

1977: ASPI was born! The first project was a citizen's right to know about toxics in their neighborhood based on the first report "Strip Mine Blasting." The project gained support from the National Science Foundation to produce the National Blasting Conference.

1978: Research on water quality and household toxins led to the "Citizens Blasting Handbooks," "Harlan County Flood Report," and "Household Pollutants Guide." The Raskob Foundation helped support planning the Rockcastle River Demonstration Site and the first Simple Living Calendar.

1979: NSF 3-year grant to evaluate and address technical needs in Appalachia. Results included land use, housing, and transportation. ASPI formed a land trust to purchase additional forest land and created coalitions as "Appalachian Institute" to address energy, water, and land use issues. Six groups in 5 Appalachian states took part, culminating in the Land Stewardship Conference, Kentucky Solar Coalition, Southeastern Connections, and Water Watch.

1980: ASPI Solar House was built, with a cistern, passive solar, heating, and Photovoltaic lighting. It was constructed to be the first completely "off the grid." Additional site plans included organic gardens, cordwood buildings, compost toilets, and yurt. "Environmental Ethics" was published and ASPI began to address shale oil extraction and conduct solar installation workshops. Xavier, Loyola, and University of Illinois students began annual volunteer trips.

1981: Under Reagan, federal agencies stop funding Public Interest Groups and ASPI lost 2/3 of annual budget funding. More publications were produced including "Green Space," "Community Land Trust" and "Synthetic Fuels." Sorghum Alliance was formed as the only Appalachian anti-nuclear coalition fighting against the construction of eight nuclear power plants.

1982: Knoxville World's Fair. ASPI sponsored several solar displays, including a solar house with a number of solar applications. Conferences for Southeastern Connections, Water Watch, and Land Stewardship were held. EPA and NRDC funded "Citizens Water Handbook."

1983: 1,000 square-foot Cordwood Building was constructed as the southernmost cordwood structure, with solar water heating and dry compost toilet. Yurt was designed by Chief Sequoiah and members of Cherokee Tribe in NC. Trails were constructed between buildings on site. It was our headquarters for the next ten years!

1984: Rockcastle River Days and water monitoring programs began. The Appalachian Institute added three new organizations and created Resource Assessment Surveys for landowners. With numerous technical publications produced, the ASPI library catalogue was created with several small foundation grants.

1985: Appalachian Herb Network, a project with over 20 Southern Kentucky families, was started to gather information on local herbs and edible forest plants. The research was transformed into our current Ginseng work.

1986: The Simple Lifestyle Calendar received a makeover and permanent design. The Calendar is still one of our most loved productions!

1987: Native American environmental research was begun, with the discovery of burial sites on ASPI property. Outreach to local Native American groups to compile research was started this year.

1988: The Zalla, Dickenson, and Blue Warbler Trails at the Livingston Demonstration Site in Daniel Boone National Forest were completed.

1989: Off Road Vehicles Forest Watch program was started to protect the oldest and most varied hardwood forest in the world. This effort led to Kentucky Heartwood!

1990: Technical Paper Series was launched this year, with information pertinent to Appalachia and still relevant today! They are still available on our website.

1991: Nature Center and Library, a 1500 square foot building with solar photovoltaics, composting toilet, and demonstrations of the local flora and fauna, was constructed. In 1997, it was dedicated to Mary E. Fritsch.

1992: Waste Watch, a program to combat the growing solid waste problem in Appalachia was started as an education and outreach effort with case studies and conferences.

1993: Organic Garden certification was granted to ASPI's gardens. Research on gardening using permaculture and vermiculture (worms) techniques was compiled and is still a big part of ASPI programming!

1994: Appalachian Sustainable Forest Center program at the Livingston Demonstration Center was started in conjunction with University of Kentucky and several funders to address growing concerns over logging and the first Forest Commons conference was held.

1995: Overseas Solar projects took our promotion of Appropriate Technologies to Peru, Malawi, and Honduras and beyond.

1996: Earth Healing Television Shows as a means of outreach and education began and over 200 shows were produced in subsequent years.

1997: Demonstration gardens were expanded at the Mt. Vernon office site. Taking up the impermeable surface (parking lot) and building raised beds helped to build the foundation for our current community garden site watered by the huge, aqua blue cistern.

1998: Safe and Affordable Housing was the focus this year, with publications and conferences. In addition, a cordwood trailer was constructed in Livingston, from which our long-time volunteer Jack Kieffer writes *Down by the River*.

1999: Appalachian Ginseng Project, with workshops, lab research, and educational materials was supported from a variety of funders. This important work is the focus for programming in 2013.

2000: Land Stewardship Conference was held again this year, focusing on the role of religious institutions and the value of Environmental Resource assessments.

2001: Kentucky Solar Partnership was begun this year, with a long list of successful projects, including net metering, installations, workshops, and trainings.

2002: Flooding Project revisited through the adaptation of the Harlan County Flood Report, which concentrates on the affect of timbering and mining on water systems and flooding.

2003: Nature Center opens its doors to local school field trips this year, the beginning of a successful Appalachian ecology program.

2004: First Annual Bluegrass Energy Expo was started to highlight the sustainable energy projects and efforts in Kentucky.

2005: Solar Energy Guide is printed and distributed, providing valuable information and resources for home owners and project managers looking to use solar technologies. Over 1,000 guides have been sold!

2006: Million Solar Roofs and Lake Linville (Mt. Vernon's water source) water testing is the focus this year. Service learning groups from five universities assisted ASPI working in Eastern Kentucky regularly.

2007: Kentucky Solar Energy Society is started as a chapter of the American Solar Energy Society to further our work with energy legislation and technology in Kentucky.

2008: Solar Trailer and Green Energy Roadshow brought solar trainings and education to state-wide and local venues.

2009: Low-income housing was given solar water heaters with hands-on trainings provided by ASPI.

2010: The first year of the Solar Energy Training Series, with accredited trainings on solar water heating, PV installation, and home energy audits.

2011: Legislation work in Frankfort to encourage the passing of the Clean Energy Opportunity Act. We are still working hard educating our legislators about the importance of diversifying power supplies.

2012: Grow Appalachia comes to Rockcastle County, Community Gardens are built, Solar Trainings are expanded, Mary E. Fritsch Nature Center receives some much-needed maintenance, Service Learning Groups continue to help our communities.

2013: Grow Appalachia expands to 45 family participants, Growing Warriors and Mujeres Unidas Grow Appalachia programs are facilitated through ASPI. ASPI begins to market value-added products and produce at Farmer's Market. 8 high school interns participate in scholarship program. Over 150 boy scouts attend River Days and do service work on-site. ASPI begins to work with the National Challenge Academy.

2014: Community Gardens were expanded to low-income housing facilities, workshops offered in conjunction with CAP, over 500 students attend field trips.

2015: Service Learning becomes Immersion Experience with specialized curricula and outreach programs this year; over 65 college students participate!

2016: Grow Appalachia is still our strongest program, Calendar gets prepped for 40th anniversary and we start planning for the next forty years!