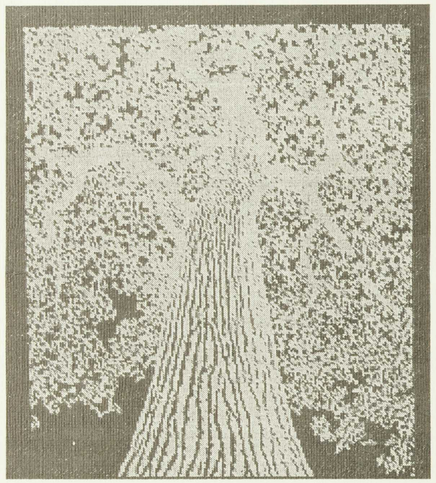
Cistern An 7,500-gallon cistern has been created from 4 inch concrete blocks according to specifications in *TP 3 - Cisterns.* The roof was reinforced with rebar and poured with three inches of concrete. A 2' by 2' foot block for entry was attached to a portion of the flat roof which is also to be used a mounting platform for solar photovoltaic panels. The cistern is 8 ft tall and drains about half the office roof space (1000 square feet). It is insulated on the outer side with one inch Styrofoam which is covered with cement.

Appalachian Sustainable Forest Center

Educational Outreach Project A major project success during the past two years has been the environmental educational outreach program that was started by Dan Bond and Jerry Waddle in 1994. Even though the project is moving to becoming self-supporting, we still have some funds from the U.S. EPA grant funded through the Kentucky Waterways Alliance. Part of that money is designated to setting up a project where materials that are used either in our two current slide shows or the additional and supplemental materials will be made available to teachers. After gathering written and oral comments and discussions with grade and high school teachers in Eastern Kentucky we are now in the process of inserting materials on our new Home Page. If you have materials that you have found useful in Appalachian environmental studies, don't fail to send then to Dan Bond here at ASPI.



New Legislation ASPI seeks to educate the public on the need for legislation to protect our Appalachian natural resources. Any state forestry legislation should have the following components: the regulations should apply to all timber harvesting operations; there should not be exceptions and loopholes for energy and utility operations; timber harvest should have a permitting process, advance notification and prior approval; the legislation should not weaken existing water and other environmental laws.

This January the Kentucky Forest Conservation Act will be considered. How many of these four key points are included? As of this writing none.

Off-road Vehicles Agencies such as the Daniel Boone National Forest are taking steps to curtail ORVs on public lands (and we sent in a petition in favor of the strictest option). Figures on human accidents with ORVs are shocking with ten deaths this year in our part of Kentucky. National Public Radio reports that sales of $80,000 military type jeeps, Humbees, are skyrocketing and they are unfortunately ideal for climbing extremely steep slopes and crossing streams. It reported that they could damage roadways. What impact could this have on natural areas?

Solar Cooking Outreach in Peru

During October through part of December Mark Schimmoeller, Joshua Bills and Andy McDonald returned to Latin America and, for Mark and Andy, a return to Peru. As of November 20, they worked with organizations in three regions of southern Peru, Cusco, Lake Titicaca, and Arequipa. In the Cusco region, solar cooking workshops were held at an agricultural school and a home for abandoned boys. As Josh puts it, "It was nice building cookers with young adults and children. We had to push ourselves to keep up with their enthusiasm and, when steaming hot food came out of the solar cookers that they built, you could see their wonder and joy in every bite."

Mark, Andy and Josh visited Tequile Island in Lake Titicaca where solar cooking is becoming almost commonplace through the volunteer efforts of Tara Miller of Colorado. While there, they introduced the panel-type solar cooker, which was new to the islanders. In Arequipa, they were amazed to see the program's progress which they started three years ago. Then it was design work, now production work. Upon arriving in November there were orders for 10 cookers to be built, and a shop with necessary supplies and construction tools.

Photo: Joshua Bills

In Cuzco, Peru, orphaned boys show off thier newly built solar box cooker

Resource Assessment Service

We are now working ourselves out of a national job so we can concentrate back on Appalachian regional issues. Efforts are being made to set up regional RAS activities like the one now operating in Knoxville (eight local assessments last year). Out West, regional efforts have started through a grant from the Santa Barbara Province of Franciscans. Anne and Terry Symens-Bucher are key players in developing this western regional office. In December, Al Fritsch went and conducted five on-site data collections with the California team. Al will perform three assessments and in the coming months will review two, performed by the regional team. In essence, this will prove to be a better approach than some high cost seminar for a period of time, though such programs are beneficial to those already managing assessed institutions.

ASPI Publications

Earth Healing We have now conducted so many "Earth Healing Shows" (about 70) that duplication of the shows is becoming a major problem. We cannot keep all shows on stock. Instead, we welcome people to tape the shows and even duplicate these and distribute to those who one thinks may profit from them. In other words we abandon any proprietary right provided the show is left intact and that the proper attributions are given for any segment used. We are convinced that dollar-for-dollar this has been the best use of ASPI money. Many in the ten-county viewing area have commented favorably to the shows and we think it has made a profound change in attitudes by Appalachians in the Channel Nine cable area. Our hope is to extend this service to other stations in the years to come. Recent shows include Ernie Muhly (MD) "Making Mobile Homes more Safe," Lowell Dodge (DC) "Trees for the Planet," and Judy Peterson "Kentucky Waterways Alliance."

New Technical Papers The two most recently completed technical papers are now available to the public – *T.P. 42* Guide to Use of Non-Timber Products - (see essay)

T.P. 43 Small Town Appropriate Technology Demonstration Project - Describes in detail the development of the Mount Vernon demonstration center over the past 50 months. Papers are available from ASPI Publications: $2.00 each plus $1.00 P&H.