

NEWS RELEASE



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NATURE PHOTOGRAPHER, DUDLEY EDMONDSON, BRINGS URBAN NATURE INTO FOCUS AT OAKS BOTTOM'S 2009 *FESTIVAL OF THE BIRDS*

Date: Saturday, May 9, 2009 - **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Early Bird Walk 9:00 a.m.)

The *Festival of the Birds*, hosted by the City of Portland Parks & Recreation, Audubon Society of Portland, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, is featuring a special guest, nature photographer and author of *Black and Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*, Dudley Edmondson. (View his website: <http://www.raptorworks.com/>)

On Saturday, May 9, Dudley will be conducting two photo workshops for kids, at 9:30am and 1:00pm. Students from Self-Enhancement, Inc. will participate in the workshops, though there are a few spots still open. At 12:00 noon, Dudley will give a presentation, free and open to the public, titled, "Nature Is Everywhere You Are," in which he will show his photography and talk about how he uses photography to engage kids in connecting with nature.

Dudley's love of the outdoors and his skill in capturing nature's beauty with a camera come across to motivate and inspire the students in his workshops. As a person of color with strong connections to the natural world, Dudley is aware that African-Americans and other minority groups are too often under-represented in activities that involve nature. Photography has proven particularly effective in reaching underserved audiences as a means of showing them how they can connect with the natural world.

A 15-year photography veteran, Dudley Edmondson has captured on film nature and wildlife subjects around the country. He learned the art of photography from his great-grandfather, Monteith Vance, who was a portrait photographer in North Carolina starting in 1919. Edmondson began focusing his lens on people of color when he noticed how often he found himself to be the only African-American or person of color in many of the outdoor wilderness settings he found himself working or vacationing in.

"Nature without question is for everyone. It knows no race, creed or gender and is cheaper than any therapist you could ever hire," says Edmondson.

A welcome sign of spring, Portland's migratory birds are arriving from their tropical wintering grounds in Mexico and Central America. Each year, at the height of the migratory activity, the Oaks Bottom *Festival of the Birds* takes place at Sellwood Park for families and bird lovers to enjoy a day outdoors.

This year's Festival theme is "Celebrating Birds in Culture." Other activities offered at the event include guided bird walks every half hour, live music and stories, kids' art, live birds from Audubon's Care Center. Free coffee and pastries are provided by Twin Paradox Cafe for those who get there early!

For more information: [Audubon society of Portland](#), [U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service](#), [Map to Sellwood Park](#)