

# Appalachian Alternatives

Appalachia - Science in the Public Interest

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## ASPI's 2010 Sustainable Energy Training Series Is Up and Running!

The Sustainable Energy Training Series completed its first round of workshops on April 1, 2010 at the Franklin County Cooperative Extension Office in Frankfort. Based on the feedback from our participants, the workshops were a great success and many participants are eagerly anticipating our next classes. We had 26 participants for the first three days of training, which included "Introduction to Solar Photovoltaics" on days one and two and "Solar Site Assessments and PV System Design" on day three. We had 19 participants on day four, which addressed "PV and the National Electric Code."

Photo by Joshua Bills



*Workshop participants explore the finer points of ASPI's Solar Trailer*

Once again, Chris LaForge of Great Northern Solar did an excellent job sharing his knowledge and expertise. Chris brings to our classes decades of experience working with solar PV and livens up the workshops with his sense of humor and energetic presentation style.

ASPI's Solar Trailer was on-hand throughout the workshops and gave participants a chance to see an operational PV system up-close. During our "Advanced PV" training in August, we will be disassembling and re-assembling some of the components within the Solar Trailer to give students some hands-on experience.

### Coming up next in the Sustainable Energy Training Series:

**Residential Energy Assessments** with John Robbins, CEM CSDP

May 13 & 14 in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. 8:30am - 5:00pm each day. Fee: \$225

**Introduction to Solar Water Heating Systems** with Bill Guiney

June 2 & 3 in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. 8:30am - 5:00pm each day. Fee: \$225

**Creating a Successful Solar or Energy Conservation Business** with Bill Guiney & Bill Schutters

June 4 in Mt. Vernon, Kentucky. 9:00am - 5:00pm. Fee: \$115

Thanks to the generous support of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED), scholarships are available to people living and working in eastern Kentucky, based on need. To find out if you are eligible for a scholarship, to learn more about our workshops, or to register for a workshop, please visit [www.kysolar.org](http://www.kysolar.org) or contact Andy McDonald at the Kentucky Solar Partnership at 502-227-4562 or via email at [solar@kysolar.org](mailto:solar@kysolar.org).

Many thanks to our sponsors: Mountain Association for Community Economic Development; Johnson Controls; Franklin County Cooperative Extension Service; Christian Appalachian Project; Conn Center for Renewable Energy Research at the University of Louisville; and the Kentucky Department for Energy Development and Independence.

Visit [www.kysolar.org](http://www.kysolar.org) to see the full schedule of workshops for the Sustainable Energy Training Series and to download the 2010 Workshop Guide.



## Spring College Groups Learn Through Service

ASPI again hosted several college service learning groups in March and early April. We completed a number of important projects, both at ASPI's facilities and in the community at large. It was an exciting time.

Working alongside the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative and the National Civilian Conservation Corps, our three groups - Eckerd College, Loyola University-Chicago, and University of Notre Dame - collectively planted over 4,400 native hardwood and pine saplings in Letcher and Harlan Counties in eastern Kentucky. With an average survival rate of 80%, those trees will provide habitat in mountain ecosystems for generations to come.



*Loyola students with James Renner & Carolyn Brandenburg after a hard day's work*



*Eckerd College students plant native trees in eastern Kentucky*

Our Eckerd group moved on to plant 23 eight-foot redbud trees around the town of Livingston, as a part of the Tour Southeast Kentucky's "Redbud Month" initiative to beautify our byways.

Again this year, students worked a few days with James Renner, our county PRIDE Coordinator, putting in 240 hours cleaning our headwater streams of historic dumps and doing roadside litter abatement. They brought out and separated for recycling 461 bags of trash, as well as 5 tires. The hours they spent count toward volunteer in-kind contributions that the county uses to leverage grants to fund recycling and other projects, including new 24-hour recycling

trailers being placed in the more remote areas of Rockcastle County.

The Loyola and Notre Dame groups spent time doing chores at ASPI's Mt Vernon office during some fine spring weather. They accomplished the painting of the exterior of the office, begun last year by our DePaul group. They also worked in our Pollinator Gardens and other projects around the grounds, as well as learning about permaculture practices at Salamander Springs Farm with board member Susana Lein. All groups did trail work on the Michael Zalla Trail at the Rockcastle River Demonstration Center and the trail is looking wonderful - All ready for nature hikes!

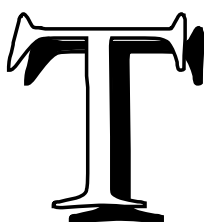


*Notre Dame students painting ASPI's office building*

The weeks were rounded off with suppers at our local fish fry and at ASPI board member Jamie Johnson's home, tours at Great Saltpetre Cave Preserve, and music at Lil's in Livingston. We wish to extend thanks to all who pitched in to make this spring's trips the best yet!

## Scribblings: Reflections on Nature

**Deb Bledsoe** writes: Spring has sprung, redbuds are blooming, birds are bursting with song! For some of us, this is the best time of year to be on the River. Come join us for a wildflower walk or a lazy float any day.



## THANKS

Alan Raflo  
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Celeste Jirles  
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Robert & Virginia Johnson  
Roger Roskin  
Ruth Straus  
Sandra S. Hudson  
Sonya Herschberg  
Stephen & Susan Kute  
Stephen Rhodes  
Suzanne E. Smith  
Terrie & Philip Curd  
Tim & Peg Taylor  
University of Notre Dame  
William & Julie Gregg  
Winnie Hepler

**Opportunities:** Long-time ASPI friends have asked us to help get the word out about these wonderful opportunities.

A new book, MOUNTAIN MOMENTS, with photographs by Warren Brunner and reflections by Al Fritsch, SJ, will be published by Acclaim Press and available by mid-summer. Mountain Moments is a compelling tribute by Warren Brunner to the people of Appalachia. Within the 168 glossy pages of this book, one will find full-color images of magnificent waterfalls, beautiful mountains, peaceful lake and river views, family life and serene scenes of the Appalachian area. Al Fritsch has provided reflections and verses for each section that are uplifting and inspiring. This volume overflows with more than 270 stunning color images showcasing the people, places and natural wonders of the Appalachian region (including Kentucky, Tennessee, North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia and more). This large 12" x 9" hardback coffee-table volume will no doubt be treasured by all Americans since it portrays values we all hold dear.

Go to Al Fritsch's website <[www.earthhealing.info](http://www.earthhealing.info)> for a preview and to order.

**Another Way to Support our Work** - Sign-up for discounted long distance service for your home or business. Mention this ad and designate (at no cost to you) 3% of your bill to ASPI. For more information or to order this service, contact Ian Rudick with Come From The Heart at 888-622-0957.

**ASPI Board of Directors** - Terrie Curd, President; Jamie Johnson, Treasurer; Joshua Bills; Tammy Clemons; Tom Dupree, Jr.; Henry Jackson; Susana Lein; Casey Sterr, Executive Director.

Visit our websites: [www.a-spi.org](http://www.a-spi.org) [www.kysolar.org](http://www.kysolar.org)

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