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EAGLE LAYS FIRST EGG OF THE SEASON
Thousands Tune In Online As Eagle Goes Into Labor, Lays Egg

NORFOLK, VA (February 3, 2011) -- The wait is over. For 17 days, eagle enthusiasts from all over the world have been awaiting the first egg from the Norfolk Botanical Garden's most celebrated residents. The pair of wild bald eagles welcomed their first egg at 2:49pm on Thursday, February 03, 2011.

According to Stephen Living, Wildlife Biologist at the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, "The female could be seen drawing pine straw up around herself in preparation and then settled down, covering the egg. Bald eagles most commonly have clutches of two eggs, although this pair has frequently had three egg clutches. Only time will tell how many eggs we will see this year."

Eagle Cam viewers and fans of the 'Eagles at Norfolk Botanical Garden' Facebook page couldn't wait to share their thoughts about their unique viewing experience.

Tina from Facebook said, "I saw it live and shared it with a member at work. Now that is what I call life shared!"

Trish, having seen the labor and birth on the Eagle Cam commented, "Can I say that I am in tears having just watched this miracle of Nature. I love this site. Thank you so much for sharing this with the 'unseeing' world."

The nest can be observed live daily on the 'Eagle Cam,' which is a partnership of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Norfolk Botanical Garden, and WVEC.

The Eagle Cam provides a unique and close up view into the daily lives of a Bald Eagle pair that has nested at the Norfolk Botanical Garden for eight years. Through live streaming video, viewers can follow the lives of these birds as they face the challenges of raising a brood of eaglets.

WVEC.com hosts the video feed and posts slideshows of the daily activity at the nest. Wildlife biologists with the VDGIF maintain a blog that explains the activity at the nest and provides insights into bald eagle biology and conservation. Eagle enthusiasts can visit the Norfolk Botanical Garden and view the eagles first-hand from a number of locations.

View the Eagle Cam at www.wvec.com/eaglecam and stay up-to-date on the latest information from Norfolk Botanical Garden by hitting the 'Like' button on the 'Eagles at Norfolk Botanical Garden' Facebook page.

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About Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF)

It is the mission of the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries to manage Virginia's wildlife and inland fish to maintain optimum populations of all species, while providing opportunities for all Virginians to enjoy the wildlife of the Commonwealth. The VDGIF's efforts are guided in part by Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan. This Plan focuses on the species and habitats of greatest conservation need, but it is also a plan for the conservation of all Virginia's wildlife.

Learn more about Virginia's Wildlife Action Plan

bewildvirginia.org/wildlifeplan/

Learn what's happening at the VDGIF Blog

www.dgif.virginia.gov/eaglecam/

About Norfolk Botanical Garden (NBG)

Norfolk Botanical Garden represents an oasis of over 30 theme gardens encompassing 155 beautiful acres. This diverse natural beauty can be explored by tram, boat or walking tours. NBG is accredited by the American Association of Museums, is recognized as a Virginia Historic Landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about the Garden and classes, visit www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org.

About WVEC.com

WVEC.com is the award-winning Web site for WVEC Television, the ABC affiliate serving Hampton Roads and surrounding areas of Virginia and North Carolina. WVEC.com has hosted the Eagle Cam images since the camera went online in 2006. The station provides regular updates on the eagles on 13News.

View the Eagle Cam at www.wvec.com.