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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Catch the Hatch on Norfolk Botanical Garden's Eagle Cam**

*Three eggs in the nest to begin hatching this week – don't miss the excitement!*

It's time to visit Norfolk Botanical Garden's (NBG) web site at [www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org) to watch the eagle cam. The first of three eggs is expected to hatch sometime this week after a 35-39 day incubation period. That first egg was laid on January 31st into a nest filled with snow. Two more eggs were laid on February 3<sup>rd</sup> and on the 6<sup>th</sup>.

This is the 7<sup>th</sup> season for this eagle pair to nest at NBG and they have successfully raised 12 eaglets. Once the eggs hatch, there is steady activity to watch on the eagle cam. The live stream of the eagle cam video provides a rare glimpse into the life of these two bald eagles and their offspring. It is the best way to observe this process. Here is a warning though, it's addictive watching the eagle cam. With around-the-clock feedings, the eaglets grow rapidly and are a favorite subject for visitors and photographers at the Garden, too.

The nest is located across from NATO Tower. There are also other locations in the Garden where the nest and the eagle's activities can easily be observed. The adult eagles are very active at this time of year, constantly bringing food to the nest, tending to and keeping a close vigil over their offspring. Later in the spring, into the early summer, the most amazing sight is watching the eaglets learning to fly and hunt for themselves.

The eagle cam is a partnership between the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF), WVEC.com and NBG. Viewers from around the world, from school children to adults, watch the eagle cam, as well as biologists who closely study this pair of eagles.

The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) Wildlife Biologist, Stephen Living, writes an NBG eagle blog about these eagles and provides expert details about these birds from the ongoing observations and research. Visit his blog at [www.dgif.virginia.gov/eaglecam/](http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/eaglecam/).

From Norfolk Botanical Garden's web site eagle page at, you can find facts about the eagles and their history at the Garden. There are also links to information about the 2008 eaglet that contracted avian pox and the 2009 eaglet, Azalea, whose travels are closely monitored by the GPS transmitter attached to her before she fledged the nest last spring.

Don't forget to catch the hatch on the eagle cam at <http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org/e-community/eagle-cam>.

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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.

**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)