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EARTH FIRST RONDY 083
VERONZA BOWERS
FNB GET TOGETHER IN NASHVILLE
AND MORE

JANUARY 2008



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January
2008!

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Call for Events

We'll be trying to put together a monthly calendar of events to include with all subsequent issues of Brushfire! - so send them into brushfiresubmissions at gmail dot com.

from Orlando and other cities, who would be interested in coming along and to have discussions in cities across Florida about expanding the project, to let us know - and secondly - ask that if you're in a city or know people in cities who might be interested in hosting an informal chat about the project, to get a hold of me (ryanfromdeland at hotmail dot com).

We're looking to cover northern Florida (St. Augustine, Jacksonville, G-Ville, Tally, Pensacola, etc. - I'm looking at you) in early March - and South Florida (Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Lake Worth, West Palm, Naples, Fort Meyers, Sarasota, Etc.) in early April - but all this is tentative and we're really just looking for ideas and help with it.





BRUSHFIRE!

A Florida Anarchist Newsletter

We are members of Orlando Food Not Bombs and we want to tell you about an exciting new project that has originated with our collective. We have decided to start a monthly newsletter for the Florida anarchist movement. It will be called BRUSHFIRE!, and we would like your community to be part of it. Our hope is that this newsletter will promote information sharing between anarchists across the state of Florida, helping our movement grow and create the connections that will make it possible for us to work collectively on other regional and statewide projects. Hopefully, BRUSHFIRE! will fill the void left by the demise of the newsletter published by FRAN (the Florida Radical Activist Network) in the late '90s. It would be the responsibility not of one city, but of comrades around the state, with production of each issue shifting to a different city. This is a project that would require cooperation between all the anti-authoritarian communities in Florida, which would help us get to know each other better and gain experience working with other groups.

Here is how it would work:

We here in Orlando hope to put out the first issue on November 1. After that, we would shift responsibility for publishing the next issue to another community in the state. The idea is to have each issue published by a different community in Florida. We are trying to get a publishing schedule set up for the next year or so. Would you all like to sign up for a month or two?

Every month communities and individuals from around the state would submit material to be published in BRUSHFIRE! Submissions will be sent to the e-mail address

Brushfire! RoadShow!

by ryan fromdeland

So as we're putting this third issue of Brushfire! together it feels more like the first. At the start, we didn't really receive many submissions or other cities volunteering to publish an issue, so the November, December and January issues were put out by us here in Orlando. Recently, in Miami, at the CIW's march to the BK headquarters, we had meaningful conversations about Brushfire! with friends, new and old from St. Augustine, Lake Worth, Miami and Fort Lauderdale/Broward who had mostly heard of the project, but didn't know too much about it. As a result of the one-on-one conversations, St. Augustine signed up to publish the February '08 issue (that'll be the next out after this one), and the next day Mark and Brian from Impact volunteered to put out the March '08 issue - making the next 3 months (hopefully) less Orlando-dominated.

To recap: upcoming brushfire-publishing communities:

February '08: St. Augustine
March '08: Fort Lauderdale
April '08: Miami
May '08: Gainesville

With the success of the more-personal, one-on-one approach to networking (and networking is, after all, one of the main purposes of this publication) a couple of us here started thinking about putting together a comprehensive Florida roadshow. With that, we'd like to -firstly - invite others



AND-EMBROIDERY BY MADELINE SNIVELY

brushfiresubmissions@gmail.com. Control of this e-mail will be transferred to the publishing community each month and the password changed. We have also set up this website for BRUSHFIRE! so that people have a main site to go to for information about the newsletter. This website will have a link to a messageboard we have set up as well. This messageboard will be used for general discussion and organization among the people organizing the newsletter, and also as a forum to field general questions. For example, if Tallahassee signed up to put out the January issue, but they aren't going to be able to do it, they would post to the messageboard to work out the problem. Also, if someone wants to ask a question, it also can be posted to the messageboard.

For distribution we are hoping to find a person in each community to whom the publishing community can send a master copy through the mail. This person would then be responsible for scamming or "acquiring" copies and distributing them to the other members of the community.

The submission deadline for material to be published would be the 20th of the previous month. This means that items submitted on Dec. 8th would be published in the January issue of BRUSHFIRE!, which would have a deadline of being in the mail by the 1st of January. What to publish and what to turn down would be up to the discretion of the publishing community for that month. We are thinking that things to be submitted could include announcements for events (like the South Florida Radical Activist Conference), community reports (very awesome), poetry, stories, interesting news articles, action reports, etc., etc...

The first of each month the publishing community would transfer responsibility to the next community that is publishing and pass on the contacts for the distributors in each community, the password to the email address and whatever

else needs to be transferred to allow the next community to put out the next issue.

Therefore, if you can, would you all like to sign up for one of the empty spots on the following schedule? (If you could at least sign up for one for the upcoming months that would be the best) Also please provide us with a phone number and email for your community. We do plan to publish the e-mail of the contact for each community in each issue and also on the main Brushfire! website.

Which community is going to publish which month:

We are currently looking for host cities, contact us to sign up

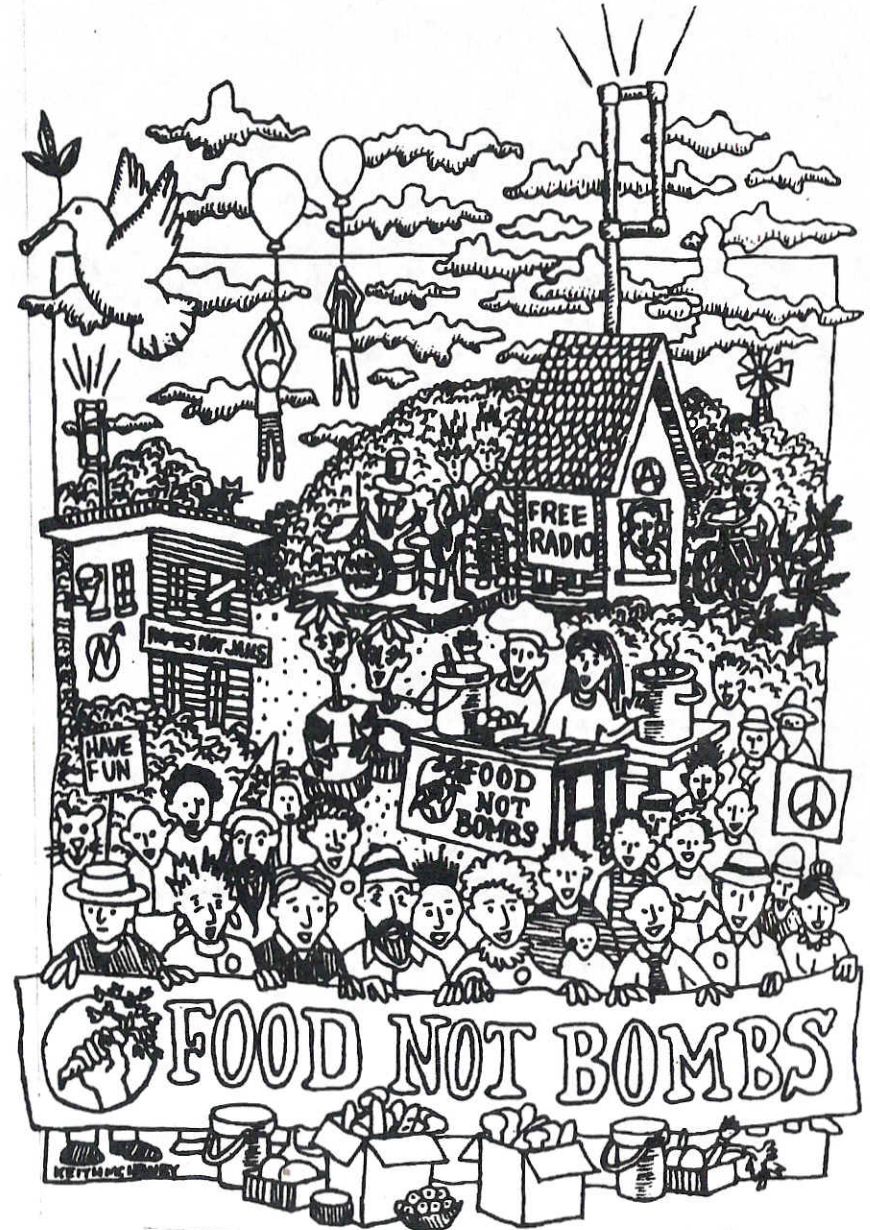
November '07: Orlando	December '07: Orlando	January '08: Orlando
February '08: St. Augustine	March '08: <i>Broward/ Impact Collective</i>	April '08: Miami
May '08: <i>Chambersville</i>	June '08: ?	July '08: ?
August '08: ?	September '08: ?	October '08: ?

Also, if you are interested in being a part of this project, could you please give us the name, e-mail and physical address of someone in your community who will be responsible for receiving the master copy in the mail and distributing copies. This information will of course be kept confidential and only used by those sending the master copies.

Road trip to Nashville

By ryan fromdeland

Orlando Food not Bombs intends to attend this Get-Together and we're interested in setting up some sort of carpool. If your chapter or just your person is interested in coming, email ryanfromdeland@hotmail.com.



FOOD NOT BOMBS GET-TOGETHER

NASHVILLE, TN // MARCH 28-30
2008

Hey FNB Chapters:

Greetings from Nashville! We are sending out an e-mail to invite all the national Food Not Bombs chapters to come to Nashville March 28-30, 2008

for a get-together in the dirty south. The government still doesn't like us handing out food for free, but we're STILL doing it anyway, and that's cause for celebration. Hang out with your fellow FNB comrades, discuss your experiences, trade ideas, and have a good time. Food will be provided, of course, and there's enough sleeping room for everyone. A tent and sleeping bag wouldn't be a bad idea though. As FNB is a collective of autonomous and independent groups, what happens at the gathering will be decided by consensus. If you have any issues you would like to be a part of the gathering, send an e-mail to this address. Also, if someone would like to set up a list serve for the gathering, that would be awesome so that every voice is heard by everyone. I'll do my best to send ideas back out to the list as this gathering develops.

Things that need to happen:

- List serve set-up
- press releases
- posters and internet banners for radical sites
- carpool organization

Nashville's activist community is really starting to take off. Being in one of the most conservative places in the country, it's been a challenge to initiate radical programs, but it's happening. Check out <http://www.thefirebrand.org> > <http://www.thefirebrand.org> to see what we have developing.

In Solidarity!
Nate
Nashville FNB

FREE VERONZA BOWERS POEM BY MATT / ORLANDO



*Veronza playing the
Shakuhachi flute.*

-Let the imprisoned spirit exhale / no longer will we walk on eggshells /
it's time to unify unite and excel/ He took his turban off and his dreads fell/
down to his knees- he grew them in the belly of this depressed hell

-He walks like a panther amongst hyenas and jackals / spirits soars high as
an eagle despite shackles/ left hand missing a finger from past street battles /
enemy of the state - state of mind incompatible...

-Eyes full of intensity forensically railroaded/ to buildings with cells loaded
/ with minds that the streets molded / a soldier back when Cointelpro

exploded the movement/ the Panthers were focused on self dependency and
community improvement /The Black Panthers

Free lunches and sickle cell clinics / vocal police critics throwing punches
on the piglets for their dignity ya' dig it / J. Edgar Hoover sent the FBI
trained bigots / Huey, Bobby, and Fred Hampton were all paid a visit

-But what about Veronza Bowers/ trapped behind the towers / trumped up
charges by cowards abusing powers / we can liberate him without the smell
of gun powder / deliver Satan back to hell if we only become louder/

-Crowd around and picket/up rise against the wicked/ put yourself in the
thick of it/ exodus predicted/ let your spirits be lifted

Like his spirit in the visiting room/ when he can briefly forget this
imprisoning tomb/ I sit for hours just listening to him/ 35 years of wisdom
run through him / as he explains all the trials that the system brought to him
/ and what it taught to him / a living example of the movement – that
moved him – and grew in him – used him consumed him and ultimately
doomed him...

The Panthers / the ones who sought answers / who sought to transfer
poverty to owning property/ now he teaches prisoners to breathe properly /
a modern day Socrates/ singing sweet truth through shakuhachi flute
melodies

The notes echo in my dreams/ Pharaoh George Bush and his federal
regime– would you let go of him please / the last of a dying breed – a rebel
in the streets / leader in the flesh dressed from head to toe in green/ he's a
threat to the system cause he's a General who leads/ buried alive inside the
walls of Correctional facilities/

But these facilities lack the sheer ability to transform his spirit / listen closely
can you hear it....???(Silence)

That's the sound of a cell block with broken souls trapped in it/ the face of
death he laughed in it / chose a higher path / learned the meditative arts
and relaxed in it/ became a student of the martial arts –practiced and then
mastered it/ but time came and passed so quick...Tick – tock – tick –tock

Then in I walked - like a messenger through the walls of Sodom and
Gomorrah/past 1000 lost souls to find his enlightened aura / I embraced
this stranger like I knew him since my birth / a human being first despite the
logo on his shirt – 35316-136 / identified as a statistical prefix/ Locked in a
box like cadavers deep six feet / a revolutionary for real he depicts

individuals or groups named here. Our efforts are intended to honor Art's
vision and restore his tarnished legacy.

*"One of the concern of Florida and south Floridians with such
enlarging cities of energy and growth we must accomplish a vital feat in
record time... The task is no placid one. Philosophically it involves
recognition of the wrenching fact that many of the deep troubles of today
result from the successes of yesterday—the momentum which
established a great region can as well destroy it. If we elect to stay
reasonably within the bounds of our life support system...we shall have
to discard as a working philosophy our habitual drive to provide endlessly
for the needs of 'projected growth.' The essential question now is
whether we shall have the wisdom and courage to do it, or shall simply
pass the issue to a subsequent generation."*

Arthur R. Marshall, Director, Division of Applied Ecology, 1973,
"Energy and Growth" For more of Art Marshall's visit:
<http://everglades.fiu.edu/marshall/titles.htm>

*panagiotti is a co-chair of the Palm Beach County Environmental
Coalition and participant in the Everglades Earth First! group.*

Update on Scripps Biotech Research

Although a massive battle was won, the fight against Scripps
continues. The Biotech Institute has settled in, with much smaller
facilities, at Florida Atlantic University (FAU) North Campus. But Scripps
and Palm Beach County still have their eyes on the 600 acre Briger
Tract, across from the campus. It is one of the last few remaining
substantial pine flatwoods/ wetland habitats east of Interstate 95 in
Southeast Florida, hosting rare and threatened species such as gopher
tortoise and the Florida paw paw.

The FAU laboratories are known to be conducting animal testing,
and their primary contracts are through pharmaceutical giants and the
Department of Defense. Scripps has begun the process for 'phase II
expansion. Expanding these labs onto the Briger land is being monitored
and must not go unchallenged!

involved in large, precedent setting cases of regional impact, and then went on to litigate against a golf course.

PBCEC vs. WCEC

Today the fight against the WCEC continues to gain momentum and grassroots support, with over 1000 signed petitions, dozens of protests, actions and news stories, two administrative legal challenges—one regarding the deep-well injection system, the other a permit for the Gulfstream gas pipeline—and a third challenge in federal court alleging violations of the EPA's Clean Air and Clean Water Acts, specifically noting a lack of oversight on massive CO2 emissions. The Gulfstream Pipeline company (affiliated with the Bush dynasty's Carlyle Group), recently offered the PBCEC \$200,000 to drop our challenge and leave their pipeline alone. Gulfstream even suggested that the money could be used to challenge the power plant, claiming that their pipeline is going in independent of FPL's plans (even though the WCEC is their sole customer at the moment.)

Gulfstream has already paid off multiple environmental groups for the prior 700 miles of pipeline crossing the Gulf of Mexico, from Texas to Martin County (where FPL has the 3700 MW Barley Barber facility, the current third largest fossil-fuel plant in the country, which snuck in a few years ago without a fight, and i have an idea how).

The PBCEC has thus far declined the Gulfstream offer. But, being a named plaintiff on the challenge, and part of the decision-making to decline the offer, i have to say it was a feeling of pressure that i had never experienced before. We did discuss the possibility of a maneuver to accept the money and use it to fight the WCEC on other grounds, or to fund future efforts (i even found myself thinking "damn, maybe i could use this to pay-off last two month rent that i still owe"). And I can see why some well-intentioned folks take these sort of offers, and i can imagine becoming dependent on that money and the fear in risking it being pulled away from you. The temptation is real, and we need understand why groups fall for it, because their weakness impacts us all.

As far as I can tell, our little rag-tag Coalition will not be joining that list. And Everglades Earth First! is standing firm with the PBCEC to stop the WCEC and Gulfstream Pipeline's 34 mile Phase III project.

No amount of money can buy us out of the ecological nightmare we have created. We will have to fight our way through with honesty, integrity, determination and a raging fierce green fire in our eyes.

no hard feelings

Lawsuits, protests and direct action may not have been the "Art Marshall way" during his lifetime (he preferred sticking with research and negotiation), but he was certainly not adverse to confrontation. Our actions to defend the Everglades and to expose both political and environmental corruption are not done with ill intent to any of the

He speaks with mixed emotions over the path that he's chosen / one that left his feet frozen/ under the rifle man's scope/ behind gates that don't open/ beside men that lay broken/ he sits in deep thought – and a peace envelopes him

Most men locked away in box for 13,000 days would have rotted away and forgotten to pray/ or started plotting on prey/ not to mention the way/ the private prison system is the cotton picking plantation spot of today/ labor camps where slaves work for a dollar a day / in green uniforms/ for a company named Unicor/ who gets paid for military contracts and uses war / to line the pockets of the warden / while mom and pop shop operations can't afford to pay their employees the same wage/ the prison pays 25 cents an hour for employees in the cage /while \$5.15 an hour is the fee for the employee who is free/ so in turn the prison underbids the competition and the military pays them for the services received...

Behold a medicine man in a devilish land – who had a parole date scheduled and planned – and had it revoked when he could almost grasp it/by Alberto Gonzales' Patriot Act tactic – ripped the freedom from his fingers / for political right wingers and the anger still lingers inside
Of this dreadlocked revolutionary/ who was buried alive/ for choosing to seek truth in a very volatile time / the 1960's – a time of flower power and hippies / revolutionary thoughts consequences were risky / pioneers when police trigger fingers were itchy/ and the evidence in many court cases was fishy/ labeled as a cop killer or is he...

I sit beneath the ganja cloud and think of Veronza's plight/ like an Israelite in Egypt he waits for civil rights/ some say I'm a dreamer to believe it's worth a fight/ but I know the king can lose to a pawn if moved right/

So let us pray for the political prisoner/ if you've got time – then give this forgotten freedom fighter the gift of a visitor/ listen to the wisdom of an elder spiritual leader/ known by Native American's as Black Eagle the healer/

A modern day shaman/ who said "Fear is not an option"/ told me keep writing poetry to find a ground that's common/ He said in my generation – we were bank robbing' and rebelling/ in your generation spoken word is your way of telling/ the system to fuck off – generation X is here/ excess materialism and sex will disappear / and the underlying message will be clear/ we're the offspring of the pioneers/ who never died in fear/ who lost comrades and wiped away the tears/ and kept marching for the ones no longer here/ and don't become hesitant or pause for a second kid / educate yourselves and let them see the force to be reckoned with...

-Veronza Bowers – we march in the streets /our hearts cry for peace/for a hostage of police/ in the belly of the beast/Let the teacher be released/ until then the battle won't cease...

Veronza's Story

Veronza was convicted in the murder of a U.S. Park Ranger on the word of two government informers, both of whom received reduced sentences for other crimes by the Federal prosecutor's office. There were no eye-witnesses and no evidence independent of these informants to link him to the crime.

At his trial, Veronza offered alibi testimony which was not credited by the jury. Nor was testimony of two relatives of the informants who insisted that they were lying. The informants had all charges against them in this case dropped and one was given \$10,000 by the government according to the prosecutor's post-sentencing report. Veronza has consistently proclaimed his innocence of the crime he never committed — even at the expense of having his appeals for parole denied — for which an admission of guilt and contrition is virtually required — he insists on maintaining his innocence.

The Black Panther Party was targeted by J. Edgar Hoover and the FBI in its infamous Cointelpro Operation which, during its years of operation from 1956 to 1971, surveilled, infiltrated, manipulated and tried to provoke criminal activities by entirely lawful civil rights and peace demonstrators exercising their First Amendment rights to oppose government policies. Hoover referred to the BPP as "the greatest threat to the internal security of this country" and authorized surveillance of many black and antiwar leaders including Martin Luther King.

Despite letters of support from prominent attorneys, former high-ranking representatives of regional commissions, prison officials and a member of the U.S. Congress, Veronza has continually been denied release due to intervention by the U.S. Parole Commission. A recent decision by the regional federal parole commission to grant his release was overturned by the National Commission. With the truth coming out daily about the high incidence of inmates who have been falsely convicted and imprisoned, exonerations of Death Row prisoners (156 to date), police and prosecutorial malfeasance and other failures of the criminal justice system, Veronza's case deserves careful review.

Gas? Natural?

Gas-fired power plants are no more 'natural' than coal, oil or nukes. Greenhouse emissions from burning gas are generally around half of what coal puts out. That is still huge, especially considering the increasing scale of gas usage, for example: the Glades County Coal plant was estimated at 14-16 million tons of CO₂, where as the larger Palm Beach County Gas plant is estimated at 10-12 million tons. The energy industry has promoted gas so heavily as the only viable 'clean, green' alternative, that the crisis connected to what economists call the 'dash for gas' is far exceeding the paralleled peak oil crisis. The gas industry has drilled over 50,000 new gas wells in less than a decade, with no stabilization in price. This reality is the driving force behind all Liquid Natural Gas (LNG) proposals bombarding both U.S. coasts.

And the extraction process ain't too pretty either folks. Gas extraction has fragmented wildlife habitat, poisoned communities, destroyed croplands and degraded streams throughout Western U.S. Over 88 percent of federal natural gas resources on public lands in the Rocky Mountain States are available for leasing to energy companies.

For more info, check out the Oil and Gas Accountability Project: www.ogap.org or Everglades Earth First!'s www.RiverofGas.info

As a PBCEC participant and group co-chair i have often reflected on the December '06 meeting in Tallahassee (where Audubon of Florida exposed their allegiance to FPL), recalling a conversation with Colleen Castille, former Secretary of Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) under Governor Bush. She approached me suggesting that we drop our opposition to the gas-fired plant in Palm Beach and instead join them in stopping the Glades coal plant. At the time i remember thinking it was strange. Why would we, a local coalition, have wanted to drop our fight to focus on a plant over 2 hours away?

Were other environmental organizations conspiring with FPL and DEP to manufacture the Glades County victory? Were they inviting me to join in?! My brain still often rejects the idea as a conspiracy theory, but my gut-instincts scream up to me: "You idiot! That's how it works. That's how the developers have gotten this far—welcome to the *environmental-industrial complex*."

Once the Coal plant was 'defeated' PBCEC solicited another call for support against the WCEC, again with little-to-no response from the moneyed groups (except for the local Loxahatchee Sierra Club, who has since gotten more involved). Where did all the money from the Coal fight go? Did it go towards paying six-figure salaries to environmental professionals, while grassroots groups scramble for crumbs to fight this behemoth? It's hard not to feel that way. One prominent attorney even responded to me that their firm avoided FPL because they only gets

own salary, was an elected official he could likely be in there with Newell and Masilotti today.

A tale of the two towers

Several other environmental groups in Florida that didn't take money directly from FPL for assistance with the WCEC took it instead from the Joyce Foundation during a battle against FPL's proposed Coal plant in Glades County. The Joyce Foundation, as many now know, spread several million of dollars across the country (through the Energy Foundation' pretending to fight coal plants while essentially attempting to gain positive public relations for the same industry's Coal Gasification (IGCC) technology. Although the crooked nature of the funding was also known at the time, many groups including the Environmental Defense, Natural Resource Defense Council (NRDC), Southern Alliance for Clean Energy, Environment Florida and several lawfirm, such as Wildlaw, Collins & West, EarthJustice and the Everglades Law Center (whom are all well-funded as is) couldn't keep their hands out of the cookie jar. When the eco-lobbyists and lawyers couldn't sway local activists in Glades and Hendry Counties to tow the IGCC line, they disregarded them.

For many grassroots activists outside the well-paid non-profit world, the only option seemed to also join and fight the coal proposal, which was ultimately denied by the Public Service Commission. In hindsight, the whole victory felt like a well-orchestrated, well-financed scandal which succeeded in creating a red herring to divert attention from other FPL projects, such as the abovementioned gas-fired plant and multiple new nuclear proposals that are now underway (more info about new nukes in south Florida, in the 'articles' section: www.earthfirst2008oc.info).

who feels it knows it

Grassroots activists and local residents of the Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition (PBCEC) were already fighting the WCEC, before the coal plant was proposed. While WCEC had less pollution than coal, it was a larger plant in a more precarious location (for some further background on these two FPL plants, see EF!J May-June 2007), plus it was in our backyard. Our Coalition of grassroots activists and local residents broadly solicited support for our efforts and received very little response from the well-established organizations across the State. We continued to fight—often in the shadow of FPL's Glades Coal proposal—declaring opposition to both projects. In this time, we found that other groups, such as the Florida Wildlife Federation and Sierra Club, were supportive, but expressed feeling hesitation on the issue after having compromised for natural gas over other fossil fuels in the previous decade of energy policy work.



Overthrowing the oppressive current world order of global capitalism has always been the dream of every revolutionary living in modern times. Everyone agrees that the system must come down, but the question has always been, how? Then all these other questions always come up in response to the “how” question. There is of course the question of violence, there is the question of how will a popular revolution ever take place in any country where the people have some degree of trust in the current political structure. In other words, how can people be radicalized to the point of revolution, and on such a large scale. Surely, a spontaneous, popular revolution is the dream of every anarchist.

At the risk of sounding arrogant, I believe I have a pretty good idea on how to solve our problem. The biggest problem with radical activists today, I think, is that we are almost totally reactive. Think about it – almost all activist causes are responses to an action taken by some part of the global capitalist system. Taking a look at some well known activist movements shows this. There is the anti-globalization movement, wilderness defense, the anti-war movement, the anti-nuclear movement, the women's rights movement. What do all these, and mostly any other “leftist” movement have in common? They are all based on a negative. Activists define themselves by what they are opposed to, AGAINST war, AGAINST nuclear energy, AGAINST the destruction of wilderness. Instead of being the ones making history, we become the ones affected by history. Think about it, we do not control any movement that is anti-whatever, because what we are responding to has already been decided by the actor (i.e. the person who *started* the war, the person *taking away* women's rights, the corporations *enslaving* 3rd world workers) The actor controls what we are against by creating the injustice. Any anti-movement is controlled by the person/people they are against! If the war ends, the anti-war movement ends, if globalization ends, the anti-globalization movement ends, if CAPITALISM ENDS, the anti-capitalist movement ends. We most stop defining ourselves by what we are opposed to, and define ourselves by what we are in favor of. Fuck reaction, what we need is PRO-action. Notice the difference if some well known movements are defined as positives; the pro-peace movement, the pro-wilderness movement, the clean energy movement, the pro-dignified workplace movement. There

would be no definite end to these movements, because their goal is open-ended. You can't have too much peace, clean energy, or dignity and safety in the workplace. Wages can't be "too" fair. In other words, these movements would be uncontrollable because they cannot be ended. Instead of only reacting to problems, people must create alternatives that are better than the existing way of doing things, and implement them. This will spell the death of the old way. **We must make the current system of control obsolete by creating its predecessor.** That is the key word in this entire idea presentation,

Creation. If the right conditions are created, then the current system will fall, and it will fall fast. The old never lasts long in the face of the new. I mean, who wanted to play Atari after Nintendo came out?

Of course, the rise of the new way is always a threat to the old. What is feared the most by those who control the world today, by those who are responsible for the current unjust state of the world? A glimpse of something better. Because they know that once people see that glimpse of something better, they will never again be content with how things were before. **LET US CREATE THEIR FEAR. Let us make them react to us!** We need to create an alternative political/parallel structure. This is why, in my opinion, the most successful form of activism is the creation of counter-infrastructure. By counter-infrastructure I mean alternative ways of meeting the everyday needs of the people. For example, a collectively run, community based electrical system to compete with the current for-profit power industry. Also, collective medical centers, food markets, gardens, transportation, sewage, trash disposal. These are all very important things that have to be taken into account. Imagine what would happen if people stopped having to work their lives away to pay for food, electricity, child-care, etc... This would cause a major crisis for the current capitalist world order. How would the capitalist system survive if no one *needed* to buy their shit? What if people simply chose a different route? One small example of counter-infrastructure would be a community garden/food distribution program where the people in the community grow their own food and distribute it amongst themselves. They would no longer need to rely on huge agribusiness and the for-profit system of food distribution. The local Publix would go out of business. Another example, look what happened to the music industry after Napster came

Foundation, often informs people that his uncle thought that, "polluters should pay." Taking money from industry for environmental work is one thing; sending your employees to undermine other activists is probably not what Art had in mind. After a year of disparaging comments about new FPL plants not being a high priority for them, the local grassroots community had gotten the hint that their silence was bought and paid for. But apparently FPL isn't forking out 'donations' just to buy silence anymore.

On November 29 of this year, Marshall Foundation Executive Director Josette Kaufman joined the Chamber of Commerce choir at the Palm Beach County Commission meeting in singing of FPL's glorious contributions to the environment. The Commission voted unanimously in favor of increasing the West County Energy Center (WCEC) by another 500 megawatts (MW), which started as a 300 MW proposal 5 years ago, now up to 3800 MW, making it the third largest fossil fuel plant in the U.S. I wondered if Josette had ever actually read *anything* that Art Marshall wrote. She certainly didn't read the part where he said "*An effective institute would: (1) Need to be financially independent of any department or agency of government and of industry and special interest-groups. (2) Need to build confidence in its integrity among clients and supporters as well as among the public.*"

A second study of FPL pay-offs involves the Audubon Society of Florida. In the lead up to the WCEC's certification, FL Audubon collected \$100,000 in 'donations' from FPL; Enrique Tomeau (co-owner of the Palm Beach Aggregates rock mine, where the power plant sits) and Henry Dean (former head of South Florida Water Management District, who participated in Aggregates dealings); a pretty penny for which they attempted a pretty ambitious backstabbing against grassroots opponents of FPL. At a December 2006 Florida Cabinet meeting, in front of then-Governor Jeb Bush (whose final major act in office was certifying this plant—two months earlier than originally planned), FL Audubon Policy Director Eric Draper tried to discredit a resolution that local activists had gotten passed through the well-respected Everglades Coalition. In an astounding display of disregard for Everglades Coalition process, he actually asked that it be stricken from the record at his sole request. He had not even consulted any Audubon scientists or members on the matter. To boot, Draper went on, later that meeting, to present an award to Jeb Bush for his excellent stewardship towards the environment!

By the following summer, four local politicians and a well-known lobbyist would be in prison for the crime of 'Honest Service Fraud'. Two out of the four politicians who are still currently in prison for the recent corruption charges, County Commissioners Tony Masiolotti and Warren Newell, are serving time specifically for their dealings with the Palm Beach Aggregates. If Eric Draper, personal friend of Enrique Tomeau, who frequently facilitates acts of corporate generosity on behalf of his

FPL AND THE ANATOMY OF CORRUPTION IN THE EVERGLADES

By Panagiotti / Lake Worth

"The pressures of expanding population and technology on Florida continue to degrade its human and natural resources despite the combined counter-efforts of all existing institutions. Government, more often than not, either fosters or adds to the degradation. Educational institutions seem unable to unwillingly to apply their store of knowledge effectively to the problems. Efforts of the business community are often exploitative, non-existent, or are superficial palliatives... It is evident that Florida is on a course which ultimately will insure its joining the parade of states already sunk in environmental quagmires... Philosophically we suffer a paradoxical ailment which allows us to look back two hundred years in pride, but not five years ahead in preparation or anticipation."

-Arthur R. Marshall, 1972, from "A Proposal to Establish the Florida Environmental Institute"

Art's legacy dishonored

Ecologists Arthur Marshall's proposed Institute did get off the ground, and he went on to contribute some of the best components of the Everglades restoration plans, among other amazing environmental work across Florida, before passing away. His legacy went on to get a 147,392 acre National Wildlife Refuge named after him, the Loxahatchee, which is currently home to around 30 threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. But it's a lot easier to slap a person's name on something than it is to honor their vision of holistic ecosystem repair. If Art could see state of Everglades Restoration now... well, truthfully, he probably wouldn't be too shocked at the bureaucracy, corruption and greed driving the process into the mud. He might be pretty disappointed by the sprawl closing in on the east side of Refuge; and the proposed chemical plant and new landfill directly adjacent would surely be a tad frustrating. And the massive 3800 megawatt gas-fired plant under construction north of his name-sake Refuge; power for near a million new homes and businesses set to spill across the EAA—that must be really damn annoying.

But none of that business-as-usual could have prepared him for the news that his nephew John, who supposedly took on the task of carrying Art's mission forward, selling out to FPL for a measly \$25,000. John Marshall, proud Marine and head of the locally renowned Marshall

out. How any collective endeavors would operate and be organized is a subject outside the scope of this essay. But the important thing is that we recognize the need for their existence, and begin building them today.

As mentioned before, once people see a better, more efficient way of doing things, they no longer want to be part of the old way. We need to erase the need for government and capital. We must make what is now a revolutionary concept an extremely boring, everyday occurrence that people take for granted. We must make the revolution truly un-revolutionary. Once counter-infrastructure projects start in one place, the idea will spread like wildfire. We must make the creation of an alternative system a mainstream phenomenon. We must make this a popular movement. People will begin to liberate themselves from this oppressive system once an alternative shows them how oppressive it is. Once this begins, it will be unstoppable. This will be the beginning of a popular revolution of self-liberation, the only true type of revolution from a history of hierarchy and control.

As history shows us, people cannot be "given" freedom; they must seize it for themselves. Almost all historic social advances have not been the result of the actions of the ruling class, but a result of democratic popular struggle. Women had to demand the right to vote until the pressure was so great upon those oppressing them that they had no choice but to give in. It was the same with the end of slavery and the civil rights movement. These were freedoms that had to be seized! It wasn't until the creation of unions FORCED the capitalists to pay workers a bigger share of the wealth they created that the standard of living in America rose beyond 3rd world levels. Capitalism is not responsible for a high standard of living in the US and Europe, it is the fight AGAINST capitalism that achieved this victory. Freedom must be seized and created by those who want it.

There is always the lament in the activist community of the apathy of "the masses". "People just don't care about people starving in Africa". Honestly, no, they don't, because it doesn't affect them. Sure, it may bother them and make them feel bad, but that feeling is only temporary, defeated by the ever present "Well, I can't do anything about it" response. The point is that most people only care about and take action when they know they are directly affected by something. With

the creation of a self-perpetuating movement of creating alternatives to the current system, people will care about what happens with it. People will care about the community garden, electrical system, school, etc... because they DEPEND on it to go about their daily lives. People do care about things that their lives depend on (or as in the current order, they care about the things that they are led to believe their lives depend on.) This is another reason why the creation of counter-infrastructure will be unstoppable; no one will be willing to give it up.

We must of course ask what will be the punishment for our success and how will we deal with it when it comes? I believe that the current capitalist system will react to us in a predictable way. First, leaders of the current world order will attempt to create an image of the movement as the work of extremists and troublemakers. They will claim that our actions have a "negative impact" on the "well behaved citizenry". This will be the first, or one of the first responses. They will then attempt to control the movement of building alternatives by trying to bring it under the current system. For example, they may pass laws saying that people need to have a permit to run their own electricity or have a community garden. In fact, those laws probably already exist. In other words, they will try to bring the movement that is based on working outside the system into the system. This is done in a desperate attempt to retain their relevance and to make people believe they still need them. They need to maintain the illusion that without them, all hell would break loose and civilization would collapse. THE SYSTEM THAT IS AND ALWAYS HAS BEEN THE PROBLEM WILL TRY TO PRESENT ITSELF AS THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEMS IT HAS CREATED. Beware attempts by the power-holders to hijack the movement and present it as their own.

If the alternative means of living cannot be hijacked, the next step will be the criminalization of alternatives, which will of course be enforced by the basis of all state power – violence. Violence is the only way that people who control the current world order know to deal with threats to that order's existence. For a historical example (of which there are many), in the early 1900s, the US Socialist Party began gaining electoral seats in local and federal government. The Socialist Party USA was doing well, and continuously growing. The socialist party represented an alternative to the two capitalist parties of the time,

already approved opening up more western agricultural land for mining. Rinker is gathering permits for a 3,000 acre mine just west of the Loxahatchee NWR and will seek approval from the Commission in early January.

Not only will rock mining in the EAA destroy wetlands & agricultural land, open up ground and surface waters to contamination, and pave the way, literally, for sweeping sprawl development, it will permanently close out the option for a flow way between Lake Okeechobee and the southern Everglades, the only proposal that comes close to restoring the Everglades system to its natural state.

Mining Summit Awaits Us

Faced with mounting public outcry and Earth First! activity, the county has proposed a mining summit to be held this coming February to accommodate national activists & scientists heading south for the EF! Organizer's Conference. Okay, so they didn't actually say it like that, but since when did Earth First!ers need a formal invitation? [The Summit date has not yet been announced.]

FOR MORE INFO on EVERGLADES 'RESTORATION' and its DISCONTENTS, check out the 'zine "Everything Everglades", available as a PDF on-line at www.RiverofGas.info

caused intestinal illness in 400,000 people, including 4,000 hospitalizations and at least 50 deaths. In fact, in Miami, several large wells had to be shut down because of benzene contamination in the groundwater, attributed to diesel-based explosives used in limestone mining.

Furthermore, the lawsuit asserted, required mitigation was not being carried out, in part because the low fees the companies were paying did not come close to covering land acquisition costs for the designated mitigation sites.

On March 22, 2006, federal Judge Hoevler ruled that the agencies in charge had indeed violated federal law. He wrote, "The court cannot ignore the obvious: The Corps did not exercise the full range of its authority, but rather allowed negotiations with miners to result in procedural shortcuts and other abuses of the discretion that has been entrusted to the agency." His ruling revoked 10 permits, affecting 5,400 acres.

Back here in Palm Beach County

Unfazed, Palm Beach County is holding the door open for rock miners seeking to dig deeper into the region known as the Everglades Agricultural Area. The industry has been in the area for a while, blasting land north of the Arthur Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge & south of the JW Corbett Wildlife Management Area, and further west in the sugar cane fields. Palm Beach Aggregates has been pushing various development schemes for its exhausted mines, including a 2,000-unit residential development or the West County Energy Center, a now 3800-MW natural gas plant proposed by FPL. These old quarries are also being converted into, yes, you guessed it, CERP water reservoirs, with a purchase price of \$189 million. Does it matter that the sale and development of these mining lands were recently the keystone in a corruption scandal that landed County Commissioner Tony Masilotti in prison? Well, it hasn't slowed things down yet.

Last February, public pressure resulted in the county authorizing a 3-4 year study of the impacts of rock mining on the area and drinking water supply, but the realization of that study is now being questioned. Either way, permitting won't be held up until the results are out. The county Zoning board

the democrats and the republicans. It was a threat to the ruling two party system. Finally, when those in power decided that the socialists in America were becoming too successful and powerful and posed a real threat to the ruling two-party system, they decided to take action. The FBI raided and destroyed several offices of the Socialist Party, seizing files. Several leaders of the party were killed in their beds while they slept. In a matter of years the Socialist Party USA was a mere glimpse of its former power. Never mind that the socialist movement in America was democratically elected. Who cares if it was a totally legal movement participating in constitutionally protected activities, following the electoral laws of the time. This didn't matter to those in power. Those in power only obey their own laws and rules when it serves them. When there are laws or rules that become obstacle to getting what they want, the laws are changed, deleted, or simply ignored. This is always justified to the public (if the public finds out about it) by claiming that in times of "crisis" (real or imagined); they must be given unfettered freedom to "protect" us from a mortal danger (usually imagined). A good example of this is the USA Patriot act. This is the state response to alternative systems - violence. However, their violence will only be a catalyst for their demise.

Violence solidifies and validates opposition to the users of violence. The users of violence know this. One must not make the mistake of thinking that the agents of state repression are stupid! Would they be in power now if they didn't know what they were doing? Any acts of violence committed against what is seen as a "legitimate" alternative system will be covert. When they take violent action, they always deny they did it at all so as to create a sense of uncertainty about what really happened. An example of this tactic can be seen as recently as the late 1960s, when the FBI's COINTELPRO program was used to destroy legitimate, legal political organizations such as the American Indian Movement, and the Black Panthers. We must be prepared for this response and learn from the past, but we must also be ready to deal with new tactics of repression. **DO NOT FORGET THAT THE ENEMY IS AS CREATIVE, SMART, AND CUNNING AS WE ARE!** They also have unlimited resources at their disposal.

EVERGLADES UPRISING 2008

Earth First! Winter Rendezvous and Organizers' Conference
February 14 thru 18, Palm Beach County, Florida

It's been almost 500 years since Florida's coast was 'discovered' by conquistadors and colonizers, it took another 300 years before Empire was able to penetrate and subjugate most of the vast, wild swampland and the communities-in-resistance that sought refuge there. Today, the fight for land and freedom—and for the survival of the Earth itself—is in our hands. It's time for a new wave of rebellion in the Everglades...

And you're invited

In 2006, the radical environmental movement met in Palm Beach County for the annual Earth First! Organizers' Conference and Winter Rendezvous. The gathering was not only an amazing tale in the history of the movement, but it also became a part of an amazing story of victory over the sprawling corporate biotech nightmare, 2000-acre Scripps Research Park that was lurking in the former orange grove next door to our campsite (see 'Reflections on the OC' from EF!J July/Aug. 2006). Now another slimy, and gassy, industrial monster is creeping up around the corner...

"They didn't look like 'mainstream citizens'...I guess it's some sort of an anti-technology backlash, anti-globalization. I don't think that's a very prevalent attitude in this county."

-Bevin Beaudet, Palm Beach County's previous 'Scripps Program Manager', now head of Water Utilities. Quote is from USA Today, 1/4/05, following one of the first EF! actions in Palm Beach County, against the defeated Scripps Biotech Research Park. Beaudet was recently heard at a county meeting saying FPL's new plant was a 'win-win situation'...
Let's see if his prediction skills have improved any.

EF! has since grown in the Everglades, taking on other development issues, restoration politics and energy

BETWEEN A ROCK AND A WET PLACE

by xoxa chahim

The process is simple. Give away or sell dirt cheap swampy "wasteland" to whoever will buy it. Get federal and state subsidies to grow cash crops on it 'til the soil is used up. Mine it for aggregate to be used in road & building construction. Then either fill it in and build thousands of cookie-cutter homes or, even easier, leave it open and sell it back to the government for "Everglades Restoration."

The Lake Belt

Still think Everglades Restoration is about ecological integrity? Read a little about Miami's Lake Belt. A few years back, the Army Corps of Engineers & US Fish & Wildlife permitted rock mining on 22,000 acres of sensitive Everglades land in Miami-Dade county. Not only did they issue the permits, they even offered to, in 35 years, buy the 80-foot deep pits left by the mining operations for \$1 billion so they could be converted into water storage reservoirs as part of CERP (Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project, see EF!J Sept-Oct). Did the safety of this new, untested process matter? Of course, they said, in fact we'll study that...in 2011.

Not a surprising run of events when corporate mining interests, in this case, Gerardo Fernandez, ex-vice president of construction materials giant Rinker, head up the state Lake Belt committee, and when Rinker makes 5 digit donations to the Republican party. As Michael Grunwald reported in the Washington Post, "Even an internal Corps e-mail called it 'a steal' for the miners, noting that 'political entities play an enormous role in this particular beast.'"

Don't worry, well-funded national environmental groups to the rescue! A 2002 lawsuit brought on by the Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club and National Parks Conservation Association, asserted that the mining permits violated multiple environmental laws and pointed to the threat of parasites entering the drinking water system via these quarry-reservoirs. They cited the 1993 health crisis in Milwaukee when water-borne cryptosporidium

Broward Green League, a loose network of environmental activists, residents and local businesses promoting ecological sustainability.
www.greenleagueofbroward.net

Food Not Bombs (Orlando, West Palm Beach, Ft. Lauderdale, Miami) free food for the revolution! www.foodnotbombs.net/florida.html

Brushfire new Florida anarchist networking publication, looking for writers and artists, contact: brushfiresubmissions@gmail.com

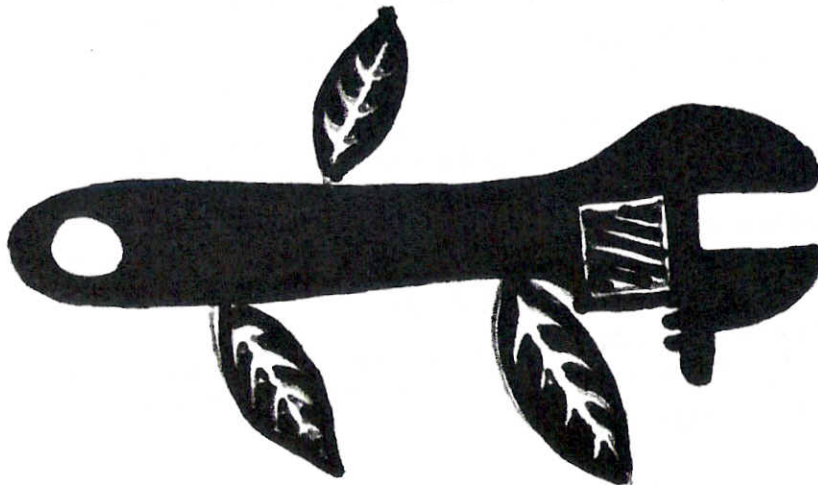
Firefly House, a radical venue and infoshop in downtown Miami, 219 N.E 20th st., www.thefirefly.info

Black Mangrove Collective, anarchist, activist and artist collective in Miami, www.myspace.com/blackmangrove

Take Back the Land, the anti-gentrification direct action movement that built Umoja Village last year in Liberty City, Miami, is still fighting for community control over land and housing. Although Umoja was lost to a fire, Take Back the Land (TBtL) has continued organizing in the community and assisting residents in occupying and defending squatted homes. They welcome donations of money, canned food, toiletries, cleaning supplies, tools for repairing homes. TBtL is a project of the Center for Pan-Afrikan Development. For more info: www.takebacktheland.blogspot.com

Coalition of Immokalee Workers/Student Farmworker Alliance, an organization of Mexican, Haitian and Central American farm workers based in rural South Florida, are fighting around issues of dignity and justice in the agricultural fields. They have been involved in exposing multiple cases of modern slavery here in Florida and have succeeded in getting both Taco Bell and McDonalds to negotiate fairer prices for the food they buy. They are now taking on Burger King. For more info: www.ciw-online.org

Related Articles on the next few pages.



infrastructure projects. Our actions have centered around the local battle against Florida Power & Light's West County Energy Center (WCEC), a 3800 megawatt gas-fired power plant in the Everglades Agricultural Area (EAA). This would be the third largest fossil fuel power plant in the U.S., pumping out over 12 million tons of Greenhouse gases, sitting in the middle of a giant scandal-ridden rock mine, on the edge of an 'Everglades Restoration' (CERP) reservoir, 1000 feet from the Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. The plant will store 12.6 millions gallons of diesel on site to be burned as 'back-up' fuel. It also requires a deep-well injection system dumping over 7 billion gallons of the plant's wastewater underground every year and a new high-pressure gas pipeline running 34 miles through land of the Dupuis and J.W. Corbett Wildlife Areas, both these components of the plant have still not received permits. Yet it is under construction as you read this, despite the growing public outrage, pending lawsuits and the lack of essential permits.

Location/Directions

For those who like the comfort of familiarity and were here in '06, you'll be pleased to know that our gathering will be back at the J.W. Corbett Wildlife Management Area, in the wet praries and pine flatwoods of campsite 'P'. Directions are easy: take I-95 to northern Palm Beach County, exit at Northlake Boulevard, go west. Turn north on Seminole Pratt Whitney Road and go till you can't anymore ('bout a mile down a dirt road), the J.W. Corbett 'south check' station will be on your left. Deposit \$6 for a day pass, grab a map and we'll see you at camp.

For those coming back who may have wanted to see another part of the bioregion, there is a high likelihood that field trips can be arranged to other locations before and/or after, such as: the Loxahatchee River, the Everglades National Park, the Fakahatchee Strand, Big Cypress Preserve, as well as other natural areas in our swamps and coastal scrubland.

About the OC/Rendezvous

In previous years of EF! gatherings, the winter rendezvous has oft been thought of as the 'lesser' of the two annual get-togethers—a smaller crowd with a more focused agenda. While we don't intend to fully disrupt that tradition, we feel the shrinking pool of longtime EF! organizers showing up at gatherings is necessitating that a broader invitation be put forth in hopes of roping in more folks, both newbies and old-timers, into the loose network of radical organizers. Plus, while you all might be hibernating in your caves up north, we are in the full swing of our active season here in sub-tropical south Florida ('south of the south', so we are told, ad nauseum, by our northern 'southern' neighbors). And we'd love for all you outta-towners to come see it for yourself. If you will need travel assistance to get a representative from your bioregion or campaign here, let us know. We could use extra funds offer travel assistance to those who need it up front. This is an important part of bringing older EF!ers, international people and musicians down. Please help if you can!

what to bring: whatever you need for 5 days of camping, hiking and swimming in mild weather; food and water to contribute to a community kitchen; literature and information from campaigns and projects in your bioregion; ideas for workshops and discussions; music, poems, stand-up comedy, puppet shows, and rants; enthusiasm and props for post-camp actions (and a few extra days, if you can spare it); money (suggested \$25-50) to contribute to camp planning for this year and next.

We are planning to have medics, a conflict mediation team and childcare available, if you are able to contribute to those, or have any other needs we should know about, please get in touch asap: evergladesearthfirst@gmail.com 561-588-9666

What is Everglades Earth First!

Earth First! is not an organization; there is no membership, no dues and no board of directors. It is an idea, simple and self-explanatory. It manifests itself as a loose, amorphous global network; a movement of individuals and collectives taking action in defense of planetary life-support systems and our communities that depend on them. It is not about putting concern for the environment over care for people. It is about recognizing that the way we treat the earth reflects the way we treat each other; that all life is connected and defending the earth is a form of self-defense.

The idea of putting the earth first has been planted in this sub-tropical corner of the U.S. Empire. The seeds sent up green shoots amidst rubber bullet and riot cops during the Miami FTAA summit; it spread its roots in the compost of urban community gardens; it nurtures its spirit in sacred fire ceremonies of indigenous Mayan immigrants; it basks in the hurricanes' fury, celebrating power outages and wandering unnoticed after curfew; it showed its first blossoms in the battle against coastal development, urban sprawl and corporate biotechnology; and it's beginning to bloom in the fight against the empire's energy infrastructure encroaching into the Everglades bioregion.

The Everglades Earth First! group is based in the place now known as Southeast Florida, which was inhabited by land-based communities: the Jobe, Ais, Jeaga, Tekesta, Calusa, before colonization and conquest destroyed their coastal communities. Seminole people and escaped Africans slaves later inhabited the region and fought for the land and their life-ways. Earth First! finds inspiration in the indigenous ancestors of all lands works in solidarity with native activists and other land-based struggles.

Below is a partial list of grassroots contacts in the bioregion. Participants from Everglades Earth First! are also involved in other movements and organizations, and encourage support for their efforts. [Most of these groups were not involved in the production of this publication.]

Palm Beach County Environmental Coalition, a group of local residents and members of the environmental activist community. www.pbcec.blogspot.com

Project Awareness, a radical activist collective based in Port St. Lucie/Martin County. www.ProjectAwareness.googlepages.com

Reef Rescue, focused on defending the last living coastal reefs of south Florida from the threats of pollution, sewage outfall and 'dredge and fill' projects. www.reef-rescue.org

Save It Now Glades!, the group that spearheaded local opposition to the FPL coal plant proposal, now focusing on environmental justice issues in rural southwest Florida. www.saveitnowglades.org

Florida Alliance for a Clean Environment, long-standing grassroots group based in Collier County who has focused on pushing for truly clean renewable energy options. alliance4cleanFL@aol.com

- No More Fossil Fuel or Nuclear Energy
- No More Rock Mining in the Everglades
- No More Development Sprawl & Political Corruption

Here's an excerpt from one local February 18 call-to-action: "In the spirit of past movements for justice—anti-colonial, labor, suffrage, civil rights, anti-nuclear—activists around the country will be in South Florida to put their bodies on the line to stop the illegal construction of a giant gas-burning power plant across from the Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge. Residents have petitioned, met with elected officials from the County to the Federal level, protested, and, finally, filed lawsuits. And still the construction continues. Corporate pay-offs to politicians and environmental groups have continually attempted to stifle all conventional and legal means of opposition; we are taking it to the next level.

"The climate crisis facing the planet demands that humanity stop all greenhouse gas emissions and begin restoring damaged ecosystems immediately—international climate scientists have established the goal of a 90% reduction by 2050. Here in the Everglades, the country's most famous wetland, there is a popular quote that calls this ecosystem "a test". "If we pass it, we get to keep the planet..." We are failing. And we are losing the planet as we've known it.

But in Palm Beach County, local activists are joining a global movement to take drastic actions in attempt to avert the worst disasters of human-caused climate change and begin repairing what we have done to the earth—for our own survival and for the future of life on this planet. We invite you to join us!"

[For more info, including: extended workshop lists, 'places to visit' list, more articles, ride board, photos, maps, .. bilingual spanish/english.. check out: www.earthfirst2008oc.info]

Some Guidelines that we ask for agreement on at camp and actions

- No drugs, alcohol or weapons. The camping area prohibits these things and we expect plenty of surveillance.
- No abuse or assault will be tolerated. If you or someone you know has a history of violence or violation, or a current conflict that puts the gathering's safety at risk please bring it to the mediation team asap.
- No dogs! ..er, at least not very many of them. We mean it. Don't bring a dog, unless you really want to.

The schedule

'A Night to Howl' - Wednesday 2/13 (a special gift for y'all that show up early!)

Afternoon/evening will be a local 'Night to Howl' event in town, somewhere near a beach, featuring some amazing musicians from around the country, and beyond, such as: Sobrevivencia (from Guatemala), Blackbird Raum (from Santa Cruz), Here's to the Longhaul (from Appalachia), Lars Din (from Gainesville) Son del Centro (from LA) SoFUQT (South FL Untied Queers & Trannies) and others...

The OC - Thursday and Friday 2/14 and 2/15

The Organizers' Conference will begin early Thursday morning with a welcoming ceremony and intro to the bioregion followed by a meeting to set the agenda, which will be filled with movement-related topics: the state of the movement, the EF! Journal, Prisoner support, Green Scare/State repression, internal anti-oppression work, strategies/tools/tactics, etc.

There are two particularly concrete movement-oriented tasks to bring input on. The first is editing and reprinting the EF! Primer: what improvements, updates and general changes need to be made? The other is the EF! Direct Action Manual.

This publication has been out of circulation for far too long and sorely needs to be re-pressed; are there updates or changes that need to be made? Any new tactics to add? (for example, could someone please explain and describe that crazy new use for super glue that the Brits have pioneered.) A proposal was made by Roadblock Earth First!/Anti-I-69 Campaign to focus discussion on vision and strategy of the larger movement, specifically asking how we renew and re-inspire our direct action culture (see the article "Evolving Earth First II", elsewhere in this issue of the EF!J for further elaborated thoughts on this topic.)

The Rony - Saturday and Sunday 2/16 and 2/17

Technically, these days are known as the 'Winter Rendezvous', where the camp's numbers will swell and include lots more local folks, covering a broader range of workshops, skill-shares and discussion groups. Saturday night there will be an EF! rally with lots of music, poems and ranting; Sunday will have time dedicated to planning and training for the weeks actions.

The list of possible workshops includes: Climate Change & Rising Tide; Everglades (Radical) Restoration; Fighting Plum Creek in Maine; Indigenous Resistance to the Energy Empire; Stopping the Border Wall/Border Regime; Mountain Top Removal; 'Taking Back the Land'; Wild/Edible Plant Walks; Eco-feminism; Crafting with wild materials; Art and Conservation; Making Consent Sexy; Coastal & Marine Ecology; Confronting Oppression; Middle Eastern Environmental Issues; Direct Action & Your Legal Rights; Homo-Normality & the Gay-Stream; Return of the Nuclear Nightmare; Root Force & Anti-Infrastructure analysis; and more!

Action(s)! - Monday 2/18

Locations TBA, specifics TBA (he he.. wouldn't you like to know!)

Locally, on February 18, there is a call-out for a coordinated civil disobedience action. While we do not seek a return to any good ol' days of mass actions, we recognize that pulling off openly-planned group actions that involves everyone at a gathering can be empowering and inspiring for people, integrating local folks with travelers and broadening our movement's direct action skill-base. There has been a clear lack of these types of actions at recent EF! Gatherings. Perhaps they may be a healthy way to respond to the fear and distrust that has been manufactured by the State's ongoing Green Scare repression. More participatory direct actions could nurture a broader culture of resistance that has been sparse lately. There has also been a local call-out for coordinating an all-Womyns' action.

That said, we, as the hosting collective of the 'Everglades Uprising' EF! Winter Rendezvous and OC are also encouraging autonomous affinity group actions for those who can come organized and prepared to take initiative. As our local collective feels that this is also an important movement-evolution to nurture at mobilizations. We can offer materials and information to groups that respect the basic guidelines and will reflect the message of the call-to-action below:

**EVERGLADES UPRISING Call-to-Action,
February 18, 2008**

***SHUT DOWN THE FLORIDA POWER &
LIGHT AND THE PALM BEACH
AGGREGATES***

A Day of Civil Disobedience to For Clean Energy,
Restoration and Sustainability in the Everglades