

THE ICF



BUGLE

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes



Looking Ahead After 30 Years

By Jim Harris, President

Photograph by Sture Traneving

ICF's 30th anniversary inspires looking back as well as dreaming of the future. We chose this photograph by Sture Traneving for the cover of our first Bugle of the anniversary, Eurasian Cranes at twilight at Lake Hornborga in Sweden.

Black silhouettes against a darkening sky, this ominous mood reflects three decades spent by ICF defending imperiled cranes and the places they inhabit. The crane world has had many losses, and more losses will come. Last year, the arrival at Bharatpur, India of the last two Siberian Cranes of central Asia, after migrating through Afghanistan in the midst of war, made worldwide headlines. This autumn, there was no arrival because Bharatpur was dry. Perhaps the last pair has gone elsewhere. Our Russian friends will await their return in spring in the silence of western Siberia.

Yet the past decades have brought extraordinary successes: the recovery of Eurasian Cranes beloved across Europe and Asia, the return of Sandhill Cranes to wetlands large and small amidst the farmlands of the American Midwest, the resurrection of Hokkaido's Red-crowned Cranes from 30 birds in 1951 to more than 800 today.

Reflecting further on Sture's photograph: twilight and night also are times of renewal. Sture's image glows with possibility and hope, days and years ahead that are full of opportunity.

The crane silhouette is the emblem of our commitment and optimism, to seize all those opportunities, to help people learn to care and live with cranes, wetlands, and the wildness on which humanity in part depends. We look forward to sharing exciting times with all of you, our friends around the world. Thirty years are only the beginning.

In the Field

Southern Africa Program Receives Rolex Award

The southern Africa program of the Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT) of South Africa and the International Crane Foundation received major international recognition this October when the Swiss Rolex Corporation chose Lindy Rodwell as a Rolex Laureate. Every two years, Rolex awards five \$100,000 prizes to efforts that demonstrate outstanding creativity and achievement. The award was given in recognition of our program and partnerships that have built an ambitious network of conservationists in southern Africa to ensure that endangered Wattled Cranes and their wetland homes have a safe future.

The southern Africa program, "Water, wetlands, and Wattled Cranes," promotes research, conservation, and capacity building in the eleven countries where Wattled Cranes occur. Lindy together with ICF's Richard Beilfuss coordinates the program. The partnership includes the

South Africa Crane Working Group, Birdlife Botswana Crane Working Group, Museum of Natural History-Mozambique, Zambia Crane and Wetland Conservation Project, Museums of Malawi, Zimbabwe Crane Working Group, and many others. The Rolex funding will provide training and resources for these programs to expand their efforts.

In giving the award, the Rolex committee recognized the South Africa Crane Working Group and their pioneering programs for conservation, and ICF's leadership in the Zambezi basin of Mozambique and Zambia to establish the links between flooding patterns, biodiversity conservation, and human welfare. The Zambezi work also was recently featured on BBC World Service and National Geographic television. The committee commended

Carlos Bento of Mozambique and others throughout the region for their determination to rise above civil war, poverty, and lack of resources to champion the cause of crane and wetland conservation.



Lucky – More Than A Name

Lucky is the first Whooping Crane to fledge east of the Mississippi in 60 years. In early September a small group of biologists from the Florida State Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission captured Lucky and his parents. All three birds were given a physical exam and new transmitters were placed on their legs. With water levels the highest they have been in several years and the 2003 nesting season approaching, Lucky is entering a new era of being a bachelor. Fortunately, there are several other single young Whooping Cranes from the non-migratory flock in the neighborhood. We wish Lucky and his parents the best of luck in 2003 and anxiously wait to see what the new year will bring.



Lucky has grown since this photo was taken. He is now a one-year-old and is on his own. According to Marty Folk, Florida State Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission Biologist, Lucky has been seen hanging out and dancing with an "older woman". This older female Whooping Crane was hatched in 1996 at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland. Go Lucky!

In Search of Crane Counters

On April 12, 2003 ICF is sponsoring the 28th Annual Midwest Sandhill Crane Count. The Count is used to monitor the general population trends and distribution of Sandhill Cranes in the Upper Midwest, as well as to promote awareness of cranes and wetland conservation.

In 2002, about 2,500 volunteers tallied over 10,000 Sandhill Cranes in the Count area, which has grown to include over 100 counties in Wisconsin and surrounding states. Participants are matched with their County Coordinator, who

helps to select a survey location and provides training materials. On April 12, participants are asked to travel to their survey location and record their observations from 5:30 am to 7:30 am. Completed data sheets are returned to your County Coordinator.

For more information on the Count, contact Joan Garland, ICF Outreach Coordinator, at (608) 356-9462 ext. 142 or visit www.savingcranes.org.



Germantown High School Shares ICF's History

By Korie M. Klink, Visitor Programs Coordinator



When Chuck Ritzenthaler's (right of painting) first group of students toured ICF in 1976, ICF was in its original location at the Sauey farm. As the years passed, Chuck and his students continued not only to visit ICF on its new site, but also support ICF with money or supplies. They also expanded their projects to get GHS students directly involved in volunteer work on ICF's site.

After 33 years of teaching biology and 27 years of bringing his students to visit the International Crane Foundation (ICF), Chuck Ritzenthaler has made Germantown High School (GHS) legendary around ICF.

Chuck's initial link to ICF was formed in the spring of 1975 when Ron Sauey, ICF's co-founder, gave him his first tour. Ron's enthusiasm, compassion, and commitment to ICF's mission was contagious and left a life long impression on Chuck. After his first visit, Chuck shared his experience with his advanced biology students and jokingly read from an ICF brochure that for \$1000 one could be a life member.

"The next thing I knew, a beaker was being passed around the classroom and I think we collected a little over three dollars in change," Chuck said.

And it grew from there. Soon Chuck's advanced biology class sponsored a crane dance, and recycled newspaper, aluminum, and oil. They had the entire school and community members donate money to join the "dollar club", and even had the GHS Art Department design a t-shirt for the project. By the spring of 1976 they reached their goal of \$1000.

"We were all very proud. We had not only done some good environmental stewardship in our local area, but we also were able to help ICF in its goals," Chuck said.

Since 1976, the students have continued raising funds and have added volunteer hours to the pot. Each spring for the last 15 years, they have partnered with Jeb Barzen, Director of Field Ecology, and have helped with everything on our site from brush cleaning and trail development to prescribed burns and seed collection.

"Many of our students enjoy being in a natural prairie, most having their first experience with one. Maybe they will remember this experience as an adult and treasure this part of our habitat. As a biology educator I am concerned with our society distancing itself from the natural world -this gives our students a first hand look," Chuck said.

Chuck added that he tries to make his trips to ICF as environmentally stimulating as possible. Many students tell him that it is the best field trip they have ever taken.

"I think they leave with a heightened awareness not only of the beauty of a living thing or environment, or their

special place in our world, but also the perils that wildlife faces in our society. They also become well aware, if they haven't already, of the key problem-habitat preservation."

In 1994, ICF named one of its management units, a 13.45 acre plot graduating from complete oak coverage to open prairie, the Germantown Unit in honor of all the help and dedication Chuck and his students have shown throughout the years.

"When one decides to assist an organization like ICF, I think it is very critical to know for sure that any financial donation will be used in the most productive way possible," Chuck said. "It is a sad commentary today, but one needs to do some investigating before supporting a nonprofit organization. I've been to ICF and I have witnessed their work. They are a first class organization that has global influence in achieving their goals. We continue our support because our involvement can make a difference in their work."

Since 1976, Chuck and the Germantown High School students have raised over \$15,000 to help support ICF's work.



Where are they now?

Each year, ICF hires interns for the Crane Conservation, Field Ecology and Education Departments. Typically they are students looking for hands-on or field experience. They are talented people who care deeply for cranes and their habitats. For our 30th anniversary, we wanted to find out where our interns are now.

Scott Weber, Habitat Intern, 1980-1982



My responsibilities at ICF were seed collecting, cleaning, and sowing, soil sampling, herbarium collection, cutting pine and locust plantings, and vegetation sampling.

Today, I help run a native plant nursery with my wife, Martha (Muffy), and specialize in rare or uncommon species, including orchids. I also work as a biologist for the Wisconsin DNR on prairie and savanna restoration.

ICF gave me the necessary field experience that allows me to do what I do today. I met my current boss with the DNR as an intern at ICF, and I think that played a roll in his hiring me. The fall 1980 planting I did at ICF still serves as a model for most of my plantings today.

Rob Pounce, Education Intern, 1988



My wife Julie and I direct a non-profit organization called Eco-Access in Johannesburg, South Africa, which focuses on integrating disabled and non-disabled people (mainly

children) into outdoor environmental programmes. Eco-Access also provides information to environmental centres on the inclusion of disabled people into their facilities and programmes.

I am blind and in kidney failure as a result of diabetes. I have been fortunate

enough to have received various awards for my work with access to the natural environment for people with disabilities, including a Global 500 laureate award and a Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International.

I was one of the first people in South Africa to band Wattled Cranes with colour bands I brought back from ICF. One of the chicks I banded in 1987 was seen a few years ago with another banded crane from a different region of South Africa. I was also made honorary life member of the South African Crane Foundation in the early 1990s.



1986 Interns

Jed Merriam (first row on the left) is an environmental consultant for a transportation engineering firm. He conducts wetland and wildlife studies, permitting, reptile and amphibian studies and his specialty is rattlesnakes.

Marianne Wellington (sitting on the railing second from the left) has been in the Crane Conservation Department raising cranes in captivity and releasing them into the wild since 1987.

Pierre Minigault (on Marianne's left) is on our Board of Directors.

Darryl Harty (first row on the right) has been ICF's Vet since 2000.



Janet Eastman (first row, second from the right) is a graduate of the University of Michigan and is currently working on a Master's degree in Resource Ecology Management at the University of Michigan. My

focus is avian ecology, specifically the relationship between black-throated blue warblers and balsam fir understory in hardwood forests. I expect to finish my thesis and graduate in April.

I was interested in avian conservation prior to coming to ICF, but my experiences there helped to define my interests more clearly. Although I enjoyed my experiences raising cranes, I found that I missed studying ecology and wanted to focus on learning about ways to lessen destruction of habitat, which is becoming one of the biggest threats to wildlife. Therefore, I decided to return to school to obtain the training to study avian ecology.



Katie Green Beilfuss, 1994. Field Ecology Associate, managed prairie restoration and oak savanna restoration. (top right)

I work for an urban conservation group based in Madison, WI called the Urban Open Space Foundation. I manage a new statewide initiative, the Community Open Space Partnership, to build a constituency for and promote "green infrastructure."

ICF solidified my commitment to working in conservation. Through my associate position at ICF I gained solid understanding and skills in natural areas restoration and management that enabled me to progress in this field.

Elyse Lopez, 1994 and summer of 1997. Field Ecology Associate, habitat restoration. (bottom left)

I work for The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Sacramento River Project managing restoration projects and agricultural activities on TNC-owned and US Fish and Wildlife Service-owned properties along the Sacramento River in Northern California. To date we have restored over 3,000 acres of critical

riparian habitat with another 2,000 acres planned for the next 3 years.

ICF provided me the opportunity to put into practice the academic side of ecology in a real world situation by my conducting a small-scale research project



Michael Strigel, 1996, Field Ecology Associate, responsible for 1996 prairie planting. (far left)

I'm currently the Associate Director at the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters. Along with our staff of 11, I'm responsible for implementing the Academy's programs ranging from public policy and science investigations, to an art gallery and a magazine of Wisconsin thought and culture.

ICF was a tremendous influence both tangibly as I've continued to work with several ICFers including Jeb Barzen, Curt Meine, Shaili Pfeiffer, and Steve Swenson and intangibly as my experiences at ICF really shaped my commitment to ecology and conservation.

Steve Swenson, 1996-1997, 1999, Field Ecology Intern, prescribed burning, plant sampling, savanna light gradient study, prairie planting (middle, Rich Beilfuss is far right)

I'm working just a few miles from ICF as the Ecologist for the Aldo Leopold Foundation. I help manage the Foundation property and assist private landowners in the stewardship of their property through The Blufflands Project, using much of the knowledge and expertise that I gained from ICF.

Jeb Barzen, Rich Beilfuss and Curt Meine were wonderful mentors in my professional development. They all demonstrated with great ability how history, knowledge, passion and ethics create the discipline of conservation. I have greatly enjoyed my connection with ICF!

Jen (Barrett) Stewart, 1993, Field Ecology Intern.



I manage a nature preserve for Riverland Conservancy (formerly WI Power and Light Co.) in Merrimac, WI, just over the bluffs from Baraboo. All the skills Jeb and Rich taught me

come to play as we restore prairie, savanna and wetland. Of course I'm still learning from them as we partner on land management, classes and community events.

ICF introduced me to ecological restoration (my career), Baraboo (my home) and umpteen people in conservation (my friends).

Rob Nelson, 1991-1997, Aviculture Associate, Aviculturist, Field Ecology Associate, Education Program Assistant.



I am the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the Aldo Leopold Foundation in Baraboo (the egg doesn't roll far from the nest), where I coordinate the tour program,

organize seminars and workshops, and publish the Foundation's newsletter.

An unexpected call from Scott Swengel is what brought me to Baraboo, and I have lived here ever since, in large part because of the community of caring and dedicated people here, which includes many of those involved at ICF

Miriam Leubert, 1987-1988, Aviculture Intern.



I am now an animal manager at the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species (ACRES/ Audubon Species Survival Center (AFMSSC) in New Orleans. My

main area of responsibility is the Mississippi Sandhill Crane Propagation

Program where I supervise and participate in the rearing of 15-20 chicks a year for release onto a refuge in Mississippi.

It was at ICF that I fell in love with cranes. I knew then that cranes and their conservation would become the focus of my career.

Debbie Nieuwenhuis, 1997-1999, Education Seasonal.



My master's thesis was in aquatic biology, and for the past 3 years, I have owned an environmental consulting firm, Water's Edge Scientific LLC, where I identify and count algae, zooplankton and

benthic invertebrates for water quality studies. It's a real niche market but believe it or not, there is quite a demand for this line of work.

I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to work at ICF. Having an organization like this in the Baraboo area is a real incentive to live here.

Tricia Fry, 1998-1999, Aviculture Behavior Intern.



I am a graduate student in the Department of Wildlife Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. My research focuses on using Red Imported Fire Ants to define

and evaluate models that test invasion theory. I am interested in observing how fire ants recolonize an area after being eradicated.

ICF has the unique ability to use a globally recognized animal to educate people and foster the conservation of one of the most important ecosystems, a mission I will always embrace.

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Bird-a-thon Memories

By Jim Harris, President

A Bird-a-thon at the height of spring migration is one of my favorite activities – ever. And it's a wonderful way to raise money for conservation and involve new people in ICF. For those of you who have never experienced a Bird-a-thon, I want to share what it means to me, in hopes that this year you will try one. For those who are already doing Bird-a-thons for ICF, we wish to thank you for the important support you have raised for the cranes, over \$300,000 since 1989. Last year, 33 birders, or would-be birders (you don't need to be a bird expert to have a great time, and raise good money for ICF) brought in over \$39,000 – our best year yet.

My annual Bird-a-thon guarantees me a full day in the field at my favorite time of year. I confess I have done more than one each of the past few years. Oddly, I especially liked the one that began with heavy rain at 6 a.m. last May 9. I had a guilty feeling as I met my three companions at the ICF Guesthouse, as all were new to Bird-a-thons and I had persuaded them to join me. One of them was 80 years old!

Due to the strong east wind (dis-mal for birders), we headed for Baxter's Hollow, a narrow valley in the Baraboo Hills that might have less wind. We all commented how the rain had dwindled to a "pleasant" patter, mingling with the rush of water in Otter Creek and subdued song from dozens of songbirds. The wind actually encouraged chestnut-sided warblers and rose-breasted grosbeaks to descend lower in the trees. They glowed through the gloom.

Naturally, Bird-a-thons are delightful for the birds, and also for the places you visit, for the flowers under the trees, and the rush of excitement because you want to hurry just a bit all day, the more species you find, the more funds raised for the cranes.

We went to dry out in a small restaurant in Sauk City (by 10 a.m., it felt like afternoon, we were hungry). This restaurant had tables out back, by luck sheltered from the wind yet fully in the chill

sun that had emerged. To my delight, my companions all opted for the outside tables, where we huddled in our coats, sipped warm drinks, and found warbling vireos watching us. Our route took us north back to ICF, where I offered a chance for a short rest. I finally realized that all three companions were having great fun, when they declined a nap after lunch (frequent meals are allowed on Bird-a-thons!), and Richard spotted a fluffed up red-tailed hawk out the window.

Bird-a-thons are great for companionship. All day we talked and laughed in



Photo by Jim Harris

Please help the cranes by doing a Bird-a-thon for ICF this spring. Participants gather pledges from friends and acquaintances, who commit to paying anywhere from 10 cents to \$10 per species of birds that you find in a single day. During spring migration, all sorts of peculiar birds – like this Least Bittern – are likely to be watching you.

the car, and there was lots of whispering outdoors. Through the afternoon we visited one wetland after another where ducks shone in the sun, and sandhill cranes with feathers painted red towered over plovers. We had agreed to stop at 5 p.m., because Sara was departing early the next morning for Central America and still had to pack.

Bird-a-thons are great for surprises. Our time was up, and our car turned back toward Baraboo, when a dark, sharp-winged falcon flew low across the highway. We stopped fast, and watched a peregrine falcon hunting as it moved north. Our time more than up, just two miles farther, a cloud of brown and black and white birds were dropping in the late sun onto a plowed field, Lapland



longspurs that should have been in Lapland, the

males all gaudy for breeding on the tundra.

By the end of any Bird-a-thon, you've had the rare good fortune to experience an entire day outdoors in May, with all its vagaries and changes. And last, it is great fun to write down the day's adventures to share with all who pledged funds for your day, as your efforts are all on their behalf for conservation.

An invitation for ICFers who have never tried a Bird-a-thon: please join me for a day in the field on May 24. We'll start at ICF and explore the Baraboo Hills then visit wetlands to the east before ending the day in late afternoon. Each participant will gather his/her own pledges. For more information, contact Sally at ICF (sally@savingcranes.org, or 608-356-9462, ext. 145).

2002 Bird-a-thon Results

Congratulations to first place and grand prize winners Judy Bautch and Emily Campbell! Judy and Emily won a framed print by Owen Gromme entitled "Goshawk Attacking Mink." Second place went to Donna Carmichael, with Viola White taking third. All top three participants received a framed print by Owen Gromme entitled "Nature's Palette – Goldfinch."

The other top-scoring teams were Cathryn Steuer (4th), William Ebbot (5th), Michael John Jaeger (6th), Dale and Carla Oestreich (7th), Dean Klingbeil (8th), William Davison (9th), and Barbara Brodie (10th). Each team has received an unframed print by Owen Gromme entitled "Nature's Palette – Goldfinch." All who watched birds and raised money also received *The Sibley Guide to Birds* by David Allen Sibley.

We wish to thank Chuck Brei of Meuer Art of Madison, Wisconsin for donating and framing the Goldfinch prints.

Rising to the Occasion

Last fall, the International Crane Foundation presented our members with a challenge.

The Felburn Foundation of Yankeetown, Florida offered to award ICF with a \$100,000 grant if we could match that amount through member contributions. Knowing that we could count on our family of craniacs, ICF asked our members to give something extra for the cranes in 2002 through our first-ever annual campaign, *Bringing People Together*.

And did our members ever rise to the challenge! Thanks to your generosity, ICF surpassed our goal of \$100,000 and raised more than \$125,000!

ICF wishes to thank everyone who kindly gave something extra for the cranes last year. Thanks to you and the Felburn Foundation, ICF can expand its activities for cranes along the Wisconsin to Florida flyway and around the world.



Eagle Optics

This fall Eagle Optics gave a most generous donation of 13 new binoculars, a new spotting scope and a tripod (total retail value of \$2650)

to ICF and its affiliate Muraviovka Park for Sustainable Land Use. Since affordable good lightweight field binoculars and especially telescopes are not available in Russia, these excellent optics will be extensively used for field research, conservation, and educational efforts.

Eagle Optics has been selling quality



optics both in their store in Central Wisconsin and by mail order since 1986. For more information about Eagle Optics check out their website at www.eagleoptics.com



Photo by Sergei Smirenski

Wish List

For wish list items, check out our website at www.savingcranes.org and click on "Get Involved". Contact Susan Finn at 608-356-9462 ext. 118 if you have questions.

April 4 - 6, 2003

Travel with George Archibald to the Platte River in Nebraska and experience a half-million Sandhill Cranes and possibly a few Whooping Cranes. Contact Julie at 608-356-9462 ext. 156 for more information.

The ICF Bugle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1973 by Ronald Sauer, Ph.D (1948 - 1987) and George Archibald, Ph.D Bugle comments or questions? Please write or call Kate kate@savingcranes.org or P.O. Box 447, Baraboo, WI, 53913 1-608-356-9462, ext. 147.

Editor: Kate Fitzwilliams

Memberships are vital to ICF. Please join or give a membership to a friend at the following annual rates:

Student or Senior Citizen \$20	Sustaining	\$250
Individual	Sponsor	\$500
Foreign	Patron	\$1,000
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International Crane Foundation

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