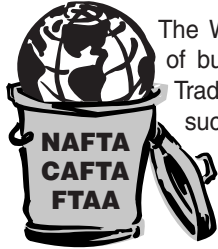


FIGHT THE EXPANSION OF NAFTA AND PROTEST THE OAS FREE TRADE AGENDA *By Pedro Monteiro, Conservation Chair*



The White House and a small but powerful number of business interests are promoting so-called "Free Trade" agreements, vying to expand harmful treaties such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) to Central America (CAFTA) and even to the entire Western Hemisphere (FTAA). These treaties place corporate greed over environmental and worker protection by handing

transnational corporations the right to seek financial compensation for laws that diminish their potential profits. The merit of the laws and the compensation provided are not even decided in a court of law; they're decided by trade representatives in international trade tribunals that are not open to the public.

NAFTA cases have thus far awarded \$35 million to corporations - all of the money coming out of taxpayers' pockets. According to Public Citizen, NAFTA "investor-state" cases now total billions in compensation demands. The problem is not just their cost and the fact that these rulings are not subject to review by our judicial system: the problem is also that the threat of these proceedings has a chilling effect on implementing new laws or on retaining existing laws that protect workers or the environment.

The laws that corporations call "barriers to trade" are the same laws that the people call "environmental protection," "safety requirements," or "worker protections." The most recent example of such a "barrier"

is the US ban on Canadian cattle. In February 2005, Canadian cattlemen asked the US government to pay hundreds of millions of dollars to cover losses they incurred when the border was closed to Canadian beef after mad-cow disease turned up in Canada. The USDA announced that it would reopen the borders to Canadian cattle imports in March, but that decision was blocked by a federal district judge in Montana. The Canadian ranchers are seeking up to one billion Canadian dollars in compensation for that ban from US taxpayers. While the ranchers can't force the US courts to overturn the ban, an international trade tribunal could force us to pay compensation for their lost income.



In spite of a long series of cases where governments must spend millions of dollars defending laws or paying corporations for lost income due to environmental, worker, or public safety laws, the Bush administration continues to promote CAFTA. The Ways & Means Chairman envisions a House vote on CAFTA in mid-May. Meanwhile, in Florida, Big Sugar fears that it will lose jobs to CAFTA because the taxpayers' price supports will be challenged as an unfair trade practice. Even Florida's Agriculture Commissioner Charles Bronson has spoken out against CAFTA.

Although Big Sugar and the Citrus industry contribute to a lot of harmful agricultural runoff, environmentalists fear that farmers who can't grow crops without government subsidies will accelerate the trend of conversion of rural land to development, (projected to reach nearly three million acres by 2020, according to a University of Florida study). NAFTA drove many South Florida farmers out of business. Such trends are leading the US into becoming a net importer of food. Deals like CAFTA will only accelerate this trend.

continued on page 2

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Broward Sierra Programs

MAY 3rd: NAFTA / CAFTA / FTAA – How International Corporations Capture the World. Eric Rubin, State Director of the Florida Fair Trade Coalition will speak on the effects of the North American Free Trade Agreement and how NAFTA has given international corporations the power to supersede environmental regulations in the United States. The Free Trade Agreement of the Americas (FTAA) and the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA) treaties have similar negative inclusions.

JUNE 7th: Citizen Initiatives Under Attack. Attorney Lesley Blackner, co-author of the *Florida Hometown Democracy amendment* brings an update.

JULY 5th: "Hope Takes Wing", the saga of the *ultralight flights to bring Whooping Cranes back to Florida's Chassahowitzka Wildlife Refuge* after a hundred-year absence in eastern North America.



Anne Kolb Nature Center is located on the North side of Sheridan Street, East of U.S. 1. Doors open at 7:00 PM. The meeting is open to the public at no charge.

Sierra Hotline **954-858-0160**
for Hotline additions, call Kip @ 954-434-2855

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We hope you enjoy our newsletter. Why not join us right now? Come along on an outing. Get involved, learn about local issues and how they affect you and your community. Just use the membership form on the back cover.



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Broward Sierra News is published monthly for the members of the Broward County Group, Florida Chapter of the Sierra Club. Subscriptions are available for non-members. Send inquiries to: **Broward Sierra News**, P.O. Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335

Membership Corrections - To expedite any membership change (new addresses, etc.) or problems with your membership records please send your name, member number, old and new address or problem to:
Member Services, 85 Second Street, San Francisco, CA 94105-3441. 415-977-5653 or e-mail <address.changes@sierraclub.org> or <membership.services@sierraclub.org>
If further assistance is needed, please contact your local Membership Chair, Andrea Hagen 954-475-9399.

Committee Meetings

Executive Committee:

Meets the 3rd Monday of each month at 7:00 pm, in room 430a of the Broward County Governmental Center. For details call Loren Colburn at 954-761-1355 (or e-mail lorenac1101@hotmail.com).

Broward Sierra Club Social:

Meets the 4th Wednesday of each month from 6:30 to 8 pm. On April 27th we will be at Ginger Bay Café in Hollywood at 1908 Hollywood Blvd. 954-923-1230. No social in May. For further info call Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411.

Carrying Capacity Committee:

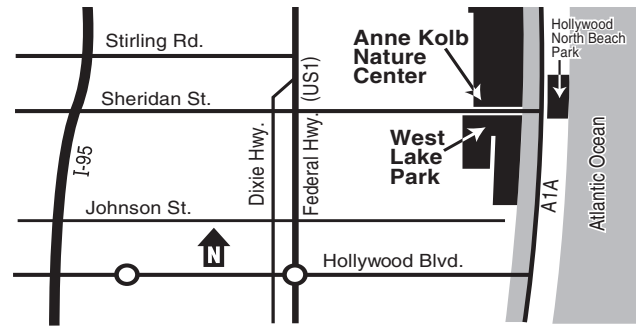
Contact Linda Brown, Carrying Capacity Chair at (954) 764-1470 or e-mail lbrown@communityusa.com.

NAFTA, continued from page 1

Here's how the free trade model works with agriculture: countries with poor worker or environmental standards can grow crops more cheaply, and can spray them with poisons that have been ruled unsafe, and banned in the US. Increased demand drives the plantations to expand into forests to increase production, and laws to protect the forests are ruled barriers to trade. Food businesses in turn buy the cheaper crops and import them into the US. Agricultural inspections are relaxed so that we don't have to spend money defending standards in trade tribunals or compensating foreign growers for "unfair" inspections. Domestic growers can't compete with the imports, so they sell their farmland to developers, who in turn pave over the land.



Additionally, loss of permeable agricultural land and forests results in reduced aquifer recharge, which increases flooding, droughts, air and water pollution. The resulting urban sprawl causes increased fossil fuel dependency as people shuttle in their selfish utility vehicles between their new suburban homes and their work. Food must now be shipped from further away, as there is now a home where the farm used to be. This is not the



Broward Sierra Club General Meetings

Held on the first Tuesday of every month at Ann Kolb Nature Center (954-926-2480). Outings sign-up start at 7:00 p.m. and the general meeting begins at 7:30 p.m. All members welcome!

To get to Anne Kolb Nature Center: Take I-95 to the Sheridan St. exit. Go East past Federal Hwy. The entrance to Anne Kolb Nature Center will be on your left (After the sign for West Lake Park). The center is before the Intracoastal Bridge.

right model to follow as the world reaches peak oil production, and the oil that remains is harder to find.

With increased oil demand from the US and China, the affordable oil supply diminishes daily, and will run out in our lifetimes. For every calorie of meat we consume, we expend 70 calories of energy to produce and ship it. That huge energy imbalance is currently being bridged mostly by oil. When it becomes too expensive to ship food from far away or to eat foods with a high energy cost like meat, we will have to grow our food locally or starve. The question is whether there will be enough arable land available here, especially without the aid of fertilizers and poisons ("pesticides"), which are also made from oil. Are you willing to move out of your home so someone can turn it back into farmland? You may have no choice, since you won't be able to afford to drive to work anyway. Conventional wisdom was that we were shifting these burdens onto our children, but now it seems that we are pushing them onto ourselves.

If these long term effects don't concern you, consider that according to a recent study, Florida had a net loss of 35,511 jobs as a direct consequence of NAFTA, while the state lost over 1,000 small and medium sized farms. We can expect CAFTA to do more of the



same. Consider also that these trade pressures are driving the calls to expand Port Everglades, the Port of Miami, and other seaports, airports and roadways throughout the state. These expansions often result in further wetland losses and other environmental harms.

Approximately 1,200 dignitaries and news media

Act Now and Save the Environment!

Make a commitment to the next generation by remembering the Sierra Club in your will. Your support will help others preserve the intricate balance of nature.

For conservation priority questions in Broward County please call Pedro Monteiro at (954) 525-3324 or call George Cavros at (954) 835-1428.

For more information and confidential assistance, please complete the form and send to:
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Let John know you want to make a difference in Broward County!



Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

continued on page 3

CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!

Have you noticed that there are a few open "jobs" available in the Broward Sierra Club? Have you been considering them but hesitated not knowing what the volunteer position entailed? In this issue we'd like to outline the job description for the Education Committee and the Education Chair... we hope that after reviewing the outline below, that you will decide to join us as we strive to make Broward County a better place to live!

EDUCATION CHAIR / COMMITTEE MEMBER

Purpose: "To help build an environmentally literate community by working with local teachers, youth leaders, state government agencies, issue activists, and others."

The Sierra Club Environmental Education Leaders' goal is to help build an environmentally literate citizenry through:

- Developing a network with teachers and youth leaders to infuse environmental concepts into the curricula in schools and classrooms.
- Networking with other environmental education leaders to strengthen their collective effectiveness.
- Working with teachers, schools, and districts to evaluate curriculum material to be sure it is environmentally sound.
- Promoting environmental education programs produced by or for the Sierra Club, like John Muir Day Study Guide, the Club's Children's Book Series, and "Sierra Cubs."
- Promoting environmental education as an integral part of Club Conservation work.



As an Education Committee Chair or Committee member you will not be expected to perform ALL of these activities but rather use the above as a guideline in finding your "niche" in our local conservation efforts!

If you are interested, please contact Loren Colburn at 954-761-1355.

NAFTA, continued from page 2

from throughout the Western Hemisphere will be meeting at the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) in Fort Lauderdale from June 3 through June 9, to discuss trade deals. Predictably, following the 2003 FTAA Miami Model, the City of Fort Lauderdale is passing anti-demonstrator ordinances to suppress dissent, distract the media from the real issues, and inflate its security budget.

What you can do:

1. Contact your Congressional representatives and tell them about the true cost of "free" trade.
2. Tell the media, especially television stations, to report on **why** people protest corporate globalization, rather than on **how** they protest.
3. Come to Fort Lauderdale in June for a peaceful protest of the corporate free trade agenda promoted by the US Administration and the OAS.

Learn more:

<http://www.sierraclub.org/trade>
<http://www.citizenstrade.org>
<http://ffairtrade.org>



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The Sierra Club black twill cap is a classic. Unstructured with a fabric closure, easily adjustable brass buckle and hideaway closure. The Sierra Club logo is embroidered in white on the front. Price: \$7.

Excursion/Tote Bag: Designed in gray with black trim, this waterproof, zippered tote bag is ideal for shopping or camping/beach trips. With convenient top zipper, comfortable shoulder straps and tasteful Sierra Club logo on the side. Price: \$10.

Limited time offer: Purchase both cap and tote as a "set" for \$15! Please add shipping and handling costs: \$3.50 for 1st item, \$1 for each additional item (please note that each "set" counts as 2 items). Please allow approx. 5 to 10 days for delivery. Due to incredibly discounted pricing we are unable to offer exchanges; returns accepted only for defective merchandise. Please include your check made out to "Broward Sierra Club" along with this order form, and mail to: Broward Sierra Club, PO Box 350432, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33335.

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Total Amount				

FARLEY MOWAT ATTACKED WHILE DOCUMENTING SEAL SLAUGHTER

At the end of March, the Sea Shepherd ship the Farley Mowat was on patrol in the gulf of St. Laurence to document the annual slaughter of harp seal pups which has been authorized by the Canadian government at the level of *350,000 seals per "hunt"*! Crew members were viciously attacked by the sealers, and the ship itself narrowly avoided being intentionally rammed by a Canadian Coast Guard ship.

It's an incredible and horrendous story. Here are some excerpts from the Farley Mowat reports.

"3/29/05, 24 Hours in the Killing Fields. ...When the Farley Mowat crew began to document the killing by the sealing vessel Newfoundland Leader, the Coast Guard ship Amundsen came charging through the ice, crushing seal pups in its path. The ice-breaker narrowly avoided collision with the Farley Mowat only because the Farley Mowat put her engines into full reverse to prevent a ramming by the Amundsen."



"...The tranquil blue-white ice fields that have served the harp seals as a nursery for the last three weeks have been turned into a Dantean portrait from hell. Streams of blood flow and pool on the ice and the vacant-eyed, cruelly-skinned corpses of thousands of seal pups litter the ice. The seals are being shot, kicked in the face, and bashed with clubs and spiked clubs called hak-a-piks."

continued on page 4

"3/31/05, Attack of the Hak-a-Piks.

...18 crew from the Farley Mowat had crossed a mile of ice to witness and photograph sealers from the Brady Mariner. Eight sealers came towards them armed with hak-a-piks and began to shout and swear at them. Within minutes the sealers became violent and attacked the Sea Shepherd crew. 19-year old Lisa Moises, from Germany, was slapped in the face and punched in the stomach by one burly sealer. Another attacked photographer Ian Robichaud with a hak-a-pik, striking his camera and hitting him in the side of the head. Adrian Haley was struck in the face. Jonathan Batchlor was punched in the mouth. Jonny Vasic was hit in the side of the head



with a club. Petite Lisa Shalom of Montreal was struck by a sealer as she took pictures of the assault on her crewmates. When another sealer swung his hak-a-pik to strike Jonny Vasic's camera, Dr. Jerry Vlasak, (a surgeon from Los Angeles), jumped in his way and took the blow across the face..."



Read all the full reports at <http://www.seashepherd.org/news.html>
Click on the links between 3/29/05 and 4/2/05.

More reports and photos at <http://shepherd.textamerica.com>

You can also see some video clips of the seal "hunt" at:
http://www.seashepherd.org/seals/seals_video.html (caution - very graphic footage).

What can you do? To find out, go to:
http://www.seashepherd.org/seals/seals_what_you_can_do.html

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Placing an ad in the Broward Sierra News does more than reach thousands of local, environmentally sensitive readers. It also helps to offset the costs of printing and mailing the newsletter, making it possible to continue to alert you to issues of local importance and the actions you can take, as well as inform you of events, outings and meetings of the Broward Sierra Club group.

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Business card size ad (3-3/4" x 2")	\$55	\$150
Double size ad (3-3/4" x 4")	\$95	\$255
1/2 page ad (7-3/4" x 5")	\$195	\$525

If you would like to place an ad, please contact Max Goldstein at 954-296-3411 or email him at <maxgold@yahoo.com>.

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