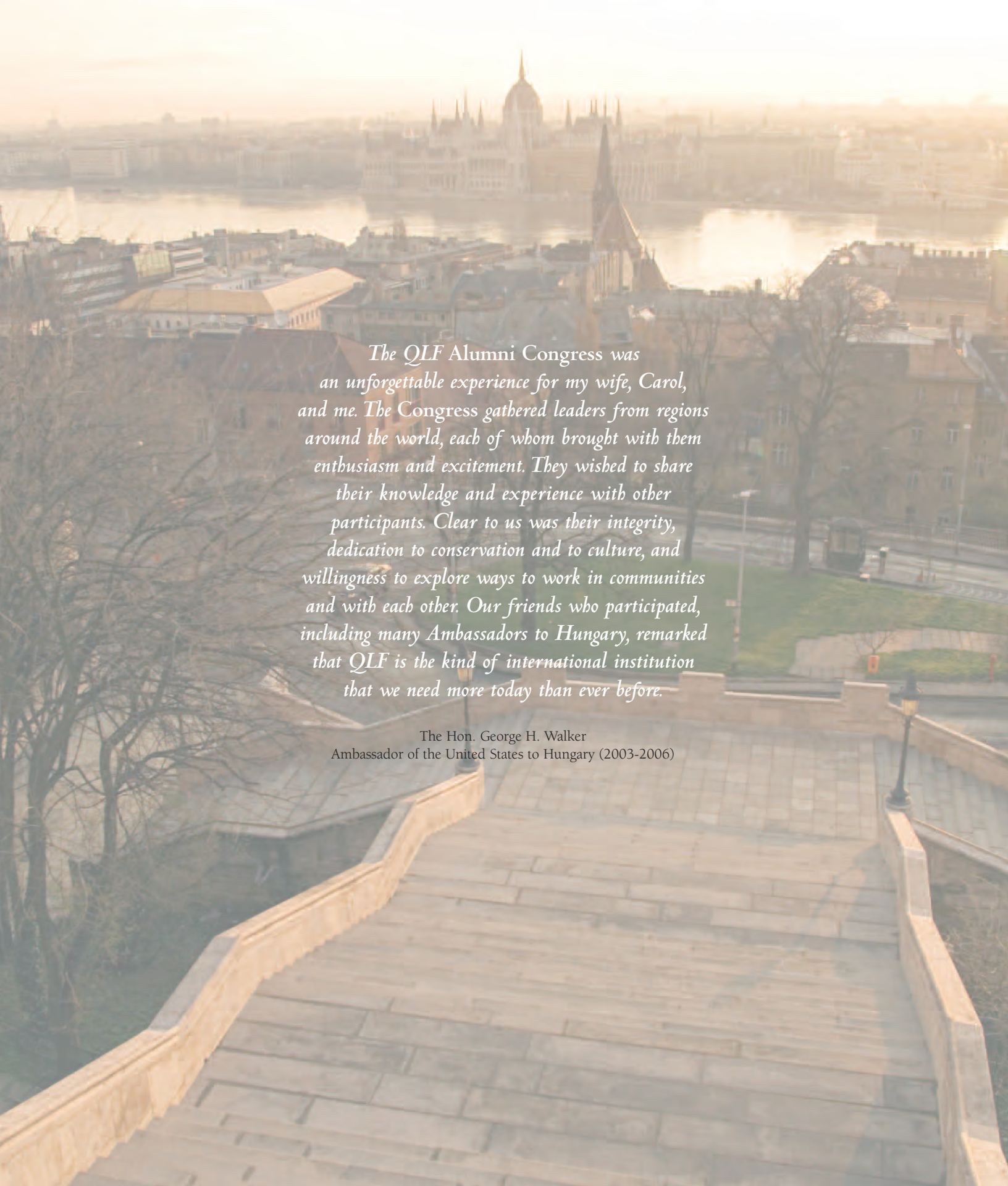




## *The First QLF Alumni Congress*

2-5 APRIL 2006





*The QLF Alumni Congress was an unforgettable experience for my wife, Carol, and me. The Congress gathered leaders from regions around the world, each of whom brought with them enthusiasm and excitement. They wished to share their knowledge and experience with other participants. Clear to us was their integrity, dedication to conservation and to culture, and willingness to explore ways to work in communities and with each other. Our friends who participated, including many Ambassadors to Hungary, remarked that QLF is the kind of international institution that we need more today than ever before.*

The Hon. George H. Walker  
Ambassador of the United States to Hungary (2003-2006)

## PROLOGUE

# QLF in Transition: Leadership for the Next 50 Years

*Excerpt from the Report to the QLF Boards in the United States and Canada by the QLF Futures Task Force and the Program Strategy Committee*

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1961 BY THE REVEREND ROBERT BRYAN, the Quebec-Labrador Foundation (QLF) has always included leadership as a key element of its mission and operational strategy.

As a young man traveling by float plane to the (Canadian) North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence — a place known as the *Quebec-Labrador* — Bob Bryan demonstrated his own extraordinary ability to act as a leader. Working in the tradition of Dr. Wilfred Grenfell, Bob opened doors and hearts in small fishing communities throughout the region, bringing friendship, his remarkable talents as a clergyman, and the idea that the children in these communities should benefit from a new generation of community services. Indeed, Bob's work soon became widely recognized as an extraordinary, exemplary model. Soon Bob inspired young men and women to follow his example. Initiating many decades of

work to train a new generation of leaders throughout New England and Atlantic Canada, Bob led eager high school and college students to the North to teach swimming and provide recreational opportunities. He furthermore began, through QLF, to provide scholarship funds to hundreds of promising young people from the North, giving them the opportunity to study and develop their own leadership skills.

By the 1970s, with the added energy of senior staffers Larry Morris, Tom Horn, and Kathy Blanchard, QLF and its Atlantic Center for the Environment worked with interns and Fellows throughout the region to foster a deep respect, grounded in local culture, for the natural environment. Indeed, QLF Internships, Fellowships, scholarships, and staff assignments have been instrumental in training a remarkable set of women and men who are today mature leaders in conservation and community development throughout the Atlantic Region and beyond.

By the early 1980s, the energy and talent of a new group of senior staff members such as Dart Thalman, Jessica Brown, and Brent Mitchell allowed QLF and the

Atlantic Center to build leadership capacity even further afield. Through international exchange programs, study tours, and professional meetings in such regions as the Caribbean and Europe, QLF offered fledgling conservation and cultural heritage organizations an opportunity to share knowledge and build long-standing relationships across geographic boundaries, and across the public, private, and not-for-profit/non-governmental sectors. The long-term impact of these exchanges is only now becoming fully apparent as the then-fledgling organizations have evolved into leading national organizations in their practice areas.

As we enter the twenty-first century, QLF, with fresh energy from Beth Alling, is pushing the organization's



QLF Founder Robert A. Bryan with first volunteers, Harrington Harbour, Quebec, Canada, 1961

QLF Archives





Photographs left to right: QLF Archives

Left: QLF Canadian Director Philip Nadeau as a volunteer on the Quebec North Shore, 1969  
Middle: QLF Volunteer Lisa Rimmer (Quebec North Shore, 1973 and Newfoundland, 1974). Each year, QLF awards a memorial scholarship in Lisa's name to students from the Atlantic Region.  
Right: Robert Bolling, on left, (Alumnus 1981 and Member of the QLF Corporation) with fellow staff at the *Living Rivers Program*, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1981

work to a new level in its efforts to convene leaders from four continents in the fields of community-based conservation and development to share best practices and emerging innovations. The first QLF *Alumni Congress*, held in Budapest and Bükk National Park in Hungary, was notably successful in this role, and will be followed up with similar efforts in years to come.

As we look ahead, QLF appears to have a rich field of opportunities in which to build on this tradition of leadership. Collectively, the members of the QLF Futures Task Force and the Program Strategy Committee believe that QLF should continue to aim high in the 21st century,

extending our exceptional tradition of leadership development.

QLF's second fifty years should be characterized by a new generation of stories that tell of our abilities to: act as leaders in community service and community-based conservation and development throughout the Atlantic Region; train a new generation of leaders that will shape the lives of its communities in decades to come; build leadership capacity across a wide geographic range; and convene leaders from around the globe who have been touched by QLF's extraordinary programming.



QLF Archives

Members of the U.S./U.K. Conservation Exchange during a field trip to Maine, 1986. Left to right: Kerry Lothian Dennis, Diane Hewlett Lowrie, Jessica Brown, Lucy Bonner Kirkham, Sally York Smith, and Phil Huffman



Candace Cochrane

QLF Corporation Member Rosemary Furley, as a member of the *Living Rivers Program*, leads a field trip of QLF Board members, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1976.





QLF Founder Robert A. Bryan and young friends, St. Mary's Island, Quebec, 1985



QLF Intern Marisol Ayala from Guatemala conducting waterfowl research, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 2006

## The QLF Family

What QLF Interns and Volunteers have received by way of experience, friendship, and connection to place during their respective time with the organization has forged a relationship that endures for life. QLF simply provided the platform. Our alumni did the rest and remain grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Many International Conservation Fellows who visited North America for the first time through their QLF exchange have also been affected in much the same way as their QLF Intern and Volunteer “cousins.” ALL are considered alumni. As Haya Helal, a Palestinian alumna who attended the *Congress* said, “The QLF experience *never ends!*”



Left to right: QLF Interns Holly Robertson, Lillian Harris, and Michele Abbene visit the Atlantic Salmon Federation, St. Andrews, New Brunswick, 2006

That is the simplicity, indeed the magic, of what QLF is all about. The loyalty to QLF engendered in our alumni, whether North American or from a country overseas, is based upon the power of *relationship*. That relationship explains the durability of QLF and, in doing so, defines it. The word “family” is often used to describe how one connects to QLF. Today it is strength of family that drives the QLF global network.

Every year scores of recent interns, volunteers, and international Fellows take their respective places in the QLF “long green and blue line.” The organization becomes *theirs*. The influence of the QLF experience on our alumni is as varied as it is profound. How do we know? They tell us, as they did at the *Congress*. We tell them that the reputation of QLF is based upon their hard work, their service, and their commitment.

In the aftermath of the *Congress*, the QLF fire burns brightly in North America and now in dozens of countries overseas. We at QLF are the stewards of the flame.

In the “flat” world described by journalist and author Tom Friedman, we will need many more NGOs (non-governmental organizations) working across borders to link nature, culture, and community. Because of our alumni — the QLF family — we have nearly a half-century head start. The *Congress* was an effort to plan and to execute a bold new strategy, not only to meet the organization’s mission in the 21st century, but to make our world a better place to live for this generation and the ones to follow.



## THE QLF ALUMNI CONGRESS

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**Lawrence B. Morris**  
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*This is a special publication of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation commemorating the one-year anniversary of the QLF Alumni Congress. The Congress was the opening event in the 50th birthday celebration of the organization. This publication is dedicated to more than 2,500 alumni who have served QLF, and to the vision of QLF Founder, The Ven. Robert A. Bryan.*

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Gardens of the Lednice-Valtice Chateau, Czech Republic

Greg Granna



# Message from the Congress Director



Danube panorama, Budapest, Hungary

Greig Cranna

THE FIRST QLF ALUMNI CONGRESS WAS AN HISTORIC MOMENT IN QLF'S 50-YEAR HISTORY. We are pleased to present this publication on the one-year anniversary of the *Congress*.

The genesis of the *Congress*, from concept to reality, has an evolution consistent with any such ambitious undertaking: a little bit of luck; good timing; some wonderful friends who unlocked doors to make this happen; donors who believed; courageous attendees; and a hard-working group of QLF staff who never quit.

Let's start at the beginning.

## **BACKGROUND – The Link Between the QLF Mission and the *Congress***

The QLF mission statement is broken into two parts. The first focuses on our Atlantic Region (North American) model of support for rural communities and building local leadership. The second is defined by our 20-year-old sponsorship of international exchanges to connect regions

dealing with similar environmental, economic, cultural, and stewardship issues. This local/global connection has been a good one for us and makes QLF quite unique.

Over the last 20 years in the Atlantic Region, QLF has supported creative private sector conservation initiatives; for instance, the land trust movement in New England. In Canada, QLF has partnered with innovative governmental programs such as the Canadian Heritage Rivers System.

Similarly, our overseas visitors to the Atlantic Region have brought with them their own good ideas based upon their experiences and have shared them enthusiastically. One QLF International Fellow once told me, not entirely in jest, "The problem in America with your environmental movement is that you simply have it too easy — too much money, too many natural resources. It stifles creativity and ingenuity. We don't have such 'impediments.'" That in a nutshell is why QLF is involved with



Congress Director Beth Alling

international exchange. Let's get the best of both — from North America and from our overseas partners — and apply the combined solutions to problems that face us on scales large and small around the world. QLF alumni can be the agent.

### Why the Congress in Central Europe?

When I approached the United States Ambassador to Hungary, The Honorable George H. Walker, about the idea of the Congress, he immediately responded in his enthusiastic style, "Great idea, and, of course, you must host it here in Hungary!" That made sense and we hoped for a location in one of QLF's partner regions, one outside of North America. Central Europe has been on QLF's radar since 1985, when we were first supported there by the Rockefeller Brothers Fund. We now have Czech,

Slovak, Hungarian, Polish, Romanian, and Bulgarian alumni.

Thinking about the Congress from the standpoint of budget, those from the Middle East could travel to Hungary over far less distance and less expensively than to North America. All the while we would be sending a message that QLF was comfortable hosting the Congress outside of North America, thereby showing a little geographic humility and, more importantly, generating a smaller carbon footprint than we would by making everyone come to North America. As global citizens, we felt the first Congress should be outside of the United States and Canada. And it would be.

### The Congress Takes Shape

In the fall of 2005 the QLF Board of Trustees gave approval to undertake the Congress, subject to successfully raising enough money for the Congress in the few months remaining in the year, and meet a challenging budget. We called upon our constituents and friends to increase their normal year-end giving levels so that we could use the "extra" to conduct our proposed event. The strategy worked and the response was dramatic. The board was satisfied. The Congress was on.

Let me turn to the subject of QLF's Alumni whom I believe emphatically are the power and the spirit of QLF — past, present, and future. There is overwhelming consensus that the greatest strength of QLF throughout its history has been its cadre of volunteers, interns, and Fellows who have worked for five decades in every organizational capacity. QLF's Alumni number over 2,000 in North America and over 500 overseas. Many are involved in leadership positions in government, the environment, academia, business, law, and medicine. All alumni share the same spirit and feelings about QLF undiminished by time and geography.

At QLF we felt it was crucial at this juncture in our history to tap the enormous talents, energies, and wisdom



The Hon. George H. Walker, United States Ambassador to Hungary (2003-2006), was the host of the first QLF Alumni Congress.

Greig Cramma

*You Are Cordially Invited to Attend the  
QLF Alumni Congress  
2-5 April 2006*

*Tisztelettel meghívjuk a  
QLF Alumni Kongresszusra*

*Vous êtes cordialement invité(e) à participer  
au Congrès des associés de QLF*

*בלבביות הינך מוזמן  
להשתתף בוועידה ה-  
QLF Alumni*

*Le invitamos cordialmente al Congreso de QLF*

*نوجه لكم دعوتنا القلبية الى حضور مؤتمر خريجي QLF*

*Srdečně Vás zveme na kongres absolventů QLF*

Invitation to the QLF Alumni Congress (in seven languages)





Map by Stephen Engle

QLF Alumni at the Congress represented 30 countries and four continents. Green indicates the countries of origin of Congress participants.

of our alumni as we face the future. We came up with the idea of the Congress to do just that. We had five straightforward objectives:

- To allow alumni from all regions and representing QLF's entire history to meet one other (as they have so often requested);
- To provide a forum for alumni to discuss issues in common, in areas such as community-based conservation, cultural heritage, stewardship, and sustainable living;
- To gain alumni input to plan QLF's next 50 years;
- To foster an opportunity for alumni to forge alliances and working partnerships to address global concerns in ways that government alone cannot; and
- To recognize and celebrate QLF as it approaches its 50th birthday.

Our thinking was that the Congress would tie together all four of QLF's working regions: our home region in New England and eastern Canada (the Atlantic Region); the Middle East; Central and Southeastern Europe; and Latin America and the Caribbean.

*As global citizens, we felt the first Congress should be outside of the U.S. and Canada. And it would be.*

## The Congress Structure

The QLF Alumni Congress was constructed utilizing several interlocking components. Book-ending the main event would be pre- and post-Congress eco-tours in Central Europe to allow alumni from that region to share

what they do with QLF Alumni from other countries. The working centerpiece of the Congress was a Stewardship Workshop under the direction of QLF Vice Presidents Jessica Brown and Brent Mitchell. The workshop was divided into a number of thematic "streams," which are described later in this report. In addition, in order to weave in governmental participation, there were embassy receptions, other social gatherings, and a Congress banquet at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest.



Greig Cramma

The Hon. William Cabaniss, United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic (2003-2006). Ambassador and Mrs. Cabaniss hosted the Closing Reception of the post-Congress Tour in the Czech Republic.



Castle District, Budapest

Greig Cramma

With our alumni at the *Congress* representing 30 countries and nearly 50 years of QLF history—not to mention having many different backgrounds, interests, and experiences—it was clearly a challenge to frame the *Congress* to meet every participant's expectation. We did our best. And I would like to think that in the end we came close. Evaluations certainly support that claim.

### A FINAL THOUGHT

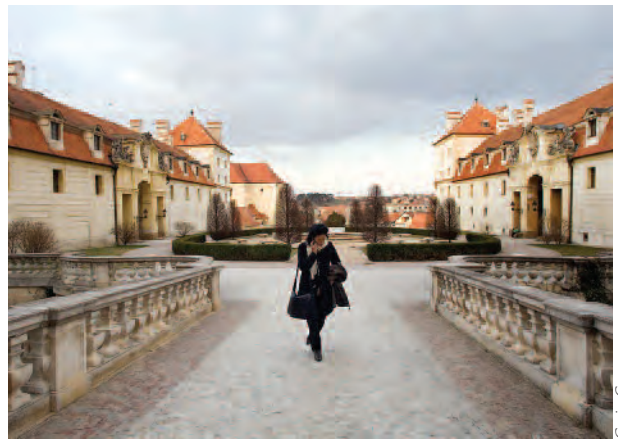
In the following pages, I hope you will feel the energy that came from the first QLF *Alumni Congress*. The event eclipsed the profile of any one organization and has had an impact even beyond what we anticipated. There were many *firsts*: the *first* meeting of regional and inter-regional QLF alumni; the *first* active participation in a QLF program by U.S. Trustees, Canadian Directors, and Members of the QLF Corporation; and the *first* organization-wide event hosted outside North America.

On all our minds, however, remains the question, "What's next?" What do we do with the energy generated at the *Congress*? How do we relate the *Congress* to QLF's future, its *next* 50 years? What changes must occur at QLF to embrace these new directions? That will be our task in the months ahead. We have made a good start

already. QLF President Larry Morris provides his own perspective of the *Congress* in his article.

For those of you who were there, I hope the following pages bring back fond memories of a very special time together. We are already talking about conducting the next *Congress* in five years. Until then we have much to do. In the meantime, enjoy the publication.

Beth Alling  
April 2007



Familiar scene: *Congress* Director Beth Alling working the phone

Greig Cramma



# QLF in Central Europe

Jessica Brown  
Senior Vice President  
International Programs

Brent Mitchell  
Vice President, Stewardship

QLF'S ATLANTIC CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT has conducted international programs in Europe since 1980, and has focused on Central and Eastern Europe since early 1989. We have developed our Central European Stewardship Program in close cooperation with partner organizations working at the local and regional levels, and with the Environmental Partnership for Sustainable Development (formerly the Environmental Partnership for Central Europe). Since the program's inception, several hundred conservation professionals and local leaders from both sides of the Atlantic have participated in our fellowships, workshops, peer exchanges, and community problem-solving exercises.

Our experience in Central Europe has demonstrated the value of exchange focused on stewardship in fostering innovative conservation strategies, building effective partnerships and coalitions, and strengthening the capacity of participating institutions. The stewardship approach, with its emphasis on encouraging private initiative and public involvement in land use decisions, has proven highly relevant to emerging strategies for landscape conservation in Central Europe. At the same time, these community-based, participatory



Fostering landscape stewardship (as here in Slovakia) has been the focus of QLF's work in Central Europe over the past 15 years, and now in the Balkans.

*The stewardship approach, with its emphasis on encouraging private initiative and public involvement in land use decisions, has proven highly relevant to emerging strategies for landscape conservation in Central Europe.*

approaches to conservation can contribute to building civil society in the region.

We started our *Central European Stewardship Program* with a primary focus on the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and the Slovak Republic (the Visegrad countries), with occasional participation from other neighboring countries (i.e., the Baltics, Ukraine, Romania, and Slovenia). Building on these accomplishments, QLF extended the program to Bulgaria, Romania, Serbia, and Montenegro. This expansion has been met with enthusiasm by our Central European partners and by new partners in the Balkan countries with whom we are collaborating.





Bükk National Park, Lillafüred, Hungary

Tamas Kerenyi

---

*A conservation 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.*

---

From the Stewardship Workshop Stream  
Environmental Education: Engaging the Next Generation  
QLF Alumni Congress



# The Congress as Acorn

Larry Morris

WITH THE ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY UPON US, I THINK BACK TO THE CONGRESS and to the small oak trees that were placed on each table at the inaugural dinner at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary. As you Congress-goers remember, the following day we carried the trees with us during the “get-acquainted” field trips. We wanted to plant them, “give something back,” and symbolize our hope and optimism for the Congress, QLF, and the future. The planting ceremony occurred at two different sites in Hungary and was even picked up by Hungarian television!

By now our saplings have taken root and, I’m sure, are doing well in their new Hungarian homes — Kiskunság National Park and Bükk National Park. Like our young trees, the spirit of the Congress will need nurturing in order to be sustained over time. And we are the Congressional gardeners.

Having seen and been influenced by Al Gore’s film on climate change, *An Inconvenient Truth*, I am reminded of the aviation fuel consumed back in April just to get our several hundred participants from 30 countries to Hungary and back home again. On the last day of the Congress David Murphy and Radim Machů (Czech Republic, 1997) came forward to remind us how *each* of us contributes to climate change. The two Congress participants went on to describe how, at a personal level through a multitude of small acts, we could redress the impact of our collective carbon footprint from the Congress. In fact, we were all told to go home and plant trees.

It would be wasteful at the very least to have returned to our places of origin with little more than good feelings to commemorate our time together. While being in Hungary was indeed very special, the Congress was, more importantly, a call to QLF for action! Attendee after attendee expressed a desire to work together in cross-

border collaboration, members of an international QLF conservation team. We are now addressing their wish in proposed follow-up activities.

Before getting to that, however, let me remind you what we said we wanted to accomplish at the Congress.

Quoting from the brochure and written well before the Congress:

*Just as 2006 will always be remembered as the Year of the Congress, looking ahead to what we need to do, and will do, first on the list is following up on the many good ideas that were advanced in Hungary.*

QLF wants to tap the enormous talents, energies, and wisdom of its alumni as we focus our vision on the 21st century. We will do that by convening the first QLF Alumni Congress, gathering the QLF clan from various parts of the world. The idea of the Congress builds on QLF’s greatest asset, its alumni, and will provide the game

plan for QLF to achieve its vision in the next decade and beyond in a world very much changed from the one in which we started. The gathering will set the stage for QLF’s 50th-anniversary celebration beginning in 2007.



Planting young oaks, Kiskunság National Park. Clockwise from top: Mounir Abi Said (Lebanon, 1995), Larry Morris, and QLF Corporation Members Julie Early (United States) and Dr. Alex Bielak (Canada).

*The Congress is intended to benefit community-based conservation efforts in all nations (connected to QLF programs), especially after delegates return to their home countries and regions and begin to implement the Action Plan developed at the Congress.*

A tall order indeed.

## EMERGING ACTION

Our new fiscal year at QLF began last September. Just as 2006 will always be remembered as the *Year of the Congress*, looking ahead to what we need to do—and will do—first on the list is following up on the many good ideas that were advanced in Hungary. We have already begun, to wit:

### Planning

- Follow-up individual meetings were held with Congress participants A.D. (Appy) Chandler and Jameson (Jamey) French (both members of the Congress Funder's Panel) to explore ways to keep the post-Congress fires burning. In an exciting development, Jamey French has agreed to join the QLF (U.S.) Board and will bring with him his considerable international business, environmental, and NGO management experience.
- QLF Corporation Members Alix Hopkins, Jamey French, and Appy Chandler helped Beth Alling organize a **September meeting in Maine of Congress alumni** from around New England to talk about follow-up action stemming from the Congress. Attendees included QLF governing board members, QLF staff, and a dozen Congress participants from Maine to Vermont.
- The Maine working group agreed that QLF's job post-Congress is to pull together a thoughtful strategy, inspired by the energy of Congress participants as well as QLF's long experience in rural community conservation and service. By doing so, we will streamline QLF priorities while building broad consensus among QLF's diverse constituencies, now from around the world. Jamey French described the effort as working from our strengths and consolidating what we do best. He coined the phrase to accomplish this, "getting to center."

## Networks

- At the Maine meeting, QLF Alumna Constance de Brun (now at the Trust for Public Land in Boston, Massachusetts) volunteered to set up an **interactive website** for QLF Alumni, partners, and friends (the *Online QLF Community*, as she calls it) that will provide a platform for information-sharing. The website will include a *Directory*, a *Forum for Discussion*, a *Calendar*, and a *Library*.
- QLF Senior Vice President Tom Horn has advanced a derivative concept, complementary to Constance's. Impressed by the depth of conservation expertise (natural and cultural) he observed in Hungary, Tom has proposed the creation of a **Global Community of Conservation Practitioners (GCCP)** network, modeled after *Doctors Without Borders*. Its elements would build from a QLF functional database (e.g., language skills, individual availability, professional talents, and expertise). The network would be framed by a statement of principles. From the GCCP would flow the Action Teams.

A QLF coordinator would manage the website and the Global Community of Conservation Practitioners, under the direction of Tom Horn, Constance de Brun, Beth Alling, and others. As Tom said later, "Think of all the skill areas that would be covered among those attending the Congress, not to mention *all* QLF Alumni!"



QLF's Senior Vice President Tom Horn and Magda Nassef (Egypt, 2004), Kiskunság National Park

Greig Cranna



- Related to Tom Horn's Global Community of Conservation Practitioners network and Constance's *Online QLF Community*, we are exploring specific projects to inaugurate the **QLF Alumni Action Team** concept — that is to say, bringing alumni from a number of different QLF regions together to work on projects in theme areas of land stewardship, environmental education, heritage, and wildlife conservation, among others.

### Face-to-Face Contact

- Jessica Brown participated in a Steering Committee meeting of IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas, held in Austria, followed immediately by a week-long workshop in Catalonia, Spain, on "Protected Landscapes."
- Meanwhile, Brent Mitchell was in Washington, D.C. in September, meeting on World Heritage nominations in the United States.
- A proposal is on the table to gather alumni face-to-face with *special* expertise and/or interests to discuss **QLF stewardship priority areas**, for example, bird conservation or heritage preservation. Joining these meetings will be QLF partners such as, in the wildlife example cited above, BirdLife International, to share ideas and plan strategies for action.
- Two **tours for QLF Alumni**, partners, funders, and friends (the QLF "community" to which Constance de Brun refers) are planned for 2008—one to Jordan (thanks to Jordanian alumnus Qusay Ahmad and his eco-tourism company, Via Nova). Qusay is determined that North Americans know that they are welcome in his country and elsewhere in the Middle East. He has the enthusiastic backing of his government, the Royal family, and Jordanian NGOs. The other tour will visit conservation efforts in Romania (part of the Central Europe stewardship region) and will include birding and kayaking in the Danube Marshes and Black Sea, visits to cultural and historic sites, and meetings with government officials and NGO representatives. It will be led by the first Hungarian-chartered ecotourism company, Ecotours, which did so much for us during the Congress.

Each trip will last seven to ten days to promote face-to-face contact with QLF Alumni. These tours will offer opportunities to keep us connected to our exchange regions and to have QLF alumni meet and learn from one another. Each trip planned for 2007 will involve spending time with scores of regional QLF alumni hosts and their families as well as representatives of government and NGO partners.

Please let us know by e-mailing Beth Alling (at EAlling@QLF.org) if you have an interest in joining us.

- We will continue our **regional alumni gatherings**, bringing QLF Alumni from each of our working regions together (as we have done successfully already in the last few years in venues in North America, Cyprus, Turkey, Mexico, and Hungary). *The regional meetings will culminate every five years in a QLF Congress.*

### Post-Congress Program Initiatives

- Executive Vice President Beth Alling and QLF staffer Julia Judson-Rea hosted conservation leaders from the Middle East last June. The exchange focused on building skills and learning new approaches in environmental conflict management.
- Senior Vice President Jessica Brown, Vice President Brent Mitchell, and their QLF team hosted conservation professionals from Central and Southeastern Europe to the U.S. in July on a Fellowship on Land Conservation and Stewardship.
- Overseas, we have been in close touch with our Lebanese and Israeli alumni looking for the best way to provide personal, organizational, and financial support for them in the difficult aftermath following the conflict in that region.
- QLF is supporting the research of Congress participants Dr. Helen Hays (American Museum of Natural History and long-time Sounds Conservancy grantee), and Argentinean Esteban Bremer (Conservation Agent and Park Ranger, Fundacion Vida Silvestre Argentina), in conservation efforts for Common and Roseate Terns at both ends of the birds' migration route. Congress-goers will recall the powerful presentation at the Congress by Helen and Esteban.
- Our *Leadership Program* (and newly piloted *Senior Fellow Program*) will expand beyond North America,



Congress participants on the Culture and Heritage Field Trip visiting Hollókő Castle, Day Two

Anita Szeicz

as part of the GCCP and Action Team concepts to participate in projects and assignments in *all* working regions.

### Investing in the Future

- In August 2006, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, thanks to the leadership of Congress participant Bill Moody, granted QLF a three-year grant to continue our program on stewardship in Southeastern Europe.
- In the fall of 2006, the Oak Foundation awarded a two-year grant for QLF's *Stewardship Program* in the Gulf of Honduras region.
- In the fall of 2006, QLF was awarded a three-year contract with the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the United States Department of State to assist in capacity building for emerging environmental NGOs in Syria as part of our Middle East Exchange.
- QLF Trustees are engaged in the process of assessing the geographic mix of programs and regions.

QLF's home region will always be in North America — New England and eastern Canada. Exchange regions, however, will continue to change — expand/contract over time — as new issues, funding, and opportunities arise.

QLF Trustee Randy Hack, after attending the Congress in

*The small oak that I planted back in Kiskunság National Park in April is one that I intend to visit again—a place for me to remember the Congress and a place to reflect on the progress that I hope QLF will be making as we attempt to meet the aspirations of the Congress.*

Hungary and meeting there with representatives from New England and eastern Canada, pledged afterwards to visit QLF's North American home bioregion in the summer of 2006. He made good on his pledge. He traveled to St. John's, Newfoundland (hosted there by QLF Corporation Member Susan Sherk), and then joined me in St. Anthony for a trip to Newfoundland's Northern Peninsula, the Labrador Straits, and the Quebec North Shore to meet with interns, volunteers, QLF's partner organizations, and to visit QLF programs. Randy sat in on meetings with our staff in Conche, Newfoundland; Main Brook, Newfoundland; St. Paul's River, Quebec; and L'Anse au Clair, Labrador — long-time QLF haunts. He met with representatives from Canadian government agencies with whom we are working.

It is important to note that Randy's trip was inspired by his participation in the Congress and his extensive interaction there with alumni and partners from around the world, representing each QLF exchange region as well as the Atlantic Region. Like Randy, the QLF Board members at the Congress, from the U.S. (six) and Canada (two), and QLF Corporation members (seven) returned from the April event engaged and committed to the 21st century mission of QLF.

In the future, we hope to see more of our governing board members and donors visiting program sites, joining QLF tours, and attending regional alumni meetings and conferences in North America and overseas.

We are in process of communicating "actively" with funders and partners who made the Congress a reality as we look for ways to gain their assistance in follow-up events and activities such as those mentioned above. Everyone agrees we need to move ahead in robust fashion before the Congress fades to distant memory.

### CAPTURING THE SPIRIT

In summary, we are taking methodical steps to unlock the potential of the Congress. Our strategy will be



premised on planning carefully (recalling the old adage, “measure twice, cut once”). Working from strength and in a modest manner, under-promising and over-delivering, QLF will move forward on projects; exchanges; internships; fellowships; tours; building new networks such as the Online QLF Community, the Global Community of Conservation Practitioners, or the QLF Action Teams; and providing financial support through mini-grants and bursaries to alumni and their work. Constance de Brun calls it “building community.” QLF Trustee Jamey French calls it “getting to center.” QLF Trustee Jim Levitt, while agreeing with Constance and Jamey, reminded the Maine group at the September meeting that building “virtual” community is fine as long as face-to-face opportunities among alumni and partners complement new and efficient electronic connection.

On other fronts, former United States Ambassador to Hungary George H. Walker has returned after a three-year tour overseas. In a meeting in Maine with *Congress* Director Beth Alling in late August, Ambassador Walker told her of his vivid memory (from the reception of



Julie Early and Philip Nadeau, Stewardship Workshop, Bükk National Park, Day Three

Candace Cochrane

*Congress* attendees at his home in Budapest on our last night) of Palestinian and Israeli alumni sitting and talking together about environmental common ground. Looking out from his porch, Ambassador Walker turned to Beth and queried: “The *Congress* was such an extraordinary event and is so much needed in the world today. When will QLF do this again?” Beth answered quickly and confidently, “In five years, Mr. Ambassador.” I applaud Beth’s thinking ahead and agree with her that the every-five-year *Congress* timing is appropriate. Saying that implies we have much to do, much ground to cover, between now and the next one. Henceforth, each QLF *Congress* must serve as a benchmark for QLF accomplishment and progress.

There will be a lot in the future on QLF’s plate: workshops, exchanges, meetings, projects, regional gatherings, exploring new regional opportunities, publications, new websites and other creative forms of electronic networking, Action Teams, new internships and programs, and tours for QLF constituents. QLF will continue to evolve as a leader in cross-border heritage and conservation partnerships.

Our expanded activities will take money and commitment, not to mention vision and a positive attitude — an attitude that I described to QLF Trustee Randy Hack last summer as a *glass half full* approach to problem-solving. Hasn’t that always been Bob Bryan’s style since the first days of QLF?



QLF Trustee Kathy Olmstead (left) and Rana Safadi (Jordan, 2004) at the Stewardship Workshop, Bükk National Park, Day Three

Candace Cochrane



Table setting at the Sunday evening banquet. Each place had a traditional craft representing one of the four QLF regions. In the center of the table are flags from participating countries and an oak seedling (insert, upper left) to be planted by *Congress* participants the following day at two national parks.

An appreciative nod as well to Ecotours for “herding us QLF multi-cultural cats” so efficiently for those days back in April. To all of you funders — individuals, foundations, and corporations — thanks for stepping up and for believing in such a scheme — the QLF Alumni *Congress*.

Well, my friends, it worked! Quoting Stephen Molson of the QLF Canada Board, “The event had a large attendance, was well supported, and a big success.” Don O’Brien, former board Chairman of QLF: “It is fair to say that the *Congress* exceeded our wildest expectations!”

All of us who attended the *Congress* are indebted to the leadership and vision of *Congress* Director Beth Alling and the indefatigable efforts of her staff, Stephanie Tuxill, Myles Lawler, Kate Cook, and Julia Judson-Rea. I commend as well Jessica Brown and Brent Mitchell and their network of international alumni. Jessica and Brent also quarter-backed the signature day of the *Congress* — the Stewardship Workshop.

Thanks to QLF governing board members, led by Chairman of the Executive Committee of the U.S. Board, Donald (Obie) Clifford. Obie was everywhere during our days in Hungary — participating in a press conference with Hungarian media to talk about the *Congress*; introducing his Yale classmate, Ambassador Walker at the opening night reception; representing QLF Founder Bob Bryan on several formal occasions; enthusiastically joining in the Stewardship Workshop and field trips; and speaking before the entire group at the close of the *Congress* in passionate terms about what QLF means to him. He rallied us all.

Finally, a nod to QLF staff and alumni who pitched in every way possible to insure the success of the *Congress*. I laugh even now thinking about Lebanese

### FROM LITTLE ACORNS...

The *Congress* was the right thing to do and last spring, despite the Danube floods, was the right time to do it. If we had waited until this fall, as many had advocated, the *Congress* would never have taken place, especially in light of what happened in places like Lebanon, Israel, and Gaza. The window of opportunity was narrowly open and we grabbed it.

Again, I want to thank our Hungarian hosts, especially our Hungarian alumni, in both the public and private sectors. A special thanks to Environment and Water Minister Miklós Persányi and Ambassador András Gulyás, Head of the Department of Foreign Affairs, Office of the President. I want to convey our deep gratitude to the many embassies in Budapest whose diplomats and staff participated throughout the *Congress*, representing the regions QLF serves.

I particularly want to thank Ambassador Walker and his hard-working staff led by Karyn Posner-Mullen (now reassigned to Washington, D.C. as Special Assistant to Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs, Karen Hughes) for their support. Thanks to my friend, Ray Kirkland, Regional Director of USAID in Budapest.



Alumnus Mounir Abi Said jumping behind the registration table to help a beleaguered QLF crew register everyone and get attendees their hotel assignments. Mounir's presence — and especially that big smile — was a wonderful welcome to many weary travelers just arriving to Budapest. I also recall, similarly, Senior Vice President Tom Horn planting himself at Ferihegy Airport outside Budapest as participants flew in for the *Congress* Saturday and Sunday, so as to have a friendly and familiar face there for the new arrivals. No complaining, he just did it, figuring that with 30 years at QLF he, as “Old Guard,” was a good one to recognize and welcome our alumni and friends, to make them feel comfortable so far from home.

Bravo! Thank you all, hundreds of you. Now please stay with us as the post-*Congress* work begins in earnest. We are developing a good strategy; will use our strengths; and will work together as we get to center.

The small oak that I planted back in Kiskunság National Park in April is one that I intend to visit again — a place for me to remember the *Congress* and to reflect on



Mounir Abi Said (Lebanon, 1995)

Greig Cramma

the progress that I hope QLF will be making as we attempt to meet the aspirations of the *Congress*. With your continued support, we will.



Members of the Environment and Landscape Stewardship tour conclude a successful planting ceremony, Kiskunság National Park, Day Two

Greig Cramma

# *The Pre-Congress Land Trust Study Tour in the Czech Republic*

## *Leading Up to the Congress*



Prague, Czech Republic

Elizabeth Alling

*Brent Mitchell  
Vice President, Stewardship, QLF, United States*

*In the run-up to the Congress, alumni from six countries and three continents visited land trusts in the Czech Republic at the invitation of the Czech Union for Nature Conservation. From 24 March to 1 April 2006, the group traveled through Bohemia and Moravia before ending in Budapest for the Congress.*

IN CONVENING THE ALUMNI CONGRESS, and thus bringing people from great distances to Hungary, we wanted to make the most of the investment of time and jet fuel. Thus, we organized a study tour in a neighboring country, including some alumni who would continue on to the Congress.

We have been promoting private approaches to land conservation in Central Europe since 1989. This work has had many impacts, but nowhere more significantly than in the Czech Republic, where a network of private land trusts has been developed, facilitated, and monitored by a National Land Trust, with several QLF Alumni playing central roles.

To further the development of the private land conservation movement, we hosted a study tour to New England for members and staff of the lead organization, the Czech Union for Nature Conservation, in 2004. Soon after, the Union (or ČSOP from its name in Czech) invited QLF to bring a group to witness its progress firsthand, to share insights and experience.





Conservation counterparts visited land trusts throughout Bohemia and Moravia before the Congress.

We assembled a group of conservation professionals from six countries and three continents to make a series of site visits of Czech land trusts. Participants included Margo Sheppard, Executive Director of the Nature Trust of New Brunswick, and myself from North America; and

Denise Rambaldi of the Golden Lion Tamarin Association in Brazil. Reflecting our priority to help national movements connect across international regions, we had two people from our partners in Catalonia—the Land Stewardship Network (XCT)—one staff (Hernan Collado) and a representative of a member organization, Guillem Mas. And, representing our European program’s strategic move to Southeast Europe and the Balkan Peninsula, a new partner, Stojan Radovanovic, joined us from the Green Network of Vojvodina, the northernmost province of Serbia. Three ČSOP staff—Václav Izák, Ondrej Fiala, and Jan Moravec—traveled with this group, rounding out the team.

Starting in the Czech capital, Prague, the group traveled to eight land trusts in six days, primarily those that had been represented in New England. The program ended with the annual meeting of Czech land trusts at the Moravian Karst Protected Landscape Area. The group



Prague Castle

A.D. Chandler III

soon realized that land trusts in the Czech Republic are very different from land trusts of North America or private reserves of Brazil. There is little philanthropic support for the conservation work of these NGOs, and most depend on a high degree of hands-on volunteer assistance. It is rare that private individuals donate land (though examples are growing recently), and most trust lands are either owned or, more likely, leased by ČSOP chapters, or managed through informal agreements. A key feature is much of the land that is a focus of the trusts requires active management, primarily mowing small fields to maintain rare orchids and other biodiversity. The land trusts work to maintain landscape patterns created by extensive agricultural practices abandoned in the modern economy.

The Catalan participants found the most in common with their situation. The XCT is continuing to promote



Land trusts work to maintain historic agricultural landscape patterns, abandoned in the modern economy.

A.D. Chandler III



Flooding during the study tour and the Alumni Congress

Brent Mitchell

voluntary stewardship efforts in a model suited to European traditions and legislation. And QLF is helping to foster a dialogue with its Czech counterparts.

As Margo wrote in her land trust's newsletter back in New Brunswick, "[G]reat things are happening. We visited land trusts that were operating tree nurseries, creating wildlife corridors, rehabilitating injured animals and stream channels, repairing old ruin foundations and creating public resting places. A land trust we called on operated a reed-bed sewage system for a village of 2,000.... The operations were varied, ambitious, and in every place we visited, run by people who had an obvious and deep commitment to their work and the mission of their organizations."

Even coming from a country as different as Brazil, Denise found that, "independent of the scale of work (it doesn't matter if [the goal] is to protect five or 5,000 hectares), the country, or the biome, the ideals shared by conservationists are the same. The objectives are always focused on the integration, quality and sustainability of the relation of man and nature."

All learned lessons. Interestingly, the Czechs have for several years required that land trusts be accredited by the National Land Trust, a process the United States land trust community has begun only recently.



# The Pre-Congress Alumni Gathering in Slovakia

## UNITED STATES EMBASSY RESIDENCE, BRATISLAVA, SLOVAKIA

ON FRIDAY, 30 MARCH, the United States Ambassador to Slovakia Rodolphe Vallee hosted a Pre-Congress Welcoming Luncheon attended by 12 QLF Alumni from Slovakia as well as QLF staff. The gathering was held at the U.S. Embassy Residence, Bratislava, Slovakia. Ambassador

Vallee embraced the Congress and the conservation and stewardship efforts of QLF Alumni in Slovakia.

We are grateful to Ambassador Vallee for his welcoming QLF Alumni and staff at the Residence and for his demonstrated interest and commitment to conservation.

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*I believe my primary mission is to bring Slovaks and Americans together. To bring them together around our shared goal of improving the environment is a special joy.*

---

Ambassador Rodolphe Vallee  
Ambassador of the United States to Slovakia



Ambassador Rodolphe Vallee hosted a luncheon for QLF's Slovak Alumni at the United States Embassy Residence in Bratislava, Slovakia. Shown here in a post-luncheon photo at the Teddy Roosevelt Collection at the Residence Library are Ambassador Vallee (center), joined by QLF Alumni and staff.



Brent Mitchell

Liptov region in the high Tatra mountains of Slovakia, site of a QLF Landscape Stewardship Exchange and home to several alumni. Protected landscapes can serve as models for sustainable development.

*With pre-Congress activities behind us it was on to the Congress!*



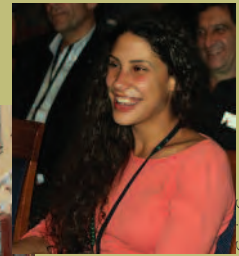


Greig Cramma

Larry Morris and Jim Gaffney (*Living Rivers Program*, 1975-1976) with Lipizzaner horse and rider, outside of Kiskunság National Park



Anita Szelcz



Greig Cramma

Above: Magda Nassef (Egypt, 2004)

Left: Paul Malik, United States Department of State with QLF's Anne Seymour St. John in Budapest



Map by Stephen Engle

Sites visited during the QLF Alumni Congress



Greig Cramma

Mike Waters (Alumnus, *Ocean Horizons Program*, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, 1979) and Brian Grimsey, Canadian Heritage Rivers System, Parks Canada



Anita Szelcz

Congress participants visit caves at Bükk National Park, Lillafüred, Hungary.



Stephanie Tuxill

Bartolo Teul (Belize, 2001) (left) and Wil Maheia (Belize, 1999)



Anita Szelcz

Joseph Smith Abbott (alumna, British Virgin Islands, 1997) and Leslie Van Gelder (Alumna, Quebec North Shore, Newfoundland and Labrador, 1985-1989)



# The QLF Alumni Congress

## Day One Sunday, 2 April 2006

### Connecting the Private & Public Sectors

THE NOTION OF BEGINNING OUR GATHERING IN A CITY seems contrary to QLF's historic work in rural communities. But with *Congress* participants traveling to Hungary from 30 countries, Budapest was the logical place to convene before we headed out into the countryside for field trips and for the Stewardship Workshop and substantive discussions in Bükk National Park. (Please note the map on page 22.)

It was exciting to witness the arrivals of QLF Alumni, governing board members, and friends at the start of the *Congress*. All those months of planning were now coming to fruition. Though many QLFers were exhausted from traveling long distances, old friends greeted one another with joy—some not having seen each other in decades.

We were assisted ably in all logistical aspects of the *Congress* by Ecotours Hungary, a Budapest-based eco-tourism company, the first and only one registered in the country. QLF staff had flown in several days earlier to prepare information packets and to check on details crucial to the success of the event. With participants arriving over a 24-hour period, QLF coordination teams were busy morning to night helping alumni and other *Congress* attendees settle at our hotel, the Hilton Budapest.

Registration began Sunday morning. Ecotours led an architectural tour of Budapest for those arriving early. More than 90 QLF Alumni signed on.



Anita Szetzy

Sandra Winans  
and QLF Trustee  
Jameson French



Greig Cramma

Anne-Seymour St. John, Senior Adviser, QLF Middle East Program, registers at the Congress with QLF's Myles Lawler



Greig Cramma

Mirek Kundrata (Czech  
Republic, 1994), host of  
numerous QLF study tours  
to Central Europe



Greig Cramma

Abdel Fattah Abd Rabou (Gaza, 2001) (left) with Paul Malik,  
United States Department of State



Greig Cramma

Idit Alhasid (Israel, 2003)

# Architectural Tour of Budapest

Bisected by the Danube River, Budapest unites the historic settlements of Buda and Pest. Buda is noted for its hills, including Castle Hill, which became the royal seat in the 13th century. Pest is flat and historically was a city of merchants and artisans.

The architectural tour began on Castle Hill, where our hotel, Hilton Budapest, is located. The panorama of the medieval walled fortress and historic city is recognized as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The royal palace buildings now house national galleries, libraries, and other cultural treasures. Opposite Castle Hill, lining the banks of the Danube in Pest, the World Heritage panorama continues with the Gothic Parliament building.

Another World Heritage site is Andrássy út (street), which links the center of Pest to Heroes Square.



Castle District



Greig Cramma

Left and above: The Fisherman's Bastion, built in 1905, is reportedly named after the guild of fishermen responsible for defending this stretch of wall from enemy attack during the Middle Ages.

Greig Cramma





Greig Cramma

Congress attendees visit Matthias Church, Castle District



Candace Cochrane

The Funicular Railway climbs the Buda hills.



Greig Cramma

Congress participants pause during the architectural tour.



Greig Cramma

The Gothic style Matthias Church is named after the Hungarian king, Matthias Corvinus, "Matthias the Just."



Louise Labarre

The memorial in Heroes Square



## PRESS CONFERENCE

Sunday afternoon, the United States Embassy Public Affairs Office arranged for a press conference at the Academy of Sciences to allow Hungarian journalists and media representatives an opportunity to learn about the *Congress*. Those interviewed were Ambassador George H. Walker; Donald Clifford, Jr., Chairman, QLF Executive Committee, United States Board of Trustees; QLF President Larry Morris; Ferenc Márkus, Executive Director, World Wildlife Fund Hungary; and Miroslav (Mirek) Kundrať, Director, Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation. Each answered questions about the *Congress*, and Ferenc and Mirek talked about their involvement in QLF environmental exchanges.



Greig Granna

Ferenc Márkus (Hungary, 1994) answers questions during the press conference. The Central European News Agency and METRO newspaper (with the largest circulation in Hungary) covered the *Congress*.



Candace Cochran

Looking east to Pest from Castle Hill. Note the extensive flooding on the far bank below the Parliament.





Greig Cramma

Marília Britto Rodrigues de Moraes (Brazil, 2001)



Greig Cramma

Monica Calvopiña (Ecuador, 2001)

## RECEPTION, ACADEMY OF SCIENCES CASTLE HILL

The Sunday evening reception and banquet were held at the Academy, a short walk from the Hilton Budapest, and held at the centuries-old site of the first Hungarian Parliament. At each place setting were crafts from regions represented at the *Congress*, and the small oak seedlings served as centerpieces and living reminders of why we had assembled. *Congress* Director Beth Alling served as Master of Ceremonies of the reception and banquet. Excerpts follow from some of the evening speeches. Complete texts are available on QLF's website [www.QLF.org](http://www.QLF.org).



Greig Cramma

Blažena Hušková (Czech Republic, 2000)



Greig Cramma

Wil Maheia (Belize, 1999) and Alix Morris (Alumna, Quebec North Shore, Newfoundland and Labrador, 2001, 2004)



Kathryn Olmstead

QLF's Simone Hanchet and Adrienne Blattel greet guests at the banquet.

*Word is spreading fast in Budapest that QLF is coming to town on the occasion of its first Alumni Congress. Because of your association with this prestigious and distinguished organization, you should know that advance preparations are very much underway, a large turnout of alumni from many countries have made reservations, and Budapest is set to give its visitors a warm welcome. We are truly excited about the prospects for this Congress.*

With best regards,  
George H. Walker  
United States Ambassador to Hungary  
February 2006 message from Ambassador Walker  
to the QLF Board in the United States and Canada



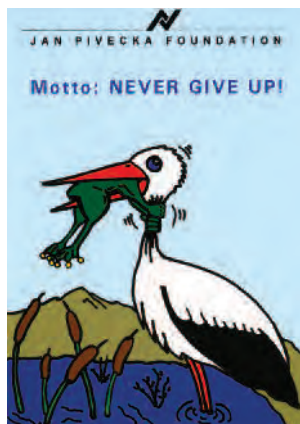
Ambassador Walker greets Congress participants and guests at the Opening Reception.

Greig Cramma



Larry Morris extends his greetings to Congress participants and guests in seven languages!

Greig Cramma



The Jan Pivečka Foundation postcard whose words, NEVER GIVE UP!, became the motto for the Congress.

## Welcome!

### Larry Morris, President, QLF

We are so pleased to be here in Budapest, 200 guests tonight, 170 of you Congress participants representing 30 countries. QLF has worked in Central Europe with our exchange programs for 25 years.

They call us the “quiet NGO.” In fact, QLF’s Jessica Brown traveled to Central Europe in 1989 a month before the collapse of the Berlin Wall. Two years later, she conducted the first feasibility study that led to the formation of the Environmental Partnership for Central Europe. There are now well over 100 Central Europe Fellows, and hundreds more who have taken part in the QLF international exchanges.

Several years ago when Mirek Kundrata, here tonight, took me to Hostětín in the White Carpathians, I was privileged to meet Jan Pivečka, who founded one of the first charitable foundations in the Czech Republic. Mr. Pivečka gave me something that I have always treasured. It was a postcard. On it was a design of a White Stork trying to eat a frog. The frog has its hands around the throat of the stork preventing the stork from swallowing. Underneath, written in English, are the words, “Never Give Up!” That is the story of the Congress!



Larry went on to introduce Donald (Obie) Clifford:

*...An expert in threshold companies, QLF Chairman Obie Clifford has had a positive influence on guiding QLF through a transition into a new chapter as it approaches its 50th birthday. The Congress is an important part of that process.*

## Greetings to the Congress

**Donald K. Clifford, Jr.**  
**Chairman, QLF Executive Committee**  
**QLF Board of Trustees, United States**

*Welcome to each and every one of you — 200 strong — from 30 countries and four continents. And with that welcome, I officially and irrevocably declare that the first QLF Alumni Congress is now open and in session. Thank you for being here.*

*This is the first gathering of its kind for QLF, and a long way from those early days in Canada nearly 50 years ago, when a young Bob Bryan first visited eastern Quebec and Labrador to work with people and communities of isolated,*



Donald Clifford, Jr., QLF Trustee, addresses guests at the Opening Reception.



Fisherman's Bastion, near the Academy of Sciences

A.D. Chandler III

*rural villages. The breadth and scope of those here tonight and the impact of the work you are doing are powerful testaments to the good that can grow out of the vision, energy, and commitment of a single determined individual.*

*If we are to survive, let alone thrive as a species, we must meet two central requirements:*

- *We must learn to live in harmony with each other; a test we are failing in many parts of the world today; and*
- *We must learn to live in harmony with our natural environment. To the extent we destroy nature, nature will surely destroy us. Living in harmony with nature is an absolute necessity for our survival. I don't know about you, but I am strongly in favor of survival.*

*QLF's mission addresses both these challenges and improves lives, especially in smaller communities by helping people live together better, both physically and spiritually, and by helping people live in harmony with nature. We can't do it all, but we can make a big difference in selected communities and by creating models for others to emulate.*

*So ours is a noble goal and a noble purpose for a life. We can and we should all take great pride in the work we are doing. And so, as we meet, think, and plan together over the next few days, please keep in mind the ultimate and fundamental importance of what we are all trying to accomplish for the world and for future generations.*



Candace Cochrane





Louise Labarre

Ambassador András Gulyás

After a warm hello to Congress-goers, Ambassador to Hungary George H. Walker introduced Ambassador András Gulyás, who delivered a message on behalf of László Sólyom, President of the Republic of Hungary. Ambassador Gulyás is the Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to László Sólyom.

## Message to the Congress

**From His Excellency László Sólyom  
President of the Republic of Hungary**

*Delivered by Ambassador András Gulyás*

*It is with great pleasure that I greet in Budapest the participants of the first Quebec-Labrador Foundation Alumni Congress.*

*As environmental issues are especially close to me, I have learned with much interest about the activities of the Foundation and about the goals and achievements of the last 50 years.*

*The efforts made by QLF for the conservation of rural communities — of local cultural heritage and the stewardship of natural resources — are of great importance in our times when local communities are exposed to global challenges. The successful example of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation shows how the encouragement and engagement of civil society can be an efficient way to respond to the challenges of the 21st century.*

*QLF exchanges and partnership programs have resulted in the formation of multi-national and multi-disciplinary alumni, many here tonight. This Congress is an excellent*

*occasion for sharing experience, techniques, and approaches with each other, with other communities, other experts from all concerned sectors, from education to agriculture, tourism or wildlife conservation. Besides the definition of new strategies, this meeting may result in the creation of a network capable of balancing public and private responsibility, or harmonizing various aspects of the work for sustainable living and development. I believe that this is one of the best ways to preserve traditional rural cultural heritage and natural diversity so that we leave a viable world for our children for the next generation.*

*I wish you every success for the realization of the aims of the Congress.*



Matthias Church

Kathryn Olmstead



Greg Cranna

Congress Banquet, Congressional Room, Academy of Sciences



## CONGRESS BANQUET

The Congress Banquet was held in the Congressional Room of the Academy of Sciences with 170 Congress participants and 30 guests and dignitaries representing each QLF region.

### *Representing the United States in Hungary*

Ambassador George H. Walker  
Ambassador of the United States to Hungary

Philip T. Reeker  
Deputy Chief of Mission  
United States Embassy of Hungary

Ray Kirkland, Ph.D.  
Regional Director  
United States Agency for International Development

### *Representing the United States in Slovakia*

Ambassador Rodolphe M. Vallee  
Ambassador of the United States to Slovakia

### *Representing the United States in Austria*

Ambassador Julie Finley  
Office of Security and Cooperation  
Vienna, Austria

### *Representing Canada in Hungary*

Ambassador Robert Hage  
Ambassador of Canada to Hungary

### *Representing Central Europe*

Ambassador András Gulyás  
Office of the President of the Republic of Hungary

Minister Miklós Persányi  
Ministry of Environment and Water  
Republic of Hungary

Ms. Eszter Szövényi  
Senior Chief Counselor  
Ministry of Environment and Water  
Republic of Hungary



Flags of the 30 countries represented at the Congress serve as backdrop at the banquet.

Anita Szeicz

### *Representing Latin America and the Caribbean*

Ambassador José Luis Martinez  
Ambassador of Mexico to Hungary

Minister Leopold G. Michel Diaz  
Deputy Head of Mission  
Embassy of Mexico

### *Representing the Middle East*

Ambassador David Admon  
Ambassador of Israel to Hungary  
Mr. Khaled Nader Moustafa Rohiem  
Charge d' Affaires  
Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt



Fanfare, Congress Banquet, Academy of Sciences

Anita Szeicz



Kathryn Olmstead

Martha Bolling (left), Robert Bolling, Kathryn Olmstead, Mojmir Vlasin (Czech Republic, 1994)



Greig Granna

Asem Faqir (Jordan, 1997)



Kathryn Olmstead

QLF's Candace Cochrane and Lada Ptaček (Czech Republic, 1995)



Kathryn Olmstead

From bottom left, counter clockwise: Alberto Yanosky (Paraguay, 2001), Norma Ferriz (Mexico, 2003), Tom Horn, Assad Serhal (Lebanon, 1993), and Rana Ali al-Safadi (Jordan, 2003)



Antia Szeicz

Philip Nadeau, QLF Director, Canada, reads the Invocation.

The Invocation was written by QLF Founder, The Ven. Robert A. Bryan, and his wife, The Rev. Dr. Patricia Peacock Bryan, who were unable to attend the Congress. The Invocation was read by Philip Nadeau, QLF Board of Directors, Canada, who was introduced by Congress Director Beth Alling.

Originally from the Quebec North Shore in the heart of QLF's home region, Philip was one of QLF's first scholarship recipients in the early 1960s. He attended Bowdoin College and is now a Vice President, International Sales, with Kruger Inc. based in Montreal, Quebec.



## Invocation

### The Ven. Robert A. Bryan Founder and Chairman Quebec-Labrador Foundation

*My wife Patricia and I deeply regret not being with you on this momentous occasion. The first QLF Alumni Congress is a milestone along this organization's journey, which started with a gathering of staff and volunteers working in isolated communities in eastern Canada in the early 1960s.*

*I remember looking forward 46 years ago to the first flight with my family along the Quebec North Shore. I was told that the lasting impression I would have would be the majestic land forms, waterfalls, boreal forest, and islands of granite.*

*I learned almost immediately that the enduring gift I would receive is friendship and interactions with the people — the inhabitants of the land.*

*I believe that if that first flight had been to the countries represented at this Congress it would have been the people that would have drawn me closest to their land and nations through their love of the natural environment.*

*Tonight I particularly miss seeing a friend of 60 years, Ambassador Bert Walker. The Congress would not have occurred without his gracious assistance.*

*Warmest wishes to you all as you embark on this historic moment in the life of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation.*

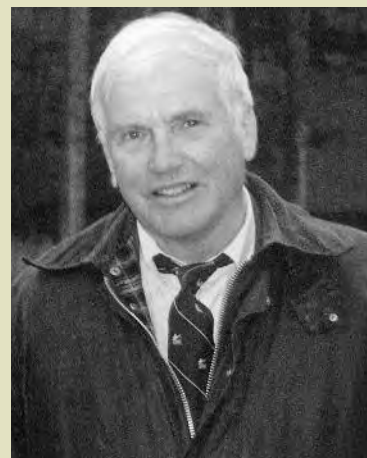
*An ancient Chinese proverb says, "If there be righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character. If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home. If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation. When there is order in each nation, there will be peace in the world."*

*The ancient Jewish prayer reads, "Grant us peace, goodness, and blessings; life, grace, and kindness; justice and mercy. Our Father, bless us all together with the light of your presence, for in the light of your presence you give us, Lord our God, law and life, love and kindness, justice and mercy, blessing and peace."*

*The prayer attributed to the Prophet Mohammad reads, "Oh, Lord, grant us to love thee, grant us to love those who love thee, grant that we may do the deeds that win thy love."*

*The prayer of the Christian Saint Francis of Assisi says, "Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us so love, where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy."*

*As we open this first Quebec-Labrador Foundation Alumni Congress, we acknowledge the fact that we are all working to make this world a better place. We recognize the importance of working together for peace, healing, and reconciliation in our world, and we challenge ourselves to do this in working towards the conservation of God's creation.*



QLF Founder Robert A. Bryan

Candace Cochrane

## PINS AND TREES

After dinner Larry Morris distributed a QLF pin to each attendee with the instruction that it be pinned securely on the person sitting to the left. He noted that the QLF pin represented the spirit of the Congress and that in pinning each other, participants were acknowledging the fact that the Congress would be about sharing, teamwork, mutual respect, and understanding.

QLF alumni were asked to wear their pins with pride throughout the Congress. If arguments, whether environmental policy or politics, ensued, then the spirit of the pin should be invoked, reminding the parties why they were there.

Larry also talked about the small oaks serving as centerpieces on each table. These young trees, he told the group, would be planted at two national parks in Hungary, and this would be done to serve wildlife conservation, land stewardship, and as the Congress gesture to redress climate change.

He encouraged attendees to return in the years to come to visit the oaks:

*When you return with your families, your children, or your grandchildren, you can find your trees and remember what happened here. I am told oaks live a thousand years.*

Larry introduced keynote speaker, Dr. Miklós Persányi:

*Dr. Persányi is the current Hungarian Minister of Environment and Water. He is a native of Budapest and is married with three children. He served on the Faculty of the University of Lorand Eotvos and the University of*

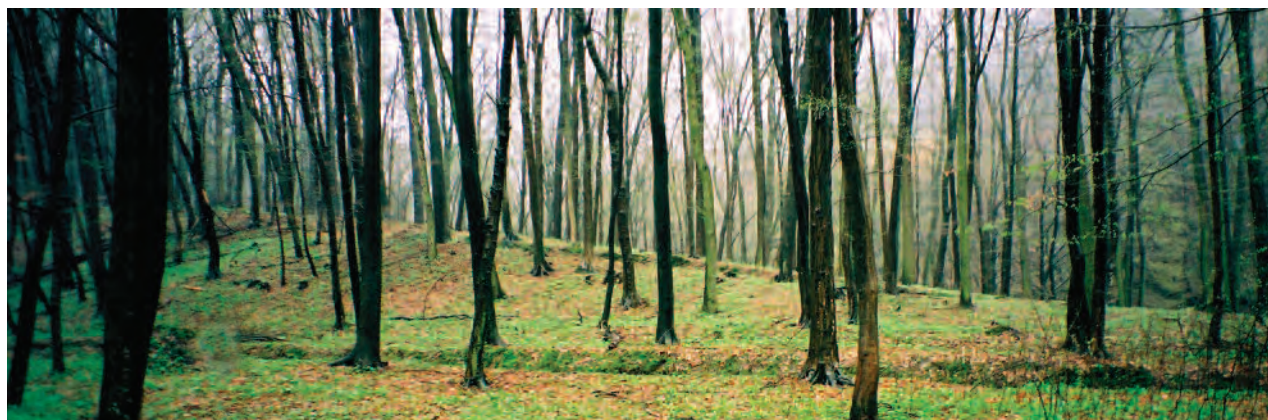
*Agricultural Sciences Godollo. He holds a degree from the Academy of Sciences and later did research there on the development of Green movements. He was the Founder and Chief Editor of the publication, Environment and Development. He is well known to many of our Hungarian colleagues from the days when he was Director General of the Zoo of Budapest.*

Larry surprised Dr. Persányi with a special tribute from Cornell University, where both had attended as graduate students and where Dr. Persányi had held a prestigious Hubert Humphrey Fellowship. The Cornell alumni at the dinner were asked to come forward to the podium to acknowledge Dr. Persányi's Cornell association.

The Public Affairs Office of the United States Embassy, Hungary, summarized Minister Persányi's speech.

*Minister of Environment and Water Miklós Persányi was the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony. Persányi highlighted the country's nature conservation values and described the special environmental conditions of the Carpathian Basin. He detailed some of the most pressing environmental problems, and described opportunities that European Union membership can offer in achieving more sustainable and healthier environmental conditions for its citizens. The Minister especially mentioned the important role of Hungarian NGOs in this process.*

*He expressed his gratitude to QLF and the Ambassador [George H. Walker] for organizing the first QLF Alumni Congress in Hungary, as it would facilitate forging contacts and relationships globally in the field of nature conservation, environmental education, and civil community development.*



Elizabeth Alling



## The Keynote

### Miklós Persányi Minister of Environment and Water Republic of Hungary

*Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, Dear Friends,*

*It is a pleasure and honour that I can welcome you here in Hungary, in the heart of Europe. I am delighted to see—what is apparent from the program of this large scale event and from the list of attendants — the large number of advocates of environment committed to environmental protection across the world.*

*It is also a pleasure to see that we still have organisations like the Quebec-Labrador Foundation and the Atlantic Center for the Environment that are dedicated to support individuals wishing to protect the biosphere of our planet.*

*I'd like to reassure you that you have made the right decision when you selected Hungary as the site of your first world conference. Bear in mind that this country represents perhaps at most one percent of Europe's territory. This is one dimension. And what is our other dimension? In accordance to our current knowledge, 800 moss species, 2,800 vascular plant species, and 42,000 animal species make their homes in Hungary. Under the European Union Directives, we have an astonishing 46 habitat types that are to be protected, and we have to provide protection for 105 especially rare animal and 36 plant species.*

*The Carpathian Basin, where we are based, is a unique place also for some other aspects. A flat country, embraced by high mountain ridges, Hungary is characterised as being "the bottom of a washbasin." That means that 90% of our waters have their source outside our borders. Hungary is where they all come together. Sometimes when snow melts in the surrounding mountains, it causes large floods, and we have a good chance of that happening again this year. (Editor's note: In 2006 Hungary suffered its worst floods in 100 years.)*

*When we talk about biodiversity protection on the global level, the representatives of developing countries often point at us in Europe and say we should not have destroyed most of our biodiversity in the past couple of hundred years. They are right.*

*The success of nature conservation is dependent on sustainable agricultural and land use strategies. Environmental challenges cannot be solved merely with the involvement of the state, just by applying policy tools. This is where NGOs come in. Self-organisation of the society, individual and small community activities, and the type of environmental protection that QLF pursues are very much needed. For that reason, may I express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to all supporters, employees, and activists of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation and the Atlantic Center for the Environment.*

*Hungarian green organisations have some outstanding achievements as well. They participate in practical nature conservation in maintaining natural open space for the protection of certain species. They keep the society's conscience awake. Another interesting feature is that the Hungarian green organisations — about 400 of them — have established a specific communication and decision-making network.*

*We see in Hungary today a picture of a unified Green movement exerting leadership in environmental protection. This is why we very much welcome all inquiry, attention, and, of course, all support intended for green organisations as we all know that it serves the interest of nature as well as the human community.*

*No matter where we live—in Canada, America, or in Europe—we only have one Earth and it is our common task to protect it.*



Miklós Persányi, Minister of Environment and Water, Republic of Hungary

Anita Szeicz







# The QLF Alumni Congress

*Day Two* Monday, 3 April 2006

## Meeting One Another

MONDAY WAS DESIGNED TO ALLOW TIME FOR PARTICIPANTS TO MEET FELLOW ALUMNI and make new friends. During the day we scheduled two field trips, each on a separate “track,” with individuals signing up based upon an interest either in environment or heritage. One of the field trips went to Kiskunság National Park (the Environment and Landscape Stewardship Track), the other to Hollókő and Eger (the Culture and Heritage Track).

That evening, both groups rejoined after arriving at Lillafüred’s Bükk National Park, northeast of Budapest. The Congress participants were together for the remainder of the formal sessions of the Congress and stayed at the historic Hotel Palota until returning to Budapest for the closing events.

Some of the following passages provide the reader with an informational backdrop on the second day of the Congress.

Using field trips as a way for introductions to occur worked well. (Please note Kathryn Olmstead’s journal entry on page 42.)

### Environment and Landscape Stewardship Field Visit: Kiskunság National Park

Kiskunság National Park was established in 1975. It extends across the most important natural areas between the Danube and Tisza rivers, including the Danube Plain, Homokhatság, and the Tisza Valley. The park consists of 53,000 hectares, many of which are saline plains and sandy lowlands.



Above: Alix Hopkins, Member of the QLF Corporation, in search of the Great Bustard, Kiskunság National Park  
Left: Congress participants, Environment and Landscape Stewardship Field Visit, Kiskunság National Park



Greg Cranna

Lipizzaners performing just outside of Kiskunság National Park

The Hungarian Grey Cattle and flocks of sheep graze the steppe grasslands, or Puszta. Undisturbed stretches of the Puszta ensure the survival of the largest European bird, the Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*).

South of Bosztorpuszta are the Kiskunság alkaline lakes and the most spectacular alkaline soil formations of the national park. Lake Kolon at Izsak fills a former, detached branch of the ancient Danube that has silted up naturally and lost connection to the main branch. The open water of the lake is surrounded by a wide belt of reeds, willows, and tussocks, merging with dry land through wet meadows.

The westernmost part of the national park is completely different from the other landscapes in the Kiskunság. It comprises the Tiszaalpari meadow and a long-ago detached arm of the Tisza River that has lost connection with the main branch of the Tisza due to sedimentation. The site's most important assets are the woodlands, marshes, and hay meadows.

Kalotas, Dr. Zsolt. Hungary's National Parks: Nature and Landscapes

## The Birds of Hungary and the Great Bustard

Hungary has some of the finest bird watching in Europe. Nearly 380 species of the 400 species in Europe have been sighted in Hungary, and 250 are residents or regular visitors. Those include the country's population of Great White Egrets (over 2,000 pairs), Spoonbills (up to 100 pairs) and Red-footed Falcons (2,000 pairs) as well as the endangered Eastern Imperial Eagles (70 pairs), White-tailed Eagles (70 pairs), Aquatic Warblers (600 singing males), Saker Falcons (150 pairs) and Great Bustards (1,200 birds). Kiskunság National Park is a prime site for bird watching in Hungary.

### The Great Bustard

The Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) is one of Europe's largest and most impressive birds. The males reach more than one meter in length and can weigh up to 40 pounds. Its numbers are in decline and there are only

30,000 remaining in Europe. The decline is based primarily on loss of habitat. The flat or rolling open, short-grass plains have been altered by agriculture. Irrigation, together with pesticide use, electric cables, over-grazing by sheep, and human disturbance, have had a severe impact on this species. The Great Bustard has recently become extinct in Poland and Bulgaria. The main strongholds for the species are now Spain and Russia, with more than 80% of the population. Of all the remaining countries, only Hungary and Turkey each hold more than 1,000 individuals.

In Hungary the population reached as many as 8,500 birds in the



Tamas Kerenyi

1940s. Today that number is 1,200. The species is strictly protected. Efforts are now being made to conserve the habitat needed by the Great Bustard in order to give it a chance to survive and recover. Most of the Great Bustard's breeding areas in Hungary are situated in protected areas and Environmentally Sensitive Areas.

EcoTours, 2006





Candace Cochran

The historic village of Hollókő is 100 km north of Budapest. UNESCO includes Hollókő on its World Heritage List of Cultural Sites.

### Culture and Heritage Field Visit: Hollókő

Nestled among the ridges of the Cserhát Hills just north of Budapest is the village of Hollókő. In 1987 Hollókő was declared a World Heritage Site for its cultural and natural significance, including the “Old Village” of 58 buildings protected for their 17th century folk architecture. Here the Palóc people lived in homes built on

narrow plots, usually in a mix of several generations.

There are written documents on Hollókő dating back to 1343, but the medieval buildings were destroyed during the Turkish raids at the end of the 16th century. The Roman Catholic Church at the centre of the village was built in the 19th century. The region was once in the possession of the ancient Kacisc family. After the Mongolian

### THE NATIONAL PARKS OF HUNGARY

Hungary is known for its natural heritage with pristine steppes, marshes, bogs, river flats, pastures, forests, and meadows populated by flora and fauna of the region. The Hungarian landscape is noted for the salt steppes of the ‘puszta’; grasslands; marshes; the flood plains of the rivers Danube, Tisza, Dráva, and Körös; the scrub forests; and the karstic caves.

The first Hungarian national park was established in the Hortobágy, in 1973. Nine more national parks have been established since that time. The last one, the Őrség National Park, was founded in 2002.

Of the country’s ten national parks, three are on the Great Plain — Hortobágy (also a UNESCO World Heritage site), Kiskunság, and Koros-Maros. There are two national parks in the Northern Uplands:

Bükk National Park and Aggtelek National Park with its extensive system of karst caves and streams hewn into the limestone.

Other national parks include Danube-Dráva National Park noted for its Gemenc Forest, and the Őrség National Park in South Transdanubia; the Balaton-uplands National Park north of Lake Balaton; the Danube Ipoly National Park on the Danube Bend; the Fertő-Hanság National Park at Lake Fertő, which Hungarians share with Austrians who refer to the national park as Neusiedlersee. Fertő-Hanság National Park was declared a UNESCO Biosphere Reserve in 1979.

Kalotas, Dr. Zsolt. Hungary’s National Parks: Nature and Landscapes

invasion (1241) by order of the King, Béla IV, construction of the castle began. In 1313 Róbert Károly gave the castle to the local ruler, Tamás Szécsényi. The first written document in which the castle is mentioned, under the name *Castrum Hollokew*, dates from this period (1310).

## Congress Observations Kathy Olmstead

Over the four-day *Congress*, Kathryn Olmstead, QLF Trustee, United States, wrote notes in her journal, which she has shared with us.

*Today (3 April 2006) we left the city of Budapest as floodwaters continued to engulf the shores and headed into the countryside. Two buses went birding at Kiskunság 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, Flavio Chazaro Ramirez from Mexico, and Miriam Torres from Peru during our walks to and from historic sites. Noted in some of those conversations:*

*Kevel Lindsay (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.*

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

*As Miriam and I walked toward the ancient castle in Hollókő, she told me how pleased she was to know that measures she had worked on with QLF to protect the mountains in Peru were becoming reality. It had taken 10 years, but conservation in the Andes had finally become law.*

The Hollókő Castle is in the best condition among the Nógrád country's fortifications from the 13th century. Its partial reconstruction was finished in 1996.

Reference: Ecotours, 2006



Miriam Torres (Peru, 1995) (left) and Kathy Olmstead at the Hollókő Castle

Anita Szeicz



Ibrahim Odeh (Palestine, 2001) (left), Haya George Helal (Palestine, 2003), and David Manski (U.S. National Park Service, 1998)

Larry Morris



Patricia Middleton, QLF Director, Canada, on the Culture and Heritage Field Visit to Hollókő

Anita Szeicz





Candace Cochran

Eger, in Hungary's wine country, was a stop for the Culture and Heritage Field Visit en route from Hollókő to Bükk National Park.

### Culture and Heritage Field Visit: Eger

Resting in the valley of the Eger River, between the Mátra and Bükk ranges, Eger — from the Latin word *ager* (earth) — is one of the country's charming villages, marked by rows of cobbled streets and Baroque buildings. Eger's defiance of Turkish force in 1552 was immortalized in the 1901 novel, *Egri Csillagok* (Eclipse of the Crescent Moon), by Géza Gárdonyi (1863-1922). Its citizens became linked in the Hungarian mind with the most spirited of patriots.

Settled by the Magyar tribes, Eger was made a bishopric by King István in the 11th century. Its rise as a significant centre of Renaissance culture was cut short by the Turks, even though Eger's forces repelled the first siege in 1552. The victory over a far superior Turkish force was acclaimed around Europe and effectively stalled (temporarily) the spread of the Ottoman Empire. It was also during this struggle that Dobó's troops are said to have been issued wine — which the attackers mistook for bull's blood — to assist them in gaining the courage to defend the town.

When the Turks returned in 1596, a defending garrison of mercenaries surrendered with barely a whimper. Today a solitary minaret and a few bath

stones are the only reminders of the Ottoman occupation that lasted until 1687.

During the War of Independence, the Hapsburg Emperor Leopold destroyed some of the castle fortifications to ensure that they not be used by freedom fighters.

Source: Ecotours, 2006



Wine cellar in Eger. Wil Maheia (Belize, 1999) converses with Alix Morris (across) and Anne-Seymour St. John.

Anita Szeicz





József Duska, Director of Bükk National Park, provides an overview of Hungary's national parks, while QLF Alumnus György Pál Gadó (Hungary, 1990) translates for Congress participants.

Anita Szeicz

## BÜKK NATIONAL PARK

Bükk National Park was established in 1976. The Bükk Hills take their name from the beech trees that grace the national park. Of its 43,000 hectares, more than 90% are forested. The hills are skirted by oak woodlands and beech forests. Coniferous woodlands have been artificially planted and are not native to the Bükk Hills. Wildflowers abound: Yellow Wood Violet (*Viola biflora*), Alpine Clematis (*Clematis alpine*), Giant bellflower (*Campanula latifolia*), Whorled Solomon's seal (*Polygonatum verticillatum*), and Three-leaved valerian (*Valeriana tripteris*). The meadows maintain a rich flora, including several species of lily and orchid.



Tamas Kerényi

Bükk National Park





Hotel Polota, in Bükk National Park, site of *Congress* activities on Days Two, Three, and Four.

A.D. Chandler III

## The Congress – Day Two

The fauna of the Bükk is characterized by montane species, including the Ironic beetle dwelling in beech forests and the Purple-edged Cooper butterfly of high altitude meadows. The Alpine Newt and the Yellow-bellied Toad live in shallow forest pools, puddles, and springs in hilly country. Steep cliffs are inhabited by Saker Falcons and Peregrine Falcons. Two other protected raptors, the Short-toed Eagle and the Imperial Eagle, favor old oak woodlands. The high amount of rainfall, the underground watercourses, springs, brooks, waterfalls, and cascades sustain the wildlife of the Bükk.

Bükk National Park: Direkt Ltd. Alexandra Publishing House



Hotel Polota is surrounded by lakes and streams, which were filled to overflowing in the spring of 2006.

A.D. Chandler III

# The QLF Alumni Congress

## Day Three Tuesday, 4 April 2006

### Sharing Ideas

THE THIRD DAY OF THE CONGRESS consisted of the Stewardship Workshop, and later an Evening of Recognition to celebrate the many good works of QLF's Alumni.

The day-long Stewardship Workshop provided a unique opportunity for QLF's Alumni, and other Congress participants to share experiences across regions and explore new directions in nature conservation, sustainable community development, and cultural heritage.

Jessica Brown, QLF Senior Vice President, International Programs, and Brent Mitchell, QLF Vice President, Stewardship, co-chaired the Stewardship Workshop, which consisted of six thematic "streams." QLF staff facilitated these concurrent sessions, which were designed to be participatory, combining presentations with interactive elements, including breakout working groups and general discussions.

The **Concluding Thoughts** of the Stewardship Workshop that follow were written by the Focal Points (leaders) of each stream.

The Public Affairs Office at the United States Embassy, Hungary, described what they observed at the Tuesday Workshop:

*4 April – Participants explored directions in nature conservation, community development, and cultural heritage through group discussions and case study presentations by alumni and participating partners. Participatory conservation and civil society development were crosscutting 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 influencing public policy at the regional and global level.*



Anita Szeicz

Monday's field trips were designed to give alumni a chance to spend time together. Formal and informal networking was a key component of the Congress.



# THE STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

Jessica Brown and Brent Mitchell

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 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 United States, 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 designed to understand, protect, and enhance cultural and natural heritage. As we define it—“efforts to create, nurture, 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.

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*



Castle in Frýdlant, northern Bohemia, Czech Republic, site of a QLF Landscape Stewardship Exchange in 1997

A.D. Chandler III

- *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 practices 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



A spring thaw in Moravia feeds the Danube.

Brent Mitchell

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 streams 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 stream 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 themes, which cut across all the workshop streams:

- Fostering participation and civic engagement in conservation;
- How stewardship approaches contribute to building/strengthening civil society; and
- 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 was given all materials and allowed to visit all the streams, though many of them found the sessions compelling and remained 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 preparation or subsequent study.

To give participants a sense of all six workshop streams, volunteers gave brief summary reports in a 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 “aha” moments when participants made new conceptual connections, and inspiration at what others are accomplishing against difficult obstacles. Many participants made plans to continue communicating and inter-

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*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.*

---

acting 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. Full abstracts of the Stewardship Workshop are available on the QLF website at [www.QLF.org](http://www.QLF.org).





Sami Backleh (Palestine, 2003) (left) and Jameson French participate in the Stewardship Workshop.

Greig Cranna

## 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, United States

Abi Rome, Natural Areas Association, United States

#### **New Kinds of Protected Areas**

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

Miriam Edith Torres Angeles

The Mountain Institute, Andean Program, Peru

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

Phil Huffman, Conservation Consultant, United States

**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**

László Potozky, Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation

Romania

### **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**

Snežana 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, United States

### **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, United States

David Manski, Acadia National Park, United States

**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

**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, British Virgin Islands



Spisš, a castle ruin in eastern Slovakia

Brent Mitchell

## Concluding Thoughts

Worldwide, conservation strategies are becoming more inclusive, recognizing natural as well as cultural values, encompassing the interests of local communities, and 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 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 brought to it a diversity of experience with protected areas, and this enriched our discussions.

During the workshop we heard presentations from ten 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 (United States), described the partnership between Acadia National Park and the NGO, 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. Snežana 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 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.”



Stevan Kordic

View of the harbor of Perast, Montenegro. In cooperation with local partners, in 2005, QLF conducted a *Tools for Stewardship Workshop* on participatory planning for NGOs from Montenegro.





Brent Mitchell introduces the Stewardship Workshop.

## II. Individual Responsibility: Private Land Stewardship

### *Focal Point:*

Brent A. Mitchell, Vice President, Stewardship QLF, United States

### *Facilitator:*

Delia Clark, Center for Place-based Learning and Community Engagement, United States

### **Private Reserves and Protected Areas**

#### **Private Land Stewardship in Paraguay**

Alberto Yanosky, Guyra Paraguay, Paraguay

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

Margo Sheppard, The Nature Trust of New Brunswick, Canada

#### **Ya'axhe Conservation Trust**

Bartolo Teul, Golden Stream Conservation Project, Belize

#### **Czech Land Trust Movement 1998-2006: Achievements and Challenges**

Ladislav Ptáček and Václav Izák, 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, Harvard Forest  
United States

### **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,  
The Netherlands

### **Small Group Exercise**

Delia Clark, Center for Place-based Learning and  
Community Engagement, United States

### **Private Approaches to Public Protected Areas**

#### **Green Belt Initiative: Opportunities for Private Land Conservation in Bulgaria**

Petko Tzvetkov, Bulgarian Biodiversity Foundation  
Bulgaria

### **Private and Social Instruments for Land Conservation in Mexico**

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



Norma Ferriz (Mexico, 2003) initiates a discussion while Mojmir Vlasin (Czech Republic, 1994) listens.



Flávio Cházaro Ramirez (Mexico, 1997) discusses natural protected areas in Mexico while QLF Trustee Jim Levitt and others listen.

## Concluding Thoughts

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. 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 involves working on a tax law amendment to introduce incentives for private land conservation. The need was expressed for working examples to prove that such incentives are viable. Another participant was interested in the role of government in providing conditions to encourage private

stewardship. He saw opportunities for bringing private and public sector professionals together from different countries to talk and to be challenged: “Mexico is doing this, why aren’t we?”

Many of the presenters were central or instrumental in introducing new private land conservation initiatives in their countries. Several were dubious at first, indicating that private approaches, like land trusts, are fine for the United States, but would not work in their contexts. However, their subsequent work—illustrated in the presentations—proved that opportunity exists everywhere if, as one presenter stated, “People want it enough.”

*The value of information exchange was frequently cited. . . . Another participant was interested in the role of government in providing conditions to encourage private stewardship. He saw opportunities for bringing private and public sector professionals together from different countries to talk and to be challenged: “Mexico is doing this, why aren’t we?”*



Miquel Rafa (Spain, 1990) describes how his foundation has become the largest private landowner in Catalonia in just eight years.



### III. Local Stewardship: Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM)

#### *Focal Points:*

Marcy Lyman, Director, *Community-based Natural Resource Management Program*, QLF, United States

Barbara Wyckoff-Baird, *Dynamica Coaching & Capacity Building*, United States

#### **Local Stewardship: CBNRM**

Barbara Wyckoff-Baird, *Dynamica*, United States

#### **The Port Honduras Marine Reserve: A Co-managed Marine Protected Area**

Wil Maheia, *Toledo Institute for Development & Environment*, Belize

#### **Participatory Management of Watersheds in the Pico Bonito National Park, Honduras**

Khamila O'Reilly Becerra, *Foundation for Pico Bonito National Park*, Honduras

#### **Sustainable Rural Development Centres in the Liberec Region**

Blažena Hušková

*Association for the Jizerske hory Mountains Region*, Czech Republic



Field near the Poland-Belarus border

A.D. Chandler III

#### **GIS Tools for CBNRM: Case Studies From the Atlantic Region**

Stephen Engle, *Center for Community GIS*, QLF, United States

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

Alix Hopkins, *Author, Member of the QLF Corporation*, United States

#### **Community Involvement in Trans-boundary Wildlife Projects**

György Gadó, *Freelance conservation work and filmmaking*, Hungary

#### **Impacts of CBNRM: Lessons from the Atlantic Region**

Marcy Lyman, *Director, Community-based Natural Resource Management Program*, QLF, United States

#### **Concluding Thoughts**

Community-based Natural Resource Management (CBNRM) consists of 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 participatory mapping and films 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.



QLF's Marcy Lyman describes community-based natural resource management and relates it to a local forestry project in New England.

Amia Szetec



Maine resident Ted Hoskins (Gulf of Maine - Gulf of Honduras Exchange, 2001), a tireless advocate for marine conservation

Greg Cramma

- **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, and 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, Canada

Adrienne Blattel, Associate Director, *Northern Gulf Culture and Heritage Program*, QLF, Canada

### Cultural Heritage and Landscape Conservation

**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, Canada

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

Olivera Radovanovic, *Green Network of Vojvodina* Serbia and Montenegro

**The Amber Trail: Tourism and Heritage in Central Europe**

Jano Rohac, *Amber Trail Greenway*, Slovakia

**Partnership: Green Bieszczady**

Przemek Otdakowski, *Bieszczady Environmental Partnership Foundation*, Poland



Decorated eggs are a popular tradition in Central and Eastern Europe with many local and regional variations.

Candace Cochran





John Gambell (QLF Volunteer, 1966)

Candace Cochrane



Jitka Doubernová (Czech Republic, 2002) (left) with QLF's Stephanie Tuxill

Sarkis Khawaja (Lebanon, 2005)  
Photos: Candace Cochrane



Larry Morris

Quilt designed by alumni from all regions during the workshop stream *The Nature in Us: Cultural Heritage and Communities*

At the end of the workshop stream on cultural heritage, participants crafted a collective quilt they named: *The First QLF Alumni Congress —Stitching Together Cultural Heritage and Communities*.

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. Each participant's message was sewn on each square of the quilt and presented to workshop participants at the end of the session. 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.

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 by our global commonality in culture and tradition. Thank you."

**The White Carpathians: Heritage from the Rural Region**  
*Radim Machů, Traditions of the White Carpathians*  
*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 Doubnerová, Association for the Jizerske hory Mountains*  
*Region, Czech Republic*

*Stephanie Tuxill, International Programs, QLF, United States*

**Bridging the Gap – Connecting Communities,**  
**Culture, and Generations**

*Serena Etheridge, Traditional Skills Network, QLF, Canada*

## ***Culture, Identity and Sustainable Communities***

**Whose Story and What Story? Heritage, Identity,**  
**and Communities**

*Adrienne Blattel, Northern Gulf Culture and Heritage*  
*Program, QLF, Canada*

*Candace Cochrane, Northern Gulf Culture and Heritage*  
*Program, QLF, United States*

**Palestinian Territories; A Small Area with Rich and**  
**Profound Heritage**

*Haya George Helal, Palestine Wildlife Society, Palestine*  
*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*



Elizabeth Alling

Al-Shouf Cedar Nature Reserve, managed by Lebanon's Ministry of Environment, protects some of the last remaining cedars in the country.





Greig Cranna

A common thread to emerge from the Stewardship Workshop is the value of local traditions in linking generations and celebrating identity. Fishing community, Quebec North Shore

## Concluding Thoughts

Cultural heritage as an asset for economic development, historical preservation, environmental conservation, and community empowerment was the focus of this *Congress* workshop stream. 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 emerging common threads 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.

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.

Within the *Congress* atmosphere of mutual respect for diverse cultures, workshop participants were proud to present their individual work in their home countries. They were anxious to share 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...!”



Greig Cramma

Beth Sauerhaft, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, (QLF Alumna sponsored by Duke University, 1988 and 1989), presenting her research during the stream on biodiversity and nature conservation.

## V. Our Living Planet: Biodiversity and Nature Conservation

### Focal Points:

Stephen Engle, Director, *Community Mapping and GIS Program*, QLF, United States

Trish Nash, Director, *Marine Species at Risk Program*, QLF, Canada

### Conservation and Stewardship – Innovative Partnerships

#### World Wildlife Fund: Working with Business Partners to Preserve Biodiversity in Hungary

Ferenc Márkus and 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

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

#### 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, *ČSOP 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



Larry Morris

Sami Bakleh, formerly of the Palestine Wildlife Society, retrieves kestrel chicks taken illegally from cliff nests in the Judean Desert. Sami is currently working on his Master's degree in conservation in England.





Greig Cramma

Assad Serhal (Lebanon, 1993) represents the Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon, and BirdLife International. At the *Congress*, Assad presented a paper on "Important Bird Areas" of Lebanon.

#### **"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**

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 working with business to protect significant habitats in Hungary; identification of important bird areas in Lebanon; conservation of the White Stork 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; local community involvement in monitoring marine species in Canada; conservation strategies that are changing lives in Mexico; island biodiversity protection in Antigua; and ways that farmers, environmentalists, and regulators are working together to protect rural Canada.

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 counterproductive. 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 that biodiversity is conserved globally and that international priorities are balanced.

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*The Congress was an incredible experience, and it gave me the chance to meet participants from the Middle East and South America, as well as former colleagues from the U.S. and Canada. A fascinating post-reunion study tour in southern Czech Republic gave me the opportunity to visit local communities and learn about sustainable development practices.*

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Rosemary Furfey

Living Rivers Program, Tabusintac, New Brunswick  
1976, 1979-1982

QLF Intern Coordinator, Ipswich, Massachusetts  
1980-1981

Other inequities exist: governments may have access to resources that citizen groups lack; politically unstable countries can't make allowances for nature conservation; and many sectors of the population have not been empowered through biodiversity conservation.

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



Larry Morris "in his backyard" explains his meadow restoration project (designed to restore grassland bird populations) to QLF Middle East Fellows, Witch Hollow Farm, Boxford, Massachusetts, United States, 2004.

Greig Gramma

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 communities. Exchange programs, conferences, and workshops are key for sharing and acquiring knowledge.

Also, can regulation be effective? 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 to market its 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 toward the same goal but with differing socioeconomic realities. There were tears, and hugs, and times of deafening silence. Central to everything was the desire and need to work together — to share our resources and support each other. The biodiversity of our planet depends on it.

## VI. Environmental Education: Engaging the Next Generation

*Focal Points:*

Tom Horn, Senior Vice President

QLF, United States

Michael Caduto, P.E.A.C.E., Programs for Environmental Awareness & Cultural Exchange, United States

Simone Hanchet, *The Leadership (Intern) Program*

QLF, Canada

### **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  
United Kingdom*

### **The U.K. Forestry Commission and Education For Sustainable Development**

*Sally York and Lucy Kirkham, The U.K. Forestry Commission  
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*

### **Storytelling and Activities for Earth Stewardship**

*Michael Caduto, P.E.A.C.E., Programs for Environmental Awareness & Cultural Exchange, United States*

### **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 and Virtual Education/Outreach Programs**

*Abigail Alling, The Planetary Coral Reef Foundation  
United States*

### **Environmental Education in Palestine**

*Ibrahim Odeh, Palestine Wildlife Society  
Palestine*

### **The CO-SEED Environmental Education Model**

*Delia Clark, Center for Place-based Learning and Community Engagement, United States*





## Concluding Thoughts

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 more than 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 stream, and the group's immediate sense of community and humor prevailed.

This workshop stream revolved around a number of themes. To shape the discussion, twelve presenters described their work, together highlighting a wide range of approaches to environmental education, including school-based programming, public awareness campaigns, place-based education techniques, and storytelling.

The workshop enabled participants to reflect on the requirements for the success of their work, and common elements emerged. Educators must possess a particular

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*All conservation efforts...require effective environmental educators to transmit not only knowledge, skills, and approaches, but also a conservation ethic.*

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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 was finding the time to accomplish their ambitious goals.

Participants next explored the challenges they face in meeting these needs using the discussion as a point of departure for addressing a final question: How can we as environmental educators help one another 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. A conservation ethic can 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 returned 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 each other's and to the global conservation movement.



Snežana Dragojević

QLF Central and Southeast Europe Fellows visit New Hampshire's Pondicherry National Wildlife Refuge in 2005. The refuge is recognized internationally as an Important Bird Area and is an example of how local volunteers support federal protected areas.

## RECOGNIZING OUR ALUMNI

An Evening of Recognition was held on Tuesday to celebrate the accomplishments of QLF's alumni. Although specific individuals were asked to come to the podium from time to time during the event, the spirit was one in which *all* alumni were being honored. QLF President Larry Morris told the gathering, "QLF invests in our alumni so that you can go out and make a difference."

### *International Stewardship Awards*

QLF friend and Congress participant, A.D. (Appy) Chandler, gave an overview of the *International Stewardship Awards*. These awards, he explained, were established in 2001 to support innovative stewardship work of QLF Alumni in each QLF international region: Central and Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Middle East. These awards reinforce QLF's ongoing work to advance stewardship through training, institutional capacity building, technical assistance, research, and education.

Jessica Brown and Brent Mitchell then introduced three alumni, past recipients of the *International Stewardship Award*:

**Wil Maheia (Award Recipient, 2002)**

Founder, Toledo Institute for Development and Environment, Belize  
Co-Founder, Tri-National Alliance for the Gulf of Honduras, Belize  
Founder, People's National Party

**Blažena Hušková (Award Recipient, 2003)**

Program Consultant, Association for the Jizerske hory Mountains Region, Czech Republic

**Alberto Yanosky (Award Recipient, 2004)**

Founder and Executive Director, Guyra Paraguay, Paraguay

### *Caring for the Earth*

Larry Morris next called upon Dr. Alex Bielak, a Member of the QLF Corporation (Canada) and Trustee of The Cloverleaf Foundation, to provide some background on the *Caring for the Earth Award*.

Alex noted that his foundation, through the *Caring for the Earth Award*, wished to recognize conservation leadership and inspire enthusiasm for continued achievement among QLF Alumni in all regions.

### *The President's Award*

Larry next described the *President's Award*. Established in 2002, the *President's Award* is a discretionary grant designed to provide an immediate financial response to a pressing environmental need being addressed by a QLF Alumnus/Alumna. The award was intended to provide timely assistance, which could make a difference in advancing a conservation agenda.

Larry introduced Mounir Abi Said (Lebanon, 1995), the first recipient of the award. Funds from the award were used to support Mounir's wildlife conservation and education program in his home country. (Editor's note: Mounir recently received his doctoral degree from the University of Kent, England, the first Lebanese to do so.)

Mounir is known throughout Lebanon for his research and study of the striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena syriaca*) and for his work as the Director of *Animal Encounter*, a wildlife education center in Aley, Lebanon, near Beirut. Mounir's goal is to have every child in Lebanon go through a conservation course at *Animal Encounter*.



Mounir Abi Said, the first recipient of QLF's *President's Award*, with wolf pups at *Animal Encounter*, an environmental education center in Aley, Lebanon, east of Beirut.



### Atlantic Region Recognition

Each year QLF provides awards to QLF Interns who have worked in the Atlantic Region: the *Clive Wishart Award*; the *Josh Nove Fund* for Conservation Internships; the *Thomas C. Gray Fellowship*; and QLF Scholarships for students from rural communities on the Quebec North Shore, Newfoundland and Labrador, the Canadian Maritimes Provinces, and New England. Since 1963, more than 1,200 academic scholarships have been awarded for Canadian and American students to pursue their high school diploma or undergraduate and graduate degrees in education, forestry, medicine, science, business, and law.

Larry Morris spoke of QLF's long-term partnership with Princeton University's Class of 1969 Community Service Fund (CSF), established to support internships for Princeton undergraduates. He called upon CSF Board member Kathy Gaffney to talk about the program. Two Princeton CFS/QLF Alumni attended the Congress: Constance de Brun and Jenny Macaulay. Larry noted that in 2002 Jenny won the Richard D. Challener Senior Thesis Prize in Canadian Studies at the Princeton University Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Her Thesis, *Sustainable Community Development in the Atlantic Region of Canada: the Quebec-Labrador Foundation and Asset-Based Community Development*, is based on her work as a QLF Intern.



Greg Cramma

*The QLF Alumni Congress was truly inspiring for me. It allowed me to meet people from all walks of life and from all over the world. In my opinion it is very important to build these bridges so that we can truly understand each other. QLF is a master of bringing people together to share knowledge and to learn. It really motivates you to know that you are not on this ship alone.*

Wil Maheia

Founder, Toledo Institute for  
Development and Environment, Belize  
Co-Founder, Tri-National Alliance for the Gulf of  
Honduras, Belize

Founder, People's National Party  
and Candidate for National Office in 2008



Anita Szeicz

QLF "Pioneers:" past volunteers, interns, and International Fellows who served QLF more than 15 years ago



QLF's Atlantic Region "Old Guard:" those who served the organization more than 30 years ago. From left with Larry Morris at the podium: Sandy Winans, Tom Horn, Rosemary Furfey, Jim Gaffney, and Phil Huffman

There was special acknowledgement of QLF's "Pioneers" from the Atlantic Region who attended the Congress. Some of these individuals are among QLF's "Old Guard," who served the organization more than thirty years ago. They were asked to join Larry at the podium.

#### **Rosemary Furfey**

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

#### **Jim Gaffney**

*Living Rivers Program*, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1975-1976

#### **John Gambell**

Community Service, Mecantina, Quebec, 1966



The long "Blue and Green Line:" Myles Lawler presents photographs taken by Candace Cochrane to QLF "Pioneers." Myles' mother, Nora McCough Lawler, was a QLF Volunteer on the Quebec North Shore in 1969.

#### **Tom Horn**

QLF Senior Vice President, United States  
*Living Rivers Program*, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1975-1978  
*Ocean Horizons Program*, Fogo Island, Newfoundland, 1979-1980

#### **Phil Huffman**

Member of the QLF Corporation  
*Living Rivers Program*, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, 1978, 1984  
 International Program United Kingdom/United States, 1985  
 International Exchange Program, New England/Maritimes, 1986

#### **Clare Tweedy McMorris**

QLF Trustee, United States  
 Community Service, Kegaska, Quebec, 1974

#### **Philip Nadeau**

QLF Director, Canada  
 Community Service, Northwest River, Labrador, 1969  
 Community Service, Danforth, Maine, 1970  
 Community Service, Schefferville, Quebec, 1971  
 First QLF Scholarship recipient, 1964

#### **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



It was a night to celebrate the accomplishments of all QLF Alumni.



## Dear Larry

QLF Canadian Alumna Heather Walter attended the *Congress* with her husband, producer and videographer, Patrick McCloskey. Together, they produced a short video on the QLF *Alumni Congress*. (In 2004, Heather and Patrick produced the video, *Across Borders and Time*, which provides an overview of QLF from its early years into the 21st century.)

A longtime friend of Larry Morris, Heather wrote this song, *Dear Larry*, and offered an impromptu performance during the Evening of Recognition. Her song, *Dear Larry*, was borrowed from John Prine's song, *Dear Abby*.



QLF Alumna Heather Walter

Dear Larry, dear Larry, we're all gathered here  
To reunite 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, Alumni

Alumni, Alumni, 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

Alumi, Alumni, 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 –  
200 people from 30 great 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 and the whole *Congress* crew,  
What more can we say, but a great big THANK YOU!  
To our hosts from Hungary here in this room,  
We had a great time, so we say, "Goos-a-noom!"  
Signed, Linguistically Challenged

And now we go back to our lives far and near;  
We'll take what we've learned from  
our experiences here.

Let's start a petition, let's hold a rally,  
To get back together – next year, in Bali!

Signed, All of Us



Photographs by Anita Szeicz



György Pál Gadó from Hungary speaks to the Congress.

Anita Szeicz

### International Recognition

QLF Senior Vice President Jessica Brown and Anne-Seymour St. John, former Director of the Middle East Program, combined to introduce alumni “pioneers” from each of the regions with which QLF hosts exchanges:

**György Pál Gadó**, NGO Management Training Course in New England, 1990  
Independent Ecological Center, Budapest, Hungary, 1990

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

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

**Mojmir Vlasin**, Participant Central European Fellowship in New England, 1994  
Czech Institute for Nature Protection, 1994

**Kevel Lindsay**, Latin American and Caribbean Fellowship in the United States, 1991  
Environmental Awareness Group, Antigua and Barbuda, 1991

**Miriam Torres**, 1995 Latin America and Caribbean Fellowship in New England  
ProNatura, Lima, Peru, 1995

### QLF Staff Salute

Congress Director Beth Alling thanked her QLF Congress team led by Coordinator Stephanie Tuxill and including Fellows Myles Lawler, Kate Cook, and Julia Judson-Rea. Beth applauded her crew for an exceptional job.

Larry Morris closed the evening with an appreciative nod to QLF Alumnus Mike Waters, the graphic artist who designed the Congress logo. In 1979 Mike Waters worked on the staff of QLF's *Ocean Horizons Program*, Fogo Island, Newfoundland.

Larry Morris thanked two more individuals, each of whom has provided exceptional leadership and service for the organization: Jamey French and Donald Clifford.



Greg Grana

Marilia Britto Rodrigues (Brazil, 2001) and Kevel Lindsay (Antigua, 1991)

Since the late 1970s, Jamey French, President of Northland Forest Products (Kingston, New Hampshire), has served on the QLF Corporation. He first participated as a “green” business representative in a special session on environmental conflict resolution of QLF's Living Rivers Program in the 1980s. In October 2006, Jamey was elected to the QLF Board of Trustees, United States.

Donald (Obie) Clifford heads the Executive Committee of QLF's Board of Trustees, United States. In his leadership, he has embraced the significance of the dual aspect of QLF's mission — regional and global. Obie has guided the organization with a sure hand through the complexities of institutional transition in a fast-changing world.

Each received a wooden canoe model, designed by Mike Waters, symbolizing QLF's connection to its “home waters” in North America.



Anita Szeicz

Beth Alling salutes the Congress staff. Left to right: Kate Cook, Stephanie Tuxill, Myles Lawler, and Julia Judson-Rea



The following are excerpts from a letter read by Blažena Hušková at the Congress. The letter was written by Blažena Hušková and Jitka Doubnerová, alumnae of QLF's Women's Rural Community Leadership Program for Central Europe (2000 and 2002, respectively). In 2003, Blažena received the International Stewardship Award which helped sponsor her participation in the IUCN 5th World Parks Congress held in Durban, South Africa. Both Blažena and Jitka work for the Association for the Jizerské hory Mountains Region, based in Liberec, Czech Republic.

To the Congress,

We meet here, in Hungary, on the occasion of the QLF Congress — a worldwide gathering of people who had the chance and good luck to be nurtured by QLF. We, QLF Alumni living in the Jizersky hory Mountains and Frydlantsko region have one reason to celebrate. Ten years ago we began our cooperation with QLF, represented at that time by Jessica Brown and Brent Mitchell. We did not recognize it immediately, but looking back today it is obvious that it was a big change in our work, life, and way of thinking.

The beginning was very gradual. We began to speak about nature and landscape conservation in Jizerské hory Mountains, about the need to revitalize our damaged forest ecosystems. At that time, we were not interested in local people and their lives at all — our main and only concern was the forest. Step by step, gradually and with respect, Jessica and Brent helped us to think not only about trees in the mountains, but also about people living under the slopes.

Together we prepared the Landscape Stewardship Exchange in October 1997. All the theory and thinking became practical experience, appreciated by the Steering Committee members and by the participants — mayors, nature conservationists, and local residents. Our point of view changed. We began to look not only after beech and silver fir seedlings, but also after “local leader seedlings,” and discovered their value and importance. We were not alone any more....Without QLF our net would be much more tenuous.

Of course, this would never have happened without the Environmental Partnership for Central Europe and without Mirek Kundrata as the Director of the Czech Office. I believe that, especially, this powerful connection between QLF and the Environmental Partnership for Central Europe made so many positive changes in the Czech Republic possible and effective.

A number of events of a different nature followed: QLF Fellowships in the United States, community leaders visiting the Jizerské hory Mountains and Frydlantsko, and the Women's Rural Community Leadership Training Program (or Baby nec, as we call it). Delia Clark came to our region and helped us to make another big step toward public participation and democracy. After having been born and having lived for many years under a communist government, without freedom and practical experience with democracy, we really needed help and many examples to understand all the shapes, faces, and signs it has, and Delia embodied the deep belief in competencies, responsibility, self-sufficiency...and the wisdom of local people.

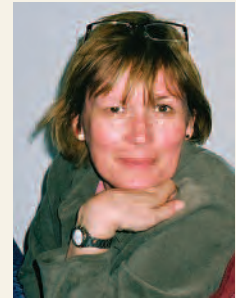
Today, after 10 years, we look back and see more clearly the way we passed, most of the time led or accompanied by QLF. Of course, we were the swimmers in the deep and sometimes white water, but QLF helped us to see more clearly the place we want to reach, taught us better swimming styles, and was always on the bank, prepared to give good advice or help if needed.

We reached several big successes during last year. Our project proposals were successful and we raised about \$1 million USD mostly from the European Union. These funds will make possible projects focused on nature and landscape conservation, sustainable community development, and public participation. Now we are able to help thousands of rural people in North Bohemia to live better lives with higher respect for nature.

We could never have done it without what we learned thanks to QLF.

Sincerely,

Blažena Hušková and Jitka Doubnerová  
Společnost Pro Jizerské hory O.P.S.  
(Association for the Jizerské hory Mountains Region)  
Liberec, Czech Republic



Blažena Hušková

Greg Cramma

## Storytelling

To end Tuesday evening, we asked QLF Alumnus, author, and nature raconteur, Michael Caduto, to share some of his nature writing including *Chipmunk CPR*, a true story from his time as a staff member at the *Living Rivers Program*, in Tabusintac, New Brunswick. Humor, as Michael notes, helps to bridge differences — whether environmental, cultural, spiritual, or political — should be a part of every conservationist's repertoire.



QLF Archives

Michael Caduto teaching environmental education to an eager audience in rural Maine.

## Chipmunk CPR

Michael J. Caduto

I remember two things most about the summer of 1980. After Mount Saint Helens erupted and spewed her blanket of ash into the upper atmosphere, we experienced a brief spell of global cooling. At the time I was senior instructor at the Living Rivers Program, a summer environmental education camp in northern New Brunswick. Most of all, I recall an event that I've retold many times since that frigid summer. It's one of the most remarkable experiences I have had in thirty years of teaching children about the natural world.

Our camp was run by the Atlantic Center for the Environment. It consisted of a converted hunting lodge that sat twelve miles up the Tabusintac River. There were no roads into the camp, which was surrounded by a vast expanse of spruce and fir forest with its wet, mossy ground cover. The only access was by the johnboats that made their

once-a-week trip upriver to bring fresh food, other supplies, and children.

During the first session I worked with fifth and sixth graders: an enthusiastic crew of kids, the sons and daughters of farmers and smelt fishermen who were mostly of Scottish and Micmac Indian descent. To begin our garden project, we dug into the only dry spot we could find in the thin, sandy soil that had been excavated to build the cabin. Here we planted a few rows of vegetable seeds with the hope that something would actually grow in the spare, acid earth. Having no fence to keep out the local plant-eating critters, I borrowed an old piece of a smelt fishing net from Clive Wishart, a local farmer, fisherman, and the camp proprietor. I fashioned four wooden corner posts with my ax, strung the old smelt net around the garden and buried the bottom edge.

Two days later, as I sat in the cabin working with kids on their projects, a group of children ran in screaming, "Quick, hurry, there's a chipmunk caught in the net and it's stopped breathing!" The boys looked helpless and some of the girls were crying.

I dropped the pair of scissors I was holding, ran outside, and saw the unfortunate chipmunk, limp and lifeless, hanging with its neck twisted in the smelt net. It had tried to enter the garden, had found the hole in the net too small and had become stuck with its

head in and body out. In an attempt to free itself, the chipmunk had jumped up and wound the net around until the noose had tightened and strangled it.

"Do something!" the children screamed.

After struggling in vain to untangle the chipmunk, I ran back to the cabin, grabbed the scissors, and carefully cut the strands from around its neck.

"Do something to save it!" the children pleaded.

Whatever possessed me to try what I did next, I'll never know. Imagining how quickly I had seen a chipmunk's chest pulse as it breathed, I cradled the animal in my left hand and administered CPR chest compressions with my right index and middle fingers. During the minutes that followed, the entire camp crowded around to watch in a collective breath-holding exercise of their own.

For a while, the exercise seemed hopeless. Each time I stopped my compressions we could see that the chipmunk was still not breathing.

Then, to my complete surprise, and amazement, I felt the tiny chest heave—once... twice...and again. I stopped the compressions. We all watched as that small chipmunk began to take single breaths with long intervals in between.

Gradually, the breaths came quicker, but it was still lying on its side with eyes closed. When the pace of breathing seemed almost normal, the chipmunk suddenly sat up, looked at me in sheer terror, then bolted from my hand and ran off into the forest. A cheer rang up and drifted out over the icy Tabusintac River. Everyone was screaming and hugging and jumping up and down.

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Greg Cranna

Tabusintac River, Tabusintac, New Brunswick, Canada



# The QLF Alumni Congress

*Day Four* Wednesday, 5 April 2006

## Capturing the Spirit

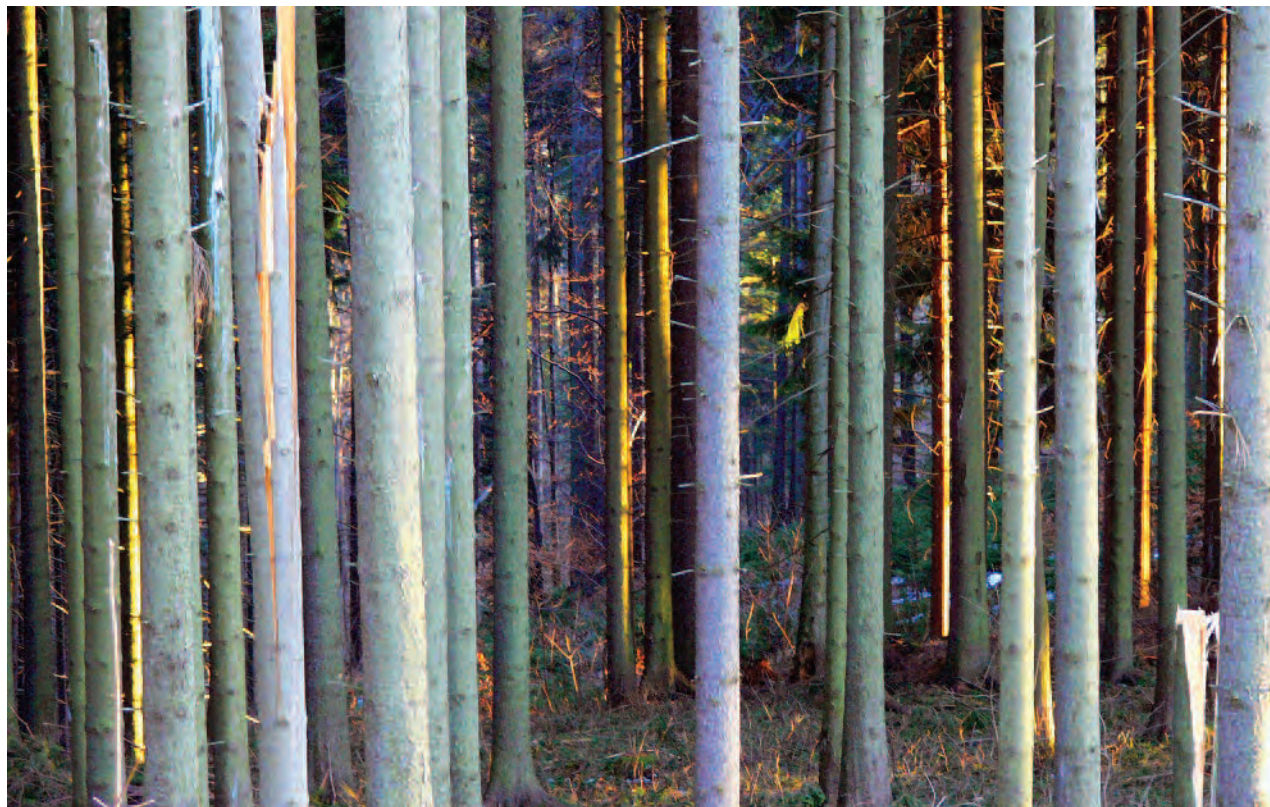
THE FINAL DAY OF THE QLF ALUMNI CONGRESS began early at the Hotel Palota and ended many hours later back in Budapest. The morning session consisted of a Funders Panel and a report of the QLF Futures Task Force by Trustee James Levitt. At lunch a final case study presentation, *Tracking Common and Roseate Terns from Great Gull Island, New York, to Punta Rasa, Argentina*, by Helen Hays from the American Museum of Natural History in New York, and Esteban Bremer of Fundacion Vida Silvestre Argentina, demonstrated (through their collaborative research) important *Congress* themes. They were: 1) the critical need to connect regions through common interests and issues; and 2) the important task of communicating conservation priorities to local communities. This presentation concluded the formal *Congress* proceedings.

A final interactive exercise and group discussion involving all *Congress* participants, *QLF at 50: Looking Ahead*, gave everyone a chance to reflect on what had happened in the previous four days.

In the afternoon our buses took us back to Budapest (avoiding flooded areas as best we could). The flooding of the Danube had peaked in what was reported to be the highest level in more than a century.

*Congress* participants gathered for the Closing Reception at the United States Embassy Residence of Ambassador and Mrs. George H. Walker. Our final celebration, planned as a river cruise, was reconfigured, as the Danube was too dangerous to navigate. Instead, the party took place on the boat still tied up at the dock. The spirit of the evening was uncompromised.

The following pages chronicle the events of Day Four.



A.D. Chandler III



Greig Cramma

Jameson French of The French Foundation and Northland Forest Products, Inc. (United States) discusses challenges for funders and grantees in the 21st century. William Moody of the Rockefeller Brothers Fund looks on.

## THE FUNDERS PANEL

The Funders Panel was asked to address priorities and challenges in the global funding arena, something familiar to all *Congress* participants. Topics covered ranged from conservation and stewardship to heritage. Panelists

represented foundations, government agencies, corporations, and individual donors.

Panelists were:

Alex T. Bielak, The Cloverleaf Foundation (Canada)

A.D. Chandler III, Riptide Fund at the Boston Foundation (United States)

Jameson S. French, The French Foundation (United States) and Northland Forest Products, Inc. (United States)

Ray Kirkland, U.S. Agency for International Development (United States)

Miroslav Kundrata, Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation (Czech Republic)

Paul R. Malik, United States Department of State (United States)

William S. Moody, Rockefeller Brothers Fund (United States)

The Funders Panel was moderated by Jessica Brown.



Greig Cramma

Ray Kirkland, Regional Director, U.S. Agency for International Development, provides his perspective on obtaining public sector support for conservation and stewardship programs in the years ahead.



Greig Cramma

*Congress* participants gather to hear Alex Bielak of Canada's Cloverleaf Foundation.



We asked panel participant Alex Bielak to write his observations on the challenges and opportunities of grantors and grantees.

*As I look back on my decision to take some leave from my day job and attend the QLF Alumni Congress in Hungary, I know that it was a sound one. The fact that I had long wanted to visit Budapest for personal reasons was an added impetus, but frankly I would have traveled anywhere, from Ipswich to Istanbul, to be part of this historic event for a conservation organization I feel a deep attachment and loyalty to.*

*I was glad to contribute to a lively Funders Panel on the closing day of the Congress. Representing a family foundation, I was small fry among some of the global players crammed onto the stage that day. I tried to offer some insights as to what drives small-scale giving: key is a personal connection, once made, maintained. QLF has proven to be masters at this. For instance, I'm sure that the hours spent by QLF senior staff adding a much-appreciated personal touch to countless annual appeal letters have borne fruit over the years. Also important is that smaller players — and there are increasing numbers out there — can take the sort of risks in terms of funding that other larger institutional funders might not entertain. Finally I noted that unsolicited letters to foundations whose interests were member-driven (and who might specifically indicate that they do not accept unsolicited proposals) were generally a waste of effort for the proponents and unlikely to be successful.*

*I was also pleased to participate in the relaunch of the Caring for the Earth Awards. Fraught as they may be from an organizational perspective (“Why did they get one and we didn’t?”), I truly believe that recognition by an external party can spark great things. Local authorities perk up when an international organization like QLF recognizes the work being done by an individual or an organization they might have perceived as a marginal player or perhaps even a wellmeaning thorn in the side. It is surely not the modest monetary sum associated with the Award, though that may be helpful in some circumstances. Awards in each of the QLF geographic regions are an exciting step and I look forward to learning of the great work being done by the awardees.*

*Ultimately, the Congress was a great success for QLF and in knitting the “family” together. The true measure of its success will be in how the momentum created by this seminal event is maintained, and how ongoing links can be facilitated by QLF headquarters together with all those who participated.*



Alex Bielak describes the history of the Caring for the Earth Awards and the role and value of family foundations. William Moody in background

Greg Cramma

Alex T. Bielak, Ph.D.  
Director General, S & T Strategies  
Science and Technology Branch, Environment Canada  
Member of the QLF Corporation

## Report of the QLF Futures Task Force

Jim Levitt gave an informative presentation on the report of the Futures Task Force, a QLF board committee which he chaired. The presentation was followed by a discussion among *Congress* participants and facilitated by Delia Clark, Consultant for QLF's International Programs.

Jim is the Director of the Program on Conservation Innovation at the Harvard Forest and a Fellow with the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.

Jim first served QLF as a community service intern in Burnt Church, New Brunswick, in the early 1970s. A decade later he joined the QLF board and was tasked with chairing QLF's Long Range Planning Committee. The 1988 report of the Committee has served as a QLF road map for nearly two decades. He was the perfect choice, therefore, to lead the Futures Task Force as QLF approaches its 50th anniversary.

The Futures Task Force was asked to assess recommendations advanced by the QLF President that would recast management roles to address the challenges of a 21st century QLF. A subcommittee, the Program Strategy Committee, was asked to review the totality of QLF's program offerings.

Jim's bond to QLF, like that of so many other alumni, is based upon his early experience as a summer volunteer:

*My two summers in Burnt Church were like no others I had ever experienced. The months I spent on the shores of the*



James Levitt, Chairman of QLF's Futures Task Force, shares the committee report with *Congress* attendees.



Julie Early, member of QLF's Program Strategy Committee, part of the Futures Task Force

*Miramachi Bay with my friends convinced me that the work we were doing there — teaching, swimming, leading nature hikes, playing baseball, building log cabins, and forming lasting relationships — was key to building any global conservation dreams we might have. I began to understand then what the emerging idea of “community-based conservation” was all about.*

*The lesson that began in Burnt Church continues to guide me to this day. Enduring conservation achievement is deeply rooted in hearts and minds, and thrives in the presence of people who love the land. The distinctive power of QLF's work is in the organization's remarkable ability to build on local experience, sharing exemplary practices across communities, across national boundaries, and across oceans.*

Jim continued and noted the impact of the *Congress* Stewardship Workshop the day before. He was struck, as so many were, by all the examples of QLF Alumni assuming leadership positions in the conservation field, in their communities, in their home countries. He noted that the first land trusts in Belize, the Czech Republic, Mexico, and Paraguay were started or were influenced by QLF Alumni.

He went on to cite numerous examples of wildlife conservation, environmental education, and land stewardship efforts conducted by alumni and, in some cases, under extremely difficult conditions. The protection of Golden Lion Tamarins in Brazil; coral reefs in Belize; hyena conservation in Lebanon; and seabird preservation





in Quebec, Long Island Sound, the United States, the United Kingdom, and South America all have a connection to QLF through alumni.

Jim reminded the group that QLF's identity is based upon "leadership in community-based conservation and development" and that this identity is implicit in the organization's two-part mission statement dealing with regional and international stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage.

Next, Jim quoted a memo from Larry Morris to QLF's staff just before the Congress:

*This meeting will demonstrate QLF's mission in its entirety to us all. There will be no more "mission straddle" where we are seen as having two "competing" program*

*elements, one North American, and one international, in the eyes of our constituents....*

*The QLF Alumni Congress will affirm, once and for all, the power, capacity, and potential of our network of alumni, staff, board, Corporation, and partners.*

Agreeing with Larry, Jim noted that the energy and goodwill of QLF Alumni will remain at the core of our organizational psyche. He stated that QLF programs will benefit from a mix of being place-based and approach-based. Organizations like QLF must be willing to experiment with new ideas and innovative programming.

Jim concluded that, while there is work to be done in its "next 50 years," QLF has a bright future, thanks to the enormous strength and loyalty of the QLF network.

## TRIBUTE TO GREIG CRANNA

Just before the presentation by Helen Hays and Esteban Bremer, Larry Morris paid a special tribute to photographer and writer, Greig Cranna, for his three decades of service with QLF:

*Among the first QLF pioneers to travel to the Quebec North Shore is photographer Greig Cranna. Born in Vancouver, British Columbia, Greig settled in New York City, where he began a distinguished photography career in 1976.*

*In 1978, Greig's first assignment for the Quebec-Labrador Foundation sent him to the Quebec North Shore, thus beginning 28 years of dedicated service to QLF and the communities of Atlantic Canada and New England.*

*His interest in seabirds, Atlantic salmon, aquaculture, environmental issues, and ecotourism have always made him a perfect match for QLF and its programs.*

*After nearly three decades with QLF, Greig holds a deep understanding and appreciation for the organization's*

*history, and a deep commitment to the long-term vision of the organization. He has played an invaluable role in promoting the QLF mission through his writing and photography.*

*Serving as a QLF Consultant, Greig has participated in and photographed countless QLF programs from Canada to Long Island Sound, from Central Europe to South America.*



Greig Cranna



Anita Szeicz

*An avid birder, Greig Cranna has documented the work of QLF's Sounds Conservancy grantee, Helen Hays, on Great Gull Island in Long Island Sound—now in her 38th year of research on Common and Roseate Terns. Greig's next assignment (February 2007) is to photograph the research of Helen Hays and Esteban Bremer on the Common Terns that have migrated from Great Gull Island, New York, to Punta Rasa, Argentina. Given this strong connection to Helen Hays and her extensive work on Great Gull, it is fitting for us now to pay tribute to Greig Cranna for his years of service to QLF.*



Helen Hays, American Museum of Natural History (New York City), on Great Gull Island, eastern Long Island Sound, United States.

Greg Cramma

## CASE STUDY PRESENTATION

### *Connecting Regions: Great Gull Island, New York, to Punta Rasa, Argentina*

Helen Hays is a long-term grantee of The Sounds Conservancy, a QLF program designed to secure the conservation and stewardship of the six “Sounds” extending west to east from the Hudson River (New York) to the “elbow” on Cape Cod (Massachusetts). Helen is in her 38th year of seabird research based at a study site, Great Gull Island, off the Connecticut coast.

Her colleague, Esteban Bremer, is the Conservation Officer for the Fundacion Vida Silvestre Argentina, a foundation which supports wildlife conservation for species at risk. Esteban's headquarters is in Punta Rasa, where large concentrations of Common Terns spend the Northern Hemisphere winter. In addition to his enforcement activities, Esteban runs an annual banding program in Punta Rasa, and with his wife, he oversees a conservation education program for nearby schools as well as for visitors.

Together, Helen Hays and Esteban Bremer are tracking Common and Roseate Terns that migrate from Great Gull Island to Punta Rasa and then return to North America in the spring.

Helen reported to the Congress on the Great Gull Project and her first trip to Punta Rosa in 1995 as she followed her birds south.

*Great Gull Island lies at the eastern end of Long Island Sound. It is the site of the largest tern colony in the Western Hemisphere. Over 17,000 Common Terns and a little more than 2,200 Roseate Terns, an endangered species, nest there. The island is also the site of a research station where studies of both species have been under way since 1969. The American Museum of Natural History owns the island and the work there is done under the auspices of the museum.*

*In 1987 the Roseate Tern was listed by the Federal Government as an endangered species and study funds became available. Although we have learned a good deal about the breeding biology of the Roseate Tern, no one knew where the species spent the non-breeding season. In 1995 researchers from the Great Gull Island Project went to South America to look*



Greg Cramma

*The Sounds Conservancy Grants Program provides support to more than two dozen recipients each year. Grantee Helen Hays has studied Common and Roseate Terns on Great Gull Island for 38 years. Helen and her colleagues are now tracking the birds on their annual migration from Great Gull Island to Punta Rasa, Argentina.*



for Roseate Terns. We also hoped to find areas where Common Terns roosted along the coast and to check any concentrations we found for birds banded on Great Gull Island. On this first trip we were fortunate on two counts. We discovered Roseate Terns off the coast of Bahia, Brazil, late in February, and we discovered the largest roosting concentration of Common Terns in the hemisphere at Punta Rasa, Argentina, early in February.

The first evening at Punta Rasa over 20,000 Common Terns came in to roost, more birds than we had seen before or since in any roosting concentration of this species on the coast of South America. It was exciting for us to find such a large group and to find color-banded birds from Great Gull Island in the group. Esteban Bremer, Conservation Officer for the Fundación Vida Silvestre Argentina, was netting at Punta Rasa, an area he manages. One of his students introduced us to him. Subsequently we have worked with Esteban on cooperative projects in the breeding and the non-breeding season. For the last five years Bremer brought volunteers to Great Gull Island to help us mark and trap birds during the last two weeks of June, the time most nests on the island hatched. These trips were made possible by grant support from The Sounds Conservancy Program of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation. During the non-breeding season researchers from Great Gull Island have worked with Bremer at Punta Rasa, radio-tagging Common Terns he netted and following the radio-tagged birds offshore to see where they were feeding during the day. One was last seen sixty miles from shore.

Bremer has netted birds banded originally in most of the larger Common Tern nesting colonies in the northeastern United States, as well as some from Canada. His orange-tagged birds have appeared in many of these same colonies. When we started our work in South America, we hoped to find Roseate Terns and perhaps find some of our Great Gull Island Common Terns. Our birds led us to many places along the coast, not only places where we found terns, but places where we met researchers in South America and were able to implement cooperative projects. Working together, we hope to map the roosting sites Common and Roseate Terns use during the non-breeding season and heighten awareness of both species in the northern and southern hemispheres, because community involvement is vital for their survival.

Helen Hays  
Chairman, Great Gull Island Committee  
American Museum of Natural History  
New York, United States



Greg Grama

## QLF AT 50: LOOKING AHEAD

The closing exercise after lunch was led by Larry Morris, who called upon several Congress participants to step forward to share what they felt were the characteristics which best define QLF. In setting down his own marker, Larry spoke of leadership development as central to the QLF *raison d'être*:

Part of what QLF has always been about is inspiring and fostering leadership. Our organizational strategy is in developing conservation leaders: 1) at the individual and community level throughout the Atlantic Region; 2) among the hundreds of interns and volunteers who have worked for us; and 3) through our international Fellows who joined QLF through our overseas exchanges.

Helping to train a new generation of leaders in the Atlantic Region and beyond is a task that is as daunting as it is crucial. Our investment in individuals has always taken a “cradle-to-grave approach.” Once with us, always with us....

As we applaud the proliferation of NGOs across northern New England, Atlantic Canada, Quebec, and overseas as well, we see an increasing role for QLF to train and develop future generations of decision-makers.

As new environmental organizations sprout up, QLF is ready to help equip their managers with tools acquired not just in the classroom or their own backyards, but through QLF experiences across borders and over oceans.

QLF's task now is to continue to strengthen this 21st century alumni leadership network.

## THOUGHTS ON QLF AT 50: LOOKING AHEAD

Donald (Obie) Clifford, representing the QLF Board, shared his thoughts about the Congress and QLF:

*Taking part in QLF's First Alumni Congress was a major high point of the year for me. Sensing the extraordinary enthusiasm for our mission among so many diverse, committed individuals was inspiring, and my conviction that QLF is making a vital difference in the world was confirmed many times over.*

*Perhaps for the first time, I fully appreciated how effectively QLF is drawing on its central role — to serve rural communities in the Atlantic Region (Atlantic Canada and New England) — and to create models that we can apply in other important parts of the world. As you have seen in this record of the event, it became clear at the Congress that this is now happening through the continued efforts of QLF Fellows now representing 65 nationalities and 63 countries.*

*QLF's mission is both noble and ambitious. Given the enormous challenges of today's world, what we are doing so well is also more needed than ever before in our nearly 50 years of service.*

*I invite all of you to stay tuned for more developments and join with us in making QLF's next half century even more successful than the first.*



Anita Szeicz

Bill Moody followed. Bill is the Program Director, Serbia and Montenegro, with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and was known to many at the Congress well before arriving in Hungary. Upon his return to the States, Bill

Moody shared his observations on the Congress and QLF. A number of strategic grants from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund over 25 years have collectively built the reputation and capacity of QLF's International Programs:

*It seemed to me that all of the participants arrived with an eagerness to see people they had met, often many years ago, in a QLF program or during an internship. I also learned that these QLF experiences were many times life-changing—with distinctly positive impacts on careers.*

*Because of the excellent design of the Congress, we simultaneously reenergized each other and learned from each other — all while sharing our passions for heritage, preservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development....I will long have a snapshot in my mind of the education workshop on the top floor of Hotel Palota, with Israelis and Arabs sitting side by side sharing experiences and enriching each other.*

*...I have pondered the list of works that Tom Horn associated with QLF in the final session of the Congress. Others, including myself, made additions: vision, responsiveness, empathy, professionalism, effectiveness, and integrity.*

*You folks sensed the moment and seized the opportunity for this Congress. It is rare in life to feel and be part of the emotion, spirit, and passion that were all shared during our precious days together last week.*



Susan Moody

After Bill Moody, QLF staff came forward to provide their views about the organization and its future. Staff included: Tom Horn, Jessica Brown, and Brent Mitchell. Congress Director Beth Alling concluded the exercise.

Among the themes that emerged were the following: leadership, service, finding common ground, sharing, and making a difference.





We asked Delia Clark to facilitate the final plenary session of the Congress. Delia is also the Director of Program Development for the Center for Place-Based Learning and Innovation, a project of the National Park Service's Conservation Study Institute in partnership with Shelburne Farms and Marsh Billings Rockefeller National Historical Park. Delia's thoughts on the final plenary session follow.

*Nourished by the rich dialogue of several days spent together with this fascinating and impressive group of natural and cultural stewards from around the world, I was invited to close the Congress by asking participants to share their visions for the ways QLF should continue to evolve in the 21st Century. Working within the model of the two integrated halves of QLF's mission—supporting the environment and heritage of the rural communities of eastern Canada and New England, while simultaneously creating models for the stewardship of natural and cultural resources that can be applied worldwide—we opened the floor for comments, projecting them on a large screen at the front of the hall.*

*One of several messages that emerged clearly was that QLF alumni represent a diversity of organizations and a unity of cause. QLF is no longer a small NGO, but the center of a broad and diverse network of NGOs. There was a strong recommendation that QLF take advantage of the seeds it has sown by tapping this alumni network, including those who have moved into powerful positions, to promote the cause of stewardship of our natural and cultural resources and of QLF as an organization. Those present clearly appreciated the chance to participate in this strong network and recommended the creation of an international advisory board, including indigenous and youth representatives, to continue to support its growth.*



Brent Mitchell

Delia Clark led Congress participants through a visioning process for QLF.



Candace Cochrane

During the Congress flood waters continued to rise on the Danube.



Kathryn Olmstead

Counterclockwise from top left: Miriam Torres (Peru, 1995); Khamila O'Reilly Becerra (Honduras, 2005); Lucio Malizia (Argentina, 2005); Snežana Dragojević (Montenegro, 2005); Hugo Hildalgo (Guatemala, 2004); Tatjana Rajić (Montenegro, 2005); and Monica Calvopiña (Ecuador, 2001)



Kathryn Olmstead

From left: Rana Ali al-Safadi (Jordan, 2003); Sarkis Khawaja (Lebanon, 2005); Sami Backleh (Palestine, 2003); Assad Serhal (Lebanon, 1993); and Idit Alhasid (Israel, 2003)



Kathryn Olmstead

From left: Alix Morris (Alumna, 2001, 2004); Randall Hack, QLF Trustee, United States; and Canadian Jenny Macaulay (QLF Intern, 2001, sponsored by Princeton University's Class of 1969 Community Service Fund)



Greig Cramma

Carmit Pintz-Kedmi (Israel, 1998) and QLF's Serena Etheridge from the Quebec North Shore, Canada

## EVENING EVENTS, BUDAPEST

United States Ambassador to Hungary George H. Walker and his wife, Carol Walker, hosted *Congress* attendees for the Closing Reception at the Embassy Residence. Also invited were Ambassador of Canada to Hungary Robert Hage; Ambassador of Israel to Hungary David Admon; and Ambassador of Mexico to Hungary José Luis Martinez. United States Embassy staff and Budapest-based NGOs that had helped with the *Congress* joined the festivities. Ambassador Walker, Donald Clifford, Larry Morris, and Beth Alling each paid tribute to those who had traveled so far to attend the first QLF *Alumni Congress*.

Later that evening the *Congress* attendees were taken by bus to the waterfront where they boarded a Danube riverboat. The gathering that followed allowed those who had worked so hard time to relax and enjoy each other. Brent Mitchell and the staff of Ecotours put together a slideshow that provided a backdrop of the prior four days in Hungary.

As QLF *Congress* participants left the boat to return to the hotel, a number of them remarked that now it would be up to QLF to capture the energy that had so permeated the group meeting in Hungary. The months to follow will determine the success in doing just that.

We hope that the accompanying photographs capture the spirit of the final evening and of the *Congress* itself.





Greig Cramma

Raed Rawhi Abu Hayyaneh (Jordan 1995, 2006) (left) and Bartolo Teul (Belize, 2001)



Kathryn Olmstead

Counterclockwise from front left: Sandy Winans (Alumnus 1969 -1970, 1973 -1977); Martha Bolling; Wil Maheia (Belize, 1999); Clare McMorris, QLF Trustee; Bob Bolling (Alumnus 1981 and Member of the QLF Corporation); and Obie Clifford, QLF Trustee



Greig Cramma

Front row from left: Asem Faqir (Jordan, 1997); QLF's Julia Judson-Rea; Haya George Helal (Palestine, 2003); Sami Backleh (Palestine, 2004); Qusay Ahmad (Jordan, 1998); Beth Alling; and Abdel Fattah Abd Rahoul (Palestine, 2001). Back row from left: Ibrahim Odeh (Palestine, 2001); Rana Ali al-Safadi (Jordan, 2003); Larry Morris; and Mounir Abi Said (Lebanon, 1995)



Greig Cramma

QLF's Brent Mitchell (left) and Paul Malik of the United States Department of State



Greig Cramma

Riverboats tied up alongside the flooded streets of Budapest. River traffic during the *Congress* was at a standstill as high water prevented transit under the many bridges.



Kathryn Olmstead

Larry Morris with Ambassador of Mexico to Hungary, José Luis Martinez, at the Closing Reception, United States Embassy Residence, Budapest

## The Congress – Day Four

# The Post-Congress Tour in the Czech Republic

Thursday, 6 April - Saturday, 7 April

## VISITING THE RURAL LANDSCAPES OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC

Jessica Brown

Senior Vice President, International Programs

Following the Congress, 25 QLF Alumni, Board members and QLF partners participated in a tour in the Czech Republic to see some of that country's landscapes and learn about the work of QLF's Czech partners in landscape stewardship and community sustainable development. Jessica Brown, QLF's Senior Vice President, International Programs, led the tour, along with Mirek Kundrata, Director of the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation, and QLF Alumnus Lada Ptáček (Czech Republic, 1995), who served as the Greenways Travel Club's guide throughout the tour. The tour included visits to the Lednice-Valtice World Heritage Cultural Landscape and the White Carpathian Mountains, ending in Prague with a reception hosted by the United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic William Cabaniss and Mrs. Cabaniss. QLF will host more rural landscape tours and study tours in a continuing effort to connect our alumni in North America with our overseas partner regions.

Early on Thursday morning, after the Congress, a group of Congress participants traveled by bus into the countryside of southern Moravia in the Czech Republic on the start of a three-day tour. The tour provided an opportunity for Congress participants to visit some of the special landscapes of the Czech Republic and the projects where QLF has been working in partnership with Czech organizations for more than a decade. Participating in the tour were Members of the QLF Corporation, consultants, alumni and friends from Canada, the United States, and Israel. Also joining us for part of the tour were United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic William Cabaniss and Mrs. Cabaniss.

The Greenways Travel Club, a tour agency affiliated with the emerging Czech Greenways, organized the tour, which I led along with our long-time partner Mirek Kundrata of the Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation (Nadace Partnerství), who joined us for part of the trip. Throughout the tour, QLF Fellowship Alumnus

*Our Czech hosts enjoyed meeting the visitors and, after many years of working in partnership with QLF, having an opportunity to share ideas with so many QLF alumni and partners.*



Greenhouse of the Lednice Zamek (château)

Greig Cramma

Lada Ptáček (Czech Republic, 1995) served as our guide and language interpreter, sharing his knowledge of the Czech landscape and local conservation initiatives. As always, Lada's dry sense of humor enlivened the commentary. At each stop we were greeted by QLF Alumni and partners with whom we have worked for many years. With each warm welcome these gatherings provided an opportunity for exchange among the visitors and our Czech colleagues. On several





Greig Cramma

View from the Valtice Zamek

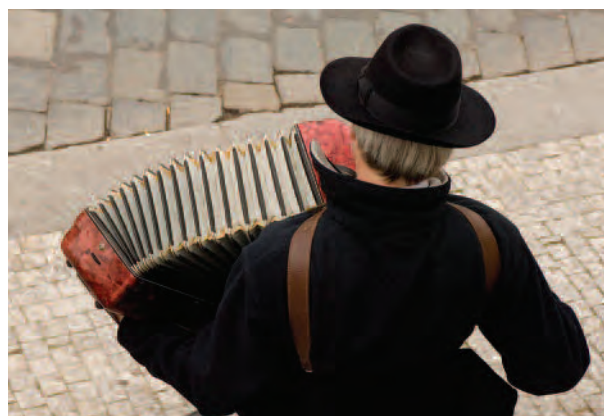
occasions we spoke with members of the press, and along the way found that our visit was being chronicled in local newspaper articles.

Our first stop was the Lednice-Valtice World Heritage Site in the southern Moravia region of the Czech Republic near the border with Austria. We began with a walking tour in this beautiful cultural landscape characterized by vineyards and several designed landscapes, each with a zamek (chateau) and ornamental buildings called follies. Following the ride from Budapest that morning, we were glad for the fresh air and pleasantly surprised to discover, a short way along a woodland trail, that our hosts from the Greenways Travel Club were waiting with an elaborate picnic laid out in a clearing. After lunch, we walked through the grounds of the Lednice Zamek, enjoying the woodlands, gardens, and follies. In the evening there was time to tour the Valtice Zamek before hearing a presentation on the Czech Greenways program, which is working to promote sustainable tourism and recreation in this region of Moravia. The evening ended with wine-tasting

in a traditional Vinny Sklep in the cellar of the Valtice castle and dinner at a local restaurant.

## DAY 2

The next day we toured the impressive Lednice Zamek and then traveled to the White Carpathians



Greig Cramma

region, stopping for lunch in Slavonice. There we met with local officials from the region and representatives of the Jan Pivečka Foundation.

With Alumnus Radim Machů (Czech Republic, 1997) of the NGO, Traditions of the White Carpathians (Tradiče Bílych Karpat), we visited the village of Hostětín in the White Carpathians Protected Landscape Area. Several NGOs such as Veronica, Tradice Bílych Karpat, and Nadace Partnerství are working with the mayor and local



White Carpathians, Czech Republic



Greig Cramma

Jessica Brown (foreground) and Blažena Hušková addressed guests at the Closing Reception and Dinner hosted by Ambassador William Cabaniss and Mrs. Cabaniss, United States Embassy Residence, Prague, Czech Republic

residents on sustainable development projects in the community, including a reed bed wastewater treatment project and a central heating plant powered by woodchips, by-products from nearby sawmills. Our group learned about a project to revitalize traditional orchards by encouraging farmers to plant heirloom cultivars of fruit trees, then toured a fruit-drying facility and juice-processing plant in Hostětín where these fruits are processed. Later, hosted by the mayor for coffee, we had an opportunity to sample these and other traditional “landscape products.”

While in Hostětín, we presented Radim with a special donation for Tradice Bílych Karpat that we had collected during the bus ride; it will provide two-dozen fruit tree saplings to local farmers for their orchards.

Later that afternoon, we hiked with QLF Alumnus Mirek Janik (Czech

Jessica Brown



Republic, 1997) of the NGO Kosenka, with which QLF has worked on many collaborative projects over the years. Mirek showed us some of the upland meadows where Kosenka helps to maintain the traditional hay-ing practices important to the diversity of orchids and other plants. Although it was too early in the season to see orchids, we could see across the valley to a rock outcropping in Slovakia called Cervený Kamen, “red rock,” which towers over a village by the same name. Over the years QLF has hosted Fellows from that part of Slovakia and held local workshops there, just as we have done on the Czech side of the border. Taking in the view across the valley with so many partners from different countries was a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the trans-boundary nature of QLF’s work in Central Europe and beyond.

We spent the evening in the market town of Valašské Klobouky, visiting the traditional wooden cottage where Kosenka has its headquarters and enjoying a short concert by local youth. Our friends at Kosenka hosted the group for dinner in the town hall, where we feasted on a homemade potato-cabbage soup that is a specialty of the Wallachian region and lots of traditional kolaci (cakes) made with local fruit and poppy seeds.

### DAY 3

On the third morning we set off for Prague stopping on the way at a Nature Park in Slavonice, which was created by the Jan Pivečka Foundation. Once in Prague, the group toured the upper grounds of the Prague Castle, with the dramatic view of Prague below the castle hill.

The Closing Reception and Dinner of the post-Congress Tour was held at the United States Embassy Residence in Prague and hosted by the United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic William Cabaniss and Mrs. Cabaniss. The evening was a capstone to the QLF



Mrs. Cabaniss, A.D. (Appy) Chandler and Beth Alling. During the reception Mrs. Cabaniss led the guests on a tour of an art exhibit she had arranged through the *ART in the Embassies Program*, which included two works by Appy’s mother, Fay Chandler. One of Fay Chandler’s paintings is to the immediate left of Mrs. Cabaniss.

Greig Cranna

tour in the Czech Republic. At the reception were the post-Congress tour participants, QLF alumni from the Czech Republic, representatives of Czech conservation NGOs and government agencies, and United States Embassy staff. Ambassador Cabaniss spoke of the QLF mission statement and how the notion of sharing of the model is evident in the work of QLF in helping to initiate over 40 land trusts in the Czech Republic. The Ambassador welcomed us warmly in his opening speech and expressed his support for QLF’s work in the Czech Republic. During the reception, guests also

had an opportunity to view an art exhibit arranged by Mrs. Cabaniss through the United States Department of State *ART in the Embassies Program*.

Next Lada Ptáček and Blažena Hušková (Czech Republic, 2000) took the microphone, reading a letter about what their partnership with QLF has meant to them over the years. Recounting our first meeting at a workshop in the winter of 1995, in the mountains of Moravia, Blazena recalled loaning me a pair of cross-country ski boots, which were the right size, but just a little tight: “So, very early in our cooperation we both



Ambassador Cabaniss attaches the QLF Congress pin on Mrs. Cabaniss.

Greig Cranna



Beth Alling and Ambassador Cabaniss

Greig Cranna



Catching up on stories from the *Congress*: From left, Phil Huffman, David Manski, and Mike Waters. Mike worked for QLF more than 25 years ago as a staff member of the *Ocean Horizons Program* in Newfoundland.

Greig Cranna

realized that the American foot not always fits in the Czech boot. The match is nearly perfect, though, and a little band-aid here and there does the trick." Her anecdote captured the understanding behind the trans-Atlantic partnerships that we have built with our Central European colleagues over the years. Our evening ended with a walking tour in Prague's Old Town Square. And thus our tour came to a close, ending three very full days in the Czech Republic.

During the tour, our Czech hosts took advantage of the opportunity to exchange ideas with many QLF alumni and partners. This exchange was a rich part of the tour, and seemed to be something that both our visitors enjoyed. A special benefit of the tour was that we were able to contribute a portion of the proceeds to Nadace Partnerství (Czech Environmental Partnership Foundation) in support of its Land Stewardship and Greenways Programs. And we

were glad to know that the fruit tree saplings we had donated to Tradice Bilych Karpat would soon grace the landscape of the White Carpathian Mountains. All of those on the tour took with them the vivid memories of a beautiful landscape and the inspiring work of Czech organizations noted for their work in land stewardship.

#### POSTSCRIPT

##### Note to The Hon. William J. Cabaniss, Jr. and Mrs. Cabaniss

The Quebec-Labrador Foundation wishes to express our thanks to Ambassador Cabaniss and Mrs. Cabaniss for joining *Congress* participants on the post-*Congress* tour. Recognizing the great demands on your schedule, QLF is fortunate and honored to have had you with us. We also wish to extend our thanks and gratitude to you for welcoming QLF and our extended family and U.S. Embassy staff to the Residence for the Closing Reception. It would be difficult to find a more appropriate conclusion to the post-*Congress* tour and to the *Congress* itself.

Beth Alling, on behalf of the *Congress* and QLF



Prague

Greig Cranna

*We look forward to the next  
Congress five years hence.*



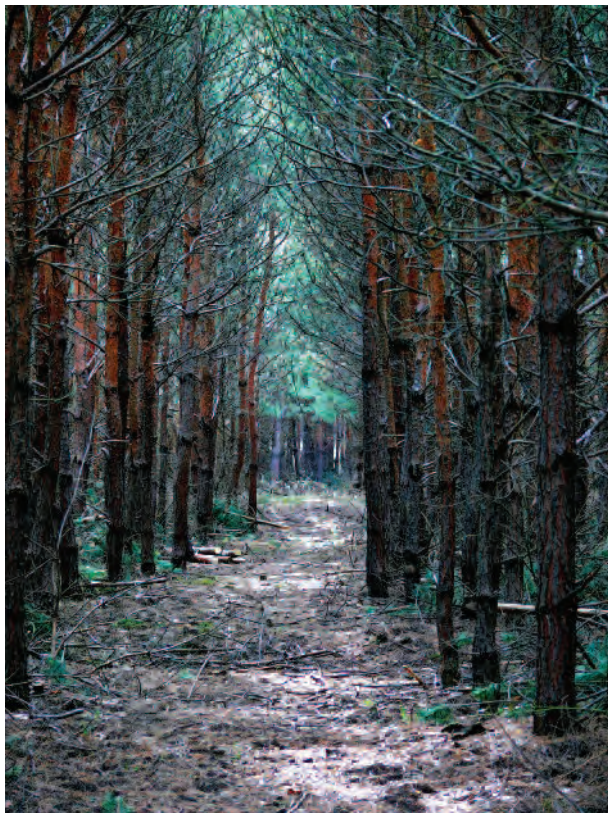


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*Since 1989 and the Velvet Revolution, Czech environmental agencies have raised the awareness of the Czech people as to the importance of preserving their environment. As a result of this awareness the Czechs have made great strides toward cleaner water and air. I congratulate them on their progress to date.*

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The Hon. William J. Cabaniss, Jr.  
United States Ambassador to the Czech Republic  
(2003-2006)



A managed woodlot in the Lednice-Valtice Cultural Landscape

A.D. Chandler III

## Crimson to Velvet

*QLF's work in Central Europe began just before the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989. Our programs have constantly adapted to the dramatic changes in the region, changes vividly represented by recent Czech history.*

...

The Czechoslovak Republic was formed after World War I under the leadership of Tomas Masaryk, whose parents came from both sides of the border he erased. An independent democracy between the wars, Czechoslovakia was quickly occupied by the Nazis at the onset of World War II, and almost as quickly liberated by the Soviets at the end. These swift reversals preserved centuries of architecture in cities like Prague, but cleared them of their intellectual elites and Jewish populations.

The Czechoslovak government fell under the control of the Soviet Union in 1938, though the majority of the population never embraced communism. A gradual liberalization of policies and cultural expression, the "Prague Spring," was put down by an invasion of Soviet and Eastern Bloc troops in 1968. The Czechs responded with spontaneous acts of nonviolent resistance, and again were subdued but not quite silenced. The succeeding years can be summarized in the aphorism of the era, "We pretend to work, and they pretend to pay us."

Twenty years later culture and power clashed again, and this time the people of Czechoslovakia overthrew the communist government. The novelist Ivan Klíma writes that it "was the most non-violent revolution imaginable. In the mass meetings attended by up to three-quarters of a million people, no one was hurt, not a window was broken, not a car damaged." Called the Gentle Revolution in Slovakia, a French journalist called it the "Velvet Revolution," and the name stuck.

The revolution was led by writers and intellectuals, chief among them Vaclav Havel, who was soon elected President. Two years later, nationalist interests in Slovakia led to the dissolution of the Czech-Slovak federation. Also conducted without violence, it is known as the "Velvet Divorce." Havel resigned, rather than preside over the breakup, but was promptly elected President of the Czech Republic. "To seek our new place on the political map of the world, we must—perhaps more than others—transcend the horizon of our own narrow interests and develop a broader idea of the way we wish the world to develop."

One of eight post-communist countries (including Slovakia) to join the European Union in 2004, the Czech Republic continues to search for its "place on the...map" through a democratic process that is perhaps messy and erratic, but intelligent and nonviolent.

Brent Mitchell

## Responses to the Congress

We have received many wonderful letters and e-mails. Here are a few.

*It was a privilege to be in Hungary with you and all your associates. It was both stimulating and inspiring to connect with such a diverse group of passionate and caring people. I felt very optimistic about QLF and its mission and also about our global environmental movement. There is hope—or has to be with so many talented and caring people at work. Third, I was touched and honored to be recognized by you and QLF for the very small part I have played in the process.*

Jameson S. French  
Northland Forest Products, Inc.  
QLF Board of Trustees (U.S.)  
United States

*Emails have been flooding in to us regarding the extraordinary success of the QLF Alumni Congress. I cannot find words that adequately express my admiration and respect for all you accomplished. Your tireless work, unbelievable commitment and continual enthusiasm was something to behold.*

*With love and admiration, Bert*

The Hon. George H. Walker  
Ambassador of the United States to Hungary  
(2003-2006)

*It was a great conference, very well organized and such a great crowd. I was in many conferences, but people at this one seemed to be the most open minded and friendly.*

László Potocky  
Romanian Environmental Partnership Foundation  
Romania

*What an overwhelmingly wonderful conference. Needless to say, I'd never been at one like it and feel privileged to have been invited to be part of your 50th celebration. I really enjoyed talking to everyone I met and am sorry I didn't meet everyone! Back in New York, I began reading the paper, depressing news from countries all over the world, but when I thought of the people I'd met at the Congress from these countries, it gave me hope that in a small way we really could all make a difference and make things better. Qusay Ahmad (Jordan) put it very well. I am still dreaming about the conference and still waking up at 2:00 am—makes for a good start of the day! Thank you for all your hard work and congratulations on your success at starting your 50th anniversary with such a landmark meeting!*

Helen Hays  
American Museum of Natural History, New York  
Grantee, QLF's Sounds Conservancy Program  
United States

*The Congress period passed swiftly without noticing that it has come to an end. We left overwhelmed with emotions, those of happiness for achieving what we came for and others of sadness for the short-lived good times when we had to bid farewell to everyone. I believe now that QLF is an organization with a future mandate and everybody in the Congress is part of this future. My best wishes for the success of QLF and all the members within the net of QLF.*

Qusay Ahmad  
Via Nova Group  
Jordan



*Quite simply, that was the BEST conference I have ever attended. And I have been to a LOT of conferences in my time! Together we wove an exquisite tapestry filled with threads of many textures and colors. Who knows what will be possible as a result? How exciting and how challenging! To the many people I talked with, it was an honor to meet you. Alas, there was just not enough time to meet everyone, so I will look forward to the next Congress! Somehow I knew it was important to be there at this inaugural event, when details and synergy were untested, genuine, inclusive, non-bureaucratic, and, in essence, most pure. Yet masterfully designed! Now you know what works well and not as well. But I, for one, loved the mix of scripted and spontaneous interactions.*

*I am proud to have been a part of this amazing experience.*

*Until next time. . .*

Alix W. Hopkins  
Environmental Consultant, Author  
United States

*Thanks a lot for a wonderful time in Budapest.*

*It was a great pleasure to meet all of you. I hope it was the first meeting from, I do not know, hundreds that will be in the future. And NEVER GIVE UP! I forward my thanks especially to QLF staff that made it possible for us to meet.*

Ewa Kozłowska  
The North Podlasie Society for Bird Protection  
Poland

*The pleasure is mine and I cannot express enough the honour I felt in getting an opportunity to share with everyone an overview of my work in southern Belize. The thanks go to you guys at QLF for organizing such a magnificent and educational event. My heartfelt gratitude for bringing this huge conservation family together. And to those who were in our workshop, thanks for the renewed energy and the experiences you shared. I came back reinvigorated and will certainly never give up.*

Bartolo Teul  
Ya'axche Conservation Trust  
Belize

*Thank you so much for the exceptional few days we spent together, it was really wonderful. It was wonderful knowing that there is so much potential, hoping we could all do something together for the benefit of nature individually in our different parts of the world, or possibly together.*

*It was great knowing the real strength of QLF and makes us even prouder to be a part of the super "undercover" team that made this exceptional Congress happen so successfully, paving the way for all of us through a new dimension of a new vision. In short, I came home loaded with memories of great people and energy for working in my area for the environment.*

Sarkis Khawaja  
Association Libanaise pour Patrimoine et le Développement  
Lebanon

# Congress *Participants*

## **Atlantic Region Alumni and Partner Organizations**

Abigail (Gaie) Alling  
Planetary Coral Reef  
Foundation  
United States

Constance de Brun  
Trust for Public Land  
United States

Paul Bubelis  
Sustainability Network  
Canada

Michael Caduto  
Programs for  
Environmental Awareness  
and Cultural Exchange  
United States

A. D. Chandler III  
Riptide Fund at The  
Boston Foundation  
United States

Delia Clark  
Center for Place-based  
Learning and Community  
Engagement  
United States

Heather Conn  
*PeopleTalk* Magazine  
Canada

Greig Cranna  
Photographer  
United States

James Gaffney  
New Jersey Department of  
Environmental Protection  
United States

Kathy Gaffney  
Princeton University Class  
of 1969 Community  
Service Fund  
United States

Caroline Gambell  
Pomona College  
United States

John Gambell  
Yale University Printer  
United States

Bill Granger  
U.S. Agency for  
International Development  
Regional Office/Hungary  
United States

Brian Grimsey  
Canadian Heritage Rivers  
System, Parks Canada  
Canada

Helen Hays  
American Museum of  
Natural History  
United States

Chris Hogan  
Protected Areas  
Association of  
Newfoundland &  
Labrador  
Canada

Ted Hoskins  
Downeast Groundfish  
Initiative  
United States

John Hull  
Intervale Associates Inc.  
Canada

Ray Kirkland  
U.S. Agency for  
International  
Development  
Regional Office/Hungary  
United States

Louise Labarre  
Granby Zoo  
Canada

Jenny Macaulay  
Aerotek Energy Services  
Canada

Paul R. Malik  
United States Department  
of State  
United States

Julie Martin  
Massachusetts General  
Hospital  
United States

Patrick McCloskey  
McCloskey Productions  
Inc.  
Canada

Frank McElroy  
Counselor at Law  
United States and Canada

William S. Moody  
Rockefeller Brothers Fund  
United States

Alix Morris  
International AIDS  
Vaccine Initiative  
United States

Ngaio Richards  
Anglia Ruskin University  
Canada and United  
Kingdom

Chris Rimmer  
Vermont Institute of  
Natural Science  
United States

Abi Rome  
Natural Areas Association  
United States

Beth Sauerhaft  
U.S. Environmental  
Protection Agency  
United States

Margo Sheppard  
The Nature Trust of New  
Brunswick  
Canada

Leslie Van Gelder  
Walden University  
United States and United  
Kingdom

Heather Walter  
McCloskey Productions Inc.  
Canada

Mike Waters  
Graphic Artist  
United States

Walter Winans  
Total Resource  
Management  
United States

Barbara Wyckoff-Baird  
Dynamica Coaching &  
Capacity Building  
United States

## **Central and Southeastern Europe Alumni and Partner Organization**

Zsolt Bauer  
The Regional  
Environmental Center for  
Central and Eastern Europe  
Hungary

Márta Bera  
WWF Hungary  
(World Wide Fund  
For Nature)  
Hungary

Márta Bonifert  
The Regional Environmental  
Center for Central and  
Eastern Europe  
Hungary

Krisztina Budai  
Hungarian Environmental  
Partnership Foundation  
Hungary

Jitka Doubnerová  
Association for Jizerské  
hory Mountains Region  
Czech Republic

Snežana Dragojevic  
Regional Environmental  
Center for Central and  
Eastern Europe  
Montenegro

György Pál Gadó  
SZOMORE Bt.  
Hungary

Blažena Hušková  
Association for Jizerské  
hory Mountains Region  
Czech Republic

Václav Izák  
ČSOP, Hády Land Trust  
Czech Republic

Annamária Kékesi  
Foundation for  
Development of  
Democratic Rights  
Hungary

Szabolcs Kókay  
Wildlife Artist and  
Illustrator  
Hungary Bence Kovács  
Independent Ecological  
Center  
Hungary

Ewa Kozłowska  
Podlasie Society for Bird  
Protection  
Poland

Miroslav Kundrata  
Czech Environmental  
Partnership Foundation  
Czech Republic

Dénes Laczik  
Hungarian Forest Services  
Hungary

Radoje Lausevic  
The Regional Environmental  
Center for Central and  
Eastern Europe  
Serbia

Mikuláš Lisický  
Slovak Academy of Sciences  
Slovakia

Radim Machů  
Traditions of the White  
Carpathians  
Czech Republic

Ferenc Márkus  
WWF Hungary  
(World Wide Fund  
For Nature)  
Hungary

Ireneusz Mirowski  
Foundation EcoFund  
Poland

David Murphy  
Environmental Partnership  
for Sustainable Development  
Czech Republic

Juliana Nagy  
Educator  
Hungary

Szabolcs Nagy  
BirdLife International  
Hungary and the  
Netherlands

Przemysław Oldakowski  
Bieszczady Environmental  
Partnership Foundation  
Poland

László Potozky  
Romanian Environmental  
Partnership Foundation  
Romania

Ladislav Ptáček  
Czech Union for Nature  
Conservation, (ČSOP)  
Czech Republic

Olivera Radovanovic  
Green Network of  
Vojvodina  
Serbia

Tatjana Rajic  
EXPEDITIO Center for  
Sustainable Spatial  
Development  
Montenegro





Prague

Greg Grana

Katerina Rajcová  
Biele Karpaty Protected  
Landscape Area  
Slovakia

Ján Roháč  
Ekopolis Foundation  
Slovakia

Stefania Romano  
The Regional  
Environmental Center for  
Central and Eastern Europe  
Hungary

Petr Roth  
Ministry of the Environment  
Czech Republic

Vladimír Slobodník  
Ponitrie Protected  
Landscape Area  
Slovakia

Petko Tzvetkov  
Bulgarian Biodiversity  
Foundation  
Bulgaria

Kveta Vinklatová  
Association for Jizerské  
hory Mountains Region  
Czech Republic

Mojmir Vlasin  
ČSOP Veronica Ecological  
Institute  
Czech Republic

### Latin America and the Caribbean Alumni and Partner Organization

Esteban Bremer  
Fundacion Vida  
Silvestre Argentina  
Argentina

Marilia Britto Rodrigues  
de Moraes  
Ilhabela State Park  
Brazil

Monica Calvopiña  
WWF  
(World Wide Fund  
For Nature)  
Ecuador

Flavio Cházaro Ramírez  
National Commission of  
Natural Protected Areas  
Mexico

Norma Ferriz  
Pronatura A.C. Veracruz  
Mexico

Hugo Hildalgo  
FUNDAECO Costas  
Guatemala

Kevel Lindsay  
Island Resource  
Foundation  
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Rodger D. Titman, Ph.D.  
Robert L. Wade  
Christopher M. Weld  
Kendrick R. Wilson III  
Harold E. Woodsum, Jr.  
Arthur Zolot

## QLF: THE PEOPLE

The Ven. Robert A. Bryan  
*Chairman*  
Lawrence B. Morris  
*President*  
Elizabeth Alling  
*Executive Vice President*  
Thomas F. Horn  
*Senior Vice President*  
Jessica L. Brown  
*Senior Vice President*  
*International Programs*  
Brent A. Mitchell  
*Vice President*  
*Stewardship*

## Program Staff

Jennifer Atkinson  
*Director*  
*Marine Program*  
Adrienne Blattel  
*Associate Director*  
*Northern Gulf Culture and*  
*Heritage Program*  
*Montreal Office Manager*  
Candace Cochrane  
*Director*  
*Northern Gulf Culture and*  
*Heritage Program*  
Stephen Engle  
*Director*  
*Community Mapping and*  
*GIS Program*  
Serena Etheridge  
*Director*  
*Traditional Skills Network*  
Martha West Lyman  
*Director*  
*Community-based Natural*  
*Resource Management*  
*Program*  
Trish Nash  
*Senior Biologist*  
The Rev. Dr. Patricia  
Peacock (Patricia Bryan)  
*Director*  
*QLF Scholarship Program*  
*Aviation and Ministry*  
Andrea Procter  
*Director*  
*Newfoundland and*  
*Labrador Programs*

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Christine Diguier  
*Coordinator, Special Projects*  
Simone Hanchet  
*Coordinator*  
*Leadership Program*  
Sasha Kutsy  
*Community Learning*  
*Coordinator*  
*Marine Program*  
George Little  
*Manager, Low Emissions*  
*Vehicle Program*  
Sally T. Milliken  
*Consultant*  
*Leadership Program*

## Advisers and Consultants

Greig Cranna  
*Photography*  
Julia Judson-Rea  
*Senior Consultant*  
*Middle East Program*  
Shaimar Al Khalili  
*Consultant*  
*Middle East Program*  
Anne-Seymour St. John  
*Senior Adviser*  
*Middle East Program*  
Peter Taylor  
*Consultant, Science Writing*  
*Marine Program*  
Stephanie Tuxill  
*Consultant*  
*International Programs*

## Administration

Linda R. Mitton  
*Executive Assistant*  
Marcia R. Fabri  
*Program Assistant*  
Nancy J. Malaquias  
*Program Assistant*  
Karen Ross  
*Assistant to the Chairman*

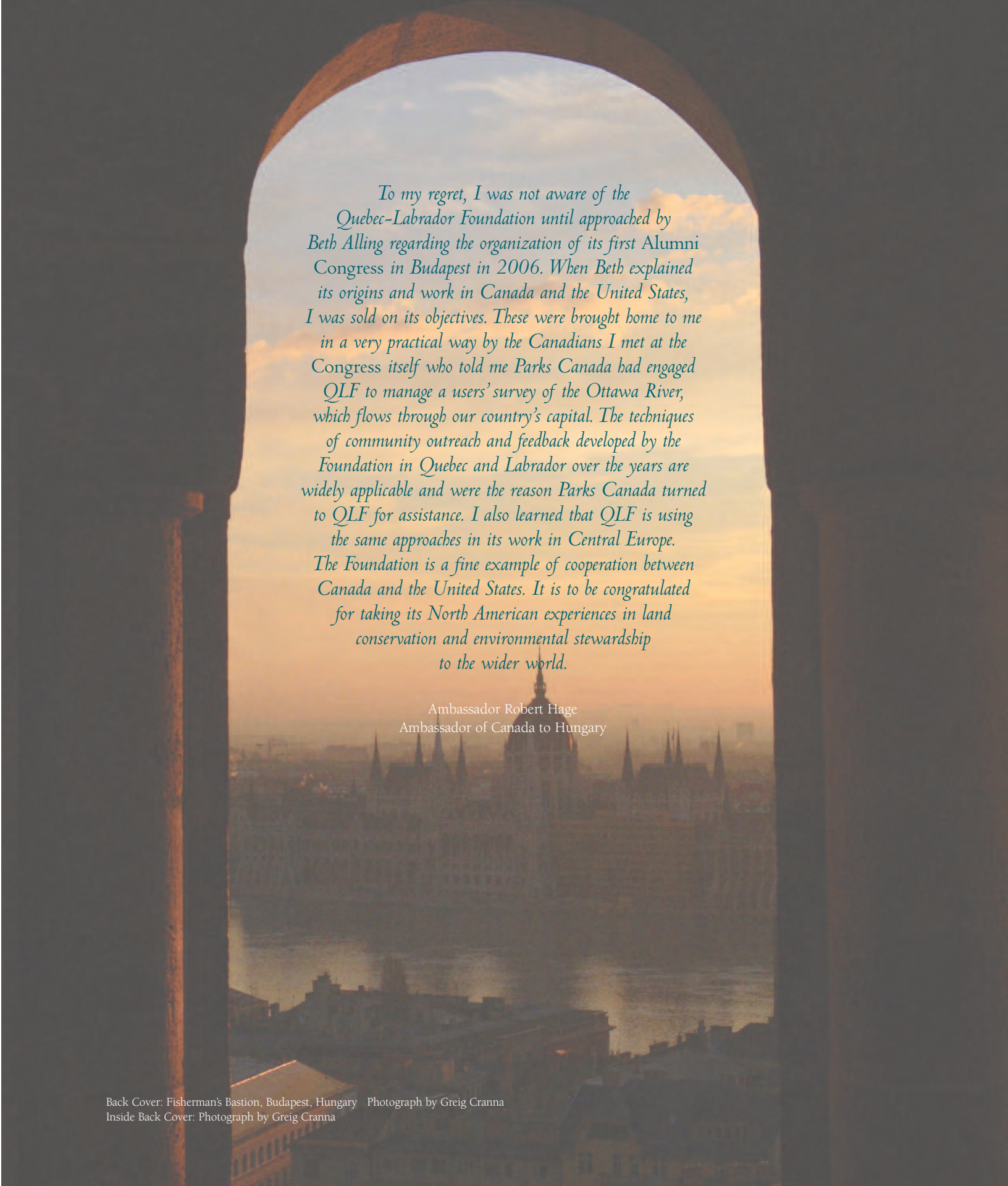
## Business Office

Susan Dawe  
*Business Office Manager*  
Thomas J. Natsikas  
*Business Office Consultant*  
*Canada*

## Auditors

Nardella and Taylor





*To my regret, I was not aware of the Quebec-Labrador Foundation until approached by Beth Alling regarding the organization of its first Alumni Congress in Budapest in 2006. When Beth explained its origins and work in Canada and the United States, I was sold on its objectives. These were brought home to me in a very practical way by the Canadians I met at the Congress itself who told me Parks Canada had engaged QLF to manage a users' survey of the Ottawa River, which flows through our country's capital. The techniques of community outreach and feedback developed by the Foundation in Quebec and Labrador over the years are widely applicable and were the reason Parks Canada turned to QLF for assistance. I also learned that QLF is using the same approaches in its work in Central Europe. The Foundation is a fine example of cooperation between Canada and the United States. It is to be congratulated for taking its North American experiences in land conservation and environmental stewardship to the wider world.*

Ambassador Robert Hage  
Ambassador of Canada to Hungary



