Appalachian Alternatives

Appalachia – Science in the Public Interest

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Sheetrup Norman, We'll add you to our mailing list if a friend

HOMECOMING/ OPEN HOUSE

A final call to ex-volunteers, interns, staffers, neighbors, wellwishers and others. You all come! No charges or hidden fees. The date is Sunday, May 31st; the time is from 1:00 p.m. until as long as people stay. Pray for good weather.

If you desire to camp, hike, fish, explore our multitude of Rockcastle caves, rock climb in the vicinity (not permitted on ASPI property), canoe in the river, or just relax, come for the weekend. In any event, tell us your plans so we can have some idea how many are coming. But don't stay home just because you neglected to send word.

The day will include music, entertainment, day hikes on the nature trail, prizes, and guided tours for those who have not seen the demonstration center. We would like to have contributions of stories from at least one representative of each year of the past decade. A 4,500-word history entitled "ASPI: THE FIRST DECADE" will be available at the event. Copies may also be obtained after the first of June by sending $2.00.

Dora Mae Wagers, the 1976 picking champion (using a claw hammer banjo) and ASPI's maternal guardian and advisor, will be a featured performer along with members of her talented family. She has played on other ASPI events and is always deeply appreciated.

The event will be quite informal. A number of people have written that they cannot make that particular weekend, so we make a general extension to cover all three summer months. Again, if you want to drop by during vacation, just drop us a card.

ASPI Consulting Staff

Peter Ayers (Reclamation), Clif Coffey (Wildlife), Mary Davis (Editing), Bob Fairchild (TOP), Al Fritsch, S.J. (Research), Mark Spencer (Design), and Jane Wilson (Publications).

RECLAMATION WORK

ASPI plans to mark the tenth anniversary of the Federal Surface Mining Act by an in-depth look at Laurel and Clay County surface mining and reclamation practices. We are not trying to lobby, because we are convinced the problem is one of enforcement. How do we get some curtailment of the havoc wrought on our hills?

The reclamation picture in eastern Kentucky is spotty at best and disastrous at worst. The media has a short attention span; national environmental groups have taken little notice; the politicans are mute; the coal industry tells how hurting they are. No one speaks for the people and the land.

One myth that ASPI hopes to refute in the summer report is that the notorious Black and White unreclaimed site across the river from our Center is a rare exception to the reclamation record. It is not. At least two other sites of equal magnitude were discovered in Laurel County last year and a number are already found by the use of aerial photography by ASPI this winter. Unfortunately, the Mountains contain a number of Black and Whites. When our researcher, Peter Ayers, completes his spring engineering semester he will be able to sort out the mounting evidence as to how bad the situation actually is. More on unreclaimed lands in the summer issue.