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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Native American ceremony to be held for “Fisher” the male Bald Eagle this Friday**

More than a dozen elders from local tribes will honor the Eagle and welcome him to his new life at Fontenelle Forest. After being illegally gun shot in the Omaha area, this Bald Eagle will spend his life educating the public at the Chip Davis Eagle Mew in our Raptor Woodland Refuge.



Press Alert -- Fisher is the highly-anticipated Bald Eagle ambassador who moved into the brand new *Chip Davis Eagle Mew* at Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Woodland Refuge, built with a donation from Grammy Award-winning founder of Mannheim Steamroller Chip Davis.

**Friday, October 5, there will be a morning ceremony with elders from Plains tribes, supporters of the project, and staff. The press is invited to get footage, interviews and be amongst the first people to see Fisher in his new home.**

Press are also invited to get footage of Fisher and interviews with staff Thursday, October 4. Press are also welcome to the ceremony Friday, October 5 at 10 a.m. at Fontenelle Forest.

If you would like to organize a time to see Fisher, or to organize interviews with Fontenelle Forest staff or Chip Davis, email or call Molly Mullen.

With the \$350,000 donation from Chip Davis, Fontenelle Forest's Raptor Woodland Refuge added a Bald Eagle mew this Spring. This is the first time a Bald Eagle, America's national bird, will be on display to the public at Fontenelle Forest, as an education ambassador.

“The American Bald Eagle, our national bird, is such a majestic symbol of our country. Fisher, our rescue eagle, was in need of help. I’m very happy to help Fontenelle Forest and their Raptor Recovery Program by providing funds for the special eagle mew so he is protected the rest of his life,” said Chip Davis.

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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*