

The ICF **Bugle**
Inspiring a Global Community

Volume 39, Number 4

November 2013



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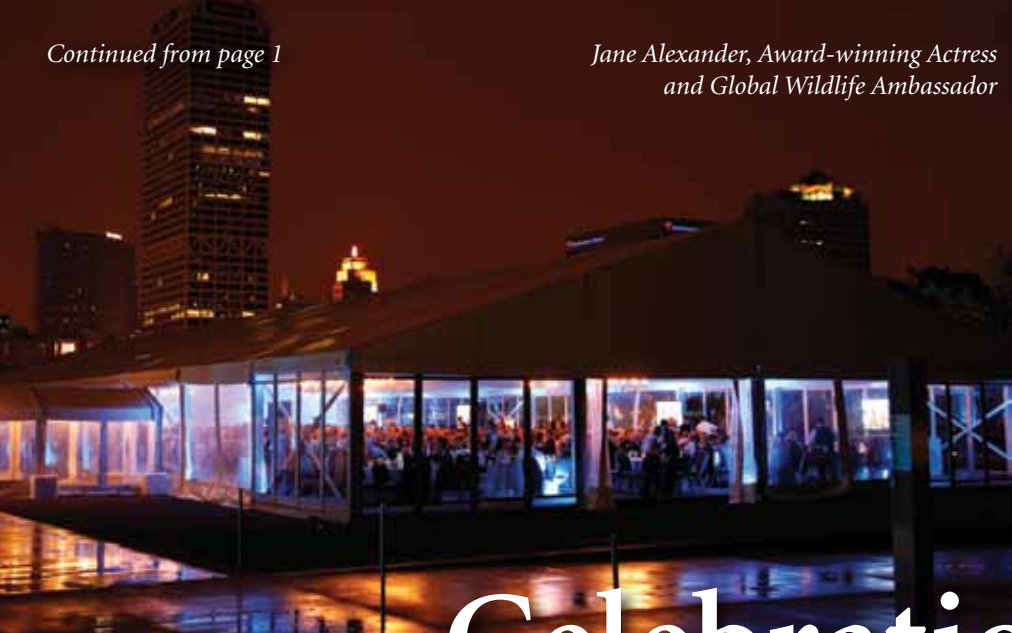
“What a night! *It was thrilling to take part in this commemoration of 40 years of wondrous work, this massive unison call for the noble effort to continue, this outpouring of optimism that the cranes can indeed be saved.*”

— Urban Lehner, ICF Board of Directors

Continued on page 2



Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace (left) and Dr. George Archibald, Co-Founder of the International Crane Foundation (ICF) answer questions about their lives on the road and what keeps them optimistic about the future. Photo by Jeff Phelps



Celebration!



Lake Michigan and the Milwaukee skyline were a stunning backdrop for our magical 40th Anniversary celebration. ICF Board Member and IBEX Puppetry founder,

Heather Henson, kicked off the weekend by bringing her performers to Discovery World in Milwaukee for an enchanting performance of *Celebration of Flight*. Unifying the movements of dance, kites, and puppets with themes of the earth's seasonal movements, *Celebration of Flight* is IBEX's latest environmental spectacle. The audience was mesmerized by giant dragonflies, graceful cranes, and spirits of the air descending to earth. During the last act, local students and other spectators joined the performers to fly their own handmade kites. The kites were made earlier that day during a workshop sponsored by IBEX.

Honored guest and speaker, Dr. Jane Goodall, inspired over 550 attendees with her moving message of hope at the dinner gala that evening. "Every single one of us makes a difference every single day, and we have a choice about what kind of difference we make," said



Goodall. Award-winning actress Jane Alexander emceed the evening and delighted the audience with a heartfelt reading of Aldo Leopold's *Marshland Elegy*. ICF Co-Founder, Dr. George Archibald and ICF President, Dr. Rich Beilfuss, delivered deeply personal presentations on the history of ICF and ICF's strategic vision for a future with cranes. Throughout the evening, large flat-screen monitors displayed the amazing crane images of renowned wildlife photographer and special guest, Tom Mangelsen.

Thanks to many talented artists, and our auction sponsors, Sandi and David Whitmore, Tom Mangelsen, Gerd and Ursula Muehllhner, and Michael Forsberg, the silent auction was a great success, and many guests went home with beautiful crane-inspired pieces. The celebratory weekend ended at the Al Ringling Theater in Baraboo, where George Archibald thanked the community for decades of support and Jane Alexander thrilled the audience with a performance of her favorite bird essays. **ICF is deeply grateful to the gala organizers and all who helped us celebrate 40 years!**



Photos by Jeff Phelps

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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

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Notes from the President

By Rich Beilfuss

Wow, what a time we had! From Heather Henson's thrilling *Celebration of Flight*, to Dr. Jane Goodall's inspiring words for the conservation leaders of tomorrow, our 40th Anniversary Gala stirred the heart. Whether you joined us in Milwaukee, or in spirit, each of you – our sponsors, members, supporters, and partners – made possible the wonderful achievements we honored.

At its heart, our Gala was a celebration of the ICF dream – that we join together over our shared passion for cranes, and together make a real difference for cranes, for the earth, and for ourselves.

Like many of our ICF staff and colleagues worldwide, I have participated for much of my life in this dream, which has taken me to crane lands in 30 countries across five continents. Everywhere I have worked and visited, I have marveled how deeply cranes are embedded in the tapestry of human history and culture. This deep connection is a wellspring of seemingly inexhaustible passion to save cranes and the landscapes we share with them.

I first experienced the ICF dream in the 1980s, when we were searching for conservation solutions for vanishing Eastern Sarus Cranes and wetlands in the rapidly developing Mekong Delta of Vietnam. We asked many villagers about their Sếu Đầu Đỏ (literally "red-headed cranes"), but received little more than shrugs. Then one day, we discovered that local people have a second, preferred name for the Sarus Crane, Hộc, which means, "the holy bird that takes your soul to heaven." When we asked local people about the Hộc, we learned that villagers knew much about these birds, and cared deeply about them. Their reverence for cranes, and commitment to save them with our help, led to the creation of Tram Chim National Park, securing one of the most diverse and productive wetlands in Southeast Asia.

In Uganda – where the Endangered Grey Crowned Crane adorns the national flag, the Coat of Arms, and the National "Crane" Bank – and neighboring Kenya our dream also thrives. Over the years, thousands of enthusiastic school kids have joined together in after-school clubs to save cranes and wetlands, under the inspired leadership of ICF Associates Jimmy Muheebwa and Maurice Wanjala. They rejoiced in their cranes through drumming, dance, and songs, while guarding crane nests from people, tractors, and dogs. They are champions for the small

wetlands that support cranes and provide many important services to their communities.

In some of the most important river basins in the world, our dream is alive among unexpected allies – dam operators, municipal governments, artisanal fishers, prawn companies, riverbank farmers, safari operators, village councils. From the Amur to the Zambezi, the future of cranes depends on healthy watersheds and thriving communities.

Over the next 40 years, we hope our dream

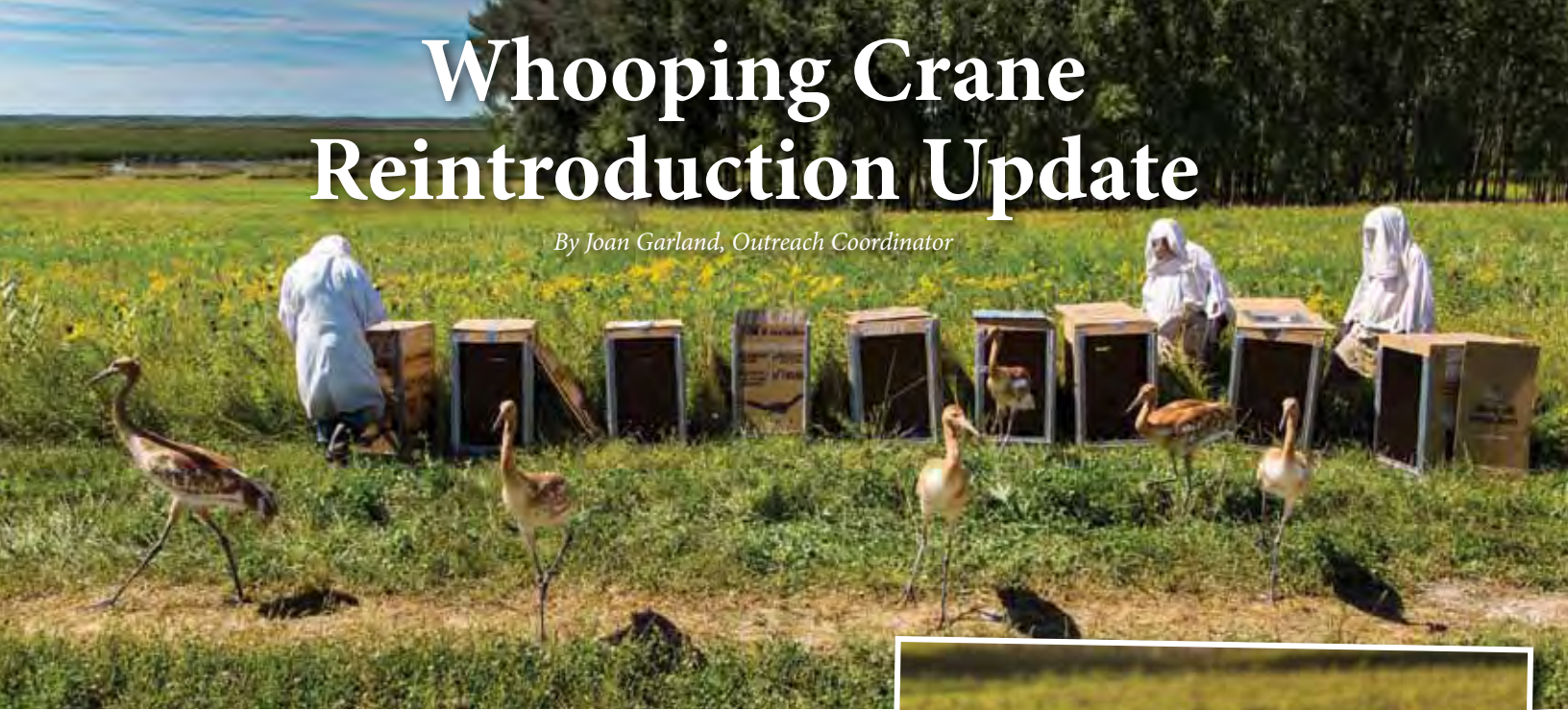
will include important new chapters in the story of people and cranes. A reunified Korea will decide whether the former Demilitarized Zone becomes an international Peace Park and biosphere reserve for its immeasurable wealth of wildlife – including Endangered Red Crowned Cranes – or gives way to a progression of roads, ports, and cities. Chinese officials will commit to saving Poyang Lake, the most important wetland in East Asia for waterbirds and home to the entire wintering population of Critically Endangered Siberian Cranes, or dam and regulate it for commerce. Texas will find sustainable solutions for managing its land and waters, or witness the loss of the last remaining wild flock of Endangered Whooping Cranes and the coastal way of life. With your support, our work together will make a profound difference for the future of Korea, China, Texas, and everywhere we work. Thank you for sharing in our dream.



Dr. Jane Goodall, ICF President Rich Beilfuss, and Katie Beilfuss share stories from their conservation work in Africa.

Whooping Crane Reintroduction Update

By Joan Garland, Outreach Coordinator



Nine Whooping Crane chicks

were raised for this year's Direct Autumn Release (DAR) program. The chicks were raised this summer by biologists at ICF using special rearing protocols, which include a no-talking rule and costumes designed to disguise the human form. The costumed caretakers work with the birds all day, every day, providing exercise and encouraging behavior that will help them survive in the wild.

On September 3, the Whooping Crane chicks, ranging in age from 12-14 weeks old, were transferred to Horicon National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) in east-central Wisconsin. This is the third year the DAR birds have been released at Horicon NWR. The DAR program would not be successful without partner organizations, including continued support from staff and volunteers at Horicon NWR. This year, ICF personnel constructed new crane pens and a staff viewing blind on the refuge.

Costumed ICF biologists continue to interact with the DAR chicks at the refuge, as they slowly decrease the time spent with the birds. The young cranes spend much of their time foraging and exploring their new home. The biologists encourage the birds to fly, roost in water, and also monitor interactions with wild cranes. The chicks were released into the company of older cranes in late October. The young DAR cranes learn the migration route south by following the older

birds. The chicks were banded with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service bands, colored leg bands and VHF transmitters. Three of the birds were also outfitted with GPS satellite transmitters.

The cranes are tracked during their first fall migration and thereafter by ICF staff using radio and satellite telemetry.

The DAR cranes are each assigned a specific number. Prior to release, however, ICF staff refer to the chicks by name. This year, in celebration of ICF's 40th anniversary, the chicks were named after TV sitcom characters from the 1970s. ICF staff and supporters contributed many name suggestions via Facebook and email earlier this year. The DAR Class of 2013 includes: Radar, Hawkeye, and Klinger (*M*A*S*H*), Squiggy (*Laverne and Shirley*), Maude (*Maude*), Fonzy (*Happy Days*), Epstein (*Welcome Back, Kotter*), Latka (*Taxi*), and Mork (*Mork & Mindy*). Mork seems especially appropriate since the TV character arrived on Earth in an egg! We wish Mork and the rest of the DAR Class of 2013 safe travels (not in a *Taxi*) and *Happy Days* ahead, and we look forward to their springtime return when we can say "Welcome Back, Kotter."



Photos by Tom Lynn



40 Years of Conservation Leadership

Empowering the Next Generation of Conservation Leaders

Seasonal interns from left: Kelly Schaeffer (USA), Jigme Tshering (Bhutan), and Ren Qing (China).

The International Crane Foundation's 40th anniversary year has brought us joy in celebrating our past and the many accomplishments toward our mission. ICF has grown from the dream of two students to an organization that has made a difference for thousands of people in dozens of counties by improving lives, protecting natural resources, and creating hope for the future of this iconic family of birds. While we are proud of ICF's successes, the threats to cranes are escalating – human population growth, extreme poverty, and rapid economic development are driving widespread habitat loss and black market poaching in some of the most important areas for cranes.

Our work is far from finished.

Therefore, in this milestone year we also celebrate our potential – our best plans and actions to address new challenges and seize opportunities – and look to the talented people who will carry our mission forward in the decades to come. This fall, ICF launches the second year of its *40 Years of Conservation Leadership* campaign, investing in our global programs while placing a special emphasis on empowering conservation leaders working in the most critical regions for cranes. ICF grew out of youth and hope, and we still invest heavily in developing new and potential leaders. We strive to provide the training and resources that emerging conservationists need to engage their communities in positive change, develop long-term relationships, and in turn help others to develop vision and passion for the mission. And we inspire and mentor scores of young learners through curricula for school children, volunteer opportunities, internships, field training, and graduate and post-graduate programs.

Earlier this year, Ren Qing came to ICF's campus in Baraboo as an intern in the Communications and Education Department for three months. Qing began work with ICF in China in 2009. With a background in graphic design, she broadened her skills to



Ren Qing with finger puppets at the Wisconsin State Fair.

education programming, strategic planning for communications, and delivering training for nature reserve staff at Poyang Lake and elsewhere. Qing is pursuing a master's degree in environmental interpretation with the Environmental and Forest Biology Department at SUNY in Syracuse, New York. She's particularly interested in the management and evaluation of non-formal environmental education programs, like those offered by ICF, and the roles of science and culture in environmental communication.

As part of her master's thesis, Qing surveyed visitors to assess the impact of ICF's guided tours compared to the experience of those visitors who chose a self-guided approach. She also led tours and recorded a Chinese language narration for our new African crane trade film so it can be used by Chinese partners working to reduce trade by managing African cranes more sustainably in Chinese zoos and other facilities.



Anne Lacy, Crane Research Coordinator, began working with ICF in 2000 as an intern with the Field Ecology Department. She accepted a full-time position as a research associate, and later began coordinating our long-term Sandhill Crane research. By studying a population of color-banded Sandhills in Wisconsin, Anne and her fellow ecologists are able to investigate issues important to crane conservation worldwide. For example, ICF's research identified how cranes damage corn seedlings, which led to the development of a safe, affordable substance distasteful to cranes and other foraging birds that is being used today by farmers to treat corn seeds across North America. Anne is now helping our partners in Africa, Europe, and Asia develop conservation-friendly solutions for farmers who share their land with cranes. In addition, Anne works with the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership to study the newly reintroduced Whooping Cranes that migrate between Wisconsin and southeastern states. Anne coordinates teams of young scientists to collect data on the movements, habitat use, and nesting success of the reintroduced birds as we work to save the world's rarest crane species.

We invite you to make a special gift to the International Crane Foundation's *40 Years of Conservation Leadership* campaign to empower our leaders of tomorrow – individuals like Qing and Anne, and so many more – to grow professionally and inspire others to build a better future with cranes.



Thank you for making ICF's work possible. Please use the enclosed envelope to make your gift today.

Under the Big Skies of MONGOLIA

By George Archibald, Co-Founder

Due to Mongolia's remoteness, far away between Russia and China, few people realize it is the size of the USA east of the Mississippi River. As the world's least populated nation per unit area, nature abounds, including habitat that hosts 6 species of cranes. Mongolians revere cranes, believing that if one kills



Photo by Sun Shaohai

a crane, death will soon come to the killer! So the cranes have been thriving for thousands of years. Red-crowned Cranes are occasionally seen in eastern Mongolia. Non-breeding Siberian and Hooded Cranes are regularly spotted, especially when many pass through on migration. Demoiselle Cranes are abundant in the grasslands and deserts throughout

the nation. And the globally abundant Eurasian Cranes share wetlands with the threatened White-naped Cranes, which are only found in temperate areas of northeast Asia.

Northeast Mongolia and the nearby steppes of China and Russia are the breeding stronghold for the White-naped Crane. In autumn, they migrate to the Korean peninsula, southern Japan, and to the Yangtze lowlands of China, all places where they encounter millions of humans and dramatically transformed landscapes. Cranes are revered in these countries as well. However, loss of wetlands, accidental poisoning through exposure to chemicals used to poison waterfowl, and disease risks when cranes are overcrowded at feeding stations, are all threats for the cranes when they leave Mongolia. Learning more about their movements and what lands they are using will help define where research and conservation must be strengthened.

In June of 2012, the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center (WSCC) of Mongolia hosted 15 ICF members on a 10-day camping tour to the land of cranes

under the big skies of the planet's largest and most intact expanse of temperate grasslands. Each day we traveled through the scenic countryside and each night we camped on a hill with a commanding view of wetlands where many Eurasian and White-naped Cranes were either incubating their eggs or tending to newly hatched chicks. We were all captivated by these remarkable landscapes and the kindness of our hosts.

Three months later, at the first Sandhill Crane Festival in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, I shared my stories from Mongolia with Robert Skowkowski, an ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). Robert successfully submitted a proposal to the USFS to support a research project on White-naped Cranes in East Asia. So, with additional support from Sara Simmonds of Louisiana, I joined Robert, USFS wetland scientist Liz Schnackenberg, and Nyamba Batbayar (Director of WSCC) and the WSCC team in Mongolia. This August as the young cranes grew to banding size, we initiated a project to study their migration routes and wintering areas by color banding 41 pre-fledged juveniles and adults who were temporarily flightless as they molted their flight feathers. Six tiny solar-powered radio transmitters, three of which communicate with satellites and three with cell towers, were attached to four adults and two juveniles.

So, how does one catch a fast running crane in wetlands where the grasses are so long and the muck so treacherous that humans sometimes disappear? Two people, each equipped with a telescope and walkie-talkie, stand atop a hill to track the juvenile as the crane-catchers approach. By radio, they direct the catchers as they follow the juvenile crane, which usually runs for a distance, and then hides. Juvenile cranes lack the speed of adults and when alarmed, often hide motionless in the vegetation. Running in the wetland requires strength and agility – I preferred to watch from afar! Flightless adults tend to keep running, so a different technique is required. The researchers borrowed horses from local people, followed through the wetland and at the strategic moment, jumped from the horse and picked up the crane! As soon as a crane is captured, a hood is placed over its head to calm the bird. The crane is gently carried to higher ground for measurements, and band and radio-telemetry attachment. When the cranes are released, within 30 minutes of capture, they quickly

In mid-August, Nyambayar Batbayar, founder and director of the Wildlife Science and Conservation Center of Mongolia, examines the abandoned nest of a pair of White-naped Cranes. The eggs likely hatched in mid-June.



After banding and attachment of a tracking device, this white-naped crane chick is ready for release



retreat to the protection of the wetlands where they spend time carefully preening their feathers back into perfect condition.

After the captures were completed and my American colleagues departed, I stayed for an additional week to start the tracking of the White-naped Cranes carrying the transmitters, and to help Mongolian colleagues film Demoiselle Cranes. Whereas other cranes typically fly to shallow-water roosting areas at dusk and depart at dawn, we were surprised that the Demoiselles arrived at the roost after dark and departed as early as 3:00 a.m. At this time in late summer, Demoiselles appear to feed on insects in grasslands. Perhaps the insects are less active and more easily caught when temperatures drop in the evening and before they warm up in the morning. There are always more mysteries to solve.

Mongolia is modernizing rapidly, this process spurred by recent discoveries of ample deposits of gold, copper, uranium and coal under the grasslands. Pastoralists are leaving the grasslands for the benefits of urban life. From a total population of 2.9 million, more than half now live in the capital, Ulaanbaatar. As urbanization continues, helping Mongolians to stay in touch with their natural heritage and cultural connections to cranes will be important. I hope to help Nyamba and his colleagues start the nation's first Crane Festival in the Khurkh River Valley that hosts the greatest concentration of White-naped Cranes. Consequently, in June 2014, I plan to bring a group of 15 ICFers to Mongolia to experience remarkable landscapes, gorgeous cranes, the wild horses, the world's largest old world vultures, a plethora of other birds, wild herbs and flowers and the beautiful hospitality of the Mongolian people. If you are interested in a camping tour of one of the world's most beautiful places, please email travel@savingcranes.org or phone (608)356-9462 ext 156.



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