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Spring 2012 e-Newsletter - Eagle Nest Cam



REAL Reality TV: Take It Easy & Enjoy The Eagles

American Eagle Foundation's "Eagle Nest Cam" A Big Hit

Lights, Cameras, ACTION! Celebrity Bald Eagles "Independence" and "Franklin" will continue starring in their "live" reality TV show for another season from inside their newly refurbished nest located inside "Eagle Mountain Sanctuary" at Dolly Parton's Dollywood theme park in the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains... but it's not exactly an edition of Extreme Home Makeover.

Tens of thousands of viewers have already been faithfully and intently watching the birds via an **Eagle Nest Cam** over the Internet, and are very touched by their heart-breaking story and spirited fight to overcome life's obstacles.



Bald Eagles "Franklin" and "Independence" survey their home on Eagle Mountain Sanctuary. It's nesting season and they have been bringing sticks and materials into the nest.



Dedicated eagle fans from all walks of life are intrigued by the amazing loyalty and dedication of these special parent birds, and the fascinating natural intimacy of their daily lives, including the much anticipated late March arrival of 3 eggs. The pair has been diligently incubating and shielding these eggs from inclement weather with the cameras rolling 24/7. They are scheduled to hatch in early May after an approximate 35-day incubation period. **Watch YouTube Video**.

"Eagle nest watching has become an on-line obsession for millions of people who are intently interested in the rare opportunity to peer into the otherwise private lives of an All-American eagle family and to experience

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their precious eggs at all costs, turning them regularly, keeping them at a perfect temperature.

the iconic birds.

This year, the producers of this Eagle TV show, the non-profit AEF (www.eagles.org), will offer their world-wide viewers simultaneous "live streaming" video images from four (4) different camera angles - to give dedicated viewers a true bird's-eye view, and to ensure that none of the action will be missed.

"Our fans have stayed tuned day and night to see the eagles weather hail storms and tornadoes, which is real intense drama in itself. These birds have a strong innate behavior to protect their eggs and young through thick and thin, and they do not easily surrender that duty. This is extremely impressive and inspiring to witness up-close," says Cecere.

All four cameras have infrared night vision to ensure viewing access 24 hours per day, and one camera even has pan, tilt, and zoom capability to capture close-ups of all the intimate details, including mating, nest decorating, egg hatching, and feeding activities. There is also a chat room at the nest cam website where volunteer moderators answer questions about eagles from viewers.



At night, infrared cameras are turned on, allowing viewing 24/7. The eagles are not disturbed or kept awake by this cam light.



Cam 1 is equipped with tilt / pan / zoom. It is so exciting to be able to get really close up to the action - to see just how diligent and careful the parent eagles are with the eggs.

This majestic eagle pair is in their 11th year of captive breeding at Dollywood. They pair-bonded in 2002, and have already produced 27 eggs and 24 eaglets, most of which have been released into the wilds of East Tennessee.

"We invite anyone who loves animals, birds, nature, and America to drop by our website or our USTREAM channel to watch and enjoy the daily life of these wonderful birds," Cecere said. *"Especially schools across the nation that desire to provide an educational experience for their classrooms."*

being relocated to Tennessee, the birds have lived inside a large naturally landscaped and netted bald eagle aviary at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, which is where the AEF has been headquartered for the past 22 years.

Both parent birds are classified as "non-releasable" by federal and state wildlife agencies - since they suffered permanent injuries and disabilities to their left wings due to gunshot wounds when they lived in Alaska. Since

The AEF daily cares for a collection of about 80 birds of prey, including about 40 bald eagles and 5 golden eagles - all of which can no longer survive in the wild either due to "human imprinting" or permanent disabilities. The organization rehabilitates injured and orphaned birds of prey to potentially return to the wild, and educates the public about the continuing need for their future population recovery and protection. The conservation group currently has 4 pairs of eagles sitting on eggs.

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chicks that will hopefully soon hatch and eventually be released into the wild when they attain full-size at 13-weeks of age. One or more of the young will be released in honor of fallen US soldiers."

2 nest-cam videos of "Independence" and "Franklin"

Tending to Nest After 3rd Egg Laid (3-31-12)

Mating (2-7-12)



As time approaches for these three eggs to hatch, we can only pray that the future for the babies inside is bright. May they live long and prosper!



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