



Prairie Fest 2005 Dedicated to Pat Stedman

By Jeb Barzen, Field Ecology Director and Joan Garland, Education Outreach Coordinator

ICF is dedicated to protecting the world's cranes AND the ecosystems that serve, in part, as crane habitat. Prairie Fest is a celebration of the second half of this grand mission. Ecosystem restoration, the re-establishment of myriad plants, fungi, and animals - as well as the things that make those species tick - takes time and people. People to gather millions of seeds, people to help us weed invasive species, people to help us burn, and people to nurture the idea of restoration across human generations so that restored species have a chance to become established. Worldwide, ecosystem restoration thus becomes as much about people and their relationship to the land as it is about science.

This year's Prairie Fest is dedicated to one such person: Pat Stedman, a long supporter of restoration at ICF who passed away this March at the age of 95. Pat's support of ICF's restoration began in the late 1970s when the idea of restoring prairies



Compass Plant
Above left, Pat Stedman and Jeb Barzen out standing in their field, which happens to be the 1989 planting after two or three growing seasons. Photo by George Archibald

was so new, it was suspected of being subversive in some way. Pat's enthusiasm, however, never flagged. The prairies now gracing ICF are as much due to Pat as to any other single person.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of ICF's first prairie planting in 1980, we wish to honor all the people who have contributed to the restoration of our native ecosystems in Wisconsin. Pat serves as a symbol of the many dedicated volunteers who have contributed to this effort. Please come and honor them as well as our prairie future during Prairie Fest 2005.

ICF's Third Annual Prairie Fest convenes on July 16 from 9am-5pm. The festival will include guided tours on prairie and wetlands by ICF staff, the opportunity to talk with representatives from statewide conservation organizations, live musical performances at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. by singer/songwriter Ken Lonnquist, concessions, children's activities and more.

Regular admission prices apply and most on-site activities are free. For more information visit www.savingcranes.org

THE ICF BUGLE

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

ICF's New Isolation Chick Rearing Facility "A Dream Come True"

By Beth Smith, Executive Assistant to the President

That's the way some of the International Crane Foundation's (ICF's) longtime staff have described the new state-of-the-art Isolation Chick Rearing Facility (ISO) currently under construction at the Baraboo headquarters site. There is a tangible excitement in the air at ICF as we observe the creation of the new 5,300 square-foot building that is being completed this spring.

Construction began last December on this one-of-a-kind building. We believe this new facility captures the vision of all the dedicated ICF staff who have worked successfully since the mid-80s breeding and raising 14 of the world's 15 species of cranes.

ICF's first chick rearing facility was built in 1984 in the middle of the site's campus. Tall wood fences were built so the crane chicks could grow up isolated from people and suitably conditioned for eventual release to the wild. While ICF enjoyed success in breeding Whooping Crane chicks, and the old chick house served our needs, the necessity of raising the chicks from the noise and sights of people who visit ICF has become critical.

The new building sits on 40 acres at a remote corner of the ICF headquarters where truck and traffic noise will be



Young Whooping Crane colts head to safety in the pond with their costumed guardian, Karin McMullen, Crane Conservation Department Associate. Photo by Marianne Wellington

greatly reduced. It will have expanded wetland habitats and offer the chicks wide-open spaces so that they learn to roost and forage away from trees and shrubs where predators hide. With these added protections, ICF hopes eventually to double the capacity of Whooping Crane chicks raised annually in the new building from ten to twenty.

The facility will have doubly-insulated walls to reduce the amount of human noise chicks

hear. It will contain increased office space, an examination room, better brooder rooms, and surfaces that are easy to disinfect.

We continue to push forward in crane conservation using the knowledge gained through more than 30 years in raising crane chicks. Working with the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP), a group of private and public partners, we strive to bring wild, free-flying Whooping Cranes back to eastern North America.

Special thanks go out to ICF staff, most notably Marianne Wellington, ICF's Chick Rearing Specialist, and Dave Chesky, ICF's Site Manager, who have been working tirelessly over the past year to help make the ISO facility dream a reality.



International Crane Foundation

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2005 Annual Meeting
Saturday, Sept. 10th. Look for
more info & invitation in
August Bugle.

Making “The Dream” A Reality

By Bob Lange, Development Director



From left to right: Darrell and Bettye Leidigh and Ellie Schiller observe Sandhill Cranes in Florida. Photo by George Archibald

The International Crane Foundation (ICF) is fortunate to have the support of generous donors dedicated to restoring cranes and the ecosystems of which cranes and people are a part. An important component of that mission is the rearing of Whooping Cranes in isolation in Baraboo, a task detailed on the previous page.

The major portion of funding for the new Isolation Chick Rearing Facility came from donations that were made by three Florida residents: Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Leidigh, and Ms. Ellie Schiller, who heads the Felburn Foundation.

Darrell and Bettye Leidigh have long been interested in cranes and have several Sandhills that nest near their property in central Florida. Darrell's commitment to the species is not limited to financial support. Last fall he helped ICF to identify how the cranes in the area reacted to the hurricanes that blew through their homelands.

Ellie Schiller is Executive Director for the Felburn Foundation, a private foundation created by her father. The foundation has a wide variety of interests including crane conservation. Ellie has a deep commitment to cranes, and graciously donates her time as an ICF Board member.

Our thanks also to these substantial donors to the project: Wick Construction, Inc.; Qual-line, Inc.; the Charlotte and Walter Kohler Charitable Trust; Lee Manigault; and the Nartel Family Foundation.

Dave's Top 10 List of Environmentally Friendly Construction Choices

#10

The steel-clad exterior makes for a very durable and virtually maintenance free aspect of the new isolation chick rearing facility.

#9

A product called Woodstalks[®] produced by Dow Biochemical is made of annually renewable wheat straw and a non-formaldehyde resin-based glue. This material, in 4' by 8' sheets, was used to panel all the walls through the interior of the building.

#8

Efficient in-floor radiant heat heats the building, providing evenly heated floors. This system will eventually be connected to a network of solar collectors that will reduce LP gas use.

#7

Reuse of building materials from the former chick house such as plywood, doors, fencing, and trim. Reuse is the very best way to recycle!

#6

Use of a zero V.O.C. paint called Harmony[®] to paint all the wheat board surfaces. This extremely low-odor paint

is friendly both to the painting contractor and users of the building.

#5

Construction waste was very carefully sorted to keep as much as possible out of the landfill. Scrap wood framing material was actually used to heat my home this past winter.

#4

Passive infrared light switches throughout the building will save an enormous amount of energy annually.

#3

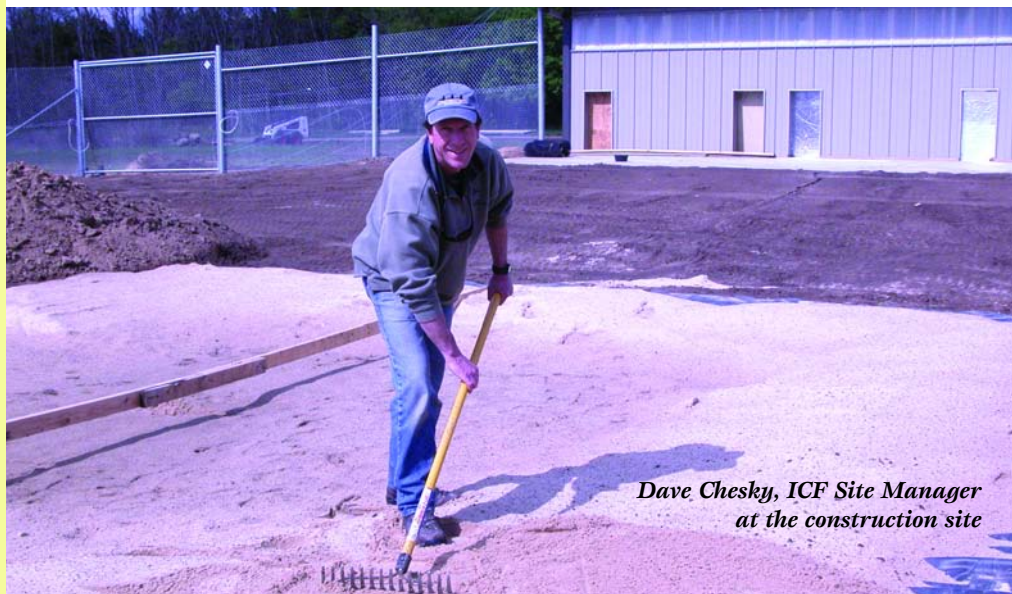
R-50 insulation value placed in the attic far exceeds code requirements and will also save energy annually.

#2

An "On Demand" or "Instantaneous" hot water heater will be used to provide hot water. This tankless option for providing hot water will provide unlimited hot water and is very energy efficient because it only consumes fuel when there is demand for hot water.

#1 Reason why the new isolation rearing facility has such an environmentally friendly construction flavor to it:

Recycled plastic lumber is being used for window trim, door trim, and base trim throughout the building. It is 95% post consumer #2 (milk jug) plastic and comes in a variety of sizes and colors. It is very durable, easy to work with and does not need painting. It comes from a company called ReNew Plastics based out of Luxemburg, Wisconsin.



Dave Chesky, ICF Site Manager at the construction site

Eyes on the Flock

By Nat Warning, ICF Aviculturist



In order to meet the recovery goals for the Whooping Crane, ICF must try to maximize egg production and ensure the survival of as many eggs and young as possible. For the past 13 years aviculturists at ICF have used video cameras to study Whooping Crane behavior.

Our efforts, however, have been severely limited by the small number of cameras we have been able to purchase. In the summer of 2004 our conservation project proposal was funded by IMLS (Institute of Museum and Library Services) after our third consecutive year of application.

With this grant the Crane Conservation Department purchased 12 new moveable video cameras, a digital video recorder, and associated video equipment. We know from experience that a high quality video camera can be valuable in monitoring a given pair of cranes throughout the breeding and colt-rearing season.

After installing the necessary cables over the winter, we are now monitoring each of our 13 pairs of Whooping Cranes by video camera. With these new cameras in place, we hope to increase Whooping Crane production by retrieving a greater number of intact fertile eggs that might otherwise be lost to one of our egg breaking pairs. We also hope to determine behavioral

problems in pairs that don't breed, or breed irregularly. Additionally, new cameras will be put to use in our new isolation rearing facility. Plans are in place for an interactive video exhibit that will allow visitors to view both live and pre-recorded video showing costume-rearing techniques for raising Whooping Crane colts.

This new video medium will provide the public with an improved understanding of ICF's reintroduction efforts, and a chance to view crane behaviors that cannot always be observed in birds on display.



Whooping Crane pair Bosque (male) and O'Malley (female) can be observed by ICF staff without disturbing them, thanks to a high-quality video camera system. Photo by Jessica Stocking, Crane Conservation Department Intern

Whooping Cranes Lay Eggs at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge

By Ann Burke, ICF Director of Public Relations and Web Editor and Dr. Richard Urbanek, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biologist

In April, a milestone was reached in the historic effort to establish a migratory flock of Whooping Cranes in the eastern United States. At the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, two pairs of Whooping Cranes produced the first eggs ever laid in this migratory population.

Last year, biologists watched closely as some pairs engaged in reproductive behaviors. Numbers 1-01 (male) and 2-02 (female), for example, engaged in unison and guard calling and actively defended their territory from other cranes. This level of behavioral development indicated that the birds had adjusted well to conditions in the wild. There was speculation that although most of the females were only going to be three years of age in 2005, there was a chance that some would lay eggs.

In April 2005, chance became a reality. In early April, pair #1-01 (male) and #2-02 (female) remained on their territory on the Necedah Refuge. On April 16, #2-02 (female) spent the day sitting as if she were incubating. On April 17, both birds left the nesting area and spent the day in farmland south of the Refuge. When the nest site was checked, there was evidence that one egg had been laid, but it had apparently

been destroyed sometime during the previous night.

After returning from spring migration, pair #11-02 (male) and #17-02 (female) roosted and foraged on their Refuge territory. They foraged in a harvested cornfield south of the town of Necedah. They completed building a nest during the first week of April. On the night of April 17, #11-02 (male) roosted alone while #17-02 (female) remained on the nest, indicating that an egg was about to be laid. An egg was laid, apparently on April 19. Unfortunately, the pair did not attend the nest during the night and this egg was taken by a predator, probably a raccoon.

The loss of these eggs is not abnormal. Young, inexperienced pairs are less likely to successfully hatch and rear chicks than older, more experienced pairs. In the case of the Florida non-migratory reintroduction effort, the female of the

first pair that successfully hatched and fledged a chick was five years of age.

Biologists are extremely pleased that these young females at the Necedah National Wildlife Refuge have successfully produced eggs and remain hopeful that next year these pairs will be successful parents.

Follow the Cranes

Would you like to receive email updates about the status of the Whooping Cranes in the eastern flock? These emailed "Whooping Crane Reintroduction Updates" contain information about the birds during spring and fall migration and their behavior on the wintering and summering grounds. If you would like to receive these updates, please send your email address to ICF Web Editor at: aburke@savingcranes.org



Stepping into the Photograph

An invitation to visit Zhalong this September

By Jim Harris, President

The world has grown no smaller, but photographs and film and our imaginations have moved us to care for places and for creatures distant and almost inconceivably different from what is close to home. Even more than images, a visit to the International Crane Foundation (ICF), or involvement as a member, create this link of the heart to elegant birds threatened on five continents.

When a crane stands within breathing distance beside you at ICF, just one meter away on its side of the fence, you feel restless. You wish to see the bird in the wild, understand its life and the species' tenuous hold on survival.

Travel doesn't guarantee understanding. But, despite all the new technology, travel still offers the best chance. The photographs on this page, of cranes alive and part of Zhalong Marsh in northeast China, are a window onto this wetland world that unfortunately is changing fast. Travel means that you have the good fortune to walk right through that window, and look around.

Each time it is like that for me, I come fresh and curious to China, eager to understand. I have been traveling to Zhalong for 18 years, yet each return is timeless, still new. Last time, in September of 2004, my wife Liying was my guide and interpreter. She worked at Zhalong for seven years in the 1980s, before she spoke English, and has many friends among the villages of this vast marsh and grassland. On this visit, I watched hundreds of Amur Falcons hunting the reedbeds. Like the falcons, I glimpsed skulking reed warblers and buntings. I thought sadly of Oriental Ibis that live no more at Zhalong. They seem to have vanished from northeast China almost without anyone noticing why. At Zhalong fourteen years ago, people were taking eggs from the last nests, a custom that the reserve stopped too late.



Trip leader Su Liying

My wife has intimate knowledge of the marsh. When she visits Zhalong, she sees a ditch where there was none before, she sees dry meadows where she remembers water, both symptoms of a gradual yet dangerous drying out of Zhalong.

When she meets an old friend, she discovers the woman has left her village in the middle of the marsh because life there is too hard. Her friend now lives in another village close to the edge and to roads and opportunity.

Last September, Liying happened to mention that most of the villagers here were Man nationality, not Han Chinese. Zhalong Nature Reserve is named not for the wetland but for the village near the headquarters, where people of the white banner live (there are eight banners among the Man). Zhalong in Man means the place to put livestock – in other words, pasture. I laughed when Liying told me, because livestock and overgrazing have become significant threats to the reserve.

Understanding comes partly from science. Over the years, we have seen Zhalong change as its waters diminish, diverted to feed growing cities and industries. ICF is now working with the Chinese to create a water management plan for Zhalong and an administrative mechanism to restore water flows into the marsh from the artificial canals and reservoirs that now surround Zhalong. As part of this effort, our Chinese colleagues will monitor water in the marsh and changes in plants and birds. The team is studying historical flows so that water management of the future can restore as closely as possible the natural ecology of the marshes. Pristine wetlands cannot be resurrected, but we seek to mimic the ancient cycles of water and drought.

Understanding comes equally from witnessing the social pressures and opportunities that cause people to over-use and abuse the wild resources. While the cranes themselves are carefully protected, protection of the ecosystems they need has been more difficult. Heavy use of reeds, water, and fish by people has been changing the marshes so that all birds, including the cranes, suffer. Last month, the marsh itself was burning, the fires set by people in part to rejuvenate the reedbeds.

Over the years, we have learned much about the people of Zhalong, but just recently we have begun giving back. Our education program, funded by The Henry Luce Foundation, has excited and enriched the lives of teachers and students in Zhalong Middle School. When we met with the teachers

during our last visit; we talked of the learning we are doing together, how to educate from the perspective of children living by the marsh and dependent on its resources, and education based on experience and activism as the children explore how to act on behalf of their homeland. I think our time together, at the school or in the marsh, changes something for them. I hope so. It certainly changes me.

I am writing now to ICF members because Liying and I wish to invite you to join us in Zhalong this fall, from September 12-27. This work trip will provide experience with the cranes and their green and flowing marshes, and a visit to Zhalong Middle School for conversation with teachers and students. We would like you to help us envision a project we are developing with the villagers. We hope to create common ground by using restoration of water flows to the wetland to benefit village livelihoods.

If you are unable to join us at this time, we hope you will consider other trips that ICF is offering, because each one is an exploration and a process of change. The cranes and crane places will never be secure – a flight over eastern China makes that sadly evident. In like manner, you or I will not come to an endpoint or to completion as we seek to understand these places and people. The important step is to engage and begin to learn. As more individuals learn how to care, all of us together – our expanding community of inspired people – our growing hope we can solve threats and find new ways to manage resources essential for cranes and people. This process of engage

ment is at the heart of any trip that ICF offers to its work sites.

ICF's current involvement with Zhalong is supported by a grant from the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility for the project, "Conservation of the Globally Significant Wetlands and Migration Corridors Required by Siberian Cranes and Other Globally Significant Migratory Waterbirds in Asia."

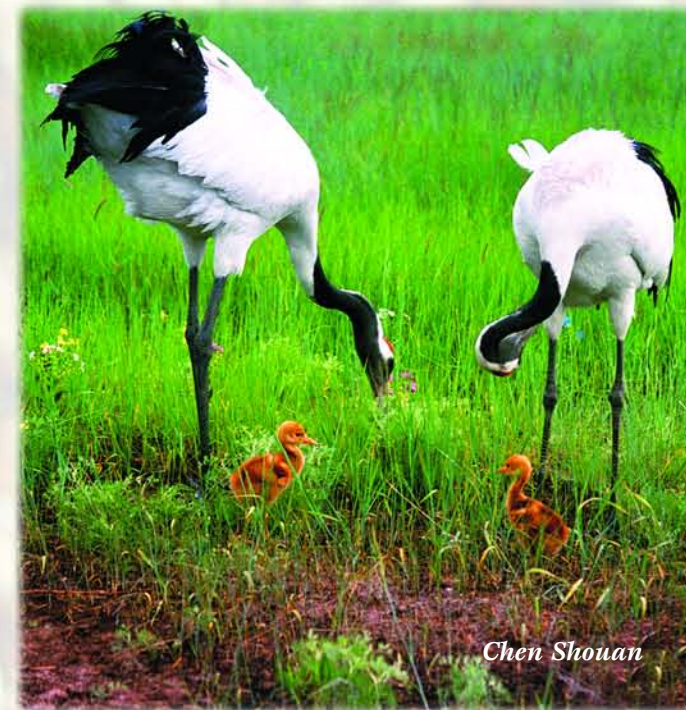
To learn more about the Zhalong trip and other ICF tours,

please visit our website at: www.savingcranes.org and click on What's New, or contact Bob Lange at ICF 608-356-9462, ext. 140, or blange@savingcranes.org.

The ICF trip to Zhalong runs from September 12-27 and will cost \$3,800 plus air fare to Beijing. This price includes a \$1,500 tax-deductible donation to ICF to support its crane conservation programs. We will also visit Tumuji Nature Reserve in nearby Inner Mongolia.

Other ICF expeditions in coming months:

- Bhutan** – October 30 – November 16, 2005
- East Africa** – January 11 – 26, 2006
- Vietnam/Cambodia** – February/March, 2006



Chen Shouan



Xu Xingye




Chen Shouan

Zhalong Nature Reserve in northeast China has six species of cranes. The wetland is highly important as a breeding ground for the White-naped Crane (bottom right) and the Red-crowned Crane.



Crane Wu

Contributions, January – March, 2005

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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 Kate kate@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI. 53913

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	\$25
Individual	\$35
Family	\$50
Associate	\$100
Sustaining	\$250
Sponsor	\$500
Patron	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$2,000

Wish List

<p>Folding and inserting machine for our Admin. staff (D1200 Office Right Inserting System, \$5000.)</p>	<p>Please contact Bob Lange, e-mail address: blange@savingcranes.org Phone # 608-356-9462 ext.140</p>
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Don't forget to shop ICF's Web Store!

www.savingcranes.org

New items just in!

- Silver and hand-painted crane earrings and pins.
- New posters, notecards and crane coasters from famed crane photographer, Michael Forsberg.
- Linen crane-embroidered table cloths from Heilongjiang Province, China.
- Fun sweatshirts, t-shirts, and baseball caps that promote ICF!



ICF's gift shop staff will meticulously pack and ship (gift wrap also available!) your order anywhere in the world. **608-356-9462 ext. 121**

ICF is proud to present three crane inspired art exhibits during the 2005 season. ICF's art gallery is located in the lower level of the Ron Sauey Memorial Library for Bird Conservation.

Featured Art Exhibit

“Children’s International Art Exchange”
 April 15 – June 29, 2005
 By students from Wisconsin and around the world




Crane Dancing by Jessica Hilliard, 5th grade, Neenah Creek Elementary

The Children’s International Art Exchange is an exchange of artwork from students from the many places where cranes live. It offers an opportunity to educate children and adults about ecosystem protection and restoration. To protect the wetland and grassland habitats on which cranes depend, people must work together, often 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.

Interpreting nature in watercolor is a full time endeavor for Janet Flynn. She uses the beautiful Baraboo Hills as both a classroom and source of inspiration for her vibrant, unique watercolors. She markets her work in Wisconsin galleries and through the International Crane Foundation gift shop in Baraboo and also works on commission. She participates in numerous group and solo exhibits throughout the year and opens her home to guests for The Fall Art Tour in October. She has been juried into numerous national and international exhibitions including the prestigious Birds In Art in Wausau, Wisconsin.

Featured Art Exhibit

“Cranes in our Lives”
 August 2-October 31, 2005
 By Marilyn Peretti and Judith Leppert



From August 2 – October 31, 2005, prairie blossoms, preening cranes, and Wisconsin marshes will all be found in the ICF Art Gallery. The exhibit, “Cranes in our Lives”, has been created by two Illinois artists. Marilyn Peretti, of Glen Ellyn, Illinois, expresses her love of cranes in watercolors, blockprints, ink drawings, and poetry. Peretti’s poems, in calligraphy by Timothy Botts, will be on display, and her poetry book, *Let Wings Take You*, will be available in the ICF gift shop. Marilyn has an interest in skeletal bones as well, and has portrayed Broilga bones in various medium, to show the grace and delicacy of these tall creatures. Judith Leppert, of Wheaton, Illinois, has been working in woodcuts for five years, with cranes as some of her favorite subjects. Her exhibit will also show etchings and oil pastels. Judy has her MFA from the School of The Art Institute of Chicago. She has taught Design at College of DuPage in the western suburbs of Chicago, and the International Academy of Design Technology, Chicago.

Featured Art Exhibit

“Wild Beauties”
 July 1 – July 31, 2005
 By Janet Flynn



“Inspiration for many of my transparent watercolors comes from my observations and just pure enjoyment of nature.” Janet Flynn

From July 1 – July 31, 2005 a collection of Baraboo artist Janet Flynn’s large, original watercolors celebrating the beauty of cranes, prairies and the Baraboo Bluffs will be featured in ICF’s Art Gallery.

A “Meet the Artists” reception for artists Peretti and Leppert will be held at ICF on Saturday, August 6, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in the Ron Sauey Memorial Library. All are welcome to attend.