



*Friends of the
Countryside*

Friends of the Countryside Board

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Alberto Hermosel (ESP) - Secretary General (Central point of coordination)
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Joana Sotto Mayor (PT) - Marketing
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"Dear Friends,

[...] The challenges we are facing in the 21st century, including climate change, economic instability and deep shifts in our political systems, must be met by a commitment to remain united together.

To do so depends not on any shared flag or institution, but rather on our common purpose. Our goals remain the same, and I am pleased to say that they are attracting more and more like-minded individuals. Together, we remain committed to our belief in property rights, sustainable management and a European countryside that is as prosperous as it is extraordinary to behold.

Together with the ELO, the FCS will continue to fight for our beliefs, not just in the EU but also beyond its boundaries. [...]"

*Michael Prinz zu Salm-Salm
President of the Friends of the Countryside*



FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

STRONG ENTREPRENEURS

Who we are

The Friends of the Countryside is a non-profit making organisation consisting of a network of more than 700 private landowners, rural managers and entrepreneurs based primarily in Europe but with members spread “from the Rockies to the Urals”*.

Since its formation in 1988, this network not only allows private entrepreneurs to advocate rural property rights and the important function of land management, but it also establishes a dialogue between decision-makers, entrepreneurs and rural owners whose aim it is to ensure a countryside that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable. The basic principle of this network is founded on the belief that **property rights** are the underlying force behind long-term projects, investments and achievements in rural areas.

Tradition and **innovation** are two key concepts held by the association. Tradition represents the heritage tied to the land and the resulting social responsibilities of its managers who must think and plan over many generations. Innovation reflects the efforts made by the members to profitably manage their properties for the long term, all the while respecting the vital role of land and nature for insuring a biodiverse & sustainable future.

In accordance with these guidelines the FCS network takes part in the global debate on the functions of land management in today’s society and its prominent role in the challenges facing the food chain and the environment.

The FCS annual congress, conferences and field visits organised each year represent good opportunities for the FCS members to discover new initiatives and ways of management, and to share their experience on issues such as farming, forestry, cultural heritage, rural development, renewable energies, family business, active entrepreneurship and transmission to the next generation.

For more information visit the FCS website: www.friendsofthecountryside.org

ELO, Sister Organization of the FCS

The national constituent organizations of the European Landowners’ Organization (ELO) in the enlarged European Union and candidate countries represent millions of landowners throughout Europe.

ELO is committed to promoting a **sustainable and prosperous countryside** and to increasing awareness relating to environmental and agricultural issues. Engaging various stakeholders, the ELO develops policy recommendations and programmes of action. They organize interdisciplinary meetings gathering together key actors from the rural sector and policy makers at the local, regional, national and European level. Its ability to do all of this assures its unique position among the think tanks in the agricultural, environmental and rural activities’ sectors.

The work by ELO supports a large number of rural family businesses and enterprises as well as individual actors in Europe involved in activities such as farming and agriculture, forestry and cork, wine production, hunting and fishing as well as water and waste treatment. They set out to encourage sustainable development and management, whilst promoting biodiversity, sustainable bioenergy, food safety, responsible packaging, and combating climate change. ELO also strives to uphold property rights notably in land use, real estates, historic houses and gardens.

For more information as well as details of the many projects, awards, issues and policies visit the ELO website: www.europeanlandowners.org



*Constantin Kinsky, board member



Dear Friends,

“When Johan Nordenfalk, Giuseppe Visconti, Alain Nouguiet and I came to the conclusion that urgent action was needed to promote the many private contributions being made to the countryside, it was founded on the strong belief that its future was dependent on the individual decisions and rights of millions of private landowners. Any sustainable future of that countryside depends on strong, fair and progressive working relationships between the public and private sector, not on all kinds of burdensome rules and expropriations. The European countryside is not a museum to be visited by an increasingly urban population. We will never create value, deliver innovation or protect biodiversity if we start pretending that it ever was or ever should be.

Now, more than ever before, Europe and beyond sees the need to make our land management sustainable. I am proud to say that the Friends of the Countryside was one of the earliest to see this future and the Anders Wall Award is part of our response. These ideas have been central to the extraordinary evolution of the ELO: from one staff member in 1997, there are now over 40. Together with the decisive support of the growing Friends of the Countryside network, we will continue to demonstrate the extraordinary power of the private sector, and to impact and influence these debates. For over 20 years, the Friends have visited more than 20 European countries, including Russia and the Ukraine. We have proudly flown the flag for private entrepreneurship in Dresden, Kiev, Oxford, Skone, Vilnius, Toledo and many other places. On these visits, combining our shared experiences and different views have provided extraordinary value when we develop our thinking and our policies. More recently the values shared by FCS have included landowners in the United States.

It is crucial that the Friends continue to share their vision for a prosperous and democratic rural society. Grounded in our fundamental belief in property rights and the private sector, our vision is not founded on myth, but based on the reality of today, and the promise of tomorrow.”

Thierry de l'Escaille, Secretary General

“The world looks more dangerous and complicated since the founding Congress of FCS in Florence: uncertainty and worry are the predominant sentiments. But whatever may happen, our group of European landowners (including Britons) stands on a solid basis of shared principles which will resist in the future. Respect of nature, food production for the increasing world population, preservation of a living countryside in a restless effort of promoting, within a framework of freedom and solidarity, better life conditions for future generations.

This was, still is, and will remain our noble commitment as landowners.”

Don Giuseppe Visconti, Honorary President



1998

“RURAL PROPERTY FOR DEFENDING THE COUNTRYSIDE AND THE LANDSCAPE”

Italy, Firenze, October 1998

General Assembly: La Limonia di Piazza del Carmine, Firenze

Visits and events:

- Castello di Pomino, hosted by Marchesi Frescobaldi
- Fattoria le Corti, wine and olive oil production, hosted by Principe Filippo Corsini
- Palazzo Corsini hosted by Principessa Giorgiana Corsini
- Tenuta Santa Christina, vineyards, hosted by Marchese Piero Antinori
- Tenuta del Borro, hosted by Mr Ferruccio Ferragamo

1999

“MANAGEMENT IN A CHANGING WORLD ”

Sweden, Lund, Skåne County, September 1999

General Assembly: Viderup Slott, with the presence of H.R.H. Princess Désirée of Sweden

Visits and events:

Organized by Baron Johan Nordenfalk and Count Jörgen Ehrenswärd

- Svenstorp Slott, hosted by Baron Nils Gyllenbrok
- Skarhult Slott, hosted by Baron Carl Johan von Schwerin
- Sövdeborg Slott, hosted by Family Stjernsvärd
- Hviderup Slott, hosted by Baron Gustaf Ramel

2000

“EUROPEAN REGIONAL POLICY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: NEW PERSPECTIVES”

United Kingdom, Blenheim Palace, July 2000

General Assembly: Blenheim Palace, Oxfordshire

Visits and events:

- Engelfield Estate, hosted by Sir William Benyon
- Broughton Castle, hosted by Lord Saye and Sele
- Highclere Castle, hosted by Earl of Carnarvon

2001

“A LOOK AT PROPERTY IN THE EAST”

Germany, Dresden, September 2001

General Assembly: Western Bellevue hotel, Dresden

Visits and events:

The presence of the Friends of the Countryside in Dresden was an opportunity to take a closer look at the situation of rural property in the former East Germany.

- Beesdau agricultural and forestry farm, hosted by Herr Benedikt Behr
- Historical center of Dresden, “der Zwinger” National Gallery and “Gruenes Gewoelbe” treasury
- Koessern castle and estate
- Kuehnitzsch castle and farm, hosted by Johannes von Carlowitz
- Proschwitz Castle, hosted by Prof. Dr. Georg Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld
- Riemsdorf, hosted by Rupprecht Freiherr von Reitzenstein
- Stechau castle, hosted by Dr. Bardia Khadjavi-Gontard
- Zadel, wine production, hosted by Prof.Dr. Prinz zur Lippe-Weissenfeld





2002

“ASSESSING EUROPE’S FUTURE”

Spain, Seville, May 2002

Visits and events:

- Esparragal, hosted by D. Carlos de Oriol e Ybarra
- La Bodega González-Byass, hosted by D. Jaime and D. Mauricio González-Gordon Díez
- Las Lomas near Cadiz, hosted by D. Fernando and D. Ramón Mora-Figueroa
- Veta la Palma, property of Pesquerías Isla Mayor

2003

“SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LAND AND NEW ALTERNATIVES”

Sicily, Syracuse, April 2003

General Assembly: Vermexio Palace, Syracuse

Visits and events:

- Almond and olives groves near Castellucio, hosted by Prince Bonaccorsi di Reburdone family
- Citrus Orchard San Giuliano, hosted by Marchese Giuseppe Paternò Castello di San Giuliano
- Gardens of the “del Bivière” residence enhanced by the passion of Princess Borghese
- Faro nursery and San Michele vineyards

Anders Wall Award 2003: Thomas Harttung, Barritskov, Denmark

2004

“HOW TO BE A EUROPEAN ON EUROPE’S BORDERS”

Ireland, Cork, May 2004

General Assembly: Hayfield Manor Hotel in Cork

Visits and events:

- Blarney Castle, hosted by Sir Charles Colthurst
- Cappoquin House, hosted by Sir Richard Keane
- Coolmore, hosted by Maurice Moloney
- Fota Arboretum World famous collection, guided by botanist David O’Regan
- Fota House, hosted by Prof. Tom Raftery
- Kilshanning Stud, with Elaine and Hugo Merry
- Lismore Castle and Gardens, with Mr Michael Penruddock
- McCarthy’s famous old Irish pub in Fethard and guided tour to the Rock of Cashel
- Middleton distillery of Irish Whiskey, with Mr Kristin Jameson
- Moore Hill, hosted by Mr John PercevallMaxwell
- Woodhill Stud, Dunmoon, Tallow with Marie O’Brien

Anders Wall Award 2004: Jacqueline Violet, Herdade do Pinheiro, Portugal

Presentation of the book “EUROPE’S NATURAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE” edited by Dr. Carlos Otero Muerza and Friends of the Countryside





2005

“RURAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT”

France, Avignon, September 2005

General Assembly: Palais des Papes in the heart of Avignon

Visits and events:

- Angladon Foundation, St Pierre and St Didier churches, Saint-André Fortress, Avignon
- La Chartreuse de Villeneuve les Avignons and Chateau de la Nerther in Chateaufort-du-Pape
- Duchy d’Uzès, hosted by the Duke of Uzès
- Aigues-Mortes salt marshes and Tour du Valat, property of family Hoffman
- Isle sur la Sorgue castle and gardens, hosted by Count and Countess Charles-Hubert de Brantes
- Chateau de Clary, “Wine and Olive oils Taste Academy”
- Night salt harvest at Giraud salt marshes and Manade in Camargue

Anders Wall Award 2005: Hubert François, Les Salins du Midi, France

Creation of the WILDLIFE ESTATES label

2006

“FORESTRY, PRIVATE PROPERTY AND THE RULE OF LAW IN THE NORTH”

Finland, Helsinki, July 2006

General Assembly: Marina Congress Centre Helsinki

Visits and events:

- Fargervik Gård, hosted by Mr Otto von Frenckell
- Fiskars Real Estate, hosted by Mr Ingmar Lindberg
- Kullo Gård, hosted by Mr Johan and Mrs Peggy Frankenhæuser
- Malmgard Gård, hosted by Count Johan Creutz
- Tervik Gård, hosted by Mrs Gunilla Ehrnrooth

Anders Wall Award 2006: Giuseppe Natta, La Cassinazza and the Neorural territory, Italy

2007

“LANDOWNERSHIP: OLD BUSINESS AND NEW OPPORTUNITIES”

Portugal, Evora, June 2007

General Assembly: Convento do Espinheiro Hotel

Visits and events:

- Eugénio de Almeida Foundation, Evora
- Herdade do Zambujal, hosted by Mr Mario Vinhas
- Herdade de Pinheiro, hosted by Mrs Jacqueline Violet
- Herdade do Freixo do Meio, hosted by Mr Alfredo Cunhal Sendim
- Herdade Monte da Ravasqueira, hosted by Mr Luis Azevedo Coutinho,
- Herdade do Monte Novo, hosted by Mr Francisco Almeida Garrett
- Cork Plant Unit, hosted by Mr Antonio Amorim
- Herdade do Pedrogao, with campinos demonstrations, hosted by Mr António da Veiga Teixeira

Anders Wall Award 2007: Lord Clinton, Clinton Devon Estates, United Kingdom





2008

“LAND REFORM, COUNTRY SPORTS AND BIODIVERSITY IN SCOTLAND”

Scotland, Edinburg, May 2008

General Assembly: The Caledonian Hilton Hotel

Visits and events:

- Atholl Estates, Blair Castle, hosted by Mrs Sarah Troughton
- Bowhill Estate, hosted by Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry
- Dundas Castle, hosted by Sir Jack and Lady Lydia Stewart-Clark
- Edinburgh Castle, with Major General David McDowall
- Mansfield Estate, hosted by Lord and Lady Mansfield
- Rossie Priory, hosted by Hon Caroline Best
- Rosslyn Chapel, hosted by Lord and Lady Rosslyn
- Roxburghe Estates, hosted by Duke of Roxburghe
- The Scottish Gallery and Bourne Gallery, Royal Yacht Britannia, Edinburgh

Anders Wall Award 2008: Paul-François Vranken, Domaine Royal de Jarras, France

2009

“ENVIRONMENTAL AND LANDOWNERS’ CHALLENGES IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC”

Czech Republic, Prague, June 2009

General Assembly: Malostransky Palace, Prague

Visits and events:

- Blatná castle and estate, hosted by the Germenis Hildprandt family
- Dobříš castle and estate, hosted by the Colloredo-Mannsfeld family
- Drahenice castle and estate, hosted by Prince and Princess Johannes Lobkowicz
- Karlova Koruna in Chlumeč nad Cidlinou and Medieval Kost Hrad, hosted by Count Kinský Giovanni dal Borgo
- Lobkowicz Palace, Prague, hosted by Prince and Princess William Lobkowicz
- Nelahozeves castle, hosted by Prince and Princess William Lobkowicz
- Orlík Castle and Nový Dvur, hosted by Prince Friedrich von Schwarzenberg
- The Cimelic fisheries and Bisingrov lakes, Karlov baroque farm and fish farms
- Zdár nad Sazavou castle and estate, hosted by Count Constantin Kinský

Post tour:

Baroque castle in Rychnov nad Kněžnou, owned by Kolowrat family- Boskovice Hrad, owned by the Mensdorf-Pouilly family- Castolovice castle, hosted by Mrs Diana Phipps-Sternberg- Chotěboř castle and estate, hosted by Count and Countess Jan Dobrzenský de Dobrzenicz - Kostelec nad Orlicí castle, hosted by Count František Kinský

Anders Wall Award 2009: Rudolf Tornerhjelm, Wrams Gunnastorp Estate, Sweden





2010

“LANDOWNERS’ CHALLENGES; WITH A SPECIAL FOCUS ON THE NETHERLANDS”

The Netherlands, Apeldoorn, May 2010

General Assembly: National Park Hoge Veluwe, Auditorium Kröller-Muller Museum

Visits and events:

- Ampsen Huis and estate, hosted by Mr and Mrs Rudolph van Weede
- Burgers' Zoo in Arnhem, hosted by the owner Mr Alexander van Hooff
- Heerlijkheid Marienwaardt, hosted by Baron and Baroness Frans van Verschuer
- Huis Almelo hosted by Count and Countess Dolf van Rechteren Limpurg
- Huis te Maarn, hosted by Mr and Mrs Jim Notten
- Huis Vilsteren, hosted by Mrs Liesbeth Cremers
- Keppel Estate, hosted by Baron and Baroness Willem van Lynden
- Kröller-Muller Museum and Sculpture Garden, St Hubertus Jachthuis, Hoge Veluwe
- National Park Hoge Veluwe, hosted by Director Baron Seger van Voorst tot Voorst
- Royal Palace Het Loo in the presence of HRH Princess Margriet of The Netherlands
- Steegro Dairy Farm, Marknese, hosted by Mr and Mrs Henk van der Steege
- Twickel Castle and Lumber Mill, hosted by Count Albrecht H. Schimmelpenninck
- Weleveld Estate, hosted by Mr and Mrs Eric Kwint
- Wierse Estate, hosted by Mr and Mrs Peter Catacre

Presentation of the book “CREATING THE FUTURE OF THE COUNTRYSIDE” edited by Dr Carlos Otero Muerza and Friends of the Countryside

Anders Wall Award 2010: Charles Forbes Adam, Escrick Park Estate, England

2011

“CAP- CREDIBILITY OF POLITICIANS, FEASIBILITY FOR LANDOWNERS AND FULLFILMENT OF CONSUMERS’ NEEDS”

Austria, Vienna, May 2011

General Assembly: Haus der Industrie, Vienna

Visits and events:

- Ernstbrunn Schloss and estate, hosted by Heinrich XIV Prinz Reuss
- Esterhazy Estate and Betriebe, hosted by the management team
- Forstgut Mariensee, hosted by Mr Stephan Schenker
- Gut Mitterau, hosted by Mr Felix Montecuccoli
- Seefeld-Kadolz Schloss and wine estate, hosted by Maximilian Graf Hardegg
- Schloss Rosenberg and falcon performance, hosted by Hoyos-Sprinzenstein family
- Schloss Ulrichkirchen, hosted by Count and Countess Alceo Bulgarini d’Elci

Post tour:

- Boat tour on the Danau to Dürnstein, Melk Basilica, Stift Götweig, abbey and forest
- Schloss Arstetten, hosted by HH Princess Anita von Hohenberg
- Schloss Grafeneegg, hosted by HH Prinz Metternich-Sandor
- Schloss Greillenstein, hosted by Kuefstein family

Anders Wall Award 2011: Madars Kalnins, Jaunumuli and Erini Estates, Latvia





2012

« NEW MEMBERS STATES' LANDOWNERS: PAST-PRESENT- FUTURE »

Lithuania, Vilnius, June 2012

General Assembly: Vilnius, Town Hall

Visits and events organized with Mr Algis Gaizutis and Mr Ketstutis Mozeris

- Aukštaitijos National Park, Taujėniai Manor, Vidiskiai Manor
- Farm visit in the district of Kaunas, hosted by Minister of Agriculture Kazys Starkevičius
- Farm visit in the district of Ingalina hosted by Mr Petras Posiunas and Martinėliai Farm
- Forest domain and wood processing factory, hosted by Mr Kazimieras Šiaulyš
- Pažaislis Comaldolese Monastery and Šešuolėliai private Palace and estate
- Trakai Castle Babyno-Žemaitkiemio estate near Nevėžis river, hosted by Mr Šventoraitis
- Užutrakis Palace in the national park of Trakai on the bank of Galvė Lake

Post tour: Latvia, organized with Arnis Muiznieks

Ausekla Dzimavas estate, watermill and museum - Bergs Hotel, owned by family Karlsons - Birini castle, hosted by Mr Arnis and Mrs Silvina Muiznieks - Boat trip on the river Ruja to Jarata Mill - Erini Manor- Konu Mill - Kuku Manor, hosted by Mr Daniel Jahn - Latvijas Finieris (Riga), biggest birch plywood factory in Europe - Naukseni Manor, hosted by Mr Madars and Mrs Sannija Kalnins, winner of the Anders Wall 2011- Rundale Palace - Rumene Manor hosted by Mr Aleksis Karlsons

Post tour: Estonia organized with Mr Ando Eelmaa and Mr Imre Sooaar (EHHA)

Boat to Muhu Island and Padāste Manor, hosted by Mr Imre Sooaar - Tallinn and Pärnu – Paradise manor, hosted by Mr Karl von Ramm - Visit of a vegetable farm near Tallinn

Anders Wall Award 2012: Karl Grotenfelt, Jarvikyla Estate, Finland

2013

« OPPORTUNITIES FOR LAND MANAGERS IN THE CURRENT ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION »

Spain, Toledo, May, 2013

General Assembly: Royal Palace- Alcazar de Toledo

Visits and events:

- Alcurrucén, bullfight bulls, hosted by the Lozano family
- Casas de Hualdo, Olive tree plantation, hosted by D. Jon Riberas
- Castillo de Malpica, hosted by Duke of Cánovas del Castillo
- Claustro de San Juan de los Reyes, El Greco museum, Toledo
- Dominio de Valdepusa, hosted by Marquise de Mirabel, and her father the Marquis of Griñón
- El Castañar, hosted by Dukes of Pastrana and his son the Count of Mayalde
- Las Navas hunting estate, hosted by D. Juan Abelló and Dña Anna Gamazo
- Palacio Galiana, hosted by Dña. María del Carmén Fernández de Araoz
- Palacio Tavera, owned by Dña. Victoria Eugénia Fernández de Córdoba, Duquesa de Medinaceli
- Yegualda El Allozar, hosted by D. Julio Moreno

Post tour:

Guadalupe, Granja de Valdefuentes and Granja de Mirabel, hosted by Ignacio Manrique and his family - La Garganta, with the great explanations of the Landaluce family - Castillo de Monclova, hosted by the Marquis of Armunia; son and manager of the Duke del Infantado

Anders Wall Award 2013: Michael Orlov, Danilovka Estate, Russia



« THE GREEN PARADOX OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES »
Italy, Friuli, Udine, May 2014
General Assembly: Castello di Udine

Visits and events:

- Aquilea basilica and boat on the laguna, Cividale del Friuli guided visit
- Caffé Contarena, Palazzo Kechler, Tiepolo Museum, Udine
- Castello de Arcano wine estate, hosted by Taverna family
- Castello di Brazza, hosted by Mr Corrado and Mrs Cecile Pirzio-Biroli
- Castello di Rocca Bernarda, owned by The Sovereign Order of Malta
- Cordovado Estate and Castello di Villalta, hosted by Conte and Contessa Sergio Gelmi di Caporiacco
- Dock dell'Ava ham processing factory in San Daniele and Castello de Susans in Majano
- Palazzo Lantieri, hosted by Conte and Contessa Niccolo Piccolomini Lantieri
- Reserva naturale Laghi de Doberdone at the Slovenian border
- Soc. Agricola Conte Luigi de Puppi wine estate, hosted by Caterina de Puppi
- Tenuta di Blasig wine estate, hosted by Mrs Elisabetta Bortolotto Sarcinelli
- Villa Rubini, wine estate, hosted by Rubini family

Post tour:

Caffé Pedrocchi, Orto Botanico and Capella degli Scrovegni in Padova- Castello di Catajo, hosted by Della Francesca family- Castello di Frassanelle and Palazzo Papafava, hosted by Contessa Francesca Papafava Antonini Dei Carraresi - Dominio di Bagnoli, hosted by Borletti family - Villa Barbarigo, hosted by M. Pizzoni Ardernani di Valsanzibio - Monselice and Montagnana - Villa Vescovi - Villa Badoer/Fattoretto, Villa Foscari, Villa Pisani, Villa Widmann on the Brenta canal

Anders Wall Award 2014: Christophe Lenaerts, Heihuyzen Estate, Belgium

Creation of the WELCOMING ESTATES WEBSITE

« RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: DIVERSIFICATION, INNOVATION AND ENVIRONMENT FOR A GREEN AND PLEASANT LAND »
United Kingdom, Suffolk, Newmarket, May 2015
General Assembly: Newmarket Racecourses, Rowley Mill

Visits and events:

- Abbots Ripton Hall, agriculture and woods, hosted by Lord and Lady Ramsey
- Banstead Manor Stud belonging to the Group Juddmonte Farms
- Jockey Club, Early morning gallops at the Training Grounds, Tattersalls' auctioneers, Newmarket
- Chippenham Manor and gardens, hosted by Mr Hugo and Mrs Becca Nicolle
- Dalham Hall Stud and Darley horse breeding headquarters of HH Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum
- Elton Hall, historical house, agriculture and art collection, hosted by Lord and Lady Proby
- Ely cathedral and village and Peter Beals- world leaders in classic roses
- Euston Hall, historical estate and parkland, hosted by HE Duke of Grafton
- Great Hallingbury farm, hosted by Streeter family
- Inter-Countries Clay Pigeon shooting, FCS and YFCS teams
- National Institute for Agriculture and Botany, NIAB, in Cambridge
- Trumpington estate, hosted by Mr Anthony Pemberton

Pre tour

Bradenham hall and arboretum, hosted by Mr Chris and Mrs Panda Allhusen - Castle Acre village
 Holkham Hall and estate, hosted by Earl and Countess of Leicester - Lexham Hall, hosted by Mr Neill and Mrs Anthea Foster - Oxburgh Hall, manor and house, National Trust, hosted by Sir Henry Bedingfield -
 Shropshire farm & vegetables, hosted by Mr John and Mrs Trish Shropshire

Anders Wall Award 2015: João Portugal Ramos and José Maria Soares Franco, Castelo Melhor Estate, Portugal


2016

« INNOVATION - NEW TIMES »

Germany, Wolfsburg, May 2016

General Assembly: Ideenherd, Nordsteimke hosted by Günther Graf von der Schulenburg

Visits and events:

- Autostadt and VW factory, Kunstmuseum, Castle, Wolfsburg
- Bredenbeck hosted by Baron Hubertus von Knigge
- Kaiserdom Königsutter
- Gross Valhberg hosted by Baron Rembert von Munchausen
- Hardenberg, estate, castle and park hosted by Carl Graf von Hardenberg
- Hofos estate hosted by Freiherr Philip von Olderhausen
- Schloss Bückeberg hosted by Prinz Alexander zu Schaumburg-Lippe
- Schloss Marienburg hosted by HRH Prinz Ernst-August von Hannover
- Schloss Oelber hosted by Baron and Baronnes von Cramm
- Wasserschloss Hülsede hosted by Alexandra Gräfin Finck von Fickenstein

Post tour:

Garden Kingdom of Wörlitz - Halle, Haendel House - Magdeburg Dom - Postdam, Schloss Sanssouci
Schloss Teutschental hosted by Herr and Frau Carl-Friedrich Wentzel - Visit of Dessau Bauhaus

Anders Wall Award 2016: Hon EAH Boscawen, Tregothnan Estate, United Kingdom

2017

« NATURAL CAPITAL, PRIVATE MANAGEMENT »

Belgium, Hex, June 2017

20th General Assembly of the Friends of the Countryside

Visits and events:

- Scy castle and estate, hosted by Mr and Mrs Eric Speeckaert
- Ramezée estate, hosted by Mr and Mrs Vincent Berghmans
- Hamal castle and estate, hosted by Count and Countess Alexandre de Hemricourt de Grunne
- Genoels Elderen vineyards and wine castle hosted by the managers
- Westerloo castle, hosted by Prince and Princess Simon de Merode
- Vogelsanck kasteel, hosted by Baron and Baroness de Villenfangne de Vogelsanck

Post tour:

- Heihuyzen, hosted by Mr and Mrs Christophe Lenaerts winner of the Anders Wall Award 2014
- Bornem castle and estate, hosted by Count John de Marnix de Sainte-Aldegonde
- Ooidonk castle, hosted by Count and Countess Henri t'Kint de Roodenbeke
- Huyse castle and estate, hosted by Baron and Baroness Bernard della Faille d'Huyse
- Nokere castle and estate, hosted by Baron and Baroness Philippe Casier
- Laarne castle and silver collection, hosted by ARDJHB
- Egelendael estate - cherry growing, hosted by Mr Marc Govaert, winner of INBEV Baillet Latour prize
- Andornes private Domain in Bruges, hosted by Count and Countess Maximilien de Limburg Stirum
- Loppem Foundation, hosted by family van Caloen
- Oostkerke estate, hosted by Baron and Baroness van der Elst

Anders Wall Award 2017: Sir Charles Burrell, Knepp estate, Horsham, United Kingdom





2018

« PREALPINE LAND MANAGEMENT AND ROYAL HERITAGE »

Germany, Switzerland, Austria & Liechtenstein, Lake Constance, May 2018

General Assembly: Steigenberger Insel

Visits and events:

- Walking and boat tour of Lake Constance
- Mainau castle hosted by Count Björn Bernadotte
- Grosses Valsertal, Biosphärenpark Alpe Faludriga hosted by Baron Eberhard von Gemmingen
- Schloss Castell Tägerwilen hosted by Daniel von Stockar
- Vaduz hosted by the Princely family of Liechtenstein
- Waldruh, agriculture and orchards, Baron Bodman properties
- Althausen hosted by the Royal Family of Württemberg

Post tour:

St Gallen - Appenzell - Kloster Einsiedeln - Lucerne - Schloss Buttisholz with Dr Bernhard and Prof. Dr. Gabrielle von Pfyffer - Schloss Waldegg with Dr. Felix von Sury Büssy - Paul Klee Foundation - Schloss Oberdiessbach with Sigmund and Martine von Wattenwyl - Abegg Foundation in Riggisberg

Anders Wall Award 2018: Günther Graf von der Schulenburg, Schulenburg Estates, Germany

2019

« FACING THE CHALLENGES OF A CHANGING WORLD - A FRENCH PERSPECTIVE »

France, Anjou, June 2019

General Assembly: Chateau de Serrant, property of Prince & Princesse Charles-Guillaume de Merode

Visits and events:

- Chateau de Brissac hosted by Marquis and Marquise Charles-André and Larissa de Brissac
- Chateau and forest of Pescheseul hosted by Vicomte Antoine Ponton d'Amécourt
- Chateau de la Touchardière hosted by Arnaud Heim de Balsac
- Domaine de Mazerolles with manager Pierre Hoflack
- Chateau de la Baronnaire with owners Anne and Olivier du Boucheron
- Domaine de la Maissonette with owners Gilles and Sophie Savoye de Puineuf
- Carré Cointreau with younger members of the Cointreau family
- Chateau de la Guerinière with owners Comte and Comtesse Baudouin de Marnix de Saint-Aldegone
- Domaine de l'Épinay and Chateau des Vaults for YFCS
- Musée de Jean Lurçat and Musée David d'Angers

Extra day:

Chateau de Valmer with Comtesse Alix de St.Venant and son Jean
Chateau de Chambord with director Jean d'Haussonville, visit and dinner

Post tour:

Chambord grounds and La Thibaudière with director of forestry and hunting Etienne Guillaumat - Chateau de Cheverny with owner Vicomte Charles-Antoine de Vibraye - Chateau St Denis sur Loire - Chateau de Villesavin - Chateau de la Bourdaisière with owner Prince Louis-Albert de Broglie - Chateau de Villandry with owner Henri Cavallo - Abbaye Royale de Fontevraud - vins Langlois-Chateau - Chateau de Brézé

Anders Wall Award 2019: Baltzar Wachtmeister, Wanås Gods, Sweden





2020

« BIODIVERSITY AND THE CULTURE OF WATER »

Spain, Córdoba, June 2020

General Assembly: Palacio de Exposiciones y Congressos

Visits and events:

- Real Círculo de la Amistad, Córdoba
- Dafisa Company hosted by the director Cristobal Perez
- Castillo de la Monclova hosted by Ivan and Isabelle de Arteaga, Marqueses de Ariza
- Rivera estate hosted by Ivan and Isabelle de Arteaga, Marqueses de Ariza
- La Rinconada estate hosted by Eloy and Ana Martinez Sagrera
- San Javier and El Asiento estates hosted by Emilio and Mariela Navarro
- Bodegas Alvear owned by the Alvear family
- Finca Fuen la Higuera - La Quinta bull breeders hosted the Martínez Conradi family
- El Gujarrillo estate - Lovera Horse breeders hosted by May Lovera de las Morenas and Enrique Lovera de las Morenas
- El Rincón Bajo estate hosted by Francisco and Silvia Ruiz de la Torre
- YFCS: Castillo de Almodovar del Rio hosted by Fernando and Eva Solís & El Parralejo estate hosted by Claudia Navarro
- Mezquita-cathedral and El Alcázar of Córdoba, Museo Romero de Torres,

Pre-tour:

Palacio Arzobispal, Casa de Salinas - hosted by Salinas family, Alcázar de Sevilla, Cathedral & Giralda, Real Maestranza de Caballería & Plaza de Toros - hosted by Teniente de Hermano Mayor, Santiago León, Casa Palacio Bailén, Finca Fuente Rey & Finca la Peñuela - hosted by Bohórquez family, Bodegas Fundador, Palacio Domecq, Bodegas Tradición - hosted by Helena Rivero, Las Lomas estate - hosted by Mora-Figueroa family

AWARDS



The FCS along with the ELO and its partners support and encourage members to participate in the following awards

Anders Wall Award

An award for individuals who have made a special contribution to the rural environment within the European Union.

European Bee Award

Acknowledges innovative, efficient and scalable projects that protect pollinators in Europe.

European Tree of the Year

Highlights the significance of trees in the natural and cultural heritage of Europe. The contest is not looking for the most beautiful tree, but for a tree with a story; a tree rooted in the lives and work of the people and the community that surrounds it.

Famigro Award

See YFCS

Soil and Land Management Award

Rewards land use and soil management practices that mitigate soil threats by encouraging new concepts of land and soil protection and their implementation in land management.

Wildlife Estates Label

This is a network of exemplary estates that voluntarily agree to adhere to the philosophy of wildlife management and sustainable rural development. Each year one Wildlife estate is awarded the Belleuropa Award for having achieved significant environmental results.

Details for applying on : www.friendsofthecountryside.org



Towards a Sustainable Future

2006 - Creation of the YOUNG FRIENDS OF THE COUNTRYSIDE

For a special focus on younger business people, rural entrepreneurs and landowners as they represent the next generation who will be in charge of the prosperity of our future rural economy.

Transmission to the next generation

The Young Friends of the Countryside (YFCS) is a European non profit making Association which aims to educate and create a network for future land managers aged between 18 and 35. Founded in 2006, the organization today counts for over 200 members spread across 18 European countries.

The organization serves as a network for young rural entrepreneurs who plan to be the landowners and managers of tomorrow. What the members of this network share in common is a passion for topics relating to land ownership, the European countryside, land management and rural entrepreneurship.

Our objectives are:

- To raise awareness among its members about European environmental policies, European rural business opportunities, and estates & historic houses inheritance and management processes
- To promote educational philanthropy in the countryside
- To represent and channel the YFCS voice at the EU level through the European Landowners Organization
- To provide information and assistance to its members regarding management and legal issues concerning the countryside and rural businesses.

Furthermore, the YFCS aims to encourage the exchange of knowledge (specifically about farming and rural activities) between members of the younger and older generations, encourage its members to respect the environment, improve their rural businesses, all the while contributing to dialogue at the European level.

FAMIGRO Award

In 2013 Karl Grotenfelt initiated the Famigro Award to reward adults under the age of 40 who have presented an innovative and rural entrepreneurial project. Every year a start-up project that raises awareness on the importance of a sustainable and dynamic countryside, that promotes the continuation of family enterprises and also invests in rural communities is presented with 5000€ prize and a diploma of recognition. Winners include Grafschaft Stolberg from Germany, CO2 Logic, Trusted Family, Wignac natural cider from Belgium, Wildernest the tiny house from Belgium and Coucoco tree houses in France. Baron Island Falconry Experience, Finca Rincón del Rosario, Fumal, SeedForward GmbH, Sirplus GmbH.





MEMBERSHIP

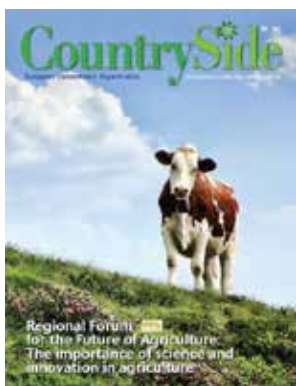
Join the Friends of the Countryside

Joining the Friends of the Countryside means being a part of a strong European network whose members are present at the top level of the business world, well-informed and capable of providing strategic information to the team, based in the heart of the European district in Brussels, to defend their interests and to promote innovative actions.

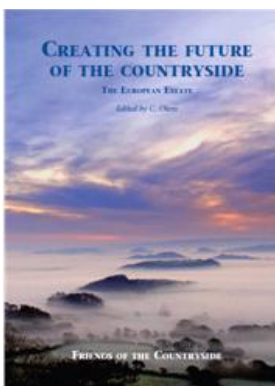
Members receive:

- A bimonthly magazine, "CountrySide", with the latest information of the activities of the ELO, sharing new ways of thinking about environmental and agriculture policies
- The Yearbook of the Friends of the Countryside and the yearly Activity Report from the ELO and the FCS
- An invitation to the annual Congress organized in Europe, created as a weekend of reflection on the past year and exchanges on the year ahead to share management experiences and field visits
- Access to the top European decision makers where you can make your point of view known and bring in your concerns
- Invitation to all national seminars and events organized by FCS branches
- Invitations to all the conferences organized by the ELO, including the Forum for the Future of Agriculture (FFA)
- Access to the exclusive Trusted Area intranet which is a dedicated communication tool, specially created for the network: elo.trustedarea.com

For more Information visit: www.friendsofthecountryside.org



Countryside Magazine



Books

Address

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coordination@elo.org

*Welcoming
Estates
Website*

Members of the FCS whose estate is open to the public are invited to join this hospitality platform and thus increase exposure to a targeted audience.

An attractive, user-friendly and well organised website presents a list of European countryside estates that invite the public to enjoy the hidden treasures each estate has to offer.

For more information please visit: www.welcomingestateswebsite.com