

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE- October 7, 2015
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2015 Festival Artist: MYRA STEWARD

THE 19TH ANNUAL LODI SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2015

Friday- November 6, 2015- 6PM- 2nd annual CONSERVATION
AWARDS DINNER! (RSVP by Nov. 3)

About the Festival

Long before Lodi existed, Sandhill Cranes descended into the rich delta wetlands at the end of a long migratory journey, some from nesting grounds as far away as Siberia. As they greeted California's earliest explorers, these magnificent birds darkened the skies over winter marshes. In awe-inspiring numbers, and with a prehistoric call, stately gait, and elegant choreography, the Sandhill Crane continues to attract and inspire visitors.

Each year thousands of visitors make their way to Lodi area wildlife refuges and farmlands to experience first hand one of nature's spectacles. The abundance of crane habitat continues to nourish our agricultural roots, with water, soil, and climate that sustains the birds, enriches our lives, and benefits our local economy.

For 19 years, Lodi's Sandhill Crane Festival has celebrated the return of the cranes. In partnership with the City of Lodi, the Festival continues this November, welcoming an ever-growing circle of friends to our community to share the wonder of the Sandhill Crane ... and so much more.

**WHERE: All Presentations, Workshops and Tour departures take place at:
Hutchins Street Square- 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi, CA**

WHEN: FRIDAY-SATURDAY- SUNDAY- NOVEMBER 6, 7, 8, 2015

**HOW: TO REGISTER FOR TOURS OR RSVP FOR CONSERVATION DINNER:
info@cranefestival.com.**

More information: 800-581-6150.

NOVEMBER 6-8, 2015 FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS:

- **11/6/15- FRIDAY- ART SHOW OPENING- ARTIST RECEPTION- 6:00-8:30 PM** - Meet 2015 Festival Artist, Myra Steward. Lodi's Hutchins St. Square, Cottage-Pisano rooms. The Friday Evening Art Show Opening is free and open to all. Coffee and desserts will be served.
- **11/6- FRIDAY EVENING- SECOND SANDHILL CRANE FESTIVAL CONSERVATION AWARDS DINNER- FRIDAY- November 6, 2015- 6:00-8:30- RSVP required!** Gary Ivey with the International Crane Foundation will be the guest speaker. This year's Conservation awardees will be recognized followed by a silent auction. Art show will be open to the public before and after dinner. Hutchins St. Square, Crete Hall- Lodi. Doors open at 6 p.m. – Dinner served at 6:30 p.m. \$25.00 per person. Seating limited. Reservation required. Available on-line: <http://cranefestival.com/tours.php>. Tour # 101.
- **11/7 and 11/8- SATURDAY AND SUNDAY- WEEKEND ART AND VENDOR HALL VIEWING-** Art can also be viewed throughout the weekend, on Saturday from 10 AM to 5 PM, and Sunday from 10 AM to 4 PM. Visitors to the exhibit will vote for their favorite Fine Art piece and Photograph during the show for one "People's Choice Award" in each Division. Vendor Hall is open all weekend.

2015 Program Highlights

SATURDAY'S and SUNDAY'S KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:



Overview of Sandhill Crane Natural History and Conservation Needs in the Pacific Flyway

Saturday, November 7, 2015

12:30-1:20 PM

Crete Hall, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi, CA

Gary Ivey with the International Crane Foundation will talk about the 3 Sandhill Crane subspecies that winter in California. He will discuss their life history and ecology, migration routes, and wintering and breeding areas. In addition, he will discuss their conservation needs on the wintering grounds, focusing on the California Delta. For more information about the International Crane Foundation, please visit their web site at www.savingcranes.org



Delta Grandeur

Sunday, November 8, 2015

12:30-1:20 PM

Crete Hall, Hutchins Street Square, Lodi, CA

Join us for a photographic tour of the great California Delta by Rich Turner. The Delta is the crossroads linking California's largest rivers, the west coast's largest estuary, San Francisco Bay, and one of the world's largest and most complex water management systems. Always a dynamic landscape, over the last 150 years the Delta's mosaic of tidal and freshwater marshes, riparian woodlands and seasonal ponds has been transformed by levees, land reclamation, dredging, dams, water diversions, agriculture and urbanization into a huge network of interconnected river channels, sloughs, canals and islands. Now available, the book: Delta Grandeur The Rural Charms of Northern California's Inland Estuary - Collector's Edition with 119 photographs and 14 essays. Text by Rich Turner in collaboration with Christina Swanson, Ph.D., Director, Science Center, Natural Resources Defense Council. Visit his web page at www.turnerphoto.com.

**SEE THE FULL PROGRAM SCHEDULE AT:
<http://cranefestival.com/presentations.php>**

OVERVIEW:

- **FREE EXHIBIT HALL-** Saturday and Sunday free events include programs such as Wild Things- special live animals; story time for young children; a bat presentation; a Decoy Carving Seminar for Beginners (small fee), Taiko drumming, flute circle the Mighty Salmon, owl pellet exploration among many others. The Exhibit Hall features 30+ vendors and the hands-on Crane-ium for kids.
- **TOURS-** By feet, by kayak, by bus, car or canoe, join the day trekkers who travel out to find the cranes on any of the 50+ tours ranging from \$5 to \$45. Tours leave from Hutchins St. Square in Lodi. Register on-line: www.cranefestival.org.

The Festival attracts well over 1500 visitors to Lodi from throughout California and beyond, filling local hotels and guest accommodations, so book early!

Information Summary:

Who: Lodi 19th Annual Sandhill Crane Festival.

What: Register NOW! Tours fill fast. Workshops and Vendor Hall on-going all weekend. Check www.cranefestival.com for schedule.

When: Festival date is Nov. 6-8, 2015.

Where: Hutchins St. Square, 125 S. Hutchins St., Lodi 95240

Why: Develop an understanding and appreciation of this once threatened Sandhill Crane riparian wetland bird which over winters in the Lodi area, the heart of the San Joaquin Valley.

How: Register for tours: www.cranefestival.com, or call 800-581-6150.

More info: - info@cranefestival.com

*****MEDIA: SUNSET FLY-IN TOURS CAN BE ARRANGED *****

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