

The ICF *Bugle*  
*Inspiring a Global Community*

Volume 37, Number 3

August 2011

# Spirit of the Marsh

ANOTHER SEVEN RIVERS STORY

By Jim Harris, Senior Vice President

From Poyang Lake and the Yangtze River (featured in the last *ICF Bugle*), the migrating cranes fly north in early springtime. Sun glints off a water landscape, thousands of rice paddies like mirrors, green shoots rising toward light. For millennia the Chinese have depended upon wetlands natural and artificial. These links to water are stronger than ever today. China's future will depend on water, and how it is used to nurture humanity and the landscapes on which humanity depends.

The cranes quickly cross vast stretches of eastern China, densely farmed, to reach the wild marshes of the northeast provinces, most

of them lying within the basin of the Heilong River (the Russians call it Amur River). Both countries have established networks of nature reserves to benefit cranes and other waterbirds, complemented by additional reserves in Mongolia in the western part of the basin. Yet water scarcity is a major threat to wetlands, cranes and people. For a decade, ICF efforts in the Amur/Heilong Basin have focused on water issues, as well as the indirect problems that grow as landscapes dry out, such as marsh fires during nesting season.

Almost the entire mainland population of the endangered Red-crowned Crane nests within the basin, while *Continued on page 2*



This Red-crowned Crane family was featured on a calendar with Mongolian and Chinese text that students distributed door-to-door at Huihe National Nature Reserve in Inner Mongolia. Students suggested ways that people can help safeguard their beloved cranes. *Photo by Wang Kejun*



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*Continued from page 1* the entire world population of the critically endangered Siberian Crane pauses for weeks on both migrations to forage and replenish fat reserves. These highly aquatic species are most at risk, but most of the world's vulnerable White-naped and Hooded Cranes also breed in wetlands of this region, although they forage more readily on uplands.

ICF and a network of colleagues have been monitoring changes for all four species. The three breeding species appear to be doing better in the eastern, wetter part of the basin but declining to the west where rainfall is slight and highly variable. Climate change will likely increase that variability and result in more years with water scarcity. Yet the major challenges result from growing human demand, and an increasingly small margin between that demand and water availability. The dry years now lead to hardship among people, and can be devastating for wildlife. The solution encompasses strategies for water management that conserve water resources and safeguard the highly valuable services that natural wetlands provide: they store floodwaters, regulate water flow, and thus these places retain water in the landscape that continues to support people and wildlife during dry seasons.

ICF, therefore, has worked to integrate water planning for wetlands within globally important national nature reserves of China – Zhalong, Xianghai, Keerqin, and Momoge – with regional and national water management plans. Provincial governments have taken significant steps to assure water supply for Zhalong and Xianghai, benefitting a wide array of birds.

The latest news came this spring, and Jilin Province has committed water over the long term to sustain wetlands critically important to Siberian Cranes. Due to the networks of dams and canals that serve rice agriculture and other human needs, Momoge's wetlands would usually be dry without water releases. Yet these releases have dramatic results.

The ICF group visiting Momoge on May 8 saw close to 3,000 Siberian Cranes! As human pressures grow on the wintering grounds and the migration corridors, these long-term stopover sites become essential for species survival.

In North America, waterbird conservation depends on intensive water management to ensure good foraging conditions. Momoge provides a new model for managing wetlands to benefit waterbirds where natural water cycles have changed due to development of surrounding landscapes. ICF is also working at the next major wetlands south on the flyway, where the cranes depend on reservoirs. To the north, in Russia, demands for water are less intense, but the links between protected wetlands, their catchments, and human needs have received little attention. ICF is working with Muraviovka Park to engage government agencies and local communities in a demonstration project for water



*The Amur/Heilong River is the eighth longest river in the world and forms the border between Russia and China for thousands of kilometers. Its extensive wetlands support six species of cranes, the greatest diversity on earth. Map by Green Space GIS.*

management in the Giltchin River Basin. This summer, we have supported collection of data on water quality and quantity as well as waterbirds.

In the west, with less rain even in good years, cranes, wetlands and people have endured multiple years of drought so that major crane breeding areas have been dry, and White-naped Cranes appear to have moved from the steppes into forest steppe farther north and west. Crane management must have a longer time scale, to understand and respond to shifts in habitat and distribution that may span decades.

Water scarcity tends to push herdsmen and livestock into the shrinking areas of water where cranes attempt to nest. ICF surveys – we count breeding pairs in spring and numbers of chicks at summer's end – have documented very low numbers in Hulunbeier. At Huihe National Nature Reserve, for example, ten pairs of Red-crowned Cranes have fledged only 1-2 chicks in total in each of the past three years. ICF's Su Liying joined reserve staff and teams of students from two universities in visiting herdsmen door to

door to talk about water on the steppe and precautions people can follow to leave nests of their beloved cranes undisturbed.



This spring's work in Amur/Heilong has been supported by AEON Environmental Foundation, Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund, the Fifth Age of Man Foundation, Oklahoma City Zoo, the Renuka and P.R. DasGupta Fund, and ICF's Seven Rivers Campaign.

*Chen Yan was one of 27 students from Northeast Forestry and Hulunbeier Universities to visit schools near Huihe, to engage students in thinking about water, livelihoods, and the future for their cranes. She proudly wears one of the crane hats created for the project. Photo by Huihe Crane Project*

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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.

### Editor: Betsy Didrickson

Bugle comments or questions? Please write Betsy at [Bugle@savingcranes.org](mailto:Bugle@savingcranes.org) or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913

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## Notes from the President

By Rich Beilfuss



Few things better nourish my soul than a summer's stroll among the bugling cranes and blooming prairies at the International Crane Foundation. On a perfect summer evening in late June, I was delighted to share this experience with many of you who joined our second annual *Evening with the Cranes* – our extravaganza at the Baraboo headquarters featuring wine and food paired to the regions around the world where cranes live in the wild. The real highlight of *Evening with the Cranes* is the opportunity for our guests to meet with ICF's Conservation Heroes, who are dedicated to saving cranes and crane landscapes around the world. Here is a sampling of the many stories that we shared that evening.

At the *Spirit of Africa* exhibit, Kerry Morrison, ICF's Africa Program Manager, described our exciting new community-based conservation project in Rwanda, supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, at one of the most important wetlands for vulnerable Grey Crowned Cranes



Photo by Deb Johnson

in East Africa. Kerry also revealed the exhaustive efforts underway to prevent the capture of cranes for the illegal bird trade out of Africa, while Claire Mirande, ICF's Director of Conservation Networking, explained complementary efforts to work with zoos and private dealers on three continents to stem the international demand for cranes from the wild.

In the sanctuary-like amphitheater of the Whooping Crane Exhibit, Dr. Liz Smith, our Whooping Crane Conservation Biologist based in Texas, explained the intricate relationship between endangered Whooping Cranes, their primary food source the blue crab, and freshwater inflows to the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, one of the great coastal estuaries of the Gulf of Mexico. Marianne Wellington, ICF

Chick-Rearing Specialist, revealed how we will use the Direct Autumn Release (DAR) technique, to release a new cohort of migratory Whooping Crane chicks at Horicon National Wildlife Refuge. And Bryant Tarr, ICF's Curator of Birds, recounted how our team of aviculturists secured a chick from Herfy – a Whooping Crane female who hadn't laid eggs in 12 years!

Struggling at times to get a word in edgewise between the siren calls of our Siberian Cranes, ICF-supported doctoral student James Burnham described his recent research at Poyang Lake, China, aimed at documenting the role of natural water level fluctuations in maintaining this most important lake for waterbirds in East Asia. Poyang Lake is home to mesmerizing bird concentrations including the entire wintering population of critically endangered Siberian Cranes.

Among other highlights, Indian conservationist Gopi Sundar shared our vision for a *Sarus-scape* program that will begin in

South Asia next year; ICF site manager Dave Chesky described ICF's approach to designing energy-efficient, small "ecological footprint" exhibits that demonstrate our commitment to the earth; and ICF biologist Anne

Lacy described how our long-term Sandhill Crane research program has yielded important breakthroughs for the management of cranes on agricultural lands.

*Evening with the Cranes* was also a wonderful opportunity for ICF members and visitors to mix with our everyday heroes – the many interns, staff and volunteers who work so hard, usually behind the scenes, to make ICF great.

It was an evening full of laughter and hope, and we all came away with a deeper understanding of how great things happen when people, here in Baraboo and around the world, care about the future of these charismatic birds and the remarkable places on which they depend. Thanks to our generous sponsors for supporting *Evening with the Cranes* and our crane conservation work.



## Seven Rivers Hero: Liz Smith

Liz Smith, ICF's Whooping Crane Conservation Biologist, has lived in Corpus Christi for 45 years. She has a deep appreciation for the intricate connections between wildlife and people on the Texas coast, and a deep love for the Guadalupe River. The Guadalupe – one of the rivers featured in ICF's Seven Rivers campaign – supplies vital freshwater to the coastal marshes of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas, winter home of the last naturally



Liz Smith (above right) assists graduate student Mery Cassidy with thesis research at Aransas NWR.

occurring Whooping Crane population. Each spring, Whooping Cranes migrate over 2,500 miles from Aransas to their breeding grounds in northwestern Canada. To achieve this remarkable migration and arrive in strong condition for producing chicks, Whoopers require large expanses of wetlands on their wintering grounds with plentiful, protein-rich foods, especially blue crabs. The supply of blue crabs in the crane marshes of Aransas, in turn, depends on freshwater inflows from the Guadalupe River.

The future of Whooping Cranes therefore depends on the sustainable management of the Guadalupe River basin and the conservation of wetland habitats along the Gulf Coast. These same waters and wetlands also sustain a wealth of economic activity along the Texas coast, including commercial and sport fisheries, shellfisheries and recreation.

Most of Liz's career has centered on studying and protecting these coastal lands and waters. Before joining ICF earlier this year, she spent 16 years as a research scientist at the Center for Coastal Studies at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi. Today, Liz works with diverse partners in Texas, including coastal municipalities, businesses, and community groups, to protect the fragile gulf ecosystem, its precious wildlife, and the vital coastal economy. Her research is helping improve the management of Whooping Cranes and their habitats, especially during periods of drought or sea-level rise. Her outreach efforts focus on water users throughout the Guadalupe basin and their options for managing waters to meet their needs while sustaining downstream businesses, communities, and healthier coastal ecosystems. Liz will be a featured speaker at ICF's 2011 Annual Meeting – check out the schedule on the next page and reserve your place today!

## Our Living Legacy

When ICF and partners first began breeding, raising and reintroducing Whooping Cranes to establish a second migratory population along the eastern flyway, more than a century had passed without a trace of these birds in the upper Midwest. Today, thanks to your continued support, North America's tallest and rarest bird once again graces our skies and wetlands. This past spring brought great excitement when 19 nests were established by the reintroduced flock, now numbering more than 100 cranes. Four chicks hatched in May, the first of which was the offspring of a female hatched in the wild just a few years earlier – a remarkable milestone for the recovery of the endangered Whooping Crane.

However, a troubling pattern of nest failures persists in the new population – roughly half of the nests were abandoned as swarms of black flies appeared to disturb the cranes during incubation – and we continue field research to identify causes and solutions. Eight eggs collected from the abandoned nests hatched in captivity. These “wild” chicks, along with 8-10 cranes hatched at ICF, will be released this fall at new sites near Wisconsin's Horicon Marsh – wetlands carefully selected to meet the cranes' habitat needs, but do not support the biting flies that prey on Whooping Cranes.

Our Whooping Crane reintroduction has reached many goals – the birds are surviving in the wild, migrating successfully, forming pairs and breeding, and hatching and raising chicks – and we remain optimistic that through continued research and adaptive management, the ultimate goal of achieving a self-sustaining population through wild reproduction is within reach. The significant efforts involved in reintroduction underscore the importance of protecting the world's last naturally occurring Whooping Crane population, which migrates from breeding grounds in Canada to winter habitat in Texas.

With your help, we remain fully committed to these conservation priorities – raising and releasing cranes; monitoring their health, behavior and movements; and working to secure the ecosystems on which they depend. Conservationist John Sawhill wrote that our society is defined not only by what it creates, but by what it refuses to destroy. **Thank you for ensuring Whooping Cranes remain part of our living legacy, now and for generations to come.**



## Become a Whooper Keeper Today!

You can make a special gift of any amount to help in the continued recovery and protection of Whooping Cranes, and to support other programs for this endangered family of birds. Please consider becoming or renewing your *Whooper Keeper* gift by contributing \$1,000 or more. As a token of our thanks, all *Whooper Keeper* donors are offered recognition plaques bearing a customized message, affixed to benches in ICF's celebrated Whooping Crane exhibit on our campus in Wisconsin. Please use the enclosed envelope to craft your inscription and make a gift today.



# Cranes of the World Festival



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2011

*Cranes of the World* festivities will be held at our world headquarters in Baraboo, WI and will conclude with the Annual Member Banquet at Ho-Chunk Hotel and Convention Center in Baraboo.

**9:00 am – 3:00 pm:** MEMBERS ONLY guided tours of Crane City (ICF's Crane Breeding Facility) *or* the Felburn-Leidigh Chick Rearing Facility. Enjoy this once-a-year opportunity available only to current members! **Space is limited. Advance registration is required!** To register call 608-356-9462 ext. 127 or email [naturalist@savingcranes.org](mailto:naturalist@savingcranes.org).

**10:00 am & 1:00 pm:** *Cranes of the World* Guided Tours. Meet the world's 15 species of cranes and discover how ICF is working to safeguard them in the wild.

**10:00 am, 11:00 am, & 1:00 pm:** Experience renowned wildlife humorist David Stokes, described as *Jack Hanna meets Robin Williams*. David, along with his live animals will delight you with songs and stories as you learn about the natural world!

**10:00 am – 3:00 pm:** Special Programs, Nature Hikes, Arts & Crafts, Face Painting, and Tai Chi with Gerri Gurman.

**11:00 am – 1:30 pm:** Bag lunches available for purchase from *Friends of Muraviovka Park*. Proceeds support sustainable land use and crane conservation in Russia.

**3:00 pm:** *Spirit of Africa* Guided Tour. Learn about Africa's four non-migratory species of cranes and ICF initiatives to protect them and the habitats on which they depend.

**4:45 pm:** Thank you for joining us! *See you next year.*

Join us – See what all the buzz is about!

Photo by Tom Lynn



## ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING AND BANQUET

Registration is required for the Annual Member Banquet held at Ho-Chunk Convention Center, just 2.5 miles from ICF Headquarters.

**5:30 pm: Cash Bar Reception** in Lower Dells Ballroom at Ho-Chunk Hotel & Convention Center

**6:30 pm: Welcome Remarks and Dinner**  
**Entrée choices:** 1) Prime Rib of Beef served with au jus and mashed potatoes, 2) Breast of Chicken stuffed with an assortment of mushrooms, covered with a creamy garlic sauce and served on a bed of wild rice, 3) Roasted Vegetables with butternut squash pasta. Dinners include a house salad, seasonal vegetables, dessert and beverage choices. (Please indicate your main entrée choice on the registration form below).

**7:00 pm: Annual Member Meeting, Good Egg Awards, and an ICF Year in Highlights**  
Hall Healy, Chair, Board of Directors; Rich Beilfuss, President and CEO; and George Archibald, Co-Founder and Senior Conservationist

**Program:** *Whoop it up!* ICF is thrilled to have Liz Smith, ICF's Whooping Crane Conservation Biologist in Texas, share stunning photographs and describe her efforts to ensure quality wintering habitat for endangered Whooping Cranes at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, the last great coastal estuary of Texas.

For additional details, please visit the September Calendar of Events on the ICF website.



## ACCOMMODATIONS

Ho-Chunk Casino Hotel and Convention Center, S3214 Highway 12, Baraboo, WI. Guest rooms: \$85 (+ tax). Please book under the “ICF Member” block. Upgrade available. Rate deadline: September 16, 2011. 800-746-2486 or [www.ho-chunk.com](http://www.ho-chunk.com).

## RSVP BY 9/16/11

Please clip and send with check payable to ICF, Attn: Annual Meeting, P.O. Box 351, Baraboo, WI 53913. Questions about the banquet? Call Deb King at 608-356-9462 ext. 103.

Name (1): \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Name as it appears on card: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Entrée selections (please indicate number of each):  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Prime Rib of Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Stuffed Chicken Breast \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Pasta



## Fighting Fire with Fire

By Jeb Barzen, Director of Field Ecology

“Fighting fire with fire is a new idea for Russians,” observed a reporter as flames burned brightly amidst the wetland grasses behind me. The sun had set, and the bright flames made the surrounding dusk appear even darker than it was. The cooling air was heavy with moisture, making our efforts to burn a mile-long and 40-yard-wide strip across the marsh much easier. The moisture in the air made the wetland vegetation burn more slowly and controlled so that we could move quickly but safely to create the firebreak that would help protect buildings from damage in case a wildfire swept across the expansive marsh in Muraviovka Park, an important site for crane conservation in the Amur River basin. The implementation of prescribed burns for decades at ICF, and elsewhere in the world, allowed me to engage confidently in the Amur situation even though this was my first visit to Russia.

Dr. Sergei Smirenski, President of Muraviovka Park, and local government officials had invited me to visit and share new ways to deal with an old problem: wildfires. I was to provide training on how to conduct prescribed burns (planned burns that control where a fire occurs), learn more about the Russian experience with fire, and help develop a plan to control rampant fires threatening the wetland park. Though fires are a natural process in this ecosystem, they have become more extensive and more frequent in recent years due to drier conditions arising from droughts and water diversions. Uncontrolled fires that occur every year are unnatural. They cause cranes to decline and harm other wetland denizens as well.



Jeb Barzen and Mikhael Kompanec burn a fire break in front of Muraviovka Park buildings at dusk. Photos by Sergei Smirenski

During my stay at Muraviovka Park we eventually burned more than 5 miles of fire breaks, conducted two prescribed burning workshops, and refined a burn plan that Sergei had been developing for the park. Our Russian colleagues, who had worked with fire all their lives, recognized new facets to dealing with a traditional nemesis. This year, in contrast to previous years, no wildfires occurred and the 13 nesting pairs of White-naped Cranes were the most ever recorded at the park. Although the firebreaks were not tested by wildfires this year, the extensive press associated with conducting prescribed burns may have helped reduce arson or accidental fires. Though the experience of one year alone does not define success, the seeds of better conservation management of fire have perhaps taken root and spread throughout the floodplain of the Amur River.



Mikhael Kompanec watches for spot fires while fire breaks are being installed. Fires of this magnitude during the evening are safely controlled because there is more moisture in the air, making vegetation less flammable. If similar burning was done during the afternoon, when the vegetation was drier, uncontrollable fire would be more likely.

## Lolita's Story

By Bryant Tarr, Curator of Birds

In 1993, a young female White-naped Crane came to ICF on a breeding loan from the Baltimore Zoo. She was not yet 3 years old when she was paired with Casey, a then 53-year-old wild-caught male. The very next spring they produced three chicks. Unfortunately, Casey died before the next breeding season; perhaps our Lolita was a bit too much for a crane of his age! Today, only one of their offspring survives at the Lake Superior Zoo. If we are to meet the conservation goal of a genetically sustainable captive flock of this IUCN designated vulnerable species, further chick production from Lolita is important.

Unfortunately Lolita developed instability in her right hock joint (ankle) at the age of ten. Although not always with a mate, Lolita continued to lay LOTS of eggs (156 to date!). But, the up and down motions required for egg-laying and incubation have been very hard on her compromised leg joint. Her condition was sufficiently bad by 2010 so that her unstable hock joint required surgical intervention.

ICF Veterinarian Dr. Barry Hartup consulted with orthopedic surgeons at the University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Susan Schaefer (a former ICF intern) performed a difficult surgery to reinforce the joint; successful surgical correction of joint problems in cranes is still rare. After the surgery, the veterinary and aviculture teams at ICF nursed Lolita through the winter, keeping a supportive wrap on her joint, providing supplemental heat in her enclosure, and continually shoveling snow from her outside pen to ease her locomotion.

From the time the supportive wrap was removed in March, Lolita continued to dance around her pen with no apparent difficulty. Lolita laid her first egg of 2011 on April 19th and, she was able to get up and down to incubate with the aid of her wings. ICF aviculturists worked carefully to handle Lolita through several artificial insemination procedures,



which resulted in several fertile eggs. One of these eggs was transferred to an incubating pair of White-naped Cranes at the

Smithsonian's Conservation Biology Institute in Front Royal, Virginia, where it has hatched and is being reared by its new foster parents!

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of ICF's veterinary staff, the UW Veterinary School, ICF's aviculture staff, and the cooperating zoos, Lolita continues to contribute to the long-term genetic health and sustainability of the captive population of White-naped Cranes.

## Guard Dogs Benefit Livestock and Cranes in South Africa

By Kerryn Morrison, Manager, ICF/EWT Africa Crane Conservation Programme

We often say that anyone can contribute to crane conservation. I found a new dimension to that truth on my recent visits to farms in the Wakkerstroom and Chrissiesmeer grasslands of South Africa. I had come not to see cranes, but to peer into pens of sheep and cattle. Amongst the livestock, I had to look closely for the dark noses and floppy ears of my new “colleagues” – the dogs of the indigenous breed African Maluti, originally from the Lesotho highlands, and the paler Anatolian Sheepdogs from Turkey. These partners in wildlife conservation have musical names: *Valkeri*, *Shepherd*, *Konya*, and *Leeu* - meaning lion.

For farmers with predator problems, these dogs offer hope to save their herds, while still encouraging wildlife on their lands. Leeu's farmer has experienced 50% loss of sheep to jackals, caracals, and servals. Guard dogs are his last option before he gives up sheep farming and maybe his land, which might then be lost as natural grassland and wetland habitat and could also be ploughed up for crops. Approaching the livestock pens, I stepped slowly. These dogs, newly placed on ten farms important for cranes, are still bonding to their livestock and are trained to guard against threats. I did not want to become one of those threats.

For the Livestock Guarding Dog Project, the Endangered Wildlife Trust's African Crane Conservation Programme (EWT-ACCP) has recently teamed up with EWT's Wildlife Conflict Mitigation Programme (EWT-WCMP). With extensive experience in reducing livestock damage and losses due to predation by leopards, cheetahs, African wild dog, brown and spotted hyaena, caracal and jackal - the EWT's-WCMP has

used livestock guarding dogs in the bushveld areas of South Africa for several years. Within the grasslands, which are key habitats for South Africa's three crane species (Blue, Grey Crowned and Wattled Cranes), many farmers were asking EWT for help. The use of hunting hound packs, shooting and poison to control predators was indiscriminately affecting other non-target species including families of cranes. The farmers welcomed the arrival of the livestock guarding dogs.

To place ten dogs in model projects in the Wakkerstroom and Chrissiesmeer grasslands, Ursula Franke and Glenn Ramke from the EWT-ACCP selected farmers who actively conserved cranes on their land or were identified as “Crane Custodians.” EWT assists farmers in getting started and we expect the use of guard dogs will spread to other farms. We hope this pro-active approach to addressing a farmer problem will increase the trust that the EWT has developed with farmers in these areas, improving overall management practices and offering further opportunities for conservation action.

The dogs accompany the herds and flocks with which they have bonded from an early age, protecting the livestock while they graze

in the fields during the day and sleeping in the kraals at night. Farmers who have taken part in this EWT project have reported close to a 96% reduction in livestock losses and have stopped lethal predator control methods. As the livestock are protected, the predators hunt natural prey available on the farmlands. This Livestock Guarding Dog Project has shown it is possible to protect both livestock and predators on farmlands, and thus allow farmers to embrace wildlife conservation!



Photos by Kerryn Morrison and Glenn Ramke

## Remembering Two Dear Friends

By Jim Harris

From the time ICF took root on the glacial landscape five miles north of Baraboo, we enjoyed a neighbor and kindred spirit a short distance away, by the Wisconsin River. For ICF, Nina Leopold Bradley has been a steady presence since we were young, a source of insight and grace in a rapidly-developing world that can be daunting for conservation. When asked about the directions our human community is headed, she expressed the deep concern of an ecologist brought up with and living by the land ethic that was so beautifully articulated by her father, Aldo Leopold. Yet time with Nina lifted one's heart, one's hopes.

We loved to bring interns to her home. The pleasure was mutual. And when she said to one or another, “How can I help you?” she meant it. Just thinking of Nina made problems somehow more manageable. That gentle guidance will continue for so many of us. Many of us at ICF knew Sara Bolz well through the

17 years she served on the ICF Board of Directors. She too was one who lifted the spirit. She reminded us that what we were about mattered greatly, but that many of our activities made for great fun. Sara was matter-of-fact and practical, and knew real conservation depended on everyone. She connected to the staff

at ICF at all levels - bird keepers, site management staff, and volunteers. All found a ready ear, a smile, a joke.

Sitting next to Sara during meetings was a privilege. At the longest moments she had a quick, whispered comment, it was too easy to laugh. Yet when we did laugh – mostly away from the meetings – we knew the quality of humor depends on caring. That made Sara a good friend to the cranes, to the institution, and to each one of us.

We will miss these companions. Yet they remind us how to bring the best out in people, in ourselves. They remain near.

*“There are some who can live without wild things and some who cannot.”*

—Aldo Leopold



Photo by Tom Lynn





# International Crane Foundation

E11376 Shady Lane Rd.  
P.O. Box 447  
Baraboo, WI 53913-0447  
www.savingcranes.org

Address Service Requested

## ANNUAL MEETING

Save the Date - 9/24/11 - More Information on Page 5



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Newsletter is also available in digital format.

# Evening With The Cranes — A Night to Remember!

Join us next year on June 23, 2012  
Mark your calendar now!



Photos courtesy of [www.christinabeam.com](http://www.christinabeam.com)

