

[Audience](#)[Campaigns](#)[Response](#)

Some users have experienced a delay in Response metrics being loaded to their account. [Learn more here.](#)

Fall 2011 e-Newsletter

Preview

About this mailing

Campaign name Fall 2011 e-Newsletter
 Subject Line American Eagle Foundation - Fall 2011 e-Newsletter

Your email HTML Plaintext

[Printer-friendly view](#)

If you're having trouble viewing this email, you may see it online.

You're receiving this e-mail as a part of your [Free Subscription to Eagle Extra](#), the not-for-profit *American Eagle Foundation's* quarterly newsletter about bald eagles and their work with these majestic birds of prey.

If you've not already done so, [please click here to confirm your FREE Subscription](#). This will help us ensure you get every [Eagle Extra](#) issue without interruption. [View Past Newsletters.](#)

Fall 2011 e-Newsletter



American Eagle Foundation Grant Winners - 2011



Sales from U.S. Mint Commemorative Eagle Coins generated \$7.8 million in 2004, which Congress designated that AEF utilize for the benefit of Bald Eagles.

The American Eagle Foundation (AEF) has announced the winners of its first annual nationwide bald eagle project grants.

The AEF has awarded \$99,490 for projects within the grant limit of \$100,000 for 2012.

The following 8 winning projects are listed alphabetically by lead agency, with most having multiple partners and cooperators:

1. Arizona Game & Fish Department: "Arizona Bald Eagle Nest Watch" - \$10,000.
2. Florida Audubon: "Florida Audubon Eagle Nest Watch" - \$15,000.
3. Georgia Department of Natural Resources: "Monitoring & Research of AVM Disease (Avian Vacuolar Myelinopathy) in Bald Eagles" - \$13,719.
4. Iowa Department of Natural Resources: "Training

Rehabilitated Golden Eagle Released By AEF



Rehabilitated Golden Eagle is carefully checked by AEF staff members Rob West and Al Cecere before being released on Nature Conservancy land in Shady Valley, TN.

Video for Volunteer Nest Monitors" - \$17,200.

5. Iowa State University: "Lead Exposure in Iowa Bald Eagles" - \$11,179.
6. New Jersey Conserve Wildlife: "New Jersey Bald Eagle Nest Monitoring" - \$10,000.
7. Oregon State University: "Web Enhancements for Reviewing and Analyzing Nationwide Winter Eagle Counts" - \$12,392.
8. U.S. Forest Service: "Monitoring & Analysis of Bald Eagle Winter Roosts in Northern Arizona" - \$10,000.

The AEF obtained funding for this grant program in 2004, when both the U.S. Senate and House UNANIMOUSLY passed (and President Bush signed into law) the "Bald Eagle Commemorative Coin Act." Congress authorized the U.S. Mint to produce gold, silver and clad coins, which they sold to the public in 2008. The AEF [continues to make those coins available](#) to the public via its web site.

Sales from those U.S. Mint coins generated \$7.8 million in 2004, which Congress designated that the AEF utilize for the benefit of Bald Eagles. The AEF set aside 75% of these funds, or approximately \$5.8 million, to perpetually grow in the American Eagle Fund to provide competitive annual grants for Bald Eagle projects.

The American Eagle Foundation utilizes a 12-person "Bald Eagle Grant Advisory Team" to numerically rate all grant applications. This team consists of some of the most outstanding nationwide eagle authorities.

"The AEF's grant program will continue to help recover and monitor the Bald Eagle population in the contiguous United States for generations to come," said AEF's Grant Administrator, Bob Hatcher. "It is most gratifying to be part of this national eagle conservation initiative."

Further information about AEF's Bald Eagle grant program can be found on its web site, www.eagles.org, or by emailing Bob Hatcher at EagleFund@eagles.org.

[More information.](#)

###

Veterans Day Activities For Challenger & AEF Team

In 2010, a Golden Eagle was accidentally caught in 2 steel leg-hold traps that were baited with deer meat. At first, the eagle caught a toe in one trap. Then, struggling to free itself, it fell forward into the second trap, which tore into its breast. In its attempt to escape from both traps, the eagle sustained significant damage to its chest.

When the eagle was discovered in the trap, it was taken by a Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency officer to the University of Tennessee School of Veterinary Medicine where it was treated for both injuries. The injured toe had to be amputated, and the severely lacerated breast required extensive treatment. After initial care by U. T. veterinarians, the eagle was then taken to the American Eagle Foundation for months of follow-up rehabilitation.

On November 15, 2011, this eagle - its chest wounds completely healed - was released on Nature Conservancy land in Shady Valley, TN. The location was chosen because the habitat was ideal for this type of bird and for the prey they favor.

[More information](#) (with video)

###

The Saga Of Volunteer: There & Back Again!



Volunteer stayed close to familiar places during his adventure. A resident in the area took this photo of Volunteer resting on his deck railing.

On Sept. 11, 2011, during a check of the Eagle Mountain Sanctuary aviary at Dollywood, AEF volunteer Janine Orlando noticed that one non-releasable Bald Eagle named Volunteer was missing. During a storm, a large tree outside the enclosure had fallen against the side of the aviary, tearing a large hole in the netting through which the 23-year-old male eagle escaped.

AEF volunteers and staff immediately launched a search for the wayward eagle, who spent the next three weeks and two days soaring over the vicinity of Pigeon Forge, TN.

The bird was spotted and photographed by several people (mostly tourists) at various locations, including the Ober Gatlinburg ski resort, where he spent a couple of days perched in a tree on a mountain top near a stage where a bluegrass band was playing.

During his short stint in the wild, he would frequently perch in trees located near cabins where there was human activity—obviously because he associated people with his food source.

Finally, during his final days of roaming the area, Volunteer was spotted in Wears Valley, and the AEF team tracked him down to a residential area.

Throughout the search, the team had set and baited a spring-loaded safety-net trap for Volunteer, but each time the eagle was either scared away or disinterested.

Then, on Tuesday, October 4, Cecere and staff member Rob West were rewarded for their patience and perseverance. They set the spring-loaded trap once more, and then placed three of Volunteer's favorite treats— a frozen trout, quail, and rat—in the center of the trap and secured the food to the ground. Al and Rob wanted to make sure the eagle



Top: Soldiers dress out in WWI uniforms. Middle: AI and Challenger visit with WWII veteran. Bottom: Medal of Honor Recipient Dakota Myer with AI and Challenger.

It has become a long-standing tradition for "Team Challenger" to travel to New York City for Veteran's Day Activities.

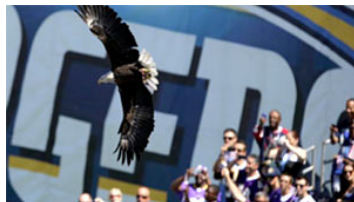
This year was no different. On November 11, 2011, Challenger and AI Cecere made an early morning appearance on **"Fox and Friends" TV program**.

During the program, Cecere talked about an initiative sponsored by the American Eagle Foundation to honor fallen soldiers. Each year, a number of Bald Eagles are hatched from eggs laid by our non-releasable eagles. When the eaglet is ready to be released, the family of a fallen soldier is invited to name the eaglet and participate in the release activities. This is always a very moving tribute for the family.

Following the appearance on Fox & Friends, AI and Challenger traveled to Madison Square Park in New York City, where they spent several hours visiting with veterans and military personnel. Hundreds of soldiers were given the opportunity to have photos taken with Challenger.

###

Football Season For Eagle Challenger



The eagle "Challenger" flies during the National Anthem before the Chargers-Vikings game at Qualcomm Stadium on Sept. 11

wouldn't be able to swoop down, scoop up his food, and fly away again!

This time, Volunteer was hungry enough to fly down to the bait, the trap was successfully sprung, and the team safely captured the eagle.

"We're very, very elated and pleased. We're so happy, you wouldn't believe, and we thank God for every person who called and all the help we got from everybody in East Tennessee," Cecere said.

Now 23 years old, Volunteer was taken as a baby from a wild nest in northern California to become part of a captive breeding program at the San Francisco Zoo. There, he was paired with his lifelong mate, Hero. They subsequently produced numerous young eaglets that were released into the wild on Catalina Island. The American Eagle Foundation received Volunteer and Hero in 2007 to become part of their breeding program. Since then, this bonded pair has produced young that have been released in Tennessee.

Because Volunteer had lived his entire life in captivity, Cecere was concerned that the eagle would not be able to survive in the wild for more than a few weeks. In all probability, the bird made it as long as it did by sporadically feeding on road kill and food given to him by people.

After his capture, Volunteer was examined by Dr. Mike Jones of the University of Tennessee School of Veterinary Medicine, and, except for being somewhat dehydrated and underweight, was found to be OK. For a few days, Volunteer was given some rest and recuperation alone, and then was reunited with his mate, Hero.

Both birds will again be on exhibit at Dollywood during 2012, where we hope they will live long and prosper!

[Watch video.](#)

###

Challenger Flies At Life Changing Lives Fundraiser



The AEF team and eagle Challenger board helicopter after the Sept. 11 Chargers/Vikings game in San Diego to be on time for Life Changing Lives fundraiser in Anaheim.

Immediately after a National Anthem appearance at the Chargers vs Vikings football game in San Diego on September 11, the eagle Challenger and members of the AEF team, including AI Cecere, Julia Cecere, Kevin Buchanan, Laura Sterbens, and Rob West traveled by helicopter and van to Anaheim to participate in the Life Changing Lives (LCL) fundraising gala.



Challenger gets ready to fly during the National

Photo: K.C. Alfred

Football is in the air, and the eagle Challenger once again has made some collegiate & professional games extra special with his spectacular free flights during the playing of our National Anthem.

Challenger's first football flyover of the season was at Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego at the game between the Chargers and Vikings on Patriot Day – Sept. 11, 2011. An article appearing in *Sign On San Diego* said in part, "There isn't anything much more beautiful than watching a bald eagle in flight. Add 60,000 people in a stadium to see it and it makes the hair stand up on the back of your neck."

A trainer standing on a platform near the east end zone waited for the majestic bird to land, but Challenger was enjoying himself so much that it took several passes before he decided to land on the trainer's gloved hand.

The crowd roared so loudly that it drowned out the final words of pop singer Colbie Caillat's acoustic rendition of the National Anthem.

Watch video of pre-game ceremony, including Challenger's fly-over.

Next on Challenger's football appearance schedule was in Nashville, TN at the Titans / Broncos game September 25. Challenger was a hit with his fly-over performance, and had his photo made with Broncos' quarterback Tim Tebow.



Top photo: US Army Ranger Timothy Sterbens, Bronco's QB Tim Tebow, AEF President Al Cecere, and the eagle Challenger. Bottom photo: Former President George Bush and Houston Texans' owner Bob McNair visit with Challenger and Al Cecere.

On October 15, Challenger visited Lawrence, Kansas, where he performed at the University of Kansas Jayhawks vs. the University of Oklahoma Sooners football game.

On Nov. 6, Challenger and his AEF flight team made appearances in Houston – performing at the Houston Texans vs. Cleveland Browns game. President George H. W. Bush was there, and visited with his favorite eagle once again. Honoring the U.S. military was the primary focus of pre-game festivities. Soldiers rappelled from the stadium roof down onto the field, where an enormous American field-sized flag added a spirit of patriotism to the event.

###

Buy Eagle-Themed Christmas Gifts To Support Care Of Eagles & Other Birds Of Prey

Anthem at Life Changing Lives gala in Anaheim on September 11 which honored America's heroes.

500 guests from Los Angeles and Orange Counties gathered at The City National Grove of Anaheim to pay tribute to America's heroes and honor the anniversary of 9/11 as a national day of service and remembrance at the fourth annual Life Changing Lives – One Nation One Heart Gala.

Proceeds from this event, totaling almost one million dollars, will benefit the Wounded Warrior Project, the Muhammad Ali Center, The Joe Foss Institute, Pretend City Children's Museum, and Chapman University.

A highlight from the gala featured the All-American Boys Chorus performing a salute to the armed forces. Firefighter Paramedic Humberto Agurcia sang a beautiful rendition of our National Anthem while Challenger flew overhead as a majestic symbol of freedom.

###

2011 AEF Eagle Release Update



The Bald Eagle "Halo," with wing tag "L1," was looking healthy when spotted with a little friend on Lake Erie in October 2011. The young eagle had been released by the AEF on August 15 on Douglas Lake in East Tennessee.

During 2011, the American Eagle Foundation (AEF) successfully captive-bred and released 7 young Bald Eagles into the wild.

Two of the seven eagles were named by the families of fallen soldiers. A Knoxville mother named an eagle Ranger in memory of her fallen son, Army Ranger Ryan McGhee. Another released eaglet was named Halo by the family of a fallen U.S. soldier and Screaming Eagle, Carlos Santos-Silva.

Hundreds of thousands of viewers watched online as Halo, Atlantis, and Endeavor hatched and grew up in the nest of non-releasable Bald Eagle breeding pair Independence and Franklin.

After its release on August 15, 2011, Halo was twice observed in good condition on Lake Erie - near Cleveland, OH on September 2 and on October 16 near Erie, PA.

The eaglet Atlantis was released on August 14, and was seen doing well on Lake Huron near Oscoda, MI on September 7.

Ranger (released on April 17) was unfortunately found electrocuted on a backyard electric transformer in Ottawa City, Canada (near Montreal, Quebec) on May 20, 2011. The eagle Tanasi (released on July 31) was seen August 25 flying around and doing well on the shore of Long Island Sound, but was found dead a day later after the treacherous Hurricane Irene hit the area.

No sighting reports have yet been received for three other eagles, Endeavor, Duke, and Duchess.

Sadly, about half of all wild-nest fledged or hacked Bald Eaglets die during their first year and about 10 percent during each subsequent year, so each successful sighting is extremely gratifying.

AEF has released 112 young bald eagles from 1992 through 2011 at its Douglas Lake hack site near Dandridge of East Tennessee. Since 1980, a total of 337 young bald eagles



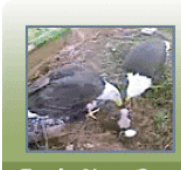
Adopt An Eagle (or bird of prey) in honor or in memory of a soldier, grandparent, parent, or dear friend.

The American Eagle Foundation has searched far and wide to bring quality merchandise to its online store in time for Christmas and New Years giving.

We have [Gold](#), [Silver](#), and [Clad Bald Eagle Commemorative Coins](#) created by the U.S. Mint, [books](#) about eagles and other birds of prey, [t-shirts](#), [jackets](#), [hats](#), [jewelry](#), [toys](#) and [puzzles](#)—and lots more.

In addition, we encourage "alternative giving." [Adopt An Eagle \(or bird of prey\)](#) in honor or in memory of a soldier, grandparent, parent, or dear friend. Or [give a membership](#) to the American Eagle Foundation in their honor.

[See Our Gift Flyer.](#) | [Visit Our Online Store.](#)



Don't Miss Experiencing Our 2012 "Live" Eagle Nest Cam!!!

We will feature new state-of-the-art color video cameras that provide more intimate and enhanced viewing of our non-releasable breeding pair, Independence and Franklin, as they lay, incubate and hatch their eggs, and rear their young! We expect online viewing to begin on April 1, 2012.

Eagle Nest Cam

If you would like to [Adopt An Eagle](#), become a member of the [American Eagle Foundation \(AEF\)](#), or buy an eagle-themed gift, please click on the links below. You will be assisting the AEF in its efforts to ensure that our national bird keeps flying strong and free for generations to come.

[Adopt An Eagle](#) ~ [Visit Our Gift Shop](#) ~ [Become A Member](#)

The American Eagle Foundation is a non-profit 501(C)(3) organization dedicated to the mission and vision of preserving the U.S.A's majestic eagles and fragile environment for future generations to enjoy.

We are located in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, in the heart of the Great Smoky Mountains.

Visit us online at www.eagles.org, email us at savetheeagle@aol.com, or contact us at (865) 429-0157.

American Eagle Foundation | Post Office Box 333 | Pigeon Forge, TN 37868

This email was sent to [% member:email %]. To ensure that you continue receiving our emails, please add us to your address book or safe list.

[manage](#) your preferences | [opt out](#) using TrueRemove®.

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

