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A 85 ÉVES DR. KEREKES JÓZSEF KÖSZÖNTÉSE

WELCOMING 85-YEAR-OLD DR. JOSEPH J. KEREKES

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In the 16th volume of the *Hungarian Waterfowl Publications* we congratulated JOSEPH J. KEREKES, the Emeritus Research Scientist of the Environmental Canada. Canadian Wildlife Service, on his 75th birthday. He is also the member of the editorial board for *Hungarian Waterfowl Publications*. All this took place ten years ago.

Then we brought out his detailed biography and his publication list, valid till 2006. Right here we just want to refer to our that time message (FARAGÓ, 2008).

Since then ten years have passed, and on April 10, 2017 we had the honour to celebrate the **85th** birthday of JOE KEREKES (**photo 1**). The Hungarian born scientist, living in Canada since 1956, has been maintaining intensive relations – besides his colleagues all over the world – with Hungarian limnologists and ornithologists dealing with waterfowl for decades. On behalf of all of them we wish him good health and many fruitful years. **Jóska, many happy returns of the day!**

To these lines we would like to attach the list of publications since then.

Bowing before his life-work we should cite ALEXANDER BURNETT word for word from his book entitled *The Canadian Wildlife Service 1947-1997*. BURNETT (1999) wrote a chapter on JOSEPH KEREKES with the title „*The Last Limnologist*”. With BURNETT’s lines we want to hold JOSEPH KEREKES up as an example to the young limnologist and ornithologist generation.

JOSEPH J. KEREKES PUBLICATIONS SINCE 2006

JOURNALS AND SYMPOSIA

FARAGÓ, S. & KEREKES, J. (2006): Water quality monitoring in the Hungarian waterbird monitoring system. In: HANSON, A., KEREKES, J. & PAQUET, J. (Eds.): *Limnology and Aquatic Birds: Abstracts and Selected Papers from the Fourth Conference of the*

- Societas Internationalis Limnologiae (SIL) Aquatic Birds Working Group. Canadian Wildlife Service Technical Report Series No. **474** Atlantic Region.
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EDITOR OR CO-EDITOR OF SYMPOSIUM OR WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

- HANSON, A., **KEREKES, J.** & PAQUET, J. (Eds.) (2006): *Limnology and Aquatic Birds: Abstracts and Selected Papers from the Fourth Conference of the Societas Internationalis Limnologiae (SIL) Aquatic Birds Working Group*. Canadian Wildlife Service Technical Report Series No. **474**. Atlantic Region. xii + 203 p.
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- ANDRIKOVICS, S., FORRÓ, L. & **KEREKES, J.** (2008) *Proceedings. "Limnology and Waterbirds 2006"* – Conference of Working Group on Aquatic Birds of the International Society of Limnology. Eger, Hungary, August 26-30. 2006. *Acta Zoologica Academiae Hungaricae* **54**. Suppl. 1, 269 p.

UNIVERSITY TEXTBOOK:

- ANDRIKOVICS, S., **KEREKES, J.**, KRISKA, GY. & LISZI, J. (2003): *Limnológiai alapismeretek (Introduction to Limnology)*. EKF Líceum Publ. Eger, Hungary (in Hungarian.), 254 p.

UNREFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- KEREKES, J.** (2007): Aquatic Birds Working Group of the International Society of Limnology. *SIL News* **50**: 11.

THE LAST LIMNOLOGIST

In Atlantic Canada, the shift towards pure limnology was actively encouraged by JEAN-PAUL CUERRIER's recruitment of JOE KEREKES in 1965. As a graduate student at the University of Alberta, KEREKES had become „indoctrinated” (his word) in the virtues of the Wildlife Service by former CWS biologist BILL FULLER, who was teaching a graduate seminar in wildlife management. In December 1965, while attending a conference in Montreal, the young limnologist was approached by JOHN TENER.

TENER told me that if I wanted a job I should call JEAN-PAUL CUERRIER in Ottawa. So I did, and the first question JEAN-PAUL asked me was whether I had any furniture that had to be moved. Well, a poor student just graduated sure didn't have furniture to worry about. That

was in the good old days when there was expansion and people could make real decisions, just like that! The Park Service expected I would be another trout biologist, but the job title was limnologist, so I took it literally and practised limnology.¹

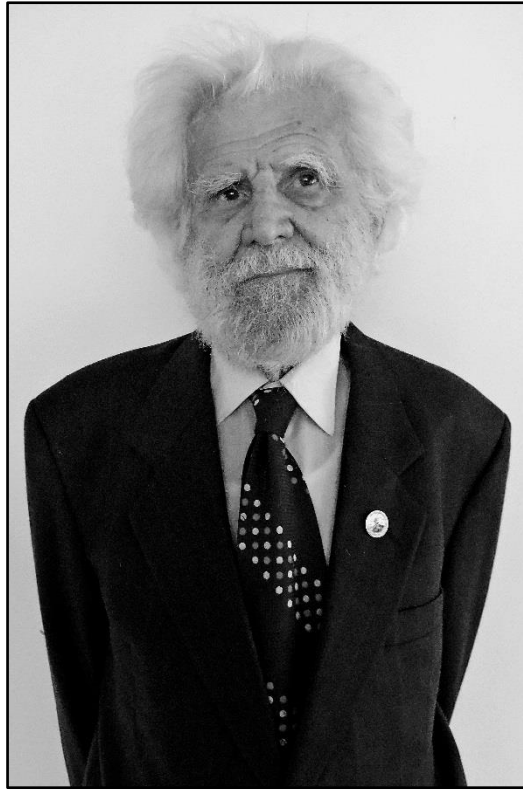


Photo 1: JOSEPH J. KEREKES – the last limnologist

Terra Nova National Park had been established only eight years prior to KEREKES' appointment, and he responded enthusiastically to the suggestion that he concentrate his efforts there. Starting in 1967, he began an inventory of all the water bodies in Terra Nova. Of those, he selected four for closer investigation of their productive capacity. This entailed monitoring the growth rates and feeding habits of Brook Trout and attempting, from this information, to estimate the total biomass and sustainable yield of these populations.

Up to this point, everything he had done was consistent with conventional park fisheries management. However, the next phase marked a departure into new territory, leading to a Ph.D. for KEREKES and a whole new dimension a limnological studies and environmental monitoring. As part of his analysis of the Terra Nova lakes, KEREKES had routinely measured total phosphorus and chlorophyll in water samples. He was struck by the correlation between the two and became one of the very first limnologists anywhere to appreciate the importance of phosphorus in the productivity of inland waters.

KEREKES' work attracted international attention. He was invited to participate in an Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) program on eutrophication, which involved studies of 128 lakes in 18 countries. In the late 1970s, he was

¹ : J.J. Kerekes, personal communication, interviewed at Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, 26 March 1997

seconded to OECD for two years to work as coauthor of a report on the work² which would eventually play a key role in accomplishing the widespread banning of phosphate detergents. During the 1970s, CWS undertook to complete comprehensive of wildlife resources in Canada's national parks. KEREKES was assigned to coordinate the work on aquatic resources. Kejimikujik, in southwest Nova Scotia, was one of the first parks to be surveyed³. It was a fortunate choice. Most of the lakes in the park are naturally acidic, and KEREKES was intrigued by the question of how acidic deposition („acid rain”) would influence them. In 1977, he put forward a proposal to investigate the long-range transportation of air pollutants and their deposition in the Kejimikujik lakes⁴.

The international reputation accruing from his OECD experience probably aided the proposal's ultimate approval. Certainly, the initial reaction at CWS headquarters was less than enthusiastic.

*At first, people dismissed my proposal. I was told that I shouldn't study acid rain there because the amount was immeasurably small. Others said, „The acid is from organic sources, don't bother about it.” I was even told that you couldn't study birds in Kejimikujik because the population density was too low. But I have to admit that I went and started working in a small way anyway. Eventually, in 1980, the proposal came to the attention of the national acid coordinating people and they liked it, so I was asked to do it officially. I worked on it then until 1983, when the Inland Waters Directorate came in with their own people to work on water quality.*⁵

The study showed that highly sensitive, naturally acidic lakes such as the ones in Kejimikujik were affected even by minimal inputs of acid precipitation from distant sources. It was that sensitivity that won international recognition for the park as a very special site for the monitoring of environmental quality.⁶ Thanks in large part to the acid rain study, the park eventually became the prototype site for Canada's national Environmental Monitoring and Assessment Network.

When the Inland Waters Directorate assumed an active role at the park, KEREKES turned to other tasks. He took part in the CWS Latin American Program, first in Brazil and later in Mexico, where he evaluated the productivity of lagoons and lakes in the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. Only in 1988 did he return to the study of aquatic invertebrates, fish, and fish-eating birds in Kejimikujik.

² R. A. VOLLENWEIDER and J. J. KEREKES, *Synthesis Report. Cooperative Programme on Monitoring of inland Waters (Eutrophication Control)* (report prepared on behalf of the Technical Bureau, Water Management Sector Group, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Paris, 1980).

³ JOSEPH J. KEREKES, „Aquatic research and long term monitoring in Atlantic Canada's National Parks” in J. H. MARTIN WILLISON, SØREN BONDRUP-NIELSEN, CLIFFORD DRYSDALE, TOM B. HERMAN, NEIL W. P. MUNRO, AND TOM L. POLLOCK (editors). *Science and the Management of Protected Areas: Proceedings of an International Conference*, held at Acadia University, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, 14-19 May 1991, organized by the Science and Protected Areas Assotiation (Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing, 1992).

⁴ JOSEPH J. KEREKES, *Long Range Transport of Air Pollutants – A Research Proposal* (Ottawa: Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, 1977; reprinted December 1994).

⁵ J. J. KEREKES, personal communication, 26 March 1997.

⁶ KEREKES, „Aquatic research” (See note 2)

In a sense, this brought him in a full circle, back to the early work in Terra Nova. Once again, he found himself looking at phosphorus as the determining key to the abundance of plankton, fish and, by extension, fish-eating birds. The Kejimikujik findings were among topics highlighted in an international symposium on aquatic birds and limnology that was organized in Sackville, New Brunswick, in 1991.⁷ The interest expressed at the event moved him to establish an international working group on aquatic birds, which has subsequently held workshops in Hungary and Yucatan.

JOE KEREEKES retired in 1996, with an inescapable feeling that limnology in CWS had retired with him. In an interview in 1997 he reminisced:

Back in the 1970s, Canada was on the cutting edge of limnology on a world-wide scale. If you came from Canada, people paid attention. Nowadays, it's neither here nor there. Today, it might be impossible to start the Keji (Kejimikujik) study. Of course, there's still water quality work going on, but that's not limnology. The fishery is on part of the lake. The water quality is another. It takes the holistic view of the limnologist to integrate them. But nowadays everyone is backing away from that generalized work. The federal departments say it's not in their mandate. The provinces say they have no money. And so a lot of good research in areas that are not clearly defined by legislation and regulation is just being abandoned.

I was really lucky to be working when I did. I used to say, back then „The good old days are happening right now.” And I was right.⁸

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⁷ JOSEPH J. KEREEKES (editor), *Aquatic Birds in the Trophic Web of Lakes: Proceedings of a Symposium Held in Sackville, New Brunswick, Canada, in August 1991* (Dordrecht, The Netherlands: Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1994: reprinted from *Hydrobiologia* 279/280: 207-221, 1994).

⁸ KEREEKES, personal communication. (See note 5)

