



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 1, No.3 Fall 2025

Friends of Edson Fichter Nature Area

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AMPHITHEATER UPGRADE COMPLETION

A major goal of FEFNA is infrastructure improvement. Our first priority has been to improve the surface of the amphitheater and the walkways around Edson Fichter Nature area. These surfaces are uneven and deteriorating creating a hazardous situation for anyone with mobility challenges. In 2024 IDFG received bids to replace the flagstones in the amphitheater with concrete and pave all of the other trails. Unfortunately, funds were not available that year. In 2025 the EFNA board decided replacing the flagstones in the amphitheater with concrete as its primary infrastructure project. We contacted M&S Development & Construction who provided a bid of \$40,674. Fortunately, IDFG provided \$35,000. The FEFNA board agreed to cover the remaining cost of \$5,674. To reduce the cost by \$2,250, volunteers gathered on September 27th to remove the flagstones and stack them on pallets, donated by Final Cut Turf & Recreation. Six pallets of flagstones were delivered to Prime Time Auction where they are available for bid on the October 22 Community Auction (Lots 42900 - 42905). All proceeds from the auction will come back to FEFNA. The contractor began prep work at the amphitheater on September 29th and concrete was poured on October 7th. SYC Construction LLC did an AMAZING job with the concrete and Anna Owsiak provided the final touch around the border. This was truly a team effort and could not have been accomplished without the help of A&E Engineering, M&S Development Construction LLC, SYC Construction LLC, Final Cut Turf & Recreation, Anna Owsiak, the EFNA Board and many volunteers. Special thanks to Maria Pacioretty and Jennifer Jackson for their continued efforts at Edson Fichter Nature Area and support of FEFNA.

~ Submitted by Tracy Casselman & Dale Reavis
Chairs of FEFNA Pathways Project



before...



...after!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I feel joy and hope being a part of a complimentary and dedicated group of men and women who have come together in so many ways to make this new non-profit an amazing success in its very first year. Our accomplishments are numerous with many exciting firsts:

1. First Community Bio Blitz
2. First Community Pollinator Event
3. First Bird Walks
4. First Webpage
5. First Facebook site
6. First Idaho Give Campaign with 32 participants raising \$2,850.
7. FEFNA Newsletters
8. Grant recipient and participant in ISU's Festival of Trees
9. The fifth year of Nature Talks with record people in attendance. The greatest number was 107 people attending to hear the Sho-Ban program
10. Removal of flagstones and cementing of the amphitheater



None of this would be possible without the considerate board and FEFNA members working together, supporting each other to bring out the best results. I am deeply grateful for each and now looking forward to planning 2026. Please reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns.

Jane Streubel
208-221-1140

Festival of Trees Update!

November 19-22 at the
Stephens Performing Arts Center

FEFNA is participating in ISU's College of Business Festival of Trees in November. We were chosen to receive a portion of the proceeds along with other community outreach groups. Please support ISU's Festival of Trees and check out our tree "Knotty by Nature." Thank you to ALL who donated items to make this happen! For more information about the festival, click [here](https://www.isu.edu/news/2025-announcements/february-2025-festival-of-trees.html).



<https://www.isu.edu/news/2025-announcements/february-2025-festival-of-trees.html>
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VOLUNTEERS in the SPOTLIGHT

Mike Larkin, often called the Weed Warrior at EFNA is in retirement from 34 years for three different State Fish and Game Agencies in Iowa, North Dakota and recently Idaho. After retirement he worked part-time for the Nature Conservancy for five years on an invasive plant project in Southwest Idaho. After 6 years of volunteering at EFNA, Mike has been struck with a hip concern severely limiting his walking and unable to volunteer this past spring and summer. Recently, he said yes to head up a team of 'invasive weed men' for 2026. Thank YOU Mike for your dedication in your unending work! We appreciate you!



Photo by Jane Streubel

Larry Hagg has been volunteering at the EFNA for over two years. The retired asphalt manager has moved to Pocatello. Larry walks the trails with a smile and a keen eye for keeping the area beautiful. Nearly every day, Larry can be found sleuthing out litter, making sure the paths and ponds stay as pristine as nature intended. His quiet dedication and cheerful spirit remind us how one person's consistent care can make a lasting difference. Thank you, Larry, for your tireless efforts and for helping make the Edson Fichter Nature Area a cleaner, more welcoming place.



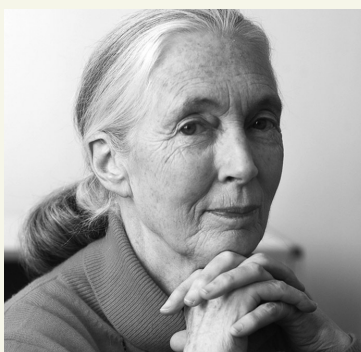
Photo by Jane Streubel

Check out **Prime Time Auctions** and bid on pallets of red flagstone that were once used in the EFNA amphitheater! They are available for bid on the **October 22 Community Auction** (Lots 42900 - 42905). All proceeds benefit FEFNA.

September Nature Talks recap!

This was the fifth year of our September 'Nature Talks' series held at the amphitheater. We were very fortunate to have had pleasant weather for every talk which encouraged folks to come out. The first talk with the Shoshone-Bannock tribes drew the most people, eager to learn more about their traditional uses of flora and fauna. The graphics were informative and the speakers, Nolan Brown and Bailey Dann shared their tribal knowledge, stories and experiences. The second talk hosted by Idaho Fish and Game's Maria Paccioretti with the Sagebrush Steppe Land Trust was equally informational. Dr. Rosemary Smith delighted us at the third talk with anecdotes about the behaviors of birds, insects and bees. We wrapped up the series with a talk about human-wildlife interactions and how best to prepare for them (or avoid them, in case of bears!) with Cade Bowlin. FEFNA shared a survey to collect interest for next year's Talks and we're excited to bring them back in 2026 in our new & improved amphitheater!

Snapshots from the 'TALKS'



Dr. Jane Goodall
1934 - 2025

Photo by Arizona OBS <https://azpbs.org/2025/10/honoring-the-life-and-legacy-of-dr-jane-goodall/>

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

Dr. Goodall died on October 1 at the age of 91 from natural causes, leaving behind more than discoveries and lessons, but the blueprint for living a life compassionately, conscientiously, connected to nature life.

We can honor her legacy by continuing the work at Edson Fichter Nature Area. As she said, "Every individual matters. Every individual makes a difference."



Bullock's Oriole,
Photo by Eric Rude,

FEFNA Board Members:

Jane Streubel- President
Tracy Casselman- Vice President
Lisa Jorgensen- Vice President
Cristine Casselman- Secretary
Joanne Tokle- Treasurer
Members: Jan Flandro, Meg Fleischmann,
Dale Reavis, Eric Rude, Don Streubel
Honorary Members: Sarah Fichter-Carter and Nancy Fichter-Dillon



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