

Iain Nicolson **Audubon**
Center at Rowe Sanctuary

Crane River
CHRONICLES

SPRING 2014



ROWE HAPPENINGS/NEWS

40 Years Protecting America's Great Migration

On March 15, Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary celebrated its 40th anniversary with two events. An open house celebration event was held in the afternoon for the general public at Rowe and the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center Stewardship Board held an invitation only fundraising celebration that evening at the Museum of Nebraska Art.

The afternoon celebration was attended by more than 200 people who enjoyed several speakers including Dr. Paul Johnsgard, Nebraska's First Lady, Sally Ganem, and Chandra Taylor Smith, V.P. Community Conservation and Education for National Audubon Society. Several past Directors of Rowe Sanctuary joined us as well, along with many people that have been involved over the past 40 years. Everyone had a great time reconnecting with friends and telling stories, as well as rejoicing in the future of Rowe.

The Stewardship Board created a very special event for the 135 attendees that evening. The Museum of Nebraska Art was an amazing venue. The place was filled with crane related artwork and the Stewardship Board decorated beautifully to add to the already spectacular surroundings. The event topped off with an auction that included a trip to Carmel, California, photographs from Tom Mangelson and Joel Sartore, as well as a poem written by Don Welch about Rowe Sanctuary called "Belong" that was framed and done in calligraphy. The evening closed with a "Fund-A-Need" auction, raising enough to purchase a 6x6 Polaris ATV to be used in habitat restoration and management. Overall the events of the day were hugely successful!

Audubon is truly fortunate to have such dedicated supporters of the work being done for the cranes and the Platte River. You are ensuring this place is a safe haven for cranes and a place people can come and feel the wing beats and hear the calls of America's Greatest Migration. Thank you for caring about Rowe Sanctuary and our natural world. The future is bright because of people like you.



Sincerely,

Bill Taddicken

Bill Taddicken, Director

Development & Conservation Staff Additions

Cindy Houlden will begin working with Audubon Nebraska as the Donor Relations Coordinator. Previously Cindy served as the Development and Special Events Coordinator for the Iain Nicolson Center at Rowe Sanctuary. Before joining Audubon, Cindy worked at UNK as the Safety Education and Research Manager for the Nebraska Safety Center where she coordinated center

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Calendar of Events

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Our Supporters

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Above | Rowe Volunteer Named Top Youth Volunteer

Below | Whooping Cranes Cap Off Crane Season



Heather Henson's IBEX Puppetry performed at Kearney's Merryman Performing Arts Center in celebration of Rowe Sanctuary's 40th Anniversary. 'FLIGHT: A Crane's Story' was performed twice on March 29th.



ROWE HAPPENINGS CONTINUED

outreach, marketing, and grant-writing activities, and managed the Pupil Transportation contract with the Nebraska Department of Education. She is an adjunct Lecturer with the Department of Economics, teaching written and oral business communication courses. Prior to joining UNK Cindy was the Projects Coordinator for the Buffalo County Economic Development Corporation. Cindy is an active member of the Kearney Area Chamber of Commerce and Kearney Noon Rotary. She is a past board member of the Kearney Area Children's Museum and the Kearney Soccer Club. She lives in Kearney with her husband Tobin, 15 year old daughter Madalyn and cats Alley and Spooky. Cindy will be located at the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary.

Andrew Pierson joined the staff at Rowe Sanctuary during the height of spring crane season assuming the new role of

Habitat Program Manager. Andrew comes with experience in habitat management and conservation planning most recently as Coordinating Wildlife Biologist with Rocky Mountain Bird Observatory. He has also spent time completing sensitive species monitoring in the mountains of Idaho as a Student Conservation Association (SCA) intern and Biological Science Technician with the US Forest Service and delivering habitat conservation programs as a Wildlife Biologist with Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. Andrew grew up on a farm and ranch along the braided Middle Loup River in Central Nebraska and so finds himself in a familiar landscape at The Sanctuary. He has a degree in Biological Sciences from the University of Nebraska – Lincoln. Andrew, wife Johnna, daughter Jettlyn and golden retriever Custard are enjoying their new home in Grand Island and life in the Platte valley.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



FAMILY PROGRAMS

A Naturally Good Time for Everyone! Future programming is listed below. For additional details and to verify dates, please give us a call at (308) 468-5282.



Thanks to all of you who have liked us on Facebook. Be sure to check out our page to see what's happening throughout the year.

July 19 | Firefly Picnic

7:30 PM

Bring your own snack picnic and watch the sunset on the Platte River. Then spend a relaxing evening learning about fireflies and other insects.

October 11 | Owl Prowl

TBD

Come walk through the prairie and along the Platte River as we search for night creatures including our iconic owls. The evening will end with a marshmallow roast. We'll be outside for the entire program, so please dress in layers.

Coming in October!

Rowe Adventures for Adults – Please visit our 'Calendar of Events' page on our website for details and to confirm dates and start times for all programs.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Rowe Sanctuary would like to thank everyone who has supported our work on behalf of cranes and other wildlife that depend on the Platte River and its associated ecosystems. The following gifts were received between October 1, 2013 - March 31, 2014.

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There is a one-of-kind wildlife resource in North America; a prairie river made up of braided channels flowing around shifting sandbars. There are one half million sandhill cranes and several endangered species that depend on this river. **There is a growing group of people from around the world who are committed to preserving this precious resource for generations to come... The Braided River Society.**

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Please consider joining this important group of people helping to create a legacy for the Platte River. By becoming a member of the Braided River Society, you will help safeguard this important national treasure and touch the lives of each person that experiences first-hand the amazing wonders of the natural world. Most importantly, you will be protecting the future of the Platte River. **Your gift makes a real difference. Please consider joining today!**

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Nebraska Central Telephone Company
Platte River Recovery Implementation Program

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New Victorian Inn & Suites

Our corporate sponsors support Rowe Sanctuary in a variety of ways through generous financial and in-kind assistance. Above is the listing of our 2014 sponsors. If you would like information on our corporate and education sponsorship opportunities, please contact Bill Taddicken at btaddicken@audubon.org.



The appearance of several whooping cranes capped off the spring migration of cranes this year. During the last couple of weeks of the migration, a total of 21 whooping cranes spent at least one night on the sanctuary, which is a record for Rowe. Photo Credit: Don Brockmeier

Rowe's Wish List

6 passenger electric golf cart

Power Washer

Digital Projector

ATV Trailer

New commercial vacuum cleaner

New Ipad

Three point box scraper for tractor

Adobe InDesign software for PC

Adobe Acrobat Pro software for PC

Samsung W300 HD camcorder

\$5 million Endowment

Creating a Legacy for Nature

Making a planned gift from your estate is a wonderful way to help ensure a future for Audubon's important conservation work. We are creating a recognition society for supporters making planned gifts to any of our Audubon Nebraska programs, including the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center, or our statewide area of greatest need. Planned gifts can also be designated to endowment to help ensure our conservation success into the future.

We appreciate these gifts and want to recognize you for your leadership and dedication. We also want to make people aware of this giving option. If you have included Audubon in your estate plans, please contact me directly at 402/797-2301, or at mlangan@audubon.org. Even if you wish to remain anonymous, it helps for us to know of your intentions. We will list you in our materials as "Anonymous" to let others know how many people care about this work. We extend our sincere appreciation to you for your support of Audubon Nebraska.

Marian Langan

Executive Director, Audubon Nebraska



YOU CAN HELP

Have you considered Rowe Sanctuary in your Planned Giving?

Supporting Rowe Sanctuary's conservation and education efforts with a bequest in your will, or by naming Rowe Sanctuary as the beneficiary for your retirement plan assets is an important decision.

Should you decide to gift Rowe Sanctuary in your estate planning, we suggest the following wording, "I bequeath \$_____ (or _____% of my residuary estate) to the Iain Nicolson Audubon Center at Rowe Sanctuary, a not-for-profit environmental organization with its principle offices located in New York, NY."

As you consider your life's priorities, we encourage you to seek the advice and counsel of professional advisors.

For more information please contact Bill Taddicken at 308-468-5282 or send an email to rowesanctuary@audubon.org.

VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteer Spotlight – Crane Season Volunteers

The staff here at Rowe greatly appreciates the time and effort our volunteers put in throughout the year, but even more so during Crane Season. Preparing our facilities for the crowds of people that arrive in March and early April to keeping the facilities in tip top shape while the visitors are here; taking reservations over the phone for our tours, leading those tours day and night, providing information to our visitors, stocking and staffing our gift shop; essentially doing anything they are asked to do – they are simply amazing. This season, 97 volunteers totaled nearly 5,000 hours. This equates to approximately \$84,000 in savings toward our annual budget. Again, simply amazing! A big THANK YOU to each and every one of our volunteers. We couldn't do this without you!

Academy Award-winning actor Forest Whitaker congratulates Phoebe Lockhart, 18, of Ogallala (center) and Audrey Worthing, 13, of Elm Creek (right) on being named Nebraska's top two youth volunteers for 2014 by The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards. Phoebe and Audrey were honored at a ceremony on Sunday, May 4 at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, where they each received a \$1,000 award.



EDUCATION

Expanded Programming Offered During Crane Season

*Keep a watchful eye
Be as quiet as a mouse
Watch as they fly by!*

Sharon, a Lexington, Nebraska seventh grader wrote the haiku above after her experience in a morning viewing blind this past March. But this year, educational programming during crane season was not just for the traditional student. Rowe offered a new weekend speaker series. Subjects ranged from how to take better pictures

with your point and shoot camera to the history of the Platte River and Rowe Sanctuary. Rowe also offered a habitat tour that included a behind the scenes hands-on look at the conservation work being done on the sanctuary throughout the year.

CONSERVATION

Managing for More than Cranes

As the last of the cranes depart the Platte River valley, the conservation focus shifts in part to providing upland grassland and wet meadow habitat to support plant community and associated wildlife diversity on Rowe Sanctuary. One of the most effective management activities in the staff's toolbox is prescribed fire. Spring burns are planned each year to maintain or improve wildlife habitat by enhancing native warm-season grasses, inhibiting less desirable or invasive cool-season grasses, controlling Eastern red cedar and other woody species. Then, throughout the growing season, the entirety of The Sanctuary's grassland habitats will be managed with some combination of prescribed haying and grazing, targeted control of invasive species or rest. Rowe Sanctuary's upland prairies provide important habitat for resident and migratory grassland birds such as Grasshopper Sparrow, Dickcissel, Western Meadowlark,

Bobolink, Northern Bobwhite, Henslow's Sparrow, Field Sparrow, and Northern Harrier.



This prescribed burn was conducted on one of Rowe's prairie tracts in late April.

Crane River
CHRONICLES

Rowe Sanctuary
44450 Elm Island Road
Gibbon, NE 68840

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 22
GIBBON, NE 68840

CONNECTING PEOPLE WITH NATURE

*Crane Cam - To watch the crane come, please
go to <http://rowe.audubon.org/crane-cam>.*

The mission of Rowe Sanctuary is to preserve Platte River ecosystems for cranes and other wildlife through conservation and education.



100% POST CONSUMER WASTE


IAIN NICOLSON **Audubon**
CENTER AT ROWE SANCTUARY

44450 Elm Island Road
Gibbon, NE 68840
Phone: 308-468-5282
rowe.audubon.org

Open Monday - Friday 9 - 5; Sunday 1 - 4
Open 7 days a week Feb. 15 – April 15

Bill Taddicken - Director
Keanna Leonard - Education Director
Diana Luscher - Outreach Coordinator
Greg Wingfield - Director of Conservation
Andrew Pierson - Habitat Manager
Kent Skaggs - Office Manager
Sharon Ingram - Gift Shop Manager

Stewardship Advisory Board

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