

2016 Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival Schedule

All events meet at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse Visitor Center unless noted with *

Featured Guests:

Paul Tebbel has spent a lifetime around Sandhill Cranes from field studies to manager of Rowe Sanctuary on the Platte River in Nebraska. At Rowe he shaped a 760 acre sanctuary treasured by cranes but not well received by locals to an internationally known destination for nature enthusiasts now at 2400 acres and a source of local pride and economy. Paul has a gift for sharing his passion for cranes and nature through education. He currently runs a nature center in California and uses his free time to share his knowledge and love of cranes. He is active in crane conservation efforts.

Christy Yuncker is a photographer whose images and videos tell us much about Sandhill Crane biology. She has photographed and studied one pair of nesting Sandhill Cranes continuously for 21 years. Her image, "Caterpillar Sushi" is our 2016 poster.

Wednesday August 24

5:30 to 7:30pm Festival Orientation

For all volunteers; festival facts and information plus pizza.

Friday, August 26

6pm Art Show Opening

Christy Yuncker Images and Nancy Hausel-Johnson tiles

6:30pm Potluck Picnic with guests

Picnic with our guests plus a short annual membership meeting. Meat and drinks will be provided. Bring a dish to share.

7:30pm Workshops:

Photography

Nature Sketching with Beth Peluso Grassi

Discover the Refuge with Randall Compton

10:15pm Broadside Theater presents:

"How Cranes Learn to Dance" George Happ.
Outside theater *on the side of the barn*, weather permitting

Saturday, August 27

8 -10am Fairbanks Birding Hotspots

A carpool tour of local birding hotspots. Meet at 8 AM.
Guided by Beth Peluso Grassi and Joe Ransdell-Green

10am Nature Walk among the Cranes

Join Paul Tebbel and local guides in observing cranes

11am Kids Crane Walk for kids of all ages

11:30am TO 1:30pm

Crane cakes brunch \$

\$8 per person (\$5 for members)

Book and Poster Signing

Meet the Creamer Family

Family members will be available to chat

12 NOON Calling All Cranes

For all ages, calling cranes, costumes, dancing, art displays,
Dedicated to the memory of Hardy M. Smith.

2pm YOUR CHOICE

Hopper Hunt - What do cranes eat?

History tour - looking back to the dairy days with Ruth Knapman

3pm Birding Basics

Beth Peluso Grassi and Tamara Zeller will help you get
started or become a better birder.

5 to 7pm Tex-Mex Dinner. \$

Celebrate the Cranes' journey south of the border
with food and music. \$10 /person supports Camp Habitat.

***7:30pm "Understanding Cranes"** biology,
personalities, and family lives by Paul Tebbel at Wedgewood
Resort Taiga Center, 212 Wedgewood Drive. Park at the
Antique Auto Museum. Suggested donation \$5.

Events are free of charge unless noted \$

Sunday August 28

9 - 11am ASI Bird Banding Breakfast \$

Enjoy breakfast and learn about songbird research on the
refuge, Groups leave the farmhouse at 9, 9:30, 10 or 10:30
Sign up on ASI website, \$10,per adult, kids are free.

10am "Farm to Market" 5K Fun Run \$

\$10, limited to the first 40; register at Farmhouse or at
RCNorth online. On race day register by 9:30am at starting
line. All eligible for Prizes, especially crane costumes.

11:30 to 1:30pm Lunch from our Grill\$

\$8 per person (\$5 for members)

12 NOON

Nature walk among the Cranes with Paul Tebbel
Poetry Walk with Susan Campbell and Frank Keim

1:30pm Kids Crane Walk for kids of all ages

1:45 to 4pm Wildlife Talks * inside ADF&G.

- 1:45 Take a virtual tour: the Wildlife Refuges
managed by the Alaska Dept. Fish and Game
- 2:30 Migratory Bird Treaty Centennial by Tamara Zeller
- 3:15 25 Years and Counting at Creamers by April Scurr

4pm Birds of Prey, LIVE!

Local falconers Dave Loring and Randall Compton will bring
magnificent live birds of prey and share their experiences .

5 to 6pm Ice Cream Social \$

Enjoy ice cream with crane-berry toppings and music .
Volunteers are appreciated and free, suggested donation for
all others \$5

5:30pm FCF Silent Auction CLOSING

Auction items can be claimed starting at 6 PM

5:30pm QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING

All donations are gratefully received.

Ongoing Events

Raffle

Raffle tickets are for sale at the Information station and
the visitor center desk. The queen size quilt "Feathered
Friends" was made and donated by St Raphael's Quilters. It
is valued at \$1,000

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is for the benefit of Friends of Creamer's
Field. Many fabulous items will be on display, inviting your
bid. **Final Bids** must be made before SUNDAY at 5:30 PM .

Crane Poetry Walk

Refuge trails are always open
Read poems by local writers along the Farm Road Trail.

Crane Watch

11am to 5pm daily

Drop by the viewing platforms at Creamer's Field. Spotting
scopes and binoculars will be available and volunteers from
Arctic Audubon will share natural history information and help
you identify birds

Crane Crafts

11am to 5pm daily

Materials and helpers for craft projects for folks of all ages
including: mobiles, origami, track casting, masks, weaving
and puppets

Crane Page Coloring

Completed coloring pages earn a prize and will be dis-
played. Bring them to the Farmhouse any time.

Give Wild Birds a Chance

Please use common sense while you enjoy watch-
ing birds. Avoid activity that causes them stress, as
evidenced by birds moving away or taking flight.

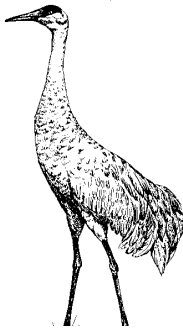
Celebrate Cranes Around Fairbanks

Explore the trail system at Creamer's Refuge among the cranes. Trails are always open.

Read bird poetry written by Fairbanksans as you walk on the Farm Road Trail at Creamer's Field.

View Sandhill Cranes and other migratory birds at these locations:

- Wedgewood Trails and around Wander Lake
- University of Alaska Fairbanks Experimental Farm fields near the Georgeson Botanical Garden
- Tanana Lakes Recreation Area ponds and trails at the end of South Cushman Street; Peat Ponds on Goldstream Road; Airport ponds.
- Agricultural Fields in Nenana, Fairbanks, North Pole, Eielson Farm Project, Salcha and Delta Junction Barley Project (Spruce Road and Sawmill Creek Road)
- Clearwater Lake, Delta Junction
- Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, Tok
- Chena Lakes Recreation Area, North Pole



About Sandhill Cranes

For thousands of years Sandhill Cranes have used the Tanana Valley as nesting grounds and migration corridor. Their bugle-like calls have rattled over this land since before the Ice Ages. Their migration routes to and from nesting areas here, on the Yukon Kuskokwim Deltas and beyond cover up to 4,000 miles annually. The number of Sandhill Cranes using the Tanana Valley migration corridor is estimated at 150,000 to 200,000 birds.

Sandhill Cranes of Interior Alaska are about 3 feet tall with a wingspan of 6 feet and weigh 6 to 8 pounds. Both sexes are similar and gray in color, but they paint their feathers with mud and rotting vegetation creating a generally rusty appearance. After their first year the head is capped with a red featherless crown. This crown can increase or decrease in size depending on the mood of the crane. Long trailing legs and the distinctive snapping upbeat of their broad wings help to identify the birds in flight.

Sandhill Cranes arrive in the Tanana Valley in late April. They disperse to nesting grounds as quickly as the advance of spring will allow. Typically two eggs are laid in the first week of May and hatch during the first week in June. In early August, as the young, called colts, begin to be able to fly pre-migration gathering, called staging, begins. The colts can be identified by the lack of red crown and their high piping calls. Over the northern foothills of the Alaska Range large flocks of 50 to several hundred cranes wheel and call while flying high overhead in great circling columns called "kettles". Agricultural feeds provide the open space and food that attracts Cranes. Flocks can be seen and heard in good weather from August through October. Peak activity around Fairbanks occurs around the end of August. The peak of activity in Delta Junction and Tok occurs from early to mid September.

Raffle - Raffle - Raffle

A full size bed quilt

Beautifully handmade by the St Raphael Quilters and donated to the Sandhill Crane Festival:

"Feathers"

Valued at \$1000

Could be yours when the winning raffle ticket is drawn Aug 28th at 5:30 PM

1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20

Support Friends of Creamer's Field

The Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival is supported by generous donations from community businesses and individuals. Please join us in thanking the following:

WEDGEWOOD RESORT

ALASKA AIRLINES

Phyllis Pendergrast

Aurora Animal Clinic

Happy Gap Farm

George Happ and Christy Yuncker

The Woodway

North Star Golf

Alaska Feed



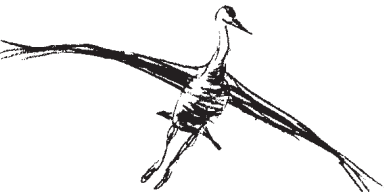
The 19th Annual

Sandhill Crane Festival



Tanana Valley, Alaska

August 26 - 28 , 2016



Creamer's Field

**Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
Fairbanks, Alaska**



Sponsored by Friends of Creamer's Field in cooperation with the Alaska Songbird Institute, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and Arctic Audubon Society



Wedgewood Resort is the Host Hotel for the Sandhill Crane Festival

Call for a Special Room Rate
in the Bear Lodge for festival attendees

*Reservations (800) 528-4916
email at hotels@fdifairbanks.com*