

*** Monday, July 10 ***

jtct

7:59

Happy Monday! Thought for today: A beautiful heart can bring things into your life that all the money in the world can't buy. (unknown). Have a marvelous day!

Mamie in SC

7:59

Thank you Amanda for sponsoring the cams today in honor of Congo.

jtct

7:59

I live in CT and in my area we've already received close to 8 inches of rain and it's still raining. Now I have that lake front property I've always wanted. ☺ Everyone, please stay safe if you are in the flood zones!

Sharon Shneyer

7:59

I'm sorry I won't be able to follow the online memorial for Debbie (aka Congowings), it is the last day I have to finish cleaning out my late Aunt Yonia Demp's apartment. Unfortunately timing is never good especially with her passing about the same time as Congowings. Thank you all. Sharon Shneyer, and thank you to those who are able to sponsor the cams in her memory.

Angelkitty

7:59

How do you get screenshots from Windows 10?

CK in Pa

8:16

Good morning everyone! I have a project that will keep me away from my PC from time to time today. My check for the meg-match/Congo memorial is in the mail. I'll be "scrolling back" later. Stay safe everyone effected by the weather.

Mamie in SC

8:17

Angelkitty, Windows key, Shift key, S key.

Deb in PA

8:26

Mornin' all and thanks to Amanda for sponsoring the cams in honor of Congo, our friend, our moderator, our teacher, and most of all, lover of all creatures, feathered and otherwise.

8:32

Duck #23, have you been giving these cubs flying lessons? They seem to have no fear of launching themselves from one high place to the next. I shudder to think about them when they discover trees! YIKES!

Sweetpea in North Carolina

8:32

Thank you Amanda for cam sponsorship in honor of Ms Congo..Debbi had the ability to bring calm to any circumstance that was hectic. I will always cherish that :)

Cathy in Nevada

9:00

Thank you Amanda for the cams today honoring Congo, who helped WCV have a successful moderated discussion with solid rules of the road. Congo's presence will always be felt here.

jakermo

9:00

When is the online memorial for Congo? I have sent in my match.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:00

That would be ... right now! Today! Good morning, all.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:00

Good morning, Amanda, and thanks so much for your *Cam* sponsorship!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:01

You're welcome! Congo would hate it. :)

Randy aka Big Bear

9:01

I know. She would.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:02

So are we ready for this MegaMatch challenge?

Which really, I guess has been happening already ... there have been so many wonderful donations and recollections of Congowings.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:02

Someone suggested that we should erect a statue of Congo. That thing would be struck by lightning before we got started!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:02

That seems VERY likely.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:02

Yes, ma'am, I believe we are ready for the official MegaMatch challenge kickoff.

9:03

So ... a kind and generous donor has offered to match contributions made in memory, honor, and celebration of Debbi -- up to a total of \$3,000.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:03

Perfect.

9:04

And we've counted the ones that have come in during the past week for that -- donations in memory/honor of, and Critter Cam sponsorships. Right?

Randy aka Big Bear

9:04

And, yes, we will come the donations we've received in the last week that were designated for the Debbi/Congo match.

And we have said that we would use these CongoBucks to support Center projects near and dear to Debbi's heart.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:04

Hundreds of squirrel boxes.

9:05

Just kidding.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:05

I need to fire up my squishy calculator to start to work on those contributions we've already received.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:05

Seems like that will be a workout.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:05

Amanda, do you remember meeting Debbi?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:06

You know, I don't remember when we finally met in person. As with many relationships in this world, we first "met" online.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:06

I think that is true for me as well.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:07

I know she was around in the Buddy days. But I don't know that we interacted much at that point. In 2008, I was still working partially in the rehabilitation side of things -- as well as outreach, but the currently-known Outreach Department had not yet been formed and all that. So really, a lot of our online communications were coming from YOU.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:07

I have VERY clear memories of certain things from that "era" -- learning about Buddy [from Ed], learning about the death of Mom Norfolk [from Amanda}.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:08

Yes, I remember some of those distinct moments in time as well.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:09

During the early Buddy era, my primary point of contact was Mayor Sandi. Okay, she wasn't a REAL mayor but I designated her the Mayor of EagleTown.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:10

Ah yes!

Randy aka Big Bear

9:10

And Sandi worked closely with Debbi, who was a moderator on the Norfolk Botanical Garden chat.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:10

So when was your first/early contact with Congo?

Randy aka Big Bear

9:10

But that was before we had an "active" website ... and before we had a *Critter Cam*.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:10

Yes. You had to write up updates and send them to our webmaster for posting!

Randy aka Big Bear

9:11

I'm guessing that my first contact with Debbi was during that Buddy era.

When was the first *Garden of Eagles* calendar? What year?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:11

Oh goodness.

9:12

I didn't know there was trivia. I always get those early years a little mixed. 2009?

Or started in 2009 for the 2010 year?

Something like that.

Teri in TX

9:12

I hate that I can't stay for this chat this morning, but I'm definitely sending my donation in honor of our beloved Congo.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:12

Thank you!

Randy aka Big Bear

9:12

Someone here will have that first calendar and can tell us, for sure.

Teri in TX

9:12

is there a link that is specific to the match?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:13

Nope, just the general "donate" button -- and you can drop a note in the comments that this is on honor of Congowings!

Dawn in VB

9:13

Thank you Amanda for sponsoring the cams in honor of Congo. Your description is so true. She did have a kind and calm presence when she moderated.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:14

I guess the first time I met Debbi in person was when she came to the Center to talk about doing the calendar???



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:14

Oh did she come in person to talk about it?

Randy aka Big Bear

9:15

She did. We met in the library, as I recall.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:15

I can recall a photo (yes, one of the few) of the two of you ... talking. Yelling? Not yelling. Gesturing wildly. I believe that was a little inside joke in the development office for a few years.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:16

That photo came from a later discussion. I believe that Debbi was giving me the CongoStare ... but I was impervious to it.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:17

But she won you over for the calendars.

And Buddy Bucks!

Angelkitty

9:17

Here's hoping the squishy calculator melts from overuse!

Randy aka Big Bear

9:17

Oh, yes, she did, indeed.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:17

Amazing.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:17

In that first conversation.

9:18

There's this Urban Myth that suggests that this was a prolonged battle. It was not. Debbi was very persuasive.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:18

We should've gotten more info from her ...

How to Convince Randy of a Thing

Randy aka Big Bear

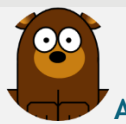
9:18

Now, Debbi did not always succeed.

Dawn in VB

9:19

I have the first edition of the Norfolk Garden of the eagles calendar.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:19

I have heard the legend of the calendar ... and the Buddy Bucks. Something about Randy saying "this will never work" ...

Randy aka Big Bear

9:20

Well, of course I said "this will never work". Goodness, Amanda, you know how many of these can-lose projects are presented to us.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:20

True.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:20

We should just sell calendars/hats/belts/luggage tags/soap/cookies/candles ... the list goes on and on.

9:21

"If we sell 4,000 of them, the Center will make \$1,000."



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:21

Ha, yes.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:21

Okay, that's great. But what if we only sell 400 ... or 40?

9:22

Debbi made a great case ... and we agreed to try to the calendar.

9:23

[what year as the first calendar, Ms. Dawn?]

Buddy Bucks? I DID say that that would never work ... and I was wrong.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:23

And here we are, so many years later ... and Buddy Bucks is STILL a thing.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:24

It is STILL a thing, indeed.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:24

(and can we make Congo Bucks a thing too?)

(man, she would hate that)

Randy aka Big Bear

9:24

She would hate it ... but she would love it.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:24

Exactly.

rainbow

9:25

Thanks Amanda for sponsoring today's cameras in honor of Congowings. I admit I had to look up OG. "Today, some people consider "OG" to mean "[original](#)," according to Merriam-Webster. In both cases, the term is used to describe someone or something that is the original or originator, particularly if said person or thing is very respected or highly regarded. An "OG" is extremely talented and authentic in what they do." How appropriate! to describe lovely Congo that way.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:25

Exactly. Or "the classic".

Randy aka Big Bear

9:25

Now, Debbi wasn't ALWAYS successful in her campaigns.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:26

Gasp, say it ain't so.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:27

It is so.

Debbi lobbied HARD for a special "Rock Stars release" t-shirt ... to be sold at the event at Berkeley Plantation.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:27

Oh my. I don't remember that!

Randy aka Big Bear

9:29

I still have scars.

At that point, we were worrying about lining up portajohns and water and the rescue squad to keep people alive.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:29

Yes, lots of logistics.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:30

Debbi DID produce a program for the release. It was a classis CONGO production. LOTS of photos ... about six different fonts ...

Debbi DID love her fonts!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:31

July 27, 2011
Bald Eagle Release Partners



*A special thanks to
the thousands of special friends
of the Norfolk Bald Eagles
from all around the world.*

*We are grateful
for your interest,
your encouragement,
and your support!*

*Photos on the front cover and above are
courtesy of Berkeley Plantation.*

NORFOLK
BOTANICAL
GARDEN

A Natural Beauty.

www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF GAME AND INLAND FISHERIES
www.dgif.virginia.gov



THE WILDLIFE CENTER
OF VIRGINIA

www.wildlifecenter.org

WVEC.COM

www.wvec.com

Home of the "Eagle Cam"

Special thanks to:

BERKELEY PLANTATION

www.berkeleyplantation.org

The host site for today's release.

NORFOLK BOTANICAL GARDEN

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF GAME & INLAND FISHERIES
AND

WILDLIFE CENTER OF VIRGINIA



*Bald Eagle
Release*

JULY 27, 2011
11:00AM

AT

BERKELEY PLANTATION

CHARLES CITY, VIRGINIA



For the first time in its nearly 30-year history, the Wildlife Center of Virginia will be releasing five Bald Eagles at a single event. All of these eagles hatched earlier this year.

The Eagles from Norfolk Botanical Garden

Patient #11-0474 [NZ] [female]
 Patient #11-0475 [NX] [female]
 Patient #11-0476 [NV] [male]

In mid-March, three eaglets hatched at a nest at the Norfolk Botanical Garden. The three became worldwide celebrities through an online webcam, presented in partnership by the Garden, the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, and WVEC-TV. On April 21, the eaglets were banded by the Center for Conservation Biology at the College of William and Mary.

On April 26, the eaglets' mother was struck and killed by a plane landing at the nearby Norfolk airport. VDGIF wildlife biologists determined that removing the eaglets from their nest and admitting them to the Wildlife Center gave the young birds their best chance of survival. The birds were rescued from their nest and admitted to the Center on April 27.

As is true for all animals admitted to the Center, the eaglets were assigned sequential patient numbers [11-0474 was the 474th patient admitted to the Center during 2011]. Shortly after their arrival at the Center, the three eagles were placed in a natural, hand-built nest constructed by Center staff and volunteers. In partnership with WVEC, the Center installed a live web-cam that allowed eagle lovers across the country and around the world to watch the eagles grow and develop their flying and landing skills. The eagles were later moved to a refurbished 100-foot flight pen.

At admission, one eagle – NV – showed exposure to lead and was treated by Center vets. A second eagle – NZ – was treated for a small chip fracture in her leg. The eagles were fed rats, fish, quail, and goose.

On Release Day, one of the three eagles – most likely NX – will be outfitted with a transmitter. This will allow VDGIF eagle biologists, Wildlife Center staff, and visitors to the Center's website to track the eagle's travels for up to two years. The eagle will become part of an ongoing research study being undertaken by VDGIF.



Photos courtesy of Dr. Dave McRuer and WCV.

Hampton Eagle

Patient #11-1235. This bird was found in a field in Hampton on June 3 and was initially rescued by Lisa Barlow of Wildlife Response Inc. The emaciated bird was admitted to the Center on June 9. Because emaciated raptors need to be reintroduced to food slowly and carefully, this bird was first tube-fed an easily digestible diet, and only then gradually introduced to whole foods. With continued care, the eagle began regaining weight and on June 28 was moved to one of the Center's outdoor flight pens.

King & Queen County Bald Eagle

Patient #11-1714. On July 14, Godspeed Animal Care in Williamsburg received a call about a young Bald Eagle at the King and Queen County landfill. The eagle had its left wing tangled in netting. The Godspeed staff rescued the bird and cut the netting away from the wing at their clinic. On July 15, the bird was admitted at the Wildlife Center. The Center veterinary staff found only minor abrasions on the eagle's left wing. The eagle was treated with antibiotics. On July 16, the eagle was moved to one of the Center's intermediate-sized outdoor flight pens but had a slight droop in the left wing. On July 19, the eagle was moved to one of the Center's large flight pens [joining #11-1235]. When Center veterinarian Dr. Dave McRuer later checked on the eagles, he reported that #11-1714 "was gaining height, flying back and forth multiple times without rests, and showing no signs of a wing droop."

Additional information about these and many other patients treated at the Wildlife Center may be found at www.wildlife-center.org



Dawn in VB

9:32

I can't remember when the first year was, but it was named the Garden of Eagles because promoted Dad and Mom eagle. Later years the editions included eagles from all over the US. I still have all of the calendars. Even though I downsized, I have a box of calendars and other WCV items.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:33

That's it, Amanda!

And the proceeds from those calendars helped support the Center's work with eagles ... and build the Buddy Palace!

9:34

Well, I suppose I should dust off the squishy calculator and get to tallying.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:34

I think so!

Randy aka Big Bear

9:34

When you would like a report back, Amanda?

As we try to match that \$3,000 challenge?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:35

Oh let's see ... say 11 am? Give people a chance to log in and catch up? Give you a chance to add and check and re-check?

(and give me a chance to go feed some birds)

Randy aka Big Bear

9:35

aok 11 Eastern.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:35

Excellent.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:35

One last question, Amanda, before you go.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:35

Yes?

Randy aka Big Bear

9:35

Not DIRECTLY related to Debbi.

9:36

But to the Moderated Discussion.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:36

Okay ...

Randy aka Big Bear

9:36

There has been some rumbling that I am the author of the postings from Duck 23.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:36

Really??

Randy aka Big Bear

9:36

Yes, ma'am.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:36

Hmmm.

9:37

I'm getting "Who is GN?" vibes all over again.

Randy aka Big Bear

9:37

But ... a few days ago ... Duck did a gender reveal ... and announced that she is a female.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:37

Hmmm. Okay ...

Randy aka Big Bear

9:37

And several people said, *well, then, I guess it's not Randy writing those posts.*



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:38

I'm not quite sure that's what that means ... but okay ...

Randy aka Big Bear

9:38

So ... they thought I could channel a duck ... but not a female duck? Is that it???



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:38

Ha, yes, I follow that.

You can be a duck ... not a female duck??

Joan from NY

9:38

LOL

Randy aka Big Bear

9:39

I dunno. I thought it o-d-d.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:39

So the mystery remains.

Dawn in VB

9:39

Thank you for being here Randy. It is good to "see" you :)

Randy aka Big Bear

9:40

OK, off to the calculator. Thanks!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:40

Okay, thank you Big Bear! And thanks everyone. Checking in again at 11 am Eastern!

Judie VB

9:44

It appears that Buddy is following this discussion very closely on Cam 1!

BarbG

9:44

- thanks to **Amanda**
- In honor of Congowings, the OG moderator. Thank you for your kind, calm, and warm presence on this discussion during the past 12 years.

Rhoda

10:20

2010 was the first calendar. I looked it up a couple of days ago.

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

11:02

Good morning all! I wonder if the duck - is related to Disco Duck? Anyone else remember that song?

Randy aka Big Bear

11:02

Carrying the seven ... divide by 6.14.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:02

Big Bear!

Is your calculator broken?

Randy aka Big Bear

11:03

six times seven ... that's 41.

Oh, Amanda, hello!

11:04

Is it 11 already??



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:04

Time flies when you're adding, I guess!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:04

RIGHT!

Now, what was our challenge goal?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:05

\$3000!

If we get to \$3000 ... that \$3000 is matched!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:05

THREE thousand???



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:05

Indeed.

Randy aka Big Bear

11:05

Well, okay. Would you like a financial update/report?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:06

Yes!

A Congo Bucks update, please.

Randy aka Big Bear

11:06

I am not COMPLETELY up-to-date on my tallying but ...

IN CongoBucks ...

11:07

[sorry there's a cat on my keyboard.]



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:07

Uh oh.

Randy aka Big Bear

11:08

CongoBucks -- \$3,231.60.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:08

Wow!

We did it!

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

11:08

MOVE kitty!!!!

Well unless it is making a donation - in case - stay kitty!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:08

That's really fantastic! Thank you, folks, for those generous contributions!

Carol in Colorado

11:09

I had no doubt we would make the goal♥♥



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:09

Same! Such an excellent motivation this year.

Cathy in Nevada

11:09

Great news! Awesome!

Pat, in N.J.

11:09

WOWZER

Angelkitty

11:09

wow! \$3231.60!!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:10

And ... the matcher has matched. So we're received that additional gift already as well.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:10

Wonderful.

Thank you all!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:10

Now, there's something else afoot???



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:10

afoot?

atalon?

Randy aka Big Bear

11:10

Yes ... I heard about another challenge????



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:11

O000H.

do tell!

Carol in Colorado

11:11

Bring it on

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

11:11

Excellent!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:11

Well, first, did you know that Debbi/Congo also was a volunteer moderator at the Southwest Florida Eagle Cam???

Carol in Colorado

11:12

Yes



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:12

I did -- but I don't really know much about it! I hear she had a different "handle" and everything.

Randy aka Big Bear

11:12

I am always THE LAST to know.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:12

I'm interested in hearing more -- from those cam watchers!!

Suemac

11:12

Sure did Randy- Essec was amazing at SWFEC



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:12

Essec!

11:13

Where did the screen name come from? Was she a different persona there? Did she have a special Essec stare? I want to know everything.

Randy aka Big Bear

11:13

Essec? Derived from ????

11:15

Did Debbi ever sleep?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:15

I'm suspecting not.

Suemac

11:16

'Essec' stands for compassion, creativity, reliability, generosity, loyalty, and a love for life.

Randy aka Big Bear

11:17

I HAVE learned that she watched football games ... and *Survivor*.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:17

She watched Survivor??

Randy aka Big Bear

11:17

According to Minicongo, she did indeed -- with vigor!

Carol in Colorado

11:17



Randy aka Big Bear

11:19

But ... we digress.

The kind folks from the SWFEC have issued their OWN challenge -- they will match contributions to this CongoBucks challenge -- dollar for dollar -- up to an additional \$2,000.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:19

Oh that's so lovely!!

Amazing.

11:20

I really want to hear more about "Essec" -- from those cam watchers!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:20

Isn't that nice?

11:21

So ... we have a NEW goal -- of \$5,000. And that extra \$231.60 will be a down-payment toward that goal.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:21

Excellent.

Cathy in Nevada

11:21

Thank you SWFEC!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:21

And a new cam sponsorship in her honor just came through!

11:22

Add it to the tally ...

Carol in Colorado

11:22

Such a wonderful gesture from SWFEC. Congo touched so many lives. ♥

Randy aka Big Bear

11:22

Yes, ma'am. Will do.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:22

Oh and I see lil Ashlee has just emailed us about some Congo Mail!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:22

So ... when would you like a check-in/report, Ms. Amanda??



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:23

Hmmmm. This afternoon? I have a meeting at 1 pm ... so after that? 2 pm Eastern?

Randy aka Big Bear

11:23

2 p.m. Eastern it is.

And the Southwest Florida cam -- that's Harriet's nest? Is that right?

Carol in Colorado

11:24

Yes

Randy aka Big Bear

11:25

And Harriet vanished and the male soldiered on and successfully raised two chicks? We think??

Carol in Colorado

11:28

Correct. He was amazing!

Suemac

11:28

Thanks to SWFEC for the challenge. My greatest admiration of Essec was her mission to educate the world including classroom sessions with the youth.

Randy aka Big Bear

11:29

I'm off to calculate. I'll 'scroll back', for sure. Thanks!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:29

Thank you all for your donations in memory of Congowings -- I'm sure she'd be thrilled and irritated. :)

Brenda in PA

11:29

Randy--Ms Duck is a lady but she talks to us through a "scribe". She never said whether the scribe was male or female. So you could be telling her story.

Amanda--Thanks for getting cam 2 up--full of cubs, Ms Duck and a full tub of water.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:29

Cam 2 remains a bit finicky -- but remember we have Cam3 on the bears too! Which seems like that's had no issues. Lots of fun to be had over there too!

Seahawk Nadine- U.P., WA

11:29

Connor: Is the eaglet out of the loft now? I have not seen him for awhile.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:29

I believe so -- but that enclosure hasn't been on cam! The A3 cam has been down for a bit, and I can't really get in there with all those eagles. Seems like a hazard!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:29

If any Florida Cam watchers are here, please feel free to share more of what you know of "Essec"!

Randy aka Big Bear

11:37

[and the Center is currently treating a Florida bird ...]



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:37

Yes!

Suemac

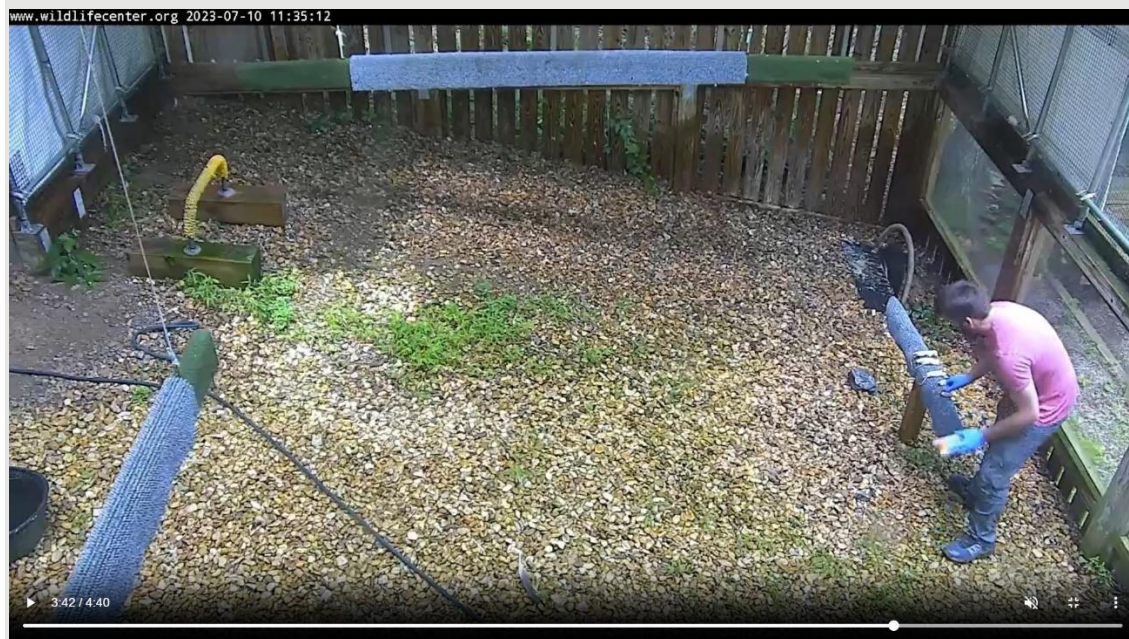
11:37

Looks like feeding time!

Cathy in Nevada

11:39

Is that Alex in Buddy's palace?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:39

Yes!

Sweetpea in North Carolina

11:39

when I found out that Essec was Ms Congo- I cried- she was such a great teacher about the eagles.

dadsjazz

11:39

Hello WCV! Yes Debbi aka Congowings aka Essec kept the wheels well oiled at SWFEC. Most of the success here was because of her vast knowledge and dedication. To say we will miss her leadership is an understatement. I am also thankful that SWFEC is participating in the fund raiser.

Suemac

11:39

what is the story on the Florida bird?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:40

This is a young-of-the-year bird that hatched in Florida - and fledged a bit too early, and was taken to the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey in FL.

<https://www.wildlifecenter.org/critter-corner/current-patients/bald-ea...>

The bird was released -- and then was spotted (thanks to a leg band ID!) on the Eastern Shore of Virginia!

So apparently the bird flew quite a ways. A photographer got some lovely photo of the bird (well, lovely and also a bit gross, you know, rotting whale and all).

GinnyLWI

11:40

How wonderful that we can also be part of this challenge in Essec's name for a project she so loved and gave so much of her heart and soul to for many years. She shared that same love and devotion on our SWFEC site educating thousands through the 10 years of her time there. Not only was she an amazing mentor to our team, but a very special friend and confidant through the years. Essec set up amazing classroom sessions preferring to do most of the work involved but then allowing us to look good while hosting the classes. Will hold this dear lady in my heart ever so close so very honored to have known her for these 10 years.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

11:41

Seems like that food source didn't sit well with the eaglet -- and it was found down, unable to fly, and came to the Wildlife Center.

Suemac

11:44

thank you Amanda and hello to dadsjazz, Ginny, and sweetpea.

Lois

11:56

Essec was one of a kind at SWFEC as she was here at WCV. She was always into educating the public. She was a true mentor to so many viewers, some that knew her from WCV. She was the glue that kept the team together as a well oiled machine. The loss of Debbi/Congowings/Essec will be missed for so many years.

dadsjazz

12:01

Buddy is looking very regal in his horaltic pose. I agree that Debbi is smiling but also mad that we are honoring her.

Suemac

12:01

Beautiful wings Buddy...

Wingnut

12:01

I am extremely late and need to scroll WAY back to find out what's happening today- BUT-- I see some SWFL eagle peeps sharing their memories of our Congo, who led a "double life" that many here, myself included, never knew about. Love to hear from you guys. Now where's the link so I can donate for the megamatch? And good morning to all. And finally, I never thought Big Bear was Big Duck! :) I meant SWFEC. Sorry for the error. As may be obvious, I never watched that cam.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:01

www.wildlifecenter.org/donate

Thank you!

GinnyLWI

12:05

Oh Buddy, I have so enjoyed hearing about you through the years.

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

12:05

- **Amanda** - Thank you for sponsoring the CC today in honor of Congowings. **Suemac** thank you for sponsoring the CC today in honor of Essex.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

12:05

Hello suemac :)

Wingnut

12:06

Donation accomplished. Thanks Amanda

Lois

12:10

dadsjazz, I can picture Essec sayin, why is everyone doing this? You know I hate attention.

CathyAJ from Mich

12:10

Good afternoon, all. I'm unable to make a donation at this time, but am thinking of Congo. She was definitely the glue that held Eagle Nation together.

Hello, handsome Buddy my love!

dadsjazz

12:10

I know that Debbi would start all the Critter Cams at WCV early in the mornings and also the SWFEC cams. She must have had 2 sets of eyes and hands to manage all of the action. And how did she keep it all straight? I want to be like her when I grow up.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:12

Yep, she would always get things rolling the mod discussion every morning, without fail! Posting the screen cap of the sponsor, and kicking off the day. And woe to anyone who started posting before she could get in there to do all that! It was a rare occasion since she was up so early, but occasionally happened. :)

Suemac

12:19

Thinking that Essec would be irritated brings a smile to me. She was so stoic and proper- loved when she would show her humor.

Lois

12:19

dadsjazz, I never thought that Debbi every slept and have never seen anyone multi-task the way she did.

dadsjazz

12:19

Hi to my SWFEC pals too!!

GinnyLWI

12:19

I was mostly a quiet viewer during the years of NBG time and then when the rock stars were moved . Although silent on my part I started absorbing my eagle education. I knew for quite some time our Essec was also Congowings.

I frequently wondered when Debbi slept, she was so busy day/night in so many places.

dadsjazz

12:20

No nonsense from Essec here at SWFEC. Then she would make you laugh and you weren't sure if you should laugh or not.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:20

Ha, yes!

Cathy in Nevada

12:20

www.wildlifecenter.org 2023-07-10 11:57:11



Is it raining at WCV or did Buddy splash in his pool?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:20

Not raining -- I think he got a pool refill and took a dip!

Sweetpea in North Carolina

12:21

hello Dadsjazz :) good to see you

Wingnut

12:21

You guys who own the 1st edition of the NBG calender who most likely do not want to part with it - if you did, what an interesting idea for an auction item at the upcoming Gala!

dadsjazz

12:26

Thanks, Amanda for honoring Debby, loved and respected by all who crossed her path!

Suemac

12:30

I had seen Congowings frequently here in the cam discussions and never knew that she was our Essec. I need to leave but a big **THANK YOU** to WCV for this special day to honor her. Hope to visit on your next open house.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:30

I love this sort of double-eagle-life that she led. :)

CathyAJ from Mich

12:30

Cathy in Nevada: What a great screencap of Buddy! Thanks for sharing.

Deb in PA

12:30

An additional thank you to Suemac for sponsoring the cams today in honor and memory of Congo/Essec. Can't wait till 2pm to see if we meet the new challenge!

Lacy

12:30

Love to see the milestone for the first match reached! Well done, team!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:30

LACY!

Lacy

12:30

AMANDA



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:30

YAY you are here!

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

12:31

MEMORY: The first time I met Congowings/Debbi was at the 2013 Gala. I was in the lobby before the main event and I was thrilled to be introduced to her by Marianne. I live in Washington state and it was such a thrill for me to meet her / plus everyone at WCV. Plus going to the tours at the center. Jazz was always my favorite. I also was lucky enough to sit at Debbi's table at the Gala with Jim and MiniCongo when she bid endlessly for winning to release the Red Tail Hawk. She of course was doing it for MiniCongo to have the experience to do it and do the magic KICK. She was amazing and I have wonderful memories of her and her sweet/caring ways not only there but in 2016 and many private messages.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

12:31

Amazing that you got to sit at her table!!

Lacy

12:33

Just checking in, really - love to see all of these reflections of the AMAZING life Ms. Congo led. She was one of a kind!

That's a beautiful memory, Nadine!

Dawn in VB

12:33

She organized 2 Buddy trips to Wild Birds store in VB.

Deb in PA

1:00

I have to wonder how many acts of kindness Congo did that we will never know about...The lady was amazing! How she ever found time to decorate her home for the holidays and cook a 25 pound turkey while putting the calendar together still boggles my mind!

Wingnut

1:00

Thank you Amanda and Suemac for sponsoring the cams today in honor of our Congowings, aka "Essec". I still don't understand what that stands for..and had to decipher what OG meant. I thought...omnipotent goddess???



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

1:00

Ha, that works too!

ROKinCville

1:00

I started getting the Garden of Eagles calendar in 2011 for the 2012 year. I've managed (gala auction) to get another set to try to complete the series. Now I have 2010, but I'm still missing 2011. The duplicates will probably go back to the gala this year.

Sue in MI

1:00

I have a unique memory dating back to the NBG chat. It was early March of 2012 when Dad Norfolk was being pursued by 4 females. He & one of his suitors were up in the nest tree & we were sure something magical was going to happen. The chat was very active & one of the participants jumped in with "Look Congowings mating on the branch." Debby's reply was "I certainly am not." Everyone was shocked - Debby said her computer lit up with everyone responding. It was so much fun!

Lois

1:00



Nadine, that was a great day after the gala.

Dave in Missouri

1:00

Thank you Amanda and Suemac for the cams today in memory of Congowings, the bestests Mod ever!

T 'n T

1:00

Thanks for that memory, Dawn. I went to both of the Buddy appearances at WBU - one was on my birthday and right after open-heart surgery. Had a wonderful chat with Congo there. And they have always been so kind to carry the calendars every year.

Mamie in SC

1:00

Thank you Suemac for sponsoring the cams today in honor and memory of Debbi/Congo/Essec!

Cathy in Nevada

1:00

Belated thank you Suemac for sponsoring the cams honoring Congo aka Essec. Hope you can join our discussions often.

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

1:01

Thank you Lacy - she was special in many ways. Her kindness never stopped.

dadsjazz

1:01

I can picture Debbi floating among the clouds with all of her favorites Mom Norfolk then Harriet, Ozzie, E3, E5, E14 and our beloved MsSmith from SWFEC.

Mamie in SC

1:01

I'm pretty sure the selfie cub is Little Sister, she was just up front and close to the cam again, then slid down into the hammock. Reminds of Green Tag a few years ago, always doing selfies also, lol.

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

1:01

Where is that guy with the Squeeshy Calculator?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

1:01

Update in one hour -- 2 pm Eastern!

He's probably wearing out his buttons ...

Wingnut

1:09

All the memories being shared keep bringing other memories to mind. Debbi was extremely organized. I once referenced a time in NBG nest when female eagle #2 got soaked in a rainstorm and looked so ridiculous...we called it a "bad feather day". When bringing that memory up to Debbi some years after the fact to her, she located and posted that picture I held in my mind within about two seconds.

Mamie in SC

1:09

Sue in MI, I remember that about the mating, lol, So funny. She also added a "Geez Louise", lol.

Sue in MI

1:11

Lol Mamie I forgot about that!!!

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

1:11

Thanks for the picture Lois of the RTH release. I have a few of those somewhere too!! I promised Debbi I would never post a picture of her so I won't do that but I have a few fond memories photos with her I will cherish.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

1:11

A peregrine falcon! And yes, I agree ... I teased her over the years with some screenshots I got of her when she visited, but I will carry them with me to my grave ... (I also found out her birthday. And freaked her out by emailing her happy birthday one year ...)

Wingnut

1:14

Lol Amanda. She was probably touched and annoyed by the birthday wishes.

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

1:14

Amanda: lucky you on the birthday - I wish I would have known that as well. I would have loved to send her a private message.

Dawn in VB

1:14

Wow Amanda you are a great detective !

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

1:25



2013 - MiniCongo and the Peregrine Falcon just before release. Looks like they were eye to eye.

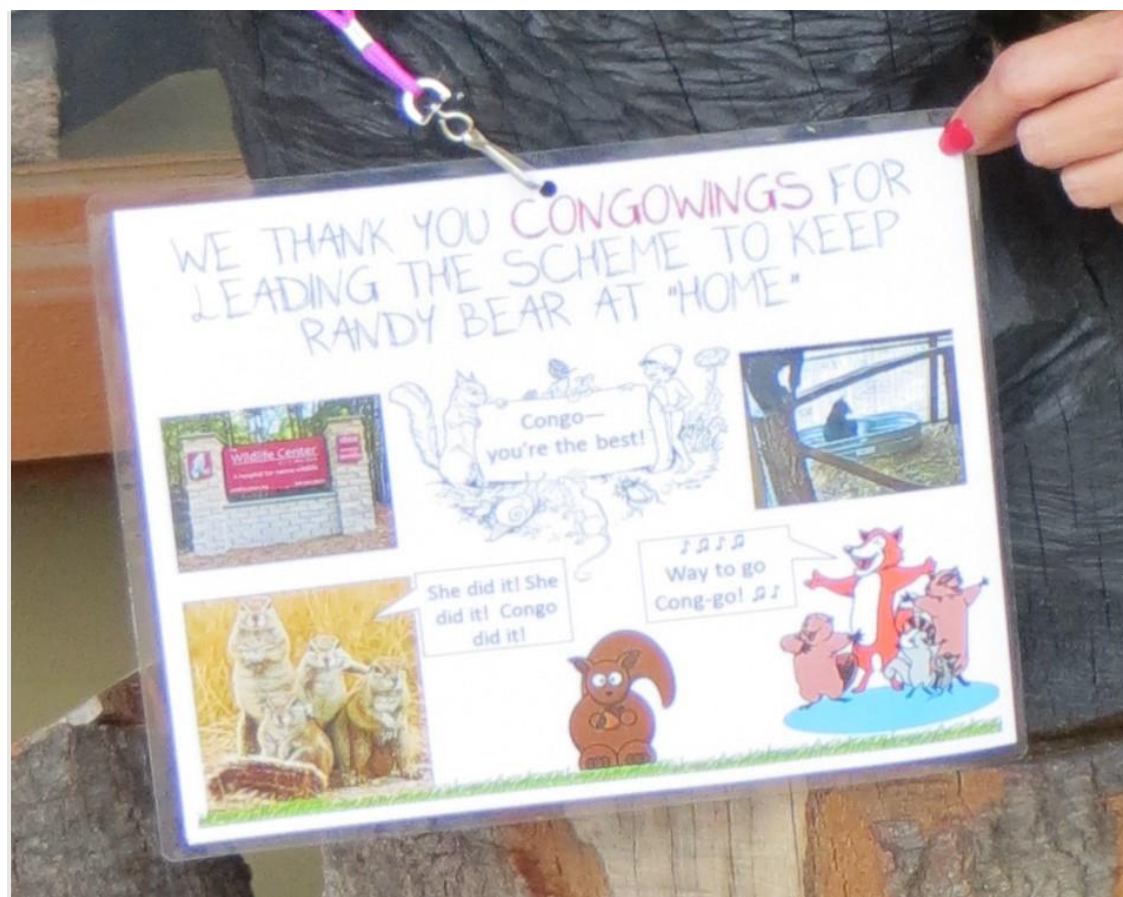
Wingnut

[1:25](#)

Well I think I know her actual birthday and I shall never disclose it! Upon penalty of more squirrels ripping out my patio screen door.

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

[1:25](#)



Congowings decided that the Carved Bear needed to stay at WCV. She did it!!! Loved the sign.



The carved bear that she thought should stay at WCV.

She always wanted the focus to be on the well being of the animals and not on her



Ed Clark

1:28

Good afternoon, everyone!! I am excited to see that our friends and supporters have already topped the first match from the anonymous donor, and are well on the way to meeting the challenge from the SWFL eagle nest cam group! Way to go.

1:30

When the founder of the WSFL cam group contacted me last week, I was touched by the sentiment and generosity of their founder, Ginnie Pritchett McFadden. While Congo would not be too happy with all of the attention focused on her, she would be very pleased that WCV's family of friends and the SWFL group were in touch and pulling together. Thanks to all who have made this such a success so far.

dadsjazz

1:34

Thanks so much to all the viewers, chatters ad admins for both groups for honoring Debbi. I think she would be pleased since it is for an excellent cause in her name.

CathyAJ from Mich

1:34

One thing Congo excelled at was making everyone feel special. She always remembered each of us and would text us privately. I'm so glad I never got the "stern eagle" aimed at me!



Ed Clark

1:34

Ha, ha.... that eagle stare left scars!!

GinnyLWI

1:35

Sounds like I'm not the only one that got nervous seeing a PM from Essec/Congowings :)



Ed Clark

1:36

A terrifying experience!

1:37

...especially since you knew before reading it that she was right about whatever it was she was about to say!

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

1:37

Hi Ed - Glad you stopped in. You are right Congo would not like the attention but the donations rolling in will help what she loved to help the animals.



Ed Clark

1:38

We'll just have to hope she will understand...

Sweetpea in North Carolina

1:38

Ginny LWI I only received 1 PM from Ms Congo and I literally froze. Lol

Wingnut

1:38

It's wonderful bring these two extended families of Debbi's together on the chat today.



Ed Clark

1:39

I have had no contact with the SWFL group, other than our Critter Nation members who participate there. I am delighted with their outreach to us, and certain invite any/all of them to join us frequently.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

1:39

Ed- how heartwarming to see WCV and SWFEC come together to pay tribute to Ms Congo. I will always call her Ms Congo thats my name for her

Ursa

1:39

I love all this reminiscing about Congowings and the eagles but one of the reasons I cherished her was the way she kept the cubs up front and center, especially in the yards. She brought Ursus and me into

the WCV family. I'm so grateful that I was able to develop a personal relationship with her. I too believe that eagles are encircling her way up high. Thank you Amanda and Suemac for the cams today in her honor.

GinnyLWI

1:40

Our knowledgeable Essec would usually be sending more information to enhance what was being discussed in chat though..

Wingnut

1:40

I might be the record holder for the eagle stares...



Ed Clark

1:40

Good afternoon, Ursa! Glad to cross paths with you here.

1:41

Wingnut....do you think you might have earned that distinction?

Wingnut

1:42

I might be second behind you, Ed!

Sweetpea in North Carolina

1:42

Ginny- she must have sent Samour (mod at SWFEC) alot of info- we had tests on chat about eagles :)

Wingnut

1:42

And yes, those stares were well earned.

1:45

Where is Big Bear with that squishy calculator?



Ed Clark

1:46

He's around, somewhere, I think. Amanda told me they were planning an update at 2:00.

We have a number of eagles "in the pipeline" at the Wildlife Center of Virginia at the moment. I am hoping some will be ready for the release of at least some of them in the not-too-distant future. It will be nice to get folks together again, and to dedicate the next release(s) to Congowings.

NHDalGal

1:47

Thank you for sponsoring this Summer Mega-Match in memory of Congowings/Debbi/Essec. I began following the SWFEC in January 2017 after seeing an article on our local news web site about an eaglet hatching. It didn't take long for me to get addicted to watching the cams, following the chats and learning so much about these magnificent raptors. Eventually, I began participating in the chats. Imagine my surprise when in 2020 Essec recruited me as a guest moderator. I was beyond thrilled! In 2021 Essec offered me the opportunity to become a full "fledged" moderator and the rest as they say is history. I will forever be grateful to her for giving me "wings" to be a part of this wonderful group of dedicated SWFEC team members. She taught me so much and was an incredible mentor. I know how much she will be dearly missed by all those whose lives she touched.



Ed Clark

1:49

Thanks for sharing that. You are so right. There are a lot of new staff at the Wildlife Center of Virginia who never got the chance to meet Debbi, but those of us who knew her well feel as though we have lost a close family member. Even though we did not really see her too often, she was always an influence.

Wingnut

1:52

Great story, NHDalGal!

DaveinMissouri

1:52

Alula to you NHDalGal!:))



Ed Clark

1:53

Dave, is that a "thumbs up" in eagle talk?

Sweetpea in North Carolina

1:55

Hi NHDalGal :)

DaveinMissouri

1:55

Lol, yes Ed, I figured you would know that! I always greeted the SWF eagle cam visitors that way!:)

IACOCah

1:59

Does anyone know the history behind how Debbi got her two moderator names - Congowings and Essec? Or how she first became involved in moderating?



Ed Clark

2:00

I know that Debbi had an African Grey Parrot... of the Congo variety, but I have no clue what the Essec is about.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

2:00

Hello DaveinMissouri :)

Wingnut

2:00

I learned a couple new words and terms today. Alula and OG among them. I guess I am not as well edumacated as I thought.

DaveinMissouri

2:01

I would also say Chalaza when I was leaving the chat. The Chalaza consists of two twisted membranous strips that hold the yolk to each end of the egg. The kind people on the chat were the Chalaza that helped make the chat a nice place!:)



Ed Clark

2:01

I'm guessing you did not need to fear that anyone else would be using that phrase, either, Dave.

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:02

If you scroll back....(does that sound familiar) there is a description of what Essec's means.

Randy aka Big Bear

2:02

Chalaza? What?

What in the WORLD is going on in here?

Oh, Ed's here. That explains it.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:02

Hello!

How are we doing?!



Ed Clark

2:02

I know, I know.... I would be getting a private message any moment.

Wingnut

2:02

Sounds like a baked dish...Chalaza?

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:03

DRUM ROLL..... Squishy Calendar guy is here.

Lois

2:03

Howdy Ed, you know I'm usually here when its not nesting season at SWFEC :)

DaveinMissouri

2:03

Lol Ed!:)



Ed Clark

2:03

So, Squishy..... what's happening?

DaveinMissouri

2:03

Howdy Lois!:)

Lois

2:04

Afternoon Dave :)

Randy aka Big Bear

2:04

Pretty warm out ... wonder if we're going to get another tropical rainstorm this afternoon.

Lois

2:05

Afternoon Randy, missed you this morning.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

2:05

Hi Lois :)

DaveinMissouri

2:05

Alula to you Sweetpea!:)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:05

Here's our recap:

\$3,000 match issued by an anonymous donor. Challenge MET!
and then ...

\$2,000 match issued by Southwest Florida Eagle Cam.

And we await an update from Big Bear!

Lois

2:06

Howdy Sweetpea :)

Randy aka Big Bear

2:06

Update from Big Bear: Latest total is ...

Randy aka Big Bear

2:06

[sorry cat on the keybgorased agian]

2:07

latest total is ...

\$6,577 ... and 33 cents.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:07

Wow!!!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:07

So ... second match -- MET!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:07

So we did it -- and then some!



Ed Clark

2:07

Yeah, team!! Now, if we only had another match...

Randy aka Big Bear

2:08

And so nice to hear from friends of the Florida Cam!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:08

Yes, I enjoyed reading reflections from those cam followers!



Ed Clark

2:08

Absolutely, great to see the whole family come together.

DaveinMissouri

2:08

Yay!:))

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

2:08

Wow - I've been on and off the chat and coming back on see we've got the big 3 here. Amanda, Randy and Ed Who.



Ed Clark

2:08

We messed up....

DaveinMissouri

2:08

Blame it on the cat, lol!:))

Randy aka Big Bear

2:08

I'm still a bit unsettled about Essec ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:09

About what?

Deb in PA

2:09

Amanda, Ed, did you have any doubt that CN would come through during a challenge...especially when Congo is looking down, threatening that Eagle Stare? LOL



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:10

This is one where I knew we'd do well -- such a great cause for this matching challenge, this year.



Ed Clark

2:10

Never a doubt in the world!!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:10

If only we had another match ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:10

Plus, I'd like to think people are giving so Congo would roll her eyes ...

DaveinMissouri

2:10

I get it Randy, it's hard to comprehend!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:10

Would you believe that we HAVE another match?!???!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:10

Another???



Ed Clark

2:10

Seriously????

Randy aka Big Bear

2:11

Yes, ma'am. Match #3.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:11

Wow!

What's our goal??

Lois

2:11

WHAT!!!

Deb in PA

2:11

Wow!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:11

Yes, Mr. President. I would never joke about a Match.



Ed Clark

2:11

Stand back, Critter Nation is about to move in!!!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:11

Ok ... we've had a \$3,000 match ... and a \$2,000 match.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

2:11

Wow



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:11

Yes. Both met.



Ed Clark

2:12

Unbelievable...and only a bit after 2:00...

Randy aka Big Bear

2:12

Now we have a match of the matches. Yes, we have an ADDITIONAL \$5,000 challenge.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:12

Oh wow!

This is a Mega MEGA Match!



Ed Clark

2:12

Holy jamoly! That is a doosie!

Deb in PA

2:12

Congo is working her magic from up above!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:13

So ... can we take that \$6,577.33 ... and get it all the way up to \$10,000?

Lois

2:13

I think CN Nation can do it in Congo's honor. She was special to everyone.



Ed Clark

2:13

I have learned a long time ago never to doubt Critter Nation!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:13

I dunno ... that seems like a s-t-r-e-t-c-h ...

DaveinMissouri

2:13

Yes, for Congowings, yes!

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:13

Why is this bringing tears to my eyes? I think because it is for our dearest Congo/Essec/friend.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:14

Can Ashlee go check the mail again?

Randy aka Big Bear

2:14

CONGO STARE



Ed Clark

2:14

I think Debbi is behind some of the big thunderstorms we have been having....after all the attention she's getting.

Cheryl (VA)

2:14

How long to we have to reach the Mega MEGA Match???



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:14

Only I am authorized for that now. I read it on the discussion.

(I feel WILD with power)

Randy aka Big Bear

2:15

Uhm ... Match Donor #3 didn't really put a deadline on the challenge.

Deb in PA

2:15

I can see it now...a grand Raptor Center with a beautiful sign stating the name...The Debbi Skluzak Center

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:15

We need another update before the end of the day.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

2:15

This is bringing tears to my eyes

Karen in Coleman, FL

2:16

I haven't had much time to be on here in a while but when I saw you notice about Congo and this fundraiser on facebook I just had to be here. I forgot how these fundraisers can bring on the tears.



Ed Clark

2:16

Welcome, Karen.... Happy tears, I hope.

Randy aka Big Bear

2:16

Amanda, would you like to schedule a later-in-the-day update?

Lois

2:16

Great idea Deb in PA, an enclosure or something named after Debbi.

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:17

Why I think YES she would Randy..... Maybe 4:30ish?

Deb in PA

2:17

Can we have a bit of time for those of us who like to send our donations by snail mail?

Randy aka Big Bear

2:17

[I had told Matcher #3 that this might take until ... Wednesday.]

DaveinMissouri

2:18

Love that Deb!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:18

[We'll keep the account open for SnailMail, for sure.]

Deb in PA

2:18

Randy, how about Friday..you know how the mail is...



Ed Clark

2:18

Oh....now don't go getting faint-hearted on us, there, Deb....

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:19

LOL - lets let some of the snail mail folks join in as well. I bet we will go over this last goal pretty quickly though.

Deb in PA

2:19

Ed, in my 69 years, I've never been accused of being faint-hearted! LOL



Ed Clark

2:20

Yeah, but there is still time....you're just a kid!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:20

Yes, Randy, update later today is fine -- let me know when you and your calculator are free!

Deb in PA

2:20

Ed, if I had Congo's Eagle Stare, you'd be seeing it right about now! LOL



Ed Clark

2:21

That's okay....She had me so conditioned, I would stare at myself when I knew I'd been bad!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:21

How about 5 EDT??



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:21

Super.

IACOCah

2:22

So glad there is another match cuz I haven't gotten over to the Donate Now button just yet - a few distractions keep getting in the way. Will get there before the day is over. Donating in memory of Congowings and to WCV are both very meaningful to me!

Randy aka Big Bear

2:22

Ok, my squishy calculator calls me. Thank you, folks, for your wonderful support of this campaign.

Deb in PA

2:22

This may finally cause the squishy calculator to go poof!

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:26

Deb in PA - One can only hope.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

2:27

I'm going to duck out for now -- I'll catch you all later for the update! And I'm trying to compile my own thoughts/reflections of Congowings.

CathyAJ from Mich

2:27

Remember Congo's 25 lb Turkey? She was comparing its size to Henry and Buddy. Someone misread and was afraid she was going to eat Henry and Buddy! LOL. This reminded us to always read carefully before we post.

2:28

Then we laughed because the Turkey wouldn't fit in the oven!



Ed Clark

2:28

I don't know how much of a meal Henry would make.

I have eaten my share of crow, over the years, though....figuratively speaking.

Mamie in SC

2:32

I know Congo didn't want attention on her, but she is definitely smiling about the donations coming in because of all the love for her.



Ed Clark

2:32

You are so right.

Brenda in PA

2:32

Ed--google says Henry should weigh about a pound.



Ed Clark

2:32

Pretty small compared to that legendary Thanksgiving turkey!!

CarolinaGirl

2:40

Haven't chatted lately but always checking in. Congo was a most special lady who will be so greatly missed. Love the eagle calendars and the bear books! Her work is amazing! Now, over to the donate button to help meet that new challenge in a small way. Oh, and in all the years I only got one private message from her! 😊

Wingnut

2:40

Wow and wow RE: the mega challenge & getting another MEGA MEGA challenge!!!

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

2:41

I loved when we had pajama parties, but Congowings made us behave and you would get the eagle stare if things got too rowdy - lol

Wingnut

2:41

My chat window froze up for the second time ever and I'm now catching up. This is as weird as seeing squirrels knocking on my patio door.



Ed Clark

2:42

How often do you have such visions, Wingnut? Ever see little green men in the garden?

Wingnut

2:45





Ed Clark

2:46

Okay..... now if you come up with a shot of little green men, I'm going to really wonder!!

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:46

LOL I have the same visions at my house Wingnut.

Megster

2:46

To all who knew Debbi/Essec/Congowings Thank for holding this fundraiser. I "met" Debbi when she first asked me to be a guest moderator on SWFEC, then a full fledged one earlier this year. She was always so kind and patient with me as I was not so prolific in computers, lol. She was the glue that held us all together and will be missed by all.

Angelkitty

2:46

Hit the donate button for Congo last week before official challenge started. With the mega mega challenge I think I will need to do it again for Duck ... because Duck doesn't have a bank account (as least I don't think so!).

Wingnut

2:46

Never doubt the great power of Congowings to send squirrels after some us....

Seahawk Nadine-U.P., WA

2:47



Letting me know to get off the computer and go get some peanuts.

[2:52](#)

I always laughed at Congos squirrel stories but it sounded like they were pretty destructive on her back patio.

Wingnut

[2:52](#)

How much would she hate the fact that squirrels remind us of her?

Cameranut

[2:55](#)

One fun memory I have was Congowings bringing home squirrels to release (I believe after being at WCV for something) after all her stories of what her local squirrels did to her house and back yard!

DaveinMissouri

[2:55](#)

Yes Congowings heart was with the Eagles but there was a time that she spent countless hours here and is much appreciated for that!:)

CathyAJ from Mich

[2:56](#)

gingersmom/aka katiesmom: I remember the pajama parties and at least one Christmas party. We had so much fun! We miss you more than words can say, Congo.

Brenda in PA

3:01

I also remember the pajama parties. And many late evening chats while watching Papa and owlets or cubs playing in the snow or under a full moon's light.

CathyAJ from Mich

3:18

Brenda, I'm not a night owl, but remember a few visits to owl cam at night. I loved when the owls would make scary shadows.

Becky in SoCal

3:35

Oh my goodness! I am away from the discussion for five hours and look what happens! There is no doubt Critter Nation will make the \$10,000 match. I seem to remember someone saying to never underestimate a few determined people. Randy, we may have to get you a new calculator after this one. And Ed, I am sure Congo is laughing about you now staring at yourself.



Ed Clark

3:36

Ha, ha.... When we tried to take her photo and told her to smile, she would give that eagle stare and say, "I am smiling!"

3:41

Just a quick FYI, friends. I have been in touch with MiniCongo this afternoon, Debbi's daughter, to tell her about the matching support and enthusiastic participation by so many people. To touch on a few comments a bit earlier on this chat, she said that the happy tears your generosity inspired for her were certainly a welcomed change to rivers of sad tears she and her family have shed in the last couple of weeks. In addition to helping the Wildlife Center of Virginia, your comments, stories, memories, and support are helping the family as well. MiniCongo told me that the outpouring of love the family has received from all of you has been overwhelming and so very helpful to them as they try to get through this difficult time.

CathyAJ from Mich

3:57

We love you, MiniCongo! ❤️

MVK

4:23

Ginger's I'm - you have no idea how many stares and phone calls I got for hosting those parties.

Lacy

4:23

Sending all the love to Debbi's family. We are so grateful they shared her with us! Of course ... I'm not sure she gave them much of an option, but we are still grateful :)

Congowings was passionate lover of all things wildlife and gave so readily of her time, resources, and expertise.

We will all miss her and always remember her. She certainly made a great impression on me during my time at the Wildlife Center!

Angelkitty

4:23

MiniCongo, many hearts here embrace you and your family.

Suemac

4:23

Happy to hear the SWFEC match was met and even happier to hear of the third match!

Brenda in PA

4:24

MiniCongo--A HUGE thank you to you and your family for sharing Congo/Essec with CN and EN!!

Duck #23-172101031

4:24

Angelkitty @2:46, your generosity has touched me so much and if ducks could cry (we can't) I'm certain I would be drenching the cubbies as we cuddle. And no, I don't have a bank account. We use duck bucks but they are nothing like hooman money. This Congowings whom you are talking about was a wonderful hooman to have cared so much about wildlife. My scribe met Congowings several years ago and said they had bonded over the mutual concern of care for injured, sick and orphaned animals. When I return to my lake I will make sure to spread the word of how wonderful it is that there are so many hoomans who care for us and look after us.

CathyAJ from Mich

4:24

4:00. Who is Buddy talking to? Is it time to eat?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

4:24

He ate earlier this morning -- probably just fussing at someone in scrubs! :)

4:25

Remember, update on our Congo Bucks tally at 5:00 pm Eastern!

In the meantime -- just to compile my thoughts --

I remember getting my crash-course moderator training from Congowings, back in 2011, in those early Rock Star days. By the time I was on the discussion for the first time, the eaglets were already in our care -- and goodness, people were very tuned in and waiting for updates, all the time! Congo was kind enough to call me and walk me through the back end of the mod discussion - talking through the mechanics of it, but also her strategy in how she dealt with difficult questions, what she would publish, what she wouldn't, what to do with the negative comments, etc.

I often think of her when moderating - and reading back on all your comments, I think we all saw that she was always kind, patient, and FIRM. And I've always respected the heck out of that. It's challenging to moderate sometimes - we have this incredible community of people, but it can get a little off course at times! Congo always could make people feel welcome and heard, but also always remembered the goal of the discussion for the Wildlife Center, and always wanted to make sure it was a professional, educational space.

4:27

Moderating for the Wildlife Center discussion - as a non-staff member, particularly - is no easy feat. We talked quite a lot once the Rock Stars departed, and our Eaglet Cam turned into "Critter Cams". Congo always wanted to make sure she was still useful to us, and I know it was hard, learning all about the Center's protocols and procedures. She had to transition beyond knowing a wealth of eagle natural history - she had to jump into the natural histories of many species, plus understand things like our flight pen spaces, exercise protocols, why perches looked like they did, what the heck was with the black tarp at the end of the flight pens that eventually changed into firehose ... just SO many things. When outreach posts an update to the website, we typically send out an email within our department just so everyone knows the update is out there. Congo was always on those emails. As well as when we were doing something like today - having a matching challenge. Or when there was a change in cam line-up. Or scheduling an eagle release. Or ... x 100. She was a member of the team.

4:28

She was such a part of the Wildlife Center - a part of our history, in our timeline (literally - when we made the timeline for our 40th anniversary Homecoming party in May, that decade of 2010 - 2020 heavily featured her work). And I'm sad that our newer staff members and future staff members won't know, directly anyway, how much she's done and how important she is.

4:29

And of course ... she was incredibly generous. A couple of you already reflected on her sneaky generosity a few years ago, when she was in a cut-throat bidding war over a poster that was in the Gala silent auction - a poster I had gotten from a Richmond brewery, of their "Falcon Smash" beer, which featured a Peregrine Falcon on it. I got Maggie to "sign" it and entered it in the auction ... and of course, wanted it. I figured it was well outside of my price range though, but my mom was bidding on it to win for me. But Congo was bidding against her for "someone". In the end, Congo won, and trotted off with her poster at the end of the night. Much to my surprise, I found it in my office, with a note from her, days later. She had been bidding on it all along for me - would've been a heck of a lot

cheaper if she had come clean with mom - but she wanted to give it to me, in her way, and support the Center.

4:30

At Christmas, this past year, Congo sent me a very sweet card and a tiny little pair of scissors with feathers engraved on them. She wanted to thank me for answering all of her questions over the years. She always was a bit apologetic about how many questions she had. And of course, was always so humble. But I hope somehow she knows that she really taught me so much.

scullynj

4:30

Debbi touched so many lives' and is leaving quite a legacy.

Teri in TX

4:39

Well gosh, Amanda, now I'm in tears. Beautiful tribute to a very kind soul.

Wingnut

4:39

oh MVK. I don't think I sent you my condolences this Fourth of July on the loss of your beloved friend. Before last week, it had been so long since I've seen you on here, except for the 4th. I will never forget how Congo edited and deleted so many of the comments on those late night parties. I was going by cwerb in those days. It sometimes seems like 1000 years ago. I hope all's well with you.

Cameranut

4:53

Yes, now in tears. Thank you Amanda for sharing your thoughts - very meaningful and much appreciated!

purpleagle

4:53

Hi everybody! I'm always late! Actually I didn't know you folks were here gabbing about our Debbi and I have been reading way back. I'm so glad to see that the matches were met and that we have a new one. Debbi and I went way back to the beginnings of the NBG nest although I was too shy to do much besides reading the chat. We have spent the last 10 years together on the moderator team for SWFL. I'm so happy to see everybody here together to honor Debbi no matter what name we knew her by.

CathyAJ from Mich

4:53

MVK! Glad to see you here. We loved the parties!

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

4:53



OH, I bet I know -

Deb in PA

4:54

Wingnut, I didn't realize you were cwerb! I went by PABirder back then! You're right, it does seem like 1000 years ago...

Wingnut

4:58

Some folks commented about my various name changes last week on our 4th of July chat. I declined to comment since I'm not sure what I was thinking then. I do remember that when I hit upon Wingnut, it was immediately blessed by Congo. Wonder why? Lol

CarolinaGirl

4:58

Waiting for the 5:00 tally is seeming like a Congo "minute"!

Teri in TX

4:58

I was always "teri in tx" and was part of TEN--helped with the FEAR THE FEISTY t-shirt fundraiser for our beloved NX! It really DOES seem lilke 1000 years ago.

DaveinMissouri

5:00

Alula to you Purple!:))

Angelkitty

5:00

Big Bear, please don't be compelled to personally thank all the donors, as you usually do, you will be consumed for days!! And then who will be the scribe for Duck?

Marian from Springfield

5:00

Wasn't there supposed to be an announcement about now?

Deb in PA

5:00



I swear...one moment I was in Virginia and the next moment I woke up in PA...in this bird feeder with the urge to tell people to send money to WCV!

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

5:00

Teri in TX, I just wore my Fear the Feisty t-shirt yesterday!

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

5:00

Love the name change reveals. I was katiesmom - and now have become after many years - gingersmom/aka katiesmom

Randy aka Big Bear

5:00

Tiptoe by the window, through the window, that is where I'll be ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:00

It's 5:00 pm!

And not even making people wait a Congominute.

Randy aka Big Bear

5:01

Yes, it is. And there are some VERY impatient folks in here this afternoon.

Carol in Colorado

5:01

Still have my Fear the Feisty shirt♥



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:01

They are all fi-esty

Lacy

5:01



Beautiful words, Amanda! A fitting tribute

Wingnut

5:01

where is that drum roll...

Randy aka Big Bear

5:01

Indeed. And the cubs are fi-esty as well!

Deb in PA

5:01

Randy, is your calculator still working? Is it smoking?

Lacy

5:01

Let's hear the update!!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:01

Are the buttons all worn off?

DaveinMissouri

5:02

Amanda, that was an awesome post!:)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:02

Thanks! She was an awesome lady. :)

CarolinaGirl

5:02

Must need a new battery!

Randy aka Big Bear

5:02

And, yes, thank you, Amanda, your message was so terrific. Thank you for taking the time to share that with all of us.

Wingnut

5:03

Amanda that helps to make clear how much more knowledge Debbi had to take on and she did that as if she'd been moderating WCV cams all her life.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:03

It really is wild, when you think about it. I mean ... she had to absorb SO much information. Not just about wildlife, but all the WCV protocols and procedures and inner workings and ... she got so many emails from me. But always wanted to learn more.

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

5:03

Will todays moderated chat also be archived?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:04

Yes!

DaveinMissouri

5:04

Debbi was the bestests and still is!:)

Carol in Colorado

5:04

Cubs have definitely been feisty

Randy aka Big Bear

5:04

And it reminded me how *lucky* all of us were to have spent time with Debbi. On the chat -- in person -- through the *Garden of Eagles* calendar ...

Carol in Colorado

5:05

So true, Randy!

Angelkitty

5:05

Congo, a natural I tell ya!

Deb in PA

5:05

The way these cubs fly through the air, I think they're channeling their inner eagles!

Wingnut

5:05

And Debbie provided immediate answers to our questions most of the time, without hesitation. She could produce pictures and videos in a milisecond as soon as someone asked about them.

Brenda in PA

5:05

She wasn't afraid to say--"I have no idea to a question". But I will ask Amanda.

Lois

5:06

Debbi always had love for the eagles, but not sure if owls or bears came in second for her.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:07

always the feathers, I thought!

DaveinMissouri

5:07

I remember how cool it was to ask her questions about Eagles at the NBG nest!:)

Deb in PA

5:07

We're getting off track here...I believe Randy has an update for us? (Hopefully...)

Wingnut

5:07

Oh, and if we asked her something that she might not have wanted to answer, she often replied "I know nothing." That still makes me laugh and I use that expression myself lately.

Randy aka Big Bear

5:07

So, Amanda ... there was talk of an update??



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:07

Yes!

To recap:

\$3000 matching challenge issued last week: MET. Done.

Randy aka Big Bear

5:07

CHECK

The cats are on the "catio" ... so no interference from them.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:07

Then \$2000 matching challenge issued by her Florida Cam fam. MET. DONE.

Randy aka Big Bear

5:08

CHECK

Wingnut

5:08

WOW and WOW



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:08

And then \$5000 matching challenge issued ...

And we last left off at ... \$6200-ish?

And 33 cents.

Randy aka Big Bear

5:08

[oops Mookie is wandering by ... looking at the keyboard ...]

Yes, ma'am.

Wingnut

5:08

WOOOOOOOW!!!!!!!!!!

Deb in PA

5:08

Holding my breath here...

Randy aka Big Bear

5:09

SO our overall goal is \$10,000.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:09

YeS!

Wingnut

5:09

love that .33 cents

CathyAJ from Mich

5:09

And?

Randy aka Big Bear

5:09

The total ... at this very moment ... is ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:09

at this very moment??

Now ?

what about now

Deb in PA

5:09

As they say, "The check is in the mail"! LOL

CathyAJ from Mich

5:09

Right now?

Linda fm Suffolk, VA

5:09

Aaaargh! Don't stretch it out. We need to know NOW!

Randy aka Big Bear

5:09

\$8,619 ... and eighty-seven cents.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:09

amazing!!!

Wingnut

5:10

[illegible]

OWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWWW!!!

BarbG

5:10

Wow Just wonderful

Carol in Colorado

5:10

WOW

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

5:10

Hmmm someone needs to make those cents even!!!!

Lacy

5:10

FANTASTIC!!

Deb in PA

5:10

Woo! Hoo! and snail mail to come!

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

5:10

WOOOOOOOOOOOWWWWWWWW

Randy aka Big Bear

5:10

Getting VERY
close. Achingly close.

CathyAJ from Mich

5:10



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:10

VERY close. can't wait for the mail tomorrow!

CarolinaGirl

5:10

Oh man! We got this! Snail mail yet to come!!

Angelkitty

5:10

I need to check Duck's pockets

Cameranut

5:10

OMGosh - WOW, WOW, WOW!!! Way to go everyone!!!

Randy aka Big Bear

5:10

I think we may be able to close this out ... tonight/early tomorrow morning??? Maybe??

dadsjazz

5:11

Clap Clap Clap! Awsome!!

purpleagle

5:11

Thank you so much to all of Debbi's families

DaveinMissouri

5:11

Cool!

Mamie in SC

5:11

Oh Amanda, her Christmas present to you, how touching.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

5:11

Way to go

scullynj

5:11



CathyAJ from Mich

5:11

We love you Congo! See what we did?

Carol in Colorado

5:11

Check your cushions everyone.

Deb in PA

5:12

It takes a while for snail mail to get to Virginia from PA...just sayin'

Cathy in Nevada

5:12

YEA!

Lacy

5:12

The outpouring of love and support for Debbi via the Wildlife Center is just amazing. So much progress made in one day!

Lois

5:12

I'm sure that Debbi is smiling at everyone!

DaveinMissouri

5:12

So a little bit more and we meet the \$5000 dollar challenge!

Deb in PA

5:12

I can just imagine the smile on Congo's face!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:12

And a bit of an eyeroll, knowing its for her. But mostly a smile. :)

Sweetpea in North Carolina

5:12

Thank you Amanda for your heartfelt tribute to Ms Congo

CathyAJ from Mich

5:12

Happy tears here, Amanda. Thank you for that post.

Cheryl (VA)

5:12

Amanda, so happy you'll be archiving today's chat!!!

Randy aka Big Bear

5:13

And her hand on her hip, looking up at me, with that "tone" ...

Lois

5:14

LOL Amanda, a BIG eyeroll.

Randy aka Big Bear

5:14

Lordy lordy.

Lois

5:14

LOL Randy, I know that 'tone' too :)

CathyAJ from Mich

5:14

Big Bear: I can see it!

Duck #23-1721010311

5:14

Angelkitty @5:10, surely you know that ducks don't have pockets! I do have a bill but it's not the money kind.

DaveinMissouri

5:14

Lois):

Randy aka Big Bear

5:14

Well, okay, Amanda, may we schedule an update for tomorrow/Tuesday morning?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:15

Yes indeed! Just let me know when your calculator is awake and has had coffee.

Cameranut

5:15

She has two bricks at Norfolk Botanical Garden. Can we do some sort of remembering her at WCV and near the SWFL eagle's nest?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:15

Yes, we're noodling on that -- what sort of "thing" would be fitting, but would not be struck by lightening (like a statue of Congo)

Carol in Colorado

5:16

It's amazing what we can do when we all pull together. And for such a wonderful person.

Angelkitty

5:16

funny, Duck, only a bill?

Lacy

5:16

Thanks for hosting this outlet as a way for us to reflect on Debbi's beautiful life while raising money for the Wildlife Center. What a great day!

Randy aka Big Bear

5:16

Well, I know that you are an early-bird, Amanda ... and I have some things on my schedule later. How about 8:45???



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:16

Delightful.

jakermo

5:16

Well, I just got here, took me awhile to Scroll Back, but speaking of Fear the Feisty. We had the idea and I went to Debbi to ask her about it. She told me how to approach Randy to get it approved. AND HE SAID YES!!! We did another one after that, and together they made close to \$20000. I think. \$9,500 for one and just about \$10, 000. for the other. Is that right???? We even brought a check and presented it to Randy and Ed. I have pictures!!!

Brenda in PA

5:16

Now you have to start thinking about what the \$10,000 Congo memorial project will be.

CathyAJ from Mich

5:16

I like that idea, Cameranut!



Ed Clark

5:17

Oh, my gosh.... Yet another reason to be reminded that Critter Nation ROCKS....

5:18

I have been busy elsewhere this afternoon, but seriously.... You people never disappoint. Thanks for the support so far, and thanks for the support to come.

Randy aka Big Bear

5:18

ROCKS indeed. Okay, back to my calculator. Thank you, folks!

Lois

5:18

Is there any new construction/renovations that need to be done?



Ed Clark

5:19

Lois, stay tuned on that question.... We have some big stuff coming in the months ahead~

Wingnut

5:19

I can see her sending a bolt of lightning down if a monument to her goes up...

Angelkitty

5:19

Big Bear, keep those calculator buttons pushed!

Lois

5:19

Thanks Ed.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:19

We did designate that CongoBucks would be used "for support of the Center's care for Bald Eagles and other feathered creatures as well as the Moderated Discussion and Critter Cams." So more to come on that!

Wingnut

5:19

If WCV needs a new addition, that might be called the Congo Wing...



Ed Clark

5:20

Oh, that is too funny.... The Congo Wing....



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:20

so I suppose that making 5000 squirrel boxes is off the table.

CathyAJ from Mich

5:20

Ed, I bet there's something in those plans that could be named after Congo. ▯



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

5:20

Okay, everyone, I need to sign off and head home -- thank you so much for your support in honor of Congo/Debbi and for all the memories shared. See you tomorrow!



Ed Clark

5:20

Stay tuned... In the coming months, we'll be announcing some BIG plans.

CathyAJ from Mich

5:21

LOL Amanda!

jakermo

5:21

Oh my gosh, Amanda. Now you did it. that statement..."for support of the Center's care for Bald Eagles and other feathered creatures.... gave me Leaky Eyes.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

5:22

@Wingnut- I know you are northern gal with your sense of humor lol

jakermo

5:29

OH MY GOSH!!! I was there when MiniCongo released the RTHA. Amazing moments. Just incredible. I was so lucky to be part of MVK and Congo, etc. I do have stories!!



Ed Clark

5:31

It was actually a PEFA (peregrine falcon) but who's being picky.... It was a great moment.

Wingnut

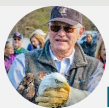
5:31

lol Sweetpea. Excellent guess.

jakermo

5:32

I was so excited to get to be part of the SWFL eagle cam group. Of course they thought I was a nut. I became a love of E-22.



Ed Clark

5:32

They thought you were a nut??? So, what's your point? :-)

5:33

I want to know when I'll get invited back to Texas!! The last trip was EPIC!

Wingnut

5:33

Hah! Ed...

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

5:33

Would that be worthy of an eagle stare Ed?



Ed Clark

5:34

Not even close!!

jakermo

5:34

Awww, Ed. We would LOVE to have you here. Give me a few minutes to come up with a Fundraiser.



Ed Clark

5:35

I can help with that... Lots of friends in the Dallas area....

jakermo

5:35

The Texas Eagle Nation did really have fun with ED!!! I believe some margaritas were involved.



Ed Clark

5:36

What happens in Texas, stays in Texas!! 😊

Cameranut

5:37

Wingnut that is an awesome thought - the Congo Wing!!! Amanda the 5,000 Squirrel boxes off the table is incredibly hilarious!!!

jakermo

5:37

I feel a t-shirt coming on. We just need a think tank or something like that. (Does Randy still have to okay it?) I wonder if CN is ready for another tshirt??



Ed Clark

5:38

Haha..... I wonder if the world is ready for another CN t-shirt!!

jakermo

5:46

Well, we need to find out. There are LOTS of ideas out there. I found my Fear The Feisty tshirt (which is still incredible) and then.... It's not just about Eagles. That shirt actually made more.

Wingnut

5:46

A t-shirt that had the infamous Congo LOOK would be a great conversation starter.

Cameranut

5:46

T-shirts are always en vogue!! I vote yes for another CN t-shirt!

jakermo

5:46

I still remember Wings and Lavender spending lots of time on the phone discussing colors of animals. (OMG- it was beyond me.) Anyone that has one of those shirts has a REAL Gem.!!

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

5:47

Of course we are!!!!

jakermo

5:47

That's it. Katiesmom and Angelkitty. Are they the same people??

Maybe a cubbie t-shirt. With the Fearsome Foursome on it??? I'll bet Wings could do an incredible job with those cubbies. (Oh, I haven't asked her yet.)

Suemac

5:47

what about flying squirrels? 😊

jakermo

5:47

You have to forgive me. I lost my iPhone over a week ago and haven't talked to people.



Ed Clark

5:48

Jakermo.... it's still pretty much the same as it was two weeks ago... :-)

jakermo

5:48

We might have to get MiniCongo's permission to do an Eagle Stare shirt.

gingersmom/aka katiesmom

5:48

Yep - katiesmom is still me - just now gingersmom

jakermo

5:48

LOL, Ed, I knew there was a reason I have stuck with WCV for so long.

Wingnut

5:49

I'm guessing as long as we don't put Debbi's picture on it, the stare might fly.



Ed Clark

5:50

Oh, my lordy.... When CN starts to think and conspire....big things are gonna happen!!

dadsjazz

5:50

Thanks again Amanda!

jakermo

5:50

That stare could be pretty cool. Maybe AA and The powers that be (I don't even know who it is any more.) Maybe we could do the stare.

dadsjazz

5:50

And Thanks to SueMac too



Ed Clark

5:51

We need to be sure whose photo that actually is... We don't want to use somebody else's intellectual property without permission.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

5:51

Just being copyright police here: you would need the permission of the photographer to use that eagle stare on a shirt.



Ed Clark

5:52

We're on the same page, Shirley!

Angelkitty

5:52

Congo's eagle stare would make a great tee!

jakermo

5:52

Yes, I have to say, I came to love Purple Eagle, Lois, MVK (well always loved them) Ginny, ESSEC , and lots of others.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

5:52

Great minds!



Ed Clark

5:56

No...the famous "eagle stare" photo was definitely NOT a shot from the nest, or from one of the eagles we all know.

jakermo

5:56

Many thanks to Amanda and Suemac for sponsoring the Cams today. Oh my gosh, I can hardly think about her without breaking down. She was THE OG!!!

5:57

Oh right, Wingnut. THAT was Mom Norfolk.

Wingnut

5:57

Debbi's amazing spreadsheet on the 4 NBG female eagles after Mom Norfolk might yield some clues.



Ed Clark

5:58

Well, Dad Norfolk did have a very prolific way of dealing with his grief, but don't think the stare came from him or one of his many ladies.

jakermo

6:02

LOL, you are so funny. I hope you are doing well. We both just had a birthday last month, although I am WAY ahead of you. I'm signing out now.



Ed Clark

6:03

Dear friend, I'm doing far better than I deserve. Happy belated birthday....and you are NOT that far ahead!!

Cameranut

7:28

Was going thru some old memories of NBG and WCV today. The Garden of Eagles Calendars made for WCV were works of art!!! Congowings (Debbi) was incredibly talented in so many ways!!! Her endless efforts and energy will be sorely missed :(:(:(

Mamie in SC

7:32

♥ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D4tdJUmFTA0>



Ed Clark

7:33

Okay... you have to watch this short video!! I cried. I'll admit it... for a lot of reasons. This is so telling.....

Mamie in SC

7:33

Love the Youtube video Congo did for Buddy's 10th hatch day celebration on how he changed her life.

jakermo

7:50

Oh gosh. Imagine what it took for her to make this. I love it! (And the check from the tshirt.... It's not just about eagles.) But a lot of it was.

Teri in TX

7:50

OMYLANTA---CONGO WING--that is just hilarious and perfect!

7:58

Oh Lawd, that video! I wasn't prepared--I'd never heard Con'
oopss----didn't meant to hit send-----I'd never heard Congo's voice--I wasn't prepared for that video. just wow.

Cameranut

8:03

What a wonderful video!!! I'm so glad this was posted since I somehow missed it when it first came out!! A big plus - we have her voice preserved along with so many other memories!!

Angelkitty

8:04

hearing her voice ... leaky eyes ad joyous heart,

*** Tuesday, July 11 ***

jtct

7:36

Happy Tuesday! Thought for today: A friend who understands your tears is much more valuable than a lot of friends who only know your smile. (unknown). Have a terrific day!

Thank you Leroy & Cora for sponsoring the cams today. Happy Anniversary Henry and Keturah Collins.



DaveinMissouri

7:36

Happy Anniversary to Henry & Keturah Collins! Have a great day and week! Thank you Leroy & Cora Collins for the cams today!

CK in Pa

7:36

Awesome video! Congo was such a special person. Angelkitty @8:04 agree

dadsjazz

7:36

Thanks for the video. I love hearing voice and her talk about Buddy!

Gingersmom

7:36

Leaky eyes here- what a treasured memory.

Chris from Cato

7:36

Just donated in honor of Congowings...such a wonderful person who will be missed tremendously!

Wingnut

7:37

Oh. My. Gosh! where did you find that video? Thanks so much for sharing it! Her voice... I never heard her speak and the narration is beautiful. this also made me remember something she said about how she told her kids to stay out of chat rooms because of the weirdos there. Brings on that tearful laughter again.

BarbB in nj

7:37

A wonderful video & a perfect vision of Congowings. The calendars provided for Buddy's palace....it was all about the eagles. Thank you Congo, you taught us well.

DaveinMissouri

7:37

Congowings had a beautiful voice!:))

Rhoda

7:37

Great video!

CathyAJ from Mich

7:37

Just watched the video Congo made for Buddy's Hatch Day. My eyes are leaking again.

Becky in SoCal

7:37

Well, darn, I've managed to get through this day with only a few tears, but this video really opened the faucet. Like Terri in TX, I had never heard Congo's voice, but I am so happy I have now. She was so humble, not wanting to take any credit. I hope she now knows how important she was to all of us, and to wildlife, and most of all to her dear family.

Lois

7:38

Well, just read back from the rest of the day. That video is priceless, just hearing Debbi's voice again brings back so many memories and of course leaky eyes too.

Cameranut

7:38

Wanted to share here another memory I have of Congowings: Congo was moderating (can't remember if it was NBG or WCV) when she abruptly said she had to get off and go somewhere. It turned out that she had just received word that there was lantana available (I believe at some garden place) and she had to get some. I was intrigued by what type of flower or plant could make Congo need to so quickly get up and leave her moderating. I looked it up and was hooked. From that year on I have always made getting some lantana every May a top priority! I have ALWAYS thought of Debbi every time I look at my lantanas! I deeply regret that I did not act on the idea I had just a month or so ago to take a photo of my lantana (which are unusually beautiful this year) and send it to Debbi to let her know I think of her every time I walk by my flower pot full of lantana and to thank her for leading me to find such a beautiful flowering plant!

Such a wonderful person - how much knowledge and laughter she brought to everyone she touched. How greatly you will be missed Congowings!!!!

Mamie in SC

7:45

Thank you Leroy & Cora Collins for sponsoring the cams today. Happy Anniversary Henry & Keturah Collins!

7:54

Camernaut, I have Lantana in my flower beds that come up every year, & now after reading your memory I will also think of Congo when I look at mine! ♥

Sweetpea in North Carolina

7:57

Good Morning WCV and chat The video shared was priceless. I have never heard Ms Congos voice and admit i cried. What everlasting memories you have given us Debbi- ((hugs) prayers to MiniCongo and family and specail (((hugs))) to Tilden

jtct

7:57

The video with Congo's voice is so bitter sweet. Makes me realize just how much more I think we already miss her. I could never in a million years thank her enough for all she has taught me about birds and wildlife. RIP Congo- you will never be forgotten. ♥

PAS in NY

8:01

I wondered if Congowings was related to Conowingo reservoir in MD



Ed Clark

8:01

I think the Congowings name came from her African Grey Parrot, Henry, who is of the Congo African Grey type, the larger of the two subspecies. To my knowledge, the reservoir in MD had nothing to do with her screen name.

Sweetpea in North Carolina

8:07

u r correct Ed- Congo from her bird Henry- Wish I could stay but off to volunteer at Food Bank..((hugs))

SAH

8:07

Thanks Mamie for posting the great video about Buddy that Congo narrated! It was great to hear her voice again!

jakermo

8:30

WOW. I have been wondering about Henry. And Ed is here. I have to go for a volunteering thing soon. I have also wondered if Congo realized the impact she had on each of us. All over the World. I hung on every word. Congo and MVK.

Deb in PA

8:30

Mornin' all and thanks to Leroy & Cora for sponsoring the cams for Henry and Keturah's anniversary! A happy day to you boh! I'm off to the dentist this morning so please keep my in your thoughts and prayers (I'm a big fraidy cat when it comes to the dentist!)



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:44

Good morning, all!

Lacy

8:45

good morning!

Randy aka Big Bear

8:45

Good morning, Ms. Amanda.

And hello, Lacy!

Lacy

8:46

Hi Randy and Amanda, so glad to start the day with you!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:47

It's a party!

Randy aka Big Bear

8:47

I have bad news/good news and ... interesting ... news.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:47

Oh my. I'm intrigued.

Did your calculator not survive?

Randy aka Big Bear

8:48

How should we unravel this?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:48

I mean ... I usually like bad news first.
Get it out of the way.

CarolinaGirl

8:48

Good morning. I am ready!

Randy aka Big Bear

8:48

Right. Take your medicine.

8:49

Bad news -- I have not yet completed tallying all of the Congobucks contributions.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:49

Ah. Okay well ... that could be worse.
Did you want to actually sleep or something?

Randy aka Big Bear

8:49

So ... that's also kinda good news ... because it means that our tally will grow.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:49

True.

Randy aka Big Bear

8:50

Not all of the votes have yet been counted. That kind of thing.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:50

Okay. Well that's bad news we can live with ...
Good news?

Oh wait that is the good news.

Randy aka Big Bear

8:51

yes, ma'am.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:51

Interesting news?

Randy aka Big Bear

8:52

Yes, ma'am. I have a tally total.

Do you want until I get a final FINAL total tally tally?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:52

Nooooooooo

We want an update!

And then another update later today. Maybe after mail.

Randy aka Big Bear

8:52

Oh, okay.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:53

(I'm assuming everyone will want an update, because you know them ... even if no one is awake yet)

Randy aka Big Bear

8:53

Our goal was ... \$10,000, right?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:53

Yep. \$3000 match: MET

\$2000 match: MET

\$5000 match: in progress

8:54

And we left off at \$8600-ish?

Angelkitty

8:54

drum roll



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:54

□

(I'll do a little drum roll since it's not totally updated yet)

Randy aka Big Bear

8:54

Ok so ... total as of 8:45 a.m. EDT ... on July 11 ... hey, 7-11 ... I think you can get a free Slushie today? Maybe?



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:55

Oh yes, I think that's a thing.

Randy aka Big Bear

8:55

Maybe I'll go do that ...



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:55

Ahem, AFTER our update ...

Randy aka Big Bear

8:55

Ahem.

Ok ... current tally ...

8:56

\$10,352 ... and twelve cents!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:56

!!!!!!

Amazing!!

Rhoda

8:56

Yay!

CarolinaGirl

8:57

WOW!!!

Randy aka Big Bear

8:57

WOW WOW WOW!!!!

Angelkitty

8:57

WOW!

nef in me

8:57

CN comes through, as always!

jakermo

8:57

OMG!!! I think I am going to cry..... again. She was so wonderful!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:57

We did it!

and then some!

Randy aka Big Bear

8:57

That really is incredible. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Debbi would be ... pleased.



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:57

Very. Thank you all!

Cathy in Nevada

8:57

WOW!

ROKinCville

8:57

Awesome! Way to go CN!

jakermo

8:58

YEP! Because she did it. Every morning and afternoon and night!!! Oh those night parties!!!

Randy aka Big Bear

8:58

As I said, more online donations to process ... I'll come up with that total sometime later today. Ok, I need to go get my Slushie ... thank you, one and all, for this wonderful tribute to our beloved Congo.

jakermo

8:59

And then we can donate more, later? Like next week. ??



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:59

Always! :)

We can make "CongoBucks" a thing, much to her dismay, I'm sure.

Randy aka Big Bear

8:59

Oh, and ... we just received the \$5,000 match from Anon #3. THANK YOU!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

8:59

Wonderful!

Thank you all!!

jakermo

8:59

And tell you it's for Congo. Or whatever. She was ALL ABOUT WCV!!



Amanda Nicholson, WCV

9:02

And thank you, Mamie, for digging that video out of our YouTube channel treasure trove ... so nice to hear her voice again. And she told the story of the calendars! :) Forgot about that.

Shirley - Greensboro, NC

9:13

How wonderful to hear the new total!

Marian from Springfield

9:13

YAY!!!

Lacy

9:13

Sorry to miss the big announcement - WOW! Everyone really pulled it together to honor Debbi in fashion - well done, everyone!

Thanks for keeping us posted, Amanda and Randy!

CathyAJ from Mich

9:21

Wow! Thank you for the update, Mr Randy!