First and still going strong!
By Bob Lange, Development Director

In 1973 an article in a Madison newspaper chronicled the efforts of two young men in Baraboo, WI who were attempting to make a difference. Jane Rikkers of Madison was so impressed that she wrote them and asked, “What can I do to help?” George Archibald, one of those young men, said, “Come and see us. Wear old clothes!” Jane traveled to Baraboo and met George and co-founder Ron Sausoy for an enjoyable morning of bird watching and learning about cranes. During a break they had coffee and cookies with Owen Gromme and discussed how she could help in their efforts to save the world’s cranes. As she left Baraboo that day she handed George a check and said, “Use this to help save the cranes,” and with that Jane Rikkers became the first official member of the International Crane Foundation.

While Jane was the first member, ICF has received tremendous support worldwide and now has more than 10,000 members who are dedicated to saving the cranes and the wetlands they inhabit. Membership provides ICF more than $350,000 annually to protect these magnificent birds. It all started with Jane.

To demonstrate the level of her commitment to ICF Jane related a humorous story about one of her many journeys to Baraboo. It seems that she was known to have a “lead foot”, which rested heavily on the gas pedal one afternoon. This fact did not go unnoticed by the Sauk County Sheriff’s deputy who ticketed her for excessive speeding. Rather than pay the fine, Jane went to court where she asked the judge to waive the ticket and she would donate the cost to ICF. The judge informed her that he had never heard of the International Crane Foundation and she would have to pay the forfeiture. She replied, “I will pay the fine, but you need to learn about how the Foundation is saving cranes worldwide.”

Jane, now in her 90’s, remains active in promoting the ICF mission and recently returned to attend Crane Fest this past May (chauffeured by her niece DeeDee Rikkers, an ICF Board member). We thank all of our members for their support and salute Jane Rikkers as the first ICF member.

Thank you Jane!

International Crane Foundation
E11375 Shady Lane Rd.
P.O. Box 447
Baraboo, WI 53913-0447
www.savingcranes.org

Nonprofit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Baraboo, WI
Permit No. 179

Address Service Requested
 Printed on 100% Recycled Paper

Annual Meeting Registration Inside!

Water Issues Affect Whooping Cranes in Texas
by Tom Stehn, Aransas National Wildlife Refuge

This article was re-printed with permission from The Platte River Trust and Tom Stehn. It appeared in The Braided River, Issue No. 18, 2003

An issue of great concern for the Whooping Cranes wintering at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge is river inflow into their critical habitat. Just as Whooping Cranes on migration need water in the Platte River, they need flows of fresh water to make their winter home productive and put food on their table.

The San Antonio and Guadalupe Rivers emerge from underground springs near San Antonio, Texas and run 250 miles, where they join before entering Whooping Crane critical habitat on the coast just north of Aransas. When the Guadalupe reaches the coast, its freshwater nourishes San Antonio and Aransas Bays, which support commercial and recreational fisheries worth an estimated $575 million each year. Crabs, finfish, shrimp, and countless other marine organisms rely on adequate freshwater inflows for their survival. Without a regular mixing of fresh and salt water in an estuary, productivity declines. Without adequate Guadalupe River flows, water quality declines, and species concerned like the Eagle’s map turtle are in trouble.

Continued on page 2
Continued from COVER story

Data show that the health and survival of the endangered Whopping Crane flock are directly linked to fresh-water inflows. Inflows are needed to produce blue crabs, the primary food for Whopping Cranes. When blue crabs are unavailable, the cranes are forced to eat, less nutritious foods and may actually burn up fat reserves and have a net loss of energy. Cranes experiencing winter increases, and poor nutrition may lead to reduced nesting success the following spring.

In dry years with above average inflows, blue crabs are plentiful. In drought years with reduced inflows, blue crab populations plummet. Thus, any human reduction in inflows reaching the bay is of concern.

Inflows also are important to Whopping Cranes because they maintain salinity levels below 23 parts per thou- sand needed for drinking by the cranes. The species is forced to fly inland to drink when salinities exceed 23 ppt [the salinity of sea water is 35 ppt.].

These flights use up energy, reduce time available for foraging or resting, and could make the cranes more vulnerable to predation on the uplands.

Spring rains are the key in Texas, with drought anticipated during the summer. Occasionally though, storms are broken by tropical moisture sys- tems, or even tropical storms and hurri- canes, so that inflows sometimes show huge spikes in late summer-early fall.

This is what happened in 2002-tropical systems brought heavy rains in August that really helped blue crab production, giving the cranes good numbers of crabs to eat this winter.

Guadalupe River declared endangered

At a press conference in Austin in April 2002, the organization American Rivers named the Guadalupe River as the 10th most endangered river in the US. The issue of instream flow is what earned this designation for the Guadalupe. Water rights are at issue, with users in competition with environ- mentallists for control of the resource. So many people are using water from the aquifers and rivers in central Texas that these 320-foot wide floodplains and creatures already feeling what most Texans do not want to acknowledge: the rivers are already over- appropriated, and no one is maintaining water levels. To make matters worse, many rivers and creeks everywhere are extending the river now, and it is already being used to help support a number of fish and aquatic ecosystems. The application by SMRF is absolutely unique in that water rights are all about taking water out of a river for human use. Such have never been used to help support the river flowing. Needless to say, this particular application by SMRF has been referred to in court and is currently opposed by water organizations and municipali- ties upstream, including the city of San Antonio. The Guadalupe-Blanco Water Authority was quoted recently in The Texas Observer magazine, stating, “the SMRF application is a serious has a devious effort to limit growth, akin to the Endangered Species Act.” The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has issued a draft permit to SMRF for 80% of the amount of water that it requested, and is currently solicit- ing comments on the draft permit. A hearing is scheduled for March 14th.

The Texas legislature currently in ses- sion may weigh in on this issue. Conservationists are fearful that the permits will make it unlawful to grant a water right for water to be kept in a river. Right now there is no mechanism to insure that a minimum amount of water remains in rivers and flows to the bay, keeping estuaries productive with the required mix of fresh and salt water.

Even though the State owns the water, it has never declared that a minimum amount must be left un touched. Many times, in the past, the river has already reached a low level, precipitated, a scary comment on water man- agement here, as the human population continues to grow rapidly. One need only drive the 20 miles from San Antonio to Granada a 1.15 mile stretch between Texas and Mexico, no longer flows to the sea. Instead, it has dried in just before reaching the Gulf and adjacent to the dry flat lands. It is already being used to admit that water resources are finite and implement a conservation strategy to balance the needs of people and wildlife. Indeed, for people looking for people plummets drastically without healthy, ecologically balanced rivers for future generations to enjoy.

On March 19, TCEQ denied the SMRF instream flow application, saying they did not have authority to grant instream flow permits for pro- tecting rivers and bugs. They said they wanted to continue their past practice of “protecting rivers and bugs with conditions on any permits to pump water out of the rivers.”

In work is with Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez of the Platte River Trust on Texas issues, and has secured grants from the Conservation Endowment, Magnolia Charitable Trust, and the Brown Foundation to support Felipe’s work together with ICF’s related education activities to heighten public awareness of cran and wetland conservation issues in Texas. Felipe has obtained additional support from the Whopping Crane Conservation Association and the Platte River Trust, to study the rela- tionship between inflows, blue crabs and Whopping Cranes at Aransas. Felipe is collaborating with Dr. Doug Slack of Texas A&M University and provides guidance to four graduate stu- dents. A five-year research proposal submitted by Dr. Slack to the Guadalupe-Blanco Water Development Board and other water groups includ- ing the San Antonio River Authority has been funded at $1.3 million. This development is very important, since only with better knowledge of these relationships can it be known what data on pos- sible impacts of changed inflows, can the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and other organizations comment correctly on proposed water development projects.

We wish to thank the Platte River Trust for allowing Felipe to continue work related to his graduate research, the investment that he has made in the future of Whopping Cranes at Aransas and doc- umented the importance of blue crabs to the health of Whopping Cranes.

Tom Stel is the Whopping Crane Coordinator for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. Based at Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Tom has worked with Whopping Cranes for more than 20 years.

In February of 2003, Mr. Ron Hunter of the Patagonia Company donated 10 Patagonia vests to the Education Department after learning of our pro- grams and the needs of our Naturalists and volunteers in cold weather condi- tions.

“We wish you the best with your efforts in protecting cranes in your neck of the woods,” Ron writes in his contrib- ution letter. “All our best and keep up the great work.”

Each spring, ICF is visited by about 6,000 school children. Several of these conservation visitors came to the Martin Luther Christian School (MLCS) of Stoughton, Wisconsin. During the school year, students of MLCS opted to contribute their daily chapel donations to help save the world’s endangered cranes. The result? On May 27, children of MLCS presented ICF with a check for $750.00. The money was used to purchase crane edu- cational materials to be used here and abroad.

Another group of young ladies stand out as well. I introduced ICF’s membership to their adventures on page three of the ICF Bugle, Volume 29, Number 4. Sara and Joseph are the founders of Change For Cranes, a project in which the girls involve not only their schools, but entire communities in raising money to help ICF.

In April, Sara and Jessica were con- tacted by the Lands’ End Corporation.

On page 3

Martin Luther Christian School (MLCS) of Stoughton, Wisconsin presented ICF’s education department with a check for $750. In the back row (left to right) ICF Visitor Programs Director Korie Klink accepts the check from MLCS teacher Sheila Beatty. Photo by Brian Barch.

Partnership Has Its Advantages

Korie M. Klink, Visitor Programs Coordinator

As ICF commemorates its 30th anno- tary, it is not only an opportunity to reflect upon the past, but to celebrate our precious present. ICF would not be able to do what we do, if it were not for the devotion and hard work of our vol- unteers as well as the kindness and en- thusiasm of those inspired by the cranes and our conservation work around the globe.

This year, the ICF Education Department has been presented with many gifts of time, energy, and material goods. We wish to recognize a few of those individuals and organizations that helped make this season a wonder- ful one.

Korie M. Klink, Visitor Programs Coordinator
Inspiring a Global Community

By Jim Harris, President

Ten years ago we dedicated the International Guesthouse at ICF. With its three flagpoles carrying flags for the countries of those visiting ICF, the Guesthouse symbolizes the global nature of our network of crane activists. In fact, we often run out of flagpoles! This summer, like many in the past, we have hosted conservationists from diverse countries — Kenya, Uganda, South Africa, India, Vietnam, South Korea, and Russia — together with a team of interns and associates from across the United States. The kitchen yields an exotic mix of cuisines, some of the product of skilled conservationists far from home and challenged by cooking!

Back in 1993, ICF’s entire staff was based in Baraboo. Now, while we have 31 year-round positions here at our headquarters, ICF also supports the work of 16 conservationists based in 9 countries of Asia and Africa, all but one of them foreign nationals. While in the past we usually brought foreign colleagues to Baraboo for training, increasingly we support training and study tours to our project sites in the field where conditions may be more similar to the dilemmas our colleagues face. Now it is frequently ICF’s overseas staff who stay at the Guesthouse. Tran Tran from Vietnam, for example, is now living in the apartment with his family for a two-month period of program planning and review with our Field Ecology Department.

Crane conservationists have much to learn from each other, and “locks” gather regularly at scattered sites around the globe. In 1998, Muravievka Park in far eastern Russia finished its own Guesthouse, complete with solar panels arranged by ICF. When I visited, Park Director Sergei Smirenok offered me one of the new rooms with a wide view over the wetland, but I am a light sleeper and worried the other guests would be noisy. I opted for one of the small tents among trees nearby. That night, however, lying in darkness and waiting for sleep, I listened to the Russian interpreters giggling in the next tent, no louder than two American women in their tent (including Eagle editor Kate Fitwilliams), two Chinese men whispering from the other side, a champion American sniper (who had a tent by himself), plus a restless Long-eared Owl and the garbled warble of a Siberian Rubythroat who sang all night!

Not long after, in the very early morning light of Siberia, Red-crowned Cranes unison called from the marsh below our trees. Then I heard the echo — another pair far away. The elegance of cranes, and their piercing voices, has served to unite a marvelous mix of people, those in the tents around me and other folk like them living in dozens of countries. Perhaps ICF’s most crucial task is to help the cranes inspire caring and action, to enable the spirit of these birds to move people. ICF serves those so moved, whatever the extent of their involvement, those who undertake this adventure for cranes. Somehow the cranes seem more than everyday creatures. They’ve come to a long span of time and great spaces of the skies they cross in their migrations. They bring out the best in us.

Humility needs this sense of time and space, and of the sacredness of life. Through ICF, we have embarked on this mission for the sake of cranes. Yet these efforts, in Baraboo and around the world, are equally important for humanity.

The work of inspiring depends on international travel and a wonderful array of guesthouses and camping spots and crane marshes. These days, unlike the early decades for ICF, much inspiration comes by the Internet, out from our website and among many thousands of e-mails sent back and forth from Baraboo. Yet always, ICF and its global community are about individuals who care and contribute.

Support a Global Community: ICF’s 2003 Annual Campaign

Your support is vital to maintaining local and global efforts to safeguard cranes and the places they inhabit. Contributions to ICF’s annual campaign, Inspiring a Global Community, will enable us to continue and strengthen our efforts to join people together through a shared vision for cranes. Watch for a special letter coming by mail, or contact Sally Hanuszek at 608-356-9462, ext. 145.

With support from ICF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indian colleague K.S. Gopi Sundar is at ICF suing years of data to prepare a Conservation Action Plan for the Indian Sarus Crane in Uttar Pradesh, a state that has the highest population of Sarus Cranes in the world. Gopi is busy analyzing data collected on Indian Sarus Crane ecology and learning how to retain the Indian Crane and Wetlands Working Group that could help save cranes and wetlands in India. Photo by Naubha Kumar

ICF’s headquarters in Baraboo, Wisconsin is designed to inspire people of all ages. During the spring and fall, thousands of students come to ICF to learn about cranes and how to save them. They leave knowing that if they want to, they can make a difference. In 1996, ICF Co-founder Ron Sanow wrote: “Too frequently I’m asked when I prefer my favorite occupation, ‘What good will it do mankind?’ I usually patiently explain that my job will indirectly serve mankind in that I may be a tool by which some youngster will find a deep and lasting love for Nature.” Photo by Jay Janower

In June 2003, ICF’s Field Ecology Director Job Barton mentored with Cambodian Vice Minister of Forestry and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cambodian Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry. The MOU opens the way for ICF to establish an office in Cambodia and for closer existing collaboration. ICF staff standing left to right on the balcony are: Gig Polzer, Intern; Bernard Bouwer (biologist); and Lee Paulsen (research and office assistant); joined by Department of Forestry and Wildlife staff member Blom. Photo by Day Martin, ICF Cambodia Program Coordinator.

Maurice Wamia (left) from Kenya and Jimmy Makumbia (Centre) of Uganda lead innovative community-based conservation programs for Grey Crowned Cranes and wetlands in the Lake Victoria Basin of East Africa. ICF hosted funding and Maurice for a two-week visit to the Midwest in July. They presented their work at a special symposium during the 17th Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology, visited some of ICF’s long term crane and wetland research sites, met with some of Wisconsin’s top environmental educators, and enjoyed time with ICF’s newest member, Ian Belfuss (right). Photo by “Papa” Rick Belfuss.
ICF’s Annual Meeting
30th Anniversary Celebration • September 13, Saturday

Whether you have been with ICF since the beginning or just joining the flock this year, our Annual Meeting is a time to enjoy Binder’s Barn, visit with the cranes and learn about important new projects. Peter Matthiessen will be our keynote speaker for the evening banquet at the Wintergarten Resort. What a joy to hear about his travels with cranes! Please register by Monday, September 8 using the form below. If you have questions, please call Kate at 608-356-9462 ext. 147.

8:30 – 11:00 A Drive Down Memory Lane (Pre-registration required by Sept. 3. Please call Carol at 608-356-8462 ext. 103 to secure your spot. Space is limited. A $5 fee will be collected that day.) Join Co-founder George Archibald on a bus tour that will take you by ICF’s old site, Aldo Leopold’s shack and other places that inspired George and Co-founder Don Ruzy. Meet in the main parking lot.

9:00 – 5:00 An Eggstraordinary Tour. Learn about new crane parents and how they handle their eggs, then take a tour of our Crane Conservation Department Incubation Room. In the Library.

2:30 – 3:30 The Key to Crane City – a rare opportunity to see ICF’s breeding facility with guides from our Crane Conservation Dept. Meet at the Chick Yard.

4:00 – 5:00 Prairie Restoration Experience ICF’s secluded trail system through oak savanna, prairie and wetland landscapes. Learn as you hike with Field Ecology staff member Rich Bifulco. Meet at the Chick Yard.

DON’T FORGET YOUR 10% MEMBERSHIP GIFTSHOP DISCOUNT!

5:00 pm GATES CLOSE Annual Meeting, Welcome and Program at the Wintergarten Resort

5:30 – 7:00 Hospitality Hour: Grand Ballroom (Cash Bar)

6:30 pm Dinner: Tender chicken breast stuffed with homemade pork sausage dressing and topped with a special wine sauce or Vegetarian Lasagna (please indicate your main entrée choice in the registration form below). Sides include: baby red potatoes, green beans with almonds, a garden salad, and freshly baked rolls. Dessert will be chocolate mousse cake.

Accommodations: For special $79 night ICF room rate at the Wintergarten Resort please call 1-800-648-4745 and mention Reservation # 158987. Kate Deadline: August 29

For other hotels you can call the Baraboo Chamber of Commerce at 1-888-367-3913 or the Wisconsin Dells Visitor and Convention Bureau at 1-800-223-3557.

Registration Deadline: Monday, September 8

Welcome and Business Meeting: President of the Board Joseph Branch

Inspiring a Global Community: ICF President Jim Harris will take you around Wisconsin and the world where ICF is currently working.


Good Egg Awards: Presented by ICF President Jim Harris and George Archibald

Keynote speaker and gifted novelist and naturalist, National Book Award winner Peter Matthiessen (Birds of Heaven, Travels with Cranes) will share his crane adventures.

Contributions for April 2003 – June 2003


BENEFICIARIES ($2,000 and above)
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar G. Mayer

PATRONS ($1,000-1,999)
Allam and Anita Beach Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. Johnson Kathleen Ryan

SPONSORS ($500-999)
Bobolink Foundation Martin Luther Christian School Mergergan Fund Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation Grant Albert and Nancy Ward Mr. and Mrs. Auldincoff Mr. and Mrs. Frederick H. Dohmen Robert Dohmen Emily Earley Linda Eische and Michael Ready Lillian Griffith Mr. H. Lowell Hall Mrs. Glen A. Lloyd Mary Ann Mahoney Michael and Margaret Marshall Robert D. Raymond Mr. and Mrs. Larry Weis Sandi and David Whitmore

SUSTAINING ($250-499)
Herbert H. Kohl Charities Rotary Club of Baraboo Dan Storey Foundation, Inc. Vanwall & Associates Helen Adel Bruce Barry James and Linda Damos Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dott Michael Gold Lola G. Hickey Kristine Klawen Mary K. Lawing Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Madden Victoria Muntheisen Donald Muntz Sandra K. Nott Deborah and James Quick

Sonia Scherz-Thoss Mr. and Mrs. R. Robert Taichnich Mr. and Mrs. Richard Walsh

NEW ASSOCIATES ($100-$249)

Gene K. Mitchell Hieronimo Sandy and Harry Reese August Romero Barbara & Terry Ryan Judith Schnitz Jim Smith

Leonard Sobczak Craig & Julie Ziles Gil & Martha Zych

MATCHING GIFTS
Bank of America

Lufthansa

The ICF Bagle is the quarterly newsletter for members of the International Crane Foundation. ICF was founded in 1971 by Ronald Mush, Ph.D. (1945 - 1987) and George Archibald. For Bagle comments or questions? Please write or call Ken Kula

8:15 Good Egg Awards: Presented by ICF President Jim Harris and George Archibald

9:30 Keynote speaker and gifted novelist and naturalist, National Book Award winner Peter Matthiessen (Birds of Heaven, Travels with Cranes) will share his crane adventures.

Eight universities signaled a memorandum of understanding on May 22, 2003 at Mahidol University that established a collaboration designed to develop the first ever graduate program in wetland ecology for students in Southeast Asia. ICF coordinated the efforts to form the network and funded the first organizational meeting held in His Chi Minh City in November 2002, which drafted the MOU of the network.

The first action of the MOU was to convene an intense wetland ecology course that was completed in June 2003. The courses and those main instructors are coming to their field at Thai Chi Minh National Park. The main instructors of this course are located in the back row: first on the left, Dr. Tran Tri Ttai (Vietnam Vietnam) Coordinator and Chair of Ecology and Botany at University of Natural Science in HCM City (HCM City); fifth from the right, Dr. Sumanto Sosowar (Associate Professor at Mahidol University); eighth from the right, Dr. Doong Van NG (Director of Hoc An Field Station of Can Tho University).

The course was hosted by the University of Natural Sciences while ICF, the ASIAN Regional Center for Biological Conservation, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, and participating universities sponsored this first course.

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and Ellamar Briggs have been the primary supporters in the development of this program.