

Time For Energy Future

We live in a world with a limited carrying capacity for all life. The supply of coal, oil, and natural gas is limited. The number of people in the world is increasing by 194,000 per day. That is a net increase of births over deaths. Much of the world's forest land is being mined just to supply firewood. Mining means a one time extraction of a resource, and when forests are cleared and not replanted the wood resource has been mined.

Clearly, the time has come to control our numbers, and to build a sustainable energy future. Those technologies which use renewable energy sources with minimal pollution and encourage recycling of nutrients can well be called "Appropriate Technologies." Appropriate Technology is not just for technologists however; the technologies are appropriate because they are geared to people's needs, skills and available resources within a given region.

The Earth Studies Program is organizing a one of a kind conference to bring those who received grants under the Department of Energy's Appropriate Technology - Small Grants Program together to meet with each other and with educators and interested members of the public. The Conference will take place at the Mission School Conference Center in Valle Crucis, North Carolina on September 28 and 29, 1982.

David Schoonmaker of the Mother Earth News will be the first of a series of speakers addressing the various levels at which Appropriate Technology (AT) may operate. Schoonmaker will be speaking about AT on the personal level, and how you can integrate a number of technologies on a homestead.

At the community level, Bill Dow will speak about his experience with the Greenhouse Employment Project and how AT can foster self-reliance and community spirit.

Neal Elliott of the N.C. State University Industrial Extension Service will show how institutions can encourage the use of AT. Elliott specializes in converting oil burning facilities to using wood for fuel.

Dr. J.L. Mackey teaches a course in Bio-Regional Adaptation through the Earth Studies Program and he will speak about AT on the regional level.

Merton Cregger with the Center of Improving Mountain Living, and formerly with CARE, will speak on the use of AT on an international basis.

Having had experience working with the National Center for Appropriate Technology and with the Tennessee Valley Authority, Brian Crutchfield will define the role of Appropriate Technology today.

On Tuesday afternoon time will be set aside for exhibits by grantees and other practitioners of Appropriate Technology, and for discussions among individuals with similar interests. Those who wish to, may tour the 17 kilowatt micro-hydro station on Laurel Creek and the 1.5 kilowatt wind generator on the Episcopal Mission farm property.

At 7:30 P.M. we will show the new film, *Lovins on the Soft Path* which stars Amory Lovins and his wife Hunter. Using current data, they will present the case for using AT to cut our reliance on fossil and nuclear fuels.

Following the movie, slides will be shown of Appropriate Technology projects in North Carolina. There will also be time for questions and answers about the film or AT projects.

On Wednesday there will be two sessions going on simultaneously from 9 A.M. to 11:15 A.M. One will be geared toward AT entrepreneurs, and the other will concentrate on strategies for teaching AT in

the classroom, and in the community.

The Entrepreneurial session will begin with John Ray of Appalachian State University's Marketing & Management Department speaking on resources available to the entrepreneur.

Mark Williamson, a private investment advisor in Blowing Rock, who trained with Merrill Lynch & Co. in New York, and established a brokerage business in Lakeland Florida, will speak about venture capitalists; who they are and how to approach them.

David Nuttle who teaches a course in inventing at N.C. State University will explain the patent process and when you should use it.

Chris McHearns who served as an advisor to the National Center for Appropriate Technology and now teaches at Warren Wilson College will speak on the future of Appropriate Technology when both sessions reconvene.

If you would like to attend the Conference, please call the Earth Studies Program at 704-262-2176 for registration information. To stay at the Mission Conference Center Monday night and have all meals from Tuesday breakfast thru Wednesday lunch provided by the Center will only cost \$35 per person.

Seaman Returns From Deployment

Navy Seaman Apprentice James B. Phelps, son of James M. and Belver Phelps, Creswell, recently returned from a deployment to the Mediterranean Sea.

He is a crewmember aboard the combat store ship USS Concord, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

During the six-month deployment, his ship serviced Sixth Fleet ships in the area with food, consumables and technical supplies. Over 10,000 tons of cargo were delivered to complete 160 replenishments.

Port visits were made to France, Italy and Spain. The Concord is 581 feet long and carries a crew of 486.

Social Security And Students

Lee E. Wallio Field Representative Social Security benefits for students age 18 - 22, which were stopped last May, will resume with the September checks.

However, the amount of the September checks will be about 25 per cent lower than they were last spring.

These changes result from Congressional action to phase student benefits out of the Social Security program over the next four years.

Eligible students will receive a "beginning of school year" reporting form during the first weeks of the fall term. The report asks about school attendance and work. The student should complete the form and give it to the school registrar for certification and mailing to Social Security.

If the report is not completed and returned promptly, benefits may be stopped.

Student benefits may also be affected if the student works during the year and earns more than \$4,440.

Earnings a student has during months he did not receive benefits count toward the \$4,440 limit.

One dollar in benefits is withheld for each \$2 of earnings above \$4,440.

Benefits to students age 18 - 22 who remain eligible will continue until they reach age 22 or until April, 1985, whichever comes first.

Students now becoming eligible for benefits can receive benefits only until age 19 as long as they are full time high school students.

More information about Social Security benefits for students can be obtained by calling the Elizabeth City Social Security staff at 338-2161.



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