

## Symposium: **The Contributions of Henry George**

Organized by **Bill Batt**, Albany, NY and **Joshua Farley**, University of Vermont

Henry George's ideas were the culminating figure of 19<sup>th</sup> century classical economics, which recognized land as a distinct and separate factor of production. By this was meant not just surfaces of the earth but all resources of nature – air, water, earth, oil and minerals, the electromagnetic spectrum, orbits, and even, on occasion, time. Neoclassical economics has subsumed all this into two factor theory based on labor and capital. Renewed attention to Georgist ideas has come not only as neoclassical economics fails but also because growing computer power and data make it possible to test and validate its approach.

There is a natural compatibility and affinity between Ecological and Georgist Economics which adherents in both camps are coming to recognize. A paper first presented at the USSEE Saratoga Springs conference in 2003 is accessible on one Georgist website: <http://www.schalkenbach.org/library/SaratogaBatt.pdf> and the Daly and Farley Ecological Economics text also takes note of links. The presentations by several Georgists, some of whom also see themselves as Ecological Economists, are offered in hopes of bringing these two schools into a closer understanding and relationship.