



Grus Americana

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***** News Highlights *****

- **How Your Donations Help Whooping Cranes**
 - Habitat Work and Texas Water Issues
 - WCCA Awards

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Elegant whooping cranes in a marsh setting. Read inside about how your donations are used to preserve habitat for these birds and other wildlife that share the habitat. ****Photo by Marty Folk.****

Whooping Crane Conservation Association...

Your Donations at Work for Whooping Cranes

During the last 10 years the Whooping Crane Conservation Association has invested over \$355,000 towards the recovery of the whooping crane. Projects have included the following:

- \$200,000 towards a conservation easement on 100 acres of critical habitat at Welder Flats adjacent to the Aransas NWR. This project was in partnership with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Nature Conservancy.
- \$86,750 towards the purchase of 178 acres of critical habitat on Lamar Peninsula adjacent to the Aransas NWR. This project was in partnership with the Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife and the Nature Conservancy.
- \$28,600 spread over 8 years to Operation Migration in support of the Whooping Crane Eastern Partnership's goal of establishing a second migratory flock of whooping cranes.
- \$21,343 spread over 10 years spent on Conservation Education (Grus Americana Newsletter, WCCA Website, etc.)
- \$12,000 to the San Marcos River Foundation to help in the legal battle to protect river flows which sustain critical winter whooping crane habitat.
- \$8000 spread over 2 years to the University of Alberta to evaluate food resources in the cranes boreal nesting marshes at Wood Buffalo National Park. This project was in partnership with the University of Alberta, Parks Canada and the Canadian Wildlife Service.
- \$500 towards hunter education signs at Aransas NWR. This project was in partnership with United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Audubon Society, International Crane Foundation and Texas Parks and Wildlife.
- The WCCA has also established a Reward Fund to help bring perpetrators of crimes against whooping cranes to justice. The WCCA has offered rewards of up to \$1500 in several cases, however, as of this date no rewards have been claimed.
- The WCCA is an advocate for whooping cranes and has supported a closure of crab fishing at Aransas to ensure there are adequate food resources for the whooping cranes during winter. In addition, the WCCA, along with other conservation groups, has opposed the location of a proposed wind farm development in North Dakota, which is in the migratory pathway for the Aransas Wood Buffalo Population.
- The WCCA also recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the recovery of the whooping crane. The Jerome J. Pratt

Grus Americana is a biannual newsletter for members of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association, a nonprofit tax exempt organization dedicated to the conservation of whooping cranes.

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Whooping Crane Conservation Award and the WCCA Honor Award are our highest awards and have been given to individuals or organizations who, through exceptional achievement and dedicated service, have contributed significantly to the conservation and/or collective knowledge of the whooping crane. The Whooping Crane Conservation Association has no paid staff and all positions are filled by volunteers. As you can see, most of our projects are in concert with other partners and are priorities of both the Whooping Crane Conservation Association and the International Whooping Crane Recovery Team. The power of partnership is strong and so much more can be accomplished if organizations work together as the WCCA has demonstrated for decades. Thanks to our members and donors, without you these important projects would not have been possible.

Project to improve Whooping Crane Habitat in Texas: Latest Cedar Bayou Dredging Underway

By David Sikes, Corpus Christi Caller-Times, June 4, 2014

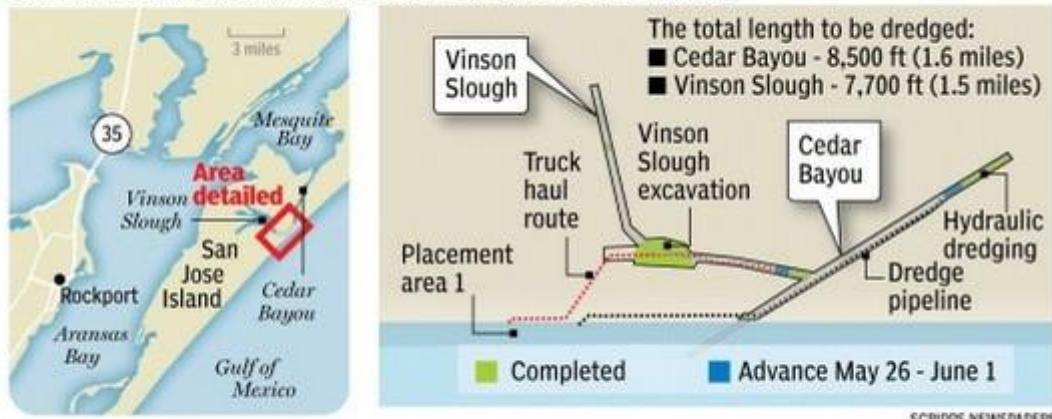
ROCKPORT — I boarded an airboat recently to see firsthand the progress at the site of Cedar Bayou.

I can tell you that on paper, the nearly \$10 million project is not as impressive as it is when you see a half-dozen earth movers loading sand into a never-ending stream of dump trucks. The work is ongoing from nearly sunup to sundown daily.

It's tough duty in an unforgiving environment that eats equipment as quickly as the contractor can feed it to the bayou that almost wasn't. I began writing about the possible but improbable reopening of this pass that once separated San Jose and Matagorda islands about 15 years ago.

The previous dredging occurred in 1995, when Texas Parks & Wildlife dedicated about \$500,000 to cut a meandering path through silt that had mostly clogged the gulf end of the pass. The project was funded mostly by Wallop-Breaux money, an excise taxes on fishing equipment and motorboat fuel. The remainder came from fees anglers pay for licenses and stamps.

CEDAR BAYOU/VINSON SLOUGH DREDGING



This go-round, TPW asked the Texas Legislature to again contribute to what we hope is a more lasting fix to the state's smallest natural pass. The state came through with \$3 million, which required matching funds or in-kind contributions from Aransas County.

Aransas County Judge Burt Mills and the Commissioners Court had earlier embraced and breathed life into the then-floundering environmental restoration project.

The Coastal Conservation Association-Texas helped with another \$1.6 million. To date, Aransas County has garnered \$3.8 million for the project, much of it from grants administered by the Texas General Land Office.

Back in 1995, the plan was to concentrate on the final third of the channel near the gulf. Unfortunately, the spoils from that dredging were deposited directly or indirectly in the path of Vinson Slough. The slough historically had aided in the flow of Cedar Bayou to keep it scoured.

The 1995 dredging was billed as a better way compared to the previous reopening in 1987, which was hastily completed to avoid autumn's high tides and the possible interference of northerners.

The goal was to dredge a channel 50 to 60 feet wide and 7 feet deep in the middle while depositing dredge spoils on the San Jose Island side of the channel.

The 1995 plan for the channel's final stretch at the gulf called for a cut perpendicular to the beach, ignoring the prevailing southeast wind direction. It quickly silted shut.

The current project involves the creation of two cuts from Mesquite Bay, at least 6 feet deep and 100 feet wide. These would merge into a single channel and continue to the Gulf of Mexico at a southeast angle. The opened pass would create the only gulf access between Pass Cavallo at Port O'Connor and Aransas Pass at Port Aransas, about a 70-mile stretch.

When complete, the total length of Cedar Bayou will be 8,500 feet, or 1.6 miles. Vinson Slough will measure 7,700 feet, or 1.5 miles. As of earlier this week, the contractor had completed 1,800 feet of Cedar Bayou and 600 feet of Vinson Slough.

Unlike those other passes, Cedar Bayou is solely a fish pass. It will not be open for boats to navigate, and it will not include a jetty. If history is any indication, anglers will line up to enjoy the mystique and bounty of a flowing Cedar Bayou.

Biologists say the bay-gulf connection also will benefit birds, flounder and other recreational fishes, shrimp, crabs and all manner of marine life that require gulf access for spawning. Proponents hope and scientific research suggests the result is a healthier estuary that will boost the engine of a coastal economy that relies on nature tourism and fishing.

The archives of the Caller-Times document story after story of fishing both sides of the pass. But by far, the main attraction when Cedar Bayou flowed freely was the surf-fishing at the channel's mouth.

My predecessor, Buddy Gough, described it this way in a 1994 story: "If the Padre Island surf is the wildest and baddest on the coast, then surely the surf in the mouth of the state's smallest natural pass is the prettiest and friendliest. Nowhere is there a more compatible meeting of fishing terrain and unspoiled scenery beloved by anglers." *****Thanks to Tom Stehn for pointing out this article*****

Fifth Circuit Acknowledges 23 Whooping Crane Deaths from Lack of Inflows, Yet Refuses to Hold Texas Liable

Federal court of appeals decision offers roadmap for future cases

**July 1, 2014 FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MEDIA CONTACT: Charles Irvine, 713-533-1704
charles@irvineconner.com The Aransas Project**

(Rockport, TX — July 1, 2014)— Today, The Aransas Project (TAP) announces its analysis of the ruling from the appeals court decision regarding TAP’s legal battle to protect the last naturally migrating flock of endangered whooping cranes. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, in a narrowly-tailored decision, held that the federal district judge misapplied certain legal theories when it found that the TCEQ was liable for the deaths of 23 endangered and federally-protected Whooping Cranes in 2008-2009. TAP is considering its full range of options including further appellate review.

In a 34-page opinion released yesterday, a panel of three judges of the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit held that the district court misapplied certain legal standards related to causation in its decision.

TAP prevailed on several aspects of the appeal. First, TAP had legal standing to bring the case. Second, TAP presented compelling evidence that up to twenty-three endangered, federally-protected Whooping cranes actually died in 2008-2009. Third, that federal data supporting TAP’s allegations of deaths by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service’s (USFWS) Tom Stehn was reliable. Fourth, that TAP presented evidence that the crane deaths were related to lack of essential food, water and other essential habitat requirements. And finally, there was no basis for the district court to abstain to a non-existent and ineffectual state of Texas process.

However, the appeals court panel held that the district court misapplied two legal standards when applying its fact findings. First, it held that the TCEQ could not be held liable for killing whooping cranes because TCEQ’s authorization of water use was too attenuated from the actual deaths. The panel held that the deaths of whooping cranes could not have been foreseen. In so doing, the panel acknowledged, yet brushed aside the undisputed evidence that the State of Texas signed onto the official USFWS Recovery Plan, which highlighted reduction in freshwater inflows as an important threat to Whooping Cranes. Although the panel recognized that TAP proved that TCEQ’s actions may have been the “cause-in-fact” of Whooping crane deaths, TCEQ was still not liable under the panel’s new interpretation of the Endangered Species Act. Additionally, in ruling that the 2008-2009 crane deaths were a “mere fortuity,” the panel ignored the undisputed evidence that increased whooping crane mortality is significantly [statistically??] related with low freshwater inflows over the past twenty years.

The panel also ruled that even if TAP had proved its case, the injunction issued by the district court was flawed because it failed to simultaneously find that TCEQ would continue to kill whooping cranes in the future. TAP believes the panel ignored all such evidence in the record, and ignored the fact that TCEQ explicitly argued that, no matter what the evidence, TCEQ refused to take any steps to avoid killing Whooping cranes in the future.

TAP will continue to evaluate the opinion of the Fifth Circuit and may seek further review in the courts. However, it is clear that the Fifth Circuit accepted much of TAP’s factual case that unrestricted water diversions in this river basin can cause the deaths of endangered Whooping cranes. The Fifth Circuit clearly accepted that Whooping cranes were killed. Furthermore, even if TCEQ might not be liable under the ESA, the private third-parties who actually divert water would alternatively be liable. Nothing in the panel’s opinion precludes a similar case against the water users. The panel identified a roadmap, because the inevitable result of the panel’s opinion shielding the TCEQ is that instead, up to 800 water users in the whole basin would instead be liable.

The Aransas Project will vigorously continue its legal and scientific efforts to protect the only natural flock of Whooping Cranes on earth. We urge the State of Texas to take pride in hosting the last wild flock of Whooping Cranes and join with TAP in our efforts to preserve this remarkable and irreplaceable feature of Texas' natural history.

Previous District Court Decision

On March 10, 2010, TAP filed a lawsuit against several officials of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) in their official capacities for illegal harm and harassment of Whooping Cranes at and adjacent to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge in violation of the Endangered Species Act. The case went to trial before Judge Janis Graham Jack of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Texas in December 2011.

At the heart of the case was the claim that TCEQ's failure to properly manage the state-owned freshwater inflows to the San Antonio and Guadalupe Bays during time of low flows had resulted in elevated salinity in the bays, lower availability of necessary food and water resources for the cranes, and the resulting death of at least 23 endangered cranes.

In an exhaustive and detailed 124-page opinion released March 10, 2013, Judge Jack ruled that the water management practices of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) for the Guadalupe and San Antonio River basins violated the Endangered Species Act. The district court issued an order preventing the TCEQ from approving or granting new water permits affecting the Guadalupe or San Antonio Rivers "until the State of Texas provides reasonable assurances to the Court" that new permits would not result in harm to the whooping cranes. The district court ordered the agency seek what is known as an Incidental Take Permit and develop a Habitat Conservation Plan. An Incidental Take Permit is a permit issued by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that allows the holder to proceed with an otherwise lawful activity that results in "incidental" harm to an endangered species, but requires the permit holder to design, implement and fund a plan that minimizes and mitigates harm to the species while carefully balancing competing interests of various stakeholders in the basin.

Background on the Flock

The Aransas-Wood Buffalo flock of Whooping Cranes that winters on the Texas coast is the only natural wild flock remaining in the world. This flock of whooping cranes travels 2500 miles from their nesting grounds in Canada to reach this unique and rare ecosystem along the Texas coast. The flock has increased from 16 birds in the early 1940s to a high of 270 in the spring of 2008. The 2008-2009 year was the worst in recent history for the Whooping Crane, with a death toll of 57 birds, a staggering loss of 21.4% of the flock—of which 23 deaths, or 8.5% of the flock, occurred in Texas during their winter at Aransas. The lack of freshwater inflows to the bays from the Guadalupe and San Antonio Rivers, especially during times of low flows, resulted in very high salinity levels and depleted food and water sources for the Cranes.

About The Aransas Project

www.TheAransasProject.org The Aransas Project (TAP) is 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization that brings together an alliance of municipalities, businesses, organizations, and citizens who want responsible water management of the Guadalupe River Basin to ensure freshwater flows to the bays and estuaries that it supports. These bays and estuaries provide critical habitat for the last freely migrating flock of endangered whooping cranes as well as serving as the lifeblood for coastal economies. TAP Members include Aransas County, Aransas County Navigation District, Town of Fulton, City of Rockport, International Crane Foundation, the Coastal Bend Guides Association and more.

Follow Us on Twitter: @AransasProject Connect with us on Facebook: facebook.com/TheAransasProject

A VISIT WITH DAYTON O. (HAWK) HYDE

Cowboy, WWII Veteran, Naturalist, Rodeo Photographer, Bull Fighter/Rodeo Clown, Rancher, Author, Conservationist, Champion of Wild Horses, and WCCA Charter Member

South Dakota's Black Hills are beautiful in summer and I have had the opportunity to visit there often over the last several years. On 3 of those occasions Dayton O. "Hawk" Hyde (on the right in photo below) has been my host and it always turns out to be an adventure. Dayton captured what one experiences better than I ever could:

"Imagine a place where as far as the eye can see, miles and miles to the horizon, you can view America as it was 300 years ago. Imagine a place, long revered by the American Indians, where the Cheyenne River flows in all four directions and eagles' shadows sweep rocky canyon walls, a place where wild horses run free across endless prairies, hooves striking thunder, manes and tails flying in the wind.

Come to the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary, experience the dream, visit their grassland home of rocky canyons, windswept prairies, and dark pine forests, a home they share with coyotes, cougar, white-tail and mule deer, elk, wild turkeys, eagles and falcons. A home where hundreds of wild horses not only live but flourish, nurtured by the dream of a man of vision, and the freedom he gave them. The Sanctuary has given the wild horses that make their home there over 10,000 years of horse freedom.

Come and take pride in what you have become a part of. Enjoy the herds of sleek, healthy mustangs running where wild flowers bloom in profusion, and the sky goes on forever. - *Dayton O Hyde*

The Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary to us easterners is a huge tract of land –13,000 acres. The Sanctuary and its non-profit corporation the Institute of Range of the American Mustang, IRAM, provides range and all the other resources necessary for the wellbeing of some 650 wild horses. Dayton hatched the Sanctuary idea in 1986 after visiting a BLM feed lot in Nevada where surplus and unwanted wild horses were well fed but unhappy. Dayton felt they deserved better and went to Washington to present his idea to the Director of the Bureau of Land Management who was responsible for dealing with the horses.

The idea of a sanctuary appealed to the Director and encouraged Dayton to seek Congressional help with the idea. The idea appealed to Senators Harry Reid, Jim McClure and Dale Bumpers who promised to help. I was in Washington that year for the North American Wildlife Conference as was Dayton and I still remember the wild enthusiasm Dayton had for his idea and had no doubt he would sell it to someone. With the additional help of the Governor of South Dakota, George Mikkelsen, and many generous donors the Sanctuary became a reality and accepted its first horses in 1988. Dayton tells some great stories about stringing 8 miles of fencing over rocky gorges and ridges to provide the



area needed to allow this first group of 150 horses to run free.

On my first trip Dayton took me on a grand tour of the Sanctuary and we stopped for lunch at one of the highest points. We were setting on this ridge with several groups of wild horses in sight, wild turkeys and mule deer on the slopes and a golden eagle soaring along the cliff face below us. There are not many opportunities in one's life when you can look down on an eagle as he scans the earth below for his next meal. I don't remember how long we set there but Dayton told me about his trouble maintaining the fences because the elk and deer continually broke through them allowing the horses to escape the sanctuary onto adjoining federal and private land. He said a brief effort to include bison caused even greater difficulty. Rounding up the horses and the bison to drive them back onto the sanctuary took many long hours and days. Obviously the bison didn't realize that they had died and gone to heaven on the Sanctuary but somehow the horses knew where they belonged and came home on their own eventually.



One of Dayton's first moves after setting up the Sanctuary was to invite the nearby Native Americans back on the ranch. The previous owners who had been on the land since it was taken back from the Indians during the Black Hills Gold rush had not given the Indians access. They now hold their annual Sundance Ceremony on the sanctuary, are able to visit burial grounds on the ranch, and to wander the hills where their ancestors had created petroglyphs on the smooth Canyon walls. Dayton described a nearby quarry where the Indians had mined flint used for

weapons and had traded it with other tribes across the country. The mining was done by Indian slaves captured on raids of other tribes. Evidence of the Indians presence on the land is closely guarded by Dayton and his staff in order to preserve this wonderful land and its heritage for future generations.

Dayton tells a story about one of his early encounters with elders of the nearby Lakota tribe. The gentlemen had come to visit a burial ground that they had only heard about through stories that had been handed down for generations. Dayton offered to take them in his pickup truck to this remote and difficult area to reach that involved crossing the Cheyenne River and traveling over some very rough tracks. The elders refused to ride in the cab with Dayton and insisted on riding in the back. Dayton jokingly told them to hold their teeth because it was going to be a rough ride. Looking back a little later to check on their wellbeing he said they were in fact holding their false teeth just as he had advised. Dayton now has an Indian name, translated to "Protector of Sacred Land" and is regularly invited to their Sundance Ceremonies.

Dayton's life has been a long one, obviously at least 800 years, to have had all the experiences he has had but somehow he has managed to squeeze it all into his actual life of 89 years. He spent his childhood in northern Michigan and his early life on his uncle's, and later his own, ranch, Yamsi, high in the mountains of Oregon where he enhanced his interest in wildlife and his conservation ethics. His military career assigned to Patton's third Army where he survived the invasion of France, the Battle of the Bulge, the Ruhr Pocket and the Rhineland Campaign. His rodeo career as a saddle bronc rider, bull fighter and photographer led to a lifelong

friendship with Slim Pickens and provided action photographs for Life and other national magazines. As an award winning author he has written at least 20 books from his life experiences stressing the importance of conservation and engaging audiences from the youngest child to the oldest citizen. His books are exciting and hard to lie down. His latest a book of poetry, *Alone in the Forest*, was published in 2012. I will end this article with one poem in his book which again reflects on one of his life experiences. Roger Caras once wrote of Dayton's writings "...It is too early to say whether the name Dayton Hyde will go down in history but it is absolutely certain that far in the future people will pick up his books including the gem we now have immediately to hand, *Don Coyote*, and wonder about Hyde, who is as much an American original as his beloved Don Coyote. Author and subject were cut from the same bolt of cloth – red, white, and blue on one side, earth tones on the other."

Dayton O. Hyde is the subject of a new documentary feature film, *Running Wild*. The film was produced over a period of 10 years and had its world premiere at the Slamdance Film Festival in Park City, Utah in January 2013. The film also reveals his current battle against a uranium mining company that is threatening to pollute the ground water in the area essential to the horses, the people, and all the wildlife in the Black Hills. Dayton says, "It's going to be my last great battle, but I'm going to win this one". I wouldn't bet on it being his last. Hawk Hyde was one of the Charter members of the International Wild Waterfowl Association and was a member of the IWWA Whooping Crane Committee that spun off into the Whooping Crane Conservation Association. Two of his books were about cranes –*Sandy* and *Cranes in My Corral*.

Dayton is extremely lucky to have found someone who shares his passion for the wild horses, Susan Watt, who has dedicated her life to carry on his work once he is no longer able to climb on a tractor and make hay for six hours like he did one of the days I was there last summer. I would like to thank Susan for her help in putting this article together and the hospitality she provides no matter how many times I show up at the sanctuary. To learn more about Dayton and the Black Hills Wild Horse Sanctuary go to <http://www.wildmustangs.com/>.

THE WINTER NUTHATCH

Pretty little nuthatch with breast so pure and white,
I wonder where you came from and where you spent the night.
Perhaps you found a hollow branch in juniper or cedar,
Kept warm by tiny bugs you ate or seeds from my bird feeder.
All upside down you search for bugs and keep my elm trees healthy.
You save my apple trees from blight, both Honey Crisp and Wealthy.
How silent are the winter woods without your tiny voices.
From hemlock branch a whump of snow and feather riffling noises.
You travel with a host of friends like chickadees and creepers.
"Yank! Yank!" you call just loud enough to keep the flock together,
As on you pass through frigid woods, regardless of the weather.

From *Alone in the Forest* by Dayton O. Hyde

*****Article by WCCA Trustee Walter Sturgeon, on the left in photo at beginning of article*****

Jerome J. Pratt – Whooping Crane Conservation Awards

On April 17, 2012, at the North American Crane Workshop, WCCA Trustee Walt Sturgeon (on the left in both photos below) presented both George Archibald and Tom Stehn with Jerome J. Pratt Whooping Crane Awards. The award is a lifetime achievement award given to an individual or organization who, through exceptional achievement and dedicated service, have contributed significantly to the conservation and/or collective knowledge of the whooping crane.

George Archibald



George Archibald is the award-winning co-founder of the International Crane Foundation. George's vision was to protect the world's crane species from extinction by establishing a captive breeding center. Under George's direction, the Crane Foundation has grown from humble beginnings into an internationally known power house of crane research. He has collaborated with colleagues throughout the world to promote crane conservation and wetland preservation. Undeterred by political boundaries and current politics, George has used the bond shared by numerous peoples that cranes are sacred and deserve protection. George's involvement with whooping cranes began with an imprinted female named Tex, who through artificial insemination was able to pass on her genes through her offspring. George has been a member of the Whooping Crane Recovery Team almost since its inception. His leadership at the Crane Foundation and his willingness to try alternate rearing and reintroduction techniques have proved

to be beneficial to the captive breeding program and in bringing whooping cranes back to eastern North America.

Thomas V. Stehn



Since 1982, Thomas V. Stehn has monitored the whooping crane population wintering at and near the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge. Tom studied erosion of crane habitat along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway which led to a large erosion control abatement project that was installed by the Army Corps of Engineers, US Fish and Wildlife Service and volunteers. This single project is responsible for the protection of hundreds of acres of Critical Habitat for the whooping crane. He developed an aerial census technique that provided annual population figures for the Aransas/Wood Buffalo population of whooping cranes. This one of a kind dataset has been instrumental in documenting overwinter mortality and is used by researchers around the globe to track the population. Tom became the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Whooping Crane Coordinator and co-chairman of the International Whooping Crane Recovery Team in 1998. As coordinator he has been

deeply involved with all whooping crane issues, ranging from power line collisions to captive breeding. He is one of the authors of the International Recovery Plan for the Whooping Crane (2007). Tom retired in September, 2011, after 32 years of service with the Federal Government.

The Whooping Crane Conservation Association congratulates both George and Tom for their contributions on behalf of whooping cranes.

WCCA Honor Award

In recognition of his many achievements on behalf of whooping cranes and their recovery, an Honor Award was presented to Marty Folk (left below) by Brian Johns (right, below) on the 28th day of March, 2014, at Davenport, Florida.



The Award Citation Reads: "As Biological Field Coordinator for the Non-Migratory Whooping Crane Project, Marty Folk has been involved in all aspects of the Florida whooping crane release. He has selected release sites, established release pens, released birds and monitored the cranes after release. Marty has been instrumental in developing new and innovative capture techniques and handling protocols for the birds he has captured. He has also developed the use of videography for remote monitoring of nests to determine nesting behavior and egg and chick mortality factors. Marty is a prolific writer and has contributed numerous papers on the non-migratory whoopers including capture techniques, molt patterns, behavior, disease and mortality. Marty has also shared his knowledge as a member of the Whooping Crane Recovery Team and has contributed to the development of the International Whooping Crane Recovery Plan. Currently Marty is the editor of the Whooping Crane Conservation Association newsletter *Grus Americana*."

The Whooping Crane Conservation Association was very pleased to present Marty Folk with the Honor Award. The award is given on an infrequent basis to an individual or organization who through exceptional achievement and dedication, has contributed significantly to the conservation and/or collective knowledge of the Whooping Crane. Friends and colleagues wish Marty well in his retirement from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

WCCA President

Brian Johns (Photo above on right) will continue as president of the WCCA in 2014.

In Memoriam

Scott Melvin, biologist and crane enthusiast, passed away July 11, 2014. For more details visit this link:
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/bostonglobe/obituary.aspx?n=scott-merrill-melviin&pid=171716930>

Honor Roll of Donors to the WCCA

Thanks to the following individuals who contributed extra money over and above their annual dues; all contributions will be used toward conservation of the whooping crane:

Judith Legrand

Glenn McCormick

Remember WCCA Membership Dues Can Be Paid On-line

You now can sign up for membership, renew your membership, or make a donation online to the WCCA. Go to this link <http://whoopingcrane.com/membership/> and do your part today!

Members—please send your correct address if the one shown below is wrong. Send to the return address below.

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Whooping crane tracks in salt marsh habitat, coastal Texas. Read inside about how habitat is being managed.
****Photo by Marty Folk.****