



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No.2 Summer/Fall 2025



Friends of Edson Fichter Nature Area

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ARDITH'S GARDEN



Ardith Fichter

In 2000, The Seekers, a group of women united by their passion for antiques and history established a community garden in memory one of their early founders, Ardith Fichter. Ardith, wife of renowned biology professor Edson, was a multitasking woman—editor of his writings, gifted musician, amazing baker, and respected gardener. Strong-willed yet humble, she devoted herself to family, raising two daughters who became teachers, while offering steadfast support as wife, mother, and partner in life's journey. The Seekers led by Sallee Gasser transformed the space into a flourishing sanctuary. Joining Sallee in 2012, Helen Beitia and many other volunteers have organized and developed a place where flowers are enjoyed by all. A new sign was installed recently memorializing the beautiful garden- look for it!

Festival of Trees Beneficiaries!



FEFNA is going to participate in ISU's College of Business Festival of Trees this November. We were chosen to receive a portion of the proceeds along with other community outreach groups. Our goal is to use this funding to help improve our trails and pathways, specifically in the amphitheater and around Ardith's garden. Our priority is to replace the red pavers with a more stable surface. Additionally, **we are looking for holiday tree decorations with a nature theme.** If you run across any outdoorsy tree ornaments and decorations, please consider donating them to us! And, please support ISU's Festival of Trees. For more information about the festival, click [here](https://www.isu.edu/news/2025-spring/nonprofit-beneficiaries-announced-for-2025-festival-of-trees.html).

November 19-22 at the Stephens Performing Arts Center

<https://www.isu.edu/news/2025-spring/nonprofit-beneficiaries-announced-for-2025-festival-of-trees.html>



September Nature Talks

Edson Fichter Nature Talks 2025

Where: Edson Fichter Nature Area Amphitheatre

When: Wednesdays in September 6:00-7:00 pm

September 3

Shoshone-Bannock Tribal History in the Portneuf Valley

Nolan Brown, Original Territories and Historical Research Program Manager
Bailey Dann, Research Program and Education Specialist

September 10

EFNA and Beyond: Importance of Natural Areas and Wildlife Habitat Conservation

Maria Pacioretti, Regional Wildlife Habitat Biologist IDFG
Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust Staff

September 17

Animal Behavior, What is that Animal Doing?

Dr. Rosemary Smith, Emeritus Biology ISU

September 24

Wild Encounters on the Trail: Staying Safe While Sharing Space with Wildlife

IDFG Staff and Bear Education Trailer

Bring a chair or blanket AND stop by the Friends of EFNA table to learn more about our nature area!

In event of poor weather, events may be held at Indian Hills School

Trail Improvements on the horizon!

The Friends' Group is actively applying and looking for grants to repair the paths around Ardith's Garden and the amphitheater. If you would like to help or if you know of an institution that would possibly donate to this project, please contact us.

HAVE YOU TRIED GEOCACHING?

Log onto [geocaching.com](https://www.geocaching.com) and create a free account to access loads of caches that you can seek. It's treasure hunting for all ages! Some caches are a registry log in which you simply sign your name to a log while others may have you take a little trinket and leave something in its place. The website gives coordinates to use with your phone or a handheld GPS unit along with hints about it's location. Your job is to find it! And did you know that EFNA has two registered geocaches?? **CLICK HERE** to see!

And remember to leave the cache exactly as you found it so others can partake in the 'hunt.'



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Species in the SPOTLIGHT

Bald Eagle: *Haliaeetus leucocephalus*

Have you seen our resident Bald Eagle roosting near the pond? Look up in the trees and find its majestic silhouette! And being our country's national bird and a spiritual symbol for Native Americans, it beat out the Turkey for which Benjamin Franklin insisted it be our nation's feathered symbol. Mr. Franklin did not care for the Eagle's 'thieving behaviors' because eagles are known to steal other creature's catches! In 1784 he penned his persuasive reasoning, "For my own part, I wish the Bald Eagle had not been chosen the Representative of our Country. He is a Bird of bad moral Character. He does not get his Living honestly..." But with it's powerful courtship displays and mighty flights including diving, soaring, gliding and flapping, one cannot help to pause and observe its strength. They aren't choosy eaters and they will eat their prey live, fresh or as carrion. They can gorge their meals or fast for several weeks. Sometimes eagles will take a break and play; a group of eagles was observed playing with plastic bottles. And they are resilient creatures. The oldest known eagle was to have lived over 38 years, but a 25 year old Idahoan eagle named Beauty became famous after she was maimed and lost part of her upper beak. Her caregivers created a 3-D printed prosthetic beak and made national headlines with her story. You can learn more about her story at this [Beauty and the Beak](https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/overview) link.

https://www.allaboutbirds.org/guide/Bald_Eagle/overview



Glen Hush, USFWS, <https://www.birdsandblooms.com/birding/bird-species/birds-of-prey/beauty-beak-bald-eagle/>

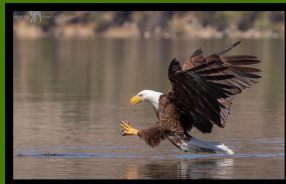


Photo by Herman Garcia



Photo by Terry Ownby

BIRD WALK RECAP

This was the first year that the Friends' Group scheduled summer bird walks for both children and adults alike. This summer's guided Bird Walks brought interest to groups of 12-17 participants on the first and third Saturday mornings. Highlights included sightings of soaring eagles, colorful ducks, lively songbirds, and even delicate hummingbirds. Each walk offered learning about and appreciation for nature, as well as animal behavior stories.

Leading the Bird Walk program was Eric Rude with other competent leaders Terry Ownby, Tim Axford, Sarah Jackson, Rachel Crawford and Barbara North.



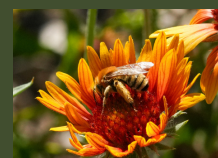
Photos by Jane Streubel



Photo by Sarah Jackson

Please contact us if you'd like to share any sightings, photos or stories about your experience at EFNA. We'd love to hear from YOU!

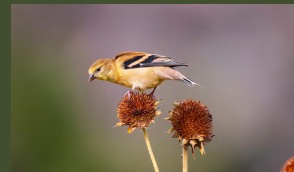
Sightings at EFNA



Viceroy (Monarch mimic), Chimney Bee on Blanket Flower, Western Painted Turtle



Photos by Sarah Jackson



Goldfinches and Yellow Warbler, Photos by Terry Ownby



The leg band on the oldest documented bald eagle. Photo: NY Department of Environmental Conservation.

A local 8th grader by the name of **Ellis Axford** can give you more insight about eagles! Follow his channel and listen to his podcast called

"Squawk Talk" on Spotify. Scan the QR code to listen!



Bullock's Oriole, Photo by Eric Rude,

FEFNA Board Members:

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