

WVMA PRESENTS

Flight SCHOOL



WHERE *birds*
OF A FEATHER
FLOCK *together*

JULY 2025
VOICE ISSUE

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➤ Listen... can you hear that? There's something in the air. It's a calling—a whooping if you will. Could it be...?

It is! It's the majestic sound of another amazing WVMA in-person CE event preparing for takeoff. And this one has wings. Big, graceful, awe-inspiring wings.

WVMA Flight School takes flight at the International Crane Foundation (ICF) in Baraboo, **Friday, October 3**. Get a birds-eye view of the nearly 300-acre headquarters of a small-town Wisconsin organization with a global reach. For more than 50 years, ICF has worked to build relationships in over 50 countries, with one connected mission: to protect all 15 of the world's crane species and the ecosystems, watersheds, and flyways they depend on. Now, you get to go behind the scenes to get up close to the care and compassion at work.

Like every WVMA event, it takes a lot of heavy lifting to get things off the ground. We're still pulling together the long list of details, but some things are set in stone:

- On-point small animal lectures to improve your daily work featuring veterinarian experts and a schedule full of **six scientific CE credits**.
- Interactive experiences including Crane Center tours, birdwatching walks, prairie restoration hikes, veterinary clinic visits, egg incubation sessions, and more.
- A breathtaking location and a full flock of fellow veterinarians ready to connect.

Check out the experience details and preliminary schedule info on pages 2 and 3. Keep an eye on the event webpage at wvma.org/flight-school to stay up to speed.

Registration opens for members only on Friday, August 1. We'll open registration to everyone on August 8. Flight School attendees have the opportunity to attend two of the five interactive experiences. Sign up right away to save your spot and give yourself a better chance of getting your first and second choices of experiences. Watch your email for event info and registration links.

We like to think all WVMA in-person CE events are can't-miss educational get-togethers, but this time we're taking things to new heights. Come fly away for a day. Make plans to join your flock at Flight School October 3. (Don't forget your binoculars!)





➤ **PREPARE
FOR**

takeoff

HISTORY, MISSION, AND MEDICINE

The story of the International Crane Foundation began in 1971 at Cornell University with two students who shared a passion for cranes. Today, ICF's impact is global. A staff of about 150 associates, conservationists, aviculturists, and veterinarians work with specialists in over 50 countries on five continents to protect all 15 of the world's crane species and their habitats.

The interactive experiences we've put together with the ICF team get you up close and personal with who the foundation is, and why and how they do what they do.

SCHEDULE

7:30-8:15 am	REGISTRATION & LIGHT BREAKFAST
8:30-9:30 am	Welcome Session
10-11 am	COHORT A: Small Animal Lecture 1 or 2 COHORT B: Interactive Experience*
11:30-12:30 pm	COHORT B: Small Animal Lecture 1 or 2 COHORT A: Interactive Experience*
12:30-1:45 pm	LUNCH
1:45-2:45 pm	COHORT A: Small Animal Lecture 3 or 4 COHORT B: Interactive Experience*
3:15-4:15 pm	COHORT B: Small Animal Lecture 3 or 4 COHORT A: Interactive Experience*

*All attendees will have opportunity to attend **two of the five experiences pictured** and **two of four lectures**. Capacity is limited in the interactive experiences; preference will be given to those who register early. Participants will be split up into two cohorts for a portion of the day and switch between lectures and experiences. All attendees will enjoy breakfast, the welcome session and lunch together.



FLYING LESSONS

CRANE DISCOVERY CENTER TOUR

CONSERVATION EDUCATION DEPT TEAM

It's the crane tour of all crane tours. Join your flock for an educational walk with your friendly ICF guide and get to know all 15 magnificent species of cranes on Earth. Discover the unique biology, anatomy, care tactics, threats and conservation methods for each species. And learn about complex behaviors, the practice of costume-rearing chicks, and stories about ICF's global impact.



BIRDS OF A FEATHER

BIRDING TRAIL WALK
RYAN MICHALESKO
Communications & Advocacy Specialist

Cranes aren't the only winged residents around here. Enjoy the fall migration and discover an array of bird species as you hike the scenic trails winding through restored prairie, wetlands, and woodlands. Ryan will provide trail walkers with a unique glimpse into the biodiversity supported by ICF's conservation and land restoration efforts.



CRANE CARE CONNECTION

**VETERINARY CLINIC, EGG
INCUBATION, & TRACKING**
DIANA BOON, DVM
Director of Conservation Medicine

Go behind the scenes of ICF's veterinary clinic and connect with the top doc and dedicated staff responsible for the medical care of every crane on campus. Just a few steps away, aviculturists will discuss egg incubation and hatching for the Whooping Crane Reintroduction Program, and biologists will share how wild cranes are caught and monitored.



DESTINATION RESTORATION

GUIDED PRAIRIE WALK
ANDY GOSSENS
Sandhill Crane Project Manager

Explore the beauty and history of ICF's awe-inspiring acres. Learn about the continued efforts to restore native vegetation, the process of prairie restoration, and how a farmstead was transformed into the scenic terrain you see today. Andy will discuss practical prairie plant information, lessons learned along the way, and restoration projects planned for the future.



WHOOPING & WATTLED

WHERE IN THE WORLD

Take a deep dive with aviculturists to hear the captivating stories of two majestic birds from two different parts of the planet. First up, the Whooping Crane's journey from the brink of extinction. Discover the biologic implications of a genetic bottleneck and discuss groundbreaking conservation techniques, including imprinting and isolation rearing. From there, it's off to Africa for a glimpse into the vulnerable lives of Wattled Cranes. Explore ecological roles Wattleds play across diverse landscapes—from wetlands and savannas to grasslands.

➤ **interactive
EXPERIENCES**

