**CLEMSON UNIVERSITY’S J. DREW LANHAM WINS NORTH AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AWARD**

CLEMSON, SC, October 22, 2016 — J. Drew Lanham of Clemson University was recently recognized by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE), a leader in environmental education, as the recipient of one of NAAEE’s hallmark annual awards recognizing leadership in the field. At a special awards reception during NAAEE’s 45th Annual Conference in Madison, Wis., Lanham received the Rosa Parks and Grace Lee Boggs Award in recognition of his leadership in educating about environmental justice concerns and promoting action that addresses these issues at the local, regional, or global levels.

Lanham is a Master Teacher and Alumni Distinguished Professor in wildlife ecology, with research interests in songbird ecology and conservation at Clemson University. Lanham bridges the gap between education and conservation in his work, translating conservation science to make it relevant to others. As a Black American, he’s intrigued by how culture and ethnic prisms can bend perceptions of nature and its care. In Lanham’s words, he feels that “coloring the conservation conversation is my outreach mantra.” Lanham is a widely published essayist and an endeavoring poet focusing on a passion for place and internal and societal conflicts that sometimes put ethnicity and passion for nature at odds. His first solo work, *The Home Place-Memoirs of a Colored Man’s Love Affair with Nature* (Milkweed Editions), was recently published.

"For more than four decades, NAAEE has promoted excellence and impact in environmental education thanks to the determined efforts of our members, supporters, and affiliate organizations," said Judy Braus, Executive Director. “Our award winners are truly inspirational educators and organizations across North America that exemplify the best in our field, showcasing multiple disciplines, approaches, and perspectives–from classroom to community to research–all working toward a more just and sustainable society."

This year, 11 award recipients — an impressive slate of individuals and organizations from North America —were selected across 11 categories. For more information about the 2016 NAAEE Awards including eligibility requirements and a full list of winners, visit <https://naaee.org/our-work/programs/awards>.

**About NAAEE**

The North American Association for Environmental Education is a pioneering membership organization dedicated to accelerating environmental literacy and civic engagement through the power of education. NAAEE supports a network of more than 20,000 educators, researchers, and organizational members working in environmental education in more than 30 countries through direct membership and 53 regional affiliate organizations. Through community networks, publications, signature programs, eeNEWS and eeJOBS, NAAEE provides programming and resources for professionals working in all areas of the field. NAAEE’s annual conference, now in its 45th year, convenes leaders from private and public sectors to advance the field of environmental education. For more information, visit [www.naaee.org](http://www.naaee.org) and [www.naaee.org/eePRO](http://www.naaee.org/eePRO).

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