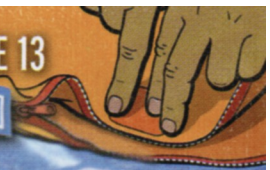


Boys' Life

FOR ALL BOYS JANUARY 2010



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nature

A group of scientists and volunteers is going to the extreme to help endangered whooping cranes survive in the wild.

While caring for chicks, handlers wear a costume that looks like baggy beekeeping gear. This disguises the human body and keeps the birds cautious around people. The young cranes learn to fly alongside ultralight propeller-driven aircraft called "trikes," flown by pilots wearing the costumes.

By October each year, the birds are ready to follow the trikes 1,285 miles from their summer home in Wisconsin to their winter home in Florida. The journey can take up to three months.

In the spring, the young cranes remember how to fly north on their own. Track them at www.boyslife.org/links/trackcranes

—Erin O'Donnell



POST YOUR PHOTOS ONLINE AND VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES AT BOYSLIFE.ORG



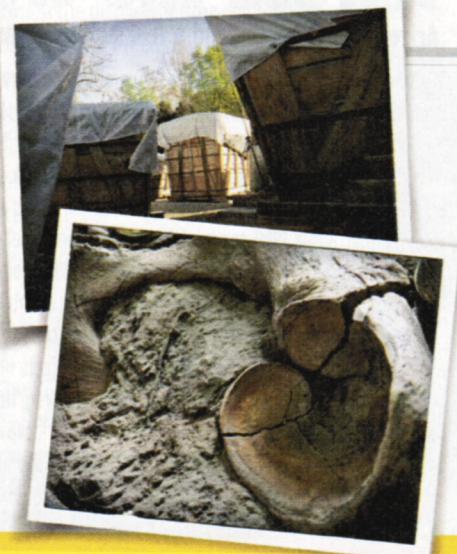
BUG OUT Turn your backyard into a nature lab with the Bug Bottle and "The Bug Book" by Hugh Danks. Comes with an illustrated field book, journal, magnifying glass and foldout bug chart. Workman Publishing, \$13.95 MSRP. Ages 8 and up. www.boyslife.org/links/bugbook

Parking Lot Mammoths You never know what lies beneath. Workers in Los Angeles, Calif., recently tore into an old parking structure and unearthed the 10-foot-long tusks and nearly complete skeleton of a mammoth.

The discovery brought paleontologists running from the nearby La Brea Tar Pits. They named the skeleton Zed, and he wasn't alone. Diggers filled 23 huge crates with fossils and bones of saber-toothed cats, dire wolves, lions, ground sloths, prehistoric millipedes, clams and trees.

At the Tar Pits' Page Museum, scientists are cleaning the remains in the Fish Bowl, a lab with glass walls. Visitors can watch their work, which will take years.

Get updates at www.boyslife.org/links/excavatrix. —Vickey Kalambakal



FROM TOP: WWW.OPERATIONMIGRATION.ORG (B); RYAN MILLER/CAPTURE IMAGING (2)