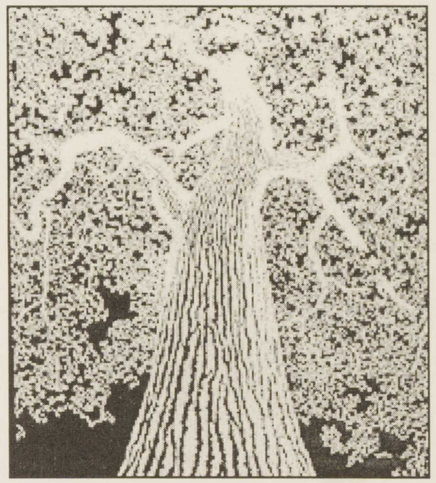
Nature Center. Once the library was moved in November we found over a thousand square feet freed up at Livingston, possibly enough space for a Nature Center that has been in our dreams for some time. This Center will have displays of all the flora and fauna of our biologically rich Rockcastle Valley and will be of special interest to children who are coming in increasing numbers with school sponsored tours. ***N.C. Wish List.*** We request furnishings and Appalachian nature materials for preliminary displays in the Nature Center when it formally opens on the first weekend of June. Items may include posters, pictures, drawings, and exhibits of birds, fish, mammals, reptiles, insects, wild flowers, trees, other plants, and rocks. The Nature Center building will also contain an office for the grounds crew, solar-powered entrance signs, and an audio/video presentation room for visitors and those interested in video histories of local colorful Appalachian people.

Off Road Vehicle Victory. US Forest Service has called for comments on a proposed regulation to halt ORV use on all but approved roads. We have won a partial victory, but cannot relax now. Please help by sending comments affirming the decision to *Daniel Boone National Forest, 1700 Bypass Road Winchester, KY 40391.* They want comments specific to issues and actions. Call (606) 745-3100 for scoping notice.

Forest Projects

Forest Health. An annual gathering of the Lucy Braun Association for the Mixed Mesophytic Forest will take place on March 20-22 here at Mount Vernon. This gathering has proved very popular in the past. If interested, write to us for directions and lodging details, or write to Dr. Orie Loucks, Department of Zoology 212 Pearson Hall, Oxford, OH 45056 for participation and program information.



Education. Dan Bond and Joshua Bills have just completed a fall series of slide shows to 4,500 students in Eastern Kentucky grade schools. This project will continue in the spring if we find funds to replace the depleted Educational Foundation of America grant. Some schools are willing to pay for future talks, but we don't want to leave out any school with limited finances.

Outreach. ASPI cosponsored the "Private Landowners Forest Conference" on November 2, 1996 at Mountain Empire Community College, Big Stone Gap, Virginia. Paul Kalisz was the keynote speaker of this gathering assembled by the Virginia-based Coalition for Jobs and the Environment.

Electronic News. Visits on the APPALFOR Home Page have risen to an average of 82 per day, making this a very hot Kentucky electronic outlet. Even so, we have established our own E-mail site at Mount Vernon for Newsletter Readers. **ASPI@SKN.NET**

Resource Assessment Service

Winter Journeys. Efforts are being made to decentralize the Resource Assessments process and a proposal on this subject will be discussed at the January ASPI Board of Directors meeting. It would come none too soon because this is shaping up to be the busiest assessment winter on record. We are in the process of completing seven assessments in Missouri, New York, Massachusetts (3), and California (2). Another winter assessment is in the works at press time. We don't mind the snow when it is not too deep, but prefer clear sunny days.

Decentralization. Al Fritsch is concerned about having travelled over a million public interest miles - by car alone (and 63 should be the age of wisdom). Feasible alternatives for our RAS Program have been on the minds of ASPIers for the past few years. So why not let local folks become the ones who take a principal role in their region's assessments? We are happy to work with Marcus and Glenda Keyes who have been instrumental in starting the Diocesan Eco-Church Ministry Program for the Diocese of Knoxville, crafting this into a premier model project for regional environmental assessment, especially of new parish sites. This group is performing three diocesan assessments this fall and winter.

ASPI Publications

Please review our enclosed Publications List and help keep Martha Bond busy during the winter months. The promotion of our environmental educational materials are being funded in part by a grant from the *Cracker Barrel Old Country Store Foundation.*

Hispanic Connection. Special thanks goes to Jaime Botero at the Manchester Kentucky Federal Correctional Institute who has translated into Spanish *T.P. 37* "Pressed Earth Blocks" and *T.P. 39* "Wood Efficient Cookers". Mark and Trina Schimmoeller have brought back word that the translation was well received. However, their work led to the need for further updating because they developed a technique for substituting low-cost native roof tile for precious stove pipe, fashioning this into an efficient stove with chimneys and larger cooking space.

New Technical Papers. Besides Spanish editions we await several new technical papers in the coming months. The first, "The ASPI Solar Demonstration House" by Joshua Bills, deals with over seventeen years of on-site observations, and the second by Jack Kieffer, SJ entitled "Humanure" couldn't come at a better time. The Commonwealth of Kentucky is befuddled by the water pollution from "straight pipe" (right into the stream) toilet systems in Eastern Kentucky, coupled with the expense of traditional high-priced, ecologically unfriendly sewer and septic systems. Folks on small housing plots need the dry compost toilet. A third paper in the works will be Mark Schimmoeller's points on preparing to share appropriate technology experiences with Third World people, and a fourth is by Paul Kalisz on single tree selection, Part IV of the "Practice of Ecoforestry" series.

The ASPI Solar Demonstration House

THANKS

(*June 15 - Dec. 15, 1996*) Amy Rynell, Stephen Fritsch, Matthew Fritsch, Frank & Mary Fritsch, Jean Rodgers/Illinois United Church of Christ Women, Myrtle Henderickson, Lena Cramer, Louise Hamel, Francisca Bartos, David Wheeler, Linda Pfeiffer, Elizabeth & Paul Oberst, Thomas McGee,Jr., Peace Place, Walter Bado, Chris Strecker, Bill Carter, Albert Ruschman, George & Mary Lu Kuhl, Bruce Griffith, Jessie Lang, Gregory Hartley, Robert Downey, Howard Martin, Eileen Dare, Elizabeth Ward, Audrey Schomer,