

SAMAB NEWS

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

314 Conference Center Building, Knoxville, TN 37996-4138
 Phone (423) 974-4583 FAX (423) 974-4609

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

IN THIS ISSUE

SAMAB's 10th Annual Conference to Feature Community Solutions	1
SAMAB Receives National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Grant	2
Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative: Assessment Update	2
The Indiana Bat in Western North Carolina: A Status Update	3
Conference Registration Form	4
Conference Preliminary Agenda	5
Community Solutions? A Challenge from the Executive Director	6



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.

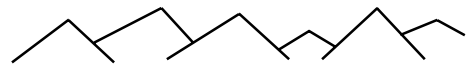
These native plant demonstration areas are being developed throughout the Southern Appalachians at educational and recreational facilities. SAMAB's education committee, which coordinates the Native Plants and Invasive Species Initiative, sought the funding to unify these independently occurring efforts 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. ■



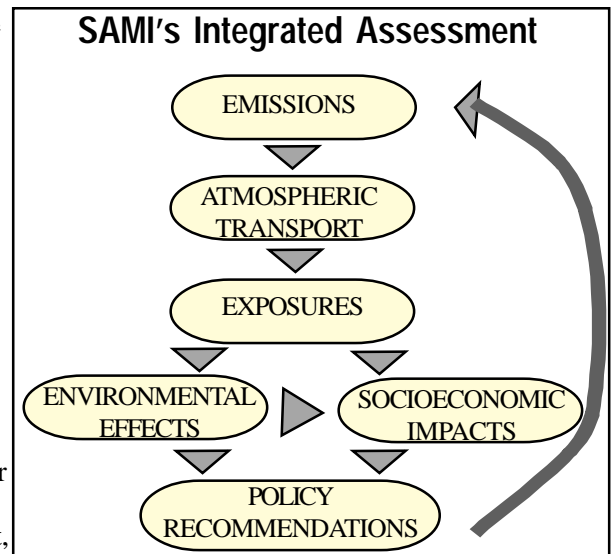
Southern Appalachian Mountains Initiative: Assessment Update

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

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. ■

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"

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 _____

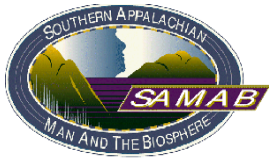
E-mail _____ Telephone _____ Fax _____

		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	<i>Workshop: Invasive Pest Plants of the Southern Appalachians.</i> 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: ISTEA 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	<i>Workshop: Community-based Assessment of Scenic Quality.</i> 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

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
Division and Biological Resources Division
Department of Energy’s Oak Ridge National
Laboratory*

State Members

*Georgia
North Carolina
Tennessee*