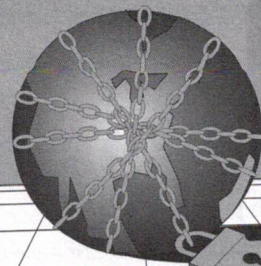


GROUND SWELL

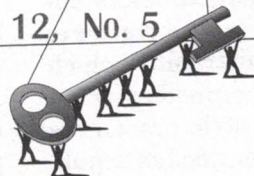
A BI-MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF
COMMON GROUND-USA



SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 1999 / \$3.00

VOLUME 12, No. 5

© ROBERT M FITCH



Global Effort for Conservation of Planet

by Alanna Hartzok, Scotland, PA, and
Jeff Smith, Portland, OR

GroundSwell members Jeff Smith and Alanna Hartzok communicated the Georgist economics paradigm at Milenio Verde (the Green Millennium) - "A Global Effort for the Conservation of the Planet" - held from Monday, September 20th, to Saturday, September 25 in Oaxaca, Mexico. Simultaneous translation into French, Spanish, and English facilitated communication for the nearly 300 strong and high-minded Green Party activists from five continents and 30 countries. Green Parties in several countries including Scotland, Ireland and the United Kingdom have strong sections on land value taxation in their platforms.

Speakers addressed many important topics including Indigenous Rights and Culture, Gender Equity, Globalization, Biodiversity, Climate Change, Conservation of Rainforest, Woods, Oceans, and Lakes, Genetic Protection; Animal Rights; Sustainability; Recycling; Environmental Education; Peace and Disarmament; Urban and Rural Development; Links between Green Parties and NGOs; Electoral and Governmental Experience of the Green Force; Political Ecology; Media; International Working Group Sessions; and a Green Global Message Press Conference.

Hartzok, on the panel on "Urban and Rural Development" and in her capacity as UN NGO Representative for the International Union for Land



Value Taxation and Free Trade, presented an overview and details of "green tax shifting" which included the work with land value taxation in cities in Pennsylvania. Jeff Smith presented on a panel on "Sustainability" where he outlined the basics of geonomics and the citizens dividend. After the presentations many acknowledged to us the importance of this taxation perspective. Several African and Mexican conferees expressed interest in LVT in particular.

Hartzok also moderated a panel on "Electoral and Governmental Experience"
continued on page 13

Global Effort for Conservation of Planet

continued from page 1

ence" of the Green Force: that included green leaders from Africa (Senegal), France, and Mexico's Green Party Presidential candidate Jorge Gonzalez Torres.

Hundreds of copies of Spanish language articles by Henry George and other related materials were distributed from a table, although most all of these (a suitcase full) were taken by the end of the first morning's session. Specially prepared packets of materials were distributed to key leaders as recommended to by USA and International Green Party leader Anne Goeke, who had arranged for Smith and Hartzok to make their presentations.

On an outing on Friday with several Green Party members and an elected official from a state near Mexico City, Smith and Hartzok composed a letter that the official will sign to make a request for an LVT study in her city. Hartzok was asked by officers of the USA Green Party to submit LVT/Green Tax materials for their national platform, being prepared for Ralph Nader's presidential campaign. She also met with and was on the panel with a Green Party parliamentarian from Sweden who is on the Swedish government's environmental tax committee.

A journalist that covered the conference told Smith and Hartzok on the last day LVT was one of the most important perspectives he had heard about at the conference. Front page news stories about the conference appeared in several Oaxacan papers on a daily basis during the Conference. Newspapers in Mexico City also ran stories.

Editor's note: Hartzok is in the center of picture above. See companion article on page 4 of this GroundSwell issue.



Georgists Make Presentations at U.N. Dept. of Public Information Conference

by Alanna K. Hartzok, Scotland, PA

The United Nations Department of Public Information's 52nd annual conference was held this year from September 15 - 17 at the U.N. On the first day of the conference the International Union for Land Value Taxation organized and sponsored a noonday workshop entitled Financing Local-to-Global Public Goods: An Integrated Perspective. World stability and human security require that we re-think the logic of globalization, including the best ways to finance public goods such as health, education, infrastructure, environmental sustainability and efforts for peace and conflict resolution. Workshop presentors addressed these concerns, discussed successful public finance practices, and work-in-progress

on "green tax shift" policies which harness incentives for both efficient and equitable wealth production and distribution AND sustainable economic and social development.

Workshop presentors were Ted Gwartney, Executive Director, Robert Schalkenbach Foundation; Gina Erickson, State Program Director, Center for a Sustainable Economy; Joshua Vincent, Executive Director, Center for the Study of Economics; and Rashmi Mayur, Special Adviser, Millennium Peoples Assembly Network.

The workshop, which filled conference Room A to its capacity of about 45 people, was organized and moderated by Alanna Hartzok, UN NGO Representative, International Union for Land Value Taxation.