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**Camden Man Singled Out for Environmental Leadership at Local Land Trust
*Honoree Receives Audubon/Toyota TogetherGreen Fellowship***

New York, NY, November 19, 2009-A Camden, South Carolina man 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.

Austin Jenkins 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 his fellowship, Jenkins will empower senior citizens to take an active part in land conservation through the Katawba Valley Land Trust. Recruitment and planning meetings in several different communities will generate interest in activities like monitoring, trail management, public outreach, and river clean-ups. Through his program, seniors will play a critical role in essential conservation work, providing them with a sense of accomplishment and pride in their local ecosystems.

Jenkins currently serves as the executive director and naturalist for the Katawba Valley Land Trust. In that capacity, he helps to protect more than 7,500 acres of land through conservation easements, acquisitions, and transfers to public agencies, as well as providing the public with conservation options, nature outings, seminars, workshops, and newsletters.

“Austin 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.”

“We have more work in front of us than one person can accomplish. Taking the time to build a coalition of volunteers will enable us to grow our capacity and to further enhance our goals of land conservation and environmental education. The leadership training and financial help offered by *TogetherGreen* gives us the opportunity to start this vital process that will help to secure our future,” said Jenkins.

Jenkins has been affiliated with the Katawba Land Trust since 2008. Half of the *TogetherGreen* Fellows come from within Audubon's far-reaching national network; half channel their environmental efforts through other organizations.

Jenkins received his PhD in forest resources and his Masters in entomology from Clemson University. A dedicated conservationist, Jenkins previously worked for the Sandhill Research and Education Center.

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.

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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.

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. 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.