

# SAMAB NEWS

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

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

## Calendar

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

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

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

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

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

**George Wright Society**: Call for Papers. Visit the conference Web Page: [www.portup.com/~gws/gws99.html](http://www.portup.com/~gws/gws99.html)

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

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

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

## Spring Planning Meeting Highlights Three SAMAB Initiatives for 1998-2000

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

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

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



## Watershed Conservation Initiative Discussion

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Native Plant Outreach

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

### **Vision:**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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### Interesting Web Pages

USGS Biological Resources Division  
**National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII)**

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

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

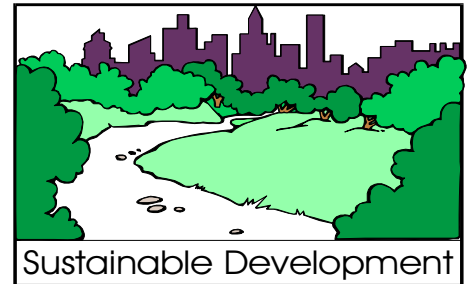
<http://www.aqd.nps.gov/npci>

**National Library for the Environment**

<http://www.cnle.org>

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
**Clean Water Action Plan**

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



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

### SAMAB Chattanooga Indicators Task Force Announced

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

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

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

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## Committee Reports

### ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE

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

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

### ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATION

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

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

### RESOURCES MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

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

### RESEARCH AND MONITORING COMMITTEE AND GIS SUBCOMMITTEE

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

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

### CULTURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE

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

### PUBLIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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

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

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

### *Program of Work Prepared: Help Needed to Implement*

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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## Call for Papers & Posters:

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

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

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

#### **Guidelines for Papers and Posters**

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

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

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

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

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

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

*Tennessee  
North Carolina  
Georgia  
State Members*

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

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