



Contacts:  
Amy Dagnall  
Public Relations Manager  
Norfolk Botanical Garden  
(757) 441-5830 ext 346  
(757) 613-3800 Cell  
[amy.dagnall@nbg.org](mailto:amy.dagnall@nbg.org)

Stephen Living  
Wildlife Biologist  
Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries  
(757) 465-6868  
[stephen.living@dgif.virginia.gov](mailto:stephen.living@dgif.virginia.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN EAGLE LAYS 2<sup>nd</sup> EGG**

*Photo exhibit of the Garden eagles on display during February*

Norfolk, VA – The bald eagles at Norfolk Botanical Garden welcomed the 2<sup>nd</sup> egg of the nesting season at 11:48 AM today. The parents will incubate the eggs, protecting them from the elements while they develop. The first egg was laid on Sunday, January 31 in a snow filled nest. A consistent temperature of 105°F must be maintained for the eggs to remain viable.

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 early in March. This pair has nested at the Norfolk Botanical Garden for seven years now and has successfully raised 12 eaglets. Bald eagles most commonly have two eggs at a time although nests with three or even one egg occur, but this pair has successfully raises three eaglets, three times before.

The activity at this nest is captured and provided to the public via a camera mounted in an adjacent tree. With night vision 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), 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.

Visitors can see the bald eagles in their nest by visiting the Norfolk Botanical Garden. During the month of February, 30 photos of this pair of eagles are on display at the Garden's Visitor Center. This juried eagle photo exhibit consists of the best photos from 9 local eagle and wildlife photographers. The Garden is open from 9 AM to 5 PM daily.

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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. VDGIF's efforts are guided 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 at [www.bewildvirginia.org/wildlifeplan/](http://www.bewildvirginia.org/wildlifeplan/)

Learn what's happening at the DGIF Blog at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/eaglecam/](http://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](http://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. To watch the eagle cam visit [www.wvec.com/eaglecam](http://www.wvec.com/eaglecam)