



## Nathalie Zinger

MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC

Instructor, Ocean Horizons Marine Education Program, 1981

Volunteer, International Seabird Conference, Newfoundland, 1982

Intern, Marine Bird Conservation Program, Newfoundland and Québec Lower North Shore, 1983-1984

Staff, QLF-Canada, Montréal office, 1990

QLF Alumni Congress, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, 2016



Nathalie Zinger, QLF Alumni Congress, Barcelona, Catalonia, Spain, 2016. PHOTOGRAPH BY GREIG CRANNA

*Since her time at QLF, Nathalie has consistently valued professional relationships that are critically important for the implementation of ecological and social projects across Québec.*

*"I think that what QLF is so good at is actually working on that interface between the natural environment and people," she says. "[Especially considering] how we use it, why we use it, how we can better use it, [...and how we can] less misuse it."*

As the Executive Director and Secretary-Treasurer of American Friends of Canadian Nature (AFCN), Nathalie Zinger's outgoing personality is most effective to inspire environmental awareness among philanthropists in the United States and Canada. The AFCN is a non-profit organization established to raise funds in the United States for conservation work to be done in Canada. In previous years, Nathalie worked as the Regional Vice President of Québec for the Nature Conservancy of Canada (NCC), preserving nature and biodiversity on lands across Canada for future generations. In both positions, Nathalie has been responsible for securing land, stewarding properties, and ensuring the protection of boreal forest landscapes. "I really enjoy talking to landowners that have a vision or a wish to see their land protected forever, and then to be able to make those dreams come true. I'm always fascinated and very grateful for donors that share that vision of making conservation part of their legacy. It's a privilege to be able to work with both donors and landowners to make conservation a reality."

While earning her Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Management at McGill University (1981), Nathalie secured her first job on Fogo Island in Newfoundland and Labrador, teaching youth about the environment as part of the Ocean Horizons Marine Education Program with the Québec-Labrador Foundation (QLF). "It was great, amazing work doing something on your own with a team of people that are dedicated, making it happen." In the summer of the following year, she volunteered to join QLF's Dr. Kathleen Blanchard to attend and co-sponsor an international conference in St. John's, Newfoundland, concerning marine seabirds. She then participated in QLF's Marine Bird Conservation Program, running a bird tour for Bird Protection Québec along the Québec Lower North Shore during the summers of both 1983 and 1984.

Afterward, Nathalie completed a graduate diploma in Northern Studies at McGill University, as well as a Master's degree at the University of Montréal's School of Landscape Planning. Her research addressed how the perception of Mount Royal changed over 150 years, as described and documented by the writers, geographers, urban planners, developers, and conservation organizations that have worked to protect the mountain.



Nathalie Zinger works alongside Dr. Kathleen Blanchard in QLF's Marine Bird Conservation Program, St. Mary's Island Seabird Sanctuary, Quebec North Shore, 1983. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF QLF ARCHIVES

In 1990, Nathalie began working for QLF part-time, helping other staff members set up the Montréal Office and create Québec Lower North Shore projects. Concurrently, she worked part-time for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), and became the Director of Québec's Endangered Spaces Program in 1993. Nathalie remembers the highlights of her experience with WWF: "It was working with the forest industry to identify areas of high conservation value and making sure that we increased those protected areas by over ten-fold, [...as well as establishing] the first marine park in Québec [the Saguenay St. Lawrence Marine Park]." She then left the WWF in 2003 to become the General Director of Héritage Montréal for four years before transferring to the NCC, "learning how to manage a Board and be the head of an organization" while working to protect the architectural, natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the Greater Montréal area.

In her spare time, Nathalie remains both culturally and environmentally active in the Montréal community through volunteer work with several NGOs. She is the President of the Administrative Council for Économusée, which is a non-profit organization that aims to help artisans with small

businesses continue their traditional crafts through tourism promotion and demonstrative production on an international scale. Nathalie is a member of McGill University's Advisory Board for the Faculty of Agriculture and Environmental Science. She is a Governor of Les Amis de la Montagne, which is another non-profit organization that uses community involvement, stewardship, advocacy, and environmental education to encourage sustainability regarding Montréal's Mount Royal. Nathalie is always more than willing to dedicate her passion toward a broad range of worthy causes.

Nathalie's generous spirit and resourceful determination exemplify QLF's mission to foster leadership and encourage collaboration amongst QLF Alumni. She recognizes that working for an NGO is all about being part of an effective team to create a reliable network and to construct a unified vision. "You realize that you may have a great idea, but unless you have people around you to make it happen – it doesn't happen very easy otherwise," she explains. "So that's what QLF provides you, [...the] sense of like, 'together you can make it happen'." Since her time at QLF, Nathalie has consistently valued the strength of the human connection, building long-lasting relationships with many people throughout her career to successfully implement numerous ecological and social projects across Québec. "I think that what QLF is so good at is actually working on that interface between the natural environment and people, [especially considering] how we use it, why we use it, how we can better use it, [...and how we can] less misuse it." Nathalie is an inspiring example of professional growth in the environmental non-profit industry, as she continues to help make positive local change possible well into the future.



Mount Royal Park, Montréal, site of Nathalie's research for her Master's degree. PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF RICH MARTELLO