

# 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](http://www.kysolar.org)> and <[www.a-spi.org](http://www.a-spi.org)>. Please contact us with any questions.

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

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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 loop. The letters 'S', 'P', and 'I' are solid black.