SIMPLE LIFESTYLE CALENDAR - 1996

Time does not stand still. We hardly had finished our '95 calendar sales (it went into second printing for the first time) and we have planned for the '96 one dealing with the topic of Appalachian foods, "Putting Food By." (See the enclosed 1995 ASPI Publications List). We are still open to suggestions for daily sayings until the first of May. We have had over 6,500 of them (a few repeats) in our 18 years and appreciate your simple lifestyle hints. Who knows just how many different ideas are out there?

REMEMBER SUN DAY

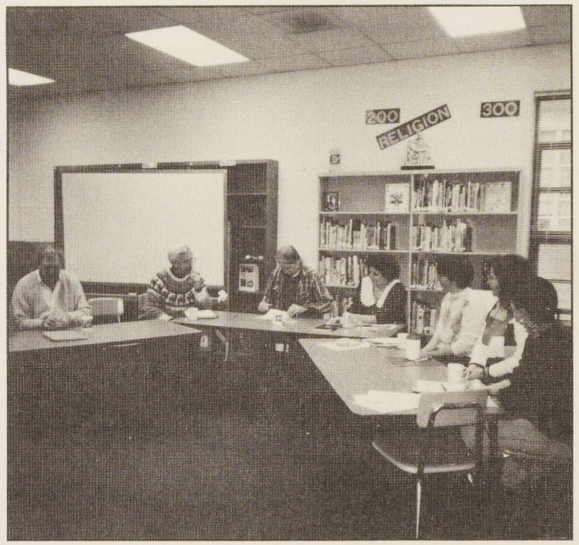
April 23, 1995 and any other day. Write to "Sun Day Update," 315 Circle Avenue, Suite #2, Takoma Park, MD 20912-4836. The purpose of Sun Day is threefold: to educate the public and decision makers about the status, potential, and benefits of renewable energy; to showcase special energy programs and technologies; and to encourage new public and private initiatives to expand renewable energy use and energy-efficient technologies.

RESTRUCTURING ACTIVITIES

ASPI's Board has taken seriously the 25th Earth Day evaluations of the flaws of environmental groups. One that has been suggested by keen observers is the tendency of such groups to scatter attention over too wide a range. For this reason we have reduced the number of ASPI's focus areas from eight to four:

* Resource Assessment Service;
* ASPI Publications (now includes "Technical Papers" and Safe & Affordable Housing Project);
* Demonstration Center (now includes Organic Gardening Project, Waste Project as well as outreach projects);
* Sustainable Forestry Program.

Resource Assessment Training Session



The Resource <u>Assessment</u> (formerly Auditing) **Service** is still operating fully and is now in the process of completing its 93rd and 94th assessment. More are being planned for spring, and winter has been a very busy time (including four workshops and accompanying assessments for the deaneries of the Catholic Diocese of Knoxville. We have had one of the Earth Healing television programs on the process of assessment and have completed the first 20-minute videotape for Holy Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Columbia, South Carolina.

ASPI Publications has had a steady growth over the years. While not as self-supporting as the RAS, it is getting there now. The calendars showed a 15% increase in sales in 1994, but part of the '95 sales extends into this year. Our selection of videotapes has greatly increased do to our monthly Earth Healing television programs, made available on video after airing.

The Demonstration Center has been our oldest component and is also our most visible. We are trying to give still more attention to this important but underfunded phase of ASPI. With federal budget-cutting there is no hope for governmental funds (we have had none since 1983). Our greatest struggle is keeping this portion of our total operations funded since we have no steady or anticipated money in the pipeline. From the many supportive communications we have received through the years, we are happy that we continue to offer this valuable service to Appalachia.

The Sustainable Forest Program is now being fully formulated and will be reported in the summer newsletter. It consists in the following components: <u>national level</u> -- Off Road Vehicle Series; publish the proceedings from the Forest Commons Conference; <u>regional</u> -- Appalachian Forest Action Project (ASPI and University of Kentucky staff and students monitor the health of Kentucky forests); assist Mary Davis in setting up an Eastern Old Growth Network; <u>Kentuckywide</u> -- help operate the Kentucky ForestWatch e-mail network; <u>local</u> -- work with local groups on strengthening the environment in the Rockcastle River Watershed; running a small sustainable forestry demonstration project on the ASPI grounds.

OTHER MEMBERSHIPS

"You don't participate!" To refute this occasional mild charge we list a number of groups that ASPI either belongs to or has staff and associates on the boards (*): Co-op America Green Pages, * Kentucky ForestWatch, * Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Kentucky Organic Growers, Cumberland Valley Area Development District Transportation Committee, * Eastern Kentucky Legal Services, * Resource Policy Institute, Public Citizen, * National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Heartwood, * Sand Hill Community Land Trust, Clean Water Network (1350 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 300, Washington, DC 20005), Endangered Species Coalition, * Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition, Sustainable Energy Budget Coalition, Save America's Forests, ASTM, Good Foods Coop, Kentucky State Environmental Taskforce, and * Appalachian Forest Action Coalition.

THANKS ...

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