

INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

*The*  
**Bugle**

*Saving cranes and the places where cranes dance!*

Volume 49, Number 1

March 2023

# *Celebrating 50 years!*



*Photo of juvenile Siberian Crane by Ciming Mei*



---

*“I am sometimes asked if I am thrilled with the success of the International Crane Foundation. Thrilled is not the right word...I have moments of a warm glow that the dream of two college kids has matured beyond their wildest expectations, but as long as I am alive, my overriding thought will be of keeping the engines running and of the programs that will continue long after I have joined Leopold’s cranes in some far-off pasture of the Milky Way. The dream is still in progress, and I have faith. I always have.”*

*– GEORGE ARCHIBALD, Co-Founder*

---



# Let's Fly Together

Kate Fitzwilliams, Senior Development Officer

For 50 years, we have made it our mission to save cranes and their habitats while improving the lives of the people who consider these birds neighbors across the world. **Cranes aren't just any bird** – they are an eco-diplomat that connects us all to each other and the places we call home.

No one understood the interconnectedness of cranes better than International Crane Foundation Co-founders George Archibald and Ron Sauey, two Cornell University ornithology students who shared a passion for cranes, and a vision to save them. Unaware of the status of the world's cranes in the wild in the 1970s, they began to envision an organization that would combine research, captive breeding and reintroduction, landscape restoration, and education to safeguard the world's 15 crane species. In 1973, with the generosity of the Sauey family – who rented their horse farm to Ron and George for \$1 a year! – the International Crane Foundation “hatched” in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Today our reach extends from our 300-acre headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin, to regional offices and staff in China, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, Uganda, Vietnam, Zambia, and Texas. With the leadership of President & CEO Rich Beilfuss, our more than 125 staff and associates work with a network of hundreds of specialists and partners in over 50 countries on five continents.

Our work and impact soars across the globe with results-focused projects that benefit both cranes and people and lead to the protection of millions of acres of wetlands and grasslands on the five continents where cranes live.

We have made great progress in the past 50 years, but we're just getting started. The work we do today impacts the world we leave to the next generation.



Public tour circa 1973 and 2021

Join me, the International Crane Foundation's self-proclaimed favorite Master of Ceremonies, President & CEO Rich Beilfuss, and Co-Founder George Archibald, at the Kalahari Resort and Convention Center in the Wisconsin Dells on Saturday, September 16 to celebrate, share, and connect with 50 inspiring years of saving cranes!

For registration and sponsorship information visit [savingcranes.org/flytogether](http://savingcranes.org/flytogether) or call 608-356-9462 ext. 807.



Visit [savingcranes.org/events](http://savingcranes.org/events) for more details.

15 APR	<b>Annual Midwest Crane Count</b> <i>Upper Midwest</i>
1 MAY	<b>Cranes of the World Opening Day</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
14 MAY	<b>Mother's Day</b> <b>Free Admission for Mom</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
18 JUN	<b>Father's Day</b> <b>Free Admission for Dad</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
24 JUN	<b>An Evening with the Cranes</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
12 AUG	<b>Cranes of the World Celebration</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
31 AUG	<b>Yampa Valley Crane Festival</b> <i>Steamboat Springs, CO</i> FESTIVAL RUNS THRU SEPT. 3
16 SEPT	<b>Member Appreciation Day and 50th Anniversary Evening Celebration</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
28 OCT	<b>Good Neighbor Day – Free Admission with a food pantry donation</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
31 OCT	<b>Cranes of the World Closing Day</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i>
3 NOV	<b>Lodi Sandhill Crane Festival</b> <i>Lodi, CA</i> FESTIVAL RUNS THRU NOV. 5
10 NOV	<b>Great Midwest Crane Fest</b> <i>Baraboo, WI</i> FESTIVAL RUNS THRU NOV. 11
6 DEC	<b>Festival of Cranes</b> <i>Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, NM</i> FESTIVAL RUNS THRU DEC. 9

# Notes from the President

Rich Beilfuss, President & CEO



Felix Andenga with his kale crop



Photos by Tom Leiden, and Rich Beilfuss, President & CEO

What have we learned and achieved from a half-century of conservation action? What is our vision for the next 50 years? I would like to share a story from one day, one place, one endangered crane, one community, one team.

I awoke to the booming of *Endangered* Grey Crowned Cranes from their Acacia tree roost above my tent. The exotic calls of White-browed Robin-thrush and Black-headed Gonolek soon followed, then a chorus of birdsong. Other sounds filled the morning too—roosters, dogs, tractors. This is no pristine tropical forest or national park. We are in a patch of second-growth trees amidst the vast agricultural landscape of western Kenya.

It is a hot day, no rain in sight. Our team is surrounded by barren fields, but a proud farmer, Felix, is showing us his raised beds of leafy kale, green onions, and Napier grass. He feeds his family and livestock, and sells extra produce for cash, on an acre of land. The beds are ringed with marigolds, a natural insect deterrent, and fruit trees circle the farm. His farm requires no pesticides, stores rainfall, and holds the soil in place, even during torrential rains. He no longer contributes to polluted farm runoff that is steadily degrading crane nesting grounds in the wetlands downstream. He no longer farms adjacent wetlands where cranes and other species breed. He has embraced wildlife-friendly, climate-resilient farming. He is our conservation partner. He is eager to teach others.

We visited a commercial farm that supports hundreds of flocking cranes during the dry season. Nearby farmers, concerned about crop damage, have been chasing away cranes, sometimes killing them with stones. But the manager here, Ian, welcomes the cranes. He understands they feed on waste grain and earthworms this time of year, causing no harm. We help him test lasting solutions to avoid crop damage for the times that cranes eat newly emerging shoots. He tells us proudly

that he shifted his crops out from under powerlines. “I’ve seen cranes fly up and be killed by these powerlines,” he says, “and they short-out the electricity, which is expensive to switch back on.” The cranes benefit, and so does the farm. Ian is another farming partner for Vivian Kitua, our Senior Field Officer for this county.

When I first visited western Kenya in 1995, cranes were in rapid decline as savannas and wetlands fell to intensive cropping. Maurice Wanjala and his *Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group* were a lone voice for the vanishing wildlife. They offered their nursery of native trees and wetland vegetation to anyone willing to plant them, encouraged soil conservation, and used dance and song as a call to action. Kipsaina was a hopeful model, but Kenya was changing fast—soon half the country was converted to farmland.

Today, our team is scaling-up dramatically. Learning, adapting, and growing from Maurice's pioneering work across the farmlands of western Kenya. They share lessons from our teams working in similar landscapes of Uganda and Rwanda. They build relationships with agricultural services, family planning, public health, and other partners for the communities they serve.

Our vision is to one day reach a million farmers across East Africa who share their lands with cranes. That's an impact, and a vision, that truly inspires me! But we can't do it without you! As we fly together in our year of celebration, I hope you too will share in our excitement and continue to be key crane conservation partners for the next 50 years.

Photo by Shawn Olesen







## Cranes Connect Kids Across Continents

Liu Tao, Yangtze Education Officer; Jin Jiefeng, Poyang Basin Program Manager;  
Hou Bo, China Program Coordinator; David Banda, Community Relations Manager in Zambia; and Zheng Ruixing, Volunteer

From seasoned nature explorers to the youngest outdoor adventurers, the International Crane Foundation fosters curiosity and respect for cranes and the environment. In diverse regions and cultures, cranes have special meanings. In China, cranes represent auspiciousness and longevity, while Indigenous Australians regard cranes as beautiful dancers. In Western Zambia, for the Lozi people, the Queen's barge has a statue of a Grey Crowned Crane, or Liowanyi, symbolizing royalty. In Uganda, the Grey Crowned Crane is the national bird and symbolizes bravery.

Cranes cross continents, span generations, and know no boundaries. That is why protecting them and their habitats requires the commitment of people from diverse regions, cultures, and countries. The impacts of the International Crane Foundation's first 50 years helped enable new generations to foster a love for cranes, enjoy the rich diversity of the outdoors, and develop a lifelong passion for conservation. Fifty years from now, the opportunity for the next generation to enjoy a thriving environment and fall in love with cranes hinges on how we are able to expand our work today.

One way we are fostering the next generation of crane conservationists is by bringing students across continents into the virtual classroom together.

The 2022 *Cranes Bringing People and Nature Together International Youth Environmental Education Exchange* was organized in November by the International Crane Foundation, for the students from Wucheng Primary School in Jiangxi Province, China and Lochinvar Primary School in southern Zambia. The exchange was supported by the Jiangxi Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Jiangxi Provincial Forestry Bureau, Jiangxi Provincial Forestry Society, Monze District Education Board Secretary Office, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife of Zambia, and the Department of Fisheries of Zambia.

During the welcome ceremony, students from Wucheng Primary School read the Tang Dynasty poems, *Song of Autumn and Yellow Crane Tower*, to the Zambian students, while students from Lochinvar Primary School recited their poems about cranes.

*"I like it very much. It gives us a chance to communicate with Zambian friends, and we performed for each other."*

Zeng Yiming, a student from Wucheng Primary School

During the interactive session, the Chinese and Zambian students introduced and shared their paintings and greetings on the theme of cranes. They also asked each other and talked about cranes in their hometown. At the end of these activities, the Zambian students performed cheerful and traditional songs and dances, while the Chinese students performed the song *Gratitude*.

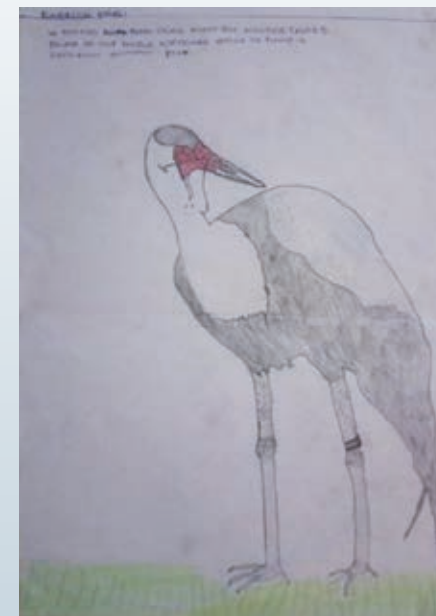
Organizing international environmental education exchange activities on the theme of crane conservation will help improve the public's awareness of protecting cranes and wetlands and will promote collaboration between countries in nature conservation and cultural communication.



Art by Liu Ruoyu



Art by Yuan Shuyao



Art by Rebecca Phiri



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**Hadie Muller, Wisconsin**  
Member for seven years · Crane Heritage Society Member

I am a Wildlife Biologist by training and spent nine years doing bird surveys in the summer and environmental education in the winter. When I was able to retire from a desk job I hated, I knew I wanted to volunteer doing something with wildlife. In this area that meant the International Crane Foundation (ICF). I had taken a tour a couple years before but as I learned more about ICF, I realized it was an organization I could support wholeheartedly. Having seen so many projects that treat wildlife as if they are in a bubble and knowing how short-sighted that is, it was great to see this organization that looks at and works with the whole interconnected system. To me, it is important that cranes are around to inspire and bring peace to future generations.

## What is the Crane Heritage Society?

The Society was established to show gratitude to those that make the meaningful decision to include the International Crane Foundation in their will or estate plans. Society members receive a lifetime membership and invitations to exclusive gatherings. Contact Hannah Field, Planned Giving Coordinator, at 608-356-9462 ext. 117 or via email at [hfield@savingcranes.org](mailto:hfield@savingcranes.org) to learn more about the planned giving options available to you and your family.

Photo by Triet Tran, Southeast Asia Program Coordinator







Photo by Tom Lynn

# THE TIME IS NOW TO FLY TOGETHER

Kari Stauffer, Vice President of Development

When George Archibald and Ron Sauey founded the International Crane Foundation in 1973, they knew there was no time to waste. Cranes were among the most endangered families of birds and saving them would require bringing together people of all ages and statuses across cultures and geopolitical boundaries. For 50 years, we have gathered researchers, community leaders, citizen scientists, school children, and many more to study cranes and implement innovative projects that resolve threats to cranes and people.

We have made great progress, but 10 of the 15 species are still vulnerable to extinction. Threats like climate change and limited access to food and clean water are global, and they are threatening cranes and humans alike. In many places, cranes are competing with rapidly growing human populations for resources needed by both people and wildlife. We believe in turning threat into opportunity, competition into cooperation. You do too, which is why you have joined this movement.

So, what needs to happen next? The word needs to spread. The more people who learn about cranes, the more who will act to

protect them. More will see how saving wetlands for cranes means more clean water for all of us. More young people will become conservation leaders, bringing solutions to threats we haven't even considered. **The work we do today impacts the world we leave to the next generation.** And the next generation is already committed. The story you read on pages 4-5 about school children in China and Zambia embodies our work: Crossing continents. Spanning generations. Cranes know no boundaries.

Your commitment to crane conservation should also know no boundaries. We need your help to enable more communities like those around Poyang Lake in China and the Kafue Flats in Zambia to make longevity and auspiciousness, often symbolized by cranes, a reality for their communities. **Your actions, big and small, brought us this far and we're proud to be celebrating our successes with you. But our work is just beginning.**

Were it not for the bold actions taken over the last 50 years, we might be lamenting the loss of one or more species of crane. But they are all still here and will always be as long as we continue to fly together.

## How can you help?

- Share your crane stories with others.
- Give a gift membership to a friend or family member.
- Return your gift in the enclosed envelope today.
- Participate in local crane counts.



Photo by Triet Tran, Southeast Asia Program Coordinator

## A TAX SAVVY WAY TO GIVE

The International Crane Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive donations through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD). If you are 70 ½ this may be a good way to lessen your tax burden and manage Required Minimum Distributions from your Individual Retirement Account.

Talk to your financial professional to see if this is the right choice for you! To qualify, distributions must be sent directly to the International Crane Foundation. **For more information contact Kari Stauffer, Vice President of Development, at 608-356-9462 ext. 115.**

# Winter Storm Axel: Great for snowmen, not so great for bird facilities

Cyndie Gitter, Assistant Curator of Birds

The International Crane Foundation's Crane Conservation Department is continuing to make repairs to our crane facilities hit hard by the winter storm, Axel, in December 2022. The storm brought freezing rain before transitioning to heavy, wet snow which accumulated on the flight netting of our captive care facilities. Although staff are no strangers to this type of weather, this storm brought structural damage to the off-exhibit area, Crane City, and a portion of the visitor area. **Fortunately, no birds or people were injured during the storm!**



In the days following the storm, we quickly mobilized many staff and volunteers, like our friends at Henry Vilas Zoo in Madison, WI to assist with snow removal from the facilities. This enabled our staff to assess the damage and work on creatively relocating birds within Crane City so all birds could have safe access to the outdoors. The process of repairing the facilities will likely continue throughout the year. With increased snow storms bringing heavy, wet snow to our area we are exploring facility upgrades to help keep our cranes safe and healthy during these wetter Wisconsin snow storms.



As a fellow Association of Zoos and Aquariums partner, we thank the Henry Vilas Zoo for their support!

# The Count is ON! Support Team Craniac!



Photo by Triet Tran, Southeast Asia Program Coordinator

This May, International Crane Foundation President & CEO Rich Beilfuss, and Co-Founder George Archibald will lead Team Craniac on a 24-hour mission to spot as many birds as they can, and they need your help to raise funds to save cranes and the places they dance! To support Team Craniac, pledge a specific dollar amount per species or make a fixed gift before the team heads out in May. This event is a great way to introduce your friends to the International Crane Foundation, and as an incentive each participant who donates \$40 or more will receive a one-year membership! Questions? Please contact Jennifer Fiene at 608-356-9462 ext. 151 or email [info@savingcranes.org](mailto:info@savingcranes.org).

To donate, visit [savingcranes.org/bird-a-thon/](http://savingcranes.org/bird-a-thon/) or mail a check to: International Crane Foundation, Attn: Bird-a-thon, PO Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913

## Directors

- Richard Beilfuss, Madison, WI (President & CEO)
- Eleanor Hoagland, New York, NY (Chair)
- Roberta Asher, River Forest, IL (Vice Chair/Treasurer)
- George Archibald, Baraboo, WI (Co-Founder)
- Jill Allread, Oak Park, IL
- Galsan Batsukh, Mongolia
- Steven Becker, Glen Ellyn, IL
- Susan Carnahan, Saratoga, CA
- Sue Chin, Ossining, NY
- Steve Euler, Minneapolis, MN
- Kay Hale, Houston, TX
- Mike Horn, McFarland, WI
- Chris Hunt, Santa Barbara, CA
- Paula N John, Shorewood, WI
- Graham Kessel, Bay View, WI
- Heidi Kiesler, Glencoe, IL
- Larry Kueter, Denver, CO
- Tom Leiden, Hunting Valley, OH
- Micaela Levine, Milwaukee, WI
- Patti Brash McKeithan, River Hills, WI
- Nancy Merrill, Hayden, CO
- Paul Robbins, Madison, WI
- Jason Sauey, Baraboo, WI
- Jennifer Perkins Speers, Salt Lake City, UT

## Other Officers

- Robert Dohmen, Menomonee Falls, WI (Secretary)
- Steve Kuhn, Lodi, WI (Chief Financial Officer)
- Kim Smith, Baraboo, WI (Chief Operating Officer)



The Bugle is the triannual newsletter of the International Crane Foundation. The organization was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sauey, Ph.D. (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph.D.

Interim Editor: Hannah Field

Bugle comments or questions? Please email [Bugle@savingcranes.org](mailto:Bugle@savingcranes.org) or send mail to P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913. To become a sponsor of this publication, please contact the editor.

Memberships make our work possible. Please join or give a gift membership. Email [membership@savingcranes.org](mailto:membership@savingcranes.org) if you have questions about your membership.

Membership Annual Rates:	
Individual .....	\$40
Family .....	\$60
Associate .....	\$100
Champion .....	\$250
Guardian .....	\$500
Patron .....	\$1,000
Benefactor .....	\$5,000
Cranemaker .....	\$10,000





## International Crane Foundation

E11376 Shady Lane Rd.  
P.O. Box 447  
Baraboo, WI 53913-0447  
www.savingcranes.org

*Address Service Requested*

# AN EVENING WITH THE CRANES

Saturday, June 24, 2023 • 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Bring your friends to our annual magical fundraiser at the headquarters of the International Crane Foundation. In addition to enjoying the beauty of the cranes, delicious food, and samples of craft beer and wine, you will meet our program leaders that work to save cranes in North America, Africa, and Asia!



**To purchase tickets:**  
[savingcranes.org/ewtc](http://savingcranes.org/ewtc) • 608-356-9462 ext. 807

*Siberian Crane photo by Ted Thousand*

## Craneshop.org



A unique shopping experience that supports worldwide work to save cranes and the places they dance!

Check out our new products springing up, like this colorful collection of tea towels. Designed by a local artist and printed and sewn in the U.S.

### *Want to talk to a person?*

We are always happy to assist you at 608-356-9462 ext. 171

