

Appalachian Alternatives

Appalachia - Science in the Public Interest

Winter 2010 Number 95



Sustainable Energy Training Series 2010

We are pleased to announce our 2010 Sustainable Energy Training Series. The 13-workshop lineup will focus on solar energy applications and residential energy assessments. The Series aims to expand the number of contractors trained and qualified to install solar energy systems in Kentucky.

The Training Series is also focused on preparing participants for the NABCEP exam for solar contractors. NABCEP (North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners) is a voluntary national certification program for Solar Electric and Solar Thermal professionals. To attain certification one must meet minimum training and field experience requirements and pass a rigorous exam. The classes in this Series will help participants meet the training requirements.

Scholarships are available to people who live and work in eastern Kentucky, based on need, thanks to the generous support of the Mountain Association for Community Economic Development (MACED). A registration form can be downloaded from <www.kysolar.org> and <www.a-spi.org>. Please contact us with any questions.

Workshop Title	Instructor	Date and Location
Introduction to Solar Photovoltaics	Chris LaForge	March 29—30, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Solar Site Assessments and PV System Design	Chris LaForge	March 31, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Solar PV and the National Electric Code	Chris LaForge	April 1, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Residential Energy Assessments	John Robbins	May 13—14, 2010, Mt. Vernon, KY
Introduction to Solar Water Heating Systems	Bill Guiney	June 2—3, 2010, Mt. Vernon, KY
Creating a Successful Solar or Energy Conservation Business	Bill Guiney & Bill Schutters	June 4, 2010, Mt. Vernon, KY
Residential Energy Assessments	John Robbins	July 22—23, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Advanced Photovoltaics	Chris LaForge	August 18—20, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Introduction to Solar Water Heating Systems	Bob Ramlow	Sept. 14—15, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Advanced Solar Water Heating	Bob Ramlow	Sept. 16—17, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Introduction to Solar Photovoltaics	Chris LaForge	Oct. 26—27, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Solar Site Assessments and PV System Design	Chris LaForge	Oct. 28, 2010, Frankfort, KY
Solar PV and the National Electric Code	Chris LaForge	Oct. 29, 2010, Frankfort, KY



Notre Dame students learn about reforestation and reclamation at the Starfire mine site



Appalachian Service Learning

October's Appalachian Service Learning group from University of Notre Dame's Center for Social Concerns was an enthusiastic bunch. Under James Renner's (Rockcastle County's Solid Waste Coordinator) supervision, they finished cleaning Steep Dump, a near-vertical dump near the headwaters of Crooked Creek that we had begun cleaning in the spring of 2009. This site had yielded several hundred bags of trash in the spring and fall cleanup efforts.

Working with Mark Spencer in beautiful fall weather, the students added to trail rebuilding efforts in a rough section on the Michael Zalla Trail on ASPI's Rockcastle River preserve and helped Jack Kieffer and Nancy Seaberg clean up the Nature Center grounds and prepare the

Organic Garden for winter. They spent an afternoon with Board member Susana Lein at Salamander Springs Farm doing seasonal chores and learning about permaculture.

On a visit to the Starfire mine site in Perry County, we were accompanied by Dr. Chris Barton of the University of Kentucky. We viewed restoration efforts and ongoing research on regrowing high value hardwoods on mine spoil. At the site there is also a stream restoration project and bee yards producing honey. We also spent several evenings meeting local folks and seeing the sights, including Great Saltpetre Cave.

Watershed News

Things have been busy in the Clear Fork. Our OSM/VISTA Derek Douglas has been holding meetings and hosted the Big Dip Project over the last few months. Presentations were made by the US Forest Service's Tom Biebighauser (a national wetlands restoration specialist) and by a representative of the Appalachian Regional Reforestation Initiative.

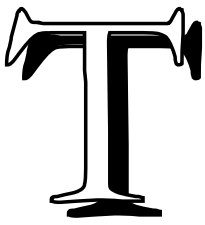
This past summer, our OSM Summer Associate Bethany Pratt tested headwater sites in the Clear Fork, Laurel, and Rockcastle watersheds of the Upper Cumberland. Of over 250 sites tested, about 10% showed some evidence of Acid Mine Drainage or other effects of mining on the water quality. Further data analysis is being done at this time, and a set of maps was produced showing the results at the test sites. We plan to expand testing throughout the Upper Cumberland this summer, depending on funding received.

The Clear Fork Watershed Council (CFWC) has grown due to Derek's efforts to bring local officials and diverse citizens into the project. At this time, participants are considering CFWC's organizational structure options. There are many exciting prospective projects, including historic trails restorations, wetland restorations, and reforestation initiatives. The CFWC will develop a decision-making process to poll community stakeholders over the next several months in order to focus on developing and funding projects of interest. ASPI is still seeking funding for our match to VISTA for Derek's service.

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

Help Wanted: The Nation's largest supplier of walk-behind agricultural equipment, based between Frankfort and Owenton, KY, is looking for a committed individual to train as an assistant salesperson / inventory manager. We are willing to invest in the right person, if that person is looking for a career. Send resume to Earth Tools, Attn. Joel Dufour, 1525 Kays Branch Road, Owenton, KY 40359. Our website: <www.earthtoolsbcs.com>.

For Sale: Beautiful Passive Solar Cordwood Home on 50 Acres in Southern Indiana. If you are interested in an exceptional home, please check out: <<http://greenhomesforsale.com>> Use listing ID -18222.



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Tom De Laura; Trish Pielnik;
University of Notre Dame;
Verle & Vivian Headings;
Virginia Carrigan; Virginia Polanski;
Wendell & Tanya Berry;
Wendy Gellard; Willanne McNamara;
William Boeck; William Deutsch;
William Galbraith; William Naumann.

Scribblings: Reflections on Nature

Deb Bledsoe writes: it's a cold rain on the river and every twig is spangled with drops that are silvery despite the gloom
the mountain where the turkeys roost on the far bank is looking ghostly, with mist rising the small ravines that empty into
the river

birdies are mobbing the feeders, by the tens and twenties. a cloud of them perches in the undergrowth and trees around
the house, waiting their turn to glide in and grab a seed to take back before they are forced away by another flier

it is the clichéd day to sit in the house on the warm side of the window, bask in the heat of the stove, wrap up in a
snuggie, and stare outward. for me it is a sort of meditation which helps clear my mind for the work ahead.

Beth Dotson Brown, a central Kentucky author and longtime ASPI supporter, has shared her blog address with us and
invites you to check it out: "The Goodness of the Garden . . . All Year Round" at
<<http://goodnessofthegarden.blogspot.com>>

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.

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The ASPI logo features the letters 'ASPI' in a bold, black, sans-serif font. The letter 'A' is stylized with a white globe of the Earth inside its upper right portion.

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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 or contact Andy McDonald at the Kentucky Solar Partnership at 502-227-4562 or via email at 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 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 days 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.



Carey & Susan Koplowitz
Catherine Rumschlag
Catholic Charities
Celeste Jirles
Charles & Joy Perry
Charlie & Katherine Fritsch
Christopher & Laura O'Connor
Citizens Conservation Corps of West
Dan Chapman
Deba Gardiner
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Earth Tools, Inc.
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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> 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.

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