

The ICF

Bugle

Inspiring a Global Community

Volume 33, Number 4

November 2007



Education Fosters Inspiration

By Joan Garland, Acting Director of Education

"Too frequently I'm asked when I profess my future occupation, 'What good will it do mankind?' I usually patiently explain that my job will indirectly serve mankind in that I may be a tool by which some youngster will find a deep and lasting love for Nature." ICF Co-founder Ron Sauey, 1966.

Ron's words are the foundation for ICF's conservation education programs today—programs that are based on providing knowledge and inspiration to involve people in efforts to save cranes.

Visitors to our world headquarters in Baraboo, WI gain exposure to cranes and learn about international conservation efforts. This year, these on-site programs reached approximately 25,000 people, including 5,185 school children. Our Conservation Education staff provided over 600 tours to ICF visitors!

Over the years, the extent and scope of our education programs have grown. The Conservation Education Department's outreach programs, presented each year along the crane flyway from Wisconsin to Florida, teach students and adults about the

importance of crane and wetland conservation, and encourage students to learn about similar issues internationally. ICF staff connected with over 11,000 people through outreach programs this year. An additional 3,000 volunteers participated in ICF's longest running outreach program, the 33rd Annual Midwest Crane Count. The count has expanded from one county in Wisconsin to include over 135 counties in five states.

This year ICF launched a new education program, *Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World*. This project links conservation and education for schools along the Wisconsin-Florida flyway with similar activities occurring along the east Asian flyway. One component of this project is an international art exchange between students along the two flyways. An exhibition of this inspiring artwork will be on display at the Betty Brinn Children's Museum in Milwaukee, Wisconsin from January 5-March 30, 2008.

For information on the art exhibit or ICF's education programs, please contact the Conservation Education Department at 608-356-9462 x127 or email ed@savingcranes.org.

As an ICF Naturalist, Casey Gutkowski visits area schools and teaches students about cranes and wetlands. Students love to try on the crane costume that is used by our Crane Conservation staff to raise Whooping Crane chicks.

Photo contributed by the Baraboo News Republic





Jay Jocham (left), is an artist and close friend of ICF who painted "The Surrogate" for Marianne Wellington, ICF Chick Rearing Supervisor, in honor of her 20 years of service. "The puppet is at rest at her side, but still the chicks react to the full height of the figure. This symbolizes the love and respect that the crane chicks and all at ICF have for the dedication of Marianne," Jocham said. Thank you, Marianne, for your contributions to the science of crane propagation, your dedication to the nurturing of cranes, and your inspirational mentoring of the people who care for them.



Jeb Barzen (left), ICF Director of Field Ecology, receives his 20 year service award from Jim Hook, ICF President. The award features ICF's restored prairie during the four seasons of the year – a prairie that Jeb

has tenderly planted, seeded, weeded, burned and studied for years. Thank you, Jeb, for your 20 years of tireless and dedicated service and your inspired commitment to the world's cranes, the places they live, and the people who care for them.



Linda Weidemann receives a Good Egg Award presented by ICF Board member, Dr. Richard Steeves. This past year, Linda went above and beyond for the cranes, donating

countless hours of design time and professional expertise during the revision of *Reflections – the Story of Cranes*.

Photos by Ann Burke



Notes from ICF President Jim Hook . . .

Annual Meeting 2007 Highlights

I would like to thank all of you who attended this year's Annual Meeting banquet. Nearly three hundred visitors, members and guests enjoyed the events of the day and were engaged by a broad array of tours, lectures, demonstrations and other activities.

Our gift shop experienced a very busy day, recording unprecedented sales volume of over \$5,000. The day culminated with dinner where nearly 200 guests were captivated by ICF Co-founder, George Archibald as he took us around the world to see ICF's latest crane and wetland projects. It is a day to celebrate our membership and recognize what this important group does for the cranes of the world.

The banquet always gives us the opportunity to speak of our broad worldwide constituency and this year was no exception. We welcomed staff, directors and colleagues from countries all over the world, including Canada, South Africa, China, India, Vietnam, Germany, Belgium and the United Arab Emirates. We recognized our Board of Directors and cited the strength and support each Director brings to ICF. We also recognized our entire staff, the driving force behind the good work we do and welcomed ten new 2007 staff members, already making a tremendous contribution. We acknowledged our cadre of interns and their vital role to the ICF mission, and the collegial relationships that form and that often last years, if not decades.

This year we offered a much deserved tribute to our volunteer force, who in support of guided tours and crane conservation, provided

27,609 hours of their time to ICF during the most recently ended fiscal year. Put another way, this contribution is the equivalent of over thirteen people years and it is a 40% increase over the previous year. It is hard to imagine where we would be without our volunteers who are so important to our Foundation.

Testimony to the strength of ICF is the dedicated staff that supports our important work, day after day and year after year. Our staff has depth, talent, and professional knowledge developed over long periods of time. We were pleased to acknowledge Field Ecology Director Jeb Barzen and Chick-rearing Supervisor Marianne Wellington who both celebrated their 20th anniversary with ICF this year.

For years ICF has awarded the Good Egg to individuals outside the organization who have gone above and beyond to support threatened and endangered species of cranes and their ecosystems by providing experience, knowledge, inspiration, and unique talents that support our mission in a broad variety of ways. This year we honored Ken Nebenzahl (see page 7) and Linda Weidemann for their contributions.

It is important as we move into another year that we pause to recognize and acknowledge all those people who do so much in pursuit of our important work. We are all partners in a global community, working together to mold a future that links crane conservation, ecology and education to the benefit of all. We can all feel very positive about where we are going.



Photo by George Archibald

Second Meeting for ICF's International Program Staff

By Jim Harris, Vice President

ICF's rural site near Baraboo, Wisconsin serves as the world center for crane study and conservation. In recent years, however, a growing number of ICF's program staff have worked and lived far from Baraboo, most often in their home countries where cranes are in need. At present, for example, ICF has 17 program staff members based in Baraboo and 9 working from distant locations (two of us, Li Fengshan and I, actually spend half our time overseas and half in Wisconsin). ICF's staff represents nine nationalities.

The crane mission looks different from KwaZulu-Natal in South Africa or Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam. ICF's international staff brings diversity of insight and experience to the organization. On September 15-16, five of us met in the ICF Library to get to know one another better and identify ways that our work for ICF, and interaction with headquarters staff, could be enhanced.

Training seemed like a vital need and opportunity. As conservation challenges for cranes have such similarities around the world, we have much to learn from each other. We look for increasing involvement of Baraboo staff in our foreign projects, with professional growth going both ways. Anne Lacy, for example, runs our studies on cranes on croplands in Wisconsin. She recently visited Kerry Morrison in South Africa to explore crop damage issues and advise on the crane captures needed to place satellite transmitters on Blue Cranes, the declining national bird of South Africa.

Much of our discussion concerned communications – how to interact more effectively with Baraboo and with each other. Our meeting came at a remarkable, almost bizarre (to someone as old as me!) turning point for ICF. Thanks to the Foley Family Foundation, ICF has just now replaced its traditional telephone system, with a Voice-over IP – essentially our phone runs over the internet.

Betsy Didrickson, ICF Librarian and IT Coordinator, introduced us to the new system, which enables our computers – wherever we work – to serve as telephones. A three-number extension from Jim Hook reaches me in Baraboo or Harbin, China or wherever I connect to the internet. And whenever we place a call on this system from anywhere, it is just as if the call originated in Baraboo – Triet can call Jeb at home from Vietnam, and only local phone charges apply. Additionally, we added a new server which allows remote staff to directly access ICF's main server and files. As Kerry Morrison later said, "I never felt so much a part of ICF. I can even access the ICF network from home!"

We plan our next meeting for September 2008, so that international staff can join ICF members at the Annual Meeting and also the Eleventh North American Crane Workshop, that will occur nearby.

Standing (left to right): Tran Triet, Li Fengshan, Gopi Sundaar, Jim Harris, and Joan Garland. *Sitting (left to right):* Claire Mirande, Jeb Barzen, Jim Hook, and Kerry Morrison

Whooping Crane Update

By Joan Garland, Acting Director of Education



The 2007 eastern Whooping Crane migration is underway! This year, 27 young Whooping Cranes are departing from central Wisconsin's Necedah National Wildlife Refuge on their first fall migration. On October 13, seventeen of the juvenile cranes and four ultralight aircraft with Operation Migration took to the air for the first leg of the 1,250-mile journey to the birds' wintering habitat at Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge along Florida's Gulf Coast.

The remaining 10 Direct Autumn Release (DAR) cranes have been released in the company of older cranes at the Necedah refuge to learn the migration route by following the older birds south. This year marks the seventh year for the ultralight-led migration and the third year for the DAR project. The 10 cranes in this year's DAR cohort represent the largest group released to date—more than the past two years combined.

In addition to the 27 juvenile cranes, there are now 52 Whooping Cranes in the wild in eastern North America (50 in Wisconsin and two in Michigan). To receive email updates about the status of the Whooping Cranes in the eastern migratory population, please send your email address to ICF's web editor at aburke@savingcranes.org.

The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sneyd, 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

Trade in Cranes Poses Major Threat to Crowned Cranes

By Jim Harris, Vice President

A decade ago, ICF-supported surveys in West Africa documented a drastic decline in Black Crowned Cranes. To our surprise, the major cause was not habitat loss – although wetland areas for cranes have shrunk drastically in these areas along the southern margins of the Sahara – but the taking of cranes from the wild.

In the late 1990s, Kerry Morrison, who is now Program Manager for the EWT/ICF Partnership "African Cranes Wetlands and Communities," spent several years documenting impacts of crane trade in South Africa and working with the provinces to enact tighter regulations.

Yet trade has continued, and now the Grey Crowned Crane of East Africa, that seemed numerous and secure 20 years ago, shows significant declines in recent years in Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania and Zambia. Using data from roadside transect counts, Jimmy Muheebwa estimated that Uganda's crane population was approximately 13,200 birds by 2004, a decline of 62% since 1985. In Kenya, Nathan Gichuki estimated that the crane population had dropped from 34,000 in 1975 to 17,000 birds in the 1990s.

Declines have been attributed to loss of wetlands and reduced breeding success as well as capture for trade, incidental poisoning on farmland and collisions with electric cables. When wetlands become fragmented, as in the densely populated country of Rwanda, crane pairs are forced to breed in less suitable areas, often failing to raise young. In Uganda, Muheebwa reported that breeding success has declined from an average of 1.3 young per pair per year in 1974/1975 to 0.88 in 1999/2000.

Kerry launched the African Crane Trade Project in 2006 to address the problem. She began by commissioning four preliminary investigations to document the extent and potential impact of crane trade.

Next, the African Crane Trade Workshop brought researchers and other relevant players together in Kenya from October 8-11, 2007. Twenty-five participants from eight countries listened to the growing evidence linking declines in crane numbers to the crane trade. Their task was then to develop an action plan to mitigate impacts of crane trade.

Two workshop presentations from West Africa hinted at the future for Grey Crowned Cranes if action isn't taken now. Nigeria (where the Black Crowned Crane is the national bird) has no cranes left in the wild,

except occasional strays from Cameroon. In Mali, our partners are trying to save the last cranes through a creative incentive system. In most areas, crane trade is difficult to control – because, although most villagers gain nothing, a few people gain much from taking cranes. Bakary Komé of Wetlands International-Mali explained how this project is making the cranes and wetlands a community resource by providing small loans to groups of villagers for livelihood activities. If the group is successful in restoring 20 hectares of wetlands, or safeguarding its cranes, it does not need to repay the money. If partially successful, they must



This Grey Crowned Crane in Uganda has been taken from the wild and domesticated, so that it lives among people. Domestication of cranes is one aspect of the trade in cranes that is a growing concern for conservationists. Other aspects of the trade issue include shipment of birds to collections outside of Africa, traditional medicinal uses and even cranes as food in rural areas. Photo by Jimmy Muheebwa.

repay the principal but no interest. Otherwise, they must pay interest and repay the loan. Over the last three years, villagers thus have become protectors of the cranes.

The four case studies completed in the past year all found evidence of significant levels of crane removal from the wild. While details varied from place to place, these levels were consistently too high to be sustained for long.

Trade, that has removed Black Crowned Cranes from much of its range, is becoming a crisis for Grey Crowned Cranes.

The African Crane Trade Workshop was productive especially because of the diverse people whom Kerry had assembled: government officials, scientists, field staff from non-governmental organizations, zoos, and representatives from local communities involved in the case studies in Kenya and Uganda. Exchanges became heated at times.

For example, some field biologists had been aware of crane trade and of published reports from a decade ago, information they felt should have been acted upon – surely the relevant officials as well as zoos around the world must know of the problem. We had three zoo representatives, however, at the workshop. They made it clear that zoo leaders receive dozens of reports, and thousands of letters, about conservation issues. Developing awareness and commitment depend on much more than issuing technical reports. Zoo representatives are quite certain that most zoos, and certainly the visiting public, have no idea that trade is threatening crowned cranes.

Four working groups met and focused on (1) the demand side for crane trade (including zoos and private collectors), (2) national legislation and regulations, (3) local communities and the supply side of crane trade, and (4) research and conservation action. Each group came up with lists of problems, solutions for each problem and action steps that Kerry will edit into an action plan.

Already, some key actions are clear and at least partially funded. We need to learn more about the crane trade by extending our studies into additional areas, and by ground truthing information from interviews. We need additional information on the changing status of the Grey Crowned Crane. Then, based on the information we are gathering, the IUCN Redlist status for the two crowned cranes should be upgraded. We need to increase awareness and involve more organizations in stopping the problem, particularly through work with zoos and zoo associations and with government agencies involved in developing and enforcing relevant regulations.

We greatly appreciate support for this work from the Dohmen Family Foundation, Lufthansa German Airlines, Whitley Fund for Nature, SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund, North of England Zoological Society/ Chester Zoo Keeper For A Day Fund, and the North Carolina Zoo.

Help Build New Exhibits at ICF— Double Your Gift to Crane Conservation

Building on 34 years of progress saving cranes, ICF's 2007 Annual Campaign—*Celebrating and Protecting the Cranes and Wetlands of Africa and Beyond*—invites your support to advance new projects that will dramatically improve ICF's effectiveness at home and in crane conservation worldwide.

Through the campaign, we will build new exhibits at our world headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin, to display four species of African cranes—the Blue, Wattled, Grey Crowned and Black Crowned. The exhibits will provide more natural, comfortable living conditions for the cranes and will greatly enhance our ability to inform and inspire the tens of thousands of visitors to ICF each year. To parallel this investment, we will also expand our conservation programs in Africa where we work to protect wild cranes and the natural places needed for their survival. Growing our African programs will allow ICF to build new partnerships and to develop new strategies to address the many threats—including illegal trade—facing Africa's wild crane populations.

To date, we've raised over \$1.8 million in gifts and pledges. Thanks to generous challenge grants totaling \$300,000 from the Dohmen Family Foundation, the

Makray Family Foundation and ICF's

Board of Directors, new gifts to this campaign will be matched dollar for dollar to raise an additional \$300,000 and reach our goal of \$2.1 million.

Please consider involvement in these exciting projects. While doubling the impact of your gift, you will help position ICF for success at home and around the world as we educate, inspire and advance vital programs to save cranes and

healthy natural places.

With appreciation for those involved, ICF will offer lasting recognition in a special place within the new exhibits to all campaign donors of \$1,000 or more (exhibits scheduled to open in 2009). You may use the enclosed envelope to make a gift to this effort.



Crane Sculptures Honor ICF Director Bill Sullivan

This past summer, ICF welcomed the completion of a set of five beautiful crane sculptures installed in front of the Ron Saucy Memorial Library on our campus in Baraboo. These sculptures represent the moments a Whooping Crane takes flight. Sculptor and Operation Migration pilot, Richard van Heuvelen, in cooperation with William Lishman and Associates, created these sculptures after many years of leading young Whooping Cranes behind ultralight aircraft as part of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership. From that vantage point,



Photo by George Archibald

Richard is provided a remarkable opportunity to study these magnificent birds and their movements. The sculptures, commissioned by Irene Sullivan, family and friends, stand as a memorial to Willis (Bill) G. Sullivan, Jr. (1929-2005), great friend to ICF and the cranes and a member of our Board of Directors from 1987-1998. We are honored to

remember this special person in this way and to have this artistic representation of the flight of cranes at our world headquarters for visitors to enjoy.

Our ability to perceive quality in nature begins, as in art, with the pretty. It expands through successive stages of the beautiful to values as yet uncaptured by language. The quality of cranes lies, I think, in this higher gamut, as yet beyond the reach of words.

- Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac, 1949.

Leopold wrote that the quality of cranes was beyond the reach of words. Crane lovers around the world who have experienced their enchanting beauty in the wild would likely agree. This difficulty, however, has not prevented people through the ages from attempting to express their feelings about cranes in art and lore.

Cranes have been revered since prehistoric times by many of the cultures on each of the five continents where they live. It's no wonder then, that today the crane is considered a flagship species by wildlife biologists. Flagship is a term that describes the promotion of charismatic species, such as cranes, as a way of mobilizing popular support for conservation. By helping a flagship species, other less flamboyant species are helped as well. Biology aside, the desire to use the dramatic crane as a symbol is understandable, as well as fascinating. The crane is a supermodel in the bird world, captivating humans with their long graceful necks and legs, rhythmic dancing, unison calling, and most of all their impressive stature. The admiration that people throughout time have felt for cranes, may, in the end, help save this imperiled family of birds.

As the research librarian at ICF, I answer a multitude of scientific inquiries about cranes and their ecology. Over the years, I began to notice a growing number of inquiries about the symbolism and mythology of cranes. I slowly began collecting treasures gathered from books and stories told by foreign visitors to ICF. The result has been a compilation of folktales and factoids about cranes. In general terms, cranes are symbols of: marital fidelity, vigilance (parental and also against enemies), luck, devotion, intelligence, and also an omen for weather changes (arrival of spring and also of impending thunderstorms).

In honor of the African theme for our Annual Campaign this year, I'd like to share a folktale from that glorious continent.

The spectacular crowned cranes of Africa garner the most attention in African legends. A well-known story is that of how the cranes obtained their beautiful golden crowns. Biologists hypothesize that their crowns evolved as sun shades against the hot African sun, or as camouflage in the vast grasslands — but a much different explanation for their yellow headdress is described in this tale.

Crowns for Cranes

A great king was stranded on the vast plains on a very hot day. He was feeling faint from the heat, and wanted to rest in the shade. He entreated various birds and animals for help during his wanderings, but none would help him. He was becoming weak and very angry, until he met a flock of cranes. The king asked the cranes for help and they gladly shaded the old king with their beautiful wings and helped him to some shady trees. The king quickly recovered his strength and rejoiced at the kindness and beauty of the cranes.

In thanks, he placed his hand on their heads and there appeared small golden crowns. They were made of real gold! The cranes thanked him for this generous gift and then flew off. The king was

pleased with his gift and went home. Several months later, a crane appeared on his doorstep in a bedraggled state — thin, weak, and bleeding. The crane begged the king to take back his gift. He told the king the cranes were now hunted day and night for their golden crown.

The king, realizing his foolishness and the greed and jealousy of others, transformed the gold crowns into a halo of golden feathers, which the cranes still have today.

The moral of the story is that a gift is a great responsibility for the giver, and should not be bestowed without thought as to how the gift will be received.

Brooks McCormick's Gift to the Cranes

Longtime ICF supporter and conservation champion, Brooks McCormick, passed away in August of 2006, but his great passion and help to cranes continue today.



Brooks McCormick was the last member of his Chicago family to play a pivotal role at International Harvester. But Brooks was best known for his philanthropy, especially his support of conservation. In 1972, he founded the Conservation Foundation, which has preserved more than a thousand acres throughout DuPage

and neighboring counties in Illinois. Brooks also arranged that after his death his beloved 620-acre St. James Farm near Warrenville, IL would be sold to the Forest Preserve so that it remain open space. Brooks had a special interest in birds that extended to art and over the years he assembled one of the country's most impressive collections of rare prints and manuscripts.

In the 1980s, Brooks began to support ICF and became close friends with Co-founder Dr. George Archibald. Brooks visited ICF numerous times, the last in 1995 to celebrate the opening of our Whooping Crane Exhibit, of which he was the largest single supporter. Brooks was so impressed with the accomplishments and promise of ICF that during lunch on this day he shared

with George that he hoped to help ICF through the sale of his rare books and prints after his passing.

Brooks passed away in August of 2006 and shortly thereafter ICF was notified of the special gift he left to ICF and the cranes in his estate.

On Friday, October 5, 2007, The Brooks McCormick Collection of Ornithology was auctioned by Sotheby's in New York City. While a few of the details are still settling, ICF will receive approximately \$2.5 million from the sale marking the single largest gift in our 34-year history. These funds, like all planned gifts to ICF (unless otherwise designated by the donor), will add to ICF's conservation program endowment. Each year, 5% of this fund supports worldwide efforts to protect cranes and the natural places where they are found.

ICF is extremely grateful to Brooks and the McCormick family for this tremendous investment in our work and crane conservation. By including ICF in his estate plans, Brooks McCormick's love of birds and nature and his commitment to conservation will endure for generations to come. His gift ensures that help will be available for cranes and their habitats now and in the future.



Whooping Crane by John James Audubon from the collection of Brooks McCormick

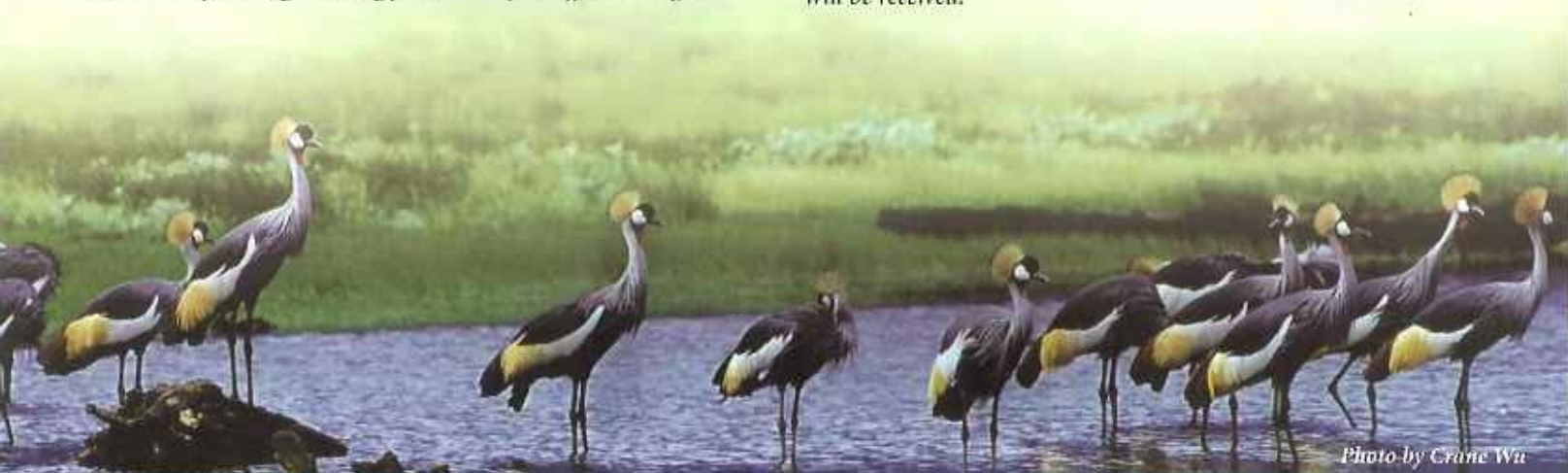



Photo by Crane Wn



Good Egg Award


On October 20, 2007, Ken and Jossy Nebenzahl from Glencoe, Illinois were presented an ICF Good Egg Award for their many contributions over the past three decades. Ken is a Renaissance man who started his own antique maps business. Ken was also a close friend of ICF supporter Brooks McCormick and was instrumental in helping Brooks assemble his collection of rare books and prints concerning birds. After Brooks passed away and ICF was officially notified of his special gift, Ken was enlisted by a special committee of the ICF Board of Directors headed by Rick Fox of Winnetka, Illinois, and volunteered his time as ICF's advisor throughout the auction process. We are most grateful for the couple's unwavering dedication to cranes and conservation.



You've been asking for them.... and now we've got them!


Brand new 100% ORGANIC cotton t-shirts featuring Whooping Cranes! Just in time for the Fall migration and the holidays, you can sport this new shirt in navy or cream. Five adult sizes available on our web store.

Great Gift Ideas

2008 Wall Calendars featuring the photography of Carl von Treuenfels from his companion book, *The Magic of Cranes*. This exclusive full-color calendar was produced by our conservation partner,  **Lufthansa**.




Shirt design by ICF volunteer Kristof Didrickson



FREE SHIPPING on these two items in the continental U.S. through 12/31/07 *while supplies last.*

Visit www.craneshop.org or call Barb at 608-356-9462 x117.




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