

The ICF

Bugle

Inspiring a Global Community

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August 2006

Hatch Heard Around the World

By Kelly Maguire, ICF Aviculturist

A milestone for the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership and crane enthusiasts around the world took place this June when two Whooping Crane eggs hatched at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. This marks the first wild Whooping Crane hatching in the upper Midwest in over 100 years.

The adult birds' behavior suggested that the first chick hatched June 21, with the second hatching a day later. On the morning of the 22nd ICF Tracking Intern, Chris Malachowski noted from radio signals that both adults were off the nest, something that hadn't happened since the birds began incubating this second clutch. Parental behaviors of flattening grass and bringing food to the nest were consistent with having a chick. It was not until June 23rd that USFWS Biologist Richard Urbanek confirmed that two eggs had successfully hatched — TWINS! The Whooping Crane family is doing well, remaining in the small wetland where the chicks hatched, periodically brooding the chicks on the nest and eating items such as dragonflies and frogs.

Adult Whooping Cranes are often seen from the Observation Tower at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, but the new family is not visible in public areas. This photo shows the chicks at only two days of age. The parents spend all of their time bringing food to the chicks which are growing fast. The twins are now just over 30 days of age and have followed their parents out of their home marsh into new areas of the refuge. They continue to be fed by the adults, but are beginning to forage on their own.

Photo by Chris Malachowski

Mark Your Calendar!

Attend ICF's Annual Meeting on
Saturday, September 9 (see page 7)

Necedah Whooping Crane Festival,
Saturday, September 16



Watch Dr. George Archibald
featured on Jane Goodall's
Heroes – Animal Planet August 27 & 31
at 8 & 11 pm- (EST)



ICF Welcomes New CEO



Jim and BG Hook enjoy the Arizona desert sunset after a day of horseback riding and bird watching.

It is with great pleasure that we announce the appointment of James H. Hook as the new President and CEO of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). This appointment became official on June 27, 2006. After conducting a nationwide search, the ICF Board of Directors has chosen an excellent candidate whose deep and successful business experience, positions him perfectly for moving ICF forward in the years ahead.

Mr. Hook had a successful career in the military and private industry for over 35 years, and brings a wide range of business experience to ICF. He has had COO and senior positions with Profit & Loss responsibility in both the financial services and the construction equipment manufacturing industries. His successful career in sales and marketing, finance and accounting, operations and administration, positions him well to be ICF's CEO.

Mr. Hook's interest in this position arose, in part, from his perspectives as a successful business person. Jim explains, "When one is in business, financial success is the primary goal. In my case, financial success afforded me the opportunity to broaden the perspective of my life's work. I consider myself a life-

time environmentalist, although not yet an activist. Over the years, I have become increasingly interested in how I might apply my talents and skills towards an environmental cause. ICF is an excellent example of a small non-profit organization that is having remarkable success in addressing conservation challenges. I realized it was time for me to step forward and become actively involved."

Jim and his wife BG enjoy the great outdoors, and made this interest an important part of their life and that of their family. Their children have followed their example and improved on the model. Their oldest daughter, Abby, is a fluvial geo-morphologist and the Chief Hydrologist for a Washington State based Indian tribe. She is focused on watershed restoration and salmon habitat. Their middle daughter, Lexie, is a health care professional who is keenly interested in wilderness medicine. Their youngest daughter, Anna, recently left her position in an environmental engineering firm to earn a masters degree in landscape architecture. BG and Jim currently serve on boards of environmental organizations in Milwaukee, Wisconsin: BG with the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and Jim with the Friends of Lake Park.

Jim grew up in Albuquerque, New Mexico and holds an AB in English from Stanford University and an M.B.A. in Finance and Marketing, from the Harvard Business School.

ICF Board Chair, Joseph Branch states, "The skill set that ICF was looking for is embodied by Mr. Hook. A person of Jim's stature applying for this position reaffirmed to the Board the quality of this organization. To have a person of his caliber step forward to take the reins at this point in our organizational history is most remarkable. We could not have asked for a more suitable candidate."

Please join us in welcoming Jim to ICF during our Annual Meeting on Saturday, September 9, 2006.

Jim invites you to visit his new web page, *Notes from the President*, at www.savingcranes.org under What's New.

James Harris to Focus Efforts on Crane and Wetland Conservation in China

China has extraordinary biodiversity, including eight species of cranes, and has established a network of over 100 nature reserves important to cranes. Given the growing human demands for water and land in China, and the opportunities now to safeguard extensive wetlands critical for cranes and other wildlife, ICF's goal is to continue to strengthen our presence in this region and along the eastern Asia flyway.

Jim Harris will remain at ICF to provide a smooth transition for our new CEO, Jim Hook. Subsequently, Jim Harris will join his wife and crane biologist, Dr. Su Liying, now living in Heilongjiang Province of north-east China with their son Steven. China holds a special place in Jim's heart because of its combination of outstanding biodiversity, varied landscapes, and cultural richness. Jim has learned much through his commitment to addressing threats to China's cranes and wetlands, tasks that will need vision and action from many for long-term success. Jim will also spend time with ICF in Wisconsin, working on special projects as assigned. Interested readers can log onto the ICF website for up-to-date information about our China program at www.icfchina.org.

Enriching Our Alliances

By Jim Harris, Vice President

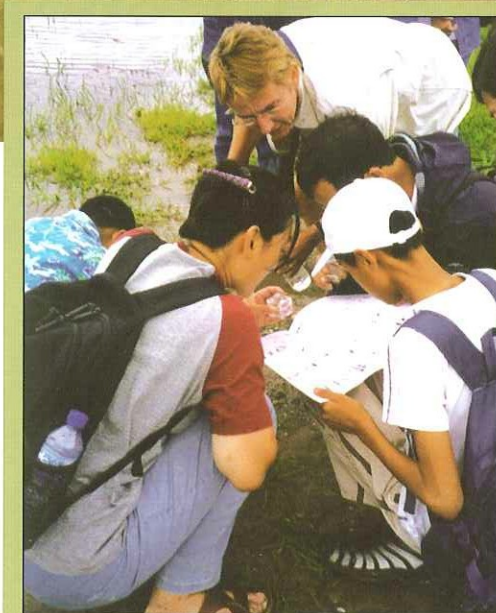
Late summer, and now the cranes are gathering in flocks. Autumn migration will soon begin. This year, ICF will be tracking Whooping Cranes as they migrate south from Wisconsin. At the same time, relying upon signals from tiny satellite transmitters fitted on leg bands, we will follow the southward journeys of Siberian Cranes and Black-necked Cranes on the other side of the world.

In our mind, these threatened birds are large, but following them across vast human-altered landscapes, one realizes the scale of conservation challenges. The future of cranes depends on wetlands and grasslands nestled in multiple landscapes along the crane flyways.

To be successful on behalf of the cranes, ICF depends on partnerships and alliances with others who care about wildlife, or wetland resources, or with the peoples who share crane landscapes. ICF realizes the importance of these alliances, and the need for a continuing effort to strengthen and extend them.

Our 2006 Annual Campaign will focus on *Enriching Our Alliances*, especially as we implement aspects of the Long Range Plan related to education. In our view, education is properly a two-way process. If communication and learning extend both ways, our education efforts will help to guide successful field programs. Strategic alliances are strong to the extent they encompass the needs and vision of all participants.

As one example of such two-way learning,



Teachers are agents for change, and ICF has long nurtured alliances with teachers. By providing schools and other educational centers with tools and strategies for effective education activities, ICF reaches far more people than we could reach directly, therefore benefiting entire communities. Here Wisconsin teacher Barb Thompson works with students at a Chinese summer camp held at Xianghai National Nature Reserve in Jilin Province in 2005. Photo by Sara Gavney Moore

our long-term research on Sandhill Cranes enables us to inform farmers about how to change crane behavior during the vulnerable period for corn seedlings, while farmers can teach us about their concerns, if cranes are to remain welcome on private, productive lands. We could not have proceeded with widespread testing of anthraquinone (see page 5 of this

Our experience with teaching and inspiring action in multi-cultural settings will enrich our messages – the stories we tell – in Baraboo as well as Phu My, Vietnam in the Mekong Delta, where marsh grasses support a growing export industry among local grass weavers. Photo by Tran Triet

Bugle) this summer if we had not been working with these farm groups for over a decade. ICF in turn shares both sides of this learning process with you our members, conservationists facing similar problems in Africa, Asia and Europe, and others who care about wildlife in farming landscapes.

While activities of villagers living beside crane marshes in Asia and Africa may conflict with crane conservation, these same people can be strong allies for maintaining or restoring water flows or productivity to the wetlands – if we design our projects to provide benefits for humans as we safeguard cranes.

We intend to ally our education efforts closely with field conservation priorities, changing the focus and even the department name at ICF to Conservation Education. Most importantly, we wish to create a senior education position to guide the growth of the organization as a center for conservation learning and action that serves the upper Midwest. With this increased capacity, our education staff will also extend their involvement in our international programming.

We will be writing to you in the fall, as the cranes begin to migrate, with more about our education plans and an invitation for you to make a major difference through our 2006 Annual Campaign, *Enriching Our Alliances*. In the meantime contact Greg Schultz at gregs@savingcranes.org, or 608-356-9462, ext. 144 for more information.

Which of these fields is from a Wisconsin Healthy Grown® Farm?
Answer: BOTH



Photo of potato field by Roger Schmidt.

Photo of remnant prairie by Ted Anchor.

Eco-potatoes — A Benefit to Cranes?

By Jeb Barzen, Field Ecology Director



Have you ever thought about cranes, prairies, savannas and wetlands while eating a spud? Not many people have but I hope that will soon change. After reading this article you might not only think about these different worlds while consuming your mashed potatoes, but actually support the activities that merge these worlds with each purchase of potatoes you make. In

essence, the spud you eat comes from an agricultural field which in turn, comes from a farm. This field and this farm, however, produce more than just the commodity you eat. The farm, if well-managed, can produce myriad resources like clean ground water, biological diversity, carbon accumulation (important for reducing global warming), aesthetic value, healthy soil, and so on. The question here is whether our economic system values those additional resources produced on a potato-producing farm. If we could link the values of multiple resources produced on a farm with the

potato (or other commodity) that you purchase, we would have a powerful tool for conservation on private lands. ICF, and its inspiring partners, are trying to do just that. This process, if it works for potato farms, can be applied to other commodities as well.

Still, how do farms and the potatoes that some farms grow, relate to cranes? Over two thirds of land in the U.S. and North America is privately owned. This same ratio holds throughout most countries worldwide, even where private ownership of land is not allowed. Where private ownership does not legally exist, private lands occur where people who live on or near the land determine the health of the land through their use of it. Most private lands, are used for agriculture. With the majority of land in private ownership it follows that conservation of most natural resources will depend upon what happens on those lands. Of course, publicly-owned lands contribute to natural resource conservation as well, but the relative roles and scales of these two types of land ownership differ strikingly. Worldwide, many crane species have adapted to mixed agricultural landscapes where crop fields and wetlands mingle. In places where cranes have adapted to these varied

landscapes they thrive. Of the 15 crane species, only Siberian Cranes do not extensively use agricultural areas during any part of their annual cycle. The future management of private lands, therefore, will determine the future of many crane populations.

Historically, where have our past conservation efforts been focused most? On public lands. As a result, our capacity to promote conservation on private lands is limited. Though our efforts to conserve public lands have been laudable they now approach a point of diminishing returns. Without expanding our attention to the conservation of private lands our collective conservation effort will soon falter.

Key to work on private lands is the relationship between landowner and conservationist. Surprisingly, our basic assumptions about the people who own these lands often mislead us. We tend to think that if only people adopted Leopold's land ethic our conservation problems would be solved. Wherever I have been worldwide, the assumption that conservation is limited by a lack of education is incorrect. From Wisconsin to China, most farmers that I work with have a land ethic. What they lack is the capacity to act on that ethic even when it

is in their own best interest to do so. The focus of conservation on private lands, therefore, centers upon working with farmers to solve various problems they face while also building our capacity to implement conservation activities.

As one example, for the last decade ICF has worked with the Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, World Wildlife Fund, Defenders of Wildlife and an impressive array of growers to formulate ways that farmers can manage their farms holistically. This means producing a good crop while simultaneously producing clean water, thriving native ecosystems, healthy soil, and reduced risk of pesticides. Our measure of pesticide toxicity units (a measure of the effect a pesticide has on both human and environmental health) accumulating on participant farms has dropped by 37% in the first three years of the project. Cranes benefit from management of wetlands owned by participating farmers. Prescribed burns are now reducing shrub and tree cover that has slowly encroached on these previously unmanaged wetlands. Other, unproductive fields, are being restored, creating more crane habitat. In addition, we have worked together to solve crop damage problems that cranes cause (see sidebar) in corn (a common rotation crop on many potato farms) and hopefully in potatoes.

This fall, for the first time ever, our brand of eco-label will represent not only reduced pesticide use but also represent native ecosystem management that benefits cranes and a host of other species. The restoration of native ecosystems, combined with pesticide-use reduction that is certified through an independent process, has never been accomplished before.

Citizens benefit greatly from potato farms managed in this way because we “consume” the clean water and biological diversity produced on these lands as well as the potatoes we eat. As benefactors we have a more tangible role to play as well. Purchasing potatoes grown through this unique process directly supports not just a product but a process through which agriculture can change and better adapt to our fragile world.

The potatoes grown through this project are branded as **Wisconsin Healthy Grown®** and can be found in some grocery stores in the Midwest like Jewel-Osco. You can visit www.healthygrown.com to find out where these potatoes are available in your area. If your local store does not carry the product, ask the produce manager to stock them in the future. It will only be through market demand that our initiative will ultimately be a success. Though this process is dedicated to producing the best, most certifiable product possible, it will not work if the public fails to actively participate through their purchase of all that Wisconsin Healthy Grown potatoes represents. In the future we will continue to search for new and better ways to simultaneously produce all the important resources that come from Wisconsin farms. Cranes, as benefactors of these management activities on Wisconsin potato farms, will find better habitat in the native wetlands, prairies and savannas gracing these same farms. The future of this project, however, is largely in your hands now...



Photo by George Archibald

Cranes and Crops



Cranes can efficiently remove planted corn from a field. Photo by Su Liying.

A powerful tenant of the medical creed applies to conservation on private lands - Do no harm. In Wisconsin, as with other places in the world, we have seen a successful recovery of cranes, but that success may go awry if we are not careful. Crane numbers in Wisconsin have more than tripled over the last two decades. This increase is due to cranes adapting their habits to nest in abundant, privately-owned wetlands. These cranes then feed in adjacent farm fields. Though the birds do no harm during most of the year, in spring they often damage young corn seedlings. Cranes may no longer be welcome on many farms if we do not solve this problem, defeating the successful recovery of Sandhill Cranes in the Midwest. Fortunately, ICF and many partners have developed a solution to protect corn seedlings while not altering crane movements. This spring, anthraquinone, a non-toxic deterrent placed on corn as it was planted, was deployed across some 60,000 acres of corn in Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota. These three states account for most crane damage to corn. The deterrent prevents cranes from eating the planted seed. This solution is one of many novel ideas and approaches that have arisen from the eco-potato project.

Contributions List, April 1 – June 30, 2006

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Lufthansa



Our deep appreciation to the Orvis Company, Inc., that provided over \$100,000 for the Whooping Crane reintroduction during 2005-2006 from customer contributions and its own corporate match. With Orvis' help, we raised an additional \$55,000 in matching funds from other sources. The grand opening of Orvis Madison at Greenway Station, Middleton, WI (608-831-3181; or visit www.orvis.com) provided still more support to ICF. Many, many thanks!

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 at 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 |

ICF Wish List

- 1) DR Brush Mower- 15 HP Pro- 26 inch cutting width, 2 yr. engine warranty- \$2,609
- 2) DR Brush Trimmer- 6.75 HP Commercial Trimmer, self-propelled - \$945

The DR mower and trimmer are integral parts of crane pen maintenance.

Please contact ICF's Curator Mike Putnam at 608-356-9462 ext. 159 or putnam@savingcranes.org for more information.

ICF's Annual Meeting, Saturday, September 9, 2006

Do you sometimes feel discouraged by the problems facing our planet? If you do, we guarantee attending this year's annual meeting will elevate your spirits! This year's evening program will showcase a harmony of voices – biologists, farmers, and writers – who are involved with a unique program to improve the health of our farmlands, human communities, and wildlife. Best of all, you will have a deeper appreciation for the integral role you, as an ICF member, play in crane and wildlife conservation. Please join us!



Please register to attend the evening banquet by Friday, September 1, 2006, using the form below. Registration is **only** required if you plan to attend the evening festivities. Upon receipt of your registration, we will send you a confirmation letter, additional information, and directions to Chula Vista Resort. If you have any questions, or want to register for the field trip, please contact Ann Burke at 608-356-9462 ext. 147 or aburke@savingcranes.org

8:00 – 2:30: Cranes on the Farm.

This year's field trip will give you greater insight into the techniques farmers are using to enhance wildlife habitat while producing agricultural products that are healthier for us and our environment. Biologists Anne Lacy and Kerry Morrison (South Africa) will be your expert guides as you travel to the farmlands near Briggsville, WI to view wild Sandhill Cranes and tour Coloma Farms. Coloma Farms is a family owned operation that has been involved with the Wisconsin Healthy Grown® program since its inception in 1996. A box lunch will be provided. Pre-registration and payment of \$20 is required by **September 1, 2006**.

9:00 – 5:00: "Winter in Hokkaido." Photo exhibit by Vincent Munier.

9:30: Bird watching with Dr. Michael Putman in ICF's oak savanna.

10, 1, and 3:00: "Cranes of the World" tours.

10:30 and 2:00: Poetry Reading by Peg Lauber, author of *New Orleans Suite*.

11:00 and 1:45: "It's Not So Hard to be Green." Site Manager, Dave Chesky will lead this on-site tour and introduce you to ICF's use of solar power, recycled construction materials, geo-thermal heating and cooling system, and other strategies for sustainability on the ICF campus. Also learn about **Hybrid car** technology.

11:00: Lecture. "Scandalous Lives of Sandhill Cranes – Divorce, Infidelity and Monogamy" by Matt Hayes, ICF Research Associate.

12:00 – 1:00: Lunch and Laughter. Buy a baked Wisconsin Healthy Grown® potato (with your choice of toppings) and watch a humorous video from 1982 when George Archibald appeared on the "Tonight Show."

12:30- 1:15 and 1:30 – 2:15: Tour of the Isolation Chick Rearing Facility. Includes an update on the 2006 Whooping Crane program.

1:30: Dedication of Whooping Crane Sculptures, in loving memory of Willis G. "Bill" Sullivan, Jr., great friend to the cranes and member of the Board of Directors. Light reception to follow.

2:30 – 3:30: Key to Crane City. A unique opportunity to visit Crane City, ICF's off-exhibit breeding facility.

3:45: Prairie Hike with Jeb Barzen.

5:00: Gates close.

5:30: Cocktail Hour and Musical Entertainment Chula Vista Resort (cash bar). This year we are proud to present musical theatre as performed by the "Jakaba Quartet." This lively "Best of Broadway" program will feature a variety of solos and ensembles including a special medley for ICF members, "Birds of a Feather." Check out Chula Vista Resort at: www.chulavistaresort.com.

6:30: Dinner Choices:

1) **Chicken Michel:** a succulent white meat breast stuffed with chopped parsley, bread crumbs and Chardonnay wine served with **Wisconsin Healthy Grown®** baby red potatoes.

2) **Seafood Fettuccine:** fresh shrimp, scallops and crabmeat tossed with fresh vegetables and acorn and zucchini squashes in Alfredo sauce; or

3) **Squash and Pepper Tortellini el Pesto:** red and green peppers, mushrooms, onions, acorn and zucchini squashes and cheese tortellini in a mild garlic and butter sauce. Sides: soup du jour, Caesar salad, rolls, beverage, and chocolate dessert.

7:30: Welcome and Business Meeting Joseph Branch, ICF Board Chair and ICF CEO, Jim Hook.

Program: "Cranes on the Farm"

Accommodations:

Chula Vista Resort \$109 (plus tax). ICF Member Room Rate. Call 866-382-4852. Rate deadline: **August 18, 2006**.

Hilton Garden Inn (Lake Delton): \$69 (plus tax). Call 608-253-1100 using the ICF Corporate Negotiated Rate.

Park Plaza (Baraboo): \$53.00 (plus tax). Call 800-355-6422 using the ICF Corporate Negotiated Rate.

For other lodging options, contact the Wisconsin Dells Visitor and Convention Bureau, 800-223-3557 or www.dells.com; or the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-227-2266 or www.baraboonow.com.

Please clip and send with check payable to the International Crane Foundation, Attn: Annual Meeting, PO Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913.

Name (1): _____ Name (2): _____

Mailing address: _____ City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

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I would like to purchase _____ tickets to the Annual Meeting Banquet @ \$30 each for a total of \$ _____

I would like # _____ of the Chicken Michel. I would like # _____ of the Seafood Fettuccine. I would like # _____ of the Squash and Pepper Tortellini.

Pay by Credit Card (Visa/Master Card/Discover) # _____ Exp. Date: _____

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I cannot attend, but please send me a copy of the annual report.



Dr. Sergei Smirenski

Awarded for achievements

ICF is happy to announce that in December 2005 the Board of Trustees of the Bruno H. Schubert-Foundation in Frankfurt (Germany) unanimously agreed to award Dr. Smirenski, the Founder of Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use in the Amur Region of Russia, the prize for 2006 as "a tribute to Sergei's remarkable achievements as well as motivation for his future activities." The Award Ceremony took place on Thursday, June 29th, 2006.



From left to right: Mr. Bruno H. Schubert, Dr. Sergei Smirenski, and Mr. Carl Albrecht von Treuenfels (Schubert Foundation and ICF Board Member). Photo by Mrs. Wicht (Frankfurt).

To learn more about Sergei's conservation work check out www.savingcranes.org under Conservation and Research/Asia/Russia program and <http://muraviovkapark.org>.

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