



NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2, No.3 SUMMER/FALL 2026

Friends of Edson Fichter Nature Area

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CALLING ALL ARTISTS & CREATIVE MINDS!!! ~Help Needed~



The Friends of EFNA group has provided IDF&G volunteers and EFNA with a brand new, beautiful tool shed at the nature area. Let's get it painted (naturalist-style) before fall weather arrives!

We are looking for 4 artists who would like to design and pitch the theme of the shed to a small committee for voting. The artist whose theme wins the most number of votes will then lead/supervise the shed painting project and have the privilege of seeing their concept come to light! Volunteers are needed to take the winning theme from concept to shed and offer their time painting under the supervision of the artist. **Designs must be submitted to Maria Pacioretty at IDFG by Tuesday, September 1st.**

You can drop your design off or email it to maria.pacioretty@idfg.idaho.gov. Artists will then have the next several weeks to coordinate "paint days" as schedules and weather permits. Ideas for themes could include monarch life cycle, wildlife that calls the nature area home, flora of the nature area, educational opportunities that have taken place at the nature area, volunteer activities, etc. **BE CREATIVE!** Dimensions of the shed are 16' x 20' and it is sided with LP Smart Siding which is pre-primed and ready for paint. All paint and painting tools will be provided by IDFG. Here's a chance to really leave your mark on the community!



Scan the
QR code
to sign up

or click
HERE.



MARK YOUR CALENDAR



The September Wednesday Nature talks are back! There's a **bonus evening** where the Friends Group plans to celebrate its second year anniversary with treats (who likes dessert?) and a special guest speaker who will talk about the art of falconry and introduce us to one of his live birds. Additionally, we will reveal our plans for the updated Entrance Area! Come see what's in store for our nature area.
YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!

Edson Fichter Nature Talks 2026

Where: Edson Fichter Nature Area Amphitheater

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

September 2	Animal Social Behavior Rosemary Smith, ISU
September 9	Observing Nature Through Sketching Ashelee Rasmussen, ISU
September 16	Beneficial Beavers Erik Bartholomew, Idaho Fish and Game
September 23	Late Pleistocene Extinctions Robert Gay, Idaho Museum of Natural History
September 30	Friends of Edson Fichter Nature Area Celebration

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



[friendsofedsonfichternaturearea](https://www.facebook.com/friendsofedsonfichternaturearea)



<https://friendsofedsonfichternaturearea.com/>

Adopt-a-Wednesday Program Needs Help!



SPOTLIGHT: Cooper's Hawk

Our Friends' Board is very lucky to have such expertise available to us! Eric Rude is a highly credentialed science educator who shares his love of the natural world by leading the Summer Bird Walks and capturing the essence of our area with his photographic skills.

Eric shared one of his recent experiences with us:
"I was walking through Edson Fichter Nature Area, and heard the persistent chatter of a young Cooper's Hawk coming from a tree. I watched as an adult flew into the tree, then back out again a few minutes later. There was a large nest there, and three immature Cooper's Hawks, one standing in the nest, and two on a branch about 10 feet away. It looked like the one in the nest was eating, and the other two were crying for food, not very patiently waiting for their turns. I tried to not get too close as I snapped a few photos."

IDF&G's Jenny Jackson commented on Eric's photos as saying, "Is it just me... or do those 'teenagers' just exude attitude? Those hawk parents will be glad when those kids finally move out and only come home for holidays."



Photos taken by Eric Rude.

LOOKING FOR SOMEONE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THE AREA TO HELP MANAGE, COORDINATE AND SUPERVISE THE WED WORK CREWS. The Adopt-a-Wednesday program runs every other Wednesday, April through October. Project and work tasks vary depending on the needs of the area, but could include habitat plantings and care, weed abatement, trimming and general maintenance. Interested members should contact Tessa Atwood at Tessa.atwood@idfg.idaho.gov to get on the email list! You will get an email prior to the workday detailing where and when to meet at Edson and the project priority identified for that week. Multiple people can sign up to be involved and you can customize your work time. It's very flexible and it's a great way to help keep our natural area looking its best! **SIGN UP TODAY**

According to Cornell Lab All About Birds, "Cooper's Hawks build nests in pines, oaks, Douglas-firs, beeches, spruces, and other tree species, often on flat ground rather than hillsides, and in dense woods. Nests are typically 25-50 feet high, often about two-thirds of the way up the tree in a crotch or on a horizontal branch. Males typically build the nest over a period of about two weeks, with just the slightest help from the female. Nests are piles of sticks roughly 27 inches in diameter and 6-17 inches high with a cup-shaped depression in the middle, 8 inches across and 4 inches deep. The cup is lined with bark flakes and, sometimes, green twigs." They lay one brood per year of 2 to 6 pale blue/white colored eggs nearly 2 inches long. It takes between 30-36 days to hatch, and 27-34 to fledge.

Here's an incredible drone shot of our beautiful nature area shared by Chuck Peterson.



Contributors NEEDED!

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! Use our email address or contact us through our website.

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