

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](#).

July 2012 e-Newsletter Edition



AEF's "Eagle Nest Cam" - A Great International Reality Show!



U.S. Citizens & Governments Celebrate "American Eagle Day" On June 20th



The American Eagle Foundation urges U.S. citizens, companies, and organizations to help raise awareness about the Bald Eagle by educating the public about its symbolism and the need to save and protect it.

The AEF continues to be a major proponent of establishing "American Eagle Day" nationally and annually on June 20th, the day in 1782 that the Second Continental Congress officially selected the Bald Eagle to be the central image in the Great Seal of the United States.

After nearly disappearing from most of the United States decades ago, the Bald Eagle is now flourishing again across the nation. The removal of the Bald Eagle from the "threatened and endangered" species lists was announced by Secretary of the Interior Dirk Kempthorne on June 28, 2007. The American Eagle Foundation's celebrity eagle Challenger was selected by the federal government to participate in that long-awaited ceremony.

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

These photos were all taken from video camera footage that was streamed "live" 24/7 on the AEF's "Eagle Nest Cam" during the 2012 nesting season. The non-releasable parents, "Independence" and "Franklin," successfully raised 3 eaglets, which were hatched May 7th and 8th, 2012. This was the first time that 2 captive-hatched eaglets from the same parents broke out of their egg shells within a 2-hour period, and that 3 eaglets from the same parents hatched within a 27-hour period. Typically, Bald Eagle eggs are both laid and hatched about 2 days apart.

From March through June 2012, tens of thousands of people watched the American Eagle Foundation's "Eagle Nest Cam" over the Internet, as celebrity Bald Eagles "Independence" and "Franklin" starred in their own "live" reality show from inside a human-made nest located at "Eagle Mountain Sanctuary" on Dollywood's Dollywood theme park in Pigeon Forge, TN.

Four video cameras were focused on the nest, one with pan-tilt-zoom capabilities, which provided a unique and up-close experience for our dedicated viewers. A multi-view icon on our video screen allowed our eagle watchers to choose their preferred camera angle, while engaging in a Moderated Chat with other kindred spirits who were online to peer into the wonderful world of eagles.

The AEF cannot say enough good things about our volunteer Moderators - caring and knowledgeable individuals who were always there to ensure everyone visiting was welcomed and gently educated about our eagles.

Three eggs were laid in late March, and our loyal eagle watchers kept vigil day and night as hatch times approached. On May 7th, 2 eaglets hatched at almost the same time, while the third egg was "pipping" (a term used to describe the eaglet inside breaking through the shell with the tip of its beak). By May 8th, 3 babies, fluffy and very unsteady, were receiving the best of care from their parents, to the delight of everyone watching.

Our viewers watched them grow from the tiniest of creatures to very large eaglets in a short 7-week period. Their parents, born in Alaska, provided the genes that made these eaglets larger than those born in the South.

On June 21 (one day after celebrating "American Eagle Day"), it was time for the young birds to graduate to our artificial nesting tower on Douglas Lake - there to imprint on the wider world of Nature, and to one day fly free into a life with limitless possibilities. The eaglets are scheduled to be released in early August 2012.

To celebrate this day on June 20, 2012, the AEF released two young eagles from our hack tower (artificial nest) on Douglas Lake into the natural world. These eaglets will need all the help and protection they can receive from all of us to ensure a safe journey and a long life.

During 2012 and previous years, State Governors across our nation proclaimed "American Eagle Day" to be celebrated on June 20th in recognition of our nation's symbol and its successful recovery in the lower 48 states.

The U.S. Senate and House of Representatives also issued Special Resolutions. The Senate and House resolutions read, in part: *Resolved: that the Senate (and House) encourages*

- *(A) educational entities, organizations, businesses, conservation groups, and government agencies with a shared interest in conserving endangered species to collaborate and develop educational tools for use in the public schools of the United States; and*
- *(B) the people of the United States to observe American Eagle Day with appropriate ceremonies and other activities.*

The Bald Eagle and its symbolism is deeply rooted in our nation's heritage, folklore and environment, and has special meaning to many Americans.

Since the founding of our country, there has never been a "national day" set aside to annually recognize our country's inspirational National Bird, the Bald Eagle, and the unique role that it has played in our history and lives, past and present.

At the AEF's request, twenty-five governors signed "American Eagle Day" proclamations in 2012. In total, 40 states have participated to date. Our goal is to eventually have 100% participation from all 50 states every year. It's also our goal to have a U.S. President declare and make "American Eagle Day" an annual national day by Executive Order.

We encourage individuals, organizations, agencies, and companies across the country to write to their Governors and elected representatives in support of making this national day permanent.

Together, we can make June 20th an annual day to remember and commemorate this majestic and important American symbol.

Visit Our Website To Participate.

###

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

It is our responsibility as good stewards to safeguard their environment and to guarantee, as much as possible, their safety and livelihood.

More Information, Videos & Photos.

Watch AEF's "Eagle Nest Cam" On UStream Channel.

###

AEF Participates In Memorial Day Activities In Chicago & New York City



Bald Eagle "Challenger" flies toward his handler, AEF Founder and President Al Cecere during the singing of the Star Spangled Banner at the pre-game ceremony of the Chicago Cubs baseball game at Wrigley Field. (AP Photo/Brian Kersey)

Memorial Day Weekend brought with it a busy schedule for the American Eagle Foundation's President Al Cecere, the free-flying eagle Challenger, and other AEF staff members. This year, as in the past, these stalwart educational ambassadors for the Bald Eagle protection cause made special appearances in the New York City and Chicago areas.

On May 27, Al and Challenger appeared on the **Fox & Friends TV show in NYC**, where Al spoke about this year's "Eagle Nest Cam" and an AEF program which allows the family of a fallen soldier to name and participate in the release of one of the AEF's captive-hatched Bald Eagles. They also took photos with a number of U.S. Military members who were on the show set.

In addition, Al and Challenger appeared with Illinois Governor Pat Quinn to unveil the **"Portrait of a Soldier" memorial** exhibit at the Hinsdale Oasis to honor that state's brave U.S. military service members who gave their lives to protect our nation's freedoms.

On Memorial Day, May 28, after making an appearance at Channel 5 (NBC) Chicago, Al, Challenger, and other AEF staff members participated in the **opening ceremonies at Wrigley Field** for the baseball game between the Chicago

"Wild Eagle" EBay Charity Auction Benefits American Eagle Foundation



Proceeds from an eBay charity auction - offering the first 52 seats on the inaugural ride of the Wild Eagle roller coaster - were donated to the American Eagle Foundation by Dollywood. Dolly Parton presented a \$37,000 check to Al Cecere.

The "Wild Eagle," Dollywood's newest roller coaster attraction (a 20 million dollar project), celebrates the Bald Eagle, whose population has increased in recent years thanks to the efforts of the American Eagle Foundation and various other organizations and agencies nationally. The 22 years of support from Dolly Parton's park has played a major role in the success of the AEF and its programs.

On the day the latest new ride opened (March 23, 2012), Dolly brought up to the stage AEF President Al Cecere and the trained non-releasable Bald Eagle "Mr. Lincoln." As she gave Al the microphone, she pulled back, playfully saying, "I'm scared of that eagle!" Al explained to Dolly and the large crowd in attendance that the AEF staff has presented over 20,000 "Wings of America" Birds of Prey shows have been performed at Dollywood since the Foundation joined the park more than two decades ago. In addition, he said that 113 Bald Eagles and 10 Golden Eagles have been released in the Great Smoky Mountains and 330 across Tennessee through the Foundation's efforts at the park in cooperation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

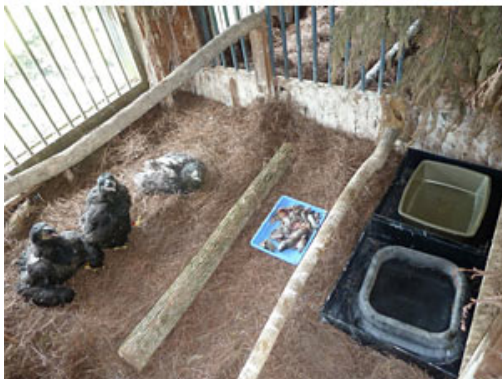
[Subscribe](#) to our email list

Illinois Military Relief Fund, Challenger made an awe-inspiring flight during the singing of the Star Spangled Banner, landing precisely on Al Cecere's outstretched arm during the final notes.

The Chicago portion of the trip is sponsored annually by the Illinois Governor's Office and Verizon Wireless.

###

2012 Nesting Season At AEF's United States Eagle Center



Top photo: Eaglet from the nest of parents "Isaiah" and "Mrs. Jefferson" hatched on April 12, 2012.

Bottom photo: 3 Eaglets, 7 weeks old, from the nest of parents "Independence" and "Franklin" on their first day at the AEF hack tower overlooking Douglas Lake - June 21, 2012.

During 2012, the American Eagle Foundation had 4 successful hatches from eggs laid by its non-releasable Bald Eagles.

An eaglet hatched in the nest of parents "Isaiah" and "Mrs. Jefferson" on April 12 was placed in the hack tower on May 29, 2012 at about 7 weeks of age. On July 15, 2012, this eaglet was released into the wild on Douglas Lake in East Tennessee at 13 weeks old.

Dolly presented Al with an oversized check for \$37,000 representing the proceeds from the eBay charity auction for the first 52 seats on the coaster's inaugural ride. Cecere thanked Dolly and her park for their support, noting that Dollywood has donated more than \$6 million to the AEF over the past two decades.

Each person who won auction bids for the coaster seats also had a photo op with Dolly, Al, and Challenger.

VIDEO: Dolly Parton Donates Funds To AEF

###

AEF Eagle Rehabilitation & Release Activities

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

Three eaglets hatched in the nest of parents "Independence" and "Franklin" (two birds hatched on May 7th and one hatched on May 8th) and were all placed in our hack tower together on June 21st. They are growing and thriving in their new digs and are scheduled for release in early August.

Roomy accommodations, simulating a nest in a tall tree, complete with soft pine straw bedding, and a million dollar view overlooking the lake and woods will acclimate these eaglets to the wild world which will soon be their permanent home. Sturdy perches are in place for the eaglets to jump onto to practice their "winger-cizing" skills.

Fresh fish (initially cut up into bite-size pieces) and clean water are delivered daily through a sliding drawer in the wall by AEF caregivers. The eaglets do not see that humans are providing their food in order to keep them as wild as possible. In addition, each compartment also has a two-way mirror, so that the eaglets can be observed and monitored daily by the caregivers in an unobtrusive way.

VIDEO: Eaglet Graduation To Hack Tower

###

2012 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl - Another Superb Flyover For Eagle "Challenger!"



Robert West, Curator of Birds for the AEF, releases the eagle "Challenger" during the National Anthem before the kickoff of the 2012 Tostitos Fiesta Bowl in Arizona.

(Photo: Christian Petersen/Getty Images)

On January 3, 2012, the American Eagle Foundation's eagle "Challenger" again made his familiar flyover at the annual Fiesta Bowl at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, where Stanford vs. Oklahoma State duked it out in a close championship game (eventually won by the Cowboys of Oklahoma State). However, everyone could cheer in unison for the flawless and spectacular flight of Challenger as he soared majestically over the field during the Star Spangled Banner.

VIDEO: Watch Challenger Fly At Fiesta Bowl



Top Photos: Before a Bald Eaglet is released, it is given a thorough physical checkup to make sure everything is OK. Also, a U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service metal band is placed on its right leg and a patagial tag is placed on its wing for future identification purposes. A radio transmitter is attached to the bird's middle tail feather to track it after its release while in the general area of the artificial nesting tower on Douglas Lake. Eventually, the transmitter will fall off when the eaglet loses or molts that particular feather.

AEF employees Al Cecere, Danielle Steckley, Rebecca Krebs and Nancy Zaqaya, assisted by

[Subscribe](#) to our email list

Interns & Volunteers Assist The Work Of The AEF



Bald Eaglelet hatched in the nest of parents "Isaiah" and "Mrs. Jefferson" is leg-banded and wing-tagged a day prior to release. L-R: AEF's Volunteer Brittany Barajas, Bird Operations Coordinator Danielle Steckley, and Summer Interns Hanna Start and Katlyn Dotson.

The American Eagle Foundation offers a summer intern program to a limited number of college-age young men and women who are planning careers in wildlife conservation and environmental education. During their stay with the AEF, they are integrated into a number of our activities and programs. They are given the opportunity to learn various skills involving the care and handling of birds of prey, and to participate in a number of public education programs. During 2012, our interns came to us from locations as close as East Tennessee and as far away as the United Kingdom. Katlyn Dotson, from Kentucky, is participating in her 2nd year as an intern; Hanna Start is a first year intern from Durham, Durham County, United Kingdom, and Dillon Frazier from East Tennessee is also participating as an intern for the first time.

They bring youthful enthusiasm and energy to the AEF's efforts, and the belief that anything is possible. Being with these positive and creative people gives hope that the next generation will successfully carry forth our mission to care for and protect the Bald Eagle and other precious wildlife species.

###

Do Your Part To Help Bald Eagles - It All Starts With You!

former employee Brent McCarty, prepare eaglet for release on Douglas Lake in East Tennessee.

Bottom Photo: 13-week-old Bald Eaglelet named "Old Man Turner" by the family of fallen 101st Airborne Soldier Lee Turner ready to take off from nesting tower.

On May 7, 2012, the American Eagle Foundation received two captive-hatched Bald Eaglelets from the Wildlife Sanctuary of Florida. On June 20, 2012 (American Eagle Day), they were released from our hack tower on Douglas Lake into the foothills of the Great Smoky Mountains at 13 weeks of age. One of the birds was named "Old Man Turner" and released in honor of fallen U.S. soldier Lee Turner (101st Airborne Screaming Eagles), who died in Afghanistan in 2008. His wife, daughter, and other family members attended the release and related ceremony.

An injured fledgling Bald Eaglelet was found injured on a road near a bridge in the Chattanooga, Tennessee area on New Year's Day 2012. It had been struck by a car. The bird was initially rescued by two EMT professionals who just happened to see the bird while driving by. After being given initial care by local wildlife rehabilitators Nancy Brice, Alix Parks and a local veterinarian, the young bird was transferred to the American Eagle Foundation for the final stages of its recovery. After receiving care for 3 months to address its underweight condition and wing fracture injury, the eaglelet was released back into the wild by the AEF in the Chattanooga area on April 18, 2012. This happy ending was made possible by the collective efforts of a number of concerned professionals and volunteers.

On May 20th, the AEF received an eagle fledgling from a rehab group in Chattanooga. It did not require any treatment for injuries, but just needed to be fed and given another chance at life in the wild. It was placed in our hack tower on Douglas Lake on May 23 and released at Douglas Lake on July 15.

This year, the American Eagle Foundation has released 7 eaglelets into the wild on Douglas Lake (with 3 more to be released in August!). Since early 1980, 341 eaglelets have been released in Tennessee, with 116 of those birds being released on Douglas Lake in East Tennessee (not including 3 eaglelets yet to be released in early August).

VIDEO: Release Of Injured Bald Eaglelet in Chattanooga

###

AEF Staff & Eagle "Challenger" Participate In 2012 Horatio Alger Awards

[Subscribe](#) to our email list



To support the work of the American Eagle Foundation,
Please Click To Donate Here!

Click on the poster to access a full size, printable version.



AEF founder and president, Al Cecere, and Bald Eagle "Challenger" at the Horatio Alger Awards ceremonies in Washington, D.C.

On April 13, 2012, the American Eagle Foundation's eagle "Challenger" and several AEF staff members, including president Al Cecere, participated in the opening ceremonies of the Horatio Alger Awards at Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.

The Horatio Alger Association is a philanthropic organization which annually honors individuals with outstanding achievements and inspiring resolve who have triumphed over adversity.

The 12 new members honored and inducted in 2012 will join the Association's current membership which includes some of America's most successful and wealthy individuals.

The Association helps provide deserving high school seniors with hardships the financial resources and mentorship they need to pursue a college degree. It has awarded more than \$90 million in college scholarships since the inception of its scholarship programs in 1984.

###

A Special Volunteer - Janine Orlando

[Subscribe](#) to our email list



Janine Orlando with "Victory," the AEF's non-releasable, educational Golden Eagle.

Janine Orlando is one of the American Eagle Foundation's special volunteers. She is retired from the U.S. Army, having last been stationed in Alaska. While serving in our nation's armed forces, she read an article about the work of the AEF and was determined to donate her time to help. At the end of her last tour of duty, she decided to move to East Tennessee to seek an opportunity to work with eagles and birds of prey. As part of her volunteer activities, Janine cares for many of the AEF's educational and rehab birds. We are blessed to have her as part of the AEF family, and grateful for her dedicated service to our organization and our country.

Each newsletter will feature a different AEF volunteer. Our next edition will highlight our youngest volunteer, Brittany Barajas.

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

[Subscribe](#) to our email list



[Subscribe](#) to our email list