

# A Conference on Diversity in Outdoor Recreation: The Many Faces of Conservation

Aullwood Audubon's Marie S. Aull Education Center  
July 23, 2010, 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.



Dudley Edmonson



John C. Robinson



Doreen Whitley

Anyone who spends time at popular bird watching sites or walks in beautiful natural areas is likely to notice that bird watchers, conservationists and outdoor recreation enthusiasts tend to be fairly homogenous. We don't see many people who are African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American or members of other minority groups. This same lack of diversity has been observed in other kinds of outdoor recreation activities, from camping and photography to nature study and conservation action.

Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm is hosting a conference to explore ways to increase diversity. As America becomes more ethnically diverse, providers of birding, environmental education and outdoor recreation activities need to expand ethnic diversity in order to increase support for conservation actions. Aullwood is proud to offer a one-day conference featuring people who are doing something about this issue.

The *Conference on Diversity in Outdoor Recreation: The Many Faces of Conservation* will be held at Aullwood Audubon's Marie S. Aull Education Center (1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, OH 45414) and will provide practical approaches to this issue. A modest registration fee of \$25/person includes a series of morning and afternoon presentations by experts, a catered lunch and nature walk in Aullwood's tallgrass prairie and forest. Who should attend? Everyone – youth and scout leaders, community leaders, non-formal educators, urban league members, urban church councils, Audubon chapter members, garden club members, teachers, naturalists, college professors and students.

## Conference Presenters

### Dudley Edmonson – *Outdoor Role Models: Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places* -

In his work as a professional nature photographer, Dudley Edmondson often found that he was the only African-American present at popular outdoor destinations. The experience led him to seek out others, interview them and profile them in his book *Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*. Edmondson will discuss what has caused the great divide between people of color, conservation stewardship and outdoor recreation. His talk will include audio excerpts from those he interviewed, speaking of their experiences in the outdoors and why they feel that people of color are nearly always absent from this landscape. These insights will lead to more understanding of steps necessary to increase diversity in the outdoors. Edmondson has spent the last 20 years as a freelance photographer, capturing images of nature and wildlife subjects around this country.



**John C. Robinson – *Birding for Everyone: Changing the Face of Environmental Conservation Through Birding*** - What happens when it is no longer just species or unique habitats, but environmental conservation itself that is endangered? This is the concern raised by award-winning ornithologist and wildlife biologist, John C. Robinson. In this presentation based on his latest book, *Birding for Everyone: Encouraging People of Color to Become Birdwatchers*, Robinson explains why minority involvement in environmental issues will become ever more vital to long-term conservation efforts and the preservation of our natural resources. He explains the value of birding as an entry point for increasing environmental awareness. Following his presentation, Robinson will engage attendees in a discussion about ways that we might introduce nature and memorable outdoor experiences to more diverse populations especially our youth and young adults. Robinson has worked as a wildlife biologist and professional ornithologist for nearly 30 years, including stints with the USDA and US Fish & Wildlife Service. Robinson is the author of numerous books, including *Common Birds of Mount Diablo*, *Secret of the Snow Leopard* and the comprehensive *North American Bird Reference Book CD-Rom*.

**Doreen Whitley** – *Involving Urban Youth and Urban Neighbors in Bird Conservation and Habitat Restoration* - Doreen Whitley will provide a brief overview of Audubon’s Important Bird Areas (IBA) program and the Grange Insurance Audubon Center’s success in mobilizing urban communities to reach measurable conservation goals within a local IBA and surrounding landscapes. She will also share the methodology behind the program, *Safe Neighborhoods - Safe Shrubs*, that engages urban residents in removing invasive non-native plants and replacing those plants with native shrubs. Whitley is the Assistant Director/Director of Conservation for the Grange Insurance Audubon Center and is currently an Audubon Leadership Fellow for TogetherGreen.



Following these programs and a guided walk through Aullwood’s nature sanctuary, participants will brainstorm ways to –

- ✦ Engage well-established diverse organizations or non-profits that are not currently providing outdoor recreational/conservation opportunities for their clients and members with ways to provide outdoor recreation and nature opportunities for their constituency.
- ✦ Engage urban audiences to participate in birding, outdoor recreation, conservation action and nature activities offered at parks, natural areas, nature centers, etc.

**Registration Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Other names of participants and e-mail addresses

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_ participants @ \$25/person = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: National Audubon Society

\_\_\_\_\_ Master Card or \_\_\_\_\_ Visa Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm, 1000 Aullwood Road, Dayton, Ohio 45414; 937/890-7360

For more information contact Charity Krueger, at [ckrueger@audubon.org](mailto:ckrueger@audubon.org) or 937-890-7360, ext. 15, or go to our website, <http://aullwood.center.audubon.org>

Funding for this workshop is provided by a grant from EETAP (Environmental Education Training and Partnerships), the National Audubon Society and Aullwood Audubon Center and Farm.

**Enjoy These Additional Free Events! Invite Your Friends!**

- ✦ Join us for a fascinating program by Dudley Edmondson on July 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Marie S. Aull Education Center. *The Diary of a Nature Photographer* reflects the twenty years that Edmondson has spent traveling the country as a nature photographer. The amazingly beautiful images reflect his fascinating encounters with nature and people. He concentrates on capturing people interacting with nature, especially people of color. Edmondson states, “*Nature without question is for everyone. It knows no race, creed or gender and is cheaper than any therapist you could ever hire.*”
- ✦ On July 24 from 8:00 - 10:00 a.m. John C. Robinson will lead a special walk at Aullwood entitled *Top 10 Tips for Identifying Birds*. Participants of all skill levels are welcome, including first-time bird-watchers or nature enthusiasts. Robinson has led birding and natural history tours all over the world. At the end of the walk, participants will understand why birding and nature are for everyone to experience and enjoy. This birding adventure begins and ends at the Marie S. Aull Education Center. Join us for refreshments and fellowship after the walk.

These programs are free, but donations are requested to support Aullwood’s programs for economically disadvantaged children to explore and discover nature or you can bring a non-perishable food item for the Food Bank.

