

**2026 Spring Rendezvous**



*The Grand Tradition of*  
**Falconry Apprenticeship**

April 30 - May 2, 2026 • Boise, Idaho



*The* ARCHIVES *of* FALCONRY

## 2026 Spring Rendezvous

# This Year's Theme

This year, our chosen theme is: The Grand Tradition of Falconry Apprenticeship. Together, we'll celebrate the vital roles of apprentice and mentor in a sport passed down through direct instruction for centuries. Attendees will join with some of today's most experienced and successful practitioners as they remember and honor their mentors in falconry, share the wisdom and revelations they've received, and welcome the next generation.

Additionally, our 2026 Spring Rendezvous will feature two extraordinary film screenings with in-person introduction and Q&As with their creators; plus, guided tours of the completely renovated Archives gallery spaces and exhibits, as well as the neighboring World Center for Birds of Prey; a moving and uplifting Wall of Remembrance Induction Ceremony; and a final evening banquet, keynote address, and lively fundraiser.



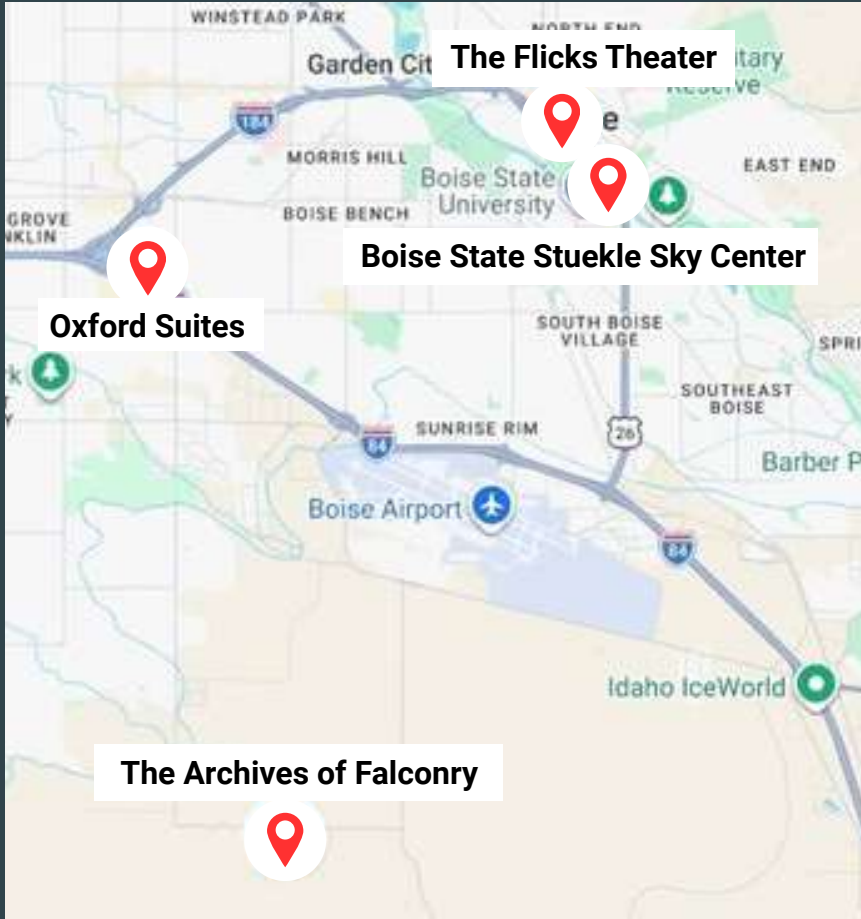
## The Archives Team

John Goodell, Executive Director & Chief Curator  
Kent Carnie, Curator Emeritus  
Monica Dean, Curator of Collections  
Gwen Gallagher, Collections Specialist  
Elizabeth Dougall, Collections Specialist  
Hannah Barnes, Operations Administrator  
Matt Mullenix, Communications Director  
Paige Bucalo, Social Media Manager  
Kimberly Smith, Docent  
Robert Holden, Docent

## Board of Directors

Robert Bagley  
Samuel Gary, Jr.  
Tony James  
J. Peter Jenny  
Carter R. Montgomery  
Brian Mutch  
Bill Satterfield  
James D. Weaver  
Pete Widener

# Event Locations



**The Flicks Theater**  
646 Fulton Street, Boise, ID 83702

**Oxford Suites**  
1426 S Entertainment Ave, Boise, ID 83709

**The Archives of Falconry**  
5668 W. Flying Hawk Ln Boise, ID 83709

**Boise State Stuekle Sky Center**  
1200 W University Dr, Boise, ID 83706



Scan for a map of our venues



# EVENT SCHEDULE

## *Thursday April 30*

7:00 PM

**Film Screening of H Is For Hawk**

Location: The Flicks Theater (Arrive at 6:45 PM)

## *Friday May 1*

9:00 AM -  
11:45 AM

**Speaker Session: Mentors & Mentees**

Location: Oxford Suites

1:30 PM -  
4:00 PM

**Open House & Guided Tours of The Archives**

2:00 PM -  
3:00 PM

**Guided Tour of The World Center for Birds of Prey**  
(60 person limit)

3:00 PM

**Birds of Prey Flight Demonstration**

At The World Center for Birds of Prey

3:30 PM -  
4:30 PM

**Guided Tour of The World Center for Birds of Prey**  
(60 person limit)

5:30 PM -  
8:45 PM

**Reception & Film Screening**

Saker Skies: The Legend of X26

Location: The Archives of Falconry

# EVENT SCHEDULE

## *Saturday May 2*

10:30 AM -  
12:30 PM

**Open House at The Archives of Falconry**

10:00 AM  
(self-guided)

**Open House at The World Center for Birds of Prey**

11:00 AM

**Birds of Prey Flight Demonstration**  
At The World Center for Birds of Prey

11:00 AM -  
12:30 PM

**Optional Box Lunch**  
Location: TAF and surrounding campus

1:00 PM -  
3:00 PM

**Wall of Remembrance Induction Ceremony**

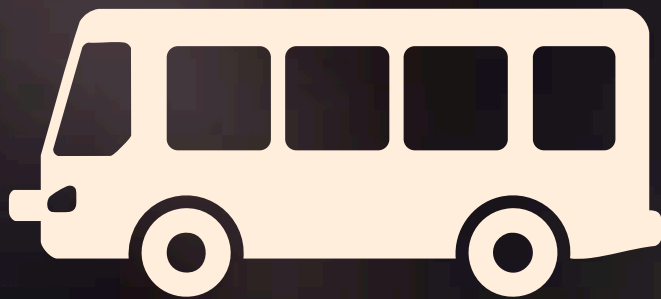
5:30 PM -  
8:45 PM

**Banquet, Keynote, and Raffle**  
Social from 5:30 to 6:00 PM  
Location: Boise State Stuekle Sky Center

The evening banquet and raffle will feature the keynote address, *Teaching Falconry in Changing Times*, presented by **Alan Greenhalgh**, a speaker and educator from Ashford, Middlesex, England.

# Shuttle Information

A shuttle with limited seating will be available for guests without transportation.



## Thursday Evening

Departs from Oxford Suites at 6:20 PM

Departs from The Flicks Theater at approximately 9:00 PM

## Friday Afternoon

Departs from Oxford Suites at 1:00 PM and 1:15 PM

Departs from The Archives of Falconry at 8:45 PM and 8:55 PM

## Saturday Morning

Departs from Oxford Suites at 10:00 AM and 10:15 AM

Departs from The Archives of Falconry at 3:30 PM and 3:45 PM

## Saturday Evening

Departs from Oxford Suites at 5:15 PM

Departs from Stueckle Sky Center between approximately 8:45 PM and 9:00 PM



*Discover*

THE ARCHIVES OF FALCONRY

through guided tours of its newly  
renovated galleries and exhibit spaces

★★★★★

MOVING AND BEAUTIFUL

**SOLD OUT**

From the Academy Award-winning producers of 12 YEARS A SLAVE and MOONLIGHT

Written & Directed by Claire Foy

Academy Award® Nominee

Brendan Gleeson

**H IS FOR HAWK**

ON THE NEW YORK TIMES BEST-SELLING MEMOIR



# FILM SCREENING

## H IS FOR HAWK

*Thursday Evening*

TAF is delighted to announce that award-winning English author Helen Macdonald will be joining us for an introduction and private screening of the recently released major motion picture **H Is for Hawk**, based on her bestselling 2014 memoir of the same name. The film tells a powerful true story of grief, healing, and rediscovering life through the bond with a hawk.

### MEET THE AUTHOR

Helen Macdonald is a bestselling writer, illustrator, historian, naturalist, and falconer. In addition to her extraordinary memoir, *H Is for Hawk*, Macdonald is author of a cultural history of falcons, titled *Falcon*; selected essays on humans and nature, *Vesper Flights*; three collections of poetry; the monthly "On Nature" column for the *New York Times Magazine*; several broadcast productions; and most recently, the genre-bending novel *Prophet*, co-authored with Sin Blaché.



# FILM SCREENING

## SAKER SKIES

*Friday Evening*

TAF is pleased to present the premier of **Saker Skies: The Legend of X26**, a collaborative film project by The Aga Khan University, the Mohamed bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund, and Voices from the Roof of the World, bringing together science, storytelling, and conservation to highlight one of the most remarkable raptor success stories of recent decades.

### MEET THE FILMMAKERS

Dr. Munir Virani is a National Geographic Explorer, conservation leader, and filmmaker who leads the Mohamed Bin Zayed Raptor Conservation Fund, bringing nearly 30 years of global experience in raptor conservation, research, and species recovery. Kiran Ghadge is a wildlife photographer and filmmaker whose work focuses on conservation storytelling, highlighting both wildlife and the people connected to it through compelling visual narratives.

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

*Saturday May 2*



**STARTS AT 6:00 PM**  
**BOISE STATE STUEKLE SKY CENTER**

## **Teaching Falconry in Changing Times**

With more than 50 years of field hawking experience, professional falconry instructor and presenter Alan Greenhalgh will share his personal journey of discovering and mastering our ancient sport, and now teaching it to others in a changing social and physical landscape.



**Alan Greenhalgh**

# MEET OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

This year's Speaker Session features short, paired presentations on the importance of mentorship by noted falconers representing a range of experiences from across the globe, followed by an open panel discussion and Q&A with the speakers. Hear from some of today's most experienced hawkers as well as some promising newcomers how chance meetings, received wisdom, and timely assistance from mentors helped shape their falconry for a lifetime.

## Jim Ince



One of today's finest hoodmakers and bellmakers, Texas native Jim Ince began his falconry in 1962, hunting with American kestrels and Red-tailed hawks in local fields, before branching out into the accipiters, Golden Eagles, and flying most of our native falcons, with a particular fondness for Merlins and tiercel Peregrines. Jim was a partner in the first successful Peregrine propagation effort in Texas, and among the first to explore trapping migrant falcons along the Texas coast. Jim has held leadership positions on behalf of falconry in both state and national falconry organizations, and served as an advisor to his state wildlife agency on falconry issues. A retired mechanical engineer, Jim's meticulous craftsmanship is documented in TAF's Master Class Series Episode 1: Bellmaking. Jim and wife Carol live in Houston, Texas, where he still flies his favorite passage Merlins and Peregrines.

## Grainger Hunt, PhD



Falconer, conservation biologist and Scientist Emeritus at The Peregrine Fund, Grainger Hunt is a legendary figure in American raptor biology, with more than 80 scientific publications and hands-on experience in the recovery of numerous high-profile raptor species. In 1964, Grainger contributed to the groundbreaking Madison Peregrine Conference, which first sought to address the falcon's decline, determine its causes and plan for recovery. He was also among the small group (along with Fran Hamerstrom, Morlan Nelson, and other luminaries) who would later convene to create The Raptor Research Foundation. A budding rock-and-roll musician in 1960s Texas before taking up his life's work with raptors, Grainger was also a successful gamehawker in an era of American falconry when few took game regularly. Grainger's chance meeting with a young Jim Ince would spark their lifetime of friendship and set Jim on his own course in falconry.

# MEET OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

---



## Jamaica Smith



A certified K-12 biology teacher, Jamaica Smith of Arizona began her falconry journey in 1996 with a brancher Red-tail, and has flown more than a dozen species and hybrids over the past thirty years. Jamaica first concentrated on jackrabbits and cottontails with larger hawks before pursuing Gambel's quail with Aplomado falcons and male Harris's hawks from horseback, with the late, great Harry McElroy as her longtime friend and mentor. That experience was followed by her "eagle years," wherein she had the great fortune to be mentored by Lauren McGough in the rehabilitation and hunting of Golden Eagles. Jamaica lives in northwest Arizona with her husband Greg and is currently mentoring their adult child Kinsey, a second-year apprentice flying a cast of passage female Harris's hawks.

## Lauren McGough, PhD



Lauren McGough is an anthropologist and lifelong falconer who has dedicated her life to eagles and their conservation. Featured on the broadcast television program 60 Minutes for her work in Mongolia as a Fulbright scholar, Lauren lived for two years as an apprentice to the nomadic herders who hunt with Golden Eagles. She has flown several species of eagle worldwide, including in Africa, Central Asia, and across Europe. In bringing that knowledge back to the U.S., she is passionate about using falconry techniques to prepare injured and orphaned eagles for release, and being a resource for up-and-coming eagle falconers. Lauren recently founded the Golden Eagle Partnership, a nonprofit dedicated to meeting the challenge of declining Golden Eagle populations through collaboration across resource management sectors and scientific disciplines.



# MEET OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

---



## Jennifer Coulson, PhD



Jennifer Coulson holds degrees from the University of New Orleans and Tulane University, where she now serves as Adjunct Faculty in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. She has been President of the Orleans Audubon Society for 27 years, serves on the NAFA Conservation Committee, and is currently Vice-President of the Raptor Research Foundation, having served on its board since 2015. A falconer since 1984 and raptor propagator since 1987, Jennifer met her husband and falconry partner Tom Coulson at the Audubon Zoo in New Orleans, where she ran the bird of prey flight show. Together, they have pioneered techniques in falconry and captive propagation and contributed numerous articles and book chapters, including their 2012 reference work *The Harris's Hawk Revolution*, widely considered a leading resource on the species.

## Tom Coulson



Tom Coulson spent 38 years as a research technician at Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center, studying the biochemistry, physiology, and growth of crocodylians and developing early husbandry techniques for captive American alligators during a critical period for the species. In falconry, he is best known for advancing the use and selective breeding of Harris's Hawks for improved performance, and for exploring new approaches to hunting with the species, particularly in cast and group settings. He has also contributed to improvements in husbandry, including perch design, tethering systems, and transport boxes, and his success as a breeder is widely recognized. In Louisiana, Tom helped legalize falconry and was a founding member and longtime President of the Louisiana Hawking Club, and has mentored and advised falconers around the world.



# MEET OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

---



## Tony James



Tony James trained his first hawk in 1976 and moved to the edge of Salisbury Plain (southern England) in 1979 to work for falconer Nigel Warrington. Tony flew goshawks, sparrowhawks, and various imported falcons, but credits Nigel's mastery of Peregrines and Merlins as setting the tone for the years that followed. Says Tony of his friend: "It was my good fortune to find myself answerable to a skilled falconer and to have benefited now from almost half a century's guidance." Tony's recent decades in falconry have been dominated by lowland gamehawking with Peregrines, and despite taking a slightly different path to his mentor Nigel's preference for out of the hood flights, his falconry remains the product of Nigel's guidance. Tony James is a member and a trustee of the British Falconers Club; of the French falconry association, ANFA; and a Board member of The Archives of Falconry.

## Nigel Warrington



Nigel Warrington grew up in rural Shropshire, England, the son of a gamekeeper, and with miles of wonderful countryside to explore. In those very different times, Nigel became a keen egg collector and kept magpies and jackdaws as pets. He took an eyas Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) from a pine tree nest at nine years old and has had a hawk or falcon on his fist for 60 years since. Nigel joined the British Falconers Club in 1974, and in 1976 moved to Wiltshire (an ideal spot for hawking in England) to fly Lanners, Luggars and Goshawks. Merlins and Peregrines soon followed, and with them flights at larks, grey partridges and rooks on Salisbury Plain. Traditional English lark hawking and rook hawking are the branches of our art Nigel has specialized in; and as Chairman of Salisbury Plain Hawking Club, he works toward the continuance of these traditional flights.



# MEET OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

---



## Ashley Kittler



Ashley Kittler is a second-generation falconer and second-year apprentice. She grew up hawking with her father, Jeffrey Brown, in southeastern Michigan, flying Red-tailed hawks on rabbits. Five years ago, she moved to Montana, where she learned to fly a new species in new terrain with the guidance of her sponsor, Joby Sobol. Now developing her own style in the sport, Ashley looks forward to sharing her story, introduced by her father, about growing up in falconry and her transition to the West.

## Jeffrey Brown



An active falconer in Detroit, Michigan, Jeffrey Brown has dedicated nearly thirty years in the sport to hawking rabbits and squirrels, almost exclusively with Red-tailed hawks. Known for his consistency and commitment to this style of hawking, he has spent decades refining his approach in the field. Jeffrey and his wife of 28 years, Tracy Brown, have two children, Owen and Ashley, the latter of whom credits a childhood spent hawking with her dad as the foundation of her own path in falconry.



# MEET OUR FEATURED SPEAKERS

---



## Hesper Lana Fang, PT, DPT



Although her formal apprenticeship began later, Hesper Lana Fang charts her fascination with falconry to a fourth grade teacher's classroom reading of Jean Craighead George's classic, *My Side of the Mountain*. For Hesper, it was a revelation. After years spent drawing and dreaming of an adventurous life, Hesper trapped her first bird, a male American Kestrel, in 2021. With the immeasurable help of mentors, including fellow kestrel fan Matt Mullenix, Hesper's Kestrel "Goji" caught his first of many starlings. In each of the following seasons, Hesper has dedicated herself to learning other forms of the sport, having caught game with a Merlin, a hybrid Peregrine, a passage Harris's hawk, and now with her first Red-tail. Hesper thinks of herself as, "the Forever Apprentice."

## Matt Mullenix



Best known as author of the book, *American Kestrels in Modern Falconry*, Matt Mullenix hunted with his first hawk as a young teen in the Republic of Panama in 1984. In the years since, he's flown most of the species practical to fly the southeastern U.S. (and some less practical ones), with emphasis on hawking small birds with small falcons and tiercel Harris hawks. Matt has been the grateful recipient of good advice and friendship from numerous mentors in the sport, including speakers Jim Ince and Tom and Jennifer Coulson, to whom he credits his success. Through his travels, books, videos, and other creative efforts, today Matt tries to reciprocate his mentors' generous instruction and pass along the lessons he's learned. After more than 30 years in public information roles for nonprofits and in the public sector, Matt currently serves as Communications Director for The Archives of Falconry.



# Wall of Remembrance

## 2026 Inductees



Michael R. Bretz

Randy Creed Burcham

Roger Claude

Larry Kendall Counce

Bryan Culbertson Sr.

Gus Ben David

Michael "Mike" Garets

Craig Golden

Richard "Rick" Jay Guritzky

Michael "Mike" Howe

Jay Lehmer

Anthony "Tony" Meyer

Rebecca Miller

Dan Milner

Natalie Nicholson

Steve Platt





# Our Appreciation

## Leadership Tier Supporters

Robert Bagley	Richard Howard
Christian Barnes	Cliff and Janna Kellogg
Darryl and Helen Barnes	Jed Lavitt
Mr. & Mrs. Jack Brannon	Mr. and Mrs. Ross Matteson
Robert F. Buskirk	Eric Montague
Kent S. Carnie	Doug Pineo (in memoriam)
Steve and Julie Chindgren	Jim Rous (in memoriam)
Dr. and Mrs. William Cornatzer	Robert Summers
Eyas Foundation	Skip Tubbs
Karl-Heinz Gersmann	Gary Weddle
Grasslands Charitable Foundation	Wolf Creek Charitable Foundation

## Our Sponsors



صندوق محمد بن زايد للمحافظة على الطيور الجارحة  
**MOHAMED BIN ZAYED**  
RAPTOR CONSERVATION FUND



*Thank you!*

