://samab.org> for more information

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SAMAB Fall Conference Time

conference *n.* a meeting for discussion or consultation; an exchange of ideas (*Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, 1995).

For ten consecutive years, people of all sorts, interested in the health and well-being of the Southern Appalachian region, have gathered in November at the SAMAB Conference to discuss and exchange ideas. The conference is the sort of meeting where members of community groups chat with agency heads and academics exchange philosophy with resource managers. Participants have learned that ground-breaking work could as well be found on cardboard-backed posters as on halogen-lighted displays. The strength of the conference is this diversity and providing the means to capitalize upon it for the improvement of the region.

SAMAB invites you—resource managers, community and environmental group members, university scientists and students, policy makers, and planners—to be a part of this exchange. This year's conference focuses on a number of priority issues in the Southern Appalachians and, in particular, on better linking communities and public agencies to explore and resolve them. Bob Shepherd, the Chair of this year's conference and Executive Director of the Land of Sky Regional Council, reminds us that this is "where the rubber meets the road."

Tuesday, November 14, we will discuss what is happening with Southern Appalachian forests, and how human communities are working to integrate better with the natural community. On Wednesday, SAMAB hosts an event to celebrate National GIS Day that explores the use of GIS in resource management and community planning. The day also features an historical overview of the Southern Appalachians and a discussion of management of Southern Appalachia's famed grassy balds. How the region can improve air quality, through transportation options and other means, and the latest in Southern Appalachian watershed management and restoration round out the agenda on Thursday, Nov. 16.

At press time, plenary speakers for Tuesday morning were not yet confirmed. See <http://samab.org> for more information, including agenda updates and a list of all presentations and posters. ■

**Conference agenda and registration form in this issue.
See <http://samab.org> for updates to the agenda and a
list of all presenters.**

SAMAB Strategic Plan

The SAMAB Executive Committee has developed a strategic plan to guide its future direction and operation of the SAMAB program. The plan includes the following vision, mission, and goals for the organization. The draft plan, in its entirety, is currently being reviewed by member agencies and will be available for partner and community comment and input on the SAMAB Web site after October 15. Direct your ideas to the SAMAB office to <samab@utk.edu>, or by fax to 865-974-4609, or by mail to 314 Conference Center Bldg; Knoxville, TN 37996-4138.

Vision

SAMAB fosters a harmonious relationship between people and the Southern Appalachian environment.

Mission

SAMAB promotes environmental health and stewardship of natural and cultural resources in the Southern Appalachians. It encourages community-based solutions to critical regional issues through cooperation among partners, information gathering and sharing, integrated assessments, and demonstration projects.

Goals

Goal 1—Understand and describe the status and dynamics of the natural, economic, and cultural resources of the Southern Appalachian region and the benefits of ecosystem management and sustainable development.

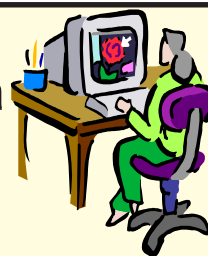
Goal 2—Foster greater regional environmental awareness through innovative communication and education. Use this awareness to improve decision making throughout the region.

Goal 3—Identify, prioritize, and support opportunities for ecologically sound economic development, cooperative resource management, and research needed to fill knowledge gaps.■



Members of the SAMAB Executive Committee gathered for a September meeting hosted by Oak Ridge National Laboratory's Environmental Science Division. From left: Charlie Van Sickle (SAMAB, FS-ret), Charles Roberts (NRCS), Pat Parr (ORNL), Jon Loney (TVA), Cindy Nolan (EPA), Sylvia Wolfe (DOE), Brian Cole (FWS), Nancy Herbert (FS), Larry Hartmann (GSMNP), John Yancy (NPS), Dan Brown (BRPARKWAY), John Ramey (FS), Robb Turner (SAMAB), Terry Seyden (FS), and John Peine (USGS).

Tools and Information You Can Use!



The *Southern Appalachian Environmental Coordination Log* aims to provide a comprehensive source of information about federal activities occurring in the Southern Appalachian region that potentially affect the environment. The Log is intended for managers, analysts, and others who need or want to know what agency activities are planned in the region. The Log can assist in analyses of basin-wide or cumulative effects.

As a great number of activities are tracked through documentation required by the National Environmental Protection Act, mandatory NEPA reviews are the primary source of information in the Log. Other sources may be tapped in the future. The information is being compiled from other Web sites as well as submissions of information from agency staff.

Harold Draper (TVA), chair of the SAMAB Environmental Coordination Committee, has spearheaded this effort and received input from a number of SAMAB participants. He emphasizes that maximizing input into the Log increases its utility.

A first-generation version of the Environmental Coordination Log is available at the SAMAB Web site. It identifies the activity, the responsible agency, the county, state, watershed basin, and ecoregion in which the activity will occur, and the date of the respective environmental review. As the SAMAB Web site develops, search functions will be added. Also, a review of the Log is underway to determine what additional information is needed to improve the usefulness of the tool. Join Draper for a luncheon roundtable at the SAMAB Conference (Nov. 15) or contact him at hmdraper@tva.gov.

... continued on page 3

Foundation Welcomes New President, Signs on Development Director

Charles Van Sickle is the new President of the SAMAB Foundation Board, having received an official "nod" from the Board in September. Van Sickle is retired from the Forest Service, where he last held the position of Assistant Station Director of the Southern Research Station. No newcomer to SAMAB, Van Sickle served on the SAMAB Executive Committee, co-led the Southern Appalachian Assessment, and has been vice president of the Foundation Board for the last three years. Charlie can be reached at <cvans@prodigy.net>.

Van Sickle replaces George Briggs, Executive Director of The North Carolina Arboretum, who presided over the Foundation Board between 1998 and 2000.

Carrying through on its commitment to strengthen the financial position of the Foundation by obtaining the services of a development director, the Board has contracted with J. Donald (Don) Elam, a seasoned organizational development specialist from Athens, Georgia. Describing himself as a problem solver who combines sound fund raising techniques with marketing expertise and public relations acumen, Elam has been a consultant to many non-profit organizations through the firm he has directed for 13 years. Before building his own firm, he spent 14 years at three universities directing their fund raising efforts. Elam currently splits his time between his home in Athens and the Knoxville, Tennessee area, where he is bound by both professional commitments and grandkids. ■

Tools and Information cont'd from p. 2

The U.S. EPA has released the *Atlas of America's Polluted Waters* <<http://www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/atlas/>> depicting waters that states have identified as exceeding their Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) in 1998, the most recent data submitted to EPA. TMDL is the amount of pollutants that a specific river, lake or stream can receive and still meet designated-use standards. The *Atlas* identifies the number of miles or acres of waterbodies that do not meet state standards as well as the pollutant that causes the impairment.

In another recent release, EPA has taken a "snapshot" of the economic value of our water resources. *Liquid Assets 2000: America's Water Resources at a Turning Point* identifies how water quality affects major sectors of the American economy and the cost of cleaning up dirty water. Find the report at <<http://www.epa.gov/ow/liquidassets/>>. ■

Eleventh Annual SAMAB Conference

November 14 - 16, 2000

Days Inn - Glenstone Lodge, Gatlinburg, Tennessee

504 Airport Road; Hotel Reservations: 1-800-362-9522; mention SAMAB

REGISTRATION FORM

Registration fee payable by check or government purchase order to **SAMAB Foundation**; mail registration form and payment to SAMAB; 314 Conf. Center Bldg.; Knoxville, TN 37996-4138; refund policy posted at SAMAB Web site.



Name:		Affiliation:		phone:
Address:		email:	fax:	
		COST	AMOUNT DUE	
Registration	Full conference rate	\$75.00		
	One-day rate	\$40.00		
	Student rate	\$40.00		
	Senior/Retiree Rate	\$40.00		
	Spouse to attend Wednesday night social	\$15.00		
Luncheon Roundtables	SAMAB/CESU Interactions - Nov 15, 12:00-1:30 circle lunch choice: fried chicken ham sandwich turkey sandwich	\$10.00		
	NEPA/Env. Coordination Cttee - Nov. 15, 12:00- 1:30 circle lunch choice: fried chicken ham sandwich turkey sandwich	\$10.00		
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED				

SAMAB Fall Conference—November 14-16, 2000

Preliminary Agenda

	Tuesday, Nov. 14		Wednesday, Nov. 15		Thursday, Nov. 16	
8:30	Welcoming remarks: Robb Turner, Larry Hartmann, and Michael Tollefson (GRSM Superintendent) Plenary speaker to be announced		Plenary: Ron Eller (Univ. of Kentucky) & Quentin Bass (USFS): Perspectives on the History of the Southern Appalachians		Options for Improving Air Quality	Directions for Watershed Management in the Southern Appalachians
10:30 Tues/ 10:15 Wed	Forest Ecosystem Assessments	Community Visioning	Biodiversity Invasive Species	In Southern Appalachia, Everyday Is GIS Day		
12:00	Lunch on your own (Committee/Initiative meetings)		Lunch on your own <i>or</i> Roundtables (by registration) - SAMAB/CESU Interactions - NEPA roundtable: SAMAB Env'l Coordination Ctte		Conference Adjourns (Committee/Initiative Meetings)	
1:30	Southern Appalachian Forest Planning Issues	Smart Growth: Integrating Human and Natural Communities in the Southern Appalachians	Panel Discussion: Grassy Bald Management	A Map Is Worth a Thousand Pictures: Improving Communication and Decision Making with GIS		
3:30	Biodiversity			Environmental Education		
Evening Events	6:00 Poster session and reception		6:00 Gather at the newly expanded Sugarlands Visitors Center for hor d'ouevres, bar, and the new Great Smoky Mountains introductory film		Check the SAMAB Web site, <http://samab.org> for updates and details.	



SAMAB

314 Conference Center Building
Knoxville, TN 37996-4138

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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
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SAMAB Fall Conference November 14-16, 2000

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December 1999

SAMAB NEWS

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Phone (865) 974-4583 FAX (865) 974-4609

SAMAB CALENDAR



SAMAB Executive Committee and Foundation Board Meetings

Feb. 9, 2000, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., NPS Chatahoochee NRA Headquarters, Roswell/Atlanta

May 3, 2000, 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m., North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville

Stewardship through Plantsmanship Symposium

Feb. 29, 2000, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville

Appalachian Studies Association Conference (cohosted by SAMAB)

March 24-26, 2000, Knoxville, www.asb.appstate.edu/index.htm

SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting

May 3-4, 2000, North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville

RELATED EVENT

Association of Southeastern Biologists Annual Meeting

April 5-8, 2000, Chattanooga, www.wvu.edu/~appalach/b-1.htm

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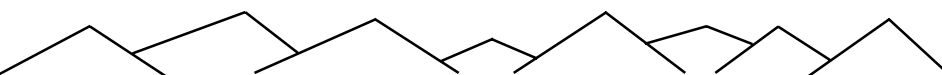


Revamped SAMAB Foundation Board Takes Action

The SAMAB Foundation Board, with nine new members, is positioning itself to charge ahead. Following discussions at the May and November Board meetings and a July "visioning meeting," the Board is strengthening its tie to the SAMAB Cooperative, with joint meetings planned for February, May, August, and November 2000. An important role the Foundation will assume is securing funding for projects the Cooperative and Foundation see as priorities for the region. To accomplish this the Foundation is working to strengthen its fund-raising capacity. It is currently seeking an individual or group with whom to contract for fund raising activities. (Interested persons/agencies should contact the SAMAB office.)

At its November meeting, the Foundation awarded \$5000 grants to each of three projects: the SAMAB Native Plants/Invasive Species Initiative, the planning activities related to the Southern Appalachian portion of the Appalachian Trail Monitoring Project, and the first World Botanic Gardens Congress, hosted by the North Carolina Arboretum. Work is underway to develop a systematic process to prioritize and distribute funding for future activities and projects.

The Board now has 20 members, as well as nine advisors, who will work with SAMAB on specific issues. (Look for "Meet the Board" features in subsequent issues of SAMAB News.) ■



"The Information Ecosystem" by Steve Nash

To wrap up the 1999 SAMAB Conference, environmental writer and journalism professor, Steve Nash, praised researchers and Federal and state resource managers for their patience in answering the questions of reporters and for efforts like the SAA that get "valuable chunks of information to the eyes and ears of the citizenry." But he also challenged them to do more, to take advantage of any opportunity to get strong clear messages about the health of our natural systems to the public. The following are excerpts of Nash's address. It has been posted, in its entirety, on the SAMAB Web site, at <http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>.

"There's an information ecosystem of which we're all a part and on which we all depend. In *The Origin of Species*, Darwin included a story about this kind of interdependence that ecologists have embellished ever since. I think of it as the "humblebee story"—that's what the British call bumblebees—and it related them to country widows, and to the fate of the British Empire. You see, the widows were fond of keeping cats. The cats kept down the population of field mice that otherwise would have consumed the honeycombs of the humblebees. The bees were

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Community Solutions

At the 1999 Conference, a session rapporteur, an expert in the respective subject matter, summarized and put into context the information delivered by speakers. These "wrap ups" are presented here. Many of them point out where and how SAMAB could contribute to improving regional resource management. The wrap ups present ideas discussed in the conference sessions. They will be used in planning future SAMAB work, but are the advice and opinions of the rapporteurs and are not to be construed as current SAMAB plans.

For more information about the sessions and individual papers/posters, the abstracts are provided online at the SAMAB Web site <<http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab/events/conf/abstracts.pdf>>. Reports are unavailable for three sessions: Processes for Partnering with Communities, Indiana Bat Biology, and Community Growth Issues. Please see the Web site for information about those sessions.

COMMUNITY PARTNERING FOR WATERSHEDS (part 1)

Reported by Larry Goff

In my short-term association with SAMAB I have felt the major focus of the efforts has been specific issues such as urbanization, invasive species, community growth issues, etc. SAMAB is a large geographic region encompassing numerous small and large watersheds (and airsheds), and each has a direct effect on the environment of the region. I believe the Federal and state members should become more proactive in working together to address the issues concerning watershed impacts to the SAMAB region. In most instances, we do not need a fact-seeking study, as member agencies have information about conditions, impacts and the solutions to the problems. SAMAB should set the priorities that should be addressed and begin a process of seeking solutions through the agencies, foundations, or other sources of funding or decision-making authority.

Funds will always be limited regardless of the source; thus, a priority system must be established so real successes can be accomplished now and drive future long-range efforts. These presentations gave some good examples of tools that can be used and groups and agencies that can partner to reach real objectives. A good example would be to form river-basin coalitions to address the issues in those basins (including multi-state basins). The Soil and Water Conservation Districts, RC&D Associations, or other regional organizations can play major leadership roles. We will see progress when people at the local level take initiative to decide what they want their community to look like and when they have the needed control to orchestrate that change. SAMAB and member agencies should facilitate and assist local leadership in this process. I believe people will make the right decision concerning their region, and thus the region will be the benefactor.

PROACTIVE FOREST PLANNING/MANAGEMENT WITH COMMUNITIES

Reported by Frank Findley

This panel discussion highlighted the outcome of cooperative resource management. Its focus was the development of a forest health project designed to protect the Tsali area forest (Cheoah District of Nantahala National Forest, Western North Carolina) against Southern Pine Beetle, Gypsy Moth, and the impacts of recreational users. A group of stakeholders—forest users including various recreational users, loggers, businesses, wildlife interests, and county governments—and public meetings focused the work on getting better

data about recreational use, timing and locating activities appropriately, trail availability, and wildlife habitat. Panel/audience discussion was primarily directed towards the innovative involvement of the public in project and alternative development. The close relationship among Forest Service and other participants made this project acceptable to the public and led to a more knowledgeable public. Participants in the panel included the USFS project coordinator, a USFS forester, a representative of the Nantahala Outdoor Center, and a mediator involved in the process.



Conference workshops were favorite places for networking and learning. *Left:* Laura Rotegard teaches a method of community-based watershed analysis. *Below:* Harold Draper (standing) leads a NEPA discussion, as Larry Hartmann looks on.



PROPOSED FOREST PLAN REVISIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN ASSESSMENT

USFS personnel updated the audience on the status of USFS forest plan revisions. They addressed wildlife and watershed issues, outlined the various alternatives and the "rolling alternative" that was developed from them, and identified future directions, including incorporating research, proposed regulations, and roads analysis/policy.

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MANAGING NATIVE PLANTS IN THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

Reported by Kris Johnson

This session highlighted the importance of interaction between scientific research and resource management programs. Science provides credibility to initiatives such as invasive plant management. Necessary first steps are to demonstrate the impacts quantitatively, the site factors that influence the plant's behavior, and the invasive species' biological characteristics that influence the selection of controls in integrated pest management. Science can meet resource managers' needs and provide an important first step in evaluating the potential invasiveness of plants that may be sold commercially. Bob Merriam's presentation focused on quantifying the impacts of invasive plant species, Henry McNab investigated the distribution characteristics of oriental bittersweet, and William Hamilton and other students from Warren Wilson College showed how they have applied science to begin controlling a variety of invasive plants on the college's property. Finally Gary Kauffman demonstrated the beauty and utility of native plants for roadside revegetation projects and some techniques for their establishment.

PARTNERING TO MANAGE INVASIVE SPECIES

Reported by Larry Fowler

(These comments relate to this and the preceding session.) One of the two sessions relating to invasive species dealt with partnering; the other with research and management initiatives. The papers presented reflect microcosmically the recent national initiative on invasive species that is gaining momentum. Partnering necessitates, minimally, the melding of researchers, land managers, and decision makers.

Executive Order 13112 (February 3, 1999) changes the way governmental agencies and the private sector interact regarding invasive species initia-

tives; the Order is a thread uniting a broad spectrum of stakeholders. Heretofore, governmental agencies impacted by invasive species have concerned themselves with either the protection of American agriculture and the facilitation of foreign trade, or the protection of public lands. E.O.13112 mandates that affected governmental agencies broaden their scope by adopting a policy of protecting agricultural, managed, and natural ecosystems.

SAMAB is encouraged to expand involvement in the national initiative on invasive species as follows:

Provide input to the Advisory Committee on Invasive Species (ACIS). The members of the ACIS will represent a broad spectrum of nongovernmental stakeholders and will provide recommendations to the National Council on Invasive Species.

Strengthen Alliances. There is strength in numbers. The broader the constituency of SAMAB partners, the greater the likelihood that SAMAB will have an impact. The National Council will be relying on SAMAB to communicate the needs of the SA region. Kristine Johnson, GSMNP, presented a paper communicating the mission of the newly formed Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council (SE-EPPC). SAMAB's alliance with SE-EPPC can only strengthen both organizations.

Initiate or become involved in regional and state invasive species councils.

The National Council will communicate directly with regional and state councils. SAMAB can provide regional and state leadership to invasive councils being formed. About 25 state councils are in various stages of organization. SAMAB and the Exotic Pest Plant Councils are thought by some to be the organizations with the strongest regional environmental alliances east of the Mississippi River. Those organizations that have not waited to become organized and are able to communicate regional needs to the National Council are the ones likely to receive requested resources. (E.O.13112 implementation funding is not yet available.)

Participate in a national network for data collection. Those of us in the Federal sector who are grappling with the initial stages of implementing a national invasive species initiative realize the necessity for amassing scientific data. Steve Manning reported on successful local (city) efforts. Meaningful on-the-ground invasive species data will be collected only when council development has been organized to the local levels. Bob Merriam, Henry McNab, William Hamilton, and Gary Kauffman presented papers that clearly reveal the valuable research being produced. This information needs to be linked with a national repository for invasive species data. Bill Gregg, USGS, has been working to provide our national information management system with international linkage. USDA's Center for Plant Health Science and Technology has recently provided a Web site <<http://invasivespecies.org/bonap/>> to offer the most current and comprehensive listing of the higher plants of the United States. Data is searchable by state and if exotic or native. Newly validated submissions are searchable by date of collection and state. A contract to maintain currency and an on-line report form are provided. SAMAB is encouraged to participate in the national network for data collection.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN FOREST DYNAMICS

Reported by Charlie Van Sickle

Understanding the many elements that affect forest change and productivity is essential before we can address the issue of forest sustainability. Thus, the topic of forest dynamics is of continuing interest to SAMAB. This session's four papers addressed several different elements of change and are ingredients that will be needed as we look at sustainability issues in the Southern Appalachians.

The paper presented by Charles Lafon described the efforts of past agricultural use on forest succession, species

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composition, and diversity. Farmland abandonment, only partly offset by urban expansion, has been a significant trend during the last half of this century. This paper helps explain some of the changes in soil productivity and ecosystem function that results from land use changes.

Anita Rose (for Niki Nicholas) described a study responding to growing concern about the effects of air pollution on high-elevation hardwood forests. Concerns about an “advanced stage of decline” from air pollution effects have not been verified with scientific evidence. The study establishes a baseline to measure future change and to contrast differences in species composition and stand structure at different elevations.

Acorn production varies considerably among different oak species and from year to year. Cathryn Greenberg’s research on factors that affect acorn production, should be helpful to forest managers and wildlife managers in understanding and influencing mast production. Perhaps guidelines can eventually be developed to help managers maintain the mast-producing component of hardwood forests.

The capture of atmospheric nitrogen is affected in various ways by forest structure and composition. A study reported by Megan Barker examined variability in stand growth and over-story N uptake and the resulting impact on soil nitrogen. This research could improve understanding of N deposition and forest disturbance on water quality.

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN AIR QUALITY ASSESSMENTS

Reported by Larry Hartmann

Air quality is a critically important issue to the Southern Appalachians. It is biologically important, as it can decrease pH in water and soils, impacting plants and animals. It is economically important, as it degrades

the scenic vistas tourists come to see. It may also have an impact on human health, with high levels of ground-level ozone exposure to the recreating public and those working in the woods.

There are two ongoing assessments of air quality in this area: the East Tennessee Ozone Study and the Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative (SAMI). Both of these studies are providing much needed information on the sources of pollution, including the ability to forecast air pollution problems. This information may help us determine if pollution control measures may be done locally or will require a regional focus.

Air quality is one of the most difficult problems we are facing, because there are many sources of pollution, and it is expensive to reduce. Air quality issues cut across all boundaries. No one organization alone can address it. It will take partnerships, such as SAMAB, to study and understand the issue and ultimately reduce the problems.

MULTIPLE OBJECTIVES OF GREENWAYS AND TRAILS

Reported by Susan Kerr

The presentations transported us from the magnitude and grand vision of the Cumberland Trail State Park (a 280-mile greenway corridor) to the detailed and delicate restoration planting of a one-mile section riparian zone in Alcoa along Pistol Creek. They took us from the ambitious proposed monitoring of the entire Appalachian Trail to the thorough and thoughtful assessment that produced the Environmental Report for a section of the Foothills Parkway. It was a fascinating tour. It was clear that all four projects not only created passion and concern, even tenderness, in the presenters, but inspired the same in numerous others who volunteered or joined in. In the caring for and watching over of these diminishing natural corridors, there is something that inspires, that restores the soul, and, as Rob Weber so correctly observed, “that leads to so

many other things.” SAMAB’s continued encouragement of projects like these seems a clear way to effect positive change.

COMMUNITY PARTNERING FOR WATERSHED SOLUTIONS (part 2)

Reported by Ruth Anne Hannahan

It is fair to say that most Federal natural resource agencies now support the concept of the “watershed approach” and that EPA has unequivocally endorsed and promoted it. However, it is one thing to lay this concept out on paper and another to actually implement it. The presenters have provided concrete examples of successfully implemented, on-the-ground watershed improvement projects and have identified some of the very real challenges that come with them.

Tim McKeehan (for Frank Sagona) provided some important insights into how watershed partnerships may be created and sustained by describing TVA’s experiences in supporting locally led watershed efforts. Keys to success included empowering citizen groups to assess their local watershed problems, providing technical assistance and start-up resources to address these problems and, most importantly, fostering a spirit of teamwork and cooperation. Bill McLarney underscored the value of truly involving a range of watershed citizenry, rather than just agencies and organizations, by describing how community members in the Little Tennessee River Watershed have come together to protect the river’s last remaining free-flowing stretch. One of the important ways that citizens have been involved is through volunteer monitoring. Ron Moser and Burline Pullin emphasized the importance of partnerships, particularly when a local watershed association is attempting to tackle very challenging technical issues. The Haywood Waterways Association, with the assistance of TVA and other valuable partners, has conducted a nonpoint source inventory using a GIS platform.

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Karen Lorino, chair of the conference's poster session, stands before the SAMAB display. The lively, well-attended session included 20 posters, ranging in topics from nitrogen dynamics to equity in communities and from the USGS water-quality assessment program to surveying archaeological resources.

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There are commonalities among these experiences:

- 1) Each is locally driven, generating trust in the process.
 - 2) Each is built on local needs, generating local commitment and action.
 - 3) Each realized that there is strength in a diversity of partners. From the Federal level, start-up resources and technical expertise are critical to watershed organizations; from the local level, political buy-in and dedicated community members are essential.
 - 4) Each actively engaged the public either in public-education programs or by involving them in activities like monitoring.
 - 5) Each developed short-term, achievable objectives, yielding early successes.
- So where do we go from here? What can we do collectively to strengthen the watershed approach in the Southern Appalachian region? Although we've seen that watershed efforts generally work best when they respond to local needs and when they are locally driven, there are many things SAMAB could do to strengthen and nurture these local efforts. SAMAB could assist these groups through:

Peer Learning. The SAMAB Cooperative has taken an important step through its "Watershed Initiative" by establishing a Watershed Conservation Clearinghouse. Through a Web site,

SAMAB connects partners and provides watershed partnership case studies. Efforts should be made to collect more case studies and to include what worked and what did not. Periodic updates of the Web site are needed to note groups' progress and/or barriers they have faced. Also, offering workshops, like this session, is essential to peer learning and networking.

Educational Updates. Watershed groups should also have access to updates on important watershed issues (e.g., TMDLs). This may be done through the SAMAB Web site, workshops, or written materials.

Funding Opportunities. SAMAB has produced a booklet with information on funding opportunities and should update these opportunities on the Web.

Partnering Partnerships. Finally, SAMAB should consider linking up with the Southeast Watershed Forum—an initiative established under the direction of the Clean Water Action Plan and facilitated by TVA's Resource Stewardship Division, River Network, and the Conservation Technology Information Center's Know Your Watershed program. Its planning committee consists of watershed stakeholders from nine southeastern states and is supported by TVA, EPA, and NRCS. Its purpose is to build support and momentum for watershed initiatives throughout the Southeast. It, like SAMAB, is currently building a watershed information clearinghouse. It is important that these two initiatives align themselves.

In conclusion, these presentations show us how to translate the theory of the watershed approach into practice. Through the kind of support that SAMAB is able to provide, we hope this practice may be strengthened.

CHALLENGES FOR GATEWAY COMMUNITIES

Reported by Melanie Catania

The purpose of this panel was to identify the unique challenges facing communities that are gateways to national parks and forests. Its specifically ad-

ressed the Tennessee communities bordering the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Shawn Benge (GSMNP) briefly reviewed the consequences to natural resources and the National Parks of not working with neighboring communities to address development issues. He then stressed the value to the park of working closely with its gateway communities, as they have become tourist destinations in their own right over the last few decades.

Charlynn Maxwell Porter (Gatlinburg) provided an overview of the development and current status of the Gatlinburg Gateway Foundation, an organization formed to involve citizens in developing and implementing a plan to manage the growth and visual aesthetics of the City of Gatlinburg. The group's research has shown that the rapid growth and change of Gatlinburg and the subsequent visual "clutter" can be linked to a decline in the economic well being of the city. Charlynn also spoke about the environmental impacts of unplanned growth in Gatlinburg, and the duty that many Gatlinburg citizens feel to prevent these impacts and potential harm to the natural resources of the park.

Glen Cardwell (Mayor, Pittman Center) spoke of the town's unique qualities and the different role that it plays as a gateway community. Unlike nearby Gatlinburg and Pigeon Forge, Pittman Center is small and not a tourist destination in its own right. The citizens of Pittman Center are working to maintain its local character as well as provide for better schools and services now and in the future.

The report on Townsend emphasized that, although Townsend is still rural in character, it is rapidly growing. Over two million people travel through Townsend on their way to GSMNP every year, creating increased demand for services and infrastructure. The

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city has been working on a growth plan and has set a positive example by working with the TN Department of Transportation to mitigate the impacts of a road-widening project.

Dynamic discussion followed the presentations. Bob Miller and Phil Francis from GSMNP discussed the opportunities and stumbling blocks that had been faced by the Great Smoky Mountain Alliance of Communities and stated their support for the revitalization of such a network. Participants agreed that there is an ongoing need for coordinated transportation planning among gateway communities. The idea was also raised of bringing back the SAMAB community chapter concept, to better involve these communities in the efforts of SAMAB. The need for better information and assistance to communities regarding grants was raised. Eston Williams, project coordinator of the Smoky Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council (smrcd@usit.net or 865-674-8890), spoke about the services his office can provide to gateway communities in obtaining grant funds

for transportation planning and other planning efforts.

The lessons learned were that there are several positive initiatives underway, that there is a need for communities in the SAMAB region to share local success stories, and that SAMAB could provide a needed service to communities by being a clearinghouse for grant information or grant resources, planning resources, technical assistance, and as a facilitator.

INFORMATION FOR COMMUNITY PLANNING AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Reported by Frank van Manen

Although lack of information has long been a limiting factor in community planning and resource management, this session illustrated that much of this information is now available or being generated: biological inventories; information (and tools) for community planning; and economic values of natural resources. Three key issues will have to be addressed to take advantage of available information:

(1) *Integration*—the different issues discussed in this session are linked and

should be integrated. For example, issues related to lead blood levels in inner-city children may be associated with economic issues.

(2) *Synthesis*—so much information is generated that synthesis is needed before patterns emerge that can be used in decision making. For example, results from the biodiversity inventory in Great Smoky Mountains National Park can be used to identify appropriate indicators of stream quality.

(3) *Information transfer and use*—one of the greatest challenges is to reach the appropriate segments of the public with useful information. Technology (Internet, GIS) can be very effective but can also be limiting when such technology is not available or outdated. Therefore, assistance in technology transfer and with the use and interpretation of available information is crucial to the success of community planning and resource management.

SAMAB is well equipped to play a pivotal role with all these three issues—particularly the last one. The creation of the GIS/Data Coordinator position within SAMAB reflects that capability and commitment. ■

SAMAB/NCEDR Internships Offered

Graduate and undergraduate students have an opportunity this summer to work with regional environmental decision makers. SAMAB is teaming with the National Center for Environmental Decision Making (a project of the Joint Institute for Energy and Environment) to continue a successful program of summer internships. Interns are hosted by city, state, and Federal agencies, as well as NGOs and corporations, and they are actively involved in their host's decision-making processes (data collection and analysis, tool use, communicating with stakeholders, etc.).

For more information, contact the SAMAB office or see the NCEDR Web site, <www.ncedr.org>. ■

SAMAB AWARDS

At the 1999 conference, four individuals were recognized for their service to SAMAB.

G. Robert Kerr, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, was presented the "Hinote Award" in recognition of sustained personal dedication in promoting the objectives of the Southern Appalachian Man and Biosphere Program.

Service awards were presented to **Hilary Vinson**, USFWS, for outstanding contributions to SAMAB in education and outreach.

Jack Ranney, UT Energy Environment and Resources Center, for outstanding sustained contributions to SAMAB conference planning.

Karen Wade, NPS, for tireless promotion of regional cooperation among agencies and communities to enhance the condition of natural and human resources throughout the Southern Appalachians. ■



Jack Ranney, UT, and Hilary Vinson, USFWS, sport plaques presented in recognition of their service to SAMAB.

Stewardship Through Plantsmanship Symposium

This symposium aims to build a better understanding of the invasive species problem by bringing together the perspectives of land managers, the nursery/landscape industry, and plant explorers. Through presentations by nationally recognized experts and discussion among all participants, the symposium will identify problems posed by invasive plants from the scientific and practical points of view, as well as the problems affecting stewardship of our land.

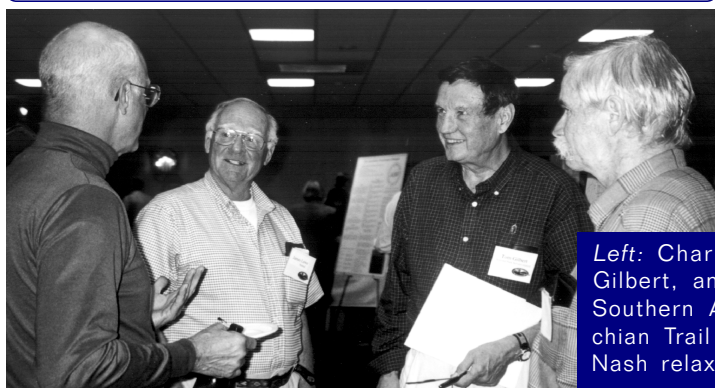
Date/Time: February 29, 2000, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Place: North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC

Fee: \$30 on or before Jan 30, 2000; \$40 after

Registration: Forms available at the SAMAB Web site
<<http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>> (go to events)

Cosponsors: SAMAB and the North Carolina Arboretum



Left: Charlie Van Sickle, James Lowe, Tom Gilbert, and Bill McLarney discuss the proposed Southern Appalachian component of the Appalachian Trail Monitoring Project. Below: Steve Nash relaxes at the Conference reception.

Forum Surveys Watershed Activity

The Southeast Watershed Forum wants to know the state of watersheds and watershed activities in the Southeast. The Forum is currently surveying organizations that work to conserve and restore natural resources and create sustainable communities. The intent of the survey is to identify “on-the-ground” watershed outreach, planning, monitoring, restoration, and protection efforts. One section of the survey focuses on available and needed data. By compiling these profiles, the Forum will be able to determine what is being done, by whom, and what areas are and are not covered. The report/directory of the compiled information will be provided to each organization that participates in the survey. It is expected to be a valuable resource for participating organizations as well as state and Federal agencies.

The Forum is a cooperative that includes Federal agencies, state water quality agencies and other related agencies, local governments, industries, and local watershed organizations. The Forum covers the six Southern Appalachian states, as well as FL, KY, and MS. For information about or to participate in the survey, contact Christine Olsenius of the Southeast Watershed Forum, at cholsenius@aol.com or 410-849-2976. ■

“Information Ecosystem”...continued from p.1

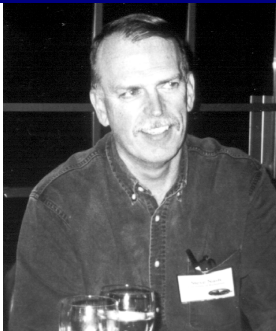
needed to pollinate the clover, that yielded the hay, that fed the horses of the British Infantry. No bees, no Empire. In the information ecosystem out there, you are as important as humblebees were to the Empire. No public information, no action.”

“The information [Federal and state agencies] make available to the public is indispensable. It’s part of the feedback about both our governing systems and our natural systems that we citizens need, in order to make sensible decisions in a democracy....Thanks to efforts like the SAA, valuable chunks of information do reach eyes and ears of the citizenry. But not often enough. I think we have some under-used tools that can be effective in thinning out the infomog—the confusion, the ignorance, the information pollution—that often surrounds ecosystem issues....”

“Here’s what I think you can continue to do, and do more of. First, keep communicating openly and generously with writers and reporters—even when you feel sure that you have run out of time, patience and even trust.... Even a small effort can, in chaotic conditions, yield enormous change. Call local editors or reporters and let ‘em know of an endangered species recovery project or of new research on air quality. It’s a five-minute investment. Second, in-

volve the public in research initiatives like Bill McLarney’s work on the Little Tennessee—public education projects

at the community level.... Recruit individuals and families to do a week of data-collection on forest health or water quality.”



“Third, we can talk at a somewhat higher volume, and with appropriate urgency, in our communications with the visiting public: communication like those tens of thousands of maps and brochures, and even the bulletin boards at trailheads.... We are overlooking some opportunities there. Here’s an example. [In GSMNP trail brochures]... there is almost no mention of human disturbance... or ozone pollution at all. Is widespread human-caused ecosystem damage a legitimate part of the story along this trail?... Do visitors need to know that? I think they do. How come we aren’t telling them at every opportunity?

I think state and Federal natural resource managers should consider speaking more plainly and frequently to citizens about air pollution, development, and exotics that affect their resource base, their tourism, their economies, their health, and their public lands.... In short, I think we information ecosystem humblebees don’t always need to be so humble.” ■

From Long-view Rock, *by SAMAB Executive Director, Robb Turner*

The SAMAB Annual Conference helped clarify many of the issues and challenges facing the Southern Appalachian Region, from invasive species issues through multifaceted issues of watershed and airshed management through the complex issues of conceptualizing community values and what sustainability means to different communities with overlapping boundaries. Clarification, however, does not mean simplification—indeed, the issues are complex and interlaced and affect all communities.

To meet challenges such as these, we need concepts of leadership and citizenship that facilitate learning and thinking beyond the immediate moment and our immediate surroundings. We saw examples of citizens and community groups evaluating their environments, gathering and distributing information in innovative ways, and working to protect or restore places and functions of their environment. We saw constructive examples of community leadership and participation that demonstrate renewal or

strength of civic attitudes, behavior, and values in our communities. We saw multiple examples of public-private partnerships that provide resources, technical capabilities, and manpower to do things none could do alone. One conferee noted that “Community solutions are the only kind of solution.”

Read and think about the session summaries in this newsletter. Read Steve Nash’s closing keynote address on the SAMAB Web site (<http://sunsite.utk.edu/samab>). Think about how you or your organization or community can contribute to solutions. Do you have research or resource management needs? Do you have resources or capabilities to offer to a community partnership seeking or offering solutions? SAMAB is developing a Web-based information server to deliver SAA data and other information and to provide communication channels and technical assistance for communities. SAMAB or member agencies can assist communities with educational materials and many other resources.

Attend the SAMAB Spring Planning Meeting at the North Carolina Arboretum on May 3 and 4 to help plan SAMAB priorities and activities for the next few years. SAMAB needs your skills as an idea person, implementor, facilitator, cheerleader, ambassador, or whatever. The region needs your participation as a partner, representing the communities of which you are a member. Another conferee noted “The world is run by those who show up!”

I sometimes feel frustrated as I sit in my office thinking about all the things SAMAB could or should be doing, but that it for one reason or another is not. As I sat in this SAMAB Conference I was impressed by all the community solutions that *are* happening in the SAMAB region. Let me, and SAMAB Executive Committee and Working Committee members, know what we can do to help *you* keep up the good work!■



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
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Mark your calendars...
Spring Planning Meeting, May 3-4, 2000