

Appalachian Alternatives

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Appalachian Sustainable Forest Center

Thanks to a recent grant from the Murray Fund we are able to launch our Appalachian Sustainable Forest Center (ASFC) this autumn. It is located on our demonstration grounds and entails moving part of our office to downtown Mt. Vernon. ASFC will address the needs of sustaining the threatened forest in Appalachia. The program will be composed of a number of current ASPI projects, along with additions to be phased into the program during 1996. ASFC is under the co-direction of Al Fritsch and Paul Kalisz. Current and anticipated projects include:

Resource Center (Jack Kieffer, *coordinator*, and Regina Stallsworth) - Library resources on forest issues are being collected as a special section of the ASPI Library.

Demonstration Site (Lewis VanWinkle, *coordinator*, and Mark Spencer) - We are setting up a demonstration of sustainable forest practice which include both firewood gathering to heat our buildings and a 4.5-mile nature trail - the only such harvest/nature preserve combination known in our region. The winter newsletter will give further details of our fuelwood harvesting workshop.

Regional (Jerry Waddle, *coordinator*, and Dan Bond) - An outreach project in conjunction with Rockcastle River Rebirth is now in operation and involves weekly slide show presentations to grade and high school groups throughout Kentucky. The first reports have been most encouraging, and we are gathering names of interested educators throughout the state. The lectures teach young folks about the value of our treasured and threatened Mixed Mesophytic Forest.

APPLFOR (Janet Melton, *coordinator*) - ApplFor is an online Internet computer network, consisting of a gopher site as well as a World Wide Web Home Page. The purpose of ApplFor is to collect, develop, and disseminate information on issues of sustainable forestry, and to serve as a clearing-house providing interested individuals the opportunity to share knowledge, ideas, and experiences.



Syl Yunker's ginseng plantation in Eastern Kentucky

Subdirectory topics include: archives of files available for study, bibliographies of important resources, silvicultural information, *Kentucky ForestWatch* updates, and an alternative forest products information area. Each of these areas are expandable to include a wealth of online information. Feedback is always welcome, and may be addressed by Email to:

kyfor@ukcc.uky.edu

To find us on the gopher, access the *ENVIRON* sub-tree of the Internet *NaviGATE* menu. The Home Page is a very new project, and is still under construction. A Universal Resource Locator will be announced soon.