

# THE ICF BUGLE

[sic 25]

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World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

## Restoring a Sacred Home for the Sarus Crane

By

*Rich Beilfuss, ICF Wetland Ecologist  
and Rajendra Suwal, Lumbini  
Crane Conservation Center Manager*

The year was 623 BC on a spring day under the full moon in the small South Asian kingdom of Sakya, now part of the Kingdom of Nepal. Queen Maya Devi, nine months pregnant, traveled east across the Terai, a steamy subtropical jungle of rich forests, grasslands, and wetlands. To the north, the snowcapped Himalayan peaks towered above her. To the south, the sweltering lowlands of the Gangetic Plain of India stretched to an endless horizon. Tired by her long journey, the Queen stopped at the luxuriant gardens of Lumbini to rest by a small wetland among shady groves. There, beneath blossoming Sal trees and warbling birds, she gave birth to Prince Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha.

In the 2,600 years since Buddha's birth, great civilizations swept across South Asia and the peace and harmony of the ancient land largely succumbed to the demands of human progress. The Terai, however, remained a wild oasis. A virulent strain of malaria prevented all but the naturally resistant Tharu people from inhabiting the region. Sarus Cranes thrived among wetlands

A Sarus Crane mother and chick in the newly restored wetland of Lumbini. Lumbini and the nearby farmlands have become the most important area remaining for the beleaguered Sarus in Nepal. ICF Photo





and grasslands brimming with life.

Then, during the 1960s, Nepal launched an ambitious program to stamp out malaria by eliminating mosquito breeding grounds. More than 95% of the wetlands of the Terai were drained and sprayed with DDT. Settlers from the densely populated hills of Nepal and plains of northern India poured into this newly habitable region, deforested the land, and converted the fertile soils of the Terai into the rice-producing food basket of Nepal. Lumbini's holy lands were no exception, and quickly gave way to agricultural fields. Amidst the din of village life, the unison call of the Sarus nearly fell silent.

In 1970, the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) was founded to save the religious, cultural, and natural significance of Buddha's birthplace. The LDT acquired three square miles of private farmland around the sacred garden to create a center for world peace. As Lumbini recovered from intense agricultural use, natural vegetation returned. Bird species of the

Nepalese lowland responded in a wonderful way to the newly restored natural harmony. Large flocks of Open-billed Storks and Pied Harriers appeared, along with rare species such as the Lesser Spotted Eagle, Black Stork, Large Gray Babbler, and the Rufous-tailed Finchlark. Before long, up to six pairs of Sarus Cranes were once again gracing Lumbini grounds.

The Sarus Crane—the world's tallest flying bird—is the only resident crane species of South Asia, and fewer than 500 remain in Nepal. The



Cutting grasses at Lumbini helps manage wildlife habitat and benefits villagers too. ICF photo



Participants in the "Crane: the Bird of Peace" art exchange are excited that their art will be traveling around the world... through ICF to a school in Wisconsin. ICF photo

survival of Sarus in Nepal and neighboring India has been largely due to the belief that if a crane nests in a farmer's rice paddy, it will bring good luck to the crop. Traditional beliefs and values that once defended the Sarus, however, are slowly giving way to modern technology that

does not make allowances for crane conservation. Breeding sites not lost to wetland drainage, or over-grazing, now carry risks of pesticide poisoning and industrial pollution.

Lumbini, with its endangered cranes and abundant wildlife, provides a very special opportunity to teach and inspire the international Buddhist community about the strong relevance of Buddha's teachings to modern conservation issues. In the monastic enclaves of Lumbini, organizations from 22 Buddhist nations are raising temples, monasteries, and

visitor facilities. Millions of Buddhists worldwide will travel on pilgrimage to the revered birthplace of Buddha.

In 1989, ICF and Nepalese crane conservationists initiated a joint effort to manage the natural ecosystems of Lumbini and develop community outreach programs. Regular bird and mammal counts have demonstrated the importance of Lumbini as a magnet for surrounding wildlife. More recently, ICF undertook a 50-year lease for 265 acres in the northern third of Lumbini to establish the Lumbini Crane Conservation Center. The purpose of this sanctuary is to combine the Buddhist precepts of environmental harmony with Lumbini's religious, cultural, and environmental restoration.

One of the first and largest undertakings of our Lumbini team was the restoration of seasonal wetlands typical of those that once covered the surrounding Terai. Through the generous support of the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund in Japan, five wetlands, each 5-10 acres in size, were constructed to capture the seasonal deluge of monsoon rainwater and retain wet conditions for the balance of the harsh dry season. Now colonized by native wetland vegetation of the Terai, these



wetlands provide critical cover and food for a diversity of resident and migratory waterbirds.

LDT has undertaken another major task, the replanting of over four hundred thousand tree saplings, including Sisoo and other native tree species relevant to the Buddha's life, throughout the site. Lumbini's grasses, some arching over 12 feet high, are managed by local villagers who harvest the grass for thatch roofing.

Buddhist pilgrims strolling through this mosaic of forest, wetland, and grassland will sense the lands that Buddha walked—the shady mango trees, the hum of myriad insects, the ancient call of the Sarus. Keen observers may encounter as many as 250 bird species and several large mammal species, including the largest population of Blue Bull antelope in Nepal.

As restoration efforts move forward at Lumbini, lands outside the sanctuary are being rapidly developed. Without effective conservation programs on these lands, biodiversity values at Lumbini and for the whole of the Terai may soon be lost. The Lumbini Crane Conservation Center serves to educate the villagers living along the perimeter of the sanctuary about ecological sensitivity and the conservation of natural resources.

Outreach programs for local school children range from environmental camps for conservation awareness to native tree planting. Participation in the annual art competition "Crane: the Bird of Peace," sponsored by ICF, uniquely captures children's views about the value of cranes and their wetland and grassland homes. Extension work by Lumbini staff among villagers encourages alternatives to the draining, spraying, and overgrazing of wetlands, and strives to reduce disturbances to cranes and other waterbirds during the breeding season.

Villagers also engage in conservation by serving as wildlife scouts at Lumbini, and assisting with management of the tree nursery and rejuvenated grasslands. Through these programs, we hope to create a model for Nepal on approaches to wildlife conservation in areas intensively used by people.

Perhaps the greatest value of the Lumbini Crane Conservation Center lies not in its rich biodiversity or its window to the vanishing Terai, but in the opportunity to rekindle a sense of reverence for the land. Buddha's teachings on the connections between people and nature have never resounded more meaningfully than they do today. ♡

## Lindy Knows Best

By George Archibald, Director

The late Dr. Cecily Nivens is considered by many to be the mother of ornithology in Africa. She created, at the University of Cape Town, a center that bears the name of her father, The Sir Percy Fitzpatrick Institute for African Ornithology. The "Fitztitute" is the continent's foremost center for the study of birds.

Cecily and I became friends about 15 years ago. At the time, her grandson was dating a young lady, Lindy Rodwell. Cecily admired Lindy and when Dr John Ledger, Director of the Endangered Wildlife Trust, suggested Lindy apply to ICF, Cecily personally supported her application.

For three months in 1987, Lindy lived at ICF and participated in our aviculture, education, and field ecology programs. She helped put together the second issue of a newsletter for African colleagues. She returned to Africa with knowledge and zeal to help South Africa's threatened cranes - the Blues, the Wattleds and the Gray Crowneds.

Lindy's romance with Cecily's grandson ended, and upon meeting Cecily I shared my condolences. That stalwart lady looked me in the eye and announced, "Lindy knows best!" This statement has remained true through the past decade as Lindy and her colleagues create a brighter future for the cranes.

From 1995 - September 1997, Lindy headed up the South African Crane Working Group. Today she is co-chair of this group that operates under the aegis of the Endangered Wildlife Trust in Johannesburg. In South Africa the majority of cranes feed, roost and breed on private farmland. SACWG's top priority has been to work with local farmers, rural communities, and industry to



HRH Princess Ann (right) and Edward Whitley (middle) awarded the Whitley Award for Conservation to Lindy Rodwell (left) at a ceremony in London in February 1999. Fifty-nine people from 40 different countries were nominated. Lindy won. Photo courtesy of Lindy Rodwell.

reduce threats from poisoning, persecution, loss of habitat, and power line collisions. SACWG now coordinates crane groups or crane conservation initiatives in all seven key crane regions in South Africa. With conservation success in South Africa, Lindy and her team hope to help the cranes and the people that share crane habitats in neighboring nations such as Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

In recognition for her pioneering work, Lindy was recently awarded Great Britain's most prestigious award for achievement and promise in conservation, the Whitley Award administered by the Royal Geographic Society with IBG. Lindy knows best. The \$60,000 that accompany the Whitley Award are being invested in strengthening crane conservation in southern Africa.

ICF believes that the best investment in conservation is in training and encouragement to key people who can make a difference in far away places where cranes still live. Cecily knew that Lindy Rodwell could be ICF's best investment in crane conservation in South Africa. Cecily would be pleased to know that Lindy has been honored for her achievements and that she is part of a new generation of South Africans that can extend their skills and passions to help kindred spirits in neighboring nations. ICF looks forward to many more years of productive work with Lindy, another great African lady. ♡





## *The Wild and Elusive Whoopers*

By Doug Bergeson, Warden at Wood Buffalo National Park, Canada

*T*he marshes in Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP) are the only remaining breeding grounds of the endangered Whooping Crane in the world. In 1941, there may have been as few as three breeding pairs and a total population of 14. In 1998, there were 49 nesting pairs and approximately 180 cranes in the WBNP population that migrates to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas.

I am currently active in a three-year study (1997 - 1999) that was initiated by Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) to gain information on the Whooping Crane's habitat and diet. This study will help the Whooping Crane Recovery Teams in Canada and the United States to select appropriate reintroduction sites.





During the third week of May, a blind was flown in near a nest in the Nyarling River area of WBNP. The blind was set up 70 meters (m) from the nest and a small research camp was established 1 kilometer (km) from the nest pond.

On my first observation day, I approached within 100 m of the blind crawling on my hands and knees in an attempt not to disturb the incubating crane. To my relief, the crane remained on the nest incubating the eggs. After two hours, the mate flew in from the south and landed 30 m to the north of the nest, then slowly made its way to the nest site. The incubating crane did not stand up until its mate was within 3 m of the nest. As the two cranes passed one another, I was able to detect a difference in their size. The newly arrived crane was noticeably taller (male) and acted more alert than the crane (female) that had been incubating. The male stood on the nest and looked in all directions for several minutes, then put its head down and moved the two olive-colored eggs that were just barely visible through my spotting scope. The male lifted its head and again looked around the pond before lowering itself onto the eggs.

The female cautiously walked north of the nest through the bulrush. It amazed me that the tallest bird in North America, with such striking white plumage, could disappear so quickly into the vegetation. A few minutes later she reappeared in a small clearing, stood motionless on a mound of matted bulrush and waited until a gust of wind came up. She dipped her head into the wind, stretched out her broad wings, and was suddenly airborne. The female flew in a large gentle arc that brought her directly over my blind. My thoughts turned to anyone who ever had doubts about the Whooping Crane recovery efforts, and I realized they have not had the privilege of witnessing what I had just experienced.

It was obvious the first day that the nesting Whoopers were not feeding in their nest pond but flying off to feed in other areas. At the same time that I was conducting ground observations, Brian Johns of the CWS was conducting aerial surveys over the area and recording the particular ponds where the adult

Whooping Cranes were foraging. Later in the summer, these ponds were sampled for potential prey items that the cranes may have been eating.

On day 10, during the first nest exchange, both adults remained around the nest for an unusually long period of time. Trying several different angles from my limited vantagepoint, I finally observed a small downy chick lying flat on the far side of the nest. After about 30 minutes, the female walked into the bulrush and began probing into the water fully submerging her head into the pond. On her second probe she caught something in her bill and then walked back to the nest. The female worked the item to the tip of her bill. I could see that it was a dragonfly larva. The female offered the dragonfly to the chick, and the chick made a couple of small stabs at it but could not take it whole. The female, using her bill, snipped the dragonfly into pieces, and the chick took a small piece from the female's bill and ate it. The female walked back into the bulrush, probed and brought another dragonfly larva to the chick and broke it into pieces. After six different dragonflies, the chick would not take anymore. Only then did the female eat one herself. During this time the alert male slowly paced around the nest.

Over observation days 11 and 12, most of the feeding took place when both adults were at the nest site. The female did the majority of the feeding. At the end of day 12, the chick was able to walk across the nest without falling over. On day 13, the chick was noticeably larger and following the adults into the bulrush near the nest. On this morning, the family group departed the nest pond abandoning the unhatched second egg. A raven quickly scavenged this egg.

The family group was never observed back at its nest pond, so I had the opportunity to sample the area where the adults had been foraging. The ponds surrounding the nest pond contained small-bodied fish (brook stickleback) and aquatic invertebrates, while the nest pond contained only aquatic invertebrates.

While valuable information was gained on the diet of the chick and nest behavior of the adults, there is still a great deal more to learn. Additional ground observations during 1999 should provide further insight into the life of the elusive Whooper.

*Doug's observations have been critical to the present site assessments in Wisconsin. These assessments of habitat will help determine if Wisconsin is well-suited for the reintroduction of a migratory flock of Whooping Cranes that would breed in Wisconsin and winter in Florida.* 🏠

Left: Both the male and female crane share their incubation duty. This gives each bird a chance to stretch, exercise, and feed. Above: A union call helps strengthen the pair bond and announces their territory to other cranes. Photos by Doug Bergeson



# Contributions

April 1 - June 30, 1999

## GRANTS, AWARDS & ENDOWMENTS

Alliant Power & Light Foundation;  
Brehm Fund for International Bird Conservation;  
Helen Brach Foundation;  
Eleanor Briggs;  
Catherine Cleary;  
Consolidated Papers Foundation;  
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund;  
Drake Charitable Gift Fund;  
Mary E. Griffith Revocable Trust;  
Jacob & Terese Hershey Foundation;  
Shirley Hicklin Living Trust;  
Harriet Hill;  
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Lands' End, Inc.;  
Magnolia Charitable Trust;  
Oscar C. & Elsa S. Mayer Family Foundation;  
Chauncey & Marion D. McCormick Family Foundation;  
Miller Brewing Company;  
John & Ruth Nugent;  
Paradise Fund of the Vermont Community Foundation;  
J. R. Short Milling Co.;  
The Powell Foundation;  
The Brown Foundation, Inc.;  
The Evjue Foundation, Inc.;  
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service;  
Webcrafters-Frautschi Foundation;  
William W. & Patricia L. Wessinger Fund of the Oregon Comm. End;  
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association.

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Richard Thompson.



**Lufthansa**  
ICF's Official Airline

The **ICF Bugle** is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation (ICF). Bugle comments or questions? Please write me at [kate@savingcranes.org](mailto: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	Associate .....	\$100
Senior Citizen ...	Sustaining .....	\$250
Individual .....	Sponsor .....	\$500
Foreign .....	Patron .....	\$1,000
Family .....	Benefactor ...	\$2,000

# ICF WISH LIST:

Want to help? Call Deputy Director Peter Murray at 608-356-9462 ext. 153.

- Auto-focus 35mm camera
- "The Birds of Burma" written by Bertram E. Smythies
- Small microwave oven

## ICF Staff Can Keep on Truckin'

Many thanks to Mary Yeakel and Virginia Metcalf for their generous donation of a truck. It will replace the affectionately named, "Blue Monster," that now costs too much in repair charges. The new (to us) truck will assist us greatly in our local field research.

## Great news!

The book "Cranes: Their Biology, Husbandry, and Conservation," edited by David H. Ellis, George F. Gee, and ICF's Claire Mirande is online. You can find this publication at [www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/gee/cranbook/cranebook.htm](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov/resshow/gee/cranbook/cranebook.htm) or select publications when using: [www.pwrc.usgs.gov](http://www.pwrc.usgs.gov)

## CLICK AND CONNECT

ICF is proud to announce its new website address:

[www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org)

It's an address you can easily remember, so spread the word!

## Did you know?

A bequest to the International Crane Foundation (ICF) is an excellent way to help ICF in its conservation efforts. A model clause like the one below can be used for this purpose.

"I give and bequeath (cash amount or description of property) to the International Crane Foundation, having its principal offices at E11376 Shady Lane Road, Baraboo, WI 53913-0447, to be used for the general purposes of the organization."

All bequests are deposited in ICF's endowment fund, now totaling over \$2,100,000. Income from the endowment supports ICF's operational budget, the Ron Sauey Memorial Library for Bird Conservation and ICF's global educational programs.

It is advisable to consult your attorney to ensure your will is legally valid and effective. If you would like more information about making a bequest to ICF, please contact George Archibald, Director, or Bob Hallam, Development Coordinator, at ICF. 🐦

# Announcing: ICF's Annual Meeting

Saturday, September 18, 1999

*We hope you can join us!  
If you have not reserved your space through our advanced mailing, please use the form provided on the next page. Your response is needed by September 15.*

## SCHEDULE

### 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. , Early Bird Walk with ICF's Deputy Director Jim Harris

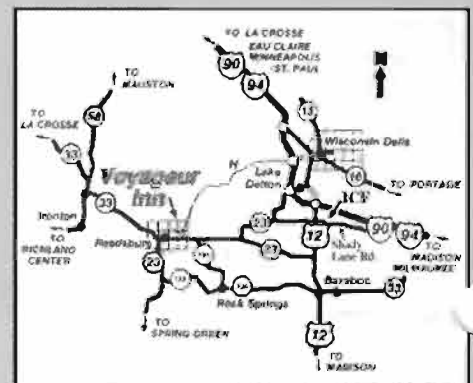
Jim will share some of his favorite birding stories as you experience ICF's nature trails. Don't forget your binoculars! Meet in ICF's main parking lot. 15 Person limit. Call Marianne Olson to reserve your space. 608-356-9462 ext. 103

### 7 a.m. - 12 p.m., Off-site Field Trip

Visit Briggsville, the area where ICF has studied wild Sandhill Cranes for over a decade. Get an update from Todd Breiby, Briggsville Study Coordinator, on this year's findings while looking for the pairs (like "Grey" and "West") they have been observing. Then, take a tour of Aldo Leopold's famous shack where he lived and wrote

Rooms are available at the Voyageur Inn. Just call 1-800-444-4493 and mention ICF's Annual Meeting for a special price.

For other hotel and restaurant information call: The Baraboo Chamber of Commerce at 608-356-8333 or [www.baraboo.com/chamber/](http://www.baraboo.com/chamber/); or The Wisconsin Dells Visitor and Convention Bureau at 800-223-3557 or [www.wisdells.com](http://www.wisdells.com)







**I'm making tracks to the 1999 Annual Meeting, why don't you follow me!**

Photo of Matisse, 1999 Siberian Crane chick by Jerry Stransky, Cartwheel Company

**Enjoy Lunch!**

ICF has wonderful picnic areas, and the area surrounding ICF has wonderful restaurants.

**1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m., Members always have the key to Crane City during our Annual Meeting!** Join the Crane Conservation Department for a tour of Crane City. Learn why this facility, closed to the public, is a critical part of ICF's mission to preserve cranes. Please meet at the East End of the Chick Exercise Yard.

**2:45 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., The Newest Addition to ICF: The Stedman Landscape Trail.** This new trail is spectacular as it winds through planted and remnant prairie, historical spaces where covered wagons used to stop for water, and habitats for many butterflies and birds. Walk with a prairie expert and learn. Meet at the East End of the Chick Exercise Yard.

**3:40 p.m. - 4:20 p.m., ICF's Success in Cao Hai: Involving Children and Farmers in Conservation**  
Join Jim Harris for a slide presentation

on the current state of ICF's project at Cao Hai (Black-necked Crane wintering site in China).

**Don't forget about your 10% member discount in our fabulous gift shop!**

**5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Meet at the Voyager Inn** for cocktail hour (cash bar) The Voyager Inn is in Reedsburg, 15 minutes west of ICF.

**6:30 p.m. - Sit-down dinner will be served.**

**7:30 p.m. - Welcome and Business Meeting**  
ICF Board President Mary Wickhem

**7:45 - 9 p.m. - Program.** ICF Co-founder and Director George Archibald will share highlights of the past year and introduce keynote speaker Tom Stehn, Whooping Crane Coordinator and Aransas National Wildlife Refuge biologist. Tom has worked at Aransas for 17 years and will talk about what he knows best, Whooping Cranes. His slide presentation will cover Whooping Crane biology, population trends, recovery efforts underway to establish additional flocks and threats that this magnificent species continues to face. Wisconsin may be the next breeding ground for a migratory flock of Whooping Cranes. As an ICF member, you will be on the inside track learning about this exciting project from the head of the Whooping Crane Recovery Team. ↴

about the wonders of Sauk County. Meet in ICF's main parking lot.

25 person limit. Call Marianne at 608-356-9462 ext. 103 to reserve your space.

**All Day: Featured in our Art Gallery** is "The International Crane Foundation in Watercolor," by local artist Janet Flynn. Janet has captured the ICF beauty and spirit in her paintings. All paintings are for sale (20% is donated to ICF).

**10 a.m - 12 and 1-3 p.m., Whoop It Up!** Just stepping into the Whooping Crane Exhibit at ICF is an exciting experience. Add Whooping Crane experts talking about the history of Whooping Cranes, ICF's role in their comeback and the possible reintroduction of Whooping Cranes to Wisconsin and you have an unforgettable experience. Be prepared for interactive discussions in the morning and afternoon.

**Please clip and mail this form to: ICF-Marianne Olson**

**P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913-0447**

**Reservation Deadline: Sept. 15**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ tickets to the Annual Meeting Banquet @ \$20. each for a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ *Please make mine vegetarian! (indicate quantity)*

I am enclosing a check made payable to: **International Crane Foundation.**

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

The name tags for my party should read (please print):

\_\_\_\_\_



"Everybody! Move like a crane. Be proud of your grace," Amy Torseth, owner of Dance Unlimited in Baraboo, shouted.

Soul Crane, headed by Amy, was just one of the many successful events organized for ICF's first annual Crane Fest, held on May 8, 1999. In celebration of our public season and International Migratory Bird Day, the day creatively highlighted arts and science related activities with a bird focus. Thanks to St. Clare Hospital of Baraboo, we gave mini-binoculars to the first 50 kids through the door to encourage bird watching.

Two of our 1999 goals; better utilization of our site and reaching out to the community, were accomplished during our first Crane Fest. People of all ages joined Amy, a professional dance instructor, for Soul Crane in the chick exercise yard. Amy designed crane costumes and chose exciting music with a driving beat that kept everyone on their toes (just like a crane!).

On the front lawn of the Ron Sauey Memorial Library, Richard Baldwin of the North American Bluebird Society helped families build their own bluebird houses with materials donated from Senger Lumber of Baraboo. Richard was able to answer all questions about Bluebirds and build a bluebird house in less than three minutes!

Inside the library, Hae Sun Roberts of Baraboo led an origami crane-folding workshop. By the end of the day children were helping their parents with the tricky fold of



## Crane Fest 1999 Mission Accomplished: FUN

By Kate Fitzwilliams, Public Relations Director

a paper crane's neck. ICF's Veterinarian Julie Langenberg shared a day in the life of a crane vet by showing x-rays of a crane's stomach and the many items they swallow that they shouldn't. Participants learned how long a crane's trachea is and what procedures Julie uses to get unwanted inanimate objects out of a crane's stomach.

Scattered around Johnson Pod were budding artists coached by members of Artist Women on Location (AWOL). Janet Flynn, member of AWOL and the Baraboo artist now featured in our art gallery, organized the group and helped children create pieces featuring Blue Cranes, wildflowers and color collages. While participants painted, sweet sounds drifted through the air. The Restoration Overlook sheltered Stan Richardson who traveled all the way from Texas to demonstrate the art

Soul Crane, led by Amy Torseth, owner of Dance Unlimited in Baraboo, kept children and adults movin' and groovin' all day! Photo by Korie Harder

of playing a Japanese flute. His music was reportedly heard in Crane City!

Cranes, like people, get hungry! So, up at the Whooping Crane Exhibit, people learned about the Creepy Crawly Critters that live in a wetland. Cranes love to snack on wetland critters and that same day, we found that people love to snack on anything grilled. Next to Becky's Picnic Shelter a food tent and grill were set up and catered by George and Georgia's of Germantown,

WI, and the Little Village Cafe of Baraboo. Giant crane egg cookies for dessert (barely edible by just one person) were a BIG hit. Generous and much appreciated deals from Baraboo businesses included Salecker's Baker's Dozen, Pierce's Pick and Save, the Meat Market and Darrow's. Time was also donated and we thank all of our Cranefest volunteers.

Students came to ICF from Neenah Creek School, located in Briggsville, WI, to demonstrate radio tracking. They also performed a play showing what ICF's field ecology staff does everyday as they monitor wild Sandhill Cranes.

Families left with new knowledge of what ICF has to offer. But most importantly, they left with new smiles.

Mark your calendar! Crane Fest 2000 is scheduled for Saturday, May 6. 🐦

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## International Crane Foundation

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