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**Contact:**  
Brenda Timm (212) 979-3198 / btimm@audubon.org  
Kristin Lamberson (662) 252-1155 / klamberson@audubon.org

## **Williston Woman Singled Out for Environmental Leadership *Honoree Receives Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship***

New York, NY, November 19, 2009-A Williston, Tennessee woman is the recipient of a national fellowship designed to advance the work of individuals with outstanding leadership potential to help shape a brighter environmental future.

Kristin Lamberson is one of 40 individuals nationwide selected as a 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellow. The *TogetherGreen* Fellowship offers 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 receives \$10,000 towards a community-focused project to engage local residents in conserving land, water and energy, and contributing to greater environmental health.

For her fellowship, Lamberson will work to enhance a recently designed garden expansion project at the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center. Specifically, she will work to remove exotic plant species and replenish the area with native plants. She also plans to install a boardwalk and interpretive signs that teach visitors about the plants and animals of the area, while connecting them with the issues that face the surrounding landscape, such as storm water runoff and how it can be managed. Ephemeral ponds in this project area, that catch storm water, are important breeding grounds for numerous amphibians.

Lamberson is currently the Interpretive Gardens Specialist at the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center, where one of her chief duties is the propagation, growing and selling of native plants through the Center's nursery. She also maintains the native plant gardens located throughout the Center's main campus. In addition to this, Kristin is involved with educating local residents about native plants beauty and their importance in the ecosystem.

"Kristin 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 grant will help fund a project area at Strawberry Plains Audubon Center that has the potential of altering a visitor's perception as to what a residential, school, corporate or public landscape 'should' look like to what it could be," said Lamberson. "It

is my hope that people will be inspired to create positive conservation change starting at a landscape level by using native plants, re-thinking storm water management, allowing wild spaces and always remembering that we share this glorious planet with other wonderful and beautiful beings!"

Kristin has been affiliated with the Strawberry Plains Audubon Center since 2003. Half of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows come from within Audubon's far-reaching national network; half channel their environmental efforts through other organizations.

A distinguished advisory committee - composed of conservation professionals and experts in environmental education, communications, outreach, and conservation planning - selected the fellowship beneficiaries from a competitive pool of scores of highly qualified individuals. Qualified applicants must have at least six years of experience in conservation, environmental education, policy, or environmental issues, as demonstrated through current and past work experience, academic studies related to conservation, and/or volunteer work. Candidates must have a passion for conservation, the desire to learn and grow, and demonstrate a proven ability in reaching previously unengaged audiences.

"We must engage the best and brightest leaders representing the broadest and most diverse communities in this country to solve our ever more complex conservation challenges," said Diane Wood, President, National Environmental Education Foundation. "TogetherGreen is a creative program that uncovers such leaders, nurtures their talents, supports their dedication to conservation and holds them up to inspire others to follow."

A complete list of the 2009 *TogetherGreen* Fellows can be found at [www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows](http://www.TogetherGreen.org/fellows).

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#### **About *TogetherGreen***

Audubon and Toyota launched the five-year *TogetherGreen* initiative in 2008 to build the promise of a greener, healthier future through innovation, leadership and volunteerism. To date, 80 environmental leaders-half from within Audubon and half from outside organizations-have received *TogetherGreen* Fellowships to protect land, water, and energy resources nationwide. For more information, visit [www.togethergreen.org](http://www.togethergreen.org).

#### **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](http://www.audubon.org).

#### **About Toyota**

Toyota (NYSE: TM) established operations in the United States in 1957 and currently operates 10 manufacturing plants. 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. Toyota supports numerous organizations across the country, focusing on education, the environment and safety. Since 1991, Toyota has contributed more than \$464 million to philanthropic programs in the U.S. For more information on Toyota's commitment to improving communities nationwide, visit [www.toyota.com/community](http://www.toyota.com/community).