

**How my idea came along:** the idea of creating a work group formed by young people inside IAF came to my mind after several events in 2014; the first one of these was the IAF meeting set in Doha in 2014, where I had the opportunity to get to know several young people who came from every part of the Earth (from the United States to Morocco, and even from places that I had never heard of). Talking with them, I realized that there is a kind of invisible wire that connects us all and makes us equal, in spite of the distances; the young people who I talked to are inspired by a great passion, a will to exploit their energies in a constructive way. They are willing to find their way into a world that is not yet their own, since it is mostly held hostage from the older generations. Moreover I joined CIC, and I entered the group called “young opinion”; noticing the intense exchange of mails, information and experiences, I asked myself: “Why don't we take them as an example in order to create something similar for young falconers?” A third reason for the birth of my idea: since there are already several work groups inside IAF, including the woman work group, I thought that a group reserved to young people could be useful in order to enlarge the public to whom IAF refers to.

**What IAF YF is:** IAF Young Falconers is a work group sponsored by IAF, officially opened during the IAF meeting in Argentina (2015). It's composed of young people of an age comprised within 16 years and 29 years, opened to everyone without any kind of barrier. The membership expires as soon as a member turns 30 years old.



**Purposes:** the IAF Young Falconers group is started by young in favor of other young; its main purpose is to create a direct communication line among young people from all around the world, in order to exchange and share ideas, emotions, and even simple events or sketches from everyday hunting life.

Another matter of being of IAF YF is to popularize falconry among young people who would like to get to know this art. This could be made possible by going actively to schools or participating to happenings. The purpose would be to show that falconry is still alive, even if it is a millenarian tradition, and to make clear that it is not only brought on by old retired people with nothing else to do or by aging professionals, but also by boys whose life is still to be built and who would rather spend a day in the open air than staying home wasting time on a Facebook chat.

Let me briefly enumerate the purposes that I have in mind for this group:

- reunite all the young falconers from all around the world in order to exchange a great amount of information and experiences, all of which would be narrated and lived in first person by young people! We know, in fact, that the same experience is read by a kid in an entirely different way from a grown man;
- prove to the public opinion – namely to the anti-hunting and anti-falconry groups – that there are still many young people who fight to keep falconry alive (this art is often victim of the attacks perpetrated by animalists and it is mainly seen with detachment as if it were completely anachronistic nowadays);
- allow a larger number of young people to get closer to the activity brought on by IAF in defense of falconry all around the world;

- create a group of young people guided by the members who are currently committed with important charges in IAF so that – at the right moment – the old members will be replaced by young people, who are prepared about all the topics IAF cares about (but this doesn't mean that anybody will be forced to retire prematurely!);
- go to school in order to raise the interest of people of the same age about falconry (since I have noticed that if I go to a school where the boys are only a few years younger than me, the students perceive the topic of falconry as if it were closer to them; that is less likely to happen if the speaker is a grown man).

**The IAF YF structure:** everybody can join the IAF YF. Not only people who are already in contact with IAF but also young people who have never heard of it before.

Everybody will be able to get in contact with each other via mail or Facebook or in every which way that could encourage the sharing of ideas, doubts, perplexities or experiences.

**What we have done, what we are doing, what we will do:**

- we have created a Young Falconers Facebook page;
- from 2015 we have actively supported the organization of “World Falconry Day”;
- we have opened the WFD Facebook Page;
- we have taken part to the celebration of the WWF (World Wildlife Way), whose theme was “Listen to the young voice”;
- many members go to schools every year to teach and share our falconry tradition;
- we write articles on different newsletters and newspapers;
- I translate into my native language, Italian, some books about falconry for the schools;
- we will make many presentation during this festival.





**AS AN INTERNATIONAL NON-GOVERNMENT  
ORGANISATION OUR COSTITUTIONAL  
OBJECTIVES ARE:**

- 1) To represent falconry throughout the world. Falconry is the traditional sport of taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey. It is a hunting art.
- 2) To preserve and encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife.
- 3) To encourage conservation, the ecological and veterinary research on birds of prey and promote, under scientific guidance, domestic propagation for falconry.
- 4) To develop, maintain and amend national and international laws, treaties and conventions to permit the pursuit and perpetuation of falconry.
- 5) To require the observation of falconry, hunting, conservation and welfare laws, regulations, traditions and culture with regard to the taking, import, export and keeping of birds of prey, the taking of quarry species and the right of access to land in the country concerned.
- 6) To promote and uphold a positive public image of falconry with specialist organisations which regulate or otherwise affect falconry.

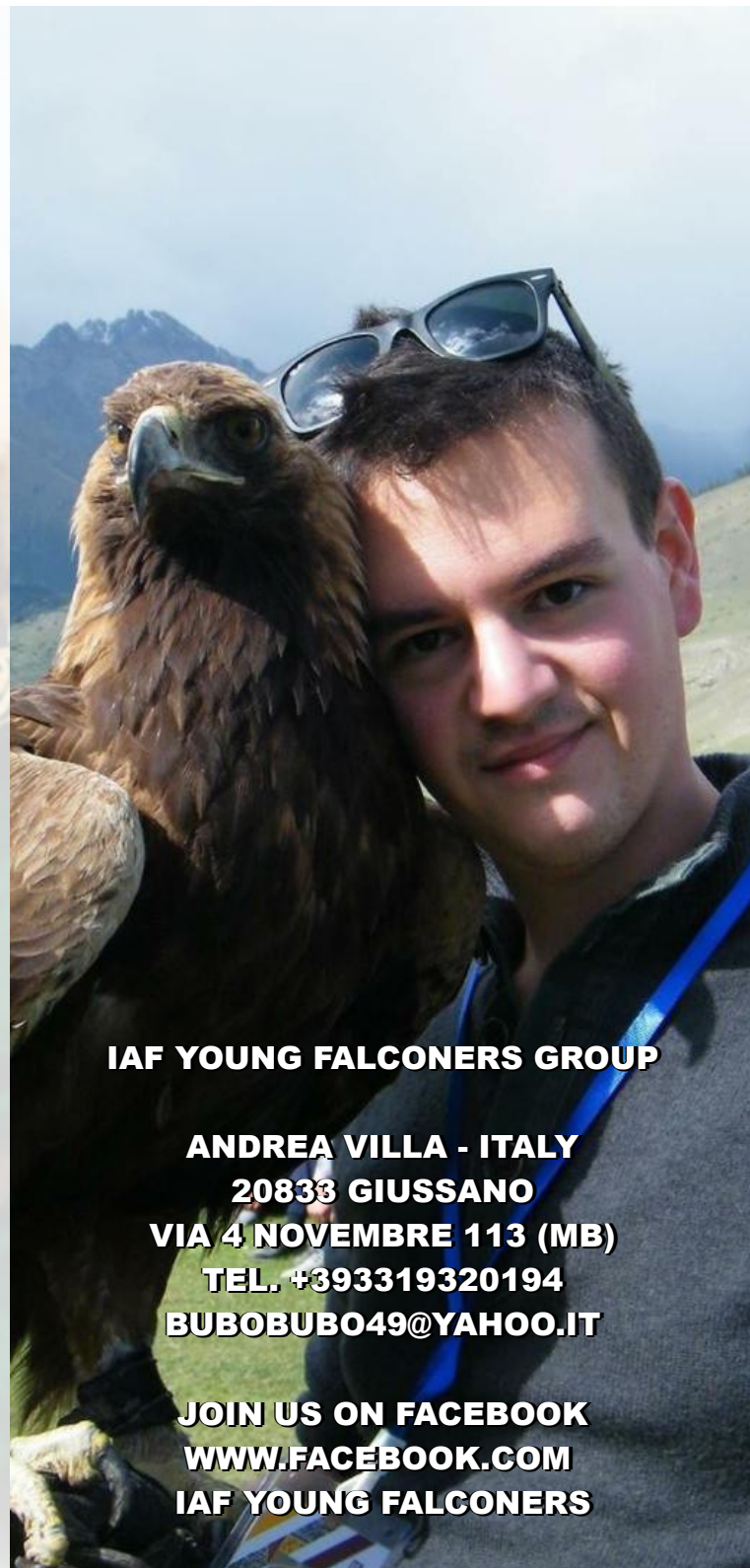
SOME MAJOR EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF IAF:



Our organization is dedicated to the preservation of the ancient art of falconry, a hunting tradition defined as 'taking quarry in its natural state and habitat by means of trained birds of prey'. Preserving falconry involves maintaining not only the traditional culture that builds practical skills of empathy with animals, but also the conservation of raptors and their prey through Preservation Of Natural Habitats. We therefore encourage falconry within the context of sustainable use of wildlife.

We also promote Welfare and Veterinary Research on birds of prey and, where appropriate, domestic breeding of raptors for falconry, in whatever part of the world they may be used for falconry and hunting. IAF is also involved in international work to eradicate the Illegal Trade Of Wildlife, and is a member of the UNEP/CMS International Task Force on Illegal Killing of Birds in the Mediterranean.

In our site, you will find pages on the History Of Falconry and its role in Conservation, its contribution to culture as well as details of how modern falconry is practised. You can visit our extensive Global Membership List and read about our worldwide activities in the IAF Newsletter.



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**IAF YOUNG FALCONERS**



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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR  
FALCONRY AND CONSERVATION OF  
BIRDS OF PREY**

IAF is an accredited NGO providing advisory services to  Intangible Cultural Heritage Committee (NGO-90006)  
IAF has CITES accreditation and is an accredited member of IUCN, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature 