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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN EAGLES LAY 2nd EGG

Norfolk, VA (Feb.16, 2009) - After laying the first egg of the 2009 season on the afternoon of February 10th, the bald eagles at the Norfolk Botanical Garden have laid a second egg at about 5:05pm on Friday the 13th. The parents will incubate the eggs, protecting them from the elements while they develop. Bald eagle eggs typically hatch 35 days after being laid, although in the past this pair has generally incubated for 37 days. The first eaglet will be expected to hatch in mid-March. This pair has nested at the Norfolk Botanical Garden for six years now and has successfully raised 9 eaglets. Bald eagles most commonly have two eggs at a time although nests with three or even one egg occur.

The nest is located approximately 85' up in a loblolly pine at the garden. The eagles have returned to this, their original nest site, after using a new nest last season. The area around the nest is cordoned off to ensure that the nesting eagles aren't disturbed. Binoculars and a telescope are mounted at strategic locations to allow visitors to the Norfolk Botanical Garden to view the eagles.

The activity at this nest is captured and provided to the public via a camera mounted in an adjacent tree. With nightvision capability the Eagle Cam provides full streaming 24 video coverage of the nest. The Eagle Cam is a joint project of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), the Norfolk Botanical Garden and WVEC.com. VDGIF biologists maintain a blog that details the events at the nest and explains aspects of the bird's natural history. In addition VDGIF provides resources for educators based

on Virginia's Standards of Learning. The video feed, along with daily slideshows, can be found at WVEC.com. Visitors can see the bald eagles in their nest by visiting the Norfolk Botanical Garden.

View the Eagle Cam at
www.wvec.com/cams/eagle.html

Learn what's happening and find educator resources at the DGIF Blog
www.dgif.virginia.gov/eaglecam/

Visit the Norfolk Botanical Garden
www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org

The Norfolk Botanical Garden is a site on the Virginia Birding and Wildlife Trail developed and coordinated by VDGIF. The trail, which provides opportunities for the public to enjoy the Commonwealth's diverse wildlife, was the first statewide birding and wildlife trail in the United States. This year is the fifth anniversary of the completion of the trail. For more information visit www.dgif.virginia.gov/vbwt/

It is the mission of the VDGIF to maintain optimum populations of all species to serve the needs of the Commonwealth; to provide opportunity for all to enjoy wildlife, inland fish, boating and related outdoor recreation and to work diligently to safeguard the rights of the people to hunt, fish and harvest game as provided for in the Constitution of Virginia; to promote safety for persons and property in connection with boating, hunting and fishing; to provide educational outreach programs and materials that foster an awareness of and appreciation for Virginia's fish and wildlife resources, their habitats, and hunting, fishing, and boating opportunities.