

First and still going strong!

By Bob Lange, Development Director



Jane Ridders, ICF's first member.

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 Ridders 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 Sauey 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 Ridders became the first official member of the International Crane Foundation.

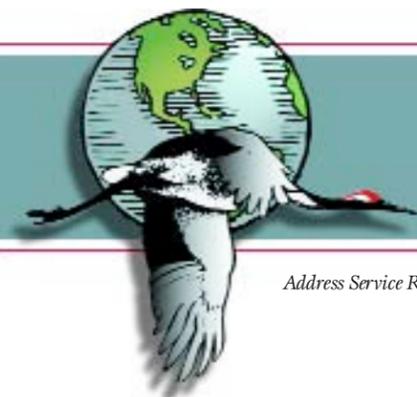
While Jane was the first member, ICF has received tremendous support worldwide and now has more than 10,000 members who are dedicated to saving the cranes and the wetlands they inhabit. Membership provides ICF more than \$350,000 annually to protect these magnificent birds. It all started with Jane.

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 Ridders, an ICF Board member). We thank all of our members for their support and salute Jane Ridders as the first ICF member.

Thank you Jane!



International Crane Foundation

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**Annual Meeting
Registration
Inside!**

THE ICF BUGLE

World Center for the Study and Preservation of Cranes

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 of concern like the Cagle's map turtle are in trouble.

Continued on page 2



The coastal marshes of Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in Texas depend on freshwater inflows for maintaining productive and healthy populations of blue crabs, the preferred food for the only naturally occurring flock of Whooping Cranes in winter. Reductions in freshwater, due to human diversions before rivers reach the coast, pose a serious threat to these ecosystems and the Whooping Cranes. Photo by George Archibald

Continued from **COVER** story

Data show that the health and survival of the endangered Whooping Crane flock are directly related to freshwater inflows. Inflows are needed to produce blue crabs, the primary food for Whooping Cranes. When blue crabs are available, they comprise between 80 and 90% of the diet of Whooping Cranes. One crane can eat as many as 80 small blue crabs per day. When crabs are not available, the cranes are forced to forage on less nutritious foods and may actually burn up fat reserves and have a net loss of energy. Crane mortality during winter increases, and poor nutrition may lead to reduced nesting success the following spring.

In flood 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 bays is of concern.

Inflows also are important to Whooping Cranes because they maintain salinity levels below 23 parts per thousand 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-Ed.]. 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 those dry summers are broken by tropical moisture systems, or even tropical storms and hurricanes, 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 environmentalists for control of the resource. So

many people are using water from the aquifers and rivers in central Texas that the downstream folks and creatures are already feeling what most Texans do not want to acknowledge: the rivers are already over-appropriated, and no one is minding the store when it comes to making sure any freshwater ever makes it to the bays and estuaries.

The human population is expected to double in south Texas over the next 50 years. The Texas Water Development Board projects an 8% reduction in blue crab population in 40 years due to reduced inflows, as humans take more water from the Guadalupe River. The new state water plan proposes to take water from the lower reaches of the Guadalupe River and pump it 170 miles back to San Antonio. This has the potential to adversely impact the estuary, will reduce blue crab populations, and is a definite threat to the continued survival of the wintering population of the endangered Whooping Crane and its critical habitat. To prevent impacts and avoid "take" of the Whooping Crane under the Endangered Species Act, bay inflow needs must be met. The US Fish & Wildlife Service is raising awareness of this issue and urging water developers and state agencies to address conservation needs early in the planning process.

Water right seeks to conserve inflows

A private citizens group called the San Marcos River Foundation (SMRF) has been involved with this issue from the beginning. Initially concerned about water quality of the San Marcos River in the Texas Hill Country, the group is now focused on conservation needs of the entire Guadalupe River. They are using Texas water law in a way that it was never intended. In a precedent-setting move, SMRF applied for a 1.15 million acre-foot water right that it would donate to the State of Texas to provide inflows for the bays needed for fish, crabs, shrimp, and birds. The Texas Parks & Wildlife Department (TPWD) identified this as the amount of water needed to keep the bays productive and sustain commercial harvests of fish, oysters and crabs, and this would conserve just about all the water still available in the river. Unfortunately, in most years there is not enough water avail-

able to even meet the amount identified by TPWD. If current water right holders exercise their full allocations, freshwater flows from the Guadalupe, which are already reduced below historic levels, would be sufficient to support healthy estuaries less than half the time.

The application by SMRF is absolutely unique, in that water rights are all about taking water out of a river for human consumption and have never been used to help guarantee that the river keeps flowing. Needless to say, this permit application by SMRF will be challenged in court and is currently opposed by water organizations and municipalities 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 devious backdoor 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 soliciting comments on the draft permit. A hearing is scheduled for March 19.

The Texas legislature currently in session may weigh in on this issue. Conservationists are fearful that lawmakers 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 bays, 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 untouched. Many rivers in Texas are already over-appropriated, a scary comment on water management here, as the human population continues to grow rapidly. One need only look at the Rio Grande River between Texas and Mexico, which no longer flows to the sea. Instead, it has silted in just before reaching the Gulf and ends in a dry sand flat. Why can't citizens admit that water resources are finite and implement a conservation strategy to balance the needs of people and wildlife? After all, the quality of life for people plummets drastically without healthy, ecologically balanced rivers for future generations to enjoy.

Continued on page 3

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

ICF is working with Dr. Felipe Chavez-Ramirez of the Platte River Trust on Texas crane issues, and has secured grants from the Houston 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 crane and wetland conservation issues in Texas. Felipe has obtained additional support from the Whooping Crane Conservation Association and the Platte River Trust, to study the relationship between inflows, blue crabs and Whooping Cranes at Aransas. Felipe is collaborating with Dr. Doug Slack of Texas A&M University and provides guidance to four graduate students. A five-year research proposal submitted by Dr. Slack to the Guadalupe-Blanco Water Development Board and other water groups including 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, and specific data on possible 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, that investigated the foraging of Whooping Cranes at Aransas and documented the importance of blue crabs to the health of Whooping Cranes.

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

Partnership Has Its Advantages

Korie M. Klink, Visitor Programs Coordinator

As ICF commemorates its 30th anniversary, 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 volunteers as well as the kindness and generosity 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 wonderful one.



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.

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

"We wish you the best with your efforts in protecting cranes in your neck of the woods," Ron writes in his contribution letter. "All our best and keep up the great work."

Each spring, ICF is visited by about 6,000 school children. Several of these budding conservationists visited us from 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 educational materials to be used here and abroad.

Two other young ladies stand out as well. I introduced ICF's membership to their adventures on page three of the ICF Bugle, Volume 28, Number 4. Sara and Jessica Otto 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 contacted by the Lands' End Corporation,

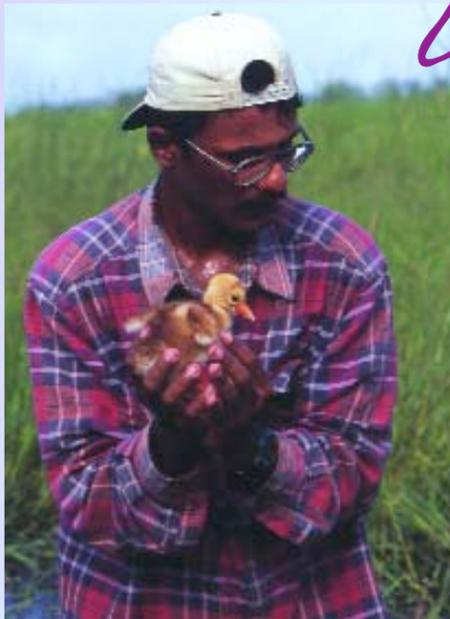
and were honored with the Born Heroes Award. Each year the Born Heroes Award chooses only five young people across the nation recognizing them for their outstanding contributions to their communities and the world. Sara and Jessica were formally recognized for their Change For Cranes efforts in May when a photo shoot was set up at ICF with the girls for the upcoming Lands' End catalog. The most stunning part of the day was when Lands' End staff presented ICF a check for \$5,000 to be used to further the messages of crane education and conservation on our site.

To all those who contribute to ICF's mission- our volunteers, our donors, our visitors, our friends- we salute you and we thank you.



Inspiring a Global Community

By Jim Harris, President



With support from ICF and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Indian colleague K.S. Gopi Sundar is at ICF using 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 restart the India Crane and Wetlands Working Group that could help save cranes and wetlands in India. Photo by Nandha Kumar

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 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 Triet 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 "flocks" gather regularly at scattered sites around the globe. In 1998, Muraviovka Park in far eastern Russia finished its own Guesthouse, complete with solar panels arranged by ICF. When I visited, Park Director Sergei Smirenski 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 Bugle editor Kate Fitzwilliams), two Chinese men whispering from the other side, a champion American snorer (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 evoke long spans of time and great spaces of the skies they cross in their

migrations. They bring out the best in us.

Humanity 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 a round 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 speeds by the Internet, out from our website and among many thousands of e-mails sent back and forth from Baraboo. Yet as always, ICF and its global community are about individuals who care and contribute.



In June 2003, ICF Field Ecology Director Jeb Barzen met with Cambodian Vice Minister It Nody 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 more extensive collaboration. ICF staff standing left to right on the balcony are Mr. Ngan Bunthou (biologist) and Leav Phalen (accountant and office assistant), joined by Department of Forestry and Wildlife staff member Ing Sinang. Photo by Guy Marris, ICF Cambodia Program Coordinator.



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 1966, ICF Co-founder Ron Sauey wrote, "Too frequently I'm asked when I profess my future 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 Jocham



Maurice Wanjala (left) from Kenya and Jimmy Muheebwa (center) of Uganda lead innovative community-based conservation programs for Grey Crowned Cranes and wetlands in the Lake Victoria Basin of East Africa. ICF hosted Jimmy 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 Beilfuss (right). Photo by "Papa" Rich Beilfuss.

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 Hanuszczak at 608-356-9462, ext. 145.

Contributions for April 2003 – June 2003

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 Birder's World Magazine
 Chapman Foundation
 Econoprint
 Electronic Theatre Controls, Inc.
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NEW ASSOCIATES (\$100-\$249)

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MATCHING GIFTS

Bank of America



Eight universities signed 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 Ho Chi Minh City in November 2002, which drafted the MOU of the network.

The first action of the MOU was to convene an intensive wetland ecology course that was completed in June, 2003. The students and three main instructors are outstanding in their field at Tram Chim National Park. The main instructors of this course are all located in the back row: first on the right, Dr. Tran Triet (ICF Vietnam Program Coordinator and Chair of Ecology and Botany at University of Natural Sciences - Ho Chi Minh City); fifth from the right, Dr. Sansanee Choowaew (Associate Professor at Mahidol University); and eighth from the right, Dr. Duong Van Ni (Director of Hoa An Field Station of Can Tho University).

The course was hosted by the University of Natural Sciences while ICF, the ASEAN 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 Eleanor Briggs have been the primary supporters in the development of this program.

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 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
Individual	\$25
Foreign.....	\$30
Family	\$35
Associate	\$100
Sustaining	\$250
Sponsor	\$500
Patron	\$1,000
Benefactor	\$2,000

ICF's Annual Meeting

30th Anniversary Celebration • Saturday, September 13

Whether you have been with ICF since the beginning or just joining the flock this year, our Annual Meeting is a time to enjoy fellowcraniacs, visit with the cranes and learn about exciting projects all over the world. In honor of our 30th Anniversary, Peter Matthiessen will be our keynote speaker for the evening banquet at the Wintergreen 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 608-356-9462 ext. 103 to secure your spot. Space is limited. A \$5 bus 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 Ron Sauey. **Meet in the main parking lot.**

9:00 - 5:00

"All About Cranes," an original watercolor exhibit by ICF member Janet Flynn. Her artwork is for sale with 20% benefiting ICF's work. **Located in the lower level of the library.**

9:00

Prairie Restoration Hike. Experience ICF's secluded trail system through oak savanna, prairie and wetland landscapes. Learn as you hike with Field Ecology staff member Rich Beilfuss. **Meet at the Chickyard.**

10, 1, 3:00:

Tours of the World's Cranes. ICF is the only place in the world that has all 15-crane species for you to enjoy. **Meet at the Cudahy Theatre.**

10:30 & 2:00

Slide Presentation. Meet ICF's Indian colleague K.S.Gopi Sundar and discover how he is helping to save the Indian Sarus Crane. **Meet at the Cudahy Theatre.**

11:40

FLIGHT DEMONSTRATION. Watch Belmont, a Hooded Crane, fly over the prairie! **Meet at the Chickyard.**

Please clip and send with check to the International Crane Foundation
 Attn: Annual Meeting PO Box 447, Baraboo, WI 53913

Please write names as you would like them to appear on name tag.

Name (1): _____

Name (2): _____

Name (3): _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ \$ _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

I would like the vegetarian lasagna for dinner # _____

I would like to purchase _____ tickets to the Annual Meeting Banquet @ \$30 each for a total of \$ _____

Pay by Credit Card (Visa/MasterCard/Discover) crd # _____ Exp. Date _____

_____ I cannot attend, but please send me a copy of the annual report.

1:30

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. **Meet 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

Prairie Restoration Experience ICF's secluded trail system through oak savanna, prairie and wetland landscapes. Learn as you hike with Field Ecology Director Jeb Barzen. **Meet by the gates of Crane City.**

DON'T FORGET YOUR 10% MEMBERSHIP GIFTSHOP DISCOUNT!

5:00 pm GATES CLOSE

Annual Meeting Banquet and Program at the Wintergreen Resort

5:30

Hospitality Hour: Grand Ballroom (Cash Bar)

6:30

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

7:30

Welcome and Business Meeting: President of the Board Joseph Branch

7:45

In the beginning... ICF Co-founder George Archibald will share his memories and pictures of both he and Ron starting ICF.

8:00

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

8:10

2003 Bird-A-Thon Winners: Presented by Development Director Bob Lange

8:15

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

8:30

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

Accommodations:

For a special \$79 per night ICF room rate at the Wintergreen Resort please call 1-800-648-4765 and give them our Reservation # 159877. Rate Deadline: August 29

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

Registration Deadline: Monday, September 8

