

Green Scene

Washed Ashore Eagle Kit Assembly Day

As part of the Washed Ashore: Art to Save the Sea exhibit, we had the unique opportunity to participate in the creation of a sculpture representing the east coast—a bald eagle with a fish in its talons. This new sculpture will debut at the Garden in August.

Plastic trash collected from our local coastline was sent to the artist, Angela Haseltine Pozzi, in Oregon who then shaped and prepped the pieces into components to create the eagle's body. In conjunction with Washed Ashore's community program called "Come Soar with Us," we invited staff and volunteers to join us in creating this special sculpture. Community involvement is a powerful way to make an impact with any environmental cause and we were thrilled to take part.

Be sure to check out the Washed Ashore scavenger hunt and other fun family programming on our Nature Quests App.



Components of the eagle sculpture were created from trash collected from local beaches.

Eastern Bluebird Trail in Norfolk

One of our greatest strengths as a 175-acre garden is that we're a thriving habitat for all types of creatures great and small. Girl Scout Sydney Sheffield recognized this quality and suggested an eastern bluebird trail as part of her Gold Award project. Eastern bluebirds naturally call NBG home, so it seemed like the perfect place to establish the Virginia Bluebird Society's first recognized Eastern Bluebird Trail in Norfolk. Sydney constructed ten new houses and installed them throughout our grounds. As part of the nest monitoring requirements for the trail, staff conduct weekly observations throughout the nesting season.



Girl Scout Sydney Sheffield is assisted by her father with the installation of ten bluebird houses she built for the Garden.

Bee-ting the Heat

Our beehives continue to thrive. This summer, our staff apiarist acquired two mated queens and split two colonies.

Ever wonder what honey bees do when it gets really hot? They cluster around the opening of the hive to cool down. They beat their wings to fan in cooler air so the internal temperature of the hive doesn't become dangerously hot. This natural behavior is referred to as bee bearding because the congregating bees often resemble a beard around the entrance of the hive. The bees will go back into their box when temperatures cool.



NBG hives show the natural "bee bearding" behavior on a hot summer day.