

The ICF **Bugle**
Inspiring a Global Community

Volume 39, Number 1

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These Sandhill Cranes cooling their heels in snowy Wisconsin are rethinking their choice to stay late – abundant corn in local cornfields keeps cranes well-fed late into fall and, increasingly often, into winter. Agriculture is changing crane behavior worldwide, and many cranes of most species rely on agricultural landscapes to provide high-energy foods during breeding, staging and wintering. In December 2012, ICF worked with Beijing Forestry University to organize an international workshop, *Crane Protection and Sustainable Agriculture*, convened in Beijing, Yueyang City and East Dongting Lake National Nature Reserve. Over a hundred specialists, wildlife officials and media attended from ten countries. Given the major benefits and threats that agriculture brings to cranes, and the loss of wetlands to agriculture development in many parts of the world, the workshop issued a *Call to Action* that can be viewed on the ICF website (www.savingcranes.org/crane-specialists.html). ICF is working with the Wetlands International – IUCN SSC Crane Specialist Group to develop a manual demonstrating successes and lessons learned so conservationists can effectively engage with farming communities, scientists, and policy makers to integrate crane conservation with agriculture.



Let's celebrate ICF's 40th anniversary in true birder fashion with our 25th annual **Bird-a-thon!** Grab your gear, family, and friends and have fun searching for birds. Choose one 24-hour period between **April 1st and June 30th** to bird and be eligible to win prizes generously donated by Eagle Optics. For information or to download your Bird-a-thon packet, visit www.savingcranes.org/bird-a-thon.html or contact Merith Orłowski at info@savingcranes.org or (608) 356-9462 ext. 149.



STAYING THE COURSE: Two Remarkable Crane Friends

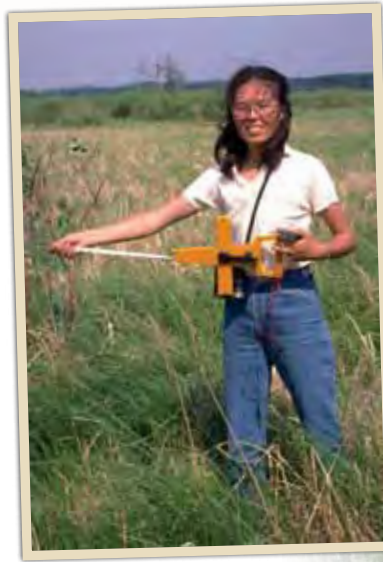
By George Archibald, ICF Co-Founder, with Jim Harris, Senior Vice President

By the beginning of the 1980's, when ICF began work in China, we knew this vast country was critical to the future for several rare cranes. But we knew little more. Those early years were a period of exploration, not only for ICF, but for Chinese scientists emerging from the decade-long Cultural Revolution. This was the setting when I met two young Chinese biologists who would grow into major contributors for crane research and ICF conservation efforts. They worked in locations so remote their wetlands still had high numbers of cranes. Zhalong wetland in northeast China is an important breeding area for Red-crowned Cranes and Cao Hai (Sea of Grass) in western China is one of the most important wetlands for wintering Black-necked Cranes. When I first worked with Su Liying (then age 27) in 1983, she was employed as an ornithologist at the newly-created Zhalong Nature Reserve (ZNR). Liying's formal education had been set back five years by the Cultural Revolution. Toward the end of the 1980's, I met Liying's classmate from the Northeast Forestry University, Li Fengshan. He was 27 when we met on a cold winter day at Cao Hai Nature Reserve. I will never forget those early encounters.

At the headquarters of ZNR in May of 1981, about a dozen captive-reared Red-crowned

Cranes freely roamed during the day, but the staff locked them up in the evening in flimsy-looking pens made of wooden rails. Two enormous male birds occupied adjacent enclosures. One evening when I returned from birding, I checked out the captive cranes and noticed that the two males happened to be in the same pen together. By the ritualized and elaborate threat postures they were exhibiting, I knew that a deadly fight would soon erupt. I called to Liying for help. To my surprise, this slight lady with courage of steel, quickly jumped into the pen with the irate males, nonchalantly grabbed one of the birds as tall as she was, and tossed it over the fence into its rightful enclosure. Liying and I became close friends and in 1987 she helped ICF staff organize an international workshop on cranes in China. That's where she met her future husband, ICF Senior Vice President Jim Harris.

Fengshan attended the same workshop, but I talked with so many new colleagues I could not recall him the following winter when we met on a meadow at Cao Hai. I had brought a group of ICF members to see the then little-known Black-necked Cranes. My group walked to a nearby field where a small group of farmers had gathered, perhaps to watch these strangers from another world. I greeted the farmers with smiles and, "Ni how" (How are you?) and they shyly smiled back and returned the greeting. To my amazement, one of them spoke in English, "I met you at the Crane Workshop in Qiqihar." That was Li Fengshan!



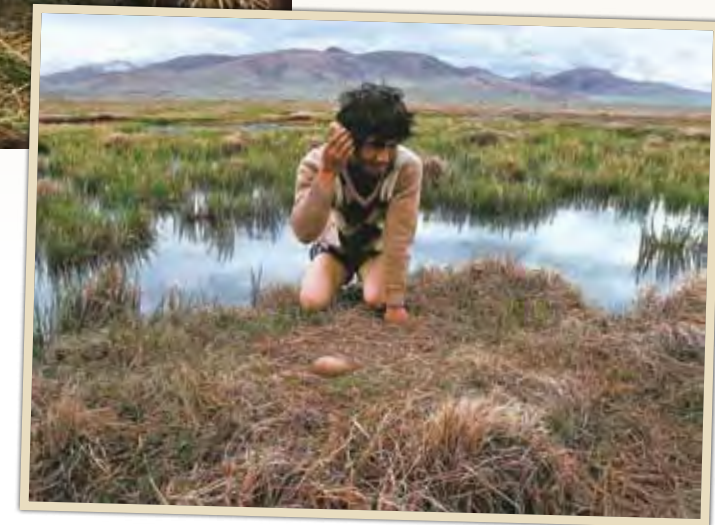
In 1990, Su Liying worked as an ICF intern doing habitat surveys at a Briggsville, WI wetland. She was learning sampling methods that she later used in China on Red-crowned Crane habitat.

Su Liying (right) takes plant samples to measure the species, abundance, and productivity of aquatic plants at Huanzidong wetland in Liaoning, a stopover site for Siberian Cranes and other crane species. Liu Tao (middle) and Cheng Yachang are students from Northeast Forestry University. Photo by Zhou Haixiang



Li Fengshan (left) in Candou Hu at Poyang Lake, China setting up camp in preparation for capturing and tracking Siberian Cranes in order to understand their winter movements. Mr. Tao, a farmer from the local village assists with camp and capture logistics. Photo by Li Fengshan

Here in 1988, Li Fengshan listens to the eggs of a pair of Black-necked Cranes at Longbaotan Nature Reserve in China. Photo by Carl-Albrecht von Treuenfels



In 1989, ICF invited both Liying and Fengshan, to study in Baraboo. That was the year of the Tiananmen Incident. Fengshan arrived before the historic events in Beijing, but Liying started her journey just after the violent crackdown. We lost contact with her and assumed that she was unable to leave China. A few days later, on July 4th, while Jim Harris, Fengshan and colleagues from Vietnam were relishing one of my wife Kyoko's delicious meals at our home, I received a call from Liying. She had reached the airport in Madison! Jim and Fengshan flew from the table.

Subsequently, both Liying and Fengshan received doctorates from the University of Wisconsin, all the while working on research projects associated with cranes. It has been a joy to watch them over the years establish strong careers in conservation. Fengshan proved his ingenuity and discreet skill at developing cooperative programs at nature reserves – first at Cao Hai, but he has also been central to our long-term research at Poyang Lake. His efforts have enabled ICF to contribute to decisions about water management that could transform this unique habitat for cranes and other waterbirds, and safeguard bird concentrations rivaled nowhere else in East Asia. Liying brought the severe threats for cranes and wetlands at Zhalong to national attention in China, and helped Chinese colleagues develop a scheme for restoring water to the wetland.

Today, Jim, Liying and their son Steven live for much of the year in Harbin, China, where Liying has a position at the Northeast Forestry University. Jim heads ICF programs in Northeast Asia. Liying conducts research on cranes for ICF. She is known throughout the country for her energy, vigorous fieldwork and her commitment to involving young Chinese, especially women, in field conservation. This spring, she will conduct her seventh annual transect across Zhalong, leading a small team on a three-day trek through land and water that no one had attempted before. Fengshan and his family live in Madison, Wisconsin, but Fengshan spends half of his time in China where he concentrates on studies of Black-necked Cranes in the west, and the ecology of cranes and

other water birds at Poyang Lake on the Yangtze lowlands. Through decades of effort, the Black-neckeds, once the least known of cranes, have now become one of the best known crane species. Fengshan has quietly facilitated creation of a Black-necked Crane network that brings together researchers and nature reserve managers. Both Liying and Fengshan have a heart for the local people who live near the cranes. Liying does grassroots education with the herdsman and villagers living close to the Red-crowned Cranes, while Fengshan has helped develop innovative poverty alleviation programs benefitting the impoverished farmers near Cao Hai – a project still running after 17 years. As a consequence the cranes are increasing in the target wetlands where these gifted scientists work.

We knew little about China when ICF first arrived. Now, after over 30 years of field research and wetland protection activities, the challenges are fast changing, and the contributions needed from overseas likewise evolve – while our funding can help develop important responses to the growing threats from development, technical solutions are perhaps our most valuable contributions. Fengshan and Liying live between two cultures. That enriched understanding, in some sense also sacrifice, is essential to guiding conservation action in a country with such a great appetite for natural resources, land, and scarce water.

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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 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

Forty Years! The advent of our 40th anniversary is an important time to reflect on our many achievements, to assess the conservation challenges that lay ahead, and to chart a clear course for the future. From the beginning, ICF recognized that conserving all 15 species of cranes requires a broad commitment to the people and places essential to cranes. Over the past four decades we have grown dramatically in global reach and impact, while steadily developing our capacity to address the health of the landscapes that sustain not only cranes, but also people and a wealth of biodiversity. Cranes truly are ambassadors for conservation – serving both as sentinels and flagships for some of the most important places on Earth.

Crane conservation remains a daunting challenge. Cranes are among the most endangered families of birds in the world, with eleven of the fifteen species threatened with extinction. In sub-Saharan Africa, Grey Crowned, Black Crowned, Wattled, and Blue Cranes face many threats fueled by population growth and widespread poverty. In Asia, six species are threatened, including Siberian, Red-crowned, White-naped, Hooded, and Black-necked Cranes in rapidly developing East Asia, and the Sarus Crane throughout its range in South and Southeast Asia. The rarest of all cranes, the Whooping Crane, faces an array of conservation and reintroduction challenges here in North America.

Crane conservation inspires big thinking. When ICF was founded 40 years ago, we were only beginning to understand the magnitude of the ecological crises posed by global population growth, water scarcity, energy demand, climate change, and other 21st century challenges. To save cranes, we must engage in finding sustainable pathways for water, land, and energy development, securing biodiversity on agricultural lands, enabling communities to benefit in meaningful and lasting ways through conservation action, and adapting to new climate realities. We must continue to bring people together to create models that demonstrate real conservation solutions, based on sound science and long-term commitments to the people and places where we work.

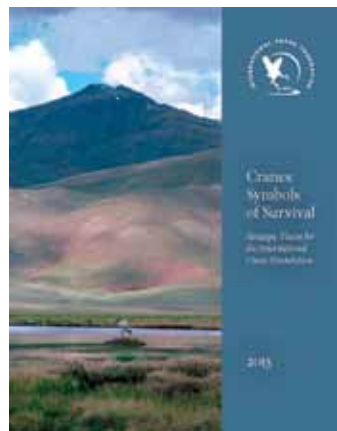
Conservation leadership is key. ICF is a small organization with a big mission. By focusing on threatened cranes (and their universal appeal), we seek to mobilize a global community of dedicated and resourceful people for a direct and lasting impact on the environment. A unique strength of ICF has been the mentoring and inspiration we have provided to budding conservationists around the world. Here



By Rich Beilfuss

in Baraboo and in the most important crane landscapes around the world, we provide the training and resources that local leaders need to engage their communities in positive change.

I am pleased to announce the release this month of *Cranes: Symbols of Survival*. This beautiful and informative report describes the outcomes of our



Cranes: Symbols of Survival is available for download at: www.cranevision.org

We outline our conservation strategies, and provide our vision and key initiatives for priority programs over the next decade.

One of the joys in preparing this report was the opportunity for our partners and supporters to reflect on how ICF has affected their lives. From Kenya, Maurice Wanjala of the Kipsaina Crane and Wetland Conservation Group wrote, "With support from ICF and others, my community group is working to stop wetland destruction. We help local communities farm organically, fish sustainably, produce bee products, and create and sell handicrafts – all wetland friendly practices. Through our efforts, we have reversed the trend of destruction and restored many wetlands to health." And long-time supporter and ICF Director Bob Dohmen added, "Supporting the work of ICF is a natural extension of our family's deep connection to the African continent. Under the flagship of cranes, we are helping improve environmental and living conditions for the benefit of people and wildlife for generations to come."

Our 40th anniversary is dedicated to our many partners who make our work possible. Thank you for your commitment to saving cranes.

FORTY YEARS of Conservation Leadership

This year, we celebrate ICF's 40th anniversary and the many positive impacts we've made for cranes and their ecosystems over the decades. ICF's loyal supporters are a central part of this legacy. You have helped make a difference for thousands of people in dozens of nations, improving lives, protecting natural resources, and creating hope for the future of these iconic birds. At this milestone we also celebrate our potential – our best plans and actions to achieve conservation successes today, and the talented individuals who will lead our work into the future.

Throughout ICF's history, we've worked to nurture conservation leaders. As a result, many of these individuals – whose skills and perspectives grew from experiences with ICF – are now leading important conservation initiatives, and in turn, inspiring and mentoring new generations to protect wildlife, wetlands, and natural resources. These professionals, forming the expanding network of the global crane conservation movement, give us strength today and hope for the next 40 years. Of our many accomplishments and ongoing actions, these investments in leadership development are perhaps our greatest contributions to conservation.

Throughout our anniversary year, we will share stories of these individuals and the important impacts they are making thanks to your support. You know many of these people and their contributions well, and we are fortunate a number of them continue close involvement with ICF today, including Su Liying and Li Fengshan, whose works are described in this issue. These members of the ICF family, and many more, lead today's highest priority crane conservation programs, and work to engage and prepare the next generation of leaders who will tackle new and growing challenges facing wildlife and human populations.

To support the continued efforts of Liying, Fengshan, and many others as we help develop and inspire tomorrow's leaders in conservation, we invite you to make a special gift in support of our Forty Years of Conservation Leadership campaign. With many generous gifts already received, and matching gifts from ICF's Directors and Emeritus Directors, we are well on our way to reach our goal of \$800,000.

Thank you for considering this important request and for making our work and crane conservation possible, today and for generations to come.



Dan Lufkin (left) awards George Archibald with the inaugural Dan W. Lufkin Prize for Environmental Leadership in New York in January. ICF is grateful to Mr. Lufkin, his family, and to the National Audubon Society for offering the award and a \$100,000 cash prize, and to George for immediately donating the money to ICF to help cranes. Photo by Cutty McGill/Audubon.



Kent Chandler, Conservation Hero

By Sandi Whitmore, ICF Director

When Kent Chandler joined the ICF Board of Directors in 1988, many directors were, often unwittingly, committing to a life term. A number of ICF's early directors, including Kent, Mary Wickhem, George Ranney, Fred Ott, and others, served on the board well into their eighties, attending every meeting and actively participating in the decisions that would influence the goals and future of the organization.

Kent met George Archibald through the late ICF director, Jeff Short, and though Kent acknowledges he didn't know much about cranes at the time, he had a lifelong love of birds and the environment and George quickly drew him into the burgeoning organization. Kent helped many important projects over the years, and rarely, if ever, missed a meeting. At a board meeting in January of 2007, Fred Ott announced he was the oldest director, soon to celebrate his 85th birthday. Kent politely corrected him saying he happened to be celebrating his 85th birthday that very evening. It was Kent's birthday, but true to his gentlemanly nature, no one knew, and he was not celebrating but rather attending a board meeting of the organization that had so imprinted itself on his life. Kent remained active on the board until 2010 and continues in an advisory capacity as an Emeritus Director.

Until this year, Kent also served as a trustee for The Buchanan Family Foundation, whose generous support has sustained our crane conservation work for almost a quarter century. In honor of Kent's commitment to ICF, Buchanan Family Foundation recently made a generous pledge of \$100,000 to continue ICF's work in the U.S. and around the world.

Kent turned 93 in January and now spends most of his time at home. Memories of his time on ICF's board are vivid in his reflections. He says that the image of George dancing with Tex "is forever fixed in my mind." The milestone breeding of Gee Whiz, the first Whooping Crane hatched at ICF, along with ICF co-founder Ron Sauey's early work in India and the eventual building of the Sauey Library in memory of Ron, are among the early achievements on which Kent reflects.

The work of the early directors like Kent Chandler laid the foundation for what ICF has become today. This month, ICF honors and celebrates the achievements of Kent Chandler and thanks him for the tremendous impacts he has made for cranes and conservation.

Crane Chick Cam

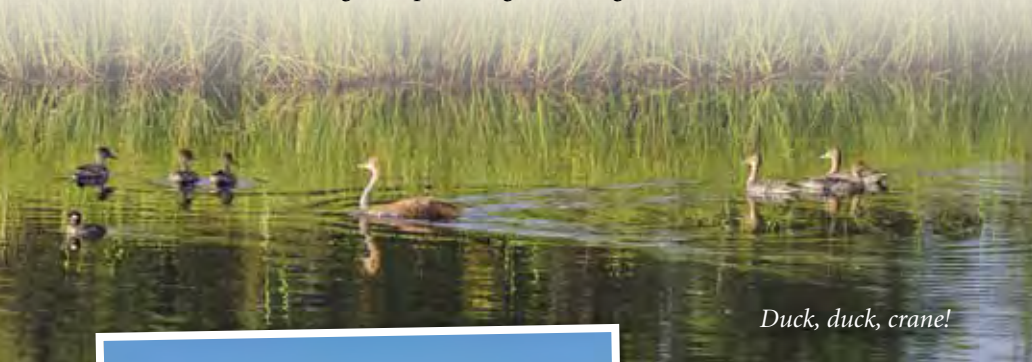
SEASON TWO

The second season of ICF's live Crane Chick Cam will premiere this spring. Go behind-the-scenes into the world of raising Whooping Crane chicks for reintroduction at our site in Baraboo. Tune in to watch as the chicks take their first wobbly steps and grow into independent, young cranes prepared for life in the wild (with the help of our dedicated staff, who are with the chicks every step of the way!) **This year, we plan to share video of our hatching Whooping Crane eggs, along with special live chats with our staff,** who will answer your questions about what it takes to raise an endangered species. Special thanks to the Antonia Foundation for its generous support of this project. To learn more about the Crane Chick Cam and to view video highlights from last season, visit CraneChickCam.org.



Raising Kid Colt DVD

From feather painting and nest building to becoming a family of three – this incredible wildlife footage reveals an intimate look at the daily lives of Sandhill Cranes teaching their chick to survive in Alaska. 36 minutes, DVD format. Proceeds benefit the *West Coast Program for Sandhill Cranes*. **Price: \$20.00.** Shop online at www.craneshop.org, email giftshop@savingcranes.org or call 608-356-9462 ext. 116.



Duck, duck, crane!



George Archibald Appointed as Member of the Order of Canada

His Excellency the Right Honorable David Johnston, Governor General of Canada, recently announced new appointments to the Order of Canada. Dr. George Archibald, born in Nova Scotia, was named one of the 56 new member appointees. The Order of Canada, one of the country's highest civilian honors, was established during Canada's centennial year, to recognize a lifetime of outstanding achievement, dedication to community, and service to the nation. Recipients will be invited to accept their insignia at a ceremony to be held at a later date. **Congratulations, George!**

Visit Bhutan and India with ICF in November 2013

Join George Archibald, ICF President Rich Beilfuss, and ICF South Asia leader Gopi Sundar for an expedition to the land of cranes in Bhutan and India. In Bhutan, we will explore six valleys from western to central Bhutan, and along the way attend the annual Black-necked Crane Festival at Phobjikha where as many as 350 cranes spend the winter. In India, we will visit the western state of Gujarat where Sarus Cranes are abundant and thousands of Eurasian and Demoiselle cranes spend the winter.

We will experience the rich and diverse cultures of India, and visit the Taj Mahal and other wonders. For information about the trip, please email travel@savingcranes.org or call (608)356-9462 ext. 101.



Conservation Leadership: A Recipe for Success

By Cully Shelton, Interpretive Programs Manager

Take 15 species of cranes; 25,000 visitors; 45 volunteers; and 4 intern naturalists; stir gently and what do you get? An experience that cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the world! Each year, as we work with new interns from around the world, our vocabulary grows to include colloquialisms and languages from near and far. Our visitors were treated to many new words and phrases this year from our interns including the meaning of *jambo* (hello) and *kongoro* (crane) in Swahili and the proper pronunciation of *piledated woodpecker*. The interns within the Communications and Education Department at ICF serve 6-10 month internships in which they lead daily interpretive tours of our exhibits, welcome guests to our visitor center, and develop new communication products to expand our programming. But their value goes far beyond the work they do on a daily basis as they help visitors enjoy our site and learn about ICF's mission. They bring new ideas, encourage us to stay relevant, and challenge our staff to grow. Here is a sampling of the vital projects that our recent team of interns developed:



African Crane Conservation Programme: Bridget Amulike, an international intern from Tanzania, learned about script writing, video editing, and international coordination to complete a 5-minute film to raise awareness of the African Crane Conservation Programme and the illegal trade of Grey Crowned Cranes. The Endangered Wildlife Trust of South Africa and ICF have partnered to distribute the film to zoos, wildlife safari parks, and colleagues around the world to inform them of the dire circumstances for this endangered crane species and to enlist assistance in stopping illegal trade.

IUCN Species Assessments: Megan Evansen gathered information, reviewed literature, added bibliographic references, and compared species assessments to assist in updating ICF's *Crane Action Plan*. In 1996, the first such document was completed, and now, ICF is working with Wetlands International and the IUCN Crane Specialist Groups to revise this important document that is a valuable resource for scientists, conservationists, and researchers around the world. Megan's assistance was crucial in the meticulous process of assessing the current status of crane species.



Wildlife Safari Park Research: To help with the African Crane Conservation Programme, intern Kelly Schaeffer compiled a list of wildlife safari parks around the world to determine which hold African cranes, and what challenges they face in managing them. She identified 22 wildlife safari parks and 7 high-priority sites. ICF staff will visit these sites in the future to meet with their staff, distribute educational materials, share information about how trade in cranes is contributing to their decline, and how institutions can contribute to conservation efforts.

Curriculum Development: Julie Watson assisted us with drafting new outreach materials to promote our *Crane Chick Cam* in classrooms throughout North America and to revise existing curriculum. As crane conservation priorities change, we update our curriculum and interpretive programs to include new information, promote essential problem-solving skills, and inspire students to secure a future for cranes.



As we celebrate the accomplishments of the past 40 years and embrace the future work of ICF, we recognize the importance of nurturing the next generation of conservation leaders. These talented young professionals are an indispensable part of achieving our goals. We salute all of the interns who have been a part of ICF's 40 years and those that will work with us in the future to expand our global perspective.

A stroll down... Memory Lane

Editor's Note: ICF celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. Anniversaries are often a time of reflection on past accomplishments, and with so many exciting things on the horizon for ICF – it's always good to stay grounded and remember where you started. With that in mind, I've been rooting around in the archives looking for reminders of ICF's grassroots beginnings. In each issue during this anniversary year, I'll feature some fun finds from the "early days."

The International Crane Foundation began in 1973 as a dream shared by two enthusiastic young graduate students, George Archibald and Ron Sauey, on a horse farm just north of Baraboo, Wisconsin. The dream was to save the world's cranes and their habitats – and that idea has been the driving force behind ICF ever since.



In 1979, ICF purchased the land on Shady Lane Road for our current headquarters. Our humble beginnings

continue to keep us anchored as our campus has grown into a global classroom, featuring live crane exhibits, crane breeding and rearing facilities, an interactive education center, research library, visitor center, guest house, and nature trails set among 110 acres of restored prairie, savanna, wetland and forest.



In 1980, this White-naped Crane "road tripped" from the horse farm on City View Road to the new facility a few miles north.

Even in the early days, George Archibald understood the importance of public relations and branding for ICF. Our logo has evolved since then, but the dedication of ICF staff and members remains as fresh and spirited as those early days.





International Crane Foundation

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 Newsletter is also available in digital format.

2013 Events

at the International Crane
 Foundation Headquarters -
 Save the Dates!



March 16 & April 6	Volunteer Naturalist Trainings at ICF Headquarters from 9am – 5pm. Required training for volunteers. Contact Cully Shelton at naturalists@savingcranes.org
April 13	Annual Midwest Crane Count: 5:30am – 7:30am. For more information, visit www.cranecount.org
April 15	ICF Headquarters site opens for the season. For updates on special programs, public tours, or general information, visit: www.savingcranes.org
June 22	<i>An Evening with the Cranes.</i> Experience great food, drinks, and conversation. Meet George Archibald, ICF Co-Founder, ICF scientists and research associates, and of course, our cranes! Contact Kate Fitzwilliams at 608-356-9462 ext. 147
Aug. 10	<i>Cranes of the World Festival.</i> Enjoy a full day of family fun at ICF.
Oct. 19	<i>Good Neighbor Day</i> at ICF Headquarters. Bring a non-perishable food item or donation for the Baraboo Food Pantry for free admission.
Oct. 31	ICF Headquarters site closes for the season.
Nov. 2	<i>Annual Member Appreciation Day.</i> Join us for exclusive behind-the-scene tours, lectures, and field trips.