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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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In the photo: Doug and Betsy Finch, from our Raptor Recovery program, Mr. Chip Davis, and Merica Whitehall, executive director of Fontenelle Forest

## **Press Alert Chip Davis Eagle Mew Completed, Raptor Woodland Refuge Re-Opened**

Press Alert: Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Woodland Refuge has re-opened, with the completion of the Chip Davis Eagle Mew. With the \$350,000 donation from Chip Davis, Grammy award-winning founder and creator of Mannheim Steamroller, this is our largest raptor enclosure, and can house a flighted Bald Eagle, meaning there is room for the Eagle to fly. It comes complete with a water feature for the Eagle to bathe and drink, perches from wood in the Forest, and an indoor space for inclement weather.

If you would like to do a story and interview Mr. Chip Davis or any of the Fontenelle Forest staff, please contact me, Molly Mullen, manager of marketing and events for Fontenelle Forest.

**If you are doing any more news pieces on things to do in Omaha during Berkshire Hathaway, it would be appreciated if the Raptor Woodland Refuge at Fontenelle Forest is included.**

This is the 13<sup>th</sup> enclosure, and completes the original vision for the Raptor Woodland Refuge, which houses birds of prey who we rescued but could not be released back to the wild. We house several species of Hawks, Falcons, Owls, and even a Turkey Vulture!

The Raptor Woodland Refuge is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center at 1111 Bellevue Blvd North. The Nature Center is open 8 am to 5 pm and we offer 19 miles of hiking trails, indoor and outdoor play areas, and more than a mile of ADA certified boardwalk, perfect for strollers, mobility scooters and wheelchairs.

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#### **About Fontenelle Forest**

*Fontenelle Forest's mission is to provide a place where people can experience and enjoy the quiet wild of nature. We want to inspire current and future generations to care for the natural world. Fontenelle Forest is one of Nebraska's oldest conservation organizations and one of the largest private nature centers in the nation. With Fontenelle Forest Nature Center in Bellevue and Neale Woods in Omaha, FF encompasses nearly 2,000 acres of forest, prairie, wetlands, and Native American historical sites along the Missouri River.*

*Fontenelle Forest is the only organization in Nebraska permitted by the state and federal government to rehabilitate orphaned or injured raptors. Raptor Woodland Refuge, located at the Fontenelle Forest Nature Center, opened in 2016 and provides visitors with an opportunity to observe many species of birds of prey in a unique, tree-top environment.*

#### **About Raptor Woodland Refuge**

*Birds of prey, such as eagles, falcons, hawks, owls, and vultures, have a vital role in our ecosystem. Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Recovery is focused on the conservation of these birds through education, research, and the rehabilitation of injured and orphaned raptors.*

*Raptor Woodland Refuge provides an opportunity for the public to observe many species of birds of prey, including owls, hawks, vultures and more in a unique outdoor setting that inspires both adventure and education. The birds will be housed in a variety of distinctive treehouse-like mews, including several amongst the treetops on a suspended walkway high above the forest floor. Visitors will be able to enjoy Raptor Woodland Refuge year-round from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily.*

*The over \$2 million dollar expansion builds upon the work of Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Recovery, a state-wide bird of prey rescue, rehabilitation and education effort that began as Raptor Recovery Nebraska in 1976 and has rescued over 12,000 raptors since its inception. Fontenelle Forest and Raptor Recovery Nebraska combined forces in 2013.*

#### **Key Numbers**

*Over \$2 million – Cost of the original Raptor Woodland Refuge*

*\$350,000 gift -- from Chip Davis, Grammy award-winning founder and creator of Mannheim Steamroller, for new Bald Eagle mew*

*42 years – Number of years since the founding of Raptor Recovery Nebraska in 1976, which merged with Fontenelle Forest in 2013*

*Over 600 – Number of birds Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Recovery rescues throughout Nebraska each year*

*Over 40,000 – Number of children Fontenelle Forest reaches each year with education outreach programs*

*117, 700 – number of visitors to Fontenelle Forest in 2017*