

The ICF **Bugle**
Inspiring a Global Community

Volume 38, Number 1

February 2012

RESTORING THE KAFUE FLATS: Communities Benefit From Controlling an Invasive Species

*By Griffin Shanungu, WWF-Zambia and Zambia Wildlife Authority
 and Rich Beilfuss, International Crane Foundation*

The Kafue Flats of Zambia are a rich mosaic of lush grasslands, deep blue lagoons, and palm savannas sustained by seasonal floodwaters of the Kafue River. The flats are home to the Kafue lechwe, a semi-aquatic antelope found nowhere else on earth, and the largest concentration of threatened Wattled Cranes in Africa (more than 3,000) ever recorded. Africa buffalo, zebra, wildebeest, hippo, and more than 400 bird species are found here. The flats also are vital to Zambia's regional economy, providing for cattle ranching, tilapia fisheries, trophy hunting, commercial sugar production, and tourism.

The Kafue Flats enjoy considerable protections. Two national parks – Lochinvar and Blue Lagoon – and the Kafue Flats Game Management Area cover much of the flats, and the site is designated as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention. Despite these safeguards, however, regional water resources development and *Continued on page 2*



Wattled Cranes depend on the open, seasonally flooded plains of the Kafue Flats. *Photo by Griffin Shanungu*



**Annual Midwest
 Crane Count**

APRIL 14, 2012

www.cranecount.org

invasive species are rapidly degrading this magnificent wetland.

The trouble began in the 1970s, when the Kafue Gorge – located immediately downstream of the flats – was dammed to generate electricity for the copper mines of northern Zambia. Because high evaporation losses from the flats reduce the water available for power generation at Kafue Gorge Dam, a second dam was constructed upstream of the flats at Itezhi-tezhi Gorge to regulate downstream flows and prevent the spread of floodwaters from the river to its floodplains. This strategy perhaps made sense from an engineering perspective, but is a disaster for the people and wildlife that depend on the annual pulse of floodwaters.

Long before the dams were built, scientists predicted dire ecological impacts would result, including a dramatic reduction in breeding and feeding grounds for flood-dependent species such as Wattled Cranes and Kafue

lechwe. Pre-dam studies indicated, for example, that whereas 40% of Wattled Crane pairs attempt to breed in years of normal flooding conditions, only 3% of pairs breed in a year of negligible flooding conditions. And as expected, the Wattled Crane population declined – from more than 3,000 individuals prior to river regulation to fewer than 1,000 today. During this same time period, the population of Kafue lechwe plummeted from about 95,000 animals to less than half that total today.

As is often the case when we alter natural processes such as flooding that sustain ecosystems, other unexpected consequences soon threatened the Kafue Flats as well. By the early 1980s, the aggressive shrub *Mimosa pigra* began encroaching upon the floodplain at an alarming rate. *Mimosa* is a tropical/sub-tropical spiny shrub that has invaded large areas of Asia, Australia, and Africa. *Mimosa* forms thick, impenetrable stands that exclude other plants and most animals. In the Kafue Flats, it started with a small infestation of about 2 ha and quickly spread to at least 2,900 ha by 2005 – and is still spreading. *Mimosa* now occupies a significant proportion of the protected floodplain, affecting wildlife, tourism, livestock, and fisheries. The spread of *mimosa* has eliminated some lekking sites for the Kafue lechwe, and displaced them into unprotected areas where they are illegally hunted. Dense *mimosa* stands have replaced open floodplain feeding grounds for many water birds, including the Wattled Crane. Of the 19,579 waterbirds counted at Lochinvar in July 2007, only 314 individuals (1.6%) were observed in areas infested with *mimosa*. Tourist lodging on the edge of the scenic Chunga Lagoon was overrun with *mimosa*. Further spread of *mimosa* threatened the ecological and socio-economic collapse of the entire Kafue Flats.

To combat the invasion, the Environmental Council of Zambia and Zambia Wildlife Authority (ZAWA), with support from a UNEP Global Environment Facility grant, conducted physical and chemical control measures from

2007 to 2009. The pilot project employed 220 field workers, all drawn from local communities, to physically remove the *mimosa* with hand-held tools. The team first targeted small founder populations, aimed at preventing *mimosa* from spreading further into open areas of the floodplain, and then attacked and reduced the well-established infestations. More than 800 ha was cleared of *mimosa* and restored to productive land able to support biodiversity, with a return of native plants, mammals, and breeding waterbirds. The project also generated meaningful benefits for the local communities. Field workers received cash income in an otherwise mostly subsistence economy, enabling them to better support their families and invest in livestock and durable goods.

Our top priority now is to resume and expand this successful community-based restoration model for the Kafue Flats. *Mimosa* is a very resilient plant that requires sustained control efforts – monitoring surveys indicate that most of the areas cleared are being rapidly recolonised by *mimosa* and in a few years could revert to their previous state or worse. In close collaboration with ZAWA and other partners, ICF and WWF will develop and implement a long-term management plan to control *mimosa* and other emerging threats and monitor wildlife recovery on the Kafue Flats.

This action is supported by our regional efforts to restore annual flooding on the Kafue Flats for wildlife and local communities – one of our *Seven Rivers* stories. Based on key studies indicating that the economic value of annual floods for fisheries, tourism, livestock, and wildlife outweigh the benefits of strict hydropower production, we are working in partnership with the Ministry of Water and the Zambia Electrical Supply Company to release well-timed environmental flows from Itezhi-tezhi Dam to the Kafue Flats. Collectively, we hope these efforts will chart a different future for one of the world's most important wetlands.



The invasive shrub *Mimosa pigra* is displacing habitat for the Kafue lechwe, Wattled Cranes, and many other species in the Kafue Flats. Photo by Rich Beilfuss

Experience the Kafue Flats!



ICF President & CEO Rich Beilfuss will lead a trip to the Kafue Flats and other spectacular wetlands of Zambia in 2013. Experience amazing wildlife first-hand and meet conservation heroes like Griffin Shanungu who are working to save them. Email info@savingcranes.org to receive updates and details on this future adventure.

Directors

- Rich Beilfuss, Madison, WI (President & CEO)
- Hall Healy, Glencoe, IL (Chair)
- Leslie Coolidge, Barrington Hills, IL (Vice Chair)
- Robert Dohmen, Mequon, WI (Secretary)
- George Archibald, Baraboo, WI
- Joseph Branch, Mequon, WI
- Jim Brumm, New York, NY
- Jane Dana, North Freedom, WI
- A. Sidney England, Davis, CA
- Charles Gibbons, Jupiter, FL
- Ann Hamilton, Houston, TX
- Mirabel Helme, United Kingdom
- Heather Henson, Orlando, FL
- Robert Hoguet, New York, NY
- Paul King, Vancouver, WA
- Urban Lehner, Omaha, NE
- Lalise Mason, Houston, TX
- Nancy Mathews, Madison, WI
- Janet McKenna, Oconomowoc, WI
- Gerd Muehllehner, Wayne, PA
- Margery Nicolson, Pacific Palisades, CA
- Harry Peterson, Middleton, WI
- Regina Phelps, San Francisco, CA
- Jeanne Prochnow, Milwaukee, WI
- John Shepard, St. Paul, MN
- Bill Smith, Shell Lake, WI
- Richard Steeves, Madison, WI
- Jeffrey Sundberg, Libertyville, IL
- Ginny Wolfe, Madison, WI

Other Officers

- Richard Fox, Winnetka, IL (Treasurer)
- Jim Harris, Baraboo, WI and Harbin, China (Senior Vice President)
- David Koehler, Madison, WI (Vice President-Advancement)
- Julie Langenberg, Madison, WI (Vice President-Conservation Science)
- Marie Ruetten, Sauk City, WI (Vice President-Finance and Administration)



Follow Us
like us, tweet us, watch us!



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:

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

Conservation Leaders



By Rich Beilfuss

Conservation leadership is at the heart of ICF's global mission to save cranes and the diverse ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways on which they and all of us depend. We are dedicated to inspiring and empowering leaders at all levels. We provide training and practical experience for individuals and organizations engaged in community-based conservation, education, and outreach at key crane sites, building on their knowledge of cultural norms and practices. We also facilitate international leadership on key cross-cutting issues that affect cranes, such as sustainable water management. And sometimes conservation leaders find us, and together we tackle challenges beyond the reach of ICF alone. In this issue, we share stories from conservation leaders who are on the front lines of saving cranes and their landscapes on three continents.

In Africa, Griffin Shanungu brims with passion for the natural world and has worked tirelessly to save the Kafue Flats of Zambia, one of the world's most important wetlands. Griffin spearheaded international efforts to control the invasive shrub *mimosa* that is destroying vast areas of this diverse wetland, and spent countless hours in the field documenting numbers and movements of vulnerable Wattled

and Grey Crowned Cranes, Kafue lechwe, and many other species of conservation concern on the flats. Ursula Franke, who participated in our conservation training program here at ICF's headquarters last fall, heads the Highveld Crane Conservation Project in South Africa. Ursula engages local landowners (more than 70) in developing biodiversity stewardship agreements aimed at securing key wetlands and grasslands for cranes and other species in this region. Last year, Ursula received the Conservation Achiever Award from the Endangered Wildlife Trust (ICF's partner in Africa), their highest accolade for a staff member. Ursula writes about her ICF visit on page 5 of this issue.

Dr. Su Liying has been at the forefront of our conservation efforts in China for three decades. Since initially working as a researcher of Red-crowned Cranes at Zhalong Nature Reserve in 1982, now as an adjunct professor at the Northeast Forestry University in Harbin, Liying engages and inspires university students to develop conservation skills and ethics through their shared passion for cranes and wetlands, a vital step for the next generation as China's global influence increases over time. Liying brings these cadres of inspired students to the wetlands to monitor changes and to share their knowledge and enthusiasm with the local people who live near the cranes. Read about their adventures on page 6. *Continued on page 4*



ICF helps train a new generation of conservation leaders in China. Read more about these resourceful students on page 6. Photo by Su Liying



Jim Blackburn at the Aldo Leopold Shack. Photo by George Archibald

Continued from page 3 And here in North America, environmental lawyer and Renaissance man Jim Blackburn and his team at The Aransas Project (TAP) are national conservation heroes for Whooping Cranes and the communities that depend on the coastal estuaries of Texas for their livelihoods. In December, TAP went to court as a last resort to argue that water management

practices in the San Antonio and Guadalupe rivers were violating the federal Endangered Species Act. TAP contended that allowing so much water to be removed from the rivers such that the bay salinity was changed beyond what drought would cause, led to the reduced fresh drinking water and food supply that ultimately caused the death of at least 23 Whooping Cranes during the winter of 2008-2009. Through 10 expert witnesses, including ICF Co-founder Dr. George Archibald, and five citizen witnesses, TAP wove together the complex evidence that links the fate of Whooping Cranes – and all who depend on the bays for their livelihoods – to freshwater inflows. They expounded the new thinking that is needed to address the inequitable and unsustainable use of fresh water in the river basin, and offered clear answers in the form of remedies that create a balance between the economic requirements of the basin and the inflow needs of the bay and its biodiversity. At the conclusion of the two-week trial, Blackburn wrote, “The issues before the Judge are extremely difficult. The stakes are high, especially as we find ourselves today in the midst of another severe drought. But I rest much easier at night knowing that I did my best to try and protect something truly important. There is no price on the Whooping Crane. There is no price on being able to take a young boy or girl to the bay and catch a fish or see a shrimp jump out of the water or catch a crab or see a beautiful pink bird gliding across a coastal flat in the early morning sun. Some things are simply priceless.”

We couldn't agree more, and are indebted to Jim and his team, and to Griffin, Ursula, Liying, and all our conservation heroes who make the world a better place.

New Crane Items in our Gift Shop!



A Busy Week for Salvador the Sandhill Crane

Story and Photography by Margie Carroll

Rich photography tells the story of a family of Sandhill Cranes as they nurture a newly hatched chick, Salvador. Hardcover, 9.6 x 9.1 x .4 inches, color photography \$17.95



The Wave: New ICF Logo Mug

Staff tested and approved. We like everything about our new logo mug - the wavy rim, the beautiful blue color and the comfort of wrapping your hands through the handle to enjoy the warmth of the hot liquid inside. The white ICF logo is printed on both sides. Ceramic, 14 oz. \$9.99

Shop online at www.craneshop.org, email giftshop@savingcranes.org or call 608-356-9462 ext. 116.

Learning By Doing: Visiting the International Crane Foundation

By Ursula Franke, Senior Field Officer,
Endangered Wildlife Trust, South Africa

As senior Field Officer coordinating the Highveld Crane Conservation Project in South Africa, under the banner of the International Crane Foundation (ICF)/Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) Partnership, I mainly focus on habitat conservation of our high altitude grass and wetlands. Limited time is available to actively observe and monitor cranes – the part of our activities which many of us find most enjoyable. I was very fortunate to visit ICF in Baraboo, Wisconsin during the autumn of 2011. The main goal of my training visit was to spend time with the ICF's Field Ecology Department (FED) and gain knowledge of the various capturing methods used on Sandhill Cranes. They capture and fit the birds with tracking devices, and color rings – or bands in American English – for individual identification.

I observed two capture techniques. The first, drug capture, involved getting up very early each morning to drive the 45 minutes to the study area where small heaps of corn were placed at twelve different baiting sites – all before dawn! The targeted crane pairs or families are thus habituated to receiving food at the particular site, which also aids in observing their behavior to judge whether they are candidates for drug capture. If they are, the drug is placed out with the corn and the long wait begins. First, for the sun to rise, and then for the birds to arrive. Hopefully, they digest enough of the drug to make them sleepy for capture. It is a long and tense wait but fortunately happens in the warmth of a vehicle (it was quite cool outside). We managed to capture six cranes during my visit – a relatively high success rate – which gave me the hands-on experience that is so vital for my work back in South Africa.

The second capture technique is snaring. Specially designed snares are placed around a particular baiting site with the aim of capturing a

crane as it walks into or out of the site. We did not have any success with this during my visit, but observing how deftly the cranes avoided the snares gave me a renewed appreciation of their observational skills and intelligence! Disappointment is a very real emotion when one sees a pair of cranes carefully step over the snares to have their breakfast of corn and effortlessly jump over the circle of snares on their way out – after so many early hours and careful placement of the snares with freezing fingers.

I received valuable hands-on experience in tracking Whooping Cranes fitted with VHF transmitters while visiting Necedah National Wildlife Refuge. It is a wonderful feeling when the beep-beep-beep indicates the nearby presence of a specific bird that is out of view. I



Ursula banding a Blue Crane in South Africa.



Sandhill Crane roost count at the Wisconsin River.

wish all the Highveld cranes were fitted with transmitters as it would make locating them so much easier in our landscape of rolling hills. Seeing my first pair of Whooping Cranes in the wild was a wonderful experience! And adding to that the knowledge of each individual's history due to their unique bands and VHF signal and the in-depth observations conducted by the FED staff.

Over two weekends I joined the Communications and Education Department (CED) on their tours of the cranes on exhibit. I engaged with visitors, especially at the African crane exhibits where I talked about their habitats and threats. I also spent time with the Crane Conservation Department (CCD) where I assisted with fun tasks such as health checks for captive cranes, and not so fun tasks such as clearing weeds from the crane enclosures in Crane City. I visited the Aldo Leopold Foundation and the “Shack,” assisted with Sandhill Crane roost counts, gave a public presentation on my project in South Africa and more specifically our work in the Chrissiesmeer area (the Lakes District of South Africa), discussed international crane and related community work, learned more

about prairie restoration, and tasted local cuisine (including Culver's and Cow Pies). Apart from the direct learning benefits of sharing time and space with fellow crane conservationists at ICF and spending many hours observing cranes, there were the indirect benefits of broadening my horizons through visiting another continent and making new acquaintances and friends. It was a wonderful opportunity and I would like to especially thank Lufthansa for their sponsorship and everyone at ICF who made it such a memorable experience!



World Wetlands Day celebration and wetland clean up with Klipstapel Primary School in Breyten, South Africa; Ursula in the field; and bird identification training of local community members and farm workers to increase environmental awareness in the Chrissiesmeer area.



Students Make Crane Friends in Inner Mongolia

By Su Liying, ICF Research Associate in China

From our van, I watched two students approach the gate of a herdsman's yard. Suddenly two huge dogs roared out so loudly they scared all of us. Before I could react, Gege (her full name is Alatangerile) jumped from our van and ran toward them. I could hear her saying something to the dogs, and magically they calmed down. Only then could Liang Hongmei (a student from Hulunbeier University) and Li Dan (new graduate from Northeast Forestry University currently working for the non-governmental organization Green Longjiang) enter the yard and talk to the herdsman – while Gege kept company with the dogs. Afterward, I asked Gege what she had said to the dogs. She replied, “Just the sounds we make, to call a dog home in Mongolian.”

As groups of student volunteers went door to door on behalf of the cranes and their habitat protection, it took courage and wits to explain the importance of wetlands to strangers living on the steppes of Hui River National Nature Reserve (NNR) in Inner Mongolia, China.

This campaign resulted from deep concern for the endangered Red-crowned Crane. From research efforts across China, Russia and Korea, we learned that the mainland population of Red-crowned Cranes is declining, especially on the western flyway. The Hui River wetland is the largest breeding ground for Red-crowned Cranes in Hulunbeier of Inner Mongolia (the eastern part of the Daurian Steppe), and the northwest edge of the breeding range for the species. With recent dry years (part of a regional water cycle), many wetlands shrank and disappeared. The breeding cranes in those wetlands also disappeared. The crane breeding population at Hui River dropped from over 100 birds to about 30 birds and only produced 1-2 chicks in recent years. If this trend continued, we would lose this breeding population for Dauria.

I organized students from the Bird Conservation Association of Northeast Forestry University and the Young Green Environmental Protection Volunteers Association of Hulunbeier University in China. We cooperated with Hui River NNR to visit people in person – the only way to reach the scattered herdsman in the Hui River

Basin (later, the group Green Longjiang joined us). The preparation of the young students was challenging because they did not have field experience. The residents living along Hui River are mainly Mongolian, Ewenki and Daurian and speak only Mongolian. The students had grown up all across China, some from Hainan, or from Yunnan, or from Xinjiang, opposite corners of the country. Therefore, our training sessions not only provided knowledge of the cranes, waterbirds, and wetlands, but also of the customs of Mongolians. Compiling information regarding the cranes and wetlands, we needed repeated discussions and editing of educational materials. In the end, we wanted to make them bilingual, in Chinese and Mongolian, to help us communicate with local people. Luckily, we had Gege, who grew up near Hui River with Mongolian as her mother tongue.

When I wrote the grant proposal for this project, I included a budget for five students to go from each university. After we were funded, the students voted and decided that they would take hard (upright) seats for the overnight train and put in some of their own money in order to have more students go. In the end we picked 10 students (out of 30-50) from each university. Surprisingly, during the first day of the campaign at Ewenki schools (an ethnic minority), 17 students showed up from Hulunbeier University. No one wanted to miss the campaign.

Many young people in China care about nature and wildlife and want to help conservation, but they lack experience or opportunities. This project showed them how individual caring can have impact. We hoped that our personal visits would motivate local people to protect nesting cranes from disturbance. To our delight, Hui River's Red-crowned Cranes raised five chicks in 2011. That result gives us hope for this species on the steppe. Just as important, the students bring hope for future conservation in China.

This project was supported by the Asian Waterbird Conservation Fund, AEON Environmental Foundation, Fifth Age of Man Foundation, Oklahoma City Zoo, and the International Crane Foundation.



Students at local Ewenki School No. 1 love the lectures our college students presented. They take our message to homes scattered along Hui River banks to their parents and family members. They help us spread the word. Photo by Buhe, Hui River NNR



Wei Xiaorong, a student from Heilongjiang Agriculture Engineer College, talks to a Mongolian resident at Xinbaolige Town. Photo by Su Liying



Students (from left: Gege, Lian Hongmei, and Wu Xingbin) say goodbye to an Ewenki woman at Beihui, located on the east bank of Hui River. This project gives students the opportunity to work directly with real issues and see the beauty of nature. Photo by Su Liying

What's like a scavenger hunt with binoculars? Or like a walk-a-thon with birds?

ICF's 24th Annual Bird-a-thon!

Establish your own team or sponsor ICF's "Craniacs" team led by ICF Co-founder George Archibald today! Gather some friends, family, and pledges, then head out to the great outdoors for a fun-filled day of birding. Bird-a-thon is a simple way to support the things that matter to you – cranes, nature, and the environment – and it is a perfect way to involve others in ICF's important conservation work. With your help, ICF receives a pledge for each bird species your team spots. All Bird-a-thon sponsors of \$25 or more receive one-year memberships.

A team may be composed of one or multiple people and take place anywhere in the world. Teams must conduct their birding during any continuous 24-hour period between April 1st and June 30, 2012. You may bird for as long or as short as you wish within that 24-hour period.

Anyone can participate! No matter your experience level or your age, there is plenty of fun to be had. The possibilities are endless – you can bird while paddling in a canoe, sitting on a deck, or hiking through the woods.



ICF would like to thank the team at Eagle Optics for their long-time support of our Bird-a-thon. Prizes are available for teams raising the most dollars for conservation work and spotting the most species.

Learn more at www.savingcranes.org/birdathon.html. Please contact Merith Orłowski by calling 608-356-9462 ext. 149 or emailing morłowski@savingcranes.org to register your team and request an information packet. You may sponsor the "Craniacs" team by making a per species gift pledge (typically an average of 150 species identified) or flat rate gift by using the envelope in this issue. Grab your binoculars and get birding!



Photo by K.S. Gopi Sundar



We are deeply thankful for the tremendous support received over the year-end for International Crane Foundation's Seven Rivers campaign, celebrating the people, cranes and biodiversity of seven of the world's great rivers and their basins.

The campaign has enabled ICF to launch a new regional program led by scientist Dr. Gopi Sundar to protect threatened Sarus Cranes across wildlife-rich, densely-populated, and impoverished areas of South Asia. Gopi blends best practices in conservation science with deep knowledge of traditional uses of wetlands to promote survival of Sarus Cranes and many other wetland-dependent species in one of the most densely-populated regions of the world. His program engages farmers, local activists, universities, and the Indian government to guide land use decisions that support the people and incredible biodiversity of the region.

The campaign also makes possible vital efforts to 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, and the Koreas where people, cranes and many other species rely on shared – often diminishing – supplies of fresh water. With your help, we are finding solutions for the benefit of all who share these vital resources.

While we are very close to our goal, there is still time to be involved and to **double the impact of your gift!** Through commitments from ICF's Board of Directors and other generous donors, your gift will be matched 100% until we reach our goal of \$1,000,000. Please use the envelope in the center of this Bugle, visit www.savingcranes.org/seven-rivers, or call 608-356-9462 ext. 103 to make a gift today.





International Crane Foundation

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

Address Service Requested




The International Crane Foundation is a *Travel Green* destination.
www.travelgreenwisconsin.com

 The Bugle is printed on recycled paper with non-VOC soy inks. Newsletter is also available in pdf format.

2012 Calendar of Events

Join us at the International Crane Foundation this season to learn about the world's cranes and to enjoy our beautiful trails and exhibits. Information about how to find us, event details and more can be found on our website at www.savingcranes.org. Don't forget – ICF members and their guests always receive free admission!

Photo by Tom Lynn

March 24 & 26	Volunteer Naturalist Trainings at ICF Headquarters from 9 am - 5 pm. This training is required for volunteers interested in leading tours and school field trips at ICF. Contact Cully Shelton at naturalists@savingcranes.org .
April 14	Annual Midwest Crane Count: 5:30 am - 7:30 am. Visit www.cranecount.org for more information.
April 15	ICF Headquarters Site Opens: visit www.savingcranes.org for general visitor information, updates on special programs and tours.
May 13	Mother's Day: FREE admission for all moms! Arts and crafts, special tours and more.
June 17	Father's Day: FREE admission for all dads! Arts and crafts, special tours and more.
June 23	<i>An Evening with the Cranes</i> at ICF Headquarters: 5:00 pm - 8 pm. Experience great food, drinks and the opportunity to meet ICF Co-founder George Archibald, ICF scientists, educators and of course, cranes! Registration begins March 15 - \$60 per person/\$100 per couple. For more information call Kate Fitzwilliams at 608-356-9462 ext. 147.
Aug. 11	<i>Cranes of the World Festival</i> . A full day of family fun at ICF Headquarters.
Sept. 15	Annual Member Appreciation Day. A full day devoted to our members with great activities and behind-the-scenes tours (registration required). On-line registration begins August 1, 2012. Visit www.savingcranes.org for details.
Oct. 27	Good Neighbor Day. Bring a non-perishable food item or donation to the Baraboo Food Pantry for free admission to ICF.
Oct. 31	ICF Headquarters site closes for the season.