

The Bugle

Saving cranes for 45 years!

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What's New, Whooping Crane?

It's that time of year when we are eagerly anticipating a new season of Whooping Crane chicks – in the wild and at our breeding facility. The captive breeding efforts at our headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin are fundamental to our ultimate goal of creating multiple self-sustaining flocks of Whooping Cranes in the wild. With careful science, a lot of patience, and your support, our propagation efforts are boosting the number of wild Whooping Cranes, one chick at a time. Follow our Egg Scorecard at: www.savingcranes.org/whooping-crane-egg-scorecard-2018/



There are now just over 100 reintroduced Whooping Cranes in the Eastern Migratory Population. The older territorial pairs that wintered in warmer climes have already made their way north and are setting up housekeeping for the season. Younger birds that are not yet defending a territory take their time heading back.

Photo by Joel Sartore

News From Our Crane Care Team

The days are finally getting longer here at headquarters. As we emerge from a particularly long winter, we are busily preparing for a season of eggs, chicks, and new faces. Here are some highlights.



Patuxent Pairs Arrive

As we reported in the last issue of *The Bugle*, the U.S. Geological Survey announced the closure of the Whooping Crane program at Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland creating the need to relocate their cranes. Three breeding pairs of Whooping Cranes recently arrived here and joined 38 Whooping Cranes in Crane City. Our aviculturists report that the birds are acclimating well, although it could be a while before they are comfortable enough to produce chicks in their new surroundings. Other facilities receiving birds from Patuxent as breeding partners include White Oak Conservation Center in Florida, Dallas Zoo and San Antonio Zoo in Texas, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute in Virginia, the Freeport-McMoRan Audubon Species Survival Center in Louisiana, and the Calgary Zoo in Canada.



A Senior Moment

Over the years, our expert veterinary team has made advances in crane husbandry and avian veterinary medicine that have contributed to longer lifespans in captive cranes. As our cranes age, we are dealing with increasing geriatric medical conditions, including the most common one, osteoarthritis.

Recent research in the area of low-level light therapy has shown excellent results in treating the chronic pain of osteoarthritis. Lower energy laser or light-emitting diode (LED) sources are applied to the affected tissue and promote changes at the cellular level, stimulating tissue healing and a decrease in pain. In cranes, targeted joints for pain modulation therapy are quite superficial and penetration by low-level light therapy easily reaches the affected areas. Pictured here is Ranjit, a 32-year-old Siberian Crane with advanced arthritis in her left leg, successfully receiving treatment. Our veterinary team was able to purchase this new equipment with the help of Scooter Software, Inc.



Foodies!

Through behavioral enrichment, we provide our cranes the opportunity to express natural behaviors like foraging, exploring, and even playing. We offer a variety of objects and foods to spark these behaviors. Recently, we partnered with our neighbor Ho-Chunk Gaming, who generously donates a variety of fresh fruits, berries, and vegetables each week. The produce is brightly colored and offers novel scents and shapes to the cranes' regular nutritionally balanced pelleted diet. Thank you, Ho-Chunk Gaming!



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The Bugle is the quarterly newsletter 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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The Fight Continues. Help Win It!

Whooping Cranes continue their fight for survival. Although we've made gains, there's still much to do to secure the future of these endangered birds. You can help.

Back from fewer than 20 birds in the 1940s, Whooping Cranes now number more than 750 in the wild and captivity. Their success is due in part to our science-based, strategic, and urgent work. We can't do this urgent work without your help.

2017 was a good year for Whooping Cranes with their numbers growing in the wild flock by over 60. Unfortunately, threats are also on the rise. Whooping Crane wintering habitat is shrinking along the Texas coast. Whooping Cranes expend vital energy searching for water. With your help, we are working with others to make sure water continues to flow to the Texas Gulf.

The list of daily threats continues. Power line collisions, senseless shootings, and the threat of oil and gas spills jeopardize the fragile recovery. We are tackling all of these problems, and like the Whooping Crane, we are making progress, but we can't do it without you. Your support makes a difference for Whooping Cranes. They need your help.

We must keep moving forward to protect this glorious symbol of survival and all they represent!

Join the fight!

Please send a gift today to the **International Crane Foundation** to help Whooping Cranes and the other cranes facing extinction worldwide. Please use the enclosed envelope or donate online by visiting our website at www.savingcranes.org.

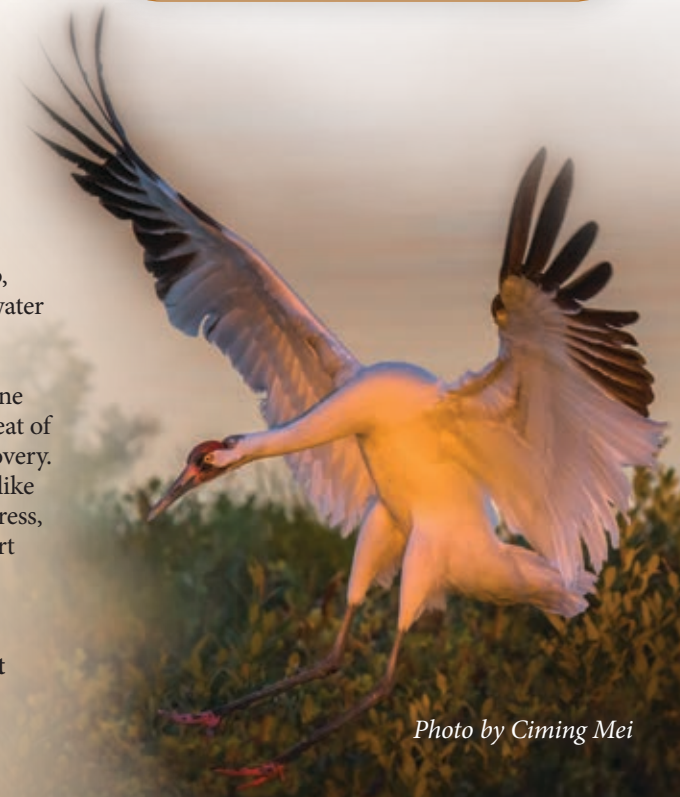


Photo by Ciming Mei

Do you love cranes? Are you at least 70½? Do you have an IRA?

If you answered "Yes" to these questions, you can take advantage of a win-win opportunity to help cranes and also receive a tax benefit. The new tax law retains the ability to make qualified charitable distributions from your IRA that are not subject to federal income tax, if you are 70½ years of age or older. You can choose to direct an amount up to \$100,000 per year to the International Crane Foundation. Doing so lowers your taxable income, thus saving on your overall tax burden. This is a great option for managing the tax effects from Required Minimum Distributions. Please speak with your tax advisor or your IRA plan administrator to determine what is best for your situation. **In order to qualify, distributions must be sent directly to the International Crane Foundation, Federal Tax Identification Number 39-1187711.** For more information, contact Chuck Gibbons at 608-356-9462 ext. 104 or email cgibbons@savingcranes.org. The cranes thank you and so do we!

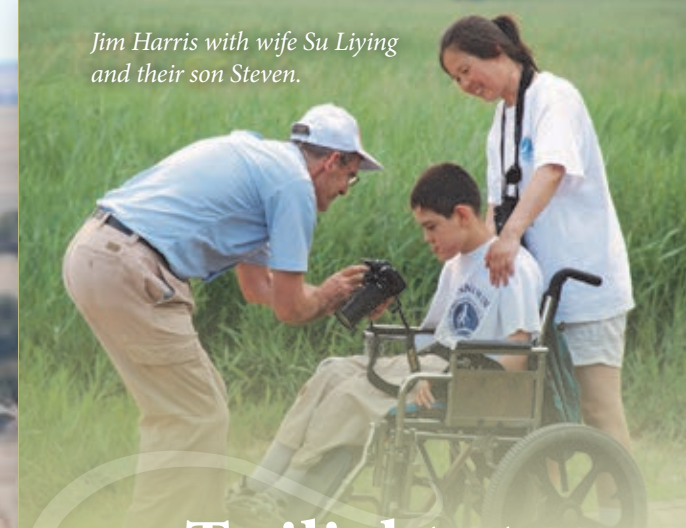


“At every dinner and meeting, Jim’s infectious laugh reverberates across the room and melts cultural differences, everyone is accepted and feels accepted because of his joy.”

— Sammy King, Louisiana Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit, USGS

Photo by Kerryn Morrison

Jim Harris with wife Su Liying and their son Steven.



Twilight at Xianghai

—Steven Harris

You carry me up the hill
 we know that on the other side wait cranes
 from the top tawny grasses flow into
 blue and green deep before our eyes
 float white and plump, heads held high
 wild swans chuckling to the wide air
 geese dark as latest night harshly
 call us close, behind tall white of
 cranes their voices silver and ice
 as old as young each autumn
 as this boy who hoped to walk
 grown up now heavy rooted
 yet unable to stand as if the elms
 needed someone to hold their branches
 to sky, still I leap to hear the twilight
 nothing but gratitude for this hill
 over water my chance to join Xianghai.



Jim Harris is famous in China for his successful work in crane conservation. He helped organize many important projects, and his experience has helped save the cranes of China from extinction. Jim is my old friend. I learned a lot from him. — Zhengwang Zhang

Jim Harris: Decades of Dedication

By George Archibald, Co-Founder

On the occasion of his retirement from the International Crane Foundation, I find myself reflecting on my long friendship with Jim Harris. Jim has been a close friend these many years, and our organization has greatly benefited from his unwavering dedication and leadership. In 1977, Co-Founder Ron Sauey first invited then free-lance journalist Jim Harris to write about Siberian Cranes. Little did we know at the time that Jim would be inextricably involved in the welfare of these magnificent birds in the ensuing decades.

In 1984, Jim began working with us full time as the Director of Public Education, one of several titles he held over the next 30 years. His clear thinking and excellent writing skills landed our first major grants from the government, a pattern repeated for the rest of his career. To date, Jim’s skillful grant writing has secured over \$15 million for crane conservation. In 1987, Jim began working in China when we co-sponsored an International Crane Workshop at Zhalong Nature Reserve. Over 200 “craniacs” from 24 nations met to work on conservation issues. Jim organized the speakers, edited the proceedings, and met his future wife, Dr. Su Liying. By 2000, I had been president for 27 years, and it was time for a change. I stepped down as president but continued working to help the organization grow. Jim took over the reins and was our leader for the next five years before moving to China with his family to head our program in Northeast Asia.

China is a vast country, home to over a billion people and five species of threatened cranes. With the help of our own Dr. Li Fengshan, Jim’s wife Dr. Su Liying, and many Chinese colleagues, Jim

spearheaded two remarkable projects concerning human values and wetland management that demonstrated what could be done in other areas. At Cao Hai Nature Reserve, Black-necked Cranes faced intense pressure from human exploitation of the reserve. Jim wanted to involve impoverished farmers in conservation by implementing a micro-lending program to develop new and more sustainable enhancements to livelihoods. He listened to the farmers and saw that co-existence could only happen by looking at conservation through the eyes of the farmers. It worked! The families accepting grants stopped reclaiming wetlands and designed income-producing activities that were compatible with conservation. Both the people and the cranes prospered over the years. Crane numbers increased from 200 to over 1,000.

At Momoge Nature Reserve, with advice from top hydrologists in China and the U.S., Jim and his colleagues developed a water management scheme to simulate the annual ebb and flow of the floodplain creating an abundance of food for the majority of the world’s Siberian Cranes during their long migrations. Their numbers increased from just over 1,000 to more than 4,000 today. Jim’s genius is a blend of sensitivity to the needs of people and to the needs of wildlife.

As Chair of the IUCN Crane Specialist Group, Jim’s vision for cranes and their landscapes has always been global in scale. He has adeptly integrated the expertise and passion of 350 members in over 50 countries. He led workshops and produced publications changing the course of how we address complex crane

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challenges such as agricultural land use and climate change. His contributions are culminating later this year with the publication of the much-anticipated Crane Conservation Strategy.

I could write for days about all the projects Jim has launched or helped around the world. He is a tireless worker and truly devoted to conservation and his family. A colleague Sammy King, who has worked in the field with Jim recently wrote about Jim's deep commitment, "Jim would drop us off after an exhausting day of work only to go back to continue working on grant proposals or project ideas. Yet each morning, he always greeted us with the same smile and enthusiasm. In conservation, we are all dedicated to natural resources, but we occasionally cross paths with a few people who have sacrificed so much more. Jim is one of these people. Jim exudes passion for people and cranes and we are all the better for it."

Thank you for decades of dedication Jim, and for your unfailing friendship to me and so many others around the world.



Jim Harris participating in a migration exercise at a nature camp in Russia.

A generous board member, who wishes to ensure that Jim's good work continues, has recently granted the International Crane Foundation \$175,000 per year, renewable for the next two years. This grant will help us meet the conservation challenges of working in China by increasing staff capacity — supporting our new China Program Director, Program Assistant, and Ecologist positions. The donor praised Jim's hard work and dedication and cited them as the inspiration for his gift.

Celebrate 45 by Breaking Ground With Us!

SATURDAY, JUNE 16, 2018

Throughout our 45-year history, the International Crane Foundation has evolved to meet emerging conservation challenges. In the early days, we uncovered the mysteries of cranes – discovering previously unknown breeding grounds, identifying remote wetlands needed for rest on long migrations, breeding rare species in captivity, and determining population numbers and trends in the wild. From these discoveries, we built flagship projects around the world, while providing knowledge, leadership, and inspiration to the next 45 years of conservation leaders.

We invite you to celebrate these accomplishments and our promising future together at our signature event, *An Evening with the Cranes*, where we will break ground for an exciting new chapter in our ever-advancing story.

Our headquarters in Baraboo is a gateway for visitors to enter our world of conservation action. We want to enhance and strengthen that connection. We will break ground on major renovations to our visitor experience that will increase and enrich engagement in our mission. The renovation will include a new visitor center and vibrant new exhibits. We are grateful to the Dohmen Family Foundation, Derse Foundation, The Walbridge Fund, Ltd., The Buchanan Family Foundation, Rushmore Foundation, and many other generous donors for enabling this giant leap forward. Tickets are available for *An Evening with the Cranes* on our website or by calling 608-356-9462 ext. 811.



Co-Founders Ron Sauey and George Archibald at the original groundbreaking.



Our Conservation Agreements Are Working in Rwanda!

By Adalbert Aine-omucunguzi, East Africa Regional Manager

Rugezi Marsh is a protected high altitude peat bog located in the Northern Province of Rwanda. Situated in a valley bordered by steep slopes, it covers nearly 17,000 spectacular acres. It is a source of water for thousands of people who reside in its catchment and downstream and for several lakes that are popular tourist destinations. Rugezi Marsh also provides critical habitat for Rwanda's largest population of endangered Grey Crowned Cranes.

Unfortunately, intensive subsistence farming, grazing, and the illegal capture of cranes and other wildlife to sell on the black market threatened the health of this extraordinary marsh. We knew that the key to protecting the marsh and its cranes meant addressing the needs of the people who call Rugezi home. We needed to develop and support livelihoods that strengthen, rather than diminish, the value that people place on the marsh.



Illegal grazing in Rugezi Marsh before the signing of the Conservation Agreements. Photo by Ayubusa Jean Berchmas

The International Crane Foundation, in partnership with the Endangered Wildlife Trust and Integrated Polytechnic Regional College - Kitabi, has used the Conservation Agreements model successfully where people and endangered cranes depend on the same wetlands. Conservation Agreements are negotiated incentive packages that communities receive in return for becoming stewards of their own ecosystems.

Beekeeping emerged as a priority alternative livelihood to reduce pressure on Rugezi Marsh. Beehives must be kept in trees planted along the edges of Rugezi Marsh, so the project creates incentives for protecting the marsh. Currently sold at \$4.7 per kg, honey is a reliable source of non-farm income for rural households in Rwanda. We selected eight beekeeping cooperatives and signed the agreement in 2016. By signing the agreement, the cooperatives made a commitment to stop agricultural encroachment such as grass harvesting and livestock grazing in the marsh. They agreed to participate in monitoring activities and to report illegal activities including hunting and removal of crane eggs. They also pledged to play a leading role in raising awareness for the need to conserve Rugezi Marsh.



Members of a beekeeping cooperative in handling gear provided by our project. Photo by Olivier Nsengimana

Each cooperative received beehives and honey processing equipment. They also received training and technical support to improve apiary and marketing skills. Since the signing of the agreement in 2016, members of the cooperatives have led coordinated efforts to patrol the wetland, identify and report threats, and document sites where cranes breed and forage. They have mobilized community members to extinguish fires and replant trees in the wetland's buffer zone. They have also used the Umuganda, a mandatory monthly communal activity, to spread the word about the benefits of wetland conservation.

Monitoring of the Beehive Project is ongoing. We expect honey yields to increase each year, a result that is transforming local residents into wetland stewards. This project promises to sustain the marsh, the people, and the cranes into the future. We are grateful to the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation for supporting this work.



International Crane Foundation

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Visit Us in Baraboo!

A scenic oasis awaits you when you visit us in Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Enjoy a day strolling through exhibits on ADA accessible paths or roam extensive nature trails on over 100 acres of native prairie bursting with colorful blooms, butterflies, and birds. See the rarest crane in a tranquil natural setting in our celebrated Whooping Crane Exhibit. Your visit is one of the ways you can support our work! Open daily until October 31. Plan your visit with helpful information on our website: www.savingcranes.org/plan-a-visit/

Great Crane Migration

SILK SCARF

Graceful cranes take flight across this luxurious silk scarf designed exclusively for the International Crane Foundation. Azure blues swirl into verdant greens and then soften into golden amber and buttery yellow. The scarf is 100% Silk Crepe de Chine, measures 20 x 70 inches, and is dry clean only. To order visit www.craneshop.org, or call 608 356-9462 ext. 171. \$85.

