

2015 Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival Schedule

All events meet at the Creamer's Field Farmhouse Visitor Center unless noted with a ♦. Events are free of charge unless noted with \$. All donations are gratefully received.

Featured Guests:

Sammy King-biologist, speaker, a wetland ecologist and leader of the Louisiana Coop. Fish and Wildlife Research Unit and involved in Whooping Crane reintroductions and wetlands restoration.

Julie Hammonds-guest author and associate editor at Arizona Wildlife Views magazine.

Randall Compton-featured artist and advocate for Creamer's values, beauty, charm and charisma.

Wednesday, August 26

5:30 to 7:30 PM Festival Orientation

For all volunteers; festival facts and information plus pizza.

Friday, August 28

3 PM Lecture ♦ Murie Auditorium, UAF

Dr. Sammy King will present "Forest and Wetland Change in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley"

6 PM Guest Reception and Picnic

Potluck Picnic for Friends of Creamer's Field members with our guests. Includes a short annual membership meeting.

7:30 PM Workshops

-**Nature Writing** with Julie Hammonds

-**What the Heck is there to Photograph**

at Creamer's Field?

a photography and nature walk with local photographer, Stephen Cysewski

10 PM The Broadside Theater presents:

Outside theater on the side of the barn weather permitting
"Visit Louisiana's Wilds" With Dr. Sammy King

Saturday, August 29

8 -10 AM Fairbanks Birding Hotspots

A carpool tour of local birding hotspots. Meet by the Farmhouse at 8 AM.

10 AM Nature Walk among the cranes

11 AM Kid's Crane Walk

Join a naturalist on a walk for kids of all ages

11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM

Crane cakes brunch \$

\$8 or \$5 for up to date members

Book and Poster Signing

Meet the Creamer Family

Family members will be available to chat

12 NOON Crane Calling contest

2 PM YOUR CHOICE

Hopper Hunt - What do cranes eat?

Writer's Workshop with Julie Hammonds

History tour - looking back to the dairy days.

3 PM eBird Workshop and Walk

Audubon's Beth Peluso on using eBird, and other apps.

Bring your devices and bring or borrow binoculars

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 "The Whooping Crane Story" ♦

Join invited speaker Dr. Sammy King at Wedgewood Resort's Taiga Center, 212 Wedgewood Drive. Park at the Antique Auto Museum. Suggested donation \$5.

9 PM Randall Compton Raffle Drawing.

Sunday, August 30

9 - 11 AM A.S.I. Birdbanding Breakfast \$

Enjoy breakfast and learn about songbird research on the refuge. Groups leave the farmhouse at 9, 9:30, 10 or 10:30.

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

Pre-register at the Farmhouse , \$10, limit = first 40

On race day register by 9:30 AM at starting line

11 to 1 PM Lunch from our Grille \$

\$7 per person (\$5 for members)

12 PM Nature and Art

Walk through the Refuge with Randy Compton

1:30 PM YOUR CHOICE

Writer's Workshop with Julie Hammonds

Kids Crane Walk a walk for kids of all ages

2:30 to 4 PM Wildlife Talks ♦ inside

ADF&G. Biologists will share insights from their work with you.

2:30 PM Swallow Project, ASI student interns

3:15 PM Bison Reintroduction, Cathy Harms

4 PM Live Birds of Prey

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

5 to 6 PM Ice Cream Social \$

Enjoy ice cream with crane-berry toppings and music you can dance to. Volunteers are appreciated and receive free ice cream; suggested donation for all others \$5

5:30 PM Silent Auction Closes

Ongoing Events

Raffle

Raffle tickets will be for sale at the Farmhouse Visitor Center. The item is a Randall Compton giclee print "Spring Arrivals"

Silent Auction

The Silent Auction is for the benefit of Friends of Creamer's Field. Many fabulous items will be on display and inviting your silent bid in the Farmhouse Visitor Center during the Festival. The final bids on these items must be made before closing on SUNDAY at 5:30 PM .

Crane Poetry Walk

Poems by local writers are displayed along the Farm Road Trail. The trails at Creamer's Refuge are always open

Crane Watch

Drop by the viewing platforms at Creamer's Field. Spotting scopes and binoculars will be available and naturalists from Arctic Audubon will help you identify birds and share natural history information. **11AM to 5 PM daily**

Crane Crafts

Materials and helpers for craft projects for folks of all ages

Support the Crane Fest and other year round events at Creamer's Field-
Become a Member of



Friends of Creamer's Field!

Membership forms available in the farmhouse

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 near the Georgeson Botanical Garden
- The ponds at the end of South Cushman Street, on Goldstream Road, and at the Fairbanks International Airport
- 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

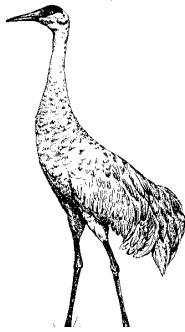


Wedgewood Resort
Fountainhead Hotels

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



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 grey, 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 feather-less red 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 Randall Compton Gilcee Print of
"Spring Arrivals"
(valued at \$1400)**

**Could be yours when the winning raffle
ticket is drawn Aug. 29th at 9:00 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:

Alaska Airlines

Wedgewood Resort

City of Fairbanks Bed Tax Grant

Kinross/Ft Knox

Conoco Phillips

The Stroecker Foundation

Arctic Audubon

Happy Gap Farm

George and Christy Happ

The Woodway-Home of the Blaze King

Randall Compton

Hot Licks Ice Cream

North Star Golf

And

Thank you

to all the organizations and individuals

who gave donations for our

Crane Fest Silent Auction.

Without your support, this event would not be possible.

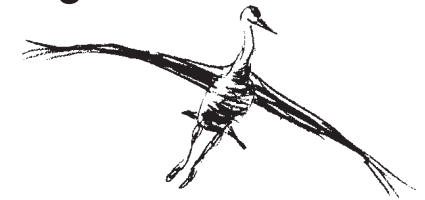
The 18th Annual

Sandhill Crane Festival



Tanana Valley, Alaska

August 28 - 30, 2015



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

