

THE QLF ALUMNI CONGRESS

Day Three 4 APRIL 2006

Bükk National Park, Lillafüred, Hungary

THE THIRD DAY OF THE CONGRESS consisted of the Stewardship Workshop and an Awards Presentation at night.

The Stewardship Workshop was Co-Directed by Jessica Brown, QLF Vice President, International Programs and Brent Mitchell, Vice President, Stewardship and based on their effective approach to sharing informa-

tion leading to the stewardship of our natural and cultural resources. The Workshop was designed to explore new directions in nature conservation, sustainable community development, and cultural heritage through group discussions and case study presentations by alumni and participating partners.



Bükk National Park

The Stewardship Workshop

Brent Mitchell, QLF Vice President, Stewardship

Jessica Brown, QLF Senior Vice President, International Programs

What do new marine reserves in Belize, archaeological sites in Israel and Palestine, heritage rivers in Canada, and rural Carpathian landscapes have in common? All have people striving to manage and protect them. And many of them are QLF alumni.

One of the three objectives of the Congress was to provide QLF alumni and partners an opportunity “to discuss issues in common based on a global stewardship theme.” An underlying assumption in much of QLF’s work to promote conservation through exchange of experience—first intra-regionally in Canada and the US, inter-regionally in North America, and ultimately internationally — is that there are certain fundamental universalities in the balance of people and nature. This objective was an important bridge between the other two objectives of the Congress: to meet each other across four continents and thirty countries, and, hopefully, to find new ways of working together, either through QLF or directly.

We chose stewardship as an organizing theme because as a concept it can cover a wide range of activities to understand, protect and enhance cultural and natural heritage. As we define it, “efforts to create, nurture

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and enable responsibility in landowners and resource-users to manage and protect land and its natural and cultural resources,” it guides much of what QLF seeks to do in the Atlantic Region and internationally.



Greg Cranna

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The Stewardship Workshop was designed to bring out the best thinking on trends and needs in six thematic streams:

- *New Directions in Protected Areas: Protected Landscapes and Partnership Parks*
- *Individual Responsibility: Private Land Stewardship*
- *Local Stewardship: Community-based Natural Resource Management*
- *The Nature in Us: Cultural Heritage and Communities*
- *Our Living Planet: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation*
- *Engaging the Next Generation: Environmental Education*

Through the workshop, we sought to draw on the rich diversity of experience and regions represented at the Congress to explore new directions in stewardship. The six concurrent workshop sessions were intended to provide a forum for Congress participants to:

- Share examples of best practice and innovative work in the broad area of stewardship;
- Discuss the strengths and challenges of these approaches while teasing out some common threads; and
- Explore opportunities to work together.

Quite simply, we wanted to foster an exchange of experience and ideas. With so many people from so many varied places and just one day, a mechanism was required

to allow meaningful conversations to take place in these thematic areas. Dividing the day into six streams ensured that each workshop group would have about 20 participants. QLF staff took the lead as focal points for each session and worked with presenters in advance to ensure that the agenda for their sessions would reflect the diverse experience of our alumni and partners.

Each of the workshops was designed to be participatory, combining presentations with interactive elements, including working groups and discussions. Case-study presentations were kept short to allow time for discussion in break-out sessions about dealing with challenges and forging new partnerships. Each workshop was actively facilitated by the stream leaders, who had been given a brief training in facilitation by Delia Clark. As with past workshops we have convened, presenters were asked to address several pre-workshop questions, to form the basis for discussion in small groups. Workshop participants considered the following three questions, which cut across all the workshop streams:

- Fostering participation and civic engagement in conservation
- How stewardship approaches contribute to building/strengthening civil society
- Crossing boundaries (geographic, cultural or between disciplines)

To maintain continuity, alumni were asked to remain in their chosen stream, and not drift between sessions. A small subgroup were given all materials and allowed to visit all the workshops, though many of these found the sessions compelling and stayed with one or two streams. Indeed, the only criticism heard of the workshop was that people would have liked to have experienced more than one, if time had allowed!

In several of the streams, participants received advance materials—papers and books—that allowed for advance preparation or subsequent study. A list of all presenters and abstracts is available on <http://www.qlf.org>

To give all participants a sense of all six workshop streams, volunteers gave brief summary reports in plenary session the next day. These ranged from reportage to creative expression. The group on Cultural Heritage presented a quilt they had created with patches expressing their individual and collective sense of cultural heritage

conservation and QLF's role in this field.

Space does not allow details of the discussions of the six workshops, but all were described as being full of energy, of “A-Ha” moments when participants made new conceptual connections, and inspiration at what others are doing against difficult obstacles. Many participants made plans to continue communications and interactions after the workshops, either through QLF or directly, with several joint project ideas hatched.

The Stewardship Workshop was a success thanks to the focal points, scribes, presenters and all participants who shared their experience, insights and questions so willingly and enthusiastically.

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The Six Stewardship Workshop Streams

I. New Directions in Protected Areas: Protected Landscapes and Partnership Parks

Focal Points:

Jessica Brown, Senior Vice President, International Programs, QLF
Abi Rome, Natural Areas Association

New Kinds of Protected Areas

Building Social and Technical Leadership to Integrate Community Values with Conservation Efforts in Protected Areas: Experience from the Huascaran Biosphere Reserve, Peru

Miriam Edith Torres Angeles, *The Mountain Institute – Andean Program, Peru*

National Heritage Areas: An Emerging Protected Area Model in the US (or...Sometimes Old Dogs Can Learn New Tricks)

Phil Huffman, *Conservation Consultant, USA*

The Protected Landscape Approach in Ilhabela State Park, SP, Brazil: Implementing Management through a Participatory Process

Marilia Britto de Moraes, *Ilhabela State Park, Brazil*

Protected Areas and Civil Society Development: An Overview from Romania

Laszlo Potozky, *Environmental Partnership Foundation of Romania, Romania*



Brent Mitchell

The Yungas Biosphere Reserve Puzzle: Half the Pieces are Falling into Place

Lucio Ricardo Malizia, *Fundación ProYungas, Argentina*

Crossing Boundaries in Protected Areas Management

Management and Protection of a Trans-boundary Area: Skadar Lake, Montenegro and Albania

Snezana Dragojevic, *Regional Environmental Center – Skadar Lake Program, Serbia and Montenegro*

The Work of TRIGOH in the Gulf of Honduras: A Model of International Cooperation in Managing Protected Areas

Hugo Hidalgo, *Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación FUNDAECO, Guatemala*

Group discussion: Elements of the Protected Landscape Approach

Jessica Brown, *QLF/Atlantic Center for the Environment (USA)*

Engaging Communities and Building New Partnerships

Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia: A Public/Private Partnership for Park Protection

Stephanie Clement, *Friends of Acadia and David Manski, Acadia National Park, USA*

Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust - Building capacity for Natural and Cultural Heritage Conservation in the Blue and John Crow Mountains National Park

Susan Otuokon, *Jamaica Conservation and Development Trust, Jamaica*

National Parks of Egypt: Experience with Marine Protected Areas

Yasser Saied, *Red Sea Marine Parks, Egypt*

Civil society participation in the design and monitoring of protected areas in the British Virgin Islands

Joseph Smith Abbott, *British Virgin Islands National Parks Trust*

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Workshop Stream on New Directions in Protected Areas: Protected Landscapes and Partnership Parks

Jessica Brown and Abi Rome

Worldwide, conservation strategies are becoming more inclusive, recognizing natural as well as cultural values, encompassing the interests of local communities, and



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Brent Mitchell

relying on collaborative management among different stakeholders. In this workshop we drew on experience from diverse regions to explore how these new directions in conservation are being expressed in parks and protected areas. We considered the implications of more inclusive and participatory management models, and discussed the need to balance biodiversity conservation with conservation of other natural and cultural values. We explored the idea of “crossing boundaries” in protected areas management – between geographic regions, disciplines and institutions.

From the very start of this session, when each of us introduced ourselves by describing a special landscape, to the closing when we shared our “aha” moments from the day's discussion, this workshop group was highly engaged. Coming from places as different from each other as Peru, Romania and New England, the participants in this workshop brought to a rich diversity of experience with protected areas, and this greatly enriched our discussions.

During the workshop, we heard presentations from 10 QLF alumni. For example, Phil Huffman spoke of the importance of civic engagement in the emerging network of U. S. National Heritage Areas, such as the Blackstone River Valley. In a joint presentation Stephanie Clement and David Manski, both of Maine (USA), described the



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partnership between Acadia National Park and Friends of Acadia. Presenting experience from the Yungas Biosphere Reserve in Argentina, Lucio Malizia offered his view of landscape-scale conservation as a spatial puzzle and shared the strategies his organization and its partners are using to protect this vast area of cloud forest. Snezana Dragojevic of Montenegro explained the techniques used by her organization to bring together conservation interests on both sides of the Albanian-Montenegrin border toward sound management of Skadar Lake, a trans-boundary protected area.

The agenda included several opportunities for small group discussions and facilitated exercises, during which workshop participants considered questions such as:

- How can we sustain traditional connections to the landscape?
- How can we build strong partnerships between institutions for management of protected areas?
- How can we foster civic engagement and public participation in conservation?
- How can we more effectively link conservation of natural and cultural values?
- How can we foster support effective trans-boundary cooperation?

Closing discussions noted the importance of a holistic approach to conservation, one that encompasses all the values of a given place — scenic qualities, environmental benefits and cultural heritages, as well as biodiversity. As one participant noted, “people protect what they love.”

II. Individual Responsibility: Private Land Stewardship

Focal Point:

Brent A. Mitchell, Vice President, Stewardship, QLF

Private Reserves and Protected Areas

Private Land Stewardship in Paraguay

Dr. A. Alberto Yanosky E, Guyra Paraguay

The Nature Trust of New Brunswick: A Provincial Land Trust with Local Roots and International Contacts

Margo Sheppard, Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Canada

Ya'axhe Conservation Trust

Bartola Teul, Golden Stream Conservation Project, Belize

Czech Land Trust Movement 1998-2006 – Achievements and Challenges

Ladislav Pracek and Vaclav Izak, Czech Union for Nature Protection, Czech Republic

Support for Conservation on Private and Public Lands

Private Conservation and Financing in the United States

James N. Levitt, Program on Conservation Innovation, US

Protected Nature and Landscape in Southern Europe: A Social Approach

Miquel Rafa, Foundation for Land and Landscape, Caixa Catalunya Bank, Catalonia, Spain

Important Bird Areas: A Network for Sites and People

Szabolcs Nagy, European Office, Birdlife International, Netherlands

Small Group Exercise

Delia Clark, Director of Community Engagement, USA (facilitator)

Private Approaches to Public Protected Areas

Green Belt Initiative: Opportunities for Private Land Conservation in Bulgaria

Petko Tzvetkov, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation

Private and Social Instruments for Land Conservation in Mexico

Dr. Flavio Cházaro Ramirez, National Commission for Natural Protected Areas, Mexico

Associação Mico-Leão-Dourado (Golden Lion Tamarin Association)

Denise Marçal Rambaldi, Golden Lion Tamarin Association, Brazil



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Brent Mitchell

private land conservation. They expressed a need for working examples to prove that such incentives can work. Another participant was interested in the role of government in providing conditions to encourage private stewardship. He saw opportunities for bringing professionals together from different countries to get governments to talk, and to challenge them. “Mexico is doing this, why aren’t we?!”

Many of the QLF alumni presenting were central or instrumental in introducing new private land conservation initiatives in their countries. Many of these were dubious at first, indicating that private approaches like land trusts are fine for the United States, but would not work in their contexts. But their subsequent work—illustrated in the presentations—proved that there is opportunity everywhere if, as one presenter put it, “people want it enough.”

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CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Individual Responsibility: Private Land Stewardship

Brent Mitchell

In much of the world, private approaches to land conservation are growing, and growing fast. Private land stewardship takes many forms, reflecting the social and economic conditions in which they are found. Generally it is most developed in countries with secure land tenure systems that allow private ownership. Though historical precedents are ancient, especially among the wealthy and powerful, systems of private protected areas are a relatively recent phenomenon, and it is logical to assume that private reserves and other expressions of private land stewardship will increase in number and geographic reach if land tenure systems continue to formalize and liberalize around the world.

In this session, we explored private land stewardship in ten countries on three continents. Experience ranged from the new (the Greenbelt Initiative in Bulgaria) to the well-established (Private Reserves of Natural Heritage in Brazil).

The value of information exchange was frequently cited. For example, one of the newer projects is working on an amendment to tax law to introduce incentives for



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Greg Cramma

III. Local Stewardship: Community-based Natural Resource Management

Focal Points:

Marcy Lyman, Director
Community-based Natural Resource Management Program, QLF
Barbara Wyckoff-Baird, Dynamica Coaching & Capacity Building (U.S.)

Local Stewardship: CBNRM

Barbara Wyckoff-Baird – Dynamica

The Port Honduras Marine Reserve: A Co-Managed Marine Protected Area

Wil Maheia - Toledo Institute for Development & Environment



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Participatory management of watersheds in the PicoBonito, National Park in Honduras

Khamila O'Reilly Becerra - Foundation for Pico Bonito National Park (FUPNAPIB).

Sustainable Rural Development Centres in Liberec region

Blazena Husková - Jizerske hory Public Benefit Corporation

GIS Tools for CBNRM: Case Studies from the Atlantic Region

Stephen Engle, Center for Community GIS, QLF

VISION 2000: The Spark that Lit the Fire to Reclaim a Community

Alix Hopkins – Author

Community Involvement in Transboundary Wildlife Project

Gadó György – Freelance conservation work and filmmaking

Impacts of CBNRM: Lessons from the Atlantic Region

Marcy Lyman – Director, Community Forest Program, QLF

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Local Stewardship: Community-based Natural Resource Management

Marcy Lyman

Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) is about securing access to resources, engaging a community in the management of the resource, adding value to the resource and distributing the benefits of resource conservation to the community. We heard about projects and challenges in Belize, Honduras, the Atlantic region and the Czech Republic. We learned that partici-

patory mapping and film offer tools to engage local knowledge, encourage participation, communicate issues, and share information. We learned how local projects tap into the energy of a community with extraordinary results.

Several key concepts emerged during the course of the presentations and discussion.

- **Scale:** CBNRM builds on a sense of belonging and connection to place. It relies on pride, local knowledge, and common interest. It constructs a process that requires participation and offers ways in which people can feel and see that they have an impact.
- **Rights and responsibilities:** Fundamental to CBNRM is the devolution of authority and distribution of power. CBNRM is a process that requires facilitating discussion and communication. Successful CBNRM projects tap into community energy, are built on local capacity and provide training to support local leaders.
- **Value and benefits:** Successful CBNRM projects create a broad range of values including economic, social, ecological and political that are distributed within a community.

IV. The Nature in Us: Cultural Heritage and Communities

Focal Points:

Serena Etheridge, Director, Traditional Skills Network, QLF
Adrienne Blattel, Associate Director, Northern Gulf Culture and Heritage Program, QLF

Cultural Heritage and Landscape Conservation I

The Role of the Canadian Heritage Rivers System in Fostering an Ethic of Responsible River

Stewardship: Examples of Community Leadership in Cultural Heritage Management

Brian Grimsey, Canadian Heritage Rivers System - Parks Canada

Repairing the Urban-Rural Symbiosis in Vojvodina: Moj Salas and Via Pacis Pannoniae

Olivera Radovanovic, Green Network of Vojvodine (Serbia and Montenegro)

The Amber Trail: Tourism and Heritage in Central Europe

Jano Rohac, Amber Trail Greenway (Slovakia)

Partnership: Green Bieszczady

Przemek Oldakowski, Fundacja Bieszczadzka Partnerstwo dla Srodowiska (Poland)

Nina Galuszka Polish Environmental Partnership Organisation (Poland)

Cultural Heritage and Landscape Conservation II

The White Carpathians: Heritage from the Rural Region

Radim Machu, Veronica (Czech Republic)

Activities in the Protected Areas in Montenegro

Tatjana Rajic, EXPEDITIO Center for Sustainable Spatial Development (Serbia and Montenegro)

The Power of Networks: Building capacity and connections for cultural stewardship in Central Europe and New England

Jitka Doubnerova, Jizerske hory Public Benefit Organization (Czech Republic)

Stephanie Tuxill, Quebec-Labrador Foundation (United



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Brent Mitchell



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Bridging the Gap – Connecting Communities, Culture and Generations

Serena Etheridge, Quebec-Labrador Foundation (Canada)

Culture, Identity and Sustainable Communities Whose Story and What Story? Heritage, Identity and Communities

Adrienne Blattel & Candace Cochrane, Quebec-Labrador Foundation

Palestinian Territories; A Small Area with Rich and Profound Heritage

Haya George Helal, Palestine Wildlife Society, CHF International (Palestine)

Archaeological sites in Israel that were nominated as UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Carmit Pintz-Kedmi, Planning Department, Ministry of Tourism (Israel)

Sustainable Tourism as a Conservation Tool for Heritage and Environment

Qusay Ahmad, Via Nova Group (Jordan)

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The Nature in Us: Cultural Heritage and Communities

Serena Etheridge and Adrienne Blattel

Candace Cochrane, Director, Northern Gulf Culture and Heritage Program, QLF

Cultural heritage as an asset for economic development, historical preservation, environmental conservation and community empowerment was the focus of a very well-attended Congress workshop. Delegates from more than ten countries in North and South America,

Europe and the Middle East came together to present their individual projects and discuss ways to use cultural heritage to address a number of development issues. After agreeing to a useful definition of what constitutes cultural heritage, participants quickly discovered that despite geographic distance, they had many issues and stories in common.

One of the common threads to emerge was the value of traditions in linking generations and celebrating identity. The group identified the application of modern approaches to traditional culture as one way to keep culture alive and relevant, especially to young people contemplating a move to urban areas.

A second theme revolved around empowerment, including developing leadership, creating networks, and building local skills. Discussion also focused on economic opportunities related to cultural heritage, including sustainable tourism and craft production. An interesting tension was identified between tourism and cultural authenticity: how to maintain authenticity while meeting the expectations of tourists.



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Photographs by Candace Cochrane



To capture the highlights of the workshop, participants created a patchwork of ideas on squares of fabric that were stitched together to make a quilt. This quilt represented both the variety and similarities in approaches to cultural heritage and community development across continents.

THE CULTURAL HERITAGE QUILT

Adrienne Blattel and Serena Etheridge

At the end of the workshop stream on cultural heritage, participants crafted a collective quilt named The First QLF Alumni Congress, Stitching Together Cultural Heritage and Communities, The Nature in Us, Budapest, Hungary, April 2006.

Each participant inscribed a key thought or conclusion from the workshop onto a square of cloth, along with his or her name and country of origin. The squares were then brought back to the Quebec Lower North Shore where they were stitched together. The exercise served as an effective way to record and summarize key messages conveyed during the workshop stream highlighting the interrelated cultural heritage across countries. Each participant's message was sewn on each square of the quilt and presented to workshop participants at the end of the session.

This quilt initiative reflects commonality among diversity; that is,

diversity of QLF alumni represented at the Congress; and commonality of cultural heritage celebrated by colleagues and alumni from Atlantic Canada with our fellow alumni worldwide. The quilt is on display at the Quebec-Labrador Foundation office in Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

* * *

"Diversity of people and places — unity of cause," wrote Canadian participant Brian Grimsey on his quilt square, a concise summary of a universal connection of cultural heritage we celebrate and share.

Participants from Lebanon, Israel, Jordan, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland, Serbia and Montenegro, New England and the Quebec Lower North Shore of Canada each expressed their commitment to their work in cultural heritage. Haya Helal (Palestine, 2003) remarked, "I am amazed in our global commonality in culture and tradition. Thank you."



Candace Cochran

Linking nature and culture through landscape preservation was also an important theme. Many presentations focused on places where the land serves multiple cultural and economic purposes—some of which were conflicting.

FINAL REMARKS

Within the Congress atmosphere of mutual respect for diverse cultures, workshop participants were proud to present their individual work in their home countries and anxious to trade ideas and get feedback on a variety of issues relating to culture and health, economics, education, communication and conservation. Without dwelling on the cost of travel or the politics that build barriers to sharing cultural experiences, the participants could be heard commenting throughout the workshop: “Oh, I’d like to visit his project or her organization, see how that craft workshop runs, and what those nature trails are like. Wow! A camel trip across the Negev...!”

V. Our Living Planet: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Focal Point:

Stephen Engle, Director, Community Mapping, QLF

Conservation and Stewardship – Innovative Partnerships

World Wildlife Fund: Working with Business Partners to Preserve Biodiversity in Hungary
Ferenc Márkus & Márta Bera, World Wildlife Fund (Hungary)

Important Bird Areas in Lebanon: Key Sites for Biodiversity Conservation

Assad Serhal, Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon (Lebanon)

Conservation and Debt Reduction: Lessons from White Stork Recovery Efforts in Poland

Ireneusz (Irek) Mirowski, Foundation Ecofund (Poland)

Conservation and Stewardship – Crossing Institutional Boundaries

The Status of Biodiversity in Palestine

Dr. Abdel Fattah N. Abd Rabou, Islamic University of Gaza (Palestine)

New Approaches to Pacific Salmon Recovery

Rosemary Furfey, National Marine Fisheries Service (United States)

Natura 2000 in the Czech Republic: Building Government-NGO Partnerships for Establishment of Protected Areas

Petr Roth, Ministry of Environment (Czech Republic)

NGO Response

Mojmir Vlasin, CSOP Veronica (Czech Republic)

Conservation and Stewardship – Integrated Approaches

Working with Local Communities to Conserve the Marine Environment

Trish Nash, Marine Species At Risk, QLF (Canada)

Conservation Strategies that Change Lives: Challenges and Opportunities

Norma Ferriz, Pronatura A.C. Veracruz (Mexico)

“Cays” to Biodiversity Conservation on Islands

Kevel Lindsay, Island Resources Foundation (Antigua)

A Farmer, An Environmentalist, and a Regulator: Unlikely Friends – An Unlikely Dialogue?

Beth Sauerhaft, Environmental Protection Agency (United States)

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Our Living Planet: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

Patricia Nash, Marine Species At Risk, QLF

Three themes central to biodiversity conservation - innovative partnerships, crossing institutional boundaries, and integrated approaches were the focus of our group’s presentations. The topics ranged widely in both

geography and scope: non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working with business to protect significant habitats in Hungary, identification of important bird areas in Lebanon, conservation of the white stock and debt reduction in Poland, biodiversity in Palestine, recovering Pacific salmon in the United States, uniting NGOs and government in the Czech Republic to establish protected areas, involving local communities in monitoring marine species in Canada, conservation strategies that are changing lives in Mexico, island biodiversity protection in Antigua, and ways farmers, environmentalists, and regulators are protecting rural United States together.

Our group’s first discussion focused on the importance of communication. For biodiversity conservation, it is essential to clearly identify the issues and context. All stakeholders must be identified and involved early in the process. Trust, openness, compromise, and common language are fundamental to good communication; making assumptions, labeling, and negativity are counter productive. A mediator can be a helpful resource if dialogue breaks down.

Not all parties or countries are created equal. There is a misconception that developed countries have all the answers. In fact, many developing countries may have more environmental resources contributing to biodiversity. Developed countries have a responsibility to ensure biodiversity is conserved globally and that international priorities are balanced. Other inequities exist –governments may have access to resources that citizen groups lack,



Greg Cramma



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politically unstable countries can’t make allowances for nature conservation, and many sectors of the population have not been empowered with biodiversity conservation. Government control should be challenged.

Science plays an important role in biodiversity conservation by providing opportunities to share knowledge and experiences. Science is contingent on the collection of quality data, monitoring, ability to adjust, and review by others. Information acquired must be disseminated to all stakeholders including the general public. Non-scientists can also provide valuable information.

A common theme throughout the session was the ability to learn from others. Not all strategies or approaches will be successful everywhere. This is why local endeavours are so important, and why it is essential to determine the needs of local. Exchange programs, conferences and workshops are so important for sharing and acquiring knowledge.

Can regulation be successful? Costa Rica has used ecotourism to successfully conserve biodiversity and create constructive partnerships between universities, communities, and government. Costa Rica however is in a financial position to invest in ecotourism and market their successful initiatives. New Zealand has also used tourism to conserve its natural resources. Ecotourism has the potential to compromise the integrity of a country’s biodiversity. The ‘discovery’ of the Galapagos Islands has adversely affected its wildlife.

The presentations and discussions were inspiring and heartbreaking. Our group consisted of extremely passionate and dedicated individuals working towards the same goal but with differing socio-economic realities.



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There were tears, and hugs, and times of deafening silence but central to everything was the desire and need to work together — to share our resources and support each other — the biodiversity of the planet depends on it.

VI. Environmental Education: Engaging the Next Generation

Focal Points:

Michael Caduto, Storytelling and Activities for Earth Stewardship

Simone Hanchet, The Internship Program, QLF

Tom Horn, Senior Vice President, QLF

The Interactive Environmental Education Program in Schools

Ra'ed Abu Hayyaneh, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (Jordan)

Road Scholars and the Philosophy of Place

Leslie Van Gelder, Walden University (USA)

The UK Forestry Commission and Education For Sustainable Development

Sally York and Lucy Kirkham, The UK Forestry (United Kingdom)

Biodiversity Conservation - A Theme of

Environmental Education

Dr. Ya'el Gavrielli, Tel Aviv University (Israel)

Environmental Education in the Galapagos Islands

Monica Calvopiña, World Wildlife Fund (Ecuador)

Story-telling

Michael Caduto, Storytelling and Activities for Earth Stewardship (USA)

Environmental Education Programs at the Granby Zoo

Louise Labarre, Granby Zoo (Canada)

The Role of Wildlife Centres in Promoting Wildlife Conservation

Mounir Abi Said, Animal Encounter (Lebanon)

Planetary Coral Reef Stewardship: Hands-On & Virtual Education/Outreach Programs

Abigail Alling, The Planetary Coral Reef Foundation (U.S.)

The CO-SEED Environmental Education Model

Delia Clark, Co-Seed (USA)

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Environmental Education: Engaging the Next Generation

Simone Hanchet with Michael J. Caduto and Tom Horn

It is no surprise that a group of committed environmental educators should have a great deal to say about their life's work and should be quite at ease saying it. With professionals working in over ten countries throughout Latin America, the Middle East, North America and Europe on a diversity of projects and using a range of techniques, a remarkable degree of synergy emerged from the Environmental Education Stewardship Workshop. The group's immediate sense of community and hearty good humor was contagious!

This workshop revolved around three themes. First, participants shared their experiences. To shape this discussion, twelve presenters described their work, together highlighting the wide range of approaches to environmental education, including school-based programming, public awareness campaigns, place-based education techniques, and story-telling.

The workshop enabled participants to reflect on what is required for the success of their work. Three main elements emerged. Educators must possess a particular attitude and skill set, including a knowledge of conservation issues, passion, flexibility, creativity, energy, and, of course, excellent communication skills. Environmental education activities must be engaging, relevant to the learners, and fun. Environmental education programming requires adequate funding and staff resources, as well as access to educational materials and techniques. One overriding challenge shared by all participants is finding the time to accomplish their ambitious goals.

Participants next explored the challenges they face in meeting these needs, and used this discussion as a point of departure for addressing a final question: How can we as environmental educators help one another

Trust, openness, compromise, and common language are fundamental to good communication; making assumptions, labeling and negativity are counter productive.

er to accomplish our tasks? Here, general approaches as well as specific project ideas emerged. A network for further communication would benefit all, and QLF was identified as a potential medium for the further sharing of ideas, tools, resources, and inspiration.

All conservation efforts- including private land stewardship, protected areas conservation, natural resource management, biodiversity conservation, and heritage preservation-require effective environmental educators to transmit not only knowledge, skills, and approaches, but also a conservation ethic. An ethic can, we believe, emerge at a societal level if it is fostered among individuals.

When people make genuine connections with their natural environment, are given appropriate tools to understand and protect it, and are, above all, enjoying the experience, this ethic can emerge spontaneously. We can return to our respective countries and educational programs with renewed inspiration to foster this learning process as well as a deeper understanding of how our work connects to one another's and to the global conservation movement.



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NEWS COVERAGE

The Stewardship Workshop was also noted in the news as... Participants explored directions in nature conservation, sustainable community development and cultural heritage through group discussions and case study presentations by alumni and participating partners. Participatory conservation and civil society development were cross-cutting themes of the workshop. The breakout sessions offered the possibility to discuss challenges forging new partnerships and addressing other problems such as fundraising and NGO management. The participants also shared their experiences in advancing sustainable living and influencing public policy at the regional and global level.

Source: Public Affairs Office, U.S. Embassy, Budapest, Hungary
Both The Central European News Agency and METRO daily newspaper covered the Congress.

QLF BOARD OBSERVATIONS ON THE STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

Upon returning to the States, QLF Trustees shared with us their observations on the Stewardship Workshop. Some of those observations follow.



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QLF Trustees who attended the Congress provided additional comments. Clare McMorris (Alumna, Harrington Harbour, Quebec, ???) described the Stewardship Workshop and how that brought together alumni with common interests. In the workshop stream she attended, she described alumni from Argentina, Hungary, Israel, Belize presenting and sharing common interests and initiatives.

Kathy Olmstead noted the Congress accomplished QLF sharing models that work. She stated that QLF alumni are the future of the organization. Next, Kathy quoted from notes she recorded over the course of two days while Congress participants resided at the Hotel Palota, Bükk National Park, Lillafüred, Hungary.

Today we left the city of Budapest as floodwaters continued to engulf the shores and headed into the countryside. Two buses went birding at Kiskunsag National Park and two buses took a cultural heritage tour to Hollókő and Eger. I was in the latter group. There are two levels of experience—what we did and saw and where we went. The second is the people I talked to along the way as I asked each person how they have used their QLF experiences. I wish I had a tape recorder to preserve their

remarks. Today I spoke with Kevel Lindsay from Antigua, Carmit Pintz-Kedmi from Israel, Joseph Abbott Smith from British Virgin Islands, Lucio Malizia from Argentina, Miriam Torres from Peru, and Flavio Chazaro Ramirez from Mexico during our walks to and from historic sites. Noted in those conversations:

Kevel Lindsay (Fellow, Antigua and Barbuda, 1991) talked about the confidence he gained in coming to the U.S. where he was exposed to a big city. He now lives in Brooklyn. In his native Antigua what he learned through QLF validated the idea that people in small communities can have a say in their own future development. He had fond memories of Maine where people were friendly when he visited.

Carmit Pintz-Kedmi (Fellow, Israel, 1998) is now in the Israel Ministry of Tourism where she is working to attract tourists to rural areas where they are accommodated by local people and pick the fruits and vegetables on the farms.

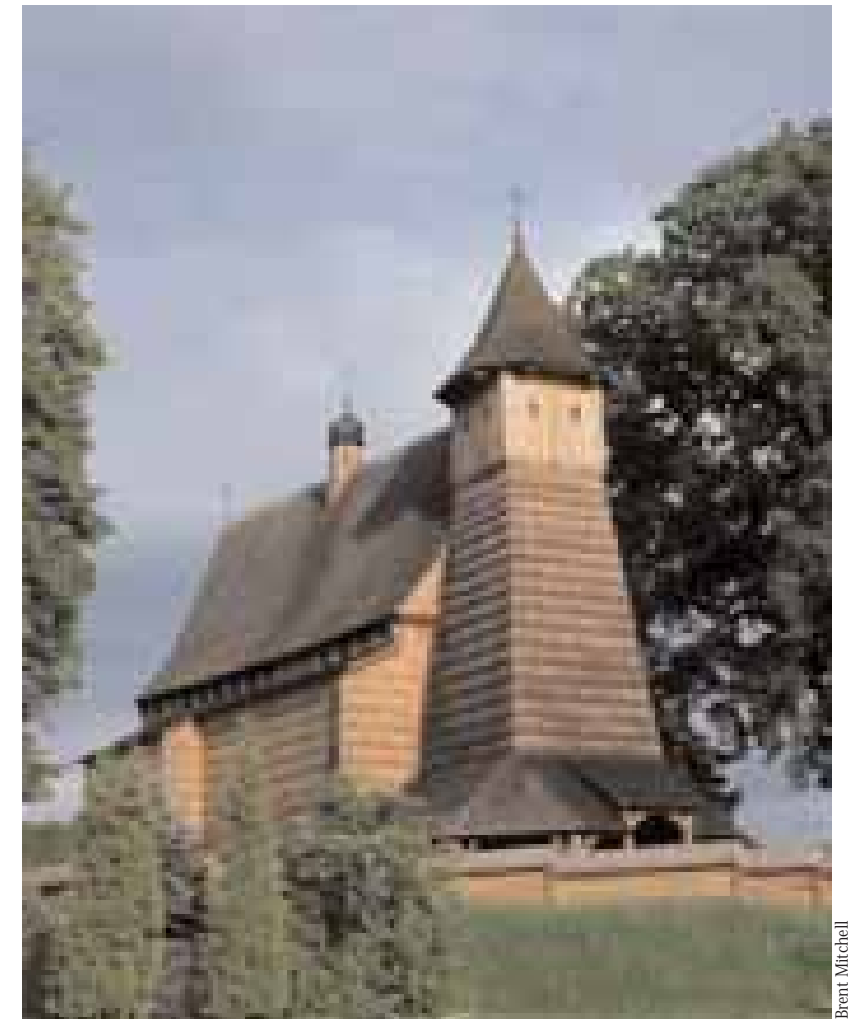
Flavio Chazaro Ramirez (Fellow, Mexico, 1997) indicated that because of his QLF experience things have changed and he has been able to achieve significant goals in land trust conservation.

Lucio Malizia (Fellow, Argentina, 2005) told us of his escape from his home at age eight after someone tipped off his father (a hospital administrator) that the Allende's people were going to come after his mother. They picked up and left and never returned. He became involved in conservation and works in San Salvador.

Randy Hack provided his observations stating the Congress was a "truly inspirational" four days. Mr. Hack continued and stated the Congress validated QLF's mission statement. He noted the individual determination, persistence, and energy. QLF, he indicated, has fostered these leaders, referring to alumni and staff.

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Markley Boyer noted the Congress participants were a group of "impressive and intelligent individuals." Dr. Boyer stated that is important that QLF take this event and continue with the momentum with an action plan to include tangibles.



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Brent Mitchell

AN AWARDS CEREMONY IN RECOGNITION OF OUR ALUMNI

The Awards Ceremony was held in the evening to celebrate the accomplishments of alumni. The spirit of the evening was one in which all alumni were to be recognized for their accomplishments in their community and their region. We therefore did not announce the 2006 award recipients of Atlantic Regional Awards and International Awards and instead chose to recognize past award recipients also present at the Congress. Leading the Awards Ceremony, Larry Morris told alumni, "QLF invests in you so that you can go out and make a difference." QLF awards are an affirmation of our commitment to our alumni.

We began with the **International Stewardship Awards** and called upon QLF friend A.D. Chandler (Appy) who gave an overview of the International Stewardship Awards the support of which is provided by The Boston Foundation, a U.S.-based foundation of donor-advised funds. The International Stewardship Awards, Appy stated, were established in 2001, to recognize and support innovative stewardship work of QLF alumni in each of QLF international region: Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Middle East. The awards reinforce QLF's on-going work to advance stewardship in these regions through training, institutional capacity-building, technical assistance, research and education.

Jessica Brown and Brent Mitchell introduced three alumni who are former recipients of the International Stewardship Award.



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Blazena Huskova, Program Consultant, Jitzerske hory Association, Czech Republic

Wil Maheia, Founder, Toledo Institute for Development and Environment, Belize
Co-Founder, Tri-National Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras, Belize
2007 Candidate for Prime Minister, Belize

Alberto Yanosky, Executive Director, Guyra Paraguay, Paraguay

Caring for the Earth Award

Larry Morris next called upon Alex Bielak to provide background on The Caring for the Earth Awards. Alex Bielak is a Member of the QLF Corporation & Trustee of the Cloverleaf Foundation. Grant support from the Cloverleaf Foundation to QLF makes it possible for QLF to provide the Caring For the Earth Award.

Alex explained that in an effort to acknowledge and commend the accomplishments of QLF alumni, the foundation wishes to recognize conservation leadership and inspire enthusiasm for continued achievement and success.

The President's Award

Established in 2002, the President's Award is a discretionary award of the QLF and designed to provide immediate response for alumni where support is most needed. Larry Morris then introduced the first recipient of The President's Award, Mounir Abi Said. Mounir is a 1995 Middle East Program Fellow who is a naturalist and wildlife conservationist. Mounir is noted for his field research and the behav-



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ior of the stiped byena (*Hyaena hyaena syriaca*) and for his work as the Director of Animal Encounter, wildlife education center in Aley, Lebanon, in the hills just north of Beirut.

Atlantic Region Awards and Recognition

Each year, QLF provides awards to QLF Interns working in the Atlantic Region: the Clive Wishart Award; the Josh Nove Fund for Conservation Internships, the Thomas C. Gray Fellowship; the Maple Leaf Foundation Award; and QLF Scholarships for students on the Quebec North Shore, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Maritimes. Since 1963, more than 1,200 scholarships have been awarded for students to pursue their high school education, undergraduate and graduate work in education, medicine, science, business, and law.

Larry Morris spoke of QLF's long-term partnership with the Princeton University and the Class of 1969 Community Service Fund established to support internships for university students. Some of Princeton University students who worked as Interns with QLF also attended the Congress: Constance Foster de Brun and Jenny Macaulay. Larry Morris then recognized Jenny Macaulay who won the Senior Thesis Prize in Canadian Studies at Princeton University. Jenny wrote her thesis on Asset-based Approaches to community development in rural areas based on her work as a QLF Intern on the Quebec North Shore.



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Later in the evening Larry Morris provides a Special Acknowledgments to QLF's Pioneers from the Atlantic region who attended the Congress. Each is among the first to initiate QLF community service programs and environmental education programs on the Quebec North Shore, Newfoundland and Labrador, and the Maritimes and include:

Rosemary Furfey
QLF Member of the Corporation
Living Rivers, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1976, 1979-1982
QLF Intern Coordinator, Ipswich, Massachusetts, 1980-1981

Jim Gaffney
Living Rivers, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1975-1977

John Gambell
Community Service, Mecantina, Quebec, 1966

Tom Horn
QLF Senior Vice President and staff member for 30 years
Ocean Horizons, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1975-1978
Ocean Horizons, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, 1979-1980

Phil Huffman
QLF Member of the Corporation
Living Rivers, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1978, 1984
International Regional Exchange Program United Kingdom/U.S., 1985
International Regional Exchange Program, New England/Maritimes, 1986

Clare Tweedy McMorris
QLF Board of Trustee (U.S.)
Community Service, Kegaska, Quebec, 1974



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Philip Nadeau

QLF Director (Canada)
 Community Service, Northwest River, Labrador, 1969
 Community Service, Danforth, Maine, 1970
 Community Service, Schefferville, Quebec, 1971

Walter "Sandy" Winans

Co-pilot for Bob Bryan, Harrington Harbour, Quebec, 1969-1970
 Community Service, Conche, Newfoundland, 1973-1975
 Grey Islands School, Grey Islands, Conche, Newfoundland, 1976-1977

International Fellow Pioneers

Anne-Seymour St. John, former Director of the Middle East Program and current Senior Program Adviser, acknowledged two of the first Fellows and Pioneers of the Middle East Program:

Assad Serhal, Middle East Program Fellow, 1993 and then Secretary General, Society for the Protection of Nature and Natural Resources in Lebanon

Ron Elon, Middle East Program Fellow, 1992 and then Field Guide and Educational Instructor, Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel

Jessica Brown acknowledged International Fellows Pioneers from Central Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean:

George Gado, 1990 participant in NGO Mgmt. Training Course in New England, and formerly with the Independent Ecological Center, Budapest, Hungary

Mojmir Vlassin – ADD HERE STEPHANIE

Kevel Lindsay, with the 1991 Fellowship in US, and with the Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua and Barbuda

Mirrian Torres, with the 1995 Latin America and Caribbean Fellowship in New England and with ProNatura, Lima, Peru



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Beth Alling thanked the Congress Team of Interns led by Congress Coordinator, Stephanie Tuxill, and Congress Fellows, Myles Lawler, Kate Cook, and Julia Judson-Rea. The team she indicated did an exceptional job with the meticulous planning of a program of this magnitude.

And finally, Larry Morris closed the Awards Presentations with a final thanks to QLF Alumnus Mike Waters, the graphic design artist for the Congress logo for all Congress printed material. In 1979, Mike Waters worked on QLF's Ocean Horizons Program, Fogo Island, Newfoundland.

Larry Morris then provided an final acknowledgment for two individuals who had stood the watch with QLF and as friends of QLF have demonstrated great commitment to the organization.

Since the late 1970s, Jameson French (Jamey) has served on the QLF Corporation and participating as a green business representative in the Special Session on environmental conflict resolution of QLF's Living Rivers Program. In 1997, Jamey French was voted to the QLF Board of Trustees, U.S.

Donald Clifford (Obie) is Head of the Executive Committee of QLF's Board of Trustees, U.S. Obie, Larry Morris stated has provided years of service and leadership to the Quebec-Labrador Foundation.

On behalf of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation, we extend our thanks to Obie Clifford for be there for us.

Heather Walter, QLF Alumna, songwriter and vocalist, videographer attended the Congress with her husband, Patrick McCloskey. In 2004, Heather and Patrick interviewed Congress participants and produced a video on the QLF Alumni Congress. Heather and Patrick previously produced a 10-minute video on QLF, QLF in the 21st Century. Inspired by the Congress and Larry Morris, Heather wrote this song and offered an impromptu accapella performance as the closing of the Awards Evening.



And the whole Congress crew
 What more can we say
 But a great big THANK YOU!
 And to our hosts from Hungary
 Here in this room
 We had a great time
 So we say, "Goosea-noon!"
 Signed, Linguistically challenged

Dear Larry, dear Larry,
 We're all gathered here to re-unite friends
 And to drink lots of beer
 We've come over land
 And we've come over sea
 But why, Larry, why
 Are we in Hungary?

Signed, Alumnae

And now we go back
 To our lives far and near
 We'll take what we've learned
 From our experiences here
 Now, let's start a petition
 Let's hold a rally
 To get back together
 Next year in Bali!

Signed, All of Us

Alumnae, alumnae,
 I'm glad you could come
 You're here 'cause we need you
 And we hope you'll have fun
 This Congress will help QLF move ahead
 But I warn you, you won't get much time in your bed!

Signed, Larry

Dear Desperate Alumnae,
 Sorry 'bout the hassle
 Your prayers will be answered
 When we get to my castle
 I know that you're weary
 And jet lagged and flustered
 But look on the bright side
 You've seen your first Bustard

Signed, Larry

Dear Larry,
 This Congress is quite a creation
 150 people from 30 nations
 From QLF's start on Quebec's northern shore
 What a gift to us all
 That you're now so much more
 Thanks for never giving up.

So to Larry and Beth



Photographs by Anita