

SAVE THE DATE! SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2009

Diversity in Outdoor Recreation: The Many Faces of Conservation

A conference to be held at Ward Pavilion
Wildwood Preserve, Toledo Metroparks

If you have spent time at popular birding spots or attended large gatherings of birders, you've probably noticed that this community tends to be overwhelmingly white. We don't see many birders who are African-American, Hispanic, Native American, Asian-American, or members of other minority groups. This same lack of diversity has been noticed in other aspects of outdoor recreation, from camping and hiking to nature study. The board and staff of BSBO believe that more diversity would be a good thing, in order to create more broad support for conservation. Therefore, we are proud to be co-sponsoring a one-day conference featuring people who are doing something about this issue.

Our event on September 26 will feature presentations by John C. Robinson, a biologist, software designer, and author of *Birding For Everyone: Encouraging People of Color to Become Birdwatchers*; Dudley Edmondson, a professional photographer and author of *Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*; and Tamberly Conway and Maricruz Flores, who work with the U.S. Forest Service and Stephen F. Austin University on the program "Latino Legacy: Amigos del Bosque" (Friends of the Forest). These experts will speak from direct experience as they share practical ideas on promoting diversity in the outdoors. In addition, a panel discussion will provide insight from local community leaders.

BSBO is sponsoring this event in collaboration with Toledo Metroparks and Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge. Space is limited, so mark your calendar now to attend. More information, including registration materials, will be available soon.