

Become Involved with Conservation in 2004!

March 20, March 27 & April 3

Volunteer Training

Come join the dedicated people who have made ICF a successful conservation organization! These 3 sessions will provide the background information you need to help ICF as a tour guide or chick parent. Help ICF.

April 15 – June 30

Children's International Art Exhibit

Each year children from around the world create artwork celebrating the crane as a symbol of peace and international cooperation. See these unique pieces in the ICF Art Gallery.

April 17

Crane Count

Experience wild cranes and the habitats they occupy during the 29th Annual Sandhill Crane Count. Participant data contribute to ICF's long term research.

May 8

6th Annual Crane Fest

Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day! Enjoy birding, guest speakers, performers, arts & crafts, concessions, and more.

July 1 – October 31

Chinese Art Exhibit

He Yuan Ming, celebrated artist from Sichuan, China is our featured artist. Experience his unique wetland portraits while learning about ICF's successful conservation projects in Asia. Proceeds benefit ICF.

July 17

Prairie Fest

Wild about Wildflowers! This event celebrates the beauty and diversity of the habitats upon which cranes depend. Guided prairie hikes by ICF experts, workshops for landowners/ homeowners, live animal displays, and exhibits will ensure a day the whole family will enjoy.

October 1 -2

Solar Tour

Learn about sustainable energy and its application! In concert with the Midwest Renewable Energy Association, tours will be conducted around the ICF site showcasing our use of solar energy.



International Crane Foundation

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THE ICF
BUGGLE

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

Newlywed Pair of Whooping Cranes Does Everything Right

By Marty Folk, Wildlife Biologist, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission



During the 2002 breeding season, you might recall that a pair of Whooping Cranes that had been reintroduced to the non-migratory flock in central Florida managed to raise a chick, named Lucky by volunteers, to . Lucky was the first chick to fledge in the wild from reintroduced Whooping Crane parents. In the 2003 breeding season Lucky's parents again successfully raised a chick to fledging.

In addition, a second pair of first-time breeders reached the milestone of successfully raising a chick to fledging. Birds 591 (a male raised by staff of the International Crane Foundation) and 369 (a female raised at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland) paired up just a few months prior to the beginning of the breeding season. This pair did everything right. They selected the highest quality marsh that was available within their territory. They built their nest a long ways from the shore in order to provide optimal protection (a "moat") from potential distur-

bances like bobcats and raccoons. Late in the incubation period there were flooding rains that we feared would cause abandonment of the nest. Despite the flooding conditions the pair surprised us and their egg hatched!

Whooping Cranes are opportunistic in their feeding habits. This pair ate and fed their chick lots of lubber grasshoppers when these huge insects were "in season". These grasshoppers are largely unexploited by predators because they accumulate plant toxins and apparently are poisonous!

Not to Whooping Cranes I guess! This pair raised a chick on them.

The chick made its first flights in June. We of course were delighted because once a chick fledges, its survival odds increase dramatically. The chick became the third to fledge from this project.



Photo by Steve Baynes, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
Male, number 591, in foreground with chick and female, number 369, in background.

Editor's note: ICF is one of several breeding facilities providing Whooping Crane chicks for release into the non-migratory flock in the Kissimmee Prairie region of Florida since 1993. These birds are not taught how to migrate, so they remain in this area year-round. Since 2001, ICF and colleagues in the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership relied upon utilizing ultralight aircraft to lead young Whooping Cranes on migration from central Wisconsin to the Gulf Coast of Florida. Once taught the migration route, these birds can then migrate independently.

ICF Whooping Cranes Have **Egg-ceptional** Year

By Mike Putnam, Curator of Birds

In 2003, 8 female Whooping Cranes at ICF laid 36 eggs. Of these, 16 were fertile, 14 hatched and 12 survived to fledging. The dozen chicks ended up in 3 places: 1 went as a hatching egg to the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership project but remained in captivity after developing minor health problems. Three birds are of high genetic value and are kept as future captive breeders. The remaining 8 left ICF in December for release into the non-migratory flock in Florida.

This simple description of ICF's best year of in-house production of Whooping Cranes doesn't do justice to the complex and fascinating stories underlying the numbers, nor many steps that go into reaching these numbers, nor the years needed to reach them. Perhaps a few stories are in order.

ICF hosted a meeting on the genetics of captive Whooping Cranes in the fall of 2002. Results of that meeting included recommendations that we try new artificial insemination combinations. In the past, we largely inseminated a female from her pen mate. In 2003, we

successfully inseminated 6 of the females from males other than their pen mates while retaining good fertility. Further, we did this without upsetting the incubation and chick-rearing efforts of our reliable breeders.

Many more firsts were achieved at the level of individual birds or pairs. For example, Josh and Baratux, after producing 3 chicks for the captive flock in 2002, contributed their first chick to the non-migratory flock. Earth, an especially valuable bird for her genetics, produced her first chick that is being kept as a future captive breeder. Triton and Ioshchi raised their first Whooping Crane chick this year after practicing their parental skills in 2002 with a hardier Sandhill chick. Not all the stories had happy endings. For example, Gee Whiz and Oobleck, despite having twice raised Sandhill chicks, had Whooping Crane chicks die in their care in the past 2 years.

Perhaps the most illustrative story is that of Bosque and O'Malley. This pair broke all their eggs in 2000 and 2001. In 2002, they broke only 1 egg. Once we

had intact eggs and we learned that this pair was not naturally fertile, we started artificial insemination on them and subsequently hatched and raised their first chick. Our surveillance of this pair with a video camera showed that Bosque, the male, was the egg-breaker. Fortunately, O'Malley got better at guarding her eggs in 2002 but, unfortunately, they did not incubate. In 2003, we had high expectations for this pair. Those expectations dipped when video surveillance recorded Bosque pecking O'Malley's head while she was crouched on the nest while laying her first egg. Fortunately, O'Malley and egg survived without injury. At the end of the laying season, we gave this pair a dummy egg and watched how well they might incubate. We were pleased that not only O'Malley, but Bosque as well, sat tightly on the egg. Next, we gave them a hatching Sandhill Crane egg hoping they might learn parental skills. Again, our spirits flagged when we found the recently hatched chick dead in the nest. We reinstated the dummy egg and they resumed incubating. The chick's necropsy revealed that it died from congenital defects and not parental abuse. So, we gave the pair a second hatching egg and held our breath. To our delight, Bosque and O'Malley raised a fine male Sandhill Crane chick named Vernal.

Breeding Whooping Cranes is a test of patience. But foremost, it is the result of teamwork by the dedicated and talented people with whom I work. We look forward with great anticipation in making more progress in 2004.

Update on the Eastern Flock

There are 19 Whooping Cranes from the 2001 and 2002 ultralight migrations from Wisconsin to Florida currently wintering in Florida after they migrated on their own this fall. There is one additional crane in this flock that cannot be tracked due to a malfunctioning transmitter. The last place it was seen was the Hiawasse Wildlife Refuge in Tennessee on November 29.

Track these birds by going to ICF's website. www.savingcranes.org



Whooping Cranes Led By Ultralights Complete 2003 Migration

Photo and Update by Heather Ray, Operation Migration

On December 8th, 2003, three tiny ultralight aircraft passed over the town of Crystal River, Florida, accompanied by 16 juvenile Whooping Cranes. With their 7-foot wingspans tipped with black, very few birds flapped but simply set their impressive wings and glided by. The cranes' maiden fall journey consisted of 54 days, and covered 1,191 air miles over seven states. For the ground support team the trek was almost 1,700 driving miles.

The Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership thanks everyone who was involved with and financially supported this year's migration. For more information about this project visit www.bringbackthecranes.org

Want to Help ICF? **VOLUNTEER**

By Mary V. Bowman, ICF Member and Volunteer



Photo by Gopi Sundar
ICF Volunteer Jen Nagy helps out at Prairie Fest 2003.

Entering my first volunteer orientation in March, 2000, I wondered how I could help ICF: I wasn't schooled in ecology or biology and I wasn't a birder or a teacher. All I had was curiosity about foreign countries and cultures, passion for nature, and admiration for an organization that leveraged modest resources into amazing results. And after 30 years of being a lawyer, I could usually talk.

The orientations were fun. ICF's Visitor Programs Coordinator Korie Klink can make **anything** seem possible — and enjoyable. She had all of us — novice and seasoned — introduce ourselves, so I learned that ICF volunteers are delightfully diverse in backgrounds and aptitudes. The "veterans" were so encouraging.

Korie's timing is great. **First** you meet each other, staff, and cranes (up close and personal), getting thoroughly hooked in the process. **Then** you receive your information notebook, which appears overwhelming, but is no big deal since Korie has convinced you that you can walk on water.

I signed up to lead tours (naturalist). Two questions nagged me as I studied my orientation materials: 1) How could I condense a full book of information about cranes, habitats, and ICF into a two-hour tour? 2) How could I hold the attention of young children during school tours? In high school, I knew for sure that I wasn't a natural with young kids. I managed to have a great time with my own son and his friends, but I doubted that would happen with hordes of other people's kids.

The solutions were non-stop support and encouragement, superb role-modeling by staff naturalists, flexibility, and TIMING. As I devoured facts about cranes and habitats, I took pages of notes, distilling those into a card for each species. Those cards are still my security blanket on tours.

Volunteer naturalists can choose their tours. Some choose mostly adult groups. If you are willing to do school groups, too, ICF has excellent materials to help you adjust your presentation to different age groups.

If you have **any** interest in volunteering, do it! ICF supports you in finding your niche, at your pace.

There are many volunteer opportunities at ICF. You can be a Naturalist in our Education Department, a Chick

Parent in our Crane Conservation Department, or help out in our other departments doing field or office work. ICF needs your help and we encourage you to learn more about our volunteer programs during our Volunteer Training Sessions — March 20, 27 and April 3.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 2004 Volunteer Training Sessions are scheduled for Saturdays March 20, 27 and April 3. Each session will be held at ICF from 9:00-1:00. It is important that you come to each session because they build on one another. On March 10, please meet in the Cudahy Visitor Center Theatre where light refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome!

► For more information, please contact Korie Klink, ICF's Visitor Programs Coordinator at 608.356.9462, extension 127 or korie@savingcranes.org.

CRANE COUNT

Join us for the 29th Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count on April 17, 2004. Once again some 2,500 volunteer counters of all backgrounds will be out at dawn throughout Wisconsin and parts of Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, and Minnesota counting cranes. As part of our continuing research, we also hope some banded cranes will be sighted. A few lucky counters may even have the chance to see one or more of the released Whooping Cranes that has returned on its own from Florida. We invite you to participate!

► For more information, visit the Crane Count section of our website at http://www.savingcranes.org/get-involved/cc_mainnew.asp or contact ICF at 608-356-9462 extension 142 or via email at naturalists@savingcranes.org. We hope to see you in the field!

Collaborating for the International Art Exchange: The Indian Experience

By K. S. Gopi Sundar, Principal Coordinator, Indian Cranes and Wetlands Working Group

When I spoke to ICF's Education Department, I realized that the Children's International Art Exchange had never before traveled to India – the home of the Sarus Crane and, until recently, winter home to the Siberian Crane. While most conservation activities revolve around the tiger, wetlands were fast degrading and this destruction needed to be stemmed. Could children and their paintings help? I was willing to try.

ICF's



Children's International Art Exchange began on a small-scale in the 1970s by ICF Member Rochelle Robkin, continued with Chinese nature reserves in the 1980s, and expanded with Russia in the 1990s. With

the support of ICF and the Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI), the Indian Cranes and Wetlands Working Group (ICWWG) was re-initiated in 2001. As the principal coordinator, I was invited to ICF to learn how to effectively manage such a group. The possibility of bringing the Art Exchange to India and initiating a collaborative effort for crane and wetland conservation as part of ICWWG's activities was never stronger.

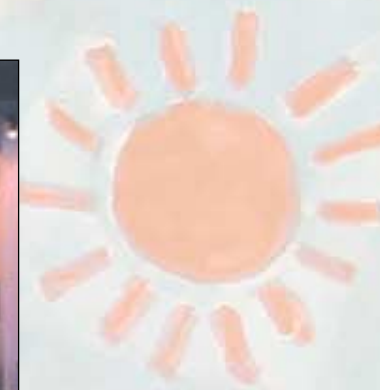
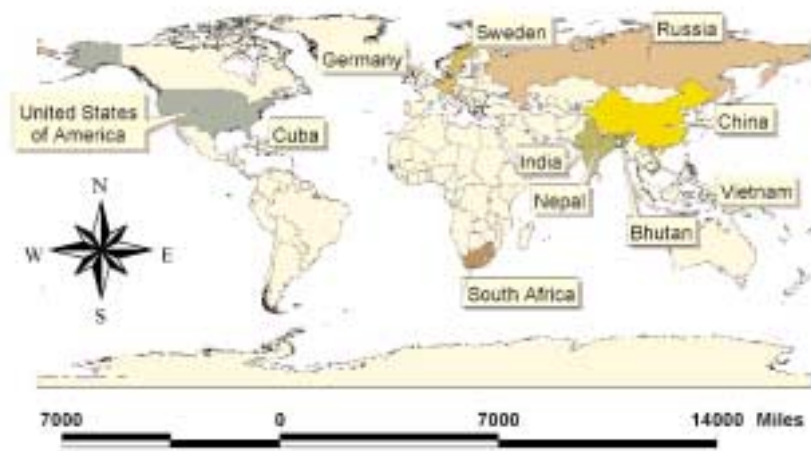
Using the indefatigable e-mail, I wrote to several organizational

heads, colleagues and peers in India from ICF informing them of the Art Exchange and the potential of its travel to India if they participated. Participation of these organizations was crucial to the Art Exchange's success. If they could host individual exhibitions, the Art Exchange could be a national event seen by thousands of children for the very first time. Many organizations immediately saw the importance of the program and accepted responsibility for the exhibitions. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service agreed, at very short notice, to undertake the shipping of paintings of American and Chinese children from ICF's collection to India to be displayed. Three routes were decid-

ed upon in India, each with its set of 30 paintings that would be sent from ICF.

To complete the exchange, the organizations also undertook arranging painting competitions for children in India as part of the International Wetland Day celebrations on February 2, 2004. Paintings selected in these competitions would travel to ICF with the help of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to join the ranks of the Art Exchange and be viewed by children of many countries. Thanks to the willing participation of so many agencies, and hundreds of e-mails, the Art Exchange to India looks as if it will be the single largest event in the history of the Art Exchange!

Countries Involved in Art Exchange



The WPSI and World Wildlife Fund staff in Delhi were severely strained, but all the arrangements were completed. In Coimbatore in southern India, similar preparations were made at the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History. In eastern India, members of the nature organization AARANYAK revved up its engines, and in spite of an impending curfew, are ready for the event. Over 5,000 children are expected to see the crane paintings from USA and China in these three exhibitions alone!

The inaugurations of the first two exhibitions in the cities of Delhi and Coimbatore were timed to match the dates of visits of George Archibald. It was fitting that the first exhibition would be started by George. On November 29th and December 2nd, George facilitated the beginning of the Art Exchange in Delhi and Coimbatore respectively. ICF's Education Department prepared education material that I emailed to all the collaborators in India. Children in India learnt of cranes in Asia and the cranes of the USA through these posters and material. As each

inaugural exhibition came to an end, organizers wrote back to me of long lines of school children who would not be able to see the paintings. It was time for the paintings to move on. The Art Exchange in India was a larger success than could have been conceived.

The paintings of the US and Chinese children will travel to 18 locations in India. Over 100 paintings by Indian children will be selected in the painting competitions on February 2 and sent to ICF in early March 2004.

This collaboration has helped establish that it is important to have programs like the Art Exchange in India to focus attention on the conservation of wetlands and cranes. It also helped clarify the potential of the Art Exchange becoming the largest education program in the world for conservation of wetlands and cranes. All the organizations that participated in this venture are collectively responsible for the success of the first Children's International Art Exchange in India. ICWWG and ICF are proud to have worked with them.

Crane - bird of peace

By Alyssa Rod, ICF Naturalist

The Children's International Art Exchange "Crane - Bird of Peace" is an exchange of artwork among students around the world. It offers an opportunity to educate children and adults about saving habitats for migrating cranes, and raises awareness about habitat needs for other migratory birds. To protect the habitats cranes and other birds depend on, people must work together across political boundaries that the birds ignore. This exchange helps promote understanding among students of different cultures, and shares the beauty of cranes and the value of healthy ecosystems needed to sustain people and cranes.

Who is involved

Children around the world are involved with the art exchange every year, making this an international exchange. ICF receives various pieces of artwork from Africa, Bhutan, China, Cuba, Europe, Nepal, Russia, the United States of America, Vietnam and recently India. Students from kindergarten through twelfth grade are invited to participate in the exchange and exhibition. Individual artwork as well as group projects are accepted. The central theme for the Children's International Art Exchange "Crane - Bird of Peace" is cranes. This includes all crane species and nature scenes depicting cranes and their habitats. A wide range of media are used, including crayon, paint and papier-mâché. There are no limitations to the artists' imaginations about cranes and wetlands.

The Exhibition

Each spring and early summer, selected artwork is exhibited at ICF. After the exhibition, ICF staff and associates deliver the United States artwork to foreign schools. International artwork from those schools is circulated amongst participating schools and other organizations during the following school year here in the United States.

Get Involved!

For more information about getting involved with the Children's International Art Exchange, check out our website at: www.savingcranes.org/getinvolved/artexchange.asp or contact the Art Exchange Coordinators: Joan Garland at 608-356-9462 ext 142 email: jgarland@savingcranes.org or Alyssa Rod at ext 127 email: alyssa@savingcranes.org.

Contributions List, October 2003 – December 2003

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Mark Wolfram and Lynn Cash
Tom and Carol Zimorski



Not Your Average Joe



Joe Branch

By George Archibald, ICF Co-founder

Joe Branch, a partner with the Foley & Lardner law firm in Milwaukee, was unanimously elected as ICF's Chairman of the Board of Directors on March 22, 2003. I was elected Vice Chairman, with Rick Fox continuing as Treasurer, Ginny Wolfe as Secretary and Jim Harris as President.

With a life-long interest in nature, Joe has been involved in a number of conservation organizations. He serves on the boards of the Society of Tympanuchus Cupido Pinnatus (the Greater Prairie Chicken), Wisconsin

Peregrine Society and since 1990 ICF. He is an active member of Milwaukee's Riveredge Nature Center and the Urban Ecology Center, The Nature Conservancy and The Royal Society for the Protection of Nature in Bhutan. He was an advisor to the late Wisconsin wildlife artist and ardent supporter of ICF, Owen J. Gromme. Since his youth, Joe and his wife, Karen, have been close friends with a long-standing ICF Director, Mary Wickhem. Mary served as ICF's Chairman of the Board from 1978-2000.

Joe and his colleagues at Foley and Lardner have provided pro bono help to ICF with a variety of legal matters. His contagious enthusiasm, his dedication, and his superb leadership skills are guiding ICF to new levels of achievement in pursuing our mission.

This Spring Let Your Favorite Hobby Help ICF!

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2003 Bird-a-thon. Because of your efforts, a total of \$38,000 was raised for the Ron Sauey Conservation Fund and for ICF operations here in Baraboo. Since ICF's Bird-a-thon began in 1989, the program has raised over \$300,000. Please help the cranes by taking part in the 2004 Bird-a-thon. Watch for more information coming by mail in March.



ICF Awarded Four Star Rating

Charity Navigator, America's premier independent evaluator of charities, has awarded ICF a four star rating based on the most current financial information. The four star rating is the highest possible and is indicative of strong financial management. ICF is honored to have received this rating for two years in a row.

Highlights of this accomplishment include fundraising expenses that were only 3.8% of the amount raised and overall administration expenses of 9.5% of the total annual budget. When com-

pared to other environmental/bird nonprofit organizations, ICF has the highest overall rating.

Why should this be important to you as members? First, it is critical that ICF is maximizing the donations we receive to support our work around the world. Second, the amount we spend to raise that money is well below what other groups spend. According to an article in the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* dated October 13, 2003, listing the top 400 nonprofit organizations, the average fundraising expense for conservation

Travel with George Archibald

George hopes to lead two expeditions to "hot spots" for cranes in 2004. These include-Wood Buffalo National Park and Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary in subarctic Canada for ten days in August, and to Bhutan for two weeks in November. If you are interested in these expeditions, please contact George's assistant, Julie Zajicek (julie@savingcranes.org or 608-356-9462 ext. 156).

Wish List

ICF needs a NEW or low mileage passenger van with removable seats. Please contact Mike Putnam, Curator of Birds, 608-356-9462 ext. 159.

The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sauey, Ph.D (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph. D. Bugle comments or questions? Please write or call Kate kate@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI, 53913 or 1-608-356-9462, ext. 147.

Editor: Kate Fitzwilliams

Memberships are vital to ICF. Please join or give a membership to a friend at the following annual rates:

Student or Senior Citizen.....	\$20
Individual.....	\$25
Foreign.....	\$30
Family.....	\$35
Associate.....	\$100
Sustaining.....	\$250
Sponsor.....	\$500
Patron.....	\$1,000
Benefactor.....	\$2,000