



International Crane Foundation

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INTERNATIONAL CRANE FOUNDATION

The ICF Bugle

Inspiring a Global Community

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A VISION FOR CRANES in a Divided Korea

By Hall Healy, Chair of the ICF Board of Directors



The Han River originates from tributaries in the mountains of both North and South Korea, flows through the heart of Seoul, and then into the armed solitude of the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) where it defines the border between the two Koreas. The extraordinary mudflats and meadows of the Han River Estuary are home to the Endangered Black-faced Spoonbill and Vulnerable Swan Goose, and the major wintering population of Black Vultures. It is also one of the most important wintering areas for cranes in East Asia. For nearly four decades, ICF has committed to the conservation of this vital region and its wildlife.

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WHOOPING CRANE AND FRIENDS T-SHIRT

When ICF works to protect the Whooping Crane, a flagship species, many other species – from alligators to vultures – also benefit. They all rely on clean water and a place to call home. On this ICF exclusive t-shirt the world's rarest crane shares the spotlight with other creatures in its habitat. Available in adult sizes S-XXL in prairie dust or chestnut, \$24.99.



PEACE CRANE T-SHIRT

Cranes have long been a universal symbol of peace. This International Crane Foundation exclusive design features a Sandhill Crane foot surrounded by crane feathers to create a uniquely stylized adaptation of this symbol. Available in adult sizes S-XXL in stone blue and youth sizes S-XL in Carolina blue. Short sleeved shirt is \$24.99 for adults and kids.

Shop online at www.craneshop.org or email giftshop@savingcranes.org or call 608-356-9462 ext. 121.



A flock of White-naped Cranes lifts off from the Han River Estuary. In the 1970s, marshes and rice paddies bordered much of the estuary. Today a landscape of skyscrapers borders the water. Photo by Yoon Soonyeong



Wisconsin Movie Premieres:

March 2011

See page 7 for details.



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In 1973, the year of ICF's founding, through a grant from the New York Zoological Society, ICF supported Professor Kim Hon Kyu to look for cranes in and near the DMZ. He reported hundreds of White-naped Cranes in autumn and spring and fewer numbers through the winter on mudflats of the Han River Estuary just south of the DMZ, near Seoul. The following year, ICF's co-founder, George Archibald, lived with South Korean soldiers at their camp on a peninsula that extended into the estuary. Dr. Kim brought an official from the Ministry of Culture to the site. Scientists explained how the world's second highest tides maintain vast mudflats with sedges and grasses that produced tubers and seeds – abundant food for cranes and geese. Within a few weeks, the east side of the estuary was proclaimed a Natural Monument by the Korean Government.

Before leaving South Korea that year, George met John and Judy Day. An enthusiastic naturalist, John was vice president of the Korean branch of the First National Bank of Chicago. The Days established an ad hoc organization, the Korean Council for Crane Preservation (KCCP) and worked with Dr. Kim and others on continued surveys. Through KCCP, the west side of the estuary was likewise protected and about 20 Red-crowned Cranes were discovered on mudflats south of the Han River's mouth.

George went back to Korea for two more winters during the 1970s, working with Korean colleagues from the Institute for Ornithology at Kyung Hee University. They found three additional crane areas in and near the DMZ - the most important of which was the Cheorwon Basin of the central highlands where more than

Roughly the size of Wisconsin and Illinois, the two Koreas have been divided since 1953 by the Demilitarized Zone extending 155 miles long by 2.5 mile across. This no man's land is predominantly mountainous except for the estuary of the Han River in the west and the Cheorwon Basin in the central highlands. These lowlands provide critical habitat during migration and winter for one third of the world's Red-crowned Cranes and half the White-naped Cranes. Map by Green Space GIS

150 Red-crowned Cranes and perhaps 30 White-naped Cranes spent the winter. Inside the 6-mile-wide Civilian Controlled Zone contiguous to the DMZ's southern border, farming is still allowed but settlements are banned. Huge expanses of frozen rice fields with an abundance of gleanings and little disturbance from humans provided ideal habitat for cranes and geese. The Korean Government attempted to proclaim the rice fields of the Cheorwon Basin a Natural Monument for cranes, but land owners objected. Should reunification occur, they want to be highly compensated for the commercial development potential of their land.

Although there have been many changes in the two Koreas since the end of the Korean War in 1953, the DMZ has remained intact as a no man's land. But change is in the wind.

South Korea has become the world's 15th largest economy, and Seoul is home to 23 million people. Confident that reunification would happen sooner than later, and despite the protests of conservationists, a six-lane highway built along the east side of the Han River Estuary destroyed about half of the mudflats used by White-naped Cranes. The current administration has



Sunset on the Imjin River. Thousands of land mines and imposing chain link fences topped by razor wires line this estuary with the world's second highest tides. As the DMZ meets the Yellow Sea, an accidental sanctuary of brackish water and vast mudflats and sedge beds creates habitat from autumn until spring for cranes, waterfowl, and shorebirds. Photo by Kim Kyungwon



The 8-10 mile wide Civilian Controlled Zone (CCZ) that borders the southern side of the DMZ is predominantly mountainous. However, in the Cheorwon Basin the CCZ includes thousands of acres of fields where rice is grown in summer. Farmers must leave the area in winter from the first of November through the end of February – the main period when cranes visit the Korean peninsula. Often in mixed flocks, White-naped Cranes and Red-crowned Cranes feed on abundant rice gleanings. It's a stroke of good fortune for the special birds that are symbols of good luck throughout Asia. Photo by George Archibald

plans to develop the Han River Estuary into a major seaport and the Cheorwon Basin into "Reunification City."

There have been widespread changes in North Korea as well. Depletion of nutrients in the soil, coupled with floods and drought, have led to widespread food shortages for humans and migratory birds. Concurrently, the numbers of Red-crowned Cranes wintering in and near the DMZ suddenly increased from several hundred to about 1,000 (more than a third of the global population), as cranes apparently moved south from former wintering areas in the North. And the number of White-naped Cranes also increased to more than 1,000 wintering on the Cheorwon Basin.

One of the most important areas historically for Red-crowned Cranes in North Korea was the Anbyon Plain, 90 miles northeast of the Cheorwon Plain. Since 2008 ICF and colleagues from Japan and South Korea have been supporting ornithologists in North Korea to implement a recovery program for cranes on the Anbyon Plain while also helping the farmers with much-needed equipment and training in organic farming practices. This work is a

cooperative effort of North Korea's State Academy of Sciences and the farmers of the Pisan Cooperative Farm. A pair of captive Red-crowned Cranes was provided by China to act as decoys for the migrating wild cranes. In November 2009, for the first time in a decade, 41 wild cranes landed and remained for several days. The Anbyon Project is one of a very few international cooperative programs for wildlife conservation in North Korea.

North Korean colleagues hope that the Anbyon Project will be a model for other areas in the country. Its success could help expand collaboration between the two Koreas to conserve additional critical areas for cranes in and near the DMZ. It also could help provide a basis for more peaceful relations between the two countries. The Red-crowned Crane symbolizes good luck and happiness throughout the Korean peninsula. Through the charisma of cranes, we dream of the day when the two Koreas work together to transform these former battlefields into a Peace Park inspiring future generations to cherish nature in the Land of the Morning Calm.

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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 Sauvey, 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:

Student or Senior Citizen.....	\$25
Individual.....	\$35
Family.....	\$50
Associate.....	\$100
Sustaining.....	\$250
Sponsor.....	\$500
Patron.....	\$1,000
Benefactor.....	\$2,000
Cranemaker.....	\$10,000

Notes from the President

By Rich Beilfuss



One measure of a great organization is the capacity to attract and retain great staff. With the arrival of the New Year, I am delighted to welcome back Dr. Julie Langenberg, DVM, as our new Vice President of Conservation Science. Julie previously served as ICF's first staff veterinarian from 1987-1999, and then for the past decade as the highly-respected Director of Wildlife Health for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Through many years of collaboration with federal and state government agencies, zoos, universities, and other organizations; Julie has proven experience in helping teams use the best available science to tackle a wide range of species and ecosystem conservation challenges.

I am also very pleased to welcome back Bryant Tarr as our new Curator of Birds. Bryant previously served in several roles for ICF, including Assistant Curator and Education Program Coordinator. He has also gained valuable experience as Curator of Birds for the Oregon Coast Aquarium and Aviculturist for the National Avian Research Center in the United Arab Emirates. We look forward to Bryant's creative problem solving and sense of humor in managing our captive flock for reintroductions, genetic diversity, and public display. Our third new staff member, Cully Shelton, brings experience and passion to his role as Interpretive Programs Manager. Cully will help ensure that your next visit to ICF provides an unforgettable experience. Julie, Bryant, and Cully join an impressive ICF team that spans four continents.

In this issue we continue our survey of seven world-renowned river basins where ICF staff members are committing their experience and expertise to solving some of the most

daunting challenges facing society today – conserving biodiversity in regions of rapid economic growth or abject poverty, ensuring that adequate freshwater reaches downstream people and wildlife, and adapting to the harsh realities of climate change.

One project that has long captured my imagination is ICF's effort to help safeguard the narrow swath of land along the course of the Han River – land so vital for cranes and many other threatened species and inadvertently protected as the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea. Our "Big Hairy Audacious Goal" (as business guru Jim Collins would call it) is to help establish an International Peace Park for biodiversity conservation, remembrance, and reflection in honor of all those affected by this long-standing conflict. This vision, shared by many of our Korean colleagues, has perhaps never felt so distant with tensions high between North and South, but planning still continues for the rapid development of DMZ lands if reunification occurs.



Hall Healy, Chairman of ICF's Board of Directors, has been involved in the conservation of critical crane habitats on the Korean peninsula during the past decade. Here, Hall stands atop Ice Cream Mountain, a cone shaped hill, in the Cheorwon Basin where some of the largest battles of the Korean War were waged. The dark strip in the distance is the DMZ. Gleanings in the rice fields in the foreground of the buffer zone provide an abundance of food for cranes and geese throughout the winter.

Yet as in other key river basins from the Amur-Heilong to the Zambezi, we are committed for the long-term: sharing our vision among policy makers and other key stakeholders, making the careful scientific case for protecting these lands and their precious biodiversity, and undertaking key collaborative actions with local counterparts to keep this process moving forward. Can cranes, the international symbol of peace, lead us to an alternative future

for this globally important landscape? Success is only possible through vision, science, and strategic action involving our dedicated staff and diverse partners.

A Tribute to the Remarkable and Much-loved Ellie Schiller

Ellie Schiller (1944-2009) loved wildlife and enjoyed sunshine but avoided the limelight. She spent summers in wilderness areas in Canada during her youth, and



Ellie (right) with Drolma Canjue in Tibet looking for Black-necked Cranes.

developed a deep interest in nature that led her to become a fishery biologist in the state of Washington. Ellie's father, Phil Felburn, shared her passion and together they established the Felburn Foundation dedicated simply to preserving nature.

Ellie served as a member of the ICF Board of Directors from 2002 to 2009. Through personal contributions of time and resources, and significant help from the Felburn Foundation where Ellie was Executive Director, she promoted conservation

projects for cranes in Washington, Florida, and around the world.

Ellie travelled with George Archibald to arctic Canada, Japan, Bhutan and China to witness her beloved cranes in the wild. Having lived with Tibetans for half a year in India, she had a special interest in Buddhism and the welfare of the endangered Black-necked Cranes of the Tibetan Plateau. She and the Felburn Foundation were also major partners in the reintroduction of the endangered Whooping Crane to the eastern United States. Snow leopards and manatees also benefitted from Ellie's passion. After a decade of work, Ellie achieved one of her greatest conservation successes posthumously through the Felburn Foundation – the preservation of the Three Sisters Springs in Crystal River, Florida, a sanctuary for manatees.

Ellie chose to leave a special gift to the International Crane Foundation knowing that through our endowment, her gift would help cranes each year in perpetuity. The world is a better place because of Ellie, and her goodwill and generous heart will continue to touch people and benefit nature now and for generations to come.

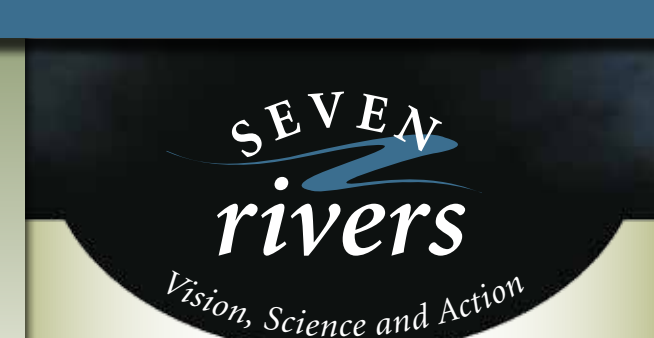


Lufthansa

Lufthansa: ICF's Official Airline

For over a decade, the flying-crane logo of Lufthansa Airlines has appeared in *The ICF Bugle* in recognition of Lufthansa's generous support – flying scientists, rare cranes, eggs and equipment to important destinations around the world. In 2010, Lufthansa provided crucial assistance for a meeting in Russia involving crane specialists from five continents to examine issues of agriculture and climate change in relation to the well-being of cranes and wetlands. Lufthansa also provided transportation to the Seventh Meeting of Signatories for the Memorandum of Understanding concerning Conservation Measures for the Siberian Crane, organized by ICF under the auspices of the Convention for Migratory Species. Landmark agreements from these efforts protect a network of wetlands critical for migratory birds and human communities across 11 nations.

We are delighted and deeply grateful that Lufthansa has extended its generous commitment to keeping ICF in flight over the next two years and thereby making significant impacts for cranes and conservation worldwide.



We are deeply thankful for the tremendous outpouring of support received over the year-end for our

Seven Rivers campaign, celebrating the

people, cranes and biodiversity of seven of the world's great rivers and their basins. The campaign helps ICF protect endangered Whooping Cranes dependent upon gulf marshes fed by the Guadalupe River in Texas; restore flood patterns of the Zambezi River of Africa to benefit farmers, fisheries and Wattled Cranes downstream; improve livelihoods for some of the world's poorest citizens along the Mekong River while protecting wetlands essential for Sarus Cranes; and advance conservation efforts across Russia, China, India, and the Koreas where people, cranes and many other species depend on diminishing supplies of fresh water. With your help, we are finding real and sustainable solutions for the benefit of all who share these vital resources.

There is still time for you to be involved and to **double the impact of your gift!** Through commitments from ICF's Board of Directors and an anonymous donor, your gift will be matched 100% until we reach our goal of \$1,000,000. Please use the envelope in the center of this issue, visit www.savingcranes.org/seven-rivers or call 608-356-9462 ext. 103 to make a gift today.





Annual Midwest Crane Count on Saturday April 16, 2011

Become a Citizen Scientist and volunteer your time to this important on-going research project that provides a long-term picture of abundance, distribution, and population trends. Count cranes from 5:30 am - 7:30 am. Contact Kate Fitzwilliams at 608-356-9462 ext. 147 or cranecount@savingcranes.org for more information.

Participate in the 2011 Bird-a-thon!

Sponsor a birder or identify
species to support ICF

ICF is pleased to announce its 23rd annual Bird-a-thon! This time-honored tradition occurs each spring as birders of all ages and abilities take to the backyard or field for a single day of identifying bird species. The Bird-a-thon is a great way to involve others in crane conservation and ICF's important work – all Bird-a-thon sponsors of \$25 or more receive one-year memberships. The 2011 Bird-a-thon will run from **April 1- June 30, 2011**. You may select one day (a full 24-hour period) during this date range to conduct your bird watching. A team may be composed of one or multiple people and take place anywhere in the world. Whether you are interested in establishing your own Bird-a-thon team or sponsoring ICF's "Craniacs" led by our Co-founder George Archibald, we invite you to join in this exciting tradition.

You may wish to conduct your count on **Saturday, May 14** beginning at ICF as we are hosting an early morning bird hike in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day.

ICF would like to thank the team at Eagle Optics for their ongoing support and generous donation of this year's outstanding Bird-a-thon prizes.



Prizes to Individuals or Teams Raising the Most Dollars:

- 1st Prize:** Vortex Skyline ED 20-60x80 Spotting Scope
- 2nd Prize:** Eagle Optics Denali 15-45x60 Spotting Scope
- 3rd Prize:** Eagle Optics Raven 8.5x32 Binoculars
- Runner up prizes (5):** Eagle Optics Insight Monocular

Prize to Individual with the Most Species:

- "Big Day" Birder Prize:** Vortex Fury 8 x 42 Binoculars

Learn more at www.savingcranes.org/birdathon.html. You may request an information packet by contacting David Koehler at 608-356-9462 ext. 140 or by emailing support@savingcranes.org. You may also make a gift or pledge to the Bird-a-thon using the envelope in this issue. Thank you and happy birding!



2011 Calendar of Events The cranes are calling you to get involved!

February 24-27	Annual Celebration of Whooping Cranes in Port Aransas, Texas. On Friday, George Archibald, ICF's Co-Founder will give a presentation and lead two boat tours. On Saturday, a special session on Whooping Cranes in Texas will feature George Archibald; Dr. Rich Beilfuss, ICF President; and Elizabeth Smith, ICF's Texas-based Whooping Crane Biologist. Visit ICF's exhibit booth for an array of merchandise at the festival show. Visit www.whoopingcranefestival.org for details.
March 1-4	 Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for our Time. The first full-length film ever made about legendary environmentalist Aldo Leopold will have its Wisconsin premiere at the historic Al. Ringling Theater in Baraboo on Tuesday, March 1st (Milwaukee March 2, Appleton March 3, and Madison March 4). The work of the International Crane Foundation is featured prominently in the film! Visit www.greenfiremovie.com to learn more about Aldo Leopold's life and legacy, and to see the full premiere schedule.
March 5	Volunteer Orientation Day at ICF from 10 am - 4 pm. Gain a full understanding of ICF's history and mission while learning about volunteer opportunities within each department. Contact Kate Fitzwilliams at 608-356-9462 ext. 147 or volunteer@savingcranes.org for more information.
March 17-20	Rivers and Wildlife Celebration in Kearney, Nebraska with Keynote Speaker ICF President Dr. Rich Beilfuss on Saturday evening. Stop by ICF's booth at the Holiday Inn in Kearney for a book signing with Betsy Didrickson, author of <i>The Quality of Cranes: A Little Book of Crane Lore</i> . Visit www.nebraska.audubon.org/RWC.htm for more information.
March 26 & April 2	Volunteer Naturalist Trainings at ICF from 9 am - 5 pm. Required trainings for volunteers interested in leading tours and school field trips at ICF. Scheduled sessions include interpretative skills, crane ecology, crane conservation, and ICF policies. Contact Cully Shelton at 608-356-9462 ext. 114 or naturalists@savingcranes.org to sign up or for more training information.
April 15	ICF Headquarters Site Opens. Visit www.savingcranes.org for general visitor information and also for updates on special programs and tours.
April 16	Annual Midwest Crane Count from 5:30 am - 7:30 am. Email: cranecount@savingcranes.org for more information.
April 28	Saving the Ghost Birds World Premiere in Sheboygan, WI from 4 pm - 7 pm at the Stefanie H. Weill Center for Performing Arts. For more information contact the ticket office at 920-208-3243 or www.weillcenter.com
May 8	Mothers Day Outing and Special Program at ICF from 1 pm - 4 pm. Contact Cully Shelton at 608-356-9462 ext. 114, naturalists@savingcranes.org or visit www.savingcranes.org for details.
May 14	Early Morning Bird Hike at ICF from 7 am - 9 am. Celebrate International Migratory Bird Day and ICF's 23rd Annual Bird-a-thon with an early morning bird hike at ICF. Contact Cully Shelton at 608-356-9462 ext. 114, naturalists@savingcranes.org or visit www.savingcranes.org for details.
June 25	 An Evening with the Cranes at ICF from 4 pm - 8 pm. Enjoy wines, appetizers and live music from around the world. Meet ICF Co-founder George Archibald, ICF scientists, educators and of course, cranes! Fee required and advanced registration highly recommended. Ticket prices: \$50 in advance, \$60 at the door and includes a commemorative wine glass. Call 608-356-9462 ext. 121 or email visitICF@savingcranes.org to register and purchase tickets.
July 1-4	North American Crane Celebration at ICF. Special Whooping and Sandhill Crane programs throughout the holiday weekend.
Sept. 24	Cranes of the World Festival and Annual Member's Program. A full-day of activities at ICF open to the public, followed by an evening member's program. Advanced registration required for the evening member's program. Watch for details in the August issue of <i>The ICF Bugle</i> .
Oct. 22	Good Neighbor Day. Free admission to the International Crane Foundation and Aldo Leopold Foundation when you bring a canned good or donation for the Baraboo Food Pantry.
Oct. 31	Last Day of the Visitor Season at ICF. Volunteer opportunities are available year-round. Contact Kate Fitzwilliams at 608-356-9462 ext. 147 or email volunteer@savingcranes.org for more information.

Go Digital With ICF!

• Join our email list to receive the *Contact Call*, our monthly e-newsletter, and other updates. Sign up on our website at www.savingcranes.org

• Connect with us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/savingcranes

• Join us on YouTube at www.youtube.com/user/ICFCraneTube



Endangered Whooping Cranes Killed by Gunshot

We are sad to report that three Whooping Cranes were illegally shot in southern Georgia sometime around December 30, 2010. The chicks were hatched and raised by ICF through the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership, and were only recently reintroduced in Wisconsin for the annual migration to their wintering grounds in the southern United States. The senseless shooting of these birds is deeply disheartening. So many individuals have dedicated so much to help bring the Whooping Crane back from the brink of extinction. Despite this horrible act, we remain firmly committed with our partners to the future of these extraordinary birds. For more information, please visit www.savingcranes.org/cranes-shot.html.

