

Farewell to the Chick Yard

By Marianne Wellington, Chick-rearing Supervisor

For 20 years ICF has been hand-raising cranes with the help and dedication of volunteer chick parents. Fourteen of the fifteen crane species at ICF have been hatched and raised using the public chick exercise yard. A total of 113 chicks have fledged from this yard as well as numerous interns and volunteers. We all have grown through various adventures in the chick yard. We have shared so many "firsts" like the first of a species hatched, first steps, first baths, first flight, and first public tours. I have been truly grateful for the time and opportunity to work with our volunteers and the cranes. ICF and especially the Crane Conservation Department could not have done it all without our volunteers' time, patience and wonderful observation skills.

The transition from rearing large numbers of cranes for captivity has

slowly taken a back seat. The next step in the evolution of raising cranes concerns chicks capable of survival in the wild. The knowledge gained through the years of hand-rearing cranes has built a wonderful foundation for the future. The new isolation rearing facility is well on its way to being ready

for this year's flock of crane chicks! I invite anyone interested to get involved in this next stage of rearing cranes for release or in interpreting what we are doing in costume to visitors watching the action via remote cameras.

I am writing this while in Florida watching the 2004 migratory Whooping Cranes settle in for the night. Their enclosure will keep them safe until they fly out again tomorrow to see what awaits. I think I will take my cue from the cranes, settle in for the night and dream about where we can go together in the future.



ICF Photo Archive

ICF thanks all of the dedicated chick yard volunteers for their excellent work raising cranes over the last 20 years.



International Crane Foundation

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THE ICF BUGGLE

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

This issue is dedicated to Willis G. "Bill" Sullivan, Jr. 1930 - 2005, great friend to ICF and the cranes and member of the Board of Directors from 1989 - 1998.

Something to Whoop About – ICF's Crane Count Turns 30!

By Ann Burke, ICF Director of Public Relations & Web Editor

ICF is proud to celebrate 30 years of Crane Count! The Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count began in one county in 1976 as the Columbia County Crane Survey -- a cooperative venture between ICF and Middleton high school students. The count encouraged students to become more involved with conservation through wetland monitoring and censusing of Sandhill Cranes. Over the years, the count has grown to include participants of all ages from five different states. On April, 17, 2004, a record 3,000 volunteers across portions of Wisconsin, Michigan, Iowa, Minnesota and Illinois tallied a total of 13,580 cranes.

One major accomplishment of the annual count is that it has increased awareness of and appreciation for cranes, other wildlife and the wetland ecosystems on which cranes depend. Increased public awareness and support drive protection efforts.

The Crane Count has generated a remarkable record of the recovery and spread of Sandhill Cranes across a very large area, information that would have been impossible to collect by professional observers alone. When coupled with ICF's more intensive study of a banded population of Sandhills in the Briggsville area of Wisconsin, the Crane Count helps us understand the relationship linking cranes with mixed landscapes of wetlands and farmlands.

This local crane count has international ramifications inspiring ICF colleagues to implement similar programs for cranes in their own countries. For example, at Bharatpur National Park in India, Sarus Cranes have been counted each April since 1983.

Recently, an exciting new dimension has been added to Crane Count -- one that is causing a name change to the "Annual Midwest Crane Count". The name change reflects the presence of reintroduced Whooping Cranes in the Midwest. During Crane Count 2004, a high school teacher and six students in Fond du Lac County, Wisconsin were the very first to observe a Whooping Crane within a flock of Sandhill Cranes during the count. What a fitting tribute to the scholastic beginnings of Crane Count!

To be effective, citizen bird counts require careful planning and implementation by a sponsoring organization committed to the endeavor for a period of years. We salute all current and former ICF employees who over the years have dedicated themselves to Crane Count. We also wish to thank all Crane Count volunteers and hope each of you will participate on **April 16, 2005!** For information about how to become involved with this significant program, please visit our website at: www.savingcranes.org/about/whats_new/



Photo by Al Perry

Get Involved

April 15-June 30, 2005

Children's International Art Exhibit: Each year children from around the world create artwork celebrating the crane as a symbol of peace and international cooperation. See these unique pieces in the ICF Art Gallery.

Saturday, April 16, 2005

Annual Midwest Crane Count. Experience wild cranes and the habitats they occupy on the 30th Anniversary of Crane Count. Participant data contributes to the International Crane Foundation's long term research. For more information contact Brandon Krueger at ICF: 608-356-9462 ext. 127.

Saturday, April 16, 2005 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Chick House Opening: Experience an insider's view of ICF's new isolation chick rearing facility! Young Whooping Crane chicks will be raised in this unique building to prepare them for release into the wild.



Saturday, July 16, 2005

Prairie Fest: Wild About Wildflowers! This event celebrates the beauty and diversity of the habitats upon which cranes depend. Guided prairie hikes by experts, concessions, and exhibits in the prairie will ensure a day the whole family will enjoy.

Art Exhibition to Open April 22, 2005

The opening of a benefit art exhibition for ICF will be held on Friday, April 22, 2005 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Ogilvie/Pertl Gallery in Chicago. The exhibit features "Crane & Heron Paintings" created by artist Valentina DuBasky. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet the artist and Dr. George Archibald, co-founder of ICF.

The Ogilvie/Pertl Gallery is located in the River East Art Center. The Center is Chicago's newest multi-arts destination located at 401-465 East Illinois Street (formerly known as the North Pier Terminal Building). The exhibition will run from April 22- May 20, 2005. Gallery hours are Monday, Tues by appt.; Wed- Sat 11-6; Su 12-5.



Wood Buffalo National Park

The vast wilderness of northern Canada is filled with many kinds of treasures. Two of these, the Wood Bison and the Whooping Crane, live inside one of the world's largest protected areas, Wood Buffalo National Park (WBNP), in northern Alberta and the adjacent Northwest Territories. The Thelon Game Sanctuary, about 234 miles east of Yellowknife, boasts the world's largest herd of caribou (over 300,000) and hundreds of that shaggy member of the cow family, the muskox. During the first two weeks of August, when the black flies and mosquitoes have subsided, George Archibald and his colleagues at Canada Eco-tours will treat as many as 12 guests to the wonders of both protected areas.

Hundreds of miles from civilization, we will live in a tented camp for six days and explore the wilderness by foot and boat where caribou, muskoxen, wolves, grizzlies, gyrfalcons, merlins, ptarmigan, several varieties of loons, ducks and geese are often spotted.

Trip date: August 2-14, 2005
Leader: Dr. George Archibald – ICF Co-founder
Contact: Julie Zajicek 608-356-9462 ext. 156 or julie@savingcranes.org

China

The Amur Basin lies along the border between Russia and China, and has the greatest diversity of cranes in the world (six crane species, four of them endangered). This region has many similarities to the Upper Midwest of North America, with four distinct seasons and a diverse mixture of northern birds and plants together with those of southern origins.

ICF has worked in northeast China since 1983. Currently, Zhalong Nature Reserve is one of the primary sites in China included in the GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project. ICF President Jim Harris will bring a team of ICF members to explore one of the most important crane wetlands, to see how ICF works in the field (and to help with that work), and to experience diverse conservation activities supported by ICF.

Trip date: September 12-27, 2005
Leader: James Harris-President ICF
Contact: Beth Smith 608-356-9462 ext.119 or beths@savingcranes.org

Please visit our website at: www.savingcranes.org/about/whats_new/



December 2, 2004 marked the dedication of the new crane exhibit at Kabul Zoo. From left to right, George Archibald, Minister Nuristani, Judy Derse Langenbach, and Joe Branch.
Photo by Gery Langenbach.

Caught in the Crossfire

By George Archibald, ICF Co-founder

In the early 1990s, after the Soviets left Afghanistan and the Freedom Fighters gained control of Kabul, civil war erupted as 17 different groups fought for control of the country. Some estimate as much as 80 percent of the city was destroyed, and millions of refugees poured into Pakistan. The Kabul Zoo, located in a narrow valley between the two major parts of the city, was caught in the crossfire. Eventually in 1998, the Taliban brought peace through draconian law.

Built a half century ago, under the direction of German zoologist Dr. Gunter Nogge and managed by Kabul University, Kabul Zoo once exhibited both native and exotic wildlife. I visited the zoo twice in the 1970s and was impressed by the excellent exhibits and the condition of the animals. But during the subsequent conflict, most of the zoo was destroyed and the animals were killed. One of the few survivors was an old lion that had been blinded by an explosive. The Zoological Society of London and The American Zoo and Aquarium Association joined together to help. Under the direction of Dr. Nick Lindsay of the Zoological Society of London and Dr. David Jones of the North Carolina Zoo, over \$400,000 were raised to help rebuild the Kabul Zoo.

Since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, ICF has helped promote the conservation of wildlife in Afghanistan through collaboration with Ghulam Malikyar, the Director of Save the Environment of Afghanistan (SEA). Through support from the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation, an attractive poster featuring pictures of the cranes native to Afghanistan – the Demoiselle, Eurasian and the Siberian -- was distributed throughout the nation. The Charlotte and Walter Kohler Charitable Trust sponsored a field survey to learn more about the biology of cranes in Afghanistan and their threats. Chief researcher, Wali Modaqiq, discovered that Siberian Cranes were last sighted in 1997, and that local people both shot and live-captured many Eurasian and Demoiselle Cranes, which were then kept as pets and decoys. Although there are laws against the shooting of cranes, these laws are not enforced. Public education is vital.

In 1994, the Derse Foundation of Milwaukee helped with the reconstruction of a wetland and forest exhibit at the Kabul Zoo, in which the three species of cranes might be displayed. On December 3, 2004, Dr. Yusef Nuristani, the Minister of Irrigation, Water Resources and Environment, officiated at the dedication

of the new crane exhibit. The Chairman of ICF's Board of Directors, Joe Branch, and ICF Board member and President of the Derse Foundation, Judy Derse Langenbach, and I were also present. To coincide with the opening, we participated in a one-day seminar that was organized by SEA. It was attended by 60 participants from concerned ministries, media and universities. The Afghan TV network covered the crane story and part of the lectures.

During the first portion of 2005, the exhibit will be tested using a single Demoiselle Crane and a single Eurasian Crane. If all goes well, breeding pairs of these species will be imported from nearby Pakistan, and one pair of Siberian Cranes will be provided by the Oka Nature Reserve in Russia.

Excellent exhibits for monkeys, lions, bears, birds of prey, and wild goats have also been reconstructed at the zoo. Much remains to be done. Kabul Zoo provides an excellent opportunity for education. It is one of the few public places in the city where one can escape from crowded streets. The rebuilding of the zoo is a metaphor for the healing we hope will take place for both people and nature throughout Afghanistan.

NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY CELEBRATED

Inspired

by Michael Forsberg's presentations about cranes and nature photography at ICF's Annual Meeting in September, 2004 we are pleased to announce the

winner of the members-only photo contest, "Cranes and their Landscapes." ICF thanks all members who participated. Member participation, whether through attendance at our special events (Midwest Annual Crane Count, Bird-a-Thon, Crane Fest, Prairie Fest, Annual Meeting), monetary support, participation in ICF sponsored travel programs, or volunteer opportunities at our headquarters, is vital to our efforts for securing a future for cranes. We hope you enjoy these images. May they remind you that, as an ICF member, you are directly involved with preserving these magnificent birds and the landscapes upon which they depend in the Midwest and around the world. We also thank Chris Behl, Dave Hanson, Robert Horton, Janet Raddatz, Jim Ruppert and Patricia Stokely for sharing their photos.



First place winner in the category "Photos Taken At ICF": Mark Ehlers, Milwaukee, WI. ICF Whooping Crane. 2003.



Second place photo: Bruce Faanes, Sun Prairie, WI. ICF Whooping Crane. 2004.



Third place photo: Mark Ehlers, Milwaukee, WI. ICF Whooping Crane. 2003.



First place winner in the category "Photos Taken Elsewhere": Mark Ehlers, Milwaukee, WI. Twilight at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge, Necedah, WI. 2003.



Second place photo: Dean Schuler, Gualala, CA. Red-crowned Cranes at Kushiro Crane Center, Japan. 2003.

The Outdoor Classroom

By Jean Skaife-Brock, ICF Member

When I invited my new teacher friends from Nicholasville, Kentucky to visit ICF in 1999, I never thought it would inspire them to go back to West Jessamine High School (WJHS) and turn a proposed parking lot into a wetland classroom.

Following up on the original suggestion by ICF co-founder George Archibald, WJHS teacher Barbara Greenfield wrote and received a PRIDE grant to build a wetland in the area in front of their school, providing an outdoor classroom for



Third place photo Jean Skaife-Brock, The Indoor-Outdoor Wetland Class Room at West Jessamine High School, Nicholasville, KY. 2004.

the biology students. Eastern Kentucky PRIDE is a nonprofit organization funded by federal grants to promote better water quality and environmental education and awareness.

WJHS Biology teachers Peggy Welch and Pam Long helped develop the wetland and are currently supervising the outdoor classroom. Pam wrote another PRIDE grant and was funded to build a greenhouse to raise seedlings for more native plants for the wetlands.

When I recently visited WJHS I talked to some of the students having a lesson in their outdoor classroom. WJHS ninth grader Andy Dwyer admitted that a wetland in front of the school was a little odd, but learning in a true wetland environment was fabulous.

Janet James, a retired teacher at WJHS, is still motivated to help the environment after her initial visit to ICF. She is now working with younger children and encouraged a fourth grade teacher in her area to bring 100 students and parents to ICF from Kentucky.

Thanks to ICF for inspiring these great teachers and to the PRIDE organization for helping provide a visible teaching example of a wetland.

Contributions List, October 15 - December 31, 2004

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We would like to thank the following individuals and foundations who have contributed \$250 or more towards our *Nurturing Extraordinary Relationships* campaign.

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ICF and Whooping Cranes Receive Vital Support!

By Sally Hanuszczak, Development Coordinator

ICF is pleased to announce that we have received generous grants from the Orvis Company and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, for our efforts to reintroduce endangered Whooping Cranes to the eastern United States.

The Orvis Company, based in Manchester, Vermont, is America's oldest mail order company and has been a sporting tradition since 1856. Orvis provides an array of products – everything from clothing to home furnishings to fly-fishing gear. Orvis also is committed to supporting conservation. Over the last ten years, the company has donated nearly \$10 million to conservation organizations across the country. Orvis has awarded ICF a \$30,000 challenge grant to help rear and release a fifth cohort of Whooping Cranes; monitor and care for these birds on their wintering grounds; monitor the movements and distribution of birds from previous releases; and manage ICF's captive flock

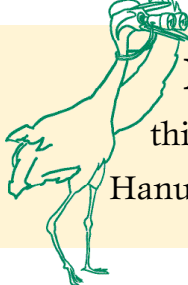
of Whooping Cranes to breed chicks for release. This grant will match dollar for dollar Orvis customer donations to ICF's Whooping Crane Project.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's mission is to conserve healthy populations of fish, wildlife and plants, on land and in the sea, through creative and respectful partnerships, sustainable solutions, and better education. The Foundation meets these goals by awarding matching grants to projects benefiting conservation education, habitat protection and restoration, and natural resource management. The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation has awarded ICF a \$40,160 grant to partner with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and develop a supplemental release method for adding Whooping Cranes to the eastern migratory population. Costume-reared juvenile Whooping Cranes will be released directly into the wild, according to methods successfully

tested by Dr. Richard Urbanek of FWS with Sandhill Cranes during four years in Michigan and Central Wisconsin. We believe this method can accelerate the reintroduction of Whooping Cranes into eastern North America by allowing the release of larger numbers of cranes, and will produce birds that have had extensive exposure to natural habitats and foods.

In addition to the Orvis grant, customer contributions also will be matched by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation. That means that a \$100 contribution would trigger a \$400 gift to the 2005 Whooping Crane Migration project! Please visit the Orvis website (www.orvis.com) if you would like to make a donation and quadruple the effectiveness of your gift.

ICF is honored to have merited support from these generous donors. We are deeply grateful for their support.



It's Bird-a-thon time again! Help the cranes by birding for one day this spring. Watch for more information coming by mail in March or contact Sally Hanuszczak, Development Coordinator (sally@savingcranes.org).

Nurturing Extraordinary Relationships:

2004 Annual Campaign Results

Thanks to the generosity of our members, ICF has well exceeded our goal of raising \$180,000 in member contributions to our 2004 annual campaign, *Nurturing Extraordinary Relationships*. With help from more than 1,200 of our members, ICF has raised over \$223,000 to help us build relationships with diverse peoples and cultures on behalf of cranes and the places they live. These donations are being matched by grants from the Makray Family Foundation, the Bobolink Foundation, and ICF's Board of Directors, to bring the Annual Campaign total to over \$400,000. Thank you for this tremendous support!

The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Saucy, Ph.D (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph.D. Bugle comments or questions? Please write Kate kate@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI. 53913

Editor: Kate Fitzwilliams

Memberships are vital to ICF. Please join or give a membership to a friend at the following annual rates:

Student or Senior Citizen	\$25
Individual	\$35
Family	\$50
Associate.....	\$100
Sustaining.....	\$250
Sponsor.....	\$500
Patron	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$2,000