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Clemson Man Singled Out for Environmental Leadership Honoree Receives Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship

New York, NY, November 20, 2008—A Clemson, South Carolina wildlife professor is the recipient of a new national fellowship designed to advance the work of individuals with outstanding potential to help shape a brighter environmental future.

Joseph Drew Lanham is one of only 40 people selected from competitors nationwide for the *TogetherGreen* Conservation Leadership Program, part of a new conservation initiative of the National Audubon Society with support from Toyota. Fellows receive specialized training in conservation planning and execution, the chance to work and share best practices with gifted conservation professionals, and assistance with project outreach and evaluation. Each Fellow will also receive \$10,000 towards a community-focused project to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy, and contributing to greater environmental health.

For his fellowship, Dr. Lanham will contact, educate and provide technical support for African-American rural landowners across South Carolina, learning firsthand how a significant but underserved population of potential conservationists values and manages their property. In a project called “The Color of the Land”, he will provide technical assistance and record the stories of the unique relationships people of color have to the land. Lanham will also help them to develop strategies for implementing sustainable timber and wildlife management practices. His ultimate goal is to introduce African-American landowners to sustainable means of natural resources management that will help them improve soil, water and wildlife resources on their properties and ultimately those “downstream.”

While his project will help maintain rural landscapes that are diverse ethnically and ecologically, he also aims to define the conservation ethic and preserve the land legacy that has helped sustain generations of rural African-American landowners. If you are interested in contacting Dr. Lanham about his research or becoming a participant in the project he can be reached at (864) 656-7294 or by email at lanhamj@clermson.edu. There is no cost to landowners for participating in the project.

A professor of wildlife ecology at Clemson University, Dr. Lanham has been involved in natural resources conservation and education for twenty years, and is a dedicated and innovative environmental educator. In his current position, Lanham has mentored dozens of graduate students and served as the principal or co-investigator for a diverse array of wildlife research projects. Through his classes, where he combines ecological theory with “real world” issues like culturally-sensitive conservation ethic, Lanham has reached hundreds of students, challenging their assumptions about nature and encouraging them to pursue their own environmental careers.

“Drew is the kind of person who can make a real difference in the health of our environment and the quality of our future,” said Audubon President John Flicker. “Each of our *TogetherGreen* Fellows demonstrates exceptional environmental understanding and commitment, combined with tremendous potential to inspire and lead others. Together, they represent the talented and diverse leadership the environmental community will need to tackle the huge challenges and opportunities confronting us now and in the years to come.”

“The *TogetherGreen* Fellowship is significant in that it allows me to focus my time and talents on an issue that is heartfelt and personal to me. By serving both people and wildlife, I hope to elicit outcomes that help strengthen the human-nature bond and move us to a conservation ethic in the best tradition of Aldo Leopold,” said Dr. Lanham. “I am honored and humbled to have been selected from such a diverse and well-qualified pool of candidates.”

Dr. Lanham has been a Clemson University faculty member since 1995. Half of the *TogetherGreen* fellows come from within Audubon’s far-reaching national network; half channel their environmental efforts through other organizations.

Dr. Lanham, a native of Edgefield, South Carolina, received both a PhD in Forest Resources and a Masters of Science in Zoology from Clemson University. A prolific writer and researcher, his articles have been published in a number of journals, including *Wilderness Magazine*, *Forest Landowner*, the *Journal of Wildlife Management*, and *Animal Conservation*. He has received Clemson University Wildlife Society’s Excellence in Teaching Award multiple times and the John Madden Fellowship from the Outdoor Writer’s Association of America, among many other honors.

“Toyota believes in the power of grassroots efforts to develop the environmental leaders of tomorrow,” said Patricia Salas Pineda, Group Vice President, Toyota Motor North America. “These 40 *TogetherGreen* Fellows will receive invaluable training for the future while immediately making a difference today with on-the-ground community projects.”

A complete list of the 2008 *TogetherGreen* fellows can be found at www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows.

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About TogetherGreen

Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in spring, 2008 to fund conservation projects, train environmental leaders, and offer volunteer and individual action opportunities that significantly benefit the environment. As of October, volunteer days have begun in 40, tallying in excess of 11,000 volunteer hours. Funding totaling \$1.4 million was recently awarded to innovative conservation projects nationwide, while www.TogetherGreen.org helps users take individual conservation action and share and celebrate success stories. The *TogetherGreen* initiative and grants programs are funded by a \$20 million Toyota gift to Audubon, the largest in the conservation group’s long history.

About Audubon

Now in its second century, Audubon connects people with birds, nature and the environment that supports us all. Our national network of community-based nature centers, chapters, scientific, education, and advocacy programs engages millions of people from all walks of life in conservation action to protect and restore the natural world. Visit Audubon online at www.audubon.org.

About Toyota

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants, with another under construction in Mississippi. Toyota is committed to being a good corporate citizen in the communities where it does business and believes in supporting programs with long-term sustainable results. Through its corporate initiatives, manufacturing operations and philanthropy, Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. In 2007, Toyota contributed more than \$56 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit <http://www.toyota.com/community>.

