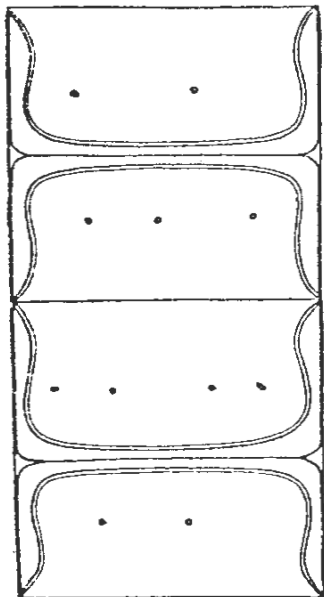

mab notes from Nape Shelton

The biggest recent news out of U.S. MAB is the decision to *restructure the program*. At its Jan. 6, 1989 meeting, the U.S. National Committee approved consolidating the 10 existing directorates into 5 biogeographically oriented directorates: Temperate Ecosystems, Tropical Ecosystems, High Latitude Ecosystems, Human Settlements, and Marine and Coastal Ecosystems. Seven cross-cutting themes have been identified that will be addressed, as appropriate, by the directorates: Aquatic Areas and Wetlands, Arid Lands/Desertification, Biological Diversity, Cultural Diversity, Global Change, and Sustainable Use/Development.

The chairmen of the existing directorates have been requested to identify current program activities that should be continued and supported during the transition. Bill Gregg, NPS MAB Coordinator, believes the new structure will strengthen the biosphere reserve program because biosphere reserves will be a compo-



A strand of *Melosira undulata* is shown here in diagram, drawn by Friedrich Hustedt in 1930 for *Die Kieselalgen – Part VII* of Dr. L. Rubenhorst's book, *Kryptoglamen-Flora*. The view shows a lengthwise view of the strand. Each cell is composed of two so-called "valves" that fit together rather like a medicine bottle and its top. Each valve contains dot-like pores, from which the gelatinous strands apparently are extruded.

ment of the activities of each directorate. A biosphere reserve coordinating committee that would include many members of the present biosphere reserve directorate is being considered.

Among other actions, the U.S. National Committee approved the allocation of \$50,000 for support to establish priorities for the U.S. biosphere reserve program and to fund new feasibility studies and selection panels; and \$15,000 for bilateral exchanges of scientists involved in the developing cooperative ecological research programs in the biosphere reserves of the U.S. and U.S.S.R. A group of Soviet scientists is expected in May for a joint workshop at Pinedale, Wyoming to initiate field studies.

Mexican and American participants at a MAB workshop held last November at Big Bend NP during the Third Symposium on Resources of the Chihuahuan Desert Region discussed possibilities for **cooperation among the Chihuahuan Desert biosphere reserves**. The managers of the three Chihuahuan Desert biosphere reserves – Mapimi (Mexico), Big Bend NP, and the Jornada Experimental Range – agreed to collaborate. Principal scientists, managers, and interpreters from the three reserves will meet in March to discuss projects.

Two that have been suggested are applying grassland restoration methods developed at Jornada to overgrazed areas at Big Bend, and reestablishing the desert tortoise, which now survives only in the Mapimi region, at Big Bend. This slow-moving, colonial tortoise was extirpated from the Big Bend region in prehistoric times, most likely as a result of overharvesting for its meat by early Indian populations.

Regional enthusiasm for a proposed **Arizona-Sonora Biosphere Reserve** is accelerating, reports Carlos Nagel, President of Friends of Pronatura. Funded by U.S. MAB, Nagel is discussing environmental concerns and the biosphere reserve idea with community leaders and representatives of government agencies and organizations concerned with the conservation and sustainable use of a large region roughly centered on Organ Pipe Cactus NP. A fall workshop is planned to bring such people together to consider ways to institutionalize regional cooperation under MAB. Nagel will be preparing a feasibility report documenting the issues of regional concern, interest in MAB as a framework for cooperation, and options for establishing a regional MAB program. The recently established Southern Appalachian MAB Cooperative will serve as one model.

Designation certificates are being sent to the seven administrative units of the Central California Coast BR, which includes Point Reyes NS and parts of Golden Gate NRA; the Southern Appalachian BR, which includes three existing BRs – Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park, Great Smoky Mountains NP, and Coweeta Hydrological Laboratory; and the New Jersey Pinelands BR, now designated separately as a biosphere reserve from the South Atlantic Coastal Plain BR, which formerly included it.

The *Proceedings of the Symposium on Biosphere Reserves*, held during the World Wilderness Conference in September 1987, should be published in March of this year. Copies will be sent to each Regional Office, each CPSU, and each biosphere reserve unit. For further distribution, contact Bill Gregg, MAB Coordinator, National Park Service (490), P.O. Box 37127, Washington, D.C. 20013-7127. Phone: (202) 343-8122 or FTS 343-8122.