

Appalachian Alternatives

Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest

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Resource Assessments

During the spring several RAS milestones were passed: The Victory Noll Community at Huntington, Indiana became the one-hundredth environmental resource assessment; Cuney, Texas became the first environmental resource assessment of an entire town; The Erie, Pennsylvania Benedictines became the first assessed community obtaining a major portion of its energy from sources on the grounds (wind power and natural gas with a small portion of wood); The Lady Smith, Wisconsin College, motherhouse, hospital, infirmary, and nearby urban development site is the first combined complex to be treated in a single assessment.

A general reflection on the assessment process is being prepared in a book which should be ready by the end of the year. Al Fritsch has been compiling this and some of the preliminary sections were edited during the spring by intern, Dominic Cloud.

ASPI Publications

Calendars: We know from the communications that many are interested in the 1996 Calendar, which is just now going to press. Through good paper replacement and purchase, our publisher has been able to help us hold prices the same (for six years). We hope to have calendars available in early August.

Appalachian Word List: *A Dictionary of the Appalachian Tongue*, a long-standing hobby of Al Fritsch, is now in the hands of selected reviewers. The listing includes quaint expressions and phrases that are not written elsewhere. Thanks to grants from the Kentucky Historical Society, ASPI's Robyn

Arnold and Mark Spencer have recorded a cross-section of older Appalachians on a variety of appropriate technology subjects, some of which has already been included in this current listing. However, the project is on-going and the listing will never be finished. The Word List indicates words used by Appalachians (basic English, basic American, regional in general, and Appalachian in particular). The latter class could be sub-divided into pronunciation variations, but that awaits more academic analyses. In essence, our purpose is conservationist at heart; we seek to preserve "Appalachian," a fast-fading American English dialect, that is in danger of becoming extinct.



Pitching Horseshoes at River Day, 1995