In the Garden

The Loretto Sisters have given ASPI a grant to document a number of workshops being conducted by the Kentucky Organic Growers entitled "The Farmer to Farmer Exchange." Information from the workshops will be distributed via our Technical Paper series. The project was organized in the fall and winter in part through our ASPI intern, Stacey Hubbs. Robyn Arnold will be collecting information and recording the talks during the workshops for transfer to four or six-page reports. Four of the eight workshops --packaging and grading (2), irrigation systems and pest & weed management -- will have been completed before this newsletter arrives. The remaining four are:

* "Soil Building" at Lebanon Kentucky farm Saturday April 2nd
* "Seasonal Extenders" at New Hope, KY Saturday, April 16th
* "Forest Farm Products" here at ASPI on Saturday, April 23rd
* "Seed Saving" at Smiths Grove, KY. May 7th.

All begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. Call the Kentucky Organic Growers (KOG) in Lexington, (606) 233-7845, for directions. There is no admission cost, but if you can bring a dish for a potluck dinner. At the April 23rd event ASPI will provide soup.

During the workshop at ASPI, a number of local speakers will join our staff and Professor Deborah Hill of the Forestry Department of the University of Kentucky in surveying the possibilities for sustainable harvesting in the woods. There will also be time for a conducted tour of our certified lands after the workshop.

In September, 1992 we suggested a "Kentucky First" Program. We are happy to announce that Pam Clay, KOG Coordinator, picked up the challenge and has turned this idea into reality by launching a Kentucky First buying club. Wendell Berry was the keynote speaker at the February 3rd event held at the Trinity Baptist Church in Lexington. Keep going Pam.

Cooking in Peru

Andy McDonald (1993 Waste Project Intern at ASPI) and Mark Schimmoeller of Frankfort, KY are applying their appropriate technology skills in Peru this winter and spring. They arrived in January in the picturesque city of Arequipa, where the sun shines most of the year and are working with the Medical Missionary Sisters teaching local women the skills associated with building, maintaining, and cooking with solar energy. Mark has the unique distinction that he and his family use a solar cooker exclusively when weather permits. Through their work Andy and Mark hope to cut the highest budget item for many of these people, namely, the kerosene used to cook food. The enthusiasm of all parties involved in the project is contagious and we pray that AT (Appropriate Technology) will spread quickly through all parts of the world. A more complete report is forthcoming.

ASPI Oral History Project Update

Robyn Arnold is putting the finishing touches on the summaries of a number of tape recordings that tell the story of appropriate technology in earlier times. Each participant of the project gave a wonderful contribution in a field that has never been explored. They have added much both to our own knowledge at ASPI and to the University of Kentucky Oral History library -- the largest in the world. We found participant language so unique and noteworthy that we are now seeking to collect a second series of interviews just to focus on Appalachian language.

Our thanks to Albert Baldwin, Geneva Bennett, Theresa & Everett Brooks, Dock Cornett, Alan Crabbe, Clofus Davis, Wayne Davis, Mary E. Fritsch, Tom Hardy Jr., Burgess King, Saundra Little, Nancy Reed, Alvia Sorrell, Verla Shelton, Lucille Stewart, and Jim Wyker for sharing their time and experiences.

NOTICE: A victory! The Safe Energy Communications Council reports that the Bag the Breeder II campaign was a success when Secretary of Energy Hazel O'Leary submitted to Congress a budget proposal terminating the funding. Our letters and faxes are read. Please help convince the Senate to bury what is already dead.

Assessing Resources

Winter is usually a slack season as we prepare for the spring Resource Auditing Service rush. However, this winter has seen a steady list of activities. Reports were completed for the Dominican Sisters at Amityville and at Water Mill, New York and for the AMERC group at Berea, Kentucky. As of this writing, two further reports are being finished for the Dominican Sisters at Shepherd's Corner near Columbus, Ohio and for the Bishop Gravat Conference Center of the Episcopal Diocese of Upper South Carolina. We have also begun a more long term program with the Catholic diocese of Knoxville and Al Fritsch gave a series of talks in mid-February to the clergy of the diocese. Another series will take place in June with lay people of the eastern Tennessee area. Since Al will be away on a teaching assignment at Santa Clara University in the fall, we ask that those who desire audits in 1994 please contact us ASAP. Mark Spencer is filling in as videotaping person in between design assignments and the upcoming 1995 "Simple Lifestyle Calendar".

During the summer the Resource Auditing Service will sponsor a gathering of those groups that have been audited and those organization which seriously want to begin the process. This meeting planned for July 29 to 31 will be held at the Michaela Farm in Oldenburg, Indiana. If you have not yet received a packet of registration materials, please write to us. A variety of lodging options exist and we do want people to bring slides, photos and literature on their own Earth healing activities.

Thanks

Our 1994 grants are quite sparse but we struggle on due to the generosity of the many individuals who appreciate our work. Grants can be distracting, stretch the imagination for novel ideas, and the competition is fierce. Is the time writing so many which go unfunded worth it? We now have to spend more time in non-grant alternatives such as to cultivate you our faithful donors (over 80% return each year). We thank .... Bernadine Baltrinic, Carol & Moody Bartlett, Mary Jo Baumgartner, Minnie & Ernest Egerer, Jane & Richard Frank, Mary & Frank Fritsch, Catherine & Frank Hare, R.J. Hoar, Barry Horowitz, Anne & John Horstman, Susan & Richard Jackson, Lucille & James Klee, Lindsay MacFarlane & Bernard Maurer & Zach, Mary Morgan, Sharon Gorman & Joe Spaeder, Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, Monique & Paul Winther, Eileen & John Yago. ... and the many new and faithful calendar purchasers, those who buy from our enclosed Publications List, and people who try to help in some way.

University of Kentucky Students taking samples at the 909 ORV Site.

A special note: Many more than usual have asked to volunteer during spring breaks and to serve as interns. Our inability to accommodate you does not mean we do not appreciate your generosity. Where possible we suggest alternative groups. Also, a special remembrance to two good donors and friends of ASPI who passed away this winter: Josephine Ross of Covington, Kentucky and Adele O'Shaughnessy of Mequon, Wisconsin.

Remembering Winter

With the advent of mourning dove and redbud we strive to forget the recent hardships of the one-two-three blow of January/February/March weather. Our county is part of the ice-storm declared disaster area and our valley was without electricity for eight days with many downed trees. The solar lights in the library reminded the long-suffering residents that there are other ways, if we have the funding to install such devices. Support the current Federal Administration's $308 million appropriation request for renewable energy funding. That's one positive step in hard times.