

Welcome Illustrators



Jeanette and Christopher Canyon **The Natural World Inspires Art and Creativity**

Jeanette & Christopher Canyon of Columbus, Ohio, are award winning illustrators of numerous children's books. The natural world is a key inspiration to their art and creativity, resulting in books that evoke the imagination and a sense of wonder. Christopher Canyon has illustrated many books about Earth's natural wonders. His books about the ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest, the Grand Canyon and naturalist John Muir have been favorites at state and national parks throughout the country. He is also popularly known for his whimsical picture adaptations of songs by music legend and environmental activist John Denver. He has been involved with numerous organizations in promoting nature education such as the Earth Day Coalition, the Grand Canyon National Park and the Center for Children's Environmental Literature. Christopher will share special "behind the scenes" aspects of his nature research, as well as his musical talents of weaving together words, music and art to create beautiful multi-sensory books to enrich the lives of children, families, and educators.

Jeanette Canyon has received glowing critical acclaim for her uniquely engaging art and picture books. The popularity of her first book, *Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef* has resulted in working with organizations such as OCEANA and NOAA's Coral Reef Conservation Project in producing work to promote the health of our planet's oceans. Jeanette will share how she creates her mesmerizing polymer clay illustrations for her award-winning picture books. The dynamic nature of her art is a direct reflection of the energetic personality that she brings to her audiences in sharing her unique talents. Jeanette will take participants on a creative journey by sharing how she produces her art for such titles as *Over in the Ocean: In a Coral Reef*, *City Beats: A Hip-Hoppy Pigeon Poem* and her latest book, *Over in the Jungle, A Rainforest Rhyme*.

The Canyons travel extensively providing programs for schools, conferences and special events. For more information about the Canyons and their books, visit their website at: www.JeanetteAndChristopherCanyon.com.

Keynote Presentation



Dudley Edmondson **In Celebration of Wild Places: Connecting People to Nature**

Dudley Edmondson is a nature photographer, author and all around outdoor enthusiast. As a seasoned photographer he has spent the last 20 years of his life traveling around the nation working with wild subjects in wilderness spaces in just about every habitat America has to offer.

When he is not working on a photographic assignment or traveling on a speaking engagement, he spends most of his free time cycling, kayaking, skiing, swimming or trail running. He is proud to admit that he owns four bikes and is always looking for another one to add to his collection.

Dudley's most recent project is his first book: *Black & Brown Faces in America's Wild Places*. To complete the book he spent four years traveling around the nation in search of other African Americans who were as passionate about the outdoors as he was. The goal of the book is to encourage other African Americans to get out and experience nature for their own mental and physical health. If the book is successful he hopes it will give African Americans a sense of ownership for the nation's green spaces and wilderness areas, which he believes is key to ensuring protection of the nation's "Natural Heritage" for future generations of Americans.