



Audubon NORTH CAROLINA

Contact: Ida Phillips
Director of Communications
919-929-3899
iphillips@audubon.org
www.ncaudubon.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Audubon North Carolina Presents Awards to Partners for Environmental Justice and NC Botanical Garden

May 19, 2009, Chapel Hill, NC – Audubon North Carolina recently presented the Birdlore Conservation Education Award to Partners for Environmental Justice of Raleigh and the **N.C. Botanical Garden** in Chapel Hill. The awards were presented at the nonprofit organization’s annual membership meeting on April 18, 2009. The special award recognizes exceptional efforts to educate the public about birds, their habitats, and to inspire conservation of the special landscapes we share with all wildlife.

In presenting the awards, Chris Canfield, Executive Director of Audubon North Carolina, noted that “In the predominantly African-American community of Rochester Heights, the oldest in Raleigh, Partners for Environmental Justice (PEJ) has made an incredible connection between a community, land, and environmental justice issues. PEJ was formed in 1995 in response to the flooding and pollution that plagued the Walnut Creek wetlands area. The organization raised more than \$1 million to clean up and protect the area and build the Walnut Creek Wetlands Education Park and Center. Behind much of this effort was Dr. Norman Camp, PEJ chair, who was recognized as part of National Audubon’s TogetherGreen program as a national Environmental Hero in 2008.”

Canfield noted that “Countless hundreds of thousands of students and adults have been touched by the **N.C. Botanical Garden**’s offerings—both natural and academic—since it opened to the public in 1966. The garden has many important connections to bird conservation, including its management of Mason Farm, the site of one of the longest-continuing, detailed studies of breeding birds in the eastern United States. The garden has grown in scope with its most visible project to date—the construction of a LEED-certified Visitor Education Center—due to open this summer. Less visible is the way Director Peter White and his staff have created a nationally recognized resource for native plant conservation programs, educational collections, and outreach.”

Audubon North Carolina is the state office of the National Audubon Society representing 10,000 grassroots members and nine local chapters across the state. With a century of conservation history in North Carolina, Audubon strives to conserve and restore the habitats we share with all wildlife, focusing on the needs of birds. Audubon North Carolina achieves its mission through a blend of science-based research and conservation, education and outreach, and advocacy. www.ncaudubon.org.

###