FALL GARDENING

The fullness of crop yields gives way around August, to autumn and preparations for winter. It's a whimsical time of year. Weeds grow better than cultivars and it takes more effort to get the fall garden started. The lull between tomatoes, beans, corn, and squash and late fall greens and turnips is pronounced without good planning in July and early August.

We plant some spring favorites in the late summer (radishes, onions, lettuce, spinach, and mustard, along with kale and turnips). We decide how much to put in fall greens and in covercrop so that we have green manure in the spring (half and half is a good rule).

One of our test plots is exactly one–twentieth of an acre. By the first of October it had yielded about 800 pounds of 26 types of fresh vegetables (a major portion being tomatoes, zucchini and beans). No commercial fertilizer was added, nor any chemical pesticides. A small portion of this garden will be covered by a cold frame to extend the growing season well into the fall. None of this was tilled using any power tool. (We did however, use power tools to cut weeds around the border and for one watering during the year.) The raised, previously double–dug beds require so little continued upkeep that we let the plants do all the work.

ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

"Above the Rock" and Below the Rock", two beautiful mixed media landscapes were painted for ASPI by accomplished environmental artist, John Freda of Gaia Studios in Evanston, IL. The paintings, which now hang in our office, depict two of the most peaceful, scenic areas on the ASPI grounds. We are grateful that such a notable, world–renown artist was willing to be ASPI's "Artist–in–Residence" for the month of September.

CITIZEN ACTION

Junk mail is a growing problem. We have served notice to the proper authorities that we do not want it, yet it still comes, amounting to over half of our mail volume. We used to save the pieces we liked least and send a box full, with the "return postage guaranteed" letter back to the mailer winning the "least liked" award. Some, however, pointed out that the practice only increased Postal Service fuel expenditures. Now, we use a stamp reading "Junk Mail Refused, Use Recycled Paper." This is placed in bold lettering on every appropriate mailer and returned with the contents. Hopefully, this will make the junk mailers use better materials.

ANCIENT FORESTS IN DANGER

Few people are aware that less than 5% of the United States' original native forests remain (the majority in the Pacific Northwest). Of these less than 1% are protected from logging. Almost all of the unprotected groves are scheduled for elimination under current plans of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. In the near future Congress will address the issue in a Bill designed to protect the ancient growth forests from destruction for profit. We urge our readers to pass petitions in support of Bill #H.R. 4492. Send the signatures to your representatives and let them know that we value our forestlands and so should they.

SAMPLE PETITION: In Favor of the Protection & Preservation of Our Ancient Forests: We the people demand that Public Funds no longer be used to build logging roads either private or public. Recognizing the priceless value of these virgin lands, We further demand that the sales of our National Forest timber and logging rights at a loss be halted; and that our last Ancient Growth Forests be protected in perpetuity by those agencies commissioned by us to do so.

Be sure to get the printed names and addresses of supporters as well as signatures. For more information contact: Sandra Freda, 327 Dempster 2E, Evanston, IL 60201.

FALL EVENTS (with ASPI Participation)

September 19–20, 1990 "Healing the Earth," SSM Health Care System Mission Awareness Team, St. Louis, MO.

September 29, 1990 "God's Creation/Environmental Problems," Fall Presbytery Day, Louisville, KY.

October 6, 1990 "Peace and Justice Conference," Berea, KY.

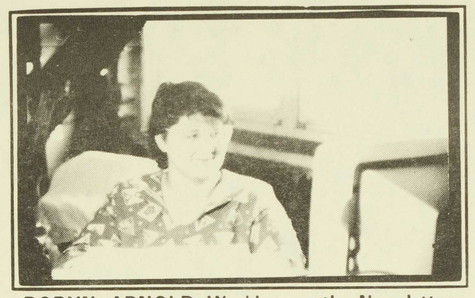
October 13, 1990 Planning Conference for 1991 Midwest (KY, IN, IL, OH) Bioregional Meeting. Oldenburg, IN. Contact: John Gibson (317) 925–9297.

October 21–22, 1990 Planning Meeting for 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. Washington, DC. Contact Fran Spivy–Weber (202) 547–9009.

October 24, 1990 "Kingdom Conference," Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY.

November 11–12, 1990 "Environmental Resource Auditing," ELCA Outdoor Ministries Conference, Orlando, FL

November 12–13, 1990. Environmental Conference, Saint Catherine's, KY. Contact Sr. Mary Brennan, O.P., (606) 336–9303



ROBYN ARNOLD, Working on the Newsletter

THE ELECTRONIC AGE

ASPI occasionally has to explain and justify its own actions. We consider some of the new electronic equipment used for improving communication to be examples of "appropriate technology." Generally, faxed information uses fewer resources than sending the same piece by mail and it gets there faster with less expense and complications. Yes, we have gone "fax" mainly to keep in close communication with the Resource Policy Institute office in Los Angeles. We at ASPI, are currently designing and editing a book of selected papers from the First International Waste Minimization Conference held last year at Geneva. Without fax machines, modems, laser printers, copiers, and interconnected computers this would be impossible. Yes, we have all of these gadgets.

We like to stay simple. Our philosophy is, that all bulky items in our everyday life (food, fuel, water and building materials) should be close–at–hand, thus eliminating major transportation costs. We try to provide ways for people to grow at least half of their food, find native building materials, use local water sources, and rely on local fuel (from the sun, wood, etc.) as much as possible. Remember, if our nation had this philosophy, American soldiers would not be cleaning sand from their guns in Saudi Arabia.

On the other hand, the flow of ideas should be as mobile as possible. Technologies that promote this free interchange are just as proper as those which help us live very simply in our own garden space. When it comes to communications some of what is considered sophisticated is also suitable and appropriate. We say "some" because many are not. Here in our valley, we don't have access to television. However, we admit that even TV can fit the definition of appropriate technology, especially as an educational tool

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NOTICE: ASPI's Fax number is the office number, (606) 453–2105. The fax will be operating from 4:30 p.m. until 8:00 a.m. during the work week and 24 hours a day on weekends and holidays. At other times call ahead and we will turn the machine on as needed.

THANK YOU

During this season of traditional harvest feasts and Thanksgiving, it is well for us to remember benefactors. We appreciate the many who have contributed to the success of ASPI –– those who send in five and ten dollars or donate some in–kind materials to meet our ongoing needs. We are particularly grateful to the following:

....to Elizabeth Oberst, Susan Betler, Mary Lu Kuhl, William Shallenberger, the extended Perraut family, and Sam & Margaret Lynd for donations, to Frank & Mary Fritsch for a vehicle, and to Ed Fritsch for delivering it to Kentucky, to Albert Baldwin for sharing expertise, to John Davis, Tim Collins, Peter Ayers and the 60 participants at the first Kentucky–Tennessee Earth First Rendezvous for their enthusiasm, support and policing of the grounds, to the Lexington Jesuit Community for charity funds for our neighbors in need, to Phil Stern for his assistance with Resource Auditing along with other advisors and team members, to John Freda for his paintings, to Audrey Sorrento for arranging the logistics of the Grailville Workshop, to the Sierra Club of Lexington, to Biz Clay and Mrs. Duff for supplies for the poor, to Rudy and Pilar Villarica, and to others who help in many special ways.

THROUGH THE SEASONS: A CELEBRATION OF CREATION

By Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.

This book is the outgrowth of Wilhelm's weekly "Nature Notes" column which he has been writing for the BUTLER EAGLE since 1986. His writing, like his photography, is motivated by the purest and simplest of human emotions: a love of nature. He moves through the seasons with a poetic prose style of writing.

Wilhelm begins the calendar year with the star–studded skies of "January Nights" and a wondrous view of the ancient constellations. In February he writes about the "Masked Shrew" and in March he takes us through the subtle changes from winter to spring. The reader cannot help being impressed with the flashes of insight in October's "Fall Frenzy" and anyone familiar with Gene Wilhelm's past record as a preservationist will appreciate his final urgent message of the possibility of global disaster, if humans do not awaken in time to accept our responsibility as protectors of nature.

A collection of thirteen brilliant, color photographs add substance and artistic quality to the book. The book is for anyone who appreciates nature and wants a deeper, more meaningful relationship to it. –––Barbara Dean

THROUGH THE SEASONS (74 pages), OIKOS Publications, No 1, 1990 is available for $10.85 including postage and handling. Make check payable to: AVES/OIKOS, c/o Dr. Wilhelm, R.D. 2, Box 2120, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.