

ASPI 1997 ACCOMPLISHMENTS & 1998 PLANS

The 20th anniversary of ASPI has been a time when we actualized many of the 1997 plans and generated some more hopes for the coming year. In June our Appropriate Technology/River Day celebration was a success even though marred by heavy late spring rains.

1. Demonstration Centers

Accomplishments: In 1997 we focused on our Small Town Appropriate Technology Center at Mount Vernon where we completed a 400-square foot library annex for periodicals, developed about a tenth of the property into wildscape, planted a grape/kiwi arbor, and built temporary and permanent cold frames. During our ASPI "Year of Food" we emphasized productivity and quality at our garden of 15 raised-beds at Mount Vernon. One twenty-fifth of an acre produced over 1,300 pounds of produce as of this writing showing there's power in good demonstration projects. During the year we completed, furnished and dedicated the Nature Center, reroofed both the Solar House and Cordwood Building, developed and installed a new solar water heating unit, built 620 feet of rock wall as wheelchair ramps and retaining walls, cleared trees for sun space and fuel, and hosted the KY Component of the second National Solar Tour. We also co-sponsored the video conference on the U.S. Energy Department's "Million Solar Roofs" initiative.

Plans: During 1998 we will continue the furnishing of our Nature Center along with additional appropriate technology displays and solar applications at our two demo sites. We will develop a program for bringing school children to see the Center. We will continue our emphasis on composting toilet research and advocacy for 1998 is designated the ASPI "Year of Waste Resources."

2. Appalachian Sustainable Forest Center

Accomplishments: Forest projects were in four action areas: Demonstration/Education -- Through the help of volunteers we realized the addition of the one-mile Zalla Trail which was dedicated in June. Dr. Wayne Davis performed a biological survey of the Federal land old-growth north slope. Our team developed a second slide show and talked to 10,000 children in Eastern Kentucky on forest and water-related subjects; Organizing/advocacy -- We celebrated a major victory in the U.S. Forest Service closing of areas to off-road vehicles and allowing new trails only after formal Environmental Impact Statements; Networking -- We hosted the annual Lucy Braun Mixed Mesophytic Forest Society meeting at Mount Vernon. The APPALFOR home page was expanded and received an average of 131 visits per day. Mary Davis' Eastern Old-Growth Clearinghouse moved forward with the introduction of a newsletter and Internet connections; Research -- We published and circulated *The Forest Commons Proceedings*, outlined a future guide for Small-Scale Forest Inventories, and worked with groups on non-timber forest products, especially ginseng.

Plans: In 1998 we will continue our educational outreach including improved programs for students visiting our Nature Center and