

The ICF **Bugle**
Inspiring a Global Community

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August 2009

A Challenging Year for Whooping Cranes

By George Archibald, ICF Co-founder and Member of the International Whooping Crane Recovery Team



In December of 2008, during his weekly air survey of the Whooping Cranes wintering in Texas, Tom Stehn, the Biologist at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, counted 270 Whooping Cranes in and near the Refuge – a new record high! In 1940 there were only 15 remaining. But a humbling reminder of the fragile position of the Whooping Crane was on the horizon – how quickly the climate can change from rejoicing and optimism to one of worry and dread.

Continued on page 2



The Whooping Cranes wintering at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge depend on blue crabs like this one for 80-90% of their winter diet. As a result of severe drought in Texas, and years of water diversion for human use, the Guadalupe River did not deliver enough fresh water to coastal marshes where the Whooping Cranes forage. The shallows became too salty for crabs so they moved to deeper water. Whooping Cranes suffered, with 23 birds dying through the winter, 8.5% of the total natural flock. Photo by Mike Sloat

Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, September 26

Annual Meeting

Please Respond by Sept. 15th

See page 7 for details

A prolonged drought during the early months of 2009 and human diversions of water reduced fresh water inflow to coastal wetlands so vital to the Whooping Cranes. Many marshes dried and salinity levels increased in others. Availability of blue crabs and wolfberries, important food staples for the cranes, declined. The blue crabs (estimated to comprise over 80% of the Whooping Crane winter diet) moved to deeper water. The increased salinity levels also forced the cranes to expend precious energy searching for new sources of fresh drinking water. During the long dry winter, 23 cranes, mostly juveniles, perished. Starvation is thought to be a major factor for the losses. Only 247 cranes migrated north in April. Normal mortality of Whooping Cranes on the protected wintering grounds is approximately 1%. Last winter 8.5% of the population perished.

Upon arrival at the Texas wintering grounds in early winter, the cinnamon brown juveniles constitute about 12-15% of the population. For example, on that count in December of 2008 Tom recorded 40 juveniles, an excellent crop of youngsters from Canada. By the end of April when the cranes migrate north, the juveniles attain the glistening white plumage of adults, but 16 of the 40 had not survived the winter. Seven adults also vanished.

By counting the number of white birds that return in autumn, the loss of white birds between spring departure from Aransas and return is calculated. Typically, about 8% of the white birds never return. Collision with power lines is considered a major threat during the 2500 mile passage across the continent. So with an approximate 8% loss of white cranes between April and December and an average gain of 12% cinnamon brown cranes, the net population growth is only 4%. A catastrophic event such as the drought in Texas destroys that margin of success and the flock declines. The survival margins are slim, even when everything goes well.

On the bright side, 62 pairs of cranes nested in Wood Buffalo National Park this year as compared to the previous year when 66 pairs nested. Due to the winter losses in Texas one might assume there would have been fewer nesting pairs. Mid-June counts from a low flying aircraft indicated a minimum of 52 chicks. Biologists predict that approximately 25-30 juveniles will reach the winter grounds. From the 247 white birds that migrated north, about 227 are predicted to return. If 30 juveniles make it to Aransas, a total of 257 cranes will return – down 13 cranes from the 270 that arrived a year ago. It will take more than one good year to climb back up to 270.

On the dark side, the drought in Texas continues unabated. Unless the rains return and the inflow of fresh water from the Guadalupe River increases to bathe the coastal marshes to create good habitat for blue crabs and wolfberries, the Whooping Cranes might suffer great loss again during the upcoming winter. Artificial feeding programs last winter only benefited about 20% of the cranes.

The original flock of Whooping Cranes is threatened by drought, loss of winter habitat to development outside the Refuge, and collisions with ever more power lines from numerous wind farms now popping up along the Central Flyway. These problems augment the importance of establishing additional populations in safer areas. To that end, during the past eight years, captive-produced cranes have been introduced to the flyway between Wisconsin and the southeast. Nesting failures in recent years in and near Necedah National Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin are thought by some biologists to be caused by hatches of black flies in late April that drive birds off the nest. In a future issue, we will report on the intensive studies we conducted at Necedah this spring. Pairing and egg-laying have been excellent in this flock. If the nest failure problem can be managed, we expect the Whooping Cranes can reproduce at an adequate rate to grow the population. In addition, discussions are underway with the State of Louisiana to re-establish a resident flock in the vast marshes of the southwest part of that state. As recently as 1939, non-migratory Whooping Cranes reared young in Louisiana. The habitat is still there and now Louisiana is interested in a reintroduction.

If the winter habitat in Texas survives drought, development, and the forecasted rise of sea level, the original population should continue to grow. In the meantime, dedicated ICF aviculturists are currently caring for 42 captive Whooping Cranes. This year the ICF flock is contributing up to 10 Whooping Crane chicks to releases in Wisconsin. Another chick is a genetic hold back because of its important bloodlines.

Step-by-step, I feel confident that the new migratory population in the east and a future resident population in Louisiana will add to the long-term security of the world's rarest crane – an international icon for survival that Canada and the USA work together to protect. ICF has a key role in the team that strives to increase the survival margins for these special birds.

*Hope is the thing with feathers
that perches in the soul and sings the tune
without the words and never stops at all.*

—Emily Dickinson

One of this spring's two Whooping Crane chicks in Wisconsin in early July. Unfortunately neither chick survived to fledging. Photo by ICF Tracking Intern Jessica Thompson

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ICF's official airline

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.

Editor: Betsy Didrickson

Bugle comments or questions?

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

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

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Notes from ICF President Jim Hook . . . *Inspiring a Global Community*

We could not have asked for a better day on June 20th as crane enthusiasts from around the world joined generous benefactors Bob and Mary Dohmen to celebrate the opening of our new *Spirit of Africa* exhibit. We were pleased to welcome Wisconsin Department of Tourism Secretary, Kelli Trumble as a keynote speaker at the ribbon cutting ceremony. In highlighting our new exhibits and plans for the future, Kelli endorsed ICF as a unique attraction and landscape that informs, motivates and involves people in crane conservation on a global scale.

Only a few weeks later, we welcomed Wisconsin First Lady Jessica Doyle to ICF. Along with the Governor, Jessica served in the Peace Corps in Africa and was keenly interested in seeing *Spirit of Africa*. A life-long educator, her key initiatives focus on educational excellence, literacy and the promotion of state pride and culture. Jessica spoke with staff about our K-12 classroom and field trip programs, educational outreach and the International Children's Art Exchange.

Spring has transitioned to summer at ICF and once again we are blessed with visits by colleagues from around the world. These far-flung relationships enrich us and strengthen the core of expertise that makes us more effective in accomplishing our mission.

• Dr. Attila Bankovics, the retired Head of Ornithology at the Hungarian Natural History Museum and the author of numerous books and scientific papers, is at the ICF Library for four weeks doing research for a book he is writing on cranes for a Hungarian audience.

• Bradley Gibbons is the Project Coordinator for the Karoo Crane Conservation Project in South Africa in partnership with ICF and the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) He works mainly with Blue Cranes. His work is very similar to work we do with Sandhills here in Wisconsin. By visiting ICF and comparing notes, he gains better ideas for experiment design needed to study crop damage in his area.

• Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Professor Emeritus of Biological Sciences at the University of Nebraska is a long-time colleague of ICF. The author of over 50 books, he is one of the world's most prolific authors of ornithological literature and has been recognized by a number of conservation organizations for his work. Dr. Johnsgard is currently working on a new book on Sandhill

and Whooping Cranes and visited ICF to conduct research, meet with staff and see Wisconsin crane areas.

• Dr. Tamaki Kitagawa, a Japanese ornithologist who has worked with George Archibald for 37 years, arrived at ICF in March to begin one full year of crane research. In the early 1970s, George and Tamaki studied Red-crowned Cranes in northern Japan where they learned that the majority of the population nested in Japan and did not migrate to Russia as had been previously believed. Thus far Tamaki has provided valuable insights to the Whooping Crane nesting studies at Necedah and is carefully noting calls and body language of captive ICF cranes, particularly those that have just moved into the new African exhibits.

• Ford Fellow Yi Xiaohua is working for ICF for the summer as an Interpretive Naturalist as she learns how we use education in our conservation efforts. Xiaohua attends Antioch University where she is working towards her Master's degree in Environmental Education. Her interest evolved from her experience in China with the Greenriver Environmental Protection Association where she worked to educate people in Chengdu about protecting the vital source of the Yangtze River. The Ford Foundation is supporting Yi's work at ICF this summer.

We have to be impressed by the array of talents these colleagues bring to ICF. These people are an important part of our global network and the work we do. We take reassurance from these relationships and perhaps our Anne Lacy says it best, "The further you go, the more things stay the same...for people and cranes."

Unlike the past two years, we will not include a summary of the ICF Fiscal 2008-09 Financial Results in the August issue of the Bugle. Our plan is to reduce publication expenses without sacrificing the content that is so vital to our communications about our mission. We will produce an electronic version of the annual financial report and make it available on our website. We will also have hard copies available by mail upon request.

We are well into our second fiscal quarter and making every effort to thrive within a challenging budget during this difficult year. I want to thank all of you for your ongoing support which means so much and gives us such strong motivation to keep moving forward.

Ambassadors for Water

By Jim Harris, Vice President

Aldo Leopold wrote in his beloved essay *Marshland Elegy*, “The sadness discernable in some marshes arises, perhaps, from their once having harbored cranes. Now they stand humbled, adrift in history.”

Yet in many places around the world, the wetlands themselves are literally vanishing before the cranes, the life-giving water dwindling by season and year until the last cranes stalk dry meadow and fires sweep across what was once marshland. The cranes fly ahead of the flames, but eggs and young perish. Without the safety and remarkable productivity of the wetlands, the cranes themselves merely linger, cast adrift.

In contrast to forests or grasslands, wetlands are often rapidly changing landscapes that over eons have flooded and dried and flooded again, nurturing an abundance of life. These frontiers where land and water mix have been essential not only for cranes and countless animals and plants, but also for humanity and early civilizations founded near wetlands.

nurtures our human communities or limits us, sometimes harshly. Water underlies all we do. While climate change is the result of altering composition of the atmosphere, the water cycles literally reflect the sky and drive many of the impacts we fear from greenhouse gases and temperature rise. Whether or not a specific region will be drier or wetter, our rain will become more erratic and more prone to extremes... worse floods than our parents remember, worse droughts.

The ecosystem services provided by wetlands and their waters are immensely valuable to humanity. Wetlands thrive on fluctuation, and it is this resilience of wetlands and other water systems that we must safeguard or restore. The engineering solutions that continue to be so popular offer a sense of stability and control but tend to lead away from resilience – pushing against natural systems rather than relying upon their aid as we and all living things adapt to different climates.

ICF in its early days concerned itself mostly with the loss of cranes, and our programs today still aim to restore crane populations, whether through curtailing illegal trade that may be the greatest threat to Africa’s rapidly declining crowned cranes, or through reintroducing Whooping Cranes into Wisconsin. But for more than two decades, we have recognized the changes and risks as natural cycles and human development threaten the waters on which cranes and people depend. The cranes have proven effective ambassadors for water. Repeatedly, crane conservation has successfully involved governments and communities in action for safeguarding water, an issue of vital importance to us all. ICF’s long-term expertise with how to maintain or restore natural water cycles has become urgently important as

extraordinarily valuable wetlands increasingly are threatened.

When I leave Baraboo for travel, I think of water everywhere I go. I may drive only as far as Necedah National Wildlife Refuge an hour up the highway, where our released Whooping Cranes nest. Here the refuge manages water through complexes of ditches and dikes, a legacy of the decades when farmers tried unsuccessfully to drain the land. Periodic draw-downs – human-induced “droughts” – multiply the foods available when water returns to these marshes. Cranes and other wildlife benefit from these re-created cycles. Even now, the refuge is reversing the old features of drainage still on the land, plugging ditches or rerouting water to hold it longer on new parts of the landscape.

Every time I drive to Dane County Airport, on the way from Baraboo to Asia or Africa, the highway passes wetlands among the farm fields. This year, they are full of water and life, the mirrors I love; other years, small

ICF’s 2009 Annual Campaign will support ICF efforts here in the United States as well as across Asia and Africa to address urgent needs for water – for the crane marshes and for the human communities living with the cranes.

clumps of cattails or sedges inhabit the lowest spots while otherwise these wetlands grow corn. Wetlands, cranes, and farmers are intimately linked; indeed, most Wisconsin cranes live on privately owned farms, and ICF has joined with the University of Wisconsin and others to work with farming families to manage water on the farmlands to promote crop production while sustaining wildlife.

Across Asia, wherever ICF travels, water is the chief issue. At Zhalong and other marshes of northeast China, ICF has worked these past six years to support studies of natural cycles of water, and to assist wildlife and water agencies in designing water management plans that attempt to reproduce these patterns. Our plans have been adapted into regional and national water plans. While the essential needs of these wetlands for water are now recognized, the timing and locations for water releases still have to be made effective. The work is far different than water storage in reservoirs; the marshlands and freshwater shrimp and cranes require more of a dance with water, sensitive to seasons, with the rise and fall of moisture timed around nesting seasons and the weeks to feed the growing young.

The challenges of water management come in all forms. Unlike northern China, the Yangtze River Basin to the south has abundant water. Poyang Lake, winter home to almost all Siberian Cranes on Earth, rises as much as ten meters from winter lows to summer floods. That extraordinary fluctuation of waters is essential to the immense biological productivity that benefits fisheries and livestock production as well as waterbirds. ICF research over the past decade indicates that a dam proposed to stabilize Poyang’s waters in winter would change these unique wetlands forever and pose great risk to the greatest concentration of wintering cranes and other waterbirds in East Asia.

Back in America, along coastal Texas, the last naturally reproducing flock of Whooping Cranes had a terrible winter (see article on page 1-2). Again, the problem resulted from a combination of drought and water diversions – that led to sharply reduced inflows of fresh water into the estuaries where the cranes feed. As a result, the cranes faced starvation, forcing them to forage in unfamiliar places. Twenty-three birds, 8.5% of the flock died. As in Asia, the vital and complex role of water across landscapes has not been fully recognized – research, public awareness and policy adjustments are all needed.

At our headquarters site in Baraboo, we are highly mindful of water and its uses. As part of our efforts to sensitize visitors, our new *Spirit of Africa* exhibits enable us to interpret the lives of cranes and the communities that surround them in terms of vital and scarce water resources. While plants will take time to mature in the exhibits, animals responded as soon as water flowed into the Wattled Crane marsh, as wetland creatures are adapted to the sudden return of water. Frogs courted in the shallows, as we continued construction all around. Dragonflies patrolled during the dedication ceremonies for *Spirit of Africa*. We walk on pavement made of recycled consumer glass, permeable to water so that we avoid the destructive runoff from asphalt. The land itself is contoured to feed water into the exhibit’s wetlands, and even the roof of the holding building for crowned cranes supplies water for the birds. These are a few examples of the sustainable building choices that were made over traditional and more consumptive construction practices.

Visitors to ICF, like counterparts at crane places on the other continents, see the beauty of water and learn through the cranes how foresight and planning can assure waters to fulfill our dreams – a world that has cranes inhabiting healthy, productive landscapes.

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

This year, ICF’s Annual Campaign *Ambassadors for Water* will support the remarkable effectiveness of cranes at motivating people to manage waters for biodiversity and human livelihoods, finding solutions vital for cranes and for ourselves.

ICF staff and associates are ambassadors as well. The campaign will support ICF staff working here in the United States and across the world to help people understand the competing demands for water, alternatives for more equitable and sustainable water management, and how together we can safeguard our water resources into the future.

The Campaign will support a key addition to our staff. As we announced in the last *ICF Bugle*,



Dr. Rich Beilfuss will return to ICF as Vice President-Programs. He brings more than 20 years of experience as a professional hydrologist and floodplain ecologist, with close working

knowledge of many key crane places including the Zambezi River and other river basins in Africa, the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, and the Sanjiang Plain of China.

At present, Beilfuss is working with the Government of Mozambique, World Wide Fund for Nature, local communities, and other partners to write and implement the management plan for the Marromeu Complex of the Zambezi Delta. An earlier stage of this project, that Beilfuss developed while working at ICF, established that substantial improvements could be made through “environmental flow releases” from large dams aimed at benefiting the people and wildlife of the Zambezi River basin without unreasonably sacrificing hydropower production. The management plan is one of the first attempts to integrate environmental flows with protected area management and sustainable development, by showing how managing waters for the diverse landscapes and wildlife of the Marromeu Complex will sustain ecosystem services vital to the region’s food security and economy. Beilfuss is also studying how changes in the water regime contribute to harmful fires, wildlife poaching, and other threats to protected areas.

In the Amur Basin of Russia and China, drought combined with diversions of water for human use has caused many wetlands to dry out. Under dry spring conditions, fires sweep across the marshes, a major threat to cranes and other nesting birds. Photo by Adam Stein

Over the years, as ICF has worked on vital crane places around the world, we have witnessed these cycles. I continue to feel surprised and moved by how a few inches of water transform a place. The water surfaces move with the wind, reflect the changing sky, and pulse with life – frogs chant, minnows and water beetles churn, and terns wheel overhead or dip and seize water flies emerging into the air. Yet when those few inches have been artificially drained away, dust and soil lie seemingly lifeless and abandoned. Leopold’s crane finds no reflection.

Increasingly, people are realizing that water is a defining resource that

ICF Trains a Growing Community of Wetland Scientists in Southeast Asia

By Jeb Barzen, ICF Director of Field Ecology

ICF began its work in Southeast Asia in 1988 when George Archibald ventured into the Mekong Delta to learn about a re-discovered population of Eastern Sarus Cranes. Scientists from Hanoi had documented the reappearance of Eastern Sarus Cranes in Vietnam by 1986. George then asked me to get involved at what was to become Tram Chim National Park. Together with Rich Beilfuss, I arrived in the Mekong Delta, young and naïve, in 1989.

Our first task at Tram Chim was to support the establishment of a conservation area. It was important to halt the rapid conversion of remnant wetland to rice paddy and to restore the remnant wetlands to better health for the cranes and other wetland inhabitants. Rich and I embarked on those goals readily. What soon became apparent, however, was that two other goals existed as well.

Communication among the many participants was difficult. Not because Vietnamese was a difficult language for us foreigners to learn (it was!), but because there was not a common culture that we shared to express the ecological concepts for which we were all working. Improving the capacity of all involved was necessary. Equally important, it was quickly apparent that the waters that flooded Tram Chim each year came from the entire Mekong Basin and not just the Mekong Delta alone. The hydrology of Tram Chim could never be restored if the ebb and flow of the Mekong River was substantially altered.

That was more than 20 years ago.

By 1991 Rich and I had accepted a M.S. student, Nguyen Huu Thien. Thien's project focused on integrating the livelihoods of people living around Tram Chim with the conservation objectives of the reserve itself. By 1993 I also began working with Tran Triet and Bjorn Larsen. Triet completed a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin that focused on identifying variables that influence the distribution and abundance of wetland plant species in the Mekong Delta. Bjorn worked on understanding the grassland bird community at Tram Chim for his M.S.

As gifted as these students were, our combined efforts would not be enough to address the growing conservation needs. In



Organizers and participants of the 2009 Asian Summit held in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Front row, left to right: Leav Phalen (ICF Cambodia Office), Reth Rattana (Apsara Foundation), Robert Lambe (Vice Chair, Great Lakes Fishery Commission), Dr. Susan Haseltine (Associate Director for Biology, USGS), Vietnam Ambassador Michael Michalak, Cambodia Ambassador Carol Rodley, His Excellency, Dr. Mok Mareth (Cambodia Ministry of Environment), His Excellency Im Sethy (Cambodia Ministry of Education) and His Excellency Tao Seng Huor (Tonle Sap Authority). Back row, left to right: Organizers Dr. Greg Smith (USGS), Thay Somony (ICF), Jeb Barzen (ICF) and Dr. Marc Gaden (Great Lakes Fishery Commission). Photo by USGS

1999, Triet began a joint appointment as professor of botany with Vietnam National University and as a leader of ICF's Southeast Asia program. Triet began working with more graduate students. Still, our impact was primarily in Vietnam and not in other countries of the Mekong Basin. To expand beyond these borders Triet and I contacted other universities and, in 2002, we formed the University Network of Southeast Asia. In Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia and Vietnam nine universities wanted to increase their capacity in wetland ecology. We began teaching an integrated wetland ecology course each year.

Now, the University Network of Southeast Asia includes 17 cooperating universities and is still growing. Our wetlands course has 164 graduates, and the network is poised to begin a regional graduate program in wetland ecology that would be taught cooperatively by universities within the network, each university sharing its strengths with other universities.

But what of the Mekong? In 1995 ICF sponsored a meeting to discuss management issues facing the Mekong. That meeting discovered a consensus over several issues. In particular, development of the Mekong was needed to meet the needs of a growing human population but this development must incorporate the ecosystems within the region because of their great productivity. The four

countries of the Lower Mekong Basin (Thailand, Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Vietnam) have since had many successes and also many challenges in fulfilling such a vision.

In June, 14 years later, another meeting convened in Siem Reap, Cambodia. Over 130 people attended, including two American Ambassadors and three Cambodia Ministers, foreign experts, government officials, and many alumni of the University Network of Southeast Asia. In the ensuing presentations and discussions we did not solve the many issues facing the Mekong Basin. We did, however, collectively engage and advance many concepts. Compared to 1995, most participants in Siem Reap were from Southeast Asia. Impacts of dams were modeled and alternatives to these dams were broached. Officials pledged their attention, involvement and support. We compared experiences from the Mississippi River Delta (especially the impacts of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans) with recent history in the Mekong Delta. The goals of capacity building and sustainable development were alive and advancing.

Though the future of the Mekong is still emerging, it encompasses a future that we can yet shape. Involvement of growing numbers of people with expanding expertise and caring greatly increase our chances of achieving sustainable development in the Mekong.

Celebrate ICF's 36th Anniversary on Saturday, September 26, 2009!

ICF's 36th Anniversary festivities will focus on our unique headquarters – including our beautiful new *Spirit of Africa* outdoor crane exhibit and the ICF staff responsible for safeguarding cranes and their ecosystems around the world. We hope you will spend the day and join us in the evening to share friendship, accomplishments and a special program at the Glacier Canyon Lodge, Lake Delton.

Please use the form below to register for the evening banquet only.

- 9:00 – 10:00: **Birding Hike.**
- 9:00 – 5:00: **Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World Art Exhibit.**
- 9:00 – 5:00: **Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use.**
- 10, 1, and 3:00: **Cranes of the World** guided tours.
- 10:00 – 2:00: **Experience renowned wildlife humorist David Stokes.** Using live creatures and animal artifacts, songs, and short stories, David makes learning about the natural world fun!
- 11:00: **Wildflower Hike.**
- 11:00 – 3:00: **Hourly tours of Crane City, ICF's Off Exhibit Breeding Center.** To enjoy this exciting, once-a-year opportunity, proof of valid ICF membership is required. Please bring your membership card!
- 11:30 – 1:30: **Lunch** available for purchase on the grounds.
- 11:30 – 2:30: **Guided tours of ICF's new African crane exhibit – Spirit of Africa**
- TBA: Meet the people behind the conservation stories.** Updates from North America, Africa and Eurasia.

- 1:00 – 2:00: **Book signing by David Sakrison,** author of *Chasing the Ghost Birds*.
- 2:00 – 3:00: **Presentation by author David Sakrison.**
- 3:00: **Prairie Restoration Hike.**
- 5:00: **GATES CLOSE.**

Registration is required for the following activities held at the Glacier Canyon Lodge:

- 5:30: **Hospitality Hour:** Cash bar at Glacier Canyon Conference Center, Sandstone Room
- 6:30: **Dinner**
- Meal choices:** 1) Roast Pork Tenderloin; 2) Roast Chicken Dinner served with sage dressing, potatoes and gravy; 3) African Stew (vegetarian). Please indicate your main entrée choice on the registration form below. Sides: fresh garden salad, chef's choice of seasonal vegetables, chef's choice of starch, freshly baked dinner rolls, iced brownie, coffee, tea and milk.
- 7:30: **Welcome and Business Meeting** Joseph Branch, ICF Board Chair and Jim Hook, ICF CEO.

Program: Good Egg Awards followed by an inspiring presentation by Dr. Rich Beilfuss, entitled, *ICF Takes Lead on Water Issues for the Zambezi and for Cranes and Their Wetlands Around the World*.

For additional details about this event, visit the September Calendar of Events on the ICF website: www.savingcranes.org

ACCOMMODATIONS for Saturday, September 26, 2009:

Glacier Canyon Lodge at the Wilderness Resort: 45 Hillman Road, Lake Delton, WI. Guest rooms: \$115 (plus tax). Upgrade available. Contact Danielle Lahti at 608-254-1073 or dlahiti@WildernessResort.com to book under the ICF Member block. **Rate deadline: September 24, 2009.** www.GlacierCanyonLodge.com For other lodging options, contact the Baraboo Area Chamber of Commerce at 800-227-2266 or www.baraboo.com; or the Wisconsin Dells Visitor and Convention Bureau, 800-223-3557, www.dells.com

Please clip and send with check payable to the International Crane Foundation, Attn: Annual Meeting, P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913

RSVP by 9/15/09

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 I would like to purchase _____ tickets to the Annual Meeting Banquet @ \$30 each for a total of \$ _____ (please enclose check or pay by credit card).
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 _____ Roast Pork Tenderloin _____ Roast Chicken Dinner _____ Vegetarian African Stew

Crane Items Under \$10!



Benefit crane conservation by purchasing these unique crane items without breaking the bank. Choose from lined embroidered Nepalese coin purses in three colors (\$9.99 ea.); sets of three note cards created from children's artwork from the *Three White Cranes, Two Flyways, One World* education project (set of 3 blank cards \$4.99); or etched earrings in two colors (\$9.99 pair). Visit www.craneshop.org or call our Gift Shop for personal attention at 608-356-9462 ext. 121.

Wish List

Electric Golf Carts are needed for our headquarters site. New or used in good condition. Please contact Site Manager Dave Chesky at 608-356-9462 ext. 120 to discuss details.





International Crane Foundation

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*Ribbon cutting ceremony at the
Wattled Crane Amphitheater.*



Staff and board members at the Grand Opening



*South African Blue Crane expert Bradley Gibbons
stationed at the new exhibit to answer questions.*



Tours were jam-packed all day!