7th International Congress Convenes in Mexico City

From the moment of arrival until the closing banquet, the 250 delegates attending the 7th International Camping Congress in Mexico City, October 12-16, were immersed in Latin culture – the fiesta with mariachis, games, and wonderful food, the elaborate costumes and music of the National Folkloric Ballet, the luncheon at the 15th century Hacienda Pipiol, the Counselors’ Taller (workshop) at Xochitla, an outdoor conference center, and the unparalleled Mexican hospitality throughout the Congress.

The opening plenary session set the tone for the week as keynote speaker, Bernardo Angulo, had everyone out of their seats searching for lifejackets and lifeboats. Congress participants from every continent shared their expertise through educational sessions and research sessions on Thursday and Saturday. An all-Congress field trip to Valle de Bravo on Friday found small groups touring camps, hiking over a volcano, horseback riding, creating native crafts, or visiting villages and haciendas before gathering at Pipiol for lunch and an inspiring keynote address by Peg Smith, CEO of the American Camp Association. Delegates from each of the seventeen countries represented shared typical camp performances, highlighted by lovely Mongolian melodies, Japanese in kimonos, Greek dancers, and energetic Venezuelan singers.

Muchas gracias, Mexican Camping Association!

Congress Chair, Genaro Ortiz Tirado, and ICF Chair, Jenny Bowker, welcome delegates to Hacienda Pipiol, a camp and conference center in Valle de Bravo

Jenny Bowker presents butterfly quilt, created by Mary McCutcheon, to Genaro Ortiz Tirado and Maru Talavera.

Inside this issue:
- Mexico 2005 2
- Quebec 2008 4
- Conferences 5
- Greek Seminar 6
- World News 7
- Aussie Tour 9
- Steering Com. 10
A Young Professional Experiences ICC2005

Marina Lukanina is from Russia and studying at Columbia College in Chicago on a Fulbright Scholarship. She shares her experience in Mexico.

I probably will not be able to judge this Congress objectively as it was the first International Congress that I have attended. Yet I truly believe that the ICC was extremely enriching for young professionals who are only beginning their first steps in a camp management career. It was an excellent opportunity to meet camp gurus from around the world as well as the enthusiastic Latin American counselors. The need to attract more young people to become members of the International Camping Fellowship and attend such Congresses is apparent. Nourishing and developing future camp staff is one of the most important issues in any industry, and the camp industry is extraordinary in needing people with special dedication.

It is hard to think of a better place for an International Camping Congress (ICC) than Mexico. The whole week was all about sharing and learning about other countries’ camp practices as well as appreciating the beauty of a unique country. Among the sessions I attended was “Building International Bridges with Sensitivity and a Song” presented by Larry Swenson. It was an excellent example of how, in such an informal setting as a summer camp, it is possible to promote such important ideas as respect and understanding of people who might look, dress or think differently. By celebrating our differences, we will make future generations more perceptive and accepting. Camp is definitely the best place to build these “international bridges”.

I chose to go on the tour of camps on our day in Valle de Bravo because my major goal of the entire trip was to get to know as much as possible about the Mexican way of camping. Visiting Mexican camps and talking to camp directors was an invaluable experience. Later the same day at Pipiol Camp, we all were able to feel and share the beauty of international camping through country presentations — a mix of languages, a mix of authentic cultural traditions—all united into a magical community of camp enthusiasts.

During the closing ceremony, Michael Pearse led us in singing, “We Can Make Difference”. As I listened to those words, I felt complete confidence in them — affirming that I am on the right path, associating with wonderful people, in such a special environment, and developing my career in this field.
Our Congress Picture Album

Jenny Bowker and friends puzzle over Mexican games

ICF Annual General Meeting at Xochitla

Russian delegation shares traditional songs

Colombian delegates enjoy the Opening Night Fiesta

Greek delegates, Melita and Dora Lykiardopoulou, wear new hats at Xochitla

Costumed Japanese sing at Pipiol

ICF Founding Members, Dick Chamberlain, Armand Ball, and Sako Tanaka at the Closing Banquet

Camp tour participants enjoy a bountiful breakfast at Icaros Camp

ICF Chair, Jenny Bowker, tries out Mexican toys and games at the Fiesta

Tomas and Valery dance at Pipiol

Icaros Camp welcomes delegates

You may view these photos and more in color on our new website, www.campingfellowship.org
International Camp Directors Course

The first International Camp Directors Course was held the four days preceding the International Camping Congress in Mexico City. Though courses for camp directors have been held in various countries over the past fifteen years, this was the first course officially sponsored by ICF.

Forty-three participants came from six countries (Canada, Colombia, Mexico, Romania, USA, and Venezuela.) They represented thirty different camps.

The faculty was composed of four camping leaders with international camp experience, and totaling over two hundred years in camp experience and leadership. Armand Ball of Sanibel Island, Florida, co-author of the course’s text, Basic Camp Management*, served as team leader. Other team members were: Richard Chamberlain of Brentwood, New Hampshire, Connie Coutellier of Monrovia, Indiana, and Jack Murdock of Lake Mary, Florida.

Explora Camp, near Cuernavaca in the state of Morelos, Mexico, under the leadership of Concepcion “Concha” Gavito, hosted the course. The camp is part of a larger property which includes a guest hacienda and restaurant, with a natural spring creating a river through a beautiful forest. The recreational highlight for the participants was the swimming and tubing in the spring and river.

It is the intent of the International Camping Fellowship Steering Committee to sponsor other such courses in various countries. It is hoped to eventually have regional teaching teams to better reach all regions of the world.

—Armand Ball, ICF Emeritus Member

*Currently available in English, Japanese, Portuguese, and Russian. Soon to be available in Spanish.

Resource Partners in a Global Community: A First Meeting

Facilitated by Peg Smith, CEO of the American Camp Association, and Ann Sheets, ACA National President, a meeting was held during the Congress in Mexico for association presidents and executives from around the world. Representatives from sixteen associations were present. Consensus of the group was that it is important for associations to maintain open communication and that a longer meeting in the future would be beneficial. Associations are encouraged to contribute information about conferences, educational events, and exchanges through the ICF newsletter and website. An email listserve will be created to enable association contacts to readily share information.

8th International Camping Congress

October 4-7, 2008
Québec City, Canada

The Association des Camps du Québec invites you to plan now to participate in the 8th International Camping Congress. The outstanding facilities of the Québec City Convention Centre will serve as the venue for Congress events, and various nearby hotel options will be available.

If you are interested in an early purchase of one of the attractive ICC2008 shirts, contact Sandra Lebeau, info@anglofun.qc.ca

See the ICC 2008 Website
www.iccquebec2008.com
Conferences, Congresses, and Events Around the World

American Camp Association National Conference
“Variations on a Theme: Partnering with Parents”
February 7-10, 2006
Chicago, IL, USA
Chicago Sheraton
www.acacamps.org

Combine opportunities to learn, collaborate, and reconnect by attending the American Camp Association’s 2006 National Conference. Nationally recognized experts provide up-to-the minute education in a variety of formats. An extensive exhibit hall provides much needed access to the professionals, products, and services necessary for our work. All international camp professionals are invited to join us in Chicago.

Camp Tours: A special Pre-Conference study tour of Chicago camps will be offered for international delegates, February 5-7, at a nominal fee for lodging, meals and transportation. For full information, contact Linda Pulliam, ACA International Coordinator, acavirginias@acacamps.org

Attend both the ACA and OCA Conferences: If you plan to attend both conferences and would like to coordinate your plans, members of the ICF Steering Committee are pleased to assist you in arrangements for accommodation, travel and activities in Canada for the days between the two conferences. A pre-Conference tour to Camp Tawingo (ICF Headquarters) and YMCA Wanakita and possibly other camps has been arranged. Contact Jeff Bradshaw, jeff@campwenonah.com or John Jorgenson, jorgi@tawingo.net

Ontario Camping Association Annual Conference
“Consider the Possibilities”
February 16 – 18, 2006
Alliston, Ontario, Canada
Nottawasaga Inn
www.ontcamp.on.ca

Keynote speakers include Peg Smith, CEO of the American Camp Association, “Powerful Partners in Public Value” and Phil Lilienthal, founder of World Camps.

Details and registration information may be found at www.ontcamp.on.ca or contact Jeff Bradshaw, Conference Chair, jeff@campwenonah.com

Attend both the ACA and OCA Conferences: If you plan to attend both conferences and would like to coordinate your plans, members of the ICF Steering Committee are pleased to assist you in arrangements for accommodation, travel and activities in Canada for the days between the two conferences. A pre-Conference tour to Camp Tawingo (ICF Headquarters) and YMCA Wanakita and possibly other camps has been arranged. Contact Jeff Bradshaw, jeff@campwenonah.com or John Jorgenson, jorgi@tawingo.net

2006 International Summer Camp Program
“Tracing Nomads”
July 15-29 & August 2-9, 2006
International Children’s Centre Nairamdal, Mongolia
www.nairamdal.org

In celebration of the 800th anniversary of the Great Mongol Empire, the International Children’s Center invites participants, ages 12-16, to learn traditions, customs, and cultural heritage of Mongolian people as a part of a nomadic way of life. The venue of the program will be a pavilion called “Nomads Town”, especially designed for the international camp session. Delegations will also have an opportunity to introduce their own culture, heritage and traditions while learning about the nomadic lifestyle and appreciating the beautiful natural surroundings of Nairamdal. For complete information, contact byamba73@hotmail.com or nairamdal@mongol.net

Asian Camping Congress
August 17-20, 2006
Ipoh, Perak, Malaysia
www.ncam.org.my

The Second Asian Camping Congress, sponsored by the Asian Camping Fellowship and hosted by the Camping Association of Malaysia, invites participants from all countries to join them in August. Contact for details: acf@camping.or.jp

Malaysian delegation in Mexico welcomes everyone to the 2006 ACF Congress
**3rd Greek Camp and Games Seminar**

For the third consecutive year, Camp DELPHICAMP organized a camp and games seminar on the weekend of April 23-24, 2005. Its success is an indication that this seminar will become an annual tradition.

The first seminar in 2003 was a test for us, to see if we could do it, if people who knew nothing about our camp would participate and if we could make it informative, as well as fun. The comments of the participants were so positive (especially for the games part), that we organized the second seminar in 2004.

In that seminar we were honored by the presence of the Vice Minister of Economy, Mr. Petros Doukas, who shared with us a few anecdotes of his days as a camper and congratulated everyone for daring to work with children! We were also honored by the presence of Mrs. Mantha Christou, camp director and executive for many years and ICF Regional Representative for Europe. She started the seminar with a few words about ICF and the dream of a European camping association and invited everyone to the International Congress in Mexico!

This year we decided that the seminar would be held at the camp, instead of a hotel ballroom and only with counselors of DELPHICAMP and people who would be interested in working at the camp during the next summer. The fact that it was held at the camp made it easy for us to have more sessions on various types of games.

Furthermore, we had the chance to talk more about what happens during the summer sessions. The topics discussed included daily schedule, conduct of activities, staff behavior, homesickness, age characteristics, counselor roles and emergency procedures.

At the end of this seminar and until camp started, quite a few of the participants contacted us to further discuss some of the points made or some of their impressions and concerns, thus giving us an idea of which topics should be discussed more extensively at next year’s seminar. The general feeling was that camp for the counselor is not only fun and games, but also hard work. We are confident that our seminar will become larger in scale and—who knows—maybe in the future it will include participants from all over Europe!

— Alexia Sideris, Director of Camp DELPHICAMP www.delphicamp.gr info@delphicamp.gr

International cultural exchange programs are very popular in the US with over 21,000 young people placed in American camps last summer. About 3/4 were counselors and 1/4 in support staff positions. They came from over 85 countries. Australia, Canada and the UK had the greatest number of placements.

(continued on page 7)
Staff were placed in all fifty states. The cultural exchange program promotes a better understanding of world cultures and is a wonderful experience for those young people who participate. The US campers who come in contact with an international staff member are more likely to want to explore the world themselves and may someday be interested in working in camps in other parts of the world.

Those Americans who have participated in ICF value what we have learned from our international friends and are dedicated to making this a better world one camper at a time. We welcome you to participate in the ACA National Conference, Feb. 7-10, 2006, in Chicago.

For more information on professional development events, research, resource materials, and the ACA bookstore, see the website, www.acacamps.org

—Don Cheley, ICF Country Representative, USA

Camp Research in Russia

Tatiana Palyi, director of Camp Dubinin in the Republic of Maryi El, Russia, has presented a paper entitled, “Social Involvement of Children from Unhealthy Home Environments in Camping”. Research at Maryi State University revealed that 64-69% of the campers at Camp Dubinin (population of 280) came from families which were stable and had parents who provided positive role models. 31-36% of the campers were found to be “at risk”, displaying some type of psychological disorder. Camp Dubinin is a municipal recreation and health development institution which serves as a research facility for Maryi Teachers’ Training Institute.

Based on the findings of the study, a program was developed to target the children deemed at risk. The process included initial contact with the children, conversations with parents and teachers, a group survey, options presented to the children, and training sessions for counselors and volunteers. In May, the children with poor social skills participated in a camp orientation seminar. This group was given the option of remaining in camp for up to three sessions, allowing them to adapt to the setting, meet with the camp psychologist and learn skills to assist counselors. During the following two sessions, they could work as assistants on the camp staff.

Based on observation and research, camp professionals have developed a four year program, using logically structured educational processes, called “animation methods”. The results of a post-camp survey confirmed the conclusion that the camp environment is in a unique position to provide support, leadership opportunities, and acquisition of life skills.

To receive a copy of the abstract of this study, as presented at the 2008 International Camping Congress, contact Linda Pulliam, acavirginias@acacamps.org

News from Around the World

- **Australia** The Australian Camps Association was established in 2005 to represent camps in all states. There are presently nearly 300 camps which are members. A national association will enable camps to relate more effectively to the government.

- **Venezuela** The Venezuelan Camping Association has published the first book for Venezuelan camps, “Manual Practico para Facilitadores, Educadores y Guías de Campamento” by Luis Enrique Palacios. The AVC has a website at www.asovencamp.net

- **Europe** Progress is being made in the establishment of a European Camping Organization. Tentative plans have been set for a planning meeting in January, 2006, and a European Camping Congress later in 2006.

- **Canada** The Canadian Camping Association/Association des Camps du Canada is comprised of eight provincial camping associations and represents 728 camps. The CCA/ACC will be working closely with Quebec to support the 8th International Camping Congress in 2008.

(continued on page 8)
Japan and Asia  The Annual National Camp Conference, sponsored by NCAJ, was held in a national park in Japan, Nikko, with more than 500 in attendance. Camp director training is held by NCAJ several times each year as well as counselor and program director training.

Asian Camping Fellowship  The ACF was established on July 4, 2004, at the First Asian Camping Congress in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, as an affiliate of the International Camping Fellowship. Makoto Yamada, Japan, serves as Chair, and Nazri Bin Ismail, Malaysia, is Vice Chair. Sako Tanaka is Honorary Advisor and Fumio Morooka is Secretary General. The 2nd Asian Camping Congress will be held in August, 2006, in Malaysia.

United States  With a generous grant from Lilly Endowment, ACA conducted the largest research study of camper outcomes ever. A detailed report is available on the ACA website, http://www.acacamps.org/research/camprecruitment.php. The 2005 Camp Enrollment survey is also available on the website.

Our ICF Ambassador in Japan  Sako Tanaka, a founding member of the International Camping Fellowship, says that “ICF is my hobby.” Recently retired from her position as a professor at Tsuda College, she spends much of her time and money on this hobby. ICF members traveling to Japan have found that Sako’s home is always open to them. For each visitor, she also organizes a workshop/party with ICF friends in Japan. In the past year, Sako hosted Larry Swenson from the U.S. and took him to the Myojo Private School for workshops. Valentina Murieva from Russia and her husband were taken to see the cherry blossoms at the Emperor’s Castle with lunch at Ginza and plan to visit again soon. Most recently, Sako met with Somchai Runsilp from Thailand to discuss the formation of a Thai Camping Association.

During her retirement, Sako rarely slows down, visiting many countries each year. She has been generous in her contributions to the Bill Bowker Scholarship Fund. When she was at Tsuda College, she had a table near her office to sell small items to benefit the fund and had a flea market where she sold items left to her by her parents.

Sako says, “Small efforts of many people can move mountains. I will do my best till I die for world peace though the International Camping Fellowship.”

2006 Ukrainian Calendar  Youth CAN, a youth organization in Ukraine, sponsors a leadership camp and has recently opened a new camp for orphans. Last year, the sale of Ukrainian calendars raised $4,000 in support of the projects. More importantly, this success has taught this organization a new way to raise funds, and the calendar created greater awareness of Ukraine. The 2006 Ukraine calendar information is found at: http://www.ycan.org/site/

ICF Membership Benefit  Purchases of books from the American Camp Association Bookstore are available to ICF members at the ACA member rate. ICF members may contact Linda Pulliam, acavirginias@acacamps.org for the purchase code to enable this benefit. See the many resources available at www.acacamps.org/bookstore

Newly remodeled
ICF Website
www.campingfellowship.org

INTERNATIONAL  CAMPING  FELLOWSHIP
Australia to Mexico
(One "Down Under" to Another!)

From Australia to Mexico is a looooong way — around 20 hours flying! And yet eleven Australians made it to ICC2005 in Mexico, (12, if you count the Aussie camp staffer buried in the Canadian contingent) — our best turn up yet for an overseas conference. The primary reason for our larger delegation is that we were able to offer the added value of a study tour to visit camps in the USA on the way to Mexico. We added two weeks to the front end of our tour and visited US camps in Southern California, Virginia and Colorado. Eight Australians took up this offer and in a whirlwind fortnight we visited over twenty camps.

In Australia, camping takes place throughout the year and is heavily based on the outdoor education offered by schools. Camps are of a shorter duration, rarely exceeding a week. There is a mix, similar to that in the US, of privately owned "for profit" camps and agency owned "not for profit" camps. We wanted to see what lessons we could learn from the US experience and asked to see camps which operated year round; which offered school based programmes; which offered shorter period camps; which had day camp programmes; and which offered special programmes, particularly ones oriented towards growing, preparing and cooking food. We got to see all these, and as a fabulous bonus got to meet some wonderful, friendly and passionate people. We were blown over by the generosity of of the people we visited, not only in hosting our visits, but in sharing with us their knowledge and experience and the details of their businesses.

Our small group of eight brought together quite a diversity of Australian camping. We comprised representatives from three different states of Australia; private and agency camp operators, associated businesses of insurance, catering and programme delivery; a camping association staffer and even a lighthouse operator! To an America already ravaged by the effects of recent natural disasters, we quickly acquired somewhat of a "Calamity Jane" reputation. Our arrival in Southern California was heralded with the outbreak of major bushfires, one of which threatened the camp where we were staying, and resulted in the stationing of 20 fire engines and about 80 firemen at the camp.

We broke the drought in the Washington area with seven inches of rain in our two days there, along with a terrorist scare resulting in the evacuation of the Washington Monument. Our arrival in Denver brought with it an unseasonably early heavy dump of several feet of snow! In Mexico City, our arrival was accompanied by fierce electrical storms which knocked out the mobile phone network. However, the real culprit must be Jenny Bowker, ICF Chair and member of the tour group. Her visit to the Galapagos Islands after the conference was accompanied by the eruption of a local volcano!

Through all this tumult we really did gain much from the camps we visited and from the people we met. And as is often the case, we gained a tremendous amount from the interaction among the different Aussies on this tour; so much so, that tentative plans are in place to arrange a programme of study tours both within Australia and to accompany future visits to ICCs. For those planning contingents to future conferences, we highly recommend it as a way to gain added value from the long journey.

Our thanks to so many wonderful camping people in USA and Mexico who helped make this so valuable and memorable a trip, and especially to Linda Pulliam whose global network, encyclopedic knowledge, and tireless enthusiasm helped put it all together.

We hope you give us the opportunity to repay the hospitality!

— Bill Oakley, ICF Regional Representative for Australasia

Jo Prior, Australian Camps Executive, at Astro Camp in California

Aussies in a Denver snowstorm
Druzhba Award Presentations

The Abbott Fenn Druzhba Award is an annual recognition of an individual, camp, or organization which has made a significant contribution to international camping. The award is endowed by Abbott Fenn, a long-standing, active member of the American Camp Association and former owner-director of the Keewaydin Camps in New England, U.S.A.

The Druzhba Awards for 2003 and 2004 were presented at the Closing Banquet of the 7th International Camping Congress:

The 2003 award to Venezuelans, Charles Pantin and Hilda Carvallo, was accepted by Pedro Paredes and staff of Rincon Grande.

The 2004 award to Canadian, Jack Pearse, was accepted by his son, Michael Pearse.

At this holiday season, we send our best wishes. May we as an organization be instrumental in bringing peace in the new year.
THE ABBOTT FENN DRUZHBA AWARD

The Abbott Fenn Druzhba Award is an annual recognition of an individual, camp, or organization which has made a significant contribution to international camping. The award is endowed by Abbott Fenn, a long-standing, active member of the American Camp Association and former owner-director of the Keewaydin Camps in New England, U.S.A.

Criteria:

1. Any member of the International Camping Fellowship (Individual, Camp, or Organization) is eligible. Current members of the Steering Committee are not eligible, although their Camp or Organization may be considered.

2. The Award recognizes an Individual, Camp, or Organization which has made a significant contribution to International camping, such as development of a new Camping Association, development of an exchange program between countries, development of sponsorships for international programs, or other unique or sustained contribution to the ICF Organization.

Selection: Nominations may be made by any member of the International Camping Fellowship. Selection of one recipient is made by the Steering Committee of the International Camping Fellowship and is presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Camping Fellowship. Announcement of the Award will be made in the Country of the recipient, as appropriate. Note: The ICF Steering Committee cannot be responsible for travel expenses of the recipient. Nominations are retained for consideration at any time.

NOMINATION

Name of Individual, Camp, or Organization nominated for the Abbott Fenn Druzhba Award

IF THE NOMINEE IS AN INDIVIDUAL

Camping Organization(s) Served:

Full Mailing Address (include City, Country, and Mailing Code):

Telephone________________________________ Fax__________________________________________
E-mail________________________________________________________
Please summarize here or on a separate paper the contribution that this individual, camp, or organization has made to International Camping. Additional supporting documentation (brochures, newspaper articles, etc.) may be included.

_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________________________________________________

Nominated by:

Full Telephone (Include Country and Regional Codes)

Address

Fax E-mail

Nominations may be submitted at any time to:
ICF Secretary
International Camping Fellowship
1844 Ravenscliffe Road
Huntsville, ON P1H 2N2 Canada
FAX: 1 705 789 6624

ICF Headquarters
Secretary:
Date Received:
Date Reviewed by Steering Com.
Other notes: