Registration

2017 SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL REGISTRATION

General Admission to the Festival is free and includes admission to the Art Show opening on Friday night and the wildlife and nature presentations and workshops, Exhibit Hall, Crane-ium, and Art Show on Saturday and Sunday.

You can register for tours at www.cranefestival.com or by calling 800-581-6150. Online registration is not available after 5 PM Thursday, November 2, 2017.

You can register for tours at the Festival. The registration table will be open Friday from 1:00 to 6:00 PM, Saturday from 7:00 AM to 4:30 PM, and Sunday from 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM.

Art Show

THE 2017 SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL ART SHOW will include watercolors, oils, etchings, sculptures, photographs, and other fine art depicting Sandhill Cranes, other California wildlife, and their habitats. Artwork by this year’s Festival Artist, Dana Gardner, will also be displayed. The Art Show will be at Hutchins Street Square in the Cottage-Pisano rooms and entry is free. Art can be viewed on Friday evening, from 6 to 8:30 PM, Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Origami

All ages are invited to fold origami cranes in the Cottage-Pisano foyer during the Festival – just follow the trail of folded cranes to the tables! This activity is organized by the Central Valley Student Chapter of People to People International, a group that promotes international understanding and friendship through educational, cultural, and humanitarian activities. An ancient Japanese legend promises that anyone who folds a thousand origami cranes will be granted a wish by a crane. Today the origami crane is also a symbol of peace.

Exhibit Hall

VISIT VENDORS, EXHIBITS & THE CRANE-IMUM IN KIRST HALL – You will find 30+ vendors and exhibitors in Kirst Hall, along with food from Bon Appetit, and the always popular Crane-ium. The Crane-ium includes educational displays and hands-on activities centered on cranes, as well as other local wildlife, and is suitable for all ages. Open from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 4 PM on Sunday, free admission.

Featured Speakers

Gary Ivey

Dr. Gary Ivey works for the International Crane Foundation as a Research Associate and is an expert on Sandhill Cranes in the Pacific Flyway. He has worked with wildlife for over 35 years, concentrating on waterbirds, waterfowl, and wetland conservation. Prior to working at ICF, Gary worked for 20 years as a biologist at several western refuges, including 15 years at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. He studied nesting ecology of Sandhill Cranes for his master’s thesis and wintering ecology of Sandhill Cranes for his PhD, both at Oregon State University. In addition, Gary is the Past-President of The Trumpeter Swan Society and is leading efforts to restore breeding Trumpeter Swans to Oregon. For more information about the International Crane Foundation, please visit their web site at www.savingcranes.org

Kate Marianchild

Kate Marianchild lives in a yurt near Ukiah, surrounded by Acorn Woodpeckers, dusky-footed wood rats, and California Newts, as well as manzanitas, buckeyes, and 5 kinds of oaks. When she is not giving talks, leading interpretive walks, or communing with nature, she swims, sings, camps, kayaks, and observes wildlife. You can purchase her book Secrets of the Oak Woodlands: Plants and Animals among California’s Oaks and close-focusing binoculars at www.katemarianchild.com. She will also be selling and signing her book at the Festival before and after her talk on Sunday.

Festival Artist

Dana Gardner

Dana Gardner grew up in southeastern Minnesota and credits his rural upbringing for a deep and lifelong interest in nature, and especially birds. After graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1972, Dana was introduced to the tropics while serving in the army in the Panama Canal Zone. While in Panama, he met the renowned ornithologist Alexander Skutch, with whom he worked for the next 28 years. After his military stint, he worked as an illustrator for the biology department at the Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia, followed by work in Costa Rica, and a part-time position with the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology. This has allowed Dana the freedom to continue traveling and working in the neotropics.

Dana has illustrated many bird field guides and other natural history books and now makes his home in Berkeley, California. You can view his art and see the many books he has illustrated at www.gardnerbirds.com. His original artwork will be displayed at the 2017 Sandhill Crane Festival Art Show.
Welcome

2017 LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

Now in its 21st year, the Sandhill Crane Festival has welcomed thousands of visitors to Lodi to enjoy viewing the cranes and to learn their story. There are many other natural features and regional attractions that make our area so special. We hope you enjoy all that the Festival has to offer and encourage you to explore the Lodi community and beyond. Have a wonderful visit.

Opening Dinner & Art Show Opening

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, HUTCHINS STREET SQUARE 6:00 TO 8:30 PM.

Join us for our Opening Dinner and Silent Auction, as we kick off the 21st annual Sandhill Crane Festival. We will be honoring Lodi educator Janine Jacinto, the recipient of this year’s Sandhill Crane Festival Conservation Award. Janine has brought her passion for the environment to the classroom and beyond, inspiring students to better understand and appreciate nature and to take action on behalf of a healthy environment.

We will also hear from Gary Ivey with the International Crane Foundation, who will present Two White Cranes, stories about his personal experiences working with Sandhill Cranes and some interesting crane characters he has gotten to know. Dinner will be catered by Addy’s Paella and includes a vegan and gluten-free option. Dinner reservations are required and can be made online.

The Art Show opening will be in the Cottage-Pisano rooms from 6:00 to 8:30 PM on Friday. Come meet Dana Gardner, this year’s Festival Artist, whose artwork will be featured in the Art Show, along with entered fine art and photographs. The Art Show is free and open to all; coffee and dessert will be served.

About Sandhill Cranes

Long before Lodi existed, Sandhill Cranes descended into the rich delta wetlands at the end of a long migratory journey, some from nesting grounds as far away as Siberia. Thousands of these magnificent birds darkened the winter skies and greeted California’s earliest explorers. With a prehistoric call, stately gait, and elegant choreography, the Sandhill Crane still inspires us today.

Each year visitors make their way to Lodi area wildlife refuges and farmlands to experience first-hand one of nature’s spectacles. The abundance of crane habitat continues to nourish our agricultural roots, with an ideal combination of water, soil, and climate that sustains the birds, enriches our lives, and benefits our local economy.

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Tours Descriptions

Prices in brackets [ ] are for:

Adult (over 17), Youth (12-17), and Child (under 12 years).

AN AFTERNOON WITH THE SANDHILL CRANES AND PAUL TEBBEL
Tour #: 2, 19
Tour time: 4 hours 15 min.
Mini Bus [50, 40, 30]
Join experts Paul Tebbel and David Moore as you learn the biology and natural history of the Delta’s Sandhill Cranes. Beat the weekend crowds and move about the Delta to observe cranes resting, eating, dancing, parenting, disputing territory, and the myriad of other fascinating and intricate behaviors that they display during the “great winter rendezvous”.

BACCHUS AND BIRDS
Tour #: 14
Car [$25, 15, 10]
Tour time: 2 hours 15 min.
Drive time: 20 min. one-way
At the family-friendly Durst Winery, join local birding experts in the quest to expand the bird list and be fascinated by the excellent birding. This tour is for all skill levels! Take a leisurely walk on flat ground through the Lodi Lake Wildlife Area with an experienced local birder. Learn the basics or hone your skills in identifying numerous resident and visiting bird species. Scout for deer, beaver, fox, possums, turtles, and more!

COSUMNES RIVER PRESERVE
Tour #: 22, 42
Bus [$30, 15, 10]
Tour time: 3 hours 20 min.
Jointly managed by 9 private and government agencies, the Cosumnes River Preserve is the finest valley oak riparian forest and wetland in California. Explore this key link on the Pacific Flyway and learn why its management is considered a model in conservation partnerships. Experienced tour guides will share the ‘back story’ and guide you through the beauty of the Preserve.

CRANE FLY-IN
Tour #: 5, 26, 27, 46
Car [$30, 15, 10]
Tour time: approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours
This tour takes center stage as the Festival highlight! At dusk, Sandhill Cranes converge in large groups that can number from several hundred to several thousand. Experienced Department of Fish and Wildlife docents share the natural history of the cranes at key roosting sites.

CRANE FLY-IN (STATEN ISLAND)
Tour #: 3, 23, 43
Bus [$30, 15, 10]
Tour time: approximately 3 hours
More fly-in opportunities! Combine Crane Fly-In with birding Staten Island to learn what thousands of birds already know – this is one of the best places in the Delta to spend the winter. Experienced docents will highlight the history of this special operation and its conservation partnerships.

CRANE FLY-IN (WER NORTH SHELTER)
Tour #: 4, 25, 45
Bus [$35, 20, 15]
Tour time: approximately 2 ½ to 3 hours
Join the DFW docents for the fly-in at Department of Fish and Wildlife’s Woodbridge Ecological Reserve North Unit, which is only accessible to the public on a tour. In smaller groups, you will view the fly-in of cranes and other birds from the comfort of a viewing shelter, which has maps, displays, and pictorials on the cranes and their habitats.

CRANE ROVING WITH GARY IVEY
Tour #: 6, 29
Mini Bus [$30, 20, 10]
Tour time: Approximately 4 hours
The early bird gets the worm. Join Gary Ivey, foremost expert on Lodi cranes, for an exciting early morning bus trip through our local Sandhill Crane county. As a Research Associate with the International Crane Foundation, Gary brings a wealth of knowledge to this tour. Watch the cranes as they fly-out from their overnight roost.

CROWING WITH MARY MORGAN AND DELTA ADVENTURES
Tour #: 1, 12, 17, 34, 40
Car and Boat [55, 45, 35]
Tour time: 4 hours
Drive time: 20 min. one-way
Set sail with Captain Mary Morgan and an experienced local naturalist to explore the abundant birdlife along the Mokelumne River from the open, or fully enclosed, luxury of the 55-foot double-decked Rosemane. Bring a lunch or snack and relax with your favorite adult or soft beverage from the onboard no-host bar.

DELTA BIRDING CRUISE
Tour #: 7, 11, 16, 20, 30, 36, 39, 41
Car and Boat [$45, 25, 15]
Tour time: 3 hours 10 min.
Drive time: 20 min. one-way
Cruise along the Delta waterways through Sandhill Crane habitat with an experienced pilot and naturalist guide. The sky fills with cranes, swans, geese, and ducks, but don’t forget to keep an eye on the banks for other birds and mammals. Docking at the Tower Park Marina provides the opportunity to enjoy the restaurant and other amenities.

DRAWING SANDHILL CRANES WITH JOHN MUIR LAWS
Tour #: 103
Car [$35, 35, N/A]
Tour time: 4 hours, 30 min.
Drive time: TBD, will be within 20 min.
Using Sandhill Cranes, you will learn to draw by understanding what you see and training your eye to capture critical negative shapes, gestures, and angles. We will explore how to escape from your understanding of what you “should see” to accept what you do see and get that down on paper. Participants should bring, at minimum, a sketchbook and pencil, as well as any other lightweight, portable drawing materials that they like to use. Led by John Muir Laws, naturalist, artist, and author. Visit his website at johnmuirlaws.com to learn more about his art, nature journaling and other classes. Lecture is from 1:30 to 3 PM in Thomas Theatre at Hutchins Street Square and the field portion of the workshop is from 3 to 6 PM. Suitable for ages 14 and older.

FOR THE BIRDS! ECO-FRIENDLY WINERY TOUR
Tour #: 13
Car and Boat [$25, NA, NA]
Tour time: 2 hours 15 min.
Drive time: 15 min. one-way
Turner Road Vintners continues to be a destination highlight among Festivalgoers. Its innovative eco-friendly water reclamation ponds have created a natural habitat for a variety of birds. Get a free taste of wine as they get a taste of the birding benefits found here.

KAYAK THE MOKELUMNE RIVER AND LODI LAKE WITH HEADWATERS KAYAK
Tour #: 18, 35
Car and Kayak [$40, 35, N/A]
Tour time: 3 hours
Drive time: 5 min. one-way
Lodi Lake and the Mokelumne River provide the rare opportunity for Crane Festival participants to enjoy an autumn twilight or morning kayaking trip with an experienced naturalist, Bill Beckett, from Headwaters Kayak in Lodi. Equipment is provided. Just in case, dress to get wet.

MOKELUMNE RIVER RENDEZVOUS
Tour #: 8
Car [$20, 10, 5]
Tour time: 3 hours 55 min.
Drive time: 30 min. one-way
Join Mokelumne River bird experts, Liz West and Joanne Katanic, on a short hike along the River with your camera and long lenses. Learn the basics or hone your skills in identifying numerous resident and visiting bird species. Scout for deer, beaver, fox, possums, turtles, and more!

PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS
Tour #: 21
Car [$30]
Tour time: 3 hours 20 min.
Drive time: 40 min. one-way
NEW! Are you a beginner or early-level amateur photographer? Have you always wanted to take breathtaking shots of Sandhill Cranes and other waterfowl? Then this is the tour for you. Explore local marshlands with a CDFW docent, who is an amateur photographer, and learn more about these beautiful creatures. Various topics and techniques will be covered, so bring your camera and long lenses.

PHOTOGRAPHING WILD BIRDS WITH JIM DUNN
Tour #: 31
Car [$45, N/A, N/A]
Tour time: 2 hours 30 min.
Drive time: 10 min. one-way
Jim Dunn was the featured photographer in the 2015 Art Show and one of the Festival’s most popular tour leaders. Join him in the field for this small group opportunity to discuss equipment options for wild bird photography, and learn some of the key skills and techniques to get good photographs.

RAPTORS BY BOAT
Tour #: 10, 15, 33
Car and Boat [$40, $30, $20]
Tour time: 4 hours 45 min.
Drive time: 45 min. one-way
This is one of the Festival’s most popular tours! Enjoy a drive through the Sierra Nevada foothills to Pardee Reservoir, where East Bay Municipal Utility District biologists will guide your search for early arriving Golden and Bald Eagles and other raptors. This boat tour also offers uncommon bird species not seen on other Crane Festival tours, including loons, geese, mergansers, and buffalofeather.

RIVER BIRD WALK, WINE TASTING, AND PICNIC WITH DAVID YEE
Tour #: 38
Car [$35, N/A, N/A]
Tour time: 3 hours 15 min.
Drive time: 15 min. one-way
Stroll through picturesque vineyards of the Heritage Oak Winery and an old-growth riparian forest with renowned birder David Yee to the private beach along the Mokelumne River. Return to the winery patio for lunch and a glass of Tom and Carmela’s wine (included) beneath the buzzing hummingbirds. Round trip walking is approximately 2.5 miles, so wear your walking shoes.

SUNSET LEISURE CRUISE ON LODI LAKE
Tour #: 24, 44
Car and Boat [$30, 20, N/A]
Tour time: 2 hours, 10 min.
Drive time: 5 min. one-way
Lodi Lake and the Mokelumne River provide the rare opportunity for Crane Festival participants to enjoy a leisurely sunset boat ride. Join a local naturalist as you glide along, viewing the lake’s resident birds, other wildlife (maybe even one of the resident deer), and tranquil scenery.

SUSTAINABLE VINES, WINE, AND WILDLIFE
Tour #: 37
Car [$25, 15, 10]
Tour time: 2 hours 15 min.
Drive time: 20 min. one-way
The Large Grapes Winery is all about sustainability. Join fourth generation viticulturist Aaron Lange and a local naturalist on a walking tour of the winery’s wildlife areas along the Mokelumne River. Experience the vineyards and enjoy their wine. Dress in layers and bring your “dirty shoes and binoculars! Fee for wine tasting.

WETLANDS AT DAWN - A PHOTO TOUR WITH SEAN WIRTH
Tour #: 28
Car [$50]
Tour time: 4 hours 30 min.
Drive time: 40 min. one-way
NEW. Join local crane conservation advocate and wildlife photographer Sean Wirth for an early morning photography session with Sandhill Cranes. This tour will focus on some key crane behaviors that will allow a photographer to anticipate and set up for a great action shot, as well as use camera settings to take the most advantage of early morning low light photography.

ALL TOURS START AND END AT HUTCHINS STREET SQUARE
Please check in 20 minutes before the start of each tour.
Presentations & Workshops

Saturday, November 4, 2017

9:45-10:20 – FOR THE LOVE OF CRANES – Creté Hall.
The newest DVD from the Kachemak Crane Watch in Homer, Alaska features people who live with cranes in their yards and the artists who make a wide variety of art depicting Sandhill Cranes.

10:30-11:20 – THE SECRET LIVES OF RAPTORS – Patio off Kirst Hall.
Join Native Bird Connections for an intimate look at the behaviors, life experiences, and personal stories of several birds of prey. Witness hawks and owls up close and learn their unique behaviors, life experiences, and personal stories.

11:00 AM-3:00 PM – PAINTING KINDNESS ROCKS – Upstairs Art Classroom. Painting Kindness Rocks is a fun, family-friendly activity for all ages and creates a positive impact on our community. Led by local volunteers, you and your family will paint Kindness Rocks that can be placed in public area for others to find. This is a simple way to share a random act of kindness with unsuspecting strangers. "One message at just the right moment can change someone’s day, outlook, life." Kindness Rocks Project, thekindnessrockproject.com

12:00-12:20 – TAIKO DRUMMING – Creté Hall. Welcome back Denis and James Kurata, who will perform this ancient form of Japanese music that has been a Festival highlight for 20 years. Taiko drumming originated in Japan hundreds of years ago and is now performed all around the world.

12:30-1:20 – SANDHILL CRANES OF THE PACIFIC FLYWAY – Creté Hall.
Dr. Gary Ivey with the International Crane Foundation will talk about the Sandhill Crane populations that breed and winter in California and the broader Pacific Flyway. You will learn about the history, biology, migration routes, and wintering and breeding areas of the 3 Sandhill Crane subspecies that use the Flyway. In addition, he will discuss conservation needs on their wintering grounds, focusing on the California Delta, and sharing his most recent research results. For more information about the International Crane Foundation, please visit their web site at www.savingcranes.org

12:30-1:15 – MISS DOROTHY PRESENTS – Thomas Theatre. A medley of puppets and stories featuring cranes by local favorite Dorothy Maas. After the program the children are invited to play with the puppets and use the puppet stage and make origami cranes.

1:30-6:00 – DRAWING SANDHILL CRANES WITH JOHN MUIR LAWS – Thomas Theatre. Using Sandhill Cranes, you will learn to draw by understanding what you see and training your eye to capture critical negative shapes, gestures, and angles. We will explore how to escape from your understanding of what you “should see” to accept what you do see and get that down on paper.

The lecture is from 1:30 to 3 PM in Thomas Theatre at Hutchins Street Square and is open to all, as space is available. Priority will be for the paid workshop participants. The field portion of the workshop is from 3 to 6 PM and is open only to paid participants. You can register for the workshop online in advance or at the registration table during the Festival (Tour #103). Participants should bring, at minimum, a sketchbook and pencil, as well as any other lightweight, portable drawing materials that they like to use.

Led by John Muir Laws, naturalist, artist, and author. Visit his website at johnmuirlaws.com to learn more about his art, nature journaling, and other classes.

1:40-2:30 – THE SECRET LIVES OF RAPTORS – Patio off Kirst Hall.
See 10:30 AM Saturday.

2:10-3:00 – THE INS AND OUTS OF THE UCD HUMMINGBIRD RESEARCH PROGRAM – Creté Hall. The UC Davis Hummingbird Health and Conservation Program is dedicated to studying and keeping hummingbirds healthy. Enjoy a presentation that will include how to attract hummingbirds to your garden and an overview about the hummingbird research being done at UC Davis. For more information about the program, please visit hummingbirds.ucdavis.edu.

3:10-4:00 – WHY SHOULD I CARE ABOUT BATS? – Creté Hall. Three local bat ambassadors will be shared at this presentation that covers the incredible diversity of bats worldwide and locally. You will learn about some of the many special features of bats and their essential role in the environment. Presented by Corky Quirk of NorCal Bats, an organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, and release of bats in Northern California.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2017

10:15-10:50 – FOR THE LOVE OF CRANES – Creté Hall.
Sandhill Cranes in Homer, Alaska DVD. See 9:45 AM on Saturday.

10:30-11:20 – WILD THINGS! – Patio off Kirst Hall. Gabe and Barb Kerschner return with some of their special animals for this fun and educational program. In past years they have shared a mountain lion, brown bear, raccoon, Golden Eagle, Barn Owl, rattlesnake and other rescued animals that could not be returned to the wild. This presentation repeats on Sunday at 1:40 PM.

11:00-11:50 – SANDHILL CRANES 101 – Creté Hall. In this brief introduction to Sandhill Cranes, you will learn about their life history, behavior, migration routes, and why our California Delta is so important to cranes. Presented by Alan England, a California Department of Fish and Wildlife Crane Preserve docent and long-time local Audubon Society member.

1:30-5:30 – BIRD CARVING WORKSHOP FOR BEGINNERS – Thomas Theatre. Join master carvers from the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association to learn how to carve a bird from wood. All of the necessary materials, including a study guide and carving knives, will be provided. Short lectures with lots of hands-on carving time will enable you to complete a life-size Mounting Dove. Suitable for ages 7 and older, class size is limited to 8. For more information and to register during the Festival, stop by the Pacific Flyway Decoy Association table in the Exhibit Hall. Advanced registration is available online.

1:40-2:40 – WILD THINGS! – Patio off Kirst Hall.
See 10:30 AM Sunday.

2:00-2:50 – THE PRIVATE LIVES OF SANDHILL CRANES – Creté Hall. Sandhill Cranes communicate with each other in a variety of ways, including dancing, body language, and vocalizations. You will learn about crane behavior, including how to distinguish between dancing and aggression and many other details that will help you better understand and appreciate cranes in the wild. The presenter, Paul Tebbel, has worked with cranes since 1976, including 11 years as the director of Audubon’s Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska.

3:10-3:45 – FOR THE LOVE OF CRANES – Creté Hall.
Sandhill Cranes in Homer, Alaska DVD. See 9:45 AM on Saturday.

Activities suitable for younger children.