

# 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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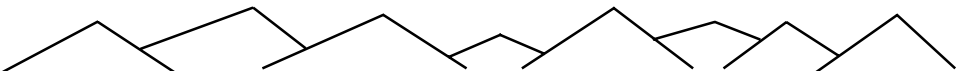
## 1999 Spring Planning Meeting Marks Progress and Plans Next Steps

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. ■

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# 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](http://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.

### Looking Forward

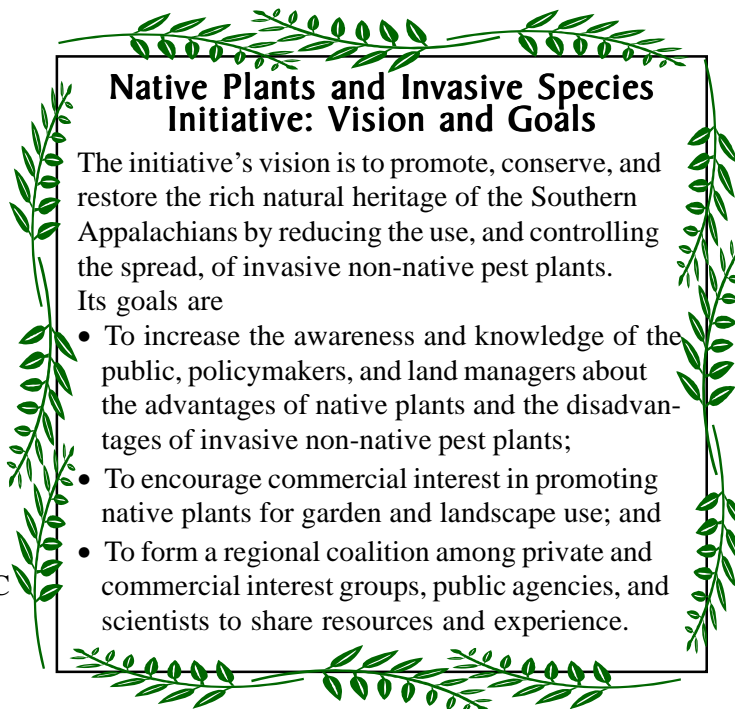
The initiative has developed a vision and goals to guide its continued progress and has established priorities for its continued work. The priorities are shaped by a need—lack of knowledge among resource managers, the public, and policy makers of the threat that invasive pest plants pose to natural communities 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](mailto:pgibson@wpoff.wcu.edu)) or Hilary Vinson ([hilary\\_vinson@fws.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.webriver.com/tn-eppc)> or contact Brian Bowen, Executive Director, at [bbowen@mail.state.tn.us](mailto:bbowen@mail.state.tn.us). For information on membership contact Robin Peeler at [Robin@edge.net](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://www.webriver.com/tn-eppc)> (soon changing to <[www.se-eppc.org](http://www.se-eppc.org)>)

The Nature Conservancy: Wildland Weeds Management & Research Program Web site <[tncweeds.ucdavis.edu](http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu)>

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# 1999 Spring Planning Meeting: Committee Reports

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## **Education Committee** – led and reported by Hilary Vinson, [hilary\\_vinson@fws.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:rturner@utk.edu).

# 1999 Spring Planning Meeting: Initiative Reports

## Watershed Initiative –

led by Briane Adams, [dadams@usgs.gov](mailto:dadams@usgs.gov); reported by Jennifer Knoepp, [jknoepp@sparc.ecology.uga.edu](mailto: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. ■

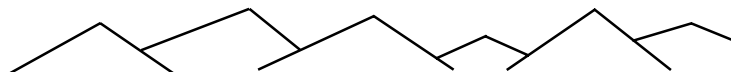
## Sustainability Initiative –

led and reported by John Peine, [jpeine@utk.edu](mailto: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. ■

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## 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 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

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# 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](http://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 [cvsans@prodigy.net](mailto:cvsans@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](mailto:samab@utk.edu), or fax to 423-974-4609.

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

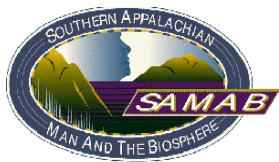
**Deadline for submissions is September 1, 1999.**

## 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](mailto:rturner@utk.edu) or 423-974-4583.



### SAMAB

314 Conference Center Building  
Knoxville, TN 37996-4138

### Federal Members

*National Park Service  
USDA Forest Service  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
Economic Development Administration  
Appalachian Regional Commission  
US Environmental Protection Agency  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
US Army Corps of Engineers  
US Geological Survey Water Resources  
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