

# 2017 Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival Schedule

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

Events are free of charge unless noted \$. Donations will be gratefully received.

## Featured Guests:

**Gary Krapu** has studied Sandhill Cranes and waterfowl throughout his nearly 50 year career as a biologist at the Northern Prairie Research Center. In 2014 he received the LR Walkinshaw Award for his lifetime work with cranes on the Platte River, his comprehensive efforts to guide their conservation and management, and his collaborative work to guide international crane conservation. As an Emeritus Research Biologist he continues to study population dynamics and ecology of cranes including those breeding in Russia.

**Susan Grace** of Fairbanks sings and writes folksongs sharing her passion for earth, life, and Creamer's Field.

### Tuesday August 22

#### 7 to 8:30 PM Folk Concert in the field

Alaskan Troubador Susan Grace sings Creamer's son

### Thursday, August 24

#### \* 7 to 8:30 PM Cranes in Russia

"Exploring Arctic Russia in Search of Two Species of Cranes" with Dr. Gary Krapu at the Noel Wein Library Auditorium

### Friday, August 25

#### \* 3 PM Seminar at UAF Murie Auditorium

"Satellite Telemetry: A Game-Changing Research Tool In studies of Sandhill Cranes" by Dr Gary Krapu

#### 6:30 PM Members Picnic with guests

Potluck Picnic with our featured guests including a short annual membership meeting. Meat and drinks will be provided.

#### 7:30 to 8:30 PM 50 years of a great idea.

Join Fairbanks friends to recall and reflect on "how it was" 50 years ago when the farm came up for sale.

#### 10 PM The Broadside Theater presents:

Outside theater on the side of the barn weather permitting. Dress accordingly, Historical films.

### Saturday, August 26

#### 8 -10 AM Fairbanks Birding Hotspots

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

#### 10 AM Nature Walk among the cranes

Join Gary Krapu and local guides in observing cranes

#### 11 AM Kids Crane Walk for kids of all ages .

#### 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

##### Crane cakes brunch \$

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

##### Book and Music Fair

Local authors and musicians

#### 12 NOON Crane Capers:

For all ages, calling cranes, crane puppets, costumes, crane dancing, crane coloring and crane art displays, **PRIZES**

#### 1 PM Hopper Hunt, Find out what cranes eat; a walk for kids and adults

#### 2 PM Capture A Crane - on paper with Mark Ross, bring your own supplies.

#### 3 PM Birding by Ear with Beth Grassi, identify some local birds by sound, plus tips to keep on learning.

#### 4 PM Photography with Ken Whitten, bring your camera if you want to.

#### 5 to 7 PM Tex-Mex Dinner. \$

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

#### \* 7:30 PM "An Ancient Species Adapts to a Changing World"

by Gary Krapu at Schaible Auditorium at University of Alaska . Suggested donation \$5.

### Sunday August 27

#### 9 AM Walk to the Bird Banding Station

Join Alaska Songbird Institute biologist for a visit to the Migration Bird Banding Station.

#### 10 AM 5K "Farm to Market" Run \$

Pre-register at the Farmhouse , \$10, limited to the first 40.

On race day register by 9:30 AM at starting line, Prizes for effort and costumes.

#### 11 AM Roam the Refuge Susan Grace will share her wonder and joy with all ages, a family walk.

#### 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM Lunch \$

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

#### 1 PM History Tour

#### 1 PM Crane Walk for kids of all ages

#### \* 2 to 4 PM Wildlife Talks inside ADF&G .

2:00 Sandhill Cranes, George Happ

2:45 North for Science, Carol Scott

3:30 TBA

#### 4 PM Birds of Prey, LIVE !

Local falconers bring magnificent live birds of prey and share their experiences .

#### 5 to 6 PM Ice Cream Social \$

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

#### 5:30 PM FCF Silent Auction CLOSES

Auction items can be claimed ASAP, starting now!

#### 5:30 PM QUILT RAFFLE DRAWING

### Ongoing Events

#### Raffle

Raffle tickets are for sale at the Information station and the visitor center desk. The queen size quilt "Starry Creamer's Autumn Sky" is valued at \$500 and was made and donated by Raye Ann Robinson.

#### Silent Auction

The Silent Auction benefits 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

Please submit poems by email to [director@creamersfield.org](mailto:director@creamersfield.org)

#### Crane Watch

11AM to 5 PM daily

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

#### Visit the bird banding station

Visit the bird banding station to see songbirds up close and field biologists in action, 7 AM - Noon. Follow Seasonal Wetland Trail

#### Crane Crafts

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

#### Crane Page Coloring

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

#### NEW: Float and Bird the Chena River

Saturday \$75 cost includes kayaks, vests, guide and transportation. Call 452-5162 for details

## 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 Experiment Farm fields and 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; Chena Lakes Recreation Area, North Pole
- 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

### 50 Year Anniversary for Creamer's Refuge

Since 1904 the fields of Creamer's Dairy have been a place where birds have gathered by the thousands during the spring and fall migrations. In 1967, after the dairy closed the community of Fairbanks rallied to raise the earnest money to save the dairy fields from development. For the last 50 years the refuge has been a beloved place to watch birds, walk dogs, and get out to enjoy nature



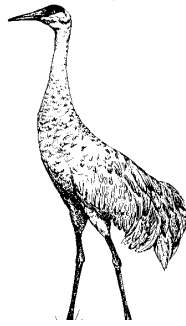
**Wedgewood Resort**

Fountainhead Hotels

**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](mailto:hotels@fdifairbanks.com)



### 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 the first year their 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, are learning to fly pre-migration gathering, called staging, begins. The colts can be identified by the lack of red crown, rusty color and 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 fields 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 Raye Ann Robinson and  
donated to the Sandhill Crane Festival:*

*"Starry Creamer's Autumn Sky"*

*Valued at \$500*

**Could be yours when the winning raffle  
ticket is drawn Aug 27 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**

*The Woodway*

*Happy Gap Farm*

*Arctic Audubon*

*A.B.R., Inc.*

*North Star Golf*

### Give Wild Birds a Chance

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

**Please leash all dogs.**

## The 20th Annual

# Sandhill Crane Festival



*Tanana Valley, Alaska*

## August 25 - 27, 2017



### Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Fairbanks, Alaska



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

