

The ICF

# Bugle

Celebrating ICF's **35<sup>th</sup>**  
Anniversary

Inspiring a Global Community

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## My Life With Cranes

By George Archibald,  
Co-founder and Senior Conservationist  
Chairman, IUCN Crane Specialist Group

*Cranes are a symbol of longevity around the world – and as such, a fitting symbol for ICF, as we enter our 35th year of working worldwide for cranes and the lands and waters on which we all depend. This Sandhill Crane family resides in Briggsville, WI where the ICF Field Ecology team has worked for twenty years. The close association of cranes and people in this agricultural landscape has helped us learn much about the natural history of these extraordinary birds. Photo by Tom Lynn*

**D**uring the past 41 years, my life has been dedicated to the study and conservation of cranes. This life work and passion have led me to some of the most remote areas of five continents and to meetings with Indira Ghandi, the Emperor of Japan, and other leaders. Thirty-five years ago, in 1973, I co-founded the International Crane Foundation with my friend and colleague Ron Sauey. I continue now as ICF's Senior Conservationist.

*Continued on page 2*



**Count Cranes!** Join other nature lovers around the Midwest on **Saturday, April 19, 2008, from 5:30-7:30 a.m.** counting cranes. We invite you to help gather valuable data to further our research. Volunteer counters of all ages enjoy this annual early morning activity that occurs throughout five states. For more information, visit [www.cranecount.org](http://www.cranecount.org) or contact our Conservation Education Dept. at 608-356-9462 ext.127.

*Continued from page 1*

Last April, I sat at a table in Almaty, Kazakhstan with colleagues from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Iran, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Russia, Mongolia and China to talk about the conservation of cranes. This gathering was not the first time I have sat with such an array of nationalities with

interweaving political, cultural and historical complexities. Yet we stand at a moment in history where international trust and goodwill have taken on additional significance in part because they seem so precarious. The beauty and charisma of cranes, time and time again, have brought people together. Central Asians have a plan to restore the migratory flock of Siberian Cranes that until recently wintered in Iran and India. Diverse African nations are joining together to stop the illegal trade in cranes. I am always humbled at the power a bird has to bring us together despite our differences.

Cranes have long been symbolic ambassadors of harmony and peace, flying free across many borders on their migrations. Their powerful and universal appeal amazingly motivates people and governments around the world to work together to protect critical ecosystems.

Cranes are charismatic. They are striking birds with primeval calls that carry for miles. They duet and dance, are symbols of monogamy, and lavish care on their young. Their migrations span continents and they rise over the earth's highest mountains. They inhabit wide expanses of wetlands, grasslands and agricultural landscapes often shared with humans. Almost everywhere cranes live, they are revered. In Asia, they are symbols of long life and marital fidelity. To many Native Americans, Africans and Tibetans, they are spiritual birds. In North America, the Whooping Crane has become one of the foremost symbols of conservation. These birds serve as a flagship for the



*Photo by Tom Lynn*

conservation of a myriad of other species of plants and animals that share wetland and grassland ecosystems with cranes.

During the first half of the 20th century in North America, Western Europe, and Japan, hunting, egg collecting and habitat loss brought several species of cranes to dangerously low numbers. The rise in conservation awareness and the universal attraction for cranes have resulted in conservation programs that successfully bolstered crane numbers. But during this period of recovery in the developed world, ten species of cranes in the developing world have precipitously declined.

One might ask, "Why help cranes when humans needs are so great?"

The answer has been demonstrated to me repeatedly. Humans – from rich to poor – do indeed benefit from cranes. We can't underestimate the joy brought to our lives by simply seeing cranes overhead or hearing their clarion call. Like great works of art, they must be protected. In addition, there are significant economic advantages to crane conservation. An estimated \$15 million in eco-tourism dollars annually come to communities in Texas and Nebraska where visitors come to see Whooping and Sandhill Cranes. In the developing world, I have been amazed that despite their poverty, many people who live near endangered cranes become effective conservationists when they become aware of the rarity of cranes and are provided the opportunity to safeguard their own natural resources while improving the lives of their families. Success comes because conservation of

water and wetlands benefits both people and cranes. In China's poorest province, Guizhou, ICF helped to achieve that elusive harmony through a micro-lending program to farmers and fishermen. It's the bottom up approach to economic development, and it works. Today our

program in China has served as a conservation model throughout a nation that supports six endangered species of cranes.

At Phu My in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, a 6,500-acre wetland critical to cranes has become a nature reserve after we secured financial support to train impoverished villagers to weave and market attractive handbags made from a sustainably harvested wetland grass. The bags are now selling in Tokyo, and the cranes and the villagers are prospering.

Today there is still an urgent need to involve more people in helping cranes and at the same time foster international understanding and cooperation. The power and majesty of cranes can be leveraged to bring people and governments around the world to work together and protect critical ecosystems.

Note: this article was adapted from testimony provided by George Archibald to the Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife and Oceans in the U.S. House of Representatives on September 6, 2007. For George personally, 41 years of dedication has given him perspective and an international conservation role that is unique. In the same way, ICF's own maturing, highly focused commitment has provided vision, rich experience, and a deepening ability to address problems of wide significance — whether it's adapting to the impact of climate on drying wetlands of the Mongolian steppe or acting upon the shared, heartfelt concern that brings strangers to one table in Almaty, Nairobi or Baraboo, Wisconsin.



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*The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation.*

*ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sauey, Ph.D. (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph.D.*

*Bugle comments or questions?*

*Please write Betsy at Bugle@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI. 53913*

*Editor: Betsy Didrickson*

*Thank you Kate for 10 years of Bugle editing!*

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# Notes from ICF President Jim Hook . . .

## Team Work

**It has been almost a year since we learned of the tragic events of early February 2, 2007**, when severe storms swept through Central Florida affecting humans and, at a remote pen site on the Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, the ultralight-led "Class of 2006," the latest addition to the reintroduced flock of migratory Whooping Cranes in eastern North America. We lost 17 of 18 young birds that night, representing a significant setback for the project, and a loss of the substantial investment of personnel and resources that it took to raise, train and lead them on their first migration.

Yet for ICF and the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership (WCEP), committed to a project dating back to 2001, the new flock still numbered 63 birds in the wild, including three from the 2006 Direct Autumn Release (DAR) program and one young crane born in the wild, the first in the Upper Midwest in over 100 years. With resilience and confidence, WCEP looked to preserve the positive long-term momentum of the project while it analyzed the events leading up to the tragedy.

The weather that terrible night saw the rare winter convergence of three factors; heavy wind and rain; severe electrical activity; and a high tide exacerbated by a full moon and southwest winds. The U.S. National Lightning Detection Network recorded 166 strikes within a five-mile radius of the pen site between 2 and 3:30 am on February 2, including a strike at the pen site itself at 3:16 am, very close to the time of peak high tide. A combination of these factors, as well as the stress on the birds, proved fatal.

For years, the WCEP Winter Management Team has successfully utilized a top-netted pen inside a larger open-topped pen to protect the young birds from bobcat predation and harassment from older birds. On the afternoon of February 1, there were adult birds in the pen site area and, consistent with protocol, the younger birds were left in the top-netted pen. The crew conducted checks without incident and there

was no indication of the storm to come. WCEP has now implemented protocols that will ensure that weather plays a much more determining factor in the use of the top-netted pen. The winter team has been equipped with "weather alert" radios and will monitor sources to provide predictive weather information from a broader area. As an additional precaution, the team has designed an automatic system to open the door of the top-netted pen using floats triggered by rising flood waters. The team has also developed better ways to discourage adult birds in the area.

We are all set to welcome the 17 young Whooping Cranes making up the "Class of 2007," as it completes the longest ultralight-led migration yet. We are confident that we have made every effort to ensure a successful winter season that will see these 17 cranes leave Florida in spring for their migration back to Wisconsin. And then we begin again as WCEP plans for the "Class of 2008" and another successful step toward our long-term goal of establishing a sustainable eastern Whooping Crane population.

ICF is now only a few weeks away from our new breeding season that supports both ultralight and DAR cohorts. I considered all this as I drove to the foundation several days ago, enjoying the peaceful solitude of freshly fallen snow and a beautiful winter day. I soon realized, however, that three inches of wet snow



*Crane City Snow Crew. Photo by Dave Chesky*

means different things to different people. For the ICF staff members who take care of our breeding facility affectionately known as Crane City, wet snow means major problems! Approximately 8 acres of top netting is suspended across the tops of the outdoor crane enclosures. The wet snow clings to nearly all of it

and the weight can do substantial damage. Many hands make light work and about 20 ICF-ers with brooms immediately tackled the problem. Two hours later, wet and cold, the snow crew enjoyed our accomplishments over hot pizza – a terrific effort by a dedicated group. We're ready for 2008 or at least the next snowstorm.



## ***This is a noteworthy year for the DAR (Direct Autumn Release) program.***

The group of ten Whooping Crane chicks released to

migrate with older birds was the largest ever in the three-year history of DAR, and the interns who helped rear the DAR chicks were all women, affectionately referred to as the “DARlings.” Don’t let that label fool you. The interns are determined scientists, charmed by the fuzzy chicks but motivated by the opportunity to contribute to the historic recovery of an endangered species. They face the future with optimism and stamina.

Anna Fasoli, who has a degree in environmental studies and geographic information technology, and Eva Szyszkoski, who has a degree in biology, lived in camper trailers at the Necedah Wildlife Refuge last summer along with a third intern, Danielle Desourdis. Anna gives us a glimpse into those long summer days spent in the costumes which disguised their human form. “We spent hours a day with the chicks, trudging through marshes, running through prairies, and catching bugs, frogs, and snakes for the chicks. We walked with them for miles and miles and sat with them in the shade when we were too hot to keep going. We ran like crazy trying to round up stubborn chicks as summer thunderstorms approached. We treated them when they were sick, coaxed them onto a scale to be weighed, and gave them weekly treatments stuffed inside grapes – their favorite treat. We watched them take their first flights, short and shaky, but impressive nonetheless!”

Eva has a soft spot for #46-07, the youngest DAR chick: “When the older chicks began to fledge, #46-07 was the one left in the dust. Not wanting to be left behind, #46-07 ran as fast as she could and flapped her little wings in an effort to miraculously lift off the ground and join her friends. I was fortunate to be there the very first day she officially fledged. From that time on, the chicks only grew closer together until they would fly laps in one big group, peeping and looking for their ‘parents.’”

Summer gave way to migration, and the role of the “DARlings” changed. They

became radio trackers, which requires keeping within an approximate four-mile range of birds who are flying between 30 to 50 mph depending on the winds. It’s not always easy and it’s not always exciting. And sometimes it’s quite tragic. #46-07 was one of the first four DAR birds to be released for migration. The group immediately encountered dangers, from predators to power lines, and #46-07 was the only one to survive. The deaths of three DAR chicks at the outset of the migration was very discouraging for the interns and made #46-07’s migration, as a lone crane, even more difficult.

Interns can relate to migrating alone. Tracking involves traveling alone but maintaining contact with the others. Each



*Eva Szyszkoski at left and Anna Fasoli*

tracker has a computer with wireless internet capability so that she can enter tracking data each night. And they communicate on the phone, reporting where the birds have gone or relaying data to those searching for wayward birds. Trackers pay close attention to wind speed and direction, to a full moon so bright it illuminates the landscape, and to conditions which inhibit flight, such as clouds and fog. Navigation skills are also necessary. Anna tells about making the decision to leave a major highway in Indiana the day after Thanksgiving and encountering a “Road Closed” sign on a back road which was otherwise unmarked. This is when navigation relies on the wisdom of the local residents, and Anna was told to “keep goin’

[past the road closed signs] ‘til you can’t go no more.” She took the advice, going through numerous “Road Closed” signs, and got back in range. In the meantime, Eva was monitoring #46-07, who had made her way to Arkansas and was in the company of Snow Geese. The decision was made to capture her and transport her to Tennessee, so Eva once again donned the costume and participated in the course correction. Eva also assisted with crating and moving the other six DAR birds who had settled on a wetland beside a duck hunting lodge, in close proximity to people. She was pleased to get an up-close look at the maturing birds, noting that “they were all showing signs of the black face markings and one was starting to lose some of her head feathers and getting patches of red.”

While tracking involves hours on the road alone, there are also opportunities to interact with and inform the public. A large antenna on a vehicle attracts curious attention. According to Anna, toll booth attendants were both the best and worst at guessing her mission – one guessed that she was picking up Martian signals but another one guessed she was tracking birds. Both Eva and Anna encountered wonderful people along the way, and sometimes ICF hears from those people. When six DAR chicks took up residence on a pond in Illinois, the landowners contacted ICF to say that they welcomed the interns onto their farm. They even baked treats for the interns, and were delighted to learn about the DAR project. Eva reported that, when her ICF tracking van broke down, local folks contacted a repair shop for her, arranging priority attention, and transported her to a hotel.

It’s only fitting that Eva and Anna, who are helping the young and vulnerable DAR birds on their first journey, should experience the kindness of strangers. It serves to emphasize the ripple effect of our actions. The “DARlings” have contributed to a broader, global effort to protect the environment and will carry the lessons with them into the future. Anna’s career interest is in habitat mapping as a tool in and conservation work, and Eva’s career interest is in working with animals, perhaps in a zoo setting. They’ve tested their wings and are ready to make their own way.



**H**ave you ever held a simple Rubik's Cube in your hands and realized, hours after the first glance, that ordering those colors isn't as easy as originally thought? To me, solving conservation problems involves the same pitfall. Effective conservation is a concept easily imagined but applied only through great effort, persistence, and a willingness to make mistakes as you experiment along the way. Correctly aligning the colors metaphorically describes the difficulty of convening diverse groups of people who are interested in a particular issue (stakeholders in the jargon of the day), defining the problem, strategizing a solution, and implementing the answer so that it will persist. Oh, and you have to figure out how to pay for the process as well...

ICF is currently engaged in many such collaborations to better conserve cranes and their ecosystems, but how ICF staff deploy conservation solutions may be as interesting as the final solution. A recent example, preventing cranes from damaging corn, illustrates the point.

It looks simple on paper, to keep cranes from plucking out corn kernels that a farmer painstakingly (and expensively) plants in precise rows. Over the last 14 years ICF has worked to identify a process where, if you coat the corn seed with a substance that tastes bad, foraging cranes will leave it alone. Yet how do you treat the kernels? At what cost? In what type of planting machine? Through which distributor? With which farmers? Would there be a risk to the corn we eat? If you treat all the corn, what will happen to the cranes? Each twist of the Rubik's Cube results in an ever-increasing

number of questions to which ICF by itself has few answers. Fortunately, ICF is graced with many collaborators. Arkion Life Sciences LLC, the manufacturer of the deterrent (labeled Avitec™), collaborated extensively with ICF on developing the process. The UW-Extension helped provide news of our techniques to their network of corn growers. Seed treatment businesses provided advice on how to fit our solution into the agri-business landscape of delivering corn seed to growers. Our own research suggested what would happen to cranes when thousands

of corn acres were treated (they shift their diet to other foods found in the same fields). Corn growing groups supported our approach in letters to the EPA. Rutgers University examined the risk (there is little) to human food supplies. Individual farmers, even if dubious of craniacs roaming their land, provided land as well as ideas to test new approaches. And we did need to pay for these efforts. Many people and organizations contributed. Most recently, ICF's Wisconsin State Senator, Luther Olsen, helped ICF secure state support to establish this solution process that will persist on a free-market basis once developed.

The net result is a system where farmers are empowered to solve their own conflicts with wildlife in an economical way that keeps them in business, while also meeting needs of wildlife who share the same lands on which our food is grown. Private landowners, in cooperation with

conservationists, are able to cooperate rather than conflict over important environmental issues. In our case, the process of solving crop damage problems is not yet complete but sustainable solutions are possible. Aligning these colorful partners is still the challenge but every bit worth the effort.



*Without the cooperation of private landowners in our Briggsville, WI study area, our crane work could not continue. Here, Jeb Barzen (Director of Field Ecology, right) and Mike Sawyers (Field Ecology intern, left) work on a Sandhill Crane chick in a soybean field under the watchful eye of an already-banded parent. The genetic data and physical measurements gathered in the field contribute to our knowledge about cranes and help us solve human-wildlife interaction problems. Photo by Tom Lynn*

## News from Poyang Lake

By Jeb Barzen, Director of Field Ecology

Poyang Lake in China is a unique wetland ecosystem where water levels vary by as much as ten meters from summer rainy season to winter dry season. The wetland produces, in great abundance, a plant *Vallisneria spiralis* that roots in the wetland substrate and grows to the surface of the water to flower (useful in a system that has dramatic changes in water level). This plant, in turn, produces a starchy tuber for overwintering and feeds large numbers of waterbirds including most of the world's Siberian Cranes. Oriental White Storks and other endangered species abound in the Poyang Lake system as well.

The dramatic fluctuation in water levels from one season to another has historically limited human encroachment at Poyang Lake but this constraint is weakening. Foreseeing that water projects and other development could one day transform the hydrology of Poyang, ICF developed a monitoring program ten years ago that would increase our understanding of how water, plants and birds in this system are linked.

In November, ICF worked with 17 collaborating universities and agencies to organize a meeting in China to examine research

relevant to Poyang and to address the collective impacts of development on this unique and fragile ecosystem. ICF's data, for example, were used to examine potential impacts of Three Gorges Dam on Poyang Lake Nature Reserve and the impacts of increasing sand dredging (sand is a critical ingredient of concrete that, in turn, fuels China's current construction boom) on water quality. The next steps, besides continuing to share new information frequently, is to further coordinate and expand research efforts that allow us collectively to extrapolate from our knowledge of ecological relationships at relatively small places like Poyang Lake Nature Reserve to Poyang Lake (approximately the size of Lake Erie) as a whole. Our ability to do this will prepare us for addressing problems likely to arise in the near future at Poyang.

*Support from the National Science Foundation, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program, the Felburn Foundation, the Charlotte and Walter Kohler Charitable Trust, and the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project helped support ICF's part in this meeting and our research program at Poyang.*

## Crane Links to Asia Enrich Learning and Lives

By Joan Garland, Education Outreach Coordinator

One of the main goals of our project is to provide valuable learning experiences for Milwaukee teachers and their students. We believe these experiences will have a continuing impact on the teachers' classroom teaching and their students' global conservation outlook. The following excerpt from a letter by Amy Fare, Environmental Science Teacher at Hawley Environmental School, expresses how this project has enriched one educator's teaching and impacted her students' lives.

*The Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World project has been the best project we have ever involved our students in. Through learning about wetlands, cranes, and conservation, our inner city students learned about important conservation issues in Wisconsin. Through participating in the project's activities, they had the opportunity to take their learning global. Our students connected what they learned about Wisconsin and realized they have similarities with students in China and their conservation issues.*

*The greatest gift this project gives our students is empowerment. Our students know they are learning and doing things that make a real impact on conservation issues. They are making an impact with their families. The students are teaching their family members how to show stewardship towards the earth. Students also learn that it is up to them, as future leaders, to make decisions that will continue to protect wetlands and cranes in Wisconsin and China. We are connecting young people from across the world to teach them how to work together on global issues that will affect us all.*

*Involvement in this project has changed my teaching forever. I have witnessed, first hand, the power of our youth. Never in all my years of teaching have I seen our students so personally touched and ready to take charge with involvement in a project. Connecting students in an urban area to students in rural China has been magical. It has definitely made an impact in my students' outlook on the world and on conservation issues.*

—Amy Fare



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children

## Three White Cranes, Two perspectives for children

By Jim Harris,

The Crane Specialist Group — that functions under the Species Survival Commission of the World Conservation Union (IUCN) — recently expressed the greatest challenge for crane conservation as, “Bringing together all parties needed for devising and implementing lasting conservation solutions.”

Children in central Milwaukee, and along the crane flyway from Wisconsin to Florida, as well as children living near the great crane wetlands across eastern China and Russia, have been learning just that this past year, as they participate in ICF's new international education program. The program's poetic title reflects the Chinese love of auspicious names for special endeavors.

Students and teachers have also learned that they themselves are important parties to devising those solutions. The caring and creativity they find within themselves, and the opportunities to discover the same feelings in children and teachers living on the other side of the world, give them confidence that they can help address world conservation problems. The problems faced by people, and by wildlife, in Milwaukee are similar in many ways to threats on the Yakutian tundra of northeast Siberia, or along the mighty Amur River that separates Russia and China, and beside the great crane marshes of northeast China where the cranes rest and feed on their long migrations to the Yangtze Basin far to the south.

Resource conflicts, and degradation of wetlands and water resources, happen when people make short-term decisions that benefit just a few people



*Photo above left: When Chinese educator Kang Yun visited Hawley Environmental School in Milwaukee, students were intensely curious about Chinese schools, culture, and cranes. The children filled her visit with surprising questions and deep impressions that Kang Yun carried back to share with students in China. Photo by Amy Fare*

*Photo lower center: Another surprise this past summer came when Keerqin Nature Reserve supported 11 Inner Mongolian children, plus seven teachers and nature reserve staff, to travel with our American teachers team to Muraviovka Park in Russia. Children from an arid steppe landscape discovered the moist valley of the Amur River and made new friends. The cranes breeding in Russia pause at Keerqin on migration. Back home in*





## Online Activities Broaden Project Outreach Along Crane Flyways

By Sara Gavney Moore, Education Specialist

ICF has partnered with Beijing Brooks Education Center in China and the Yakutsk Institute of Biological Problems of the Cryolithozone in Russia to develop the Tracking Cranes website ([www.trackingcranes.org](http://www.trackingcranes.org)). The website is designed for teachers and their classrooms participating in the *Three White Cranes* project and focuses on the cranes and people along the flyways in the eastern United States and East Asia. The website is currently bilingual (English-Chinese), and will soon have a Russian language section.

In China the website activities build upon the student camps and school curricula developed for the Chinese project sites. The website provides additional educational resources for teachers and students and highlights student participation in the project, including a flyway-level student essay and photo contest focusing on wetland conservation in China. Similarly, in eastern Russia, educators in Yakutia and the Amur Region are developing online materials that focus on crane and wetland conservation.

In the United States students can visit the website to learn more about the Whooping and Siberian Cranes, as well as other students and schools in the United States, China and Russia who are getting involved in crane conservation through the *Three White Cranes* project. In fall 2007, U.S. classrooms followed Russian, Chinese and American researchers as they studied Siberian Crane migration in East Asia through weekly online field updates and email newsletters. We will continue this activity in the spring during the migrations in North America and Asia. To involve your classroom in the online activities, visit the website or email [trackingcranes@savingcranes.org](mailto:trackingcranes@savingcranes.org).

*Three White Cranes* in China is supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the ConocoPhillips SPIRIT of Conservation Migratory Bird Program, as well as the UNEP/GEF Siberian Crane Wetlands Project. Support for Yakutia comes from WWF-Germany and Lufthansa Airlines. Activities for American schools have been supported by the AMS Fund, the Dorothy Vallier Foundation, the Helfaer Foundation, the Janet Smith Turner Foundation, the Alliant Energy Foundation, the Marshall-Reynolds Foundation, and ICF member donations.

## Crane Flyways, One World creates global connections on two continents

Vice President

友谊  
friendship

for just a short time. Our students and teachers gain a global view as they follow crane migrations on two continents, and share lessons with children whose daily lives are almost unimaginably different. Thus, they embrace the big view about cranes, about water – the vital first step toward decisions that will sustain the resources needed by people and wildlife.

Our students become teachers as well, as they share their experience with friends, families, and communities. That is what Milwaukee teacher Amy Fare found so exciting in her students, that sense of responsibility and empowerment.

*Three White Cranes* relies on a variety of activities, including the art exchange and traveling exhibit, and a website soon to be in three languages. This past year, and next, our program has had a special focus on central Milwaukee and is supporting small teams of Milwaukee teachers who travel to the crane marshes and schools in China. The teachers are our ambassadors. The American teachers work with their counterparts from Chinese schools. In July 2007 we held a three-day teacher training workshop, led by Chinese and American educators, and then a three-day summer camp, that involved teachers, nature reserve staff and 30 very happy, excited children.

*Three White Cranes* is meant to inspire, and that means we cannot predict what will happen — some activities in 2007 have surprised us. We look forward to an even more surprising year ahead.



Keerqin, the children's expedition, and the experience of friendship with Russians and Americans, attracted strong media attention. Photo by Joan Garland

Above center: New Friends! Photo by Yu Youzhong

Photo above right: Amy Fare, Environmental Science teacher from Hawley Environmental School in Milwaukee (left) teaches an activity to students in China on how wetlands serve as filters. The students constructed their own filters using materials from a wetland at Xianghai Nature Reserve. The women just to the right of Amy are Kang Yun, educator, and Yan Baohua, volunteer translator, with Beijing Brooks Education Center. Photo by Jim Harris



Art has always been a beautiful way of bringing people together and communicating passion in life. It is no wonder that cranes have inspired so many artists, including children. The Children's International Art Exchange at the International Crane Foundation (ICF) is proud to be a part of ICF's latest educational program, *Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World*. This exclusive collection of art features pieces from children in the central city of Milwaukee together with students living near the cranes in China and Russia. Each student has created artwork inspired by the Three White Cranes, the Red-crowned, Siberian and Whooping Cranes, and the Two Flyways they call home.

To bring this One World together, the traveling art display made its debut in Milwaukee at the Betty Brinn Children's Museum, opening on Jan. 5., 2008 and continuing through Mar. 30. The *Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World* art exhibition also made a brief stop at Milwaukee's City Hall Rotunda. Additional artwork will travel to several other locations including the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center (Feb. 21 – Mar. 3), the Urban Ecology Center (Oct. 5 – Dec. 30), the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Milwaukee Public Library-Central Branch (dates yet to be determined). Future exhibit dates and locations will be announced at [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org), or you may email [art@savingcranes.org](mailto:art@savingcranes.org) for more information.



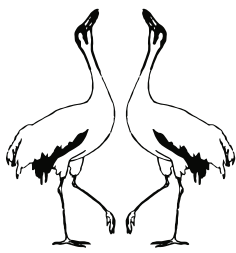
*Debut in Milwaukee at the Betty Brinn Children's Museum, opening on Jan. 5, 2008 and continuing through Mar. 30.*



## Art Cards

Chinese children made crane art for these whimsical note cards. With the help of Val DuBasky and her organization *Art in a Box* of New York City, we printed the cards for sale on our website. Proceeds support rural children in China as they learn about cranes, wetlands, and art. Each set includes six designs measuring 4.5" x 6.25" with envelopes. Price: \$15.00 + shipping. To purchase please visit [www.craneshop.org](http://www.craneshop.org).





*All ICF members are invited to attend the 11th North American Crane Workshop,*

*which will be held September 23-26, 2008, at the beautiful Glacier Canyon Lodge Convention Center in the Wisconsin Dells.*

The North American Crane Working group (NACWG) comprises over 200 biologists and other professionals working on crane conservation in the US, Canada, Mexico and Cuba. Every three years, NACWG holds a workshop to allow members to present scientific papers, share research results and network.

The workshop will kick off on September 23rd with a welcoming evening social Oktoberfest style. There will be technical sessions, with over 40 papers, on Wednesday the 24th and Friday the 26th. Thursday, the 25th, is set aside for an all-day field trip to Necedah National Wildlife Refuge to see Operation Migration in action, and then to the

International Crane Foundation, with visits to the Whooping Crane Exhibit, Crane City, the Donnelley Education Center, and the isolation chick-rearing facility. Tour leader George Archibald promises good birding, including Whooping and Sandhill Cranes, Common Loons, Trumpeter Swans, woodpeckers, and much more. There will be a closing banquet on the evening of the 26th.

The registration fee for the four day workshop is \$200, and discounted room rates are available at the Lodge. For more information contact Thomas J. Hoffmann at 740-427-3740 or email [thoffmann@hoffmanns.com](mailto:thoffmann@hoffmanns.com).

## Become Involved with Conservation in 2008!

**Specific details about these events are posted on the ICF website, [www.savingcranes.org](http://www.savingcranes.org), under "Upcoming Events" or are available by contacting Ann Burke, at 608-356-9462 x147 or [aburke@savingcranes.org](mailto:aburke@savingcranes.org)**

<b>Feb. 22-24</b>	10th Annual Celebration of Whooping Cranes and Other Birds. Port Aransas, Texas hosts its annual bird celebration! Includes guided boat tour and presentation by ICF co-founder, George Archibald.
<b>March 28 -30</b>	Othello Sandhill Crane Festival, Othello, Washington.
<b>April 5</b>	First Volunteer Orientation Session, ICF, Baraboo, WI. Become an ICF Volunteer and play a greater role in crane conservation!
<b>April 12</b>	Second Volunteer Orientation Session, ICF, Baraboo, WI.
<b>April 15</b>	ICF site opens for the season.
<b>April 15-June 6</b>	2008 Children's International Art Exhibit opens. ICF, Baraboo.
<b>April 19</b>	Midwest Annual Crane Count. This unforgettable experience requires advance registration. Visit <a href="http://www.cranecount.org">www.cranecount.org</a>
<b>April 26-27</b>	Southernmost Illinois Bird Festival, Carbondale, IL.
<b>May 17</b>	Manitowish Waters Bird Festival, Manitowish Waters, WI.
<b>June 7</b>	Opening Reception - "African Cranes, Wetlands and Communities" Exhibition. 2:00-4:30 pm.
<b>August 4-17</b>	Sarus Dance Festival, Wilmington & Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina
<b>Sept. 20</b>	8th Annual Necedah Whooping Crane and Wildlife Festival, Necedah, WI.
<b>Sept. 27</b>	Annual Member's Meeting. Help us celebrate ICF's 35th Anniversary! A full schedule of events during the day followed by an evening banquet at the Wilderness Resort, Lake Delton, WI. Watch for upcoming details in <i>The Bugle</i> and on the ICF website.
<b>Oct. 3</b>	ICF participates in the National Solar Tour.
<b>Oct. 31</b>	ICF site closes for the season.

## ICF Out West



Last summer, ICF hired Gary Ivey as a part-time employee, to serve as our Western Crane Conservation Manager and to further the work begun by the West Coast Crane Working Group toward crane conservation,

research and management in western states and provinces. Gary formerly worked for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service on National Wildlife Refuges in the West.

Gary now works by coordinating and partnering with agencies and conservation groups on crane research, monitoring and management issues. Gary's first major accomplishment was building a partnership for habitat conservation in central Washington and Oregon, in part to address habitat needs for Washington's endangered breeding Sandhill Cranes. Gary authored a North American Wetland Conservation Act Grant proposal, with help from partners, for Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge and nearby preserves and wildlife areas. We submitted this proposal in July, and recently received news that the \$1 million dollar grant has been approved. Approximately half of this grant will go to Conboy Lake Refuge, Washington's Trout Lake Natural Area Preserve and private lands projects in the Glenwood Valley that support breeding cranes.

This fall, through Oregon State University in Corvallis, Gary began his PhD project, a study of the wintering ecology of cranes in California's Central Valley. A satellite telemetry study of cranes breeding near Homer, Alaska is also in the works this year.

# ICF Salutes Friend and Conservation Champion Fred Ott



Fred Ott

Since our fledgling days some 35 years ago, the International Crane Foundation (ICF) has been blessed with the friendship and visionary leadership of Frederick “Fred” L. Ott. Virtually every ICF first-breeding species of endangered cranes, discovering new crane populations, launching strategic programs worldwide to save cranes and their habitats—has taken place during Fred’s tenure as an ICF board member. Fred turns 87 this month and still attends nearly every board meeting and offers his warm smile, wisdom and passion for cranes and conservation.

Fred was born in 1921 into a family well-known in Milwaukee for its interest in animals and conservation. The Otts were strong supporters of the Milwaukee County Zoo and instrumental in its formation. Fred, consequently, learned to love animals and nature at a very early age. He remembers saving “a whole quarter” at age 8 to become a member of Save-the-Redwoods League in 1929. That was a lot of money back then, he says. Fred credits “Opa” (his grandfather) with fostering his lifelong love of birds.

Fred also frequented the Milwaukee Public Museum in his youth where he became, in his own words, Owen Gromme’s biggest pest. Gromme at that time was Curator of Birds and Mammals and busy painting the plates which eventually became *Birds of Wisconsin*. Gromme gradually learned to tolerate the young man and even allowed Fred to watch him painting. Fred reciprocated

years later by starting Friends of the Museum, an organization that eventually raised over \$200,000 to publish Gromme’s famous book.

Rivaling Fred’s love for animals and nature is his love for big adventure. While skiing in Switzerland during high school, Fred once took a “thrilling” 3,500 foot fall off a mountain and broke his back. A few years later while attending Kenyon College in Ohio (from which he graduated in two years), Fred and a close friend spent a summer walking some 1,400 miles at times traversing virtually unexplored wilderness in what later became Grand Teton National Park. Fred recalls getting lost practically every other day and estimates they crossed the continental divide at least six times by mistake.

In 1942, Fred enlisted in the Army and became a drill instructor and truck driver before arriving at Normandy three days after D-day. With Fred on board, his trucking unit became famous for its fearlessness. After the war, Fred began his business career in lumber, first working in logging camps in northern Wisconsin and later selling paper products. It was on a business call where he met his late wife Elizabeth “Jolly” Needham. Fred remembers canoeing with friend Sigurd Olsen and seeking his advice before proposing to Jolly. The couple had three children together—Fredericka (Riki), who has a PhD in Marine Biology and is an author and expert on oil spill effects on people and the environment; Bradford, a literature major from Kenyon College, carpenter, and volunteer docent with the High Desert Museum in Bend, OR; and Lisi, who owns and manages Purple Crayon Ranch with its 16 llamas and alpacas.

Fred and Jolly raised their family rich with experiences in the outdoors—canoeing, hiking—surrounded by unusual animals—elephants, monkeys, penguins (Fred continues involvement with the Milwaukee Zoo today)—and steeped in conservation and civic involvement.

Fred’s accomplishments over the years are quite impressive, he is: ICF’s most senior director; founder and first president of Friends of the Museum; past board

member of the Milwaukee County Zoo; a founder of Riveredge Nature Center; and, founder and past president of Citizens Natural Resources Association (CNRA). Fred was a lead fundraiser for CNRA’s successful fight against the use of DDT in this country. Daughter Riki recalls racing home from middle school to observe famed Environmental Defense Fund attorney Victor Yvanacone and scientist Charlie Wurster scribbling feverishly on legal papers that covered the Ott’s dining room table. Their home served as a base camp during the DDT trials.

Riki considers her father her environmental hero although she never heard the word “environmentalist” in her family growing up. Instead, she claims, “Dad lived the word through his actions. We kids learned that when something is wrong—like the robins dying from DDT—you get together a bunch of friends and figure out how to fix the problem. You just do it. He lives his values daily.”

Longtime friend George Archibald agrees, “Fred is a unique treasure. He is copiously generous to causes in which he believes, lives a simple lifestyle and proclaims with a flair, ‘I save pennies and give dollars!’”

Fred has lived by this motto giving generously and helping to raise funds for so many important causes. Last summer, Fred, along with the Reinhardt H. and Shirley R. Jahn Foundation Trust, made a generous gift to help ICF exceed a \$100,000 challenge grant from the Felburn Foundation to advance major renovations at Crane City, ICF’s on-site captive breeding facility and home to over 80 cranes. Fred is also a member of ICF’s Crane Heritage Society—he has included ICF in his estate plans so that his passion for cranes and conservation will continue long into the future.

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*Fred is a true champion and we are forever grateful for all he has done and continues to do for ICF, cranes, and the conservation of wild places. We salute Fred and his many accomplishments and thank him for helping to make our world a better place for all. Happy 87th birthday, Fred!*

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## New Exhibit / Campaign Update Protecting the Cranes and Wetlands of Africa and Beyond

**T**hank you to all of you who have given so generously to help ICF build new exhibits and expand conservation programs for African cranes. The outpouring of support has been tremendous! The exhibit team is now finalizing the schematic design for the new exhibits and this spring ICF will seek a firm to take us through the final planning and construction phases of the project. We are eager to share drawings of the new exhibits and to break ground later this year. Programs in Africa are also moving forward as we

implement strategies to abate threats posed by the illegal trade of cranes and we continue to advance the Whooping Crane reintroduction and other programs around the world supported through this campaign.

There is still time to make a gift to this campaign which will conclude on March 31, 2008. All donors of \$1,000 or more will be acknowledged within the new exhibits. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a gift or contact our development team at 608-365-9462 for more information.

**Moonlight Mates** are back....our best selling embroidered design is now available on these new unisex quarter zip sweatshirts! Designed to be as cozy as can be with a stand up collar, and open bottom, these warm cotton sweatshirts will fit well over sweaters and other layers for winter. Colors available are: red, maize, black, khaki, green, and a beautiful new burgundy (not pictured). S, M, L & XL. PRICE: \$44.99 plus shipping and handling.



## Unique Nepalese Crane Jackets and Vests Are Now On Our Web Store!

These 100% hand-loomed cotton jackets are made especially for ICF in Nepal. Each garment is individually designed for ICF and no two are exactly alike. The design pictured is a new jacket that comes in four colors and measures 30 inches from neckline to hem. The buttons are made of water buffalo bones etched with the outline of a crane head. Dry clean only. Colors available are: blue, tan, purple, and green. Sizes available are: XS, S, M, L, XL & XXL. PRICE: \$55.00 plus shipping and handling. Other Nepalese items are also available on our website. Visit: [www.craneshop.org](http://www.craneshop.org), click on "clothing."

***ICF members can now receive a 10% discount on our web store after typing the code: cranes (lower case) during the check-out process!***

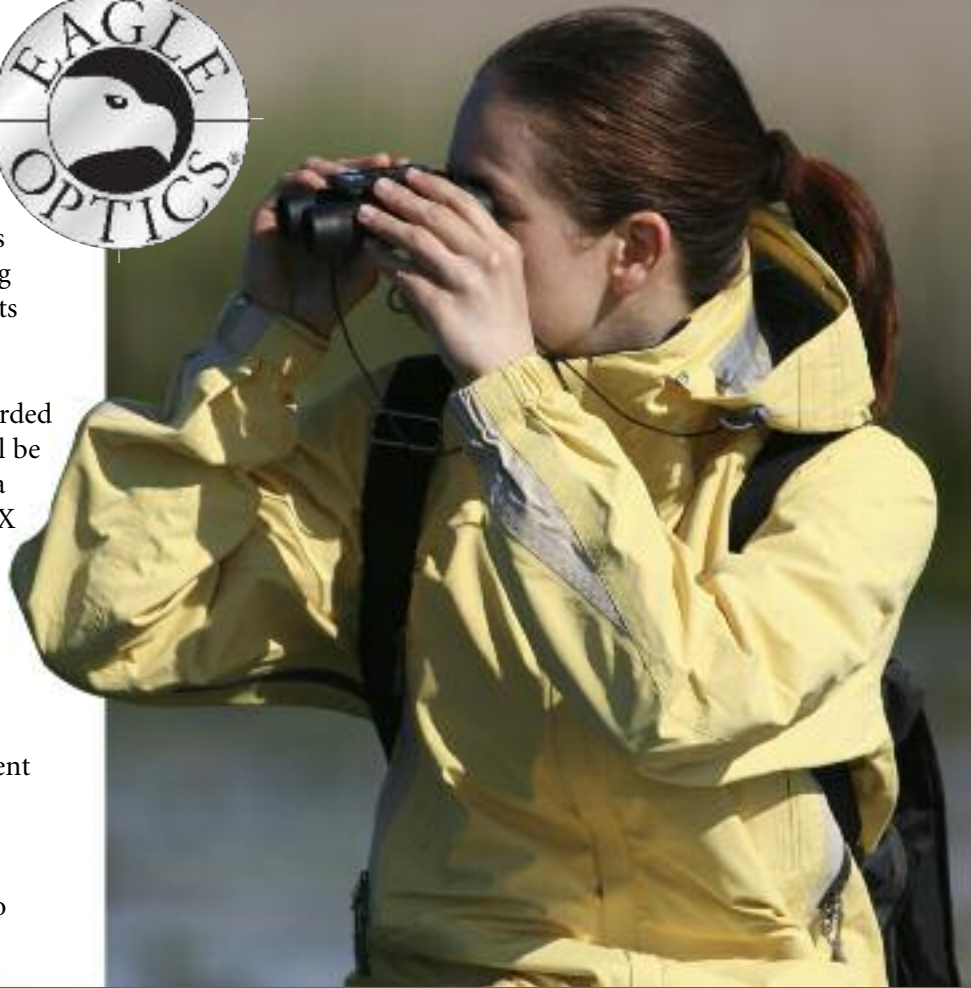


# Join the 2008 Bird-a-thon!

This year marks the 20th anniversary of our annual Bird-a-thon. Each spring, novice and expert birders support ICF by collecting pledges and taking to the field for a single day of birding (identifying bird species). Money raised supports ICF conservation programs and our campus, including the Ron Sauvey Memorial Library.

Prizes for the most species found will be awarded to the top ten teams. This year's grand prize will be a Vortex 80mm Skyline ED Angled Scope with a 20-60x zoom eyepiece and a Vortex Summit STX tripod, both generously donated by Eagle Optics.

There are many ways to get involved in this exciting event. You can make a pledge to your favorite team, form your own team, or sponsor ICF's Craniac Team led by Co-founder George Archibald, President Jim Hook and Vice-President Jim Harris. Please use the enclosed envelope to make a pledge or contact Erin Seefeld by phone (608) 356-9462 ext. 143 or by email, [eseefeld@savingcranes.org](mailto:eseefeld@savingcranes.org) to request a packet to conduct your own Bird-a-thon.



## International Crane Foundation

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