



COMPASS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

THE QUEBEC-LABRADOR FOUNDATION/ATLANTIC CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT | MAY 2017

Promoting global leadership—one person at a time—through conservation and stewardship of natural resources and cultural heritage. Inspired in the Atlantic Region, shared worldwide.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In 2002, I had the good fortune to join QLF's Staff. While I knew QLF was the right fit, I never imagined I'd have an opportunity to lead this organization. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in my new role that began the 1st of January. I am grateful for the support of QLF President Emeritus Larry Morris, the Governing Boards, Staff, Consultants and an outstanding group of Alumni and loyal friends who appreciate QLF's unique niche—working in community-based conservation across the U.S./Canada border and beyond the shores of North America reaching 75 countries.

An exciting new chapter in QLF's history began at the 2016 Congress held in Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain (November 2016), ten years after the first Congress in Budapest, Hungary. In Barcelona, participants presented program recommendations and celebrated Larry Morris and his 42 years with QLF, 25 of which he served as President. A testimony to Larry's vision and leadership is QLF's evolution to a global organization, fostering conservation innovation and leadership development in our home region and overseas.

The recommendations set forth by Alumni at the Congress affirm my commitment and vision to lead the organization with new and innovative mission-driven programs under the banner of QLF's Global Leadership Network of Alumni. QLF will invest in regional and international programs with newly established public/private program partnerships, International Conservation Exchange Programs, and a new Global Consulting Initiative that has the potential to generate positive impact and innovative solutions to shared environmental challenges in communities worldwide. Now is the time to capture the energy, goodwill, and strategic



Beth Alling, Closing Reception, QLF Congress, Barcelona, November 2016 - PHOTOGRAPH BY GREIG CRANNA

thinking that began in Barcelona. And, I have the support of a team that is second to none.

“Now is the time to capture the energy, goodwill, and strategic thinking that began in Barcelona.”

In this issue of Compass, you will read about the Southeast Asia Exchange Program, inspired at the Congress in Barcelona, and the Stewardship Institute, founded in 1998 by the National Park Service with the University of Vermont, Shelburne Farm, and QLF. This April, conservation leaders and practitioners representing Vietnam's leading conservation non-profits and government agencies, traveled to the U.S. for an Exchange in New England culminating with meetings in Washington, D.C., to include the Embassy of Vietnam to the United States. The focus of the Exchange was public/private partnerships in Biodiversity Conservation. One of the site visits was to the National Park Service Stewardship Institute and the Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park in





Woodstock, Vermont.

This May, QLF hosts the U.S. Board Meeting in Woodstock, Vermont, to commemorate the long-standing relationship between Senior Vice President Brent Mitchell and the National Park Service Stewardship Institute. This partnership is the result of Brent's extensive experience in conservation and stewardship, both in the Atlantic Region and around the globe. You will enjoy Brent's article, *Hidden in Plain Sight: The Stewardship Institute*, from the *Vermont Standard*, 25 August 2016.

After QLF's Board Meeting in Woodstock, we make our way to Montréal, Québec, for the QLF – Canada Board Meeting, and no doubt, will salute QLF Founder Bob Bryan who will have just celebrated his 86th birthday.

Since my first days at QLF, I've been inspired by your support, friendship, and commitment to make a difference. I will carry forward and build on QLF's legacy as we face the challenges at hand in our world today.

Elizabeth Alling
President
May 2017



Congress participants at the conclusion of the Workshop Plenary Session, Món Sant Benet, El Bages region, Catalonia - PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG CRANNA

The Southeast Asia Exchange Program, April 2017

In April 2017, QLF directed its second Southeast Asia Conservation Exchange Program in partnership with Viet Nature, the BirdLife International Partner based in Hanoi, Vietnam. The program's goal is to share conservation knowledge, experience, and conservation innovation with a focus on public/private partnerships in biodiversity conservation. Vietnam, which occupies less than one percent of the global land area, is a country that is rich in biodiversity. Forest protection and forest stewardship, biodiversity conservation and marine conservation are high on Vietnam's environmental agenda.

This Exchange was inspired by Pham Tuan Anh, President and Deputy Director, Viet Nature Conservation Centre (Hanoi) and Khong Trung, Head, Quang Tri Provincial Forest Protection Department, who attended the QLF *Alumni Congress* in Barcelona (November 2016). Both were participants in the Congress Conservation Finance Workshop. In the interest of exploring conservation finance through public/private partnerships, Pham Tuan Anh offered to lead a delegation of conservation practitioners from Vietnam to New England. She was joined by Khong Trung and selected the Fellows.

Program participants represented non-profit



In April 2014, Larry Morris traveled to Vietnam to explore ways to build new conservation partnerships with Viet Nature, non-governmental organizations, and government agencies. His travel in Vietnam included a site visit to the Xuan Thuy National Park, Red River Delta, Vietnam, with Ranger Phan Van Truong (with spotting scope); Le Trong Trai, Director, Viet Nature Conservation Centre and participant in the 2017 Exchange in New England; and Do Minh Hoa, Administrative Officer, Viet Nature Conservation Centre. Upon returning to the U.S. QLF led its first Southeast Asia Exchange in partnership with Viet Nature which included representatives from the public and private sector. PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY MORRIS

organizations and government based in North Vietnam to include the Director and Deputy Director of Viet Nature; Chairman of the Quang Binh Province and his wife, formerly with the Quang Binh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Head of the Quang Tri Provincial Forest Protection Department; Director of the Quang Binh Community Development Center;



QLF Fellows (left to right) - Khong Trung, Quang Tri Provincial Forest Protection Department; Pham Tuan Anh, President and Deputy Director, Viet Nature Conservation Centre; with Larry Morris, QLF President Emeritus, at the QLF *Alumni Congress*, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain (November 2016) - PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG CRANNA





Forested landscape seen from the Ho Chi Minh Highway, Western Spur, Truong Son Mountains, Quang Binh Province. The highway passes through or near ten protected areas. Highway construction in Vietnam has caused habitat fragmentation, siltation of upland streams, and has contributed to illegal hunting by offering easy backcountry access. The commitment to forest protection and stewardship, watershed management, biodiversity conservation, and marine conservation are high on Vietnam's environmental agenda and shared by Viet Nature and QLF. PHOTOGRAPH BY LARRY MORRIS

a representative from the Cau Giay People's Procuracy; and an Interpreter.

The Exchange consisted of site visits in New England and Washington, D.C. and meetings with conservation

leaders and practitioners representing both the public and private sector. Our desired outcomes were to share experience and knowledge of the opportunities and challenges of public/

private partnerships and initiatives in Biodiversity Conservation. The consensus by the Fellows was a commitment to conservation and stewardship working in collaboration with non-profit organizations and government agencies.

Host sights in New England included The Trustees of Reservations; White Mountain National Forest; The Keystone Conservation Project of the University of Massachusetts Amherst located at the Harvard Forest; Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park and the National Park Service Stewardship Institute. In Washington, D.C., Fellows met with the Embassy of Vietnam; the Land Trust Alliance; and the International Technical Assistance Program, U.S. Department of the Interior.

Viet Nature has called for a continued collaboration with QLF with a new Exchange for Conservation Professionals representing QLF's Global Leadership Network of Alumni in Vietnam.

“On behalf of all members in the exchange visit, I would like to express our sincere thanks to you all for making our trip such an enjoyable learning experience! Special thanks to Beth and Cricket for all the paper work and logistic arrangements for us!

Thank you for your hospitality and professionalism. We are looking forward to welcoming you (and a QLF convened group) to Vietnam later this year! We know that you have set a very high standard to match, but we will try our best to follow suit!”

Pham Tuan Anh, President & Deputy Director, Viet Nature Conservation Centre, April 2017



Fellows and QLF Staff, 2017 Southeast Asia Exchange Orientation Meeting at the Inn at Castle Hill, a property of The Trustees of Reservations, the Crane Estate, Ipswich, Massachusetts. From left to right: Phan Thi Hoai, Director, Quang Binh Community Development Center; Pham Thi Luot, retired, Quang Binh Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; To Thi Thu Huong, Interpreter; Pham Tu Anh, Cau Giay District People's Procuracy; Pham Tuan Anh, President & Deputy Director, Viet Nature Conservation Centre; Nguyen Huu Hoai, Chairman, Quang Binh Provincial People's Committee; Khong Trung, Head, Quang Tri Provincial Forest Protection Department; and Le Trong Trai, Director, Viet Nature Conservation Centre. Second row: Larry Morris, QLF President Emeritus

The oldest regional land trust in the world, The Trustees of Reservations is a non-profit land conservation and historic preservation organization dedicated to preserving natural and historical places in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. PHOTOGRAPH BY ELIZABETH ALLING





Hidden in Plain Sight: *The Stewardship Institute*

Article by QLF Senior Vice President
Brent Mitchell

Vermont Standard, 25 August 2016

The National Park Service has a huge mission—protecting America’s treasures—and tremendous challenges. Its 22,000 staff are spread across all 50 states plus all territories; from the remote parts of the wild to urban cores. It is constantly facing new challenges: increasing expectations but decreasing budgets; a changing climate; and an increasingly diverse American population. How do they manage it all? For the National Park Service, it is a challenge. Its Stewardship Institute is part of the answer. And QLF is a key partner.

Hidden in plain sight at the only national park in Vermont, Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Site, is a national service to the National Park Service itself. Visitors to the base of Mount Tom find what they might expect from a national park—a visitor’s center, outstanding natural resources, rich history, and the access and interpretation to enjoy and learn from it all. What they won’t see is a unique unit of the National Park Service (NPS) to enhance leadership in conservation across the park system.

The Stewardship Institute helps

NPS leaders move the organization in new directions through illuminating experience and asking questions about the history and current practice of conservation. “The importance of Marsh, Billings, and those who follow in their footsteps...transcends maintenance. It involves new thought and new action...we cannot rest on the achievements of the past. Rather, each new generation must not only be stewards, but activists, innovators, and enrichers.” These were the opening remarks of Laurance Spelman Rockefeller at a 1993 workshop to define the role of the emerging park. The Stewardship Institute was created to serve as a catalyst for that innovation.

But the Stewardship Institute is not a think tank. It is more of a link tank, helping make connections among staff

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Laurance Spelman Rockefeller, 1993

of more than 400 parks, about 50 national programs, and myriad partners who care for our American heritage. The Stewardship Institute is rooted in the idea that the National Park Service is an organization of great public purpose and that its people, charged with the stewardship of some of America’s greatest treasures, need to be supported, challenged, and provided



Brent Mitchell, QLF Senior Vice President, Workshop Plenary presentation, QLF Congress, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain (November 2016).

Brent Mitchell also serves as Chair, IUCN-WCPA Specialist Group on Privately Protected Areas and Nature Stewardship, and is a Partner with the National Park Service Stewardship Institute.

PHOTOGRAPH BY GREG CRANNA

opportunities for renewal.

The Institute is itself a partnership, founded in 1998 by the National Park Service with the University of Vermont, Shelburne Farm, and QLF. It is also rooted in central Vermont. Being based at Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller helps keep the Institute grounded in the realities of park operations as it reaches out across the northeast region, the country and indeed internationally. And QLF is with them every step of the way.



The National Park Service Stewardship Institute is a collaborative for change, from the way it is organized, to how it works. The origin of the Stewardship Institute is rooted in the idea that the National Park Service is an organization of great public purpose and that its people – charged with the stewardship of some of America’s greatest treasures – need to be supported, challenged, and provided opportunities for renewal.

PHOTOGRAPH: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



QLF Alumna, Eulàlia Comas Lamarca, of the Generalitat de Catalunya, with Brent Mitchell moments before the QLF Alumni Congress Opening Session, Sant Pau, the former Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain (November 2016)

