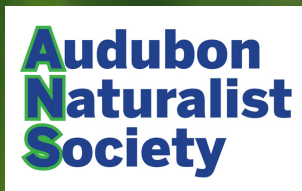


Grounded in *Faith,* Rooted in *Nature*



Taking Nature Black[®] Faith-Based Roundtable
Resource Guide

Watch a replay of the event at
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OLVTd_oRj-c



Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature

Our Story, Our Song – Introductory Poem ANS-TNB-USFS Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature Panel by Caroline Brewer, Chairwoman of the Taking Nature Black Conference ©2022

Bridge over troubled water
Anchor in a storm
Peace in the Valley
Peace like a river
One more river to cross
Deep river
Down by the riverside
The tree of life
Ain't no mountain high enough
I'll be so glad when the sun goes down
Take me to the water
Wade in the water
The Ecology, Mercy, mercy me
I come to the garden alone
His eye is on the sparrow
Keep your head to the sky
He's Got the Whole World in His Hands

This is our story, this is our song
of connection to the natural world
and it's as deep as the ocean, as wide as the sky,
as ancient as the days, and as dazzling
as the night, gemmed with stars.

These references to African American spirituals, R&B songs, and Christian hymns evidence our legacy of a faith-based view of nature, that something beyond the physical lives in every cell of the sun, moon, stars, rain, rivers, soil, seeds, trees, birds, bees and in us. Because you see, we, we came and we thrived before Columbus, and so did our faith traditions. And our experience in this turbulent new land, according to Dr. Howard Thurman Theologian, Philosopher and Mentor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., has taught us "how to ride high to life, to look squarely in the face of those facts that argue most dramatically against all hope and to use those facts as raw material out of which (we) fashioned hope that the environment (and in this case, he meant the environment of enslavement, terror, and oppression – that environment), with all its cruelty, could not crush (our) hope."

Today we will explore new and future ways, still linked to the past, of being grounded in faith and rooted in nature. We invite you to listen our blue rivulets of stories, songs, and soliloquys that whisper, gurgle, and rush over the crooked places to make them straight and over the rough places to make them smooth, and build with the force of a waterfall to make a way out of no way. As the mountains and the hills break forth into singing and all the trees clap their hands, we invite you to listen, deeply listen.

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Resource Links

ANS Taking Nature Black & Naturally Latinos Conferences anshome.org/conferences/

Choose Clean Water Young Professionals of Color Program choosecleanwater.org/young-professionals-of-color

Enabling Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities working in the environmental field to achieve their career and professional development goals, while closing the racial diversity gap that exists within the Chesapeake Bay restoration movement.

DC Ward 8 Water Watchers (on Facebook) facebook.com/W8WWDC/

Ward 8 Water Watchers is a collaboration between The Green Scheme, Audubon Naturalist Society, and DC Greens activating community power to achieve environmental justice in and around Oxon Run in Washington, DC.

Green Leadership Trust greenleadershiptrust.org/

A network of People of Color and Indigenous people serving US environmental non-profit boards.

The Green Scheme www.greenscheme.org/

The Green Scheme inspires and teaches children about gardening, nutrition, entrepreneurship, and holistic healthy living.

Justice Outside justiceoutside.org/

Justice Outside envisions a just world where Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color experience safety, health, and abundant joy through meaningful relationships with one another and the outdoors. The organization's Liberated Paths Grantmaking Program aims to shift resources to and build power with Black, Indigenous, and Communities of Color.

Maryland DNR Natural Resources Career Camp dnr.maryland.gov/forests/Pages/NRCC.aspx

Designed for high school students, this seven-day camp features extensive and relevant curriculum developed by natural resource professionals.

RAY Diversity Fellowship rayfellowship.org/home

The RAY Fellowship Program The RAY Fellowship Program is a two-year paid fellowship that aims to increase and facilitate conservation, energy efficiency, and renewable energy-related career pathways for emerging leaders of color.

Rethink Outside™ Fellowship rethinkoutside.org/about-rethink-outside-fellowship/

Rethink Outside™ Fellows are developed to become recognized leaders and voices in the movement to lift up the benefits of time spent outdoors as a basic human right

USDA Center for Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships usda.gov/our-agency/staff-offices/center-faith-based-and-neighborhood-partnerships/contact-center

USDA Forest Service Community Forest Program Grant fs.usda.gov/managing-land/private-land/community-forest

A competitive grant program that provides financial assistance to tribal entities, local governments, and qualified conservation non-profit organizations to acquire and establish community forests that provide community benefits.

USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry Program fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf

The Forest Service Urban & Community Forestry Program is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program, delivering nature-based solutions to ensure a resilient and equitable tree canopy where more than 84 percent of Americans live. By working with state partners and community tree groups, the program invests from the ground up in communities, improving more than 140 million acres of urban and community forest across the United States.



Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature

Articles

30 years ago, leaders declared the principles of environmental justice. They're still fighting to make them heard. grist.org/fix/1991-national-people-of-color-environmental-leaderships-sum-declared-principles-environmental-justice/

More than 1,100 people attended the 1991 National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit. Its leaders reflect on what it meant to define a movement.

Black Spirituals as Poetry and Resistance: New York Times

By Kaitlyn Greenidg

nytimes.com/2021/03/05/t-magazine/black-spirituals-poetry-resistance.html

Celebrating the First National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit

kresge.org/news-views/roundtable-30th-anniversary-of-1st-national-people-of-color-environmental-leadership-summit-looking-back-looking-forward/

Reflecting on the 30th anniversary of 1st National People of Color Environmental Leadership Summit – looking back, looking forward.

The urgency of the Black climate agenda: Vox

vox.com/22358730/climate-change-biden-environmental-racial-justice

How Black environmental advocates are taking the climate movement into their own hands.

There's No Black Liberation Without Climate Reparations: Atmos

National climate strategist Tamara Toles O'Laughlin makes the case for climate reparations.

atmos.earth/climate-reparations-juneteenth-tamara-toles-o-laughlin/

Books

Black Nature: Four Centuries of African American Nature Poetry Edited by Camille T. Dungy

Deep River: An Interpretation of Negro Spirituals by Howard Thurman

To Love the Wind and the Rain: African Americans and Environmental History

Edited by Diane D. Glave and Mark Stoll

Unbowed: A Memoir by Wangari Maathai

Papers

Race, Religion and Environmental Concerns Among Black and White Americans

by Tiffany M. Williams, Ohio State University

etd.ohiolink.edu/apexprod/rws_etd/send_file/send?accession=osu1595544208933244&disposition=inline



Taking Nature Black[®] Faith-Based Roundtable



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Podcasts

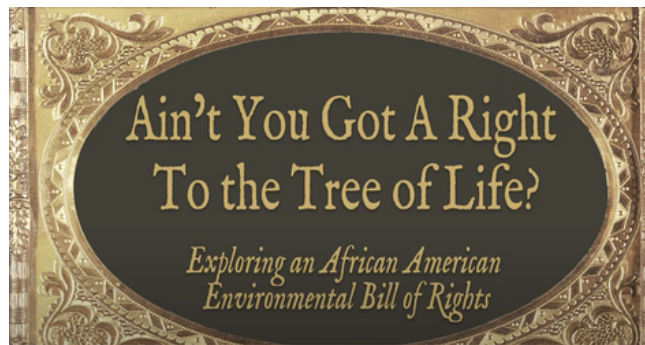
Temperature Check: Grist grist.org/fix/temperature-check-s2e6-full-transcript-the-power-brokers/

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, CEO of Environmental Grantmakers Association, and Valencia Gunder, of the Red Black and Green New Deal, discuss what it means to build a coalition and work the levers of policy to combat environmental racism.

Ecology of Liberation with Rev. Michael Malcom thecoollestshow.com/ecology-of-liberation-w-rev-michael-malcom/

Rev. Michael Malcom, Executive Director of Alabama Interfaith Power and Light, shares insight on the performance of worship, the role of the Black church in the movement, and the intersections of church and climate. (Check out other great podcasts at thecoollestshow.com/)

Video



Ain't You Got a Right to the Tree of Life? Exploring an African American Environmental Bill of Rights

Created by Karen Wilson Ama-Echefu, for the 2021 Taking Nature Black Conference

[youtube.com/watch?v=vKmNNfyTk7k&t=431s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKmNNfyTk7k&t=431s)

Word to Our Mother - African American Nature Celebration, Part 2: Spirituals

Created by Karen Wilson Ama-Echefu, for the 2019 Taking Nature Black Conference Black History Month Celebration

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=36XJ-pSwXB0>

Churches hope to explore congregations taking nature back

By Meteorologist Veronica Johnson/WJLA 7News

[wjla.com/features/black-history-month/taking-nature-black-churches-nature-faith-stillmeadow-community-fellowship-audubon-naturalist-society-virtual-roundtable](https://www.wjla.com/features/black-history-month/taking-nature-black-churches-nature-faith-stillmeadow-community-fellowship-audubon-naturalist-society-virtual-roundtable)

ANS Talking Nature Black Faith-based Roundtable Profile

By Ama Arthur-Asmah/FOXDC5

www.fox5dc.com/video/1039703

Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature



Pastor Michael S. Martin

Stillmeadow Community Fellowship

5110 Frederick Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21229

www.stillmeadow.community

Email: PASTORMICHAEL@STILLMEADOW.COMMUNITY

Pastor Michael S. Martin has had careers as a human resources professional, an entrepreneur establishing consulting offices in several U.S. cities, and as a pastor in Southern California. In 2017, he and his wife, Gail Martin, relocated to her hometown of Baltimore to help revive Stillmeadow Community Fellowship. Since arriving, they have discovered the joyful responsibility and divine connection between stewardship for God's creation and care for the physical/emotional/mental/spiritual well-being of community residents in the 10 acres of the newly christened Stillmeadow PeacePark & Education/Retreat Center.

Stillmeadow PeacePark supports a multigenerational community and attracts volunteers and partners for park and development activities. The PeacePark includes an apiary, community gardens, and orchard to produce honey, vegetables, and fruits; trails and meditation areas; community-based research, citizen science activities, and forestry training with youth and adults, as well as programs to improve forest and watershed health by investigating park biota and hydrology in urban settings.

It is Pastor Michael's vision to "bring what occurs inside the church out to the forest; and take the beauty, the contemplation so easily accomplished in nature, back into the place of planned worship and wonder."

Pastor Michael is a native of Flint, MI and was educated at Morgan State University and Northwood University.

Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

President and CEO

Environmental Grantmakers Association

PO Box 50220, Baltimore, MD 21211

www.tolesolaughlin.com

Email: tamara.tolesolaughlin@gmail.com



Tamara Toles O'Laughlin is a nationally recognized climate strategist and environmental advocate focused on people and planet. Her niche is developing capacity-building programs and creating multimedia campaigns to dismantle privilege and increase opportunities for vulnerable populations to access healthy air, clean energy, and a toxic-free economy at the local, regional and national level.

Among her activities, Toles O'Laughlin is a co-chair of the Green Leadership Trust, and a member of the World Economic Forum and the National Cities executive working group. She just concluded a two-year term as Chair of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee. Toles O'Laughlin also serves as the Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of Women's Voices for the Earth based in Missoula, Montana. Women's Voices disrupts industry standards by forcing ingredient disclosure and the elimination of toxic chemicals from personal care products.

Toles O'Laughlin is now President and CEO of the Environmental Grantmakers Association. Previously, she served as the North America Director at 350.org and 350 Action, where she drove regional strategy in the U.S. and Canada. She led mission critical work and organizational investments to build a multi-racial, multi-generational climate movement capable of holding leaders accountable to science and justice.

Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature



Terris King, II

Educator and Founder

Temple X Schools

8929 Greens Ln, Randallstown, MD 21133

www.templexschools.com

Email: templexschools@gmail.com



Educational Strategist and International Kindergarten Teacher Terris King II is Head of Schools of Temple X Schools in Baltimore. A leader in educational innovation through culturally responsive pedagogy, thoughtful curriculum, and hybrid learning, King is leveraging technology and what is left of nature to eliminate disparities in education. King has been a kindergarten teacher at Bishop Walker School, Park School of Baltimore, and Shanghai American School. During his time in Shanghai, King was a math specialist in international schools and presented at multiple conferences. He founded the Shanghai-based consulting company Home 2 School in 2019, in support of families' long-term educational planning for children birth to age eight.

King received his Master's in Elementary Education from Lesley University. Prior to that, he apprenticed at Shady Hill School TTC, completed studies at Columbia University Teachers College, and graduated from Morehouse College with a BA in Philosophy. He currently serves as Educational Coordinator for the advocacy group ACT Now Baltimore. He also was co-founder of the WeChat platform for the Early Childhood Education Coalition in Shanghai, China. King has facilitated numerous summer camps, served as executive director of the award-winning Black Man Can Institute, and was the program director of Easterwood Recreation Center in Baltimore City.

Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature



Ronnie Webb

President and Co-Founder

The Green Scheme

1453 Evarts Street NE Washington DC 20018

www.greenscheme.org

facebook.com/thegreenscheme/

Email: info@thegreenscheme.org

D.C. native Ronnie Webb (aka Ron Green) stands on the forefront of educating disadvantaged communities on environmental stewardship and community revitalization. From developing and implementing USDA food system projects to consulting on behalf of businesses and organizations to adopt more sustainable methods, Mr. Webb has more than 10 years of experience in the environmental sector.

After graduating from North Carolina A&T State University with a B.S. in Agricultural Economics, Mr. Webb became a certified green consultant while serving as an intern for D.C. Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton. Following his internship, Mr. Webb was offered a fellowship with the Hip Hop Caucus Education Fund, an opportunity that helped him shape a platform in the environmental movement on the east coast with a focus on Washington, D.C. and Greensboro, N.C.

The Green Scheme's founding was based on Webb's realization of the lack of environmental awareness that existed in many communities. It is a non-profit organization designed to educate people of diverse cultural backgrounds about their role in the environmental movement. Ever since, Green Scheme has been up and running under the leadership of Mr. Webb who is just getting started. Mr. Webb has recently become a senior fellow in the Environmental Leadership Program, which is a national network of environmental leaders.

The Green Scheme has been active in the DC area for over two years. Positively affecting the lives of DC residents through urban agriculture and workforce development, The Green Scheme has creatively carved itself into the fabric of wards 7 & 8 using its community centered identity to plant gardens in the core of some of the most barren food deserts in the city.

Webb recognized the healthy food shortages in the poorest areas of Washington DC and decided a change needed to occur. The Green Scheme has created stronger communities and healthier families with its dedicated approach to wellness and education.

Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature



Fred Tutman

Riverkeeper and CEO

Patuxent Riverkeeper

17412 Nottingham Road, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772

paxriverkeeper.org/

Email: fred@paxriverkeeper.org

Fred Tutman, one of the longest-serving riverkeepers in the Chesapeake region and the only African American riverkeeper in the United States, is a Taking Nature Black National Environmental Champion.

Fred is a grassroots community advocate for clean water in Maryland's longest and deepest intrastate waterway. He holds the title of Patuxent Riverkeeper, which is also the name of the organization that he founded in 2004. He was featured in the national magazine, *Waterkeepers*, and explained, "In some ways, Patuxent Riverkeeper is a cross-cultural bridge between the have and the have-nots in this watershed, fighting some of the most controversial battles and, frankly, the hardest to fund."

In the same piece, Eagle Harbor, MD Mayor James Crudup spoke to Fred's significant impact on his small community. "Before Fred we didn't have anyone that we could turn to and find out what was going on in regard to the town's waterfront. Recently he was very instrumental in our receiving grants from the Department of Environmental Resources, including a \$100,000 grant to help creek flooding and erosion." Over 16 years, Patuxent Riverkeeper has litigated 19 cases and prevailed in eight of them, winning nearly a half-billion dollars in judicial penalties, fines and reparations from polluters. Tutman is known as a thoughtful listener, skilled strategist, and dogged fighter for what's right.

Fred also lives and works on an active farm located near the Patuxent that has been his family's ancestral home for nearly a century. Prior to river keeping, Tutman spent nearly three decades as a media producer and consultant on telecommunications assignments across the globe.

Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature



Beatra Wilson, MPA

MPA , Assistant Director for Urban & Community Forestry
USDA Forest Service

201 14th Street, SW, Washington, DC 20250

www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/urban-forests/ucf

Beatra Wilson is the Assistant Director for Urban & Community Forestry at the U.S. Forest Service in Washington, D.C. She previously worked as National Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager at the Forest Service, providing program guidance, budget coordination, grants management, and strategic planning leadership for national, regional, and state urban and community forestry programs.

As a diversity strategist, Wilson co-chairs the Executive Committee of the USDA 1890 Task Force-- convening USDA Senior Officials and 1890 Land Grant HBCU Presidents and Agriculture Deans to advance the partnership and vision for historically Black land grant institutions and the communities they serve. Wilson served three years on the Forest Service Environmental Justice Board, promoting initiatives that improved access and awareness of federal programs to minority communities and stakeholders and generated a pipeline of new minority and millennial students pursuing forestry and natural resources careers.

In 2016, Wilson served as Deputy Associate Director of Forests and Public Lands at the White House Council on Environmental Quality, where she was responsible for forest management policy, wildfire suppression budgets, and federal agricultural and environmental workforce diversity. Wilson holds a Bachelor's degree in Urban Forestry from Southern University and a Master's degree in Public Administration from Kennesaw State University.

Grounded in Faith, Rooted in Nature



Caroline Brewer

Chairwoman, ANS Taking Nature Black Conference

Author, Caroline Brewer Books

www.anshome.org/taking-nature-black

www.carolinebrewerbooks.com

Email: takingnatureblack@anshome.org

Caroline Brewer is the Chairwoman of the ANS's Taking Nature Black Conference and has served in the role since January 2017. Taking Nature Black is now a nucleus and a catalyst for a growing community of activists, scientists, air, land and water stewards, educators, elected officials, artists, entertainers, business owners and people from many walks seeking to tell their environmental stories and share their talents and expertise. It is a Black cultural healing, welcoming, organizing, and networking space that allows us to pause for the cause of nature love and the Black American fight for equity, justice, and environmental sustainability.

Under Brewer's leadership, and with the outstanding support of the planning committee and the ANS Communications team, she has grown conferences and event attendance from 100 to more than 1,000, multiplied revenues, sponsorships, partners, speakers, media and social media outreach, photography and videography production, music and cultural elements, all the while maintaining more than 90 percent complete satisfaction among attendees. Brewer also served as the Director of Marketing and Communications for ANS from 2017 to October 2021.

She has more than 20 years of experience in storytelling as a journalist, public information and public relations professional, working with national celebrities, members of Congress, the White House, and grassroots organizations. Her newspaper journalism was nominated for the Pulitzer Prize and she served as a Pulitzer jurist. Brewer is also a children's book author and literacy consultant, working to feed the world's hungry readers and writers in game-changing ways.