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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hungarian Delegation to Visit Annapolis for International Exchange**

ANNAPOLIS (May 13, 2005) – An international delegation from Hungary will visit Annapolis on Monday, May 16, to learn about tourism development on the Chesapeake Bay and to meet with leaders of LakeNet, a global lakes network headquartered in Annapolis. The visit is part of an exchange program organized by LakeNet and the International Institute for Education on behalf of the International Visitor Leadership Program of the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs, U.S. Department of State. The objective of these official International Visitors from Hungary is to learn about tourism development and environmental protection issues in the United States.

The five-person delegation includes the Mayor of Tihany, a city on the shore of Lake Balaton in Hungary, as well as tourism and regional government officials. The Lake Balaton region is the second largest tourist attraction in Hungary after Budapest, and the area is known for its sailing and for producing excellent wine.

The Hungarian visitors will meet at noon with senior staff and trustees of LakeNet, an Annapolis-based nonprofit that operates a global network of people and organizations in more than 100 countries working to protect the health of lakes. Annapolis Mayor Ellen Moyer is planning to join the lunch meeting. Later in the day the group will meet with representatives of the Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau and the Chesapeake Bay Gateways Network.

The Hungarian delegation will depart from Baltimore Washington International Airport Monday evening to spend several days in the Finger Lakes region of New York before traveling to Ohio and Michigan in the Great Lakes region for a two-week study tour organized by LakeNet. They also will explore the feasibility of establishing a sister lake relationship with one of the lakes they visit.

In addition to meeting with the group in Annapolis, LakeNet Director Lisa Borre helped organize the exchange which will include a meeting with area wine researchers and a tour of wineries in the Finger Lakes region. “When visiting Lake Balaton in 1999, I realized how important the region is for tourism and recreation, including a long tradition that includes both sailing and wine making,” commented Borre. “They will visit places and share experiences with people who care about similar aspects of economic development and environmental protection.” For more information about LakeNet’s world lakes network, visit: [www.worldlakes.org](http://www.worldlakes.org).

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