



2025

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT



North Carolina African American  
Heritage Commission

The NC African American Heritage Commission believes that celebrating and sharing the history and heritage of African Americans goes beyond the month of February. This February, and every month we continue our work to preserve, protect and promote North Carolina's African American history, arts, and culture for all people.

This Black History Month toolkit is highlighting Black North Carolinians impact on Environmental Justice. Join us as we reckon with the historical ties between Black people and land, and recognize the people and organizations that are facing ongoing and systemic challenges.

The following is a small collection of resources to assist you in celebrating Black History Month and its theme of environmental justice. We encourage you to interact with this toolkit by clicking on corresponding links for items that have been curated to enrich your sense of creativity and community. This 2025 Black History Month Toolkit is a testament to North Carolina's vibrant culture and brilliant future.

*Be sure to Tag and Follow us on social media!*



# CONTENTS

## 2025 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT

- 03 BLACK HISTORY MONTH COMMUNITY CALENDAR
- 04 WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?
- 05 FROM A PROTEST TO A MOVEMENT: NORTH CAROLINA AS THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MOVEMENT
- 07 GREEN ADVOCATES & CHANGEMAKERS HIGHLIGHT
- 11 NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST
- 17 NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART FEATURE
- 21 NORTH CAROLINA'S BLACK CULTURAL GREEN SPACES, WATERWAYS, AND LANDMARKS
- 27 NCAAHC PROGRAMS
- 32 CONNECT WITH THE NCAAHC



C. Payne Lucas and Freddie Hill Lucas enjoy a picnic at Bear Island at Hammocks Beach State Park, circa 1961. N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation

# CALENDAR

2025 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT

## NORTH CAROLINA CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

CALENDAR  
EVENTS

2025 Black History Month Calendar

PROGRAM  
UPDATES

2025 Black History Month Website

EVENT  
SUBMISSION

2025 Black History Month Event  
Submission Form

# What is Environmental Justice?

Even though the terms environmental justice or climate change may seem to be recent trending topics of discussion, the concerns for the environment and people's quality of life have been around for decades and even centuries.

The National Black Environmental Justice Network defines **Environmental Justice** as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”

Through histories of enslavement, convict leasing, and sharecropping, Black people have engaged and interacted with the environment, many times not witnessing and reaping its benefits and being able to enjoy its recreation. This Black History Month, we focus on how Black people have overcome environmental struggles and injustices and provided for themselves justice, food, and recreation in the North Carolina landscape.



Hammocks Beach State Park, circa 1900, photo courtesy of the North Carolina State Parks, N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation

# From A Protest to A Movement: North Carolina as the Birthplace of the Environmental Justice Movement



PCB Protests in Warren County, circa 1980s, Photo courtesy of State Archives of North Carolina

# The 1982 Warren County PCB Protests

On July 31, 1978, an unknown oily substance was found along NC Highway 58 in Warren County and 14 surrounding counties. It was later found to be the illegal dumping of transformer oil by Transformer Sales of Allegany, NY and Ward Transformer Company of Raleigh, NC. The oil contained high levels of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), cancer causing chemicals.

In an effort to resolve the issue, but in disregard of the citizens of Warren County, the James B. Hunt administration purchased land in Warren for the development of a landfill. Citizens protested the dump and the administration, forming the group, Warren County Citizens Concerned (WCCC).

After a series of unsuccessful bids, in 1982 the WCCC expanded its outreach and focus, targeting local and national civil rights and religious leaders and multiple poor and minority communities. Many of their actions included creating signs, rallies, and a human blockade against incoming trucks on September 15, 1982.

Not only being credited as a multiracial and intergenerational effort, the Warren County protests also highlighted the environmental atrocities often faced by Black and Indigenous communities, noting that 60% of the affected population of the PCBs dump was Black. Despite the efforts of the WCCC and allies, the landfill was developed, leading to 81,000 tons of PCB-contaminated soil. Today, efforts are still being made to detoxify the soil and understand the long-term health and environmental impact. These protests sparked the environmental justice movement in the United States of America.



PC B Protests in Warren County, circa 1980s.  
Courtesy of State Archives of North Carolina.

**Terms such as environmental racism and toxic aggression were coined and defined during these protests.**

# *Green* Advocates & Changemakers

There are many people who have turned their concerns for our environment and the quality of life into direct action to help their communities in various ways.



Wilson Cemetery Restoration Days, 2022. Photo courtesy of Justin Cook, Freedom ORG

We would like to use this section to highlight those citizens, organizations and businesses that are making positive environmental justice impacts in communities around North Carolina.



# NORTH CAROLINA ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE NETWORK (NCEJN)

The North Carolina Environmental Justice Network (NCEJN) is a grassroots, people of color-led coalition of community organizations and supporters who work with low-income communities and people of color on issues of climate, environmental, racial, and social injustice.

For more details on their resources, and programs, please visit their website [HERE!](#)

NCEJN team, 2024. Photo courtesy of NCEJN



# GREEN RURAL REDEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION (GRRO)

The Green Rural Redevelopment Organization (GRRO) is dedicated to revitalizing rural North Carolina communities by addressing key issues of poverty, food insecurity, and chronic disease. By integrating holistic health and wellness programs with community engagement, GRRO impacts lives across 11 counties, improving access to food, healthcare, and essential services.

For more details on their resources, programs, please visit their website [HERE!](#)

Photo courtesy of GRRO



# FREEDOM ORG

Freedom Org is dedicated to investing in disinvested communities with a mission to create self-sustaining environments. Their vision focuses on promoting equitable and sustainable community development through cultural and historical preservation, economic development, and agriculture. By harnessing the collective power of the community, they strive to empower small farmers, encourage healthy food choices, and preserve the rich heritage of their communities.

For more information on their resources and programs, please visit their website [HERE!](#)

Farmlympics Summer Camp participants learning how to harvest Cabbage Collards. Hosted at Golden Organic Farms, 2023 photo courtesy of Freedom Org



## BLACK FARMERS' MARKET OF NORTH CAROLINA

The Black Farmers' Market (BFM) cultivates self-sustaining roots by encouraging healthy communities and supporting current and future Black farmers and entrepreneurs. One of the highlights of their work is a weekly market alternating between Raleigh and Durham from April to November each season.

For more information on their resources and programs, please visit their website [HERE!](#)

BFM Day, July 2023. Photo courtesy of Samantha Everette



# BLACK FOLKS CAMP TOO

Black Folks Camp Too (BFCT) is an award-winning company that works to "Increase Unity in the Outdoor Community and BEYOND." BFCT provides educational programs, resources, marketing, and community-building opportunities to help Folks connect with nature and build a sense of confidence and belonging in the outdoor space. Through education, advocacy, community building, and revenue driving projects, BFCT empowers companies, organizations, and individuals to create a more welcoming outdoor experience for all.

For more information on their resources and programs, please visit their website [HERE!](#)

Photo courtesy of BFCT



Follow the NCAAHC for these resources and more!



William B. Umstead State Park, circa 1945, then Reedy Creek Recreational Demonstration Area. N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation

# NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH READ-IN LIST



Photo courtesy of Dr. Tiwana Nevels

## ABOUT THE CURATOR

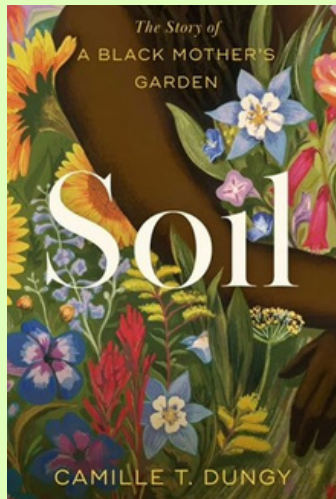
Dr. Tiwana Nevels currently serves as the Assistant State Librarian at the State Library of North Carolina, bringing with her over a decade of extensive administrative and managerial experience in library services. Prior to her current role, she excelled as the Director of Library Services at Saint Augustine's University. In her leisure moments, Dr. Nevels indulges in the pleasure of reading, a passion she joyfully extends to the younger members of her community.

Bearing in mind this year's theme, the following list of books revolve around the topic of environmental justice for a range of ages, reading levels, and interests.

*Stay in and read with us!*

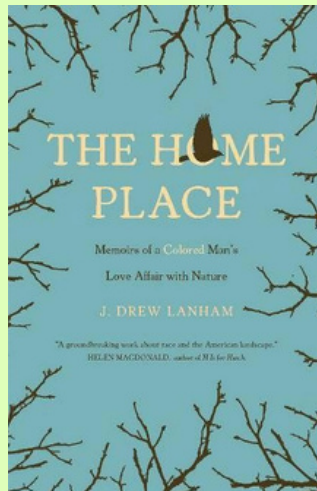
# ADULT

Search for these titles and more through your local library branch  
in North Carolina!



*Soil: The Story of  
a Black Mother's  
Garden*

NON-FICTION  
Camille T. Dungy



*The Home Place: Memoirs  
of a Colored Man's Love  
Affair with Nature*

NON-FICTION  
J. Drew Lanham



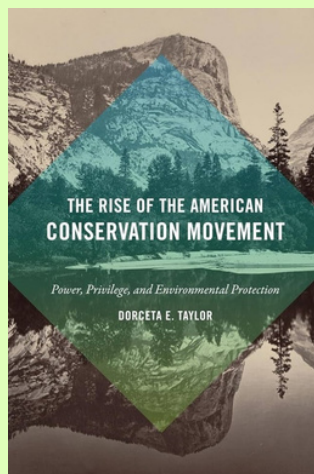
*The Adventure Gap:  
Changing the Face of  
the Outdoors*

NON-FICTION  
James Mills



*The Unlikely Thru-  
Hiker: An Appalachian  
Trail Journey*

NON-FICTION  
Derick Lugo



*The Rise of the American  
Conservation Movement:  
Power, Privilege, and  
Environmental Protection*

NON-FICTION  
Dorceta E. Taylor

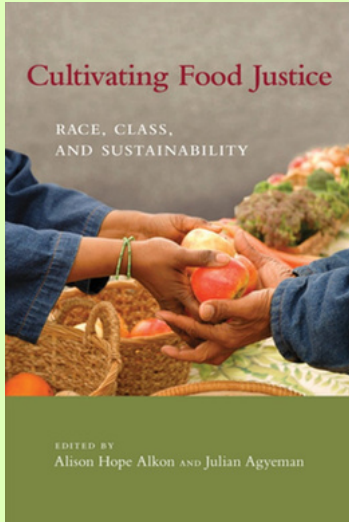


*There's Something In  
The Water:  
Environmental Racism  
in Indigenous & Black  
Communities*

NON-FICTION  
Ingrid R.G. Waldron

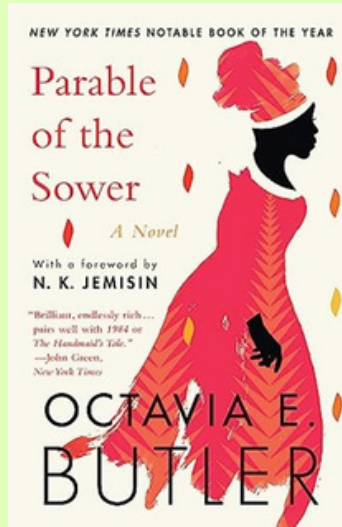
# ADULT

Search for these titles and more through your local library branch in North Carolina!



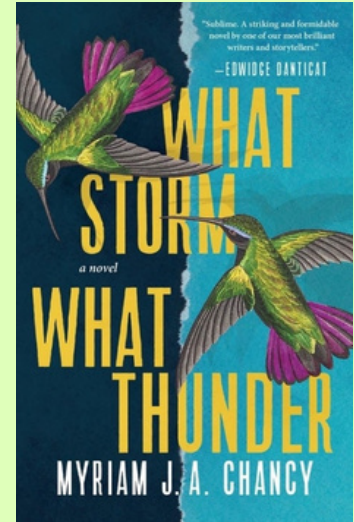
*Cultivating Food Justice:  
Race, Class, and  
Sustainability*

NONFICTION  
edited by Alison Hope  
Alkon and Julian Agyeman



*Parable of the  
Sower*

FICTION  
Octavia Butler



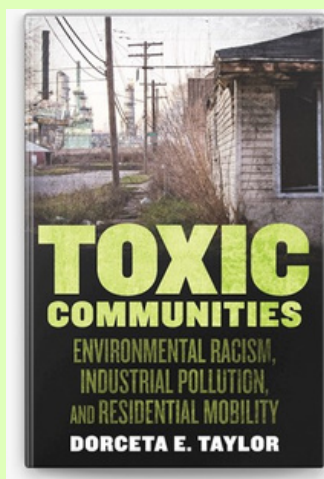
*What Storm,  
What Thunder*

FICTION  
Myriam J.A. Chancy



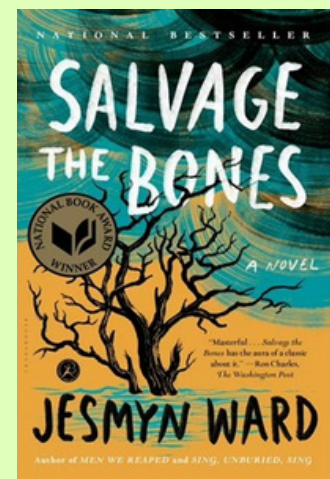
*Black Faces, White  
Spaces: Reimagining  
the Relationship of  
African Americans to  
the Great Outdoors*

NONFICTION  
Carolyn Finney



*Toxic Communities:  
Environmental Racism,  
Industrial Pollution, and  
Residential Mobility*

NONFICTION  
Dorceta Taylor

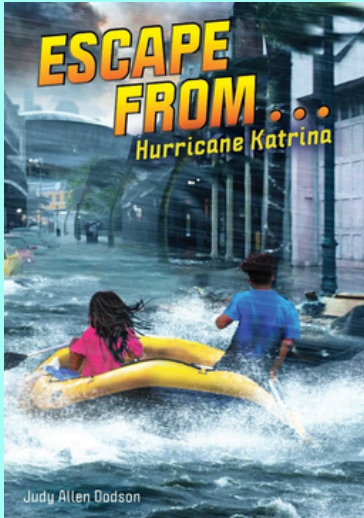


*Salvage The Bones*

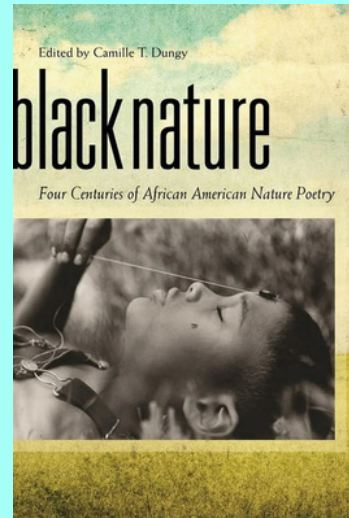
FICTION  
Jesmyn Ward

# YOUNG ADULT & POETRY

Search for these titles and more through your local library branch  
in North Carolina!

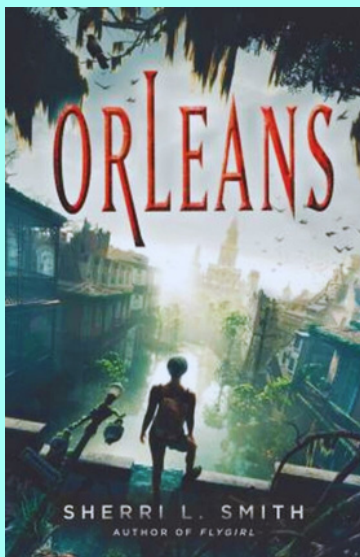


*Escape From  
Hurricane Katrina*  
FICTION  
Judy Allen Dodson



*Black Nature: Four Centuries of  
African American Nature Poetry*

POETRY  
Camille T. Dungy



*Orleans*  
FICTION  
Sherri L. Smith



*Bee Fearless*  
NONFICTION  
Mikaila Ulmer

# YOUTH

Search for these titles and more through your local library branch  
in North Carolina!



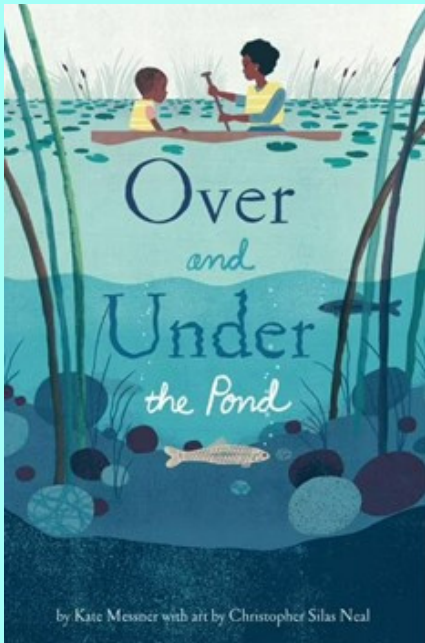
*Buzzing with Questions: The  
Inquisitive Mind of Charles  
Henry Turner*

NONFICTION  
Janice N. Harrington



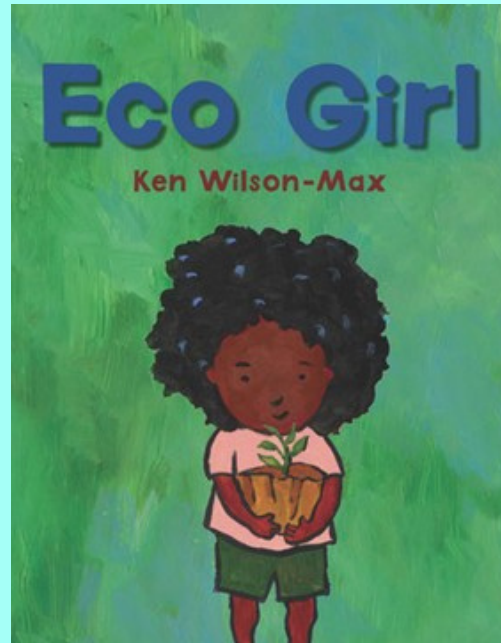
*Come On, Rain!*

FICTION  
Karen Hesse



*Over and Under the Pond*

NONFICTION  
Kate Messner



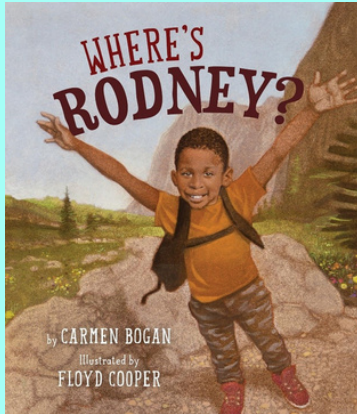
*Eco Girl*

FICTION  
Ken Wilson-Max

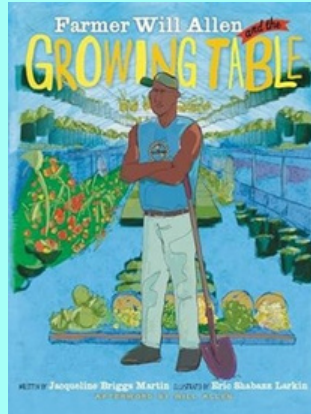


# PICTURE BOOKS

Search for these titles and more through your local library branch  
in North Carolina!



*Where's Rodney?*  
Carmen Bogan



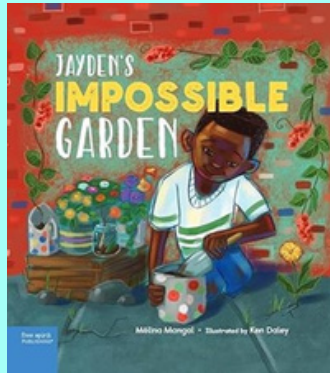
*Farmer Will Allen and  
the Growing Table*  
Jacqueline Briggs  
Martin



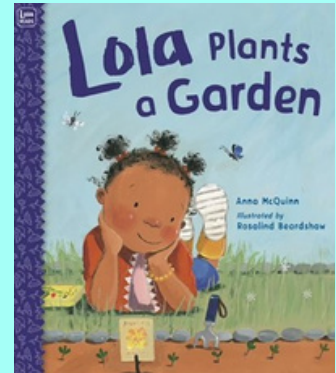
*The Hike*  
Alison Farrell



*The Thing About Bees:  
A Love Letter*  
Shabazz Larkin



*Jayden's Impossible  
Garden*  
Ken Daley &  
Melina Mangal



*Lola Plants a Garden*  
Anna McQuinn



*The Meteorologist in Me*  
Brittney Shipp



*Julie and the Mango Tree*  
Sade Smith

# NC BLACK HISTORY MONTH BLACK ART FEATURE

## THE CURATOR AND THE VISION

The Black Art Feature seeks to highlight and celebrate the many great Black artists that are based in North Carolina. Keeping in alignment with the 2025 theme, we're highlighting Black artists that explores the interconnected relationship between environmental justice and social justice. This *Parallel Purpose* seeks to create an awareness and educate audiences around systemic racism and environmental injustice, to be prepared for change in the fight for a just and equitable world.

Mr. Roymieco Carter is our 2025 curator. Carter is an Associate Professor of Graphic Design in the Visual Arts Program of North Carolina A&T State University. Carter's artistry serves as a catalyst for introspection and dialogue on global platforms.



Photo courtesy of Roymieco Carter

# Artists

## *Four Before Rosa #1* - Marvette Pratt Aldrich

Winston-Salem, NC



Acrylic on Canvas, 2011. Photo Courtesy of Marvette Pratt Aldrich

### Artist's Insight

“Four Before Rosa” represents the four women who were part of the Supreme Court decision that integrated the buses in Montgomery, Alabama. They were protesting before the well known Rosa Parks. I used a Simplicity dress design from the time of the decision. Plaintiffs in the case Aurelia S. Browder, Susie McDonald, Claudette Colvin, Mary Louise Smith, and Jeanatta Reese. The colors in the dresses are complementary to each background of the dress.

## *Gaia's Rebirth: The Digital Garden* - Gabrielle Edwards

Greensboro, NC

### Artist's Insight

This artwork envisions a cybertronic Mother Nature, where technology and the natural world converge in a delicate balance of abstraction and realism. Drawn with charcoal, the figure of Mother Nature pulses with both organic grace and digital precision, symbolizing a new era of environmental justice where innovation and ecology are intertwined. The wooden frame, made of grass, twigs, and vines collected from the outside, reinforces our collective responsibility to nurture not only the environment but also the mental and emotional landscapes, acknowledging that true justice begins within and radiates outward.



Photo Courtesy of Gabrielle Edwards

## *A Drive Through the Neighborhood* - Karrington Gardner

Greensboro, NC



Acrylic and Oil Paint on wood, 2024. Photo Courtesy of Karrington Gardner

### Artist's Insight

This artwork shows the compression of time and space as I traveled through my hometown of Columbia, South Carolina. In this artwork, I juxtaposed places old and new; places that time has since forgotten and places time has yet to know. This juxtaposition reflects my experience of seeing these once active areas deteriorate and become part of the landscape while new developments continue to pop up not even 5 minutes down the street. As communities continue to gentrify, it is the marginalized groups that are often left with the brunt of these environmental hazards.

*A Monument to Dignity and Respect (Twin Monuments)*- **Vandorn Hinnant**  
Greensboro/Durham, NC

Artist's Insight

These twin monuments pay homage to the long history of key African descendants living in the Americas efforts to 'foster social equity' in a climate predisposed to engendering inequality based on race and ethnicity. The central message has to do with the notion that 'justice for all' is the only real (i.e. true) justice. This notion of 'justice for all' is inclusive of the fact that environmental inequities have been the way of a corrupt system of government that must be rooted out and replaced. The inscriptions on each of the monuments are from three individuals who lived in the community the monuments are located on.



Photo Courtesy of Vandorn Hinnant

*Tranquility of a Progressive Black Woman* - **Dr. Willie F. Hooker**  
Charlotte, NC



Mixed Media Sculpture. Photo Courtesy of Willie Hooker

Artist's Insight

"Tranquility of a Progressive Black Woman" represents the new narrative of the contemporary African American woman's dissatisfaction with racism, gender inequality, and the aesthetic absence of the black image of African American women as subject matter in contemporary American Art.

*Village@Krofom I*- **Charles Joyner**  
Wake Forest, NC

Artist's Insight

My creative interests have been rooted in the history, culture, and traditions of African and African American communities. During my travels in Ghana, I enjoyed unprecedented access to numerous traditional craft villages. Through engagement with Ghanaian artists and craftspeople, that access has contributed to my creation of mixed media works that explore cross-cultural norms, ancestry, rituals, religion, and spirituality, which permeates these communities.



Photo Courtesy of Dwight Smith

## *Congolese Dreams-* Jessica Kelly Charlotte, NC



Photo Courtesy of Jessica Kelly

### Artist's Insight

Congolese Dreams encapsulates the allure and experiences of the indigenous peoples of the Congo, a region currently under the relentless exploitation of its natural resources. These minerals, extracted from the earth, play a pivotal role in the global technological advancement. However, the extraction process often subjects the indigenous communities to modern slavery and damages the environment. This narrative delves into the resilience of the men, women, and children who endure these hardships. It serves as a poignant reminder that they are part of a global and intergalactic family, bound by a commitment to support them by any means necessary.

## *Reflections of Legacy-* Darlene McClinton Greensboro, NC

### Artist's Insight

Darlene McClinton's murals serve as powerful tools for education and all forms of social change. Through vibrant imagery and thoughtful narratives, her work explores themes of history, nature, identity, and community. By visually representing the past and present experiences of marginalized groups, McClinton aims to foster empathy, understanding, and a sense of shared humanity across generations. Her murals act as catalysts for dialogue, encouraging viewers to reflect on the past, engage with the present, and envision a better future.



Photo Courtesy of Darlene McClinton

## *Revelations #1-* Dwight Smith Fayetteville, NC

### Curator Insight

My practice, though seemingly non-representational, is deeply rooted in personal and collective histories. Its subtle references to African, African-American, and multicultural imagery, seeks to amplify marginalized voices and celebrate the rich tapestry of human experience. This commitment to social justice naturally extends to environmental justice. Just as we must strive for equity and inclusion within our communities, we must also recognize our interconnectedness with the natural world. It encourages contemplation on our place within the larger ecosystem and prompts us to consider our responsibility to protect and nurture the environment for future generations. I aim to inspire dialogue, foster awareness, and ultimately contribute to a more just and sustainable future for all.



Photo Courtesy of Dwight Smith

# NORTH CAROLINA'S BLACK CULTURAL GREEN SPACES, WATERWAYS, & LANDMARKS



**Black family in market boat on tributary of Cape Fear River making its way to Wilmington Original print From Original Prints, Audio Visual Materials, Special Collections, State Archives of North Carolina.**

Due to the legacy of enslavement and sharecropping in North Carolina, Black people have had a complex and rich relationship to natural landscapes and the environment. There are several physical spaces of the natural world that are of cultural significance to the history of Black people in North Carolina.

In this section, we aim to shine a light on the greenways, waterways, and physical landmarks that have shaped the history of Black North Carolinians and the state as a whole.

# Jones Lake State Park

The North Carolina State Parks system was created during the Jim Crow era, a time when discriminatory laws ensured the denial of Black people to enjoy the coming spaces, despite the use of their labor to create them. During the Great Depression, a New Deal program, the Civilian Conservation Corps, dedicated to the growth of parks and recreation, also highlighted the racial discrimination faced by Black park workers.

In 1936, a state park workplan noted the failure to account for recreation for the state's Black population. As a result, Jones Lake State Park opened on July 1, 1939 under an operating agreement with the federal government. Jones Lake State Park was the seventh state park in the North Carolina state parks system, and the first to welcome Black people. The park was an immediate hit, with an estimated 22,000 visitors arriving between its opening day and closing day for the season.

The park included a bathhouse, pier, boathouse, picnic shelters, and restrooms. It quickly became a place of pride and joy for the Black community and served as a place for reunions and community contests. A common occurrence at the park during the summer were baptisms for churches without baptismal pools.



Jones Lake State Park, circa 1950. Children splash in the shallow areas of the swim beach at what was then called Jones Lake Recreational Area. Photo courtesy of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation

**For more information about  
Jones Lake State Park,  
please visit the website [HERE!](#)**

# Reedy Creek State Park now William B. Umstead State Park

Reedy Creek State Park was the third of the three Black parks during segregation in North Carolina. The park began in 1934 as a federal project to restore farmland and provide work for the unemployed during the Great Depression. Earning \$1 per day, Civilian Conservation Corps workers planted trees to prevent erosion and built park roads, trails and cabins.

In 1949, during the era of segregation, south of Crabtree Creek in Raleigh was designated Reedy Creek State Park for Black visitors, while the north side of Crabtree Creek, then called Crabtree Creek State Park, was designated for white visitors only.

The parks were later integrated and combined as one following the Civil Rights Act of 1964. In 1966, the united park was renamed the William B.

Umstead State Park to honor the conservation efforts of North Carolina's 63rd governor.

**For more information about  
William B. Umstead State Park,  
visit the website [HERE!](#)**



**William B. Umstead State Park, circa 1969, James Johnson, who served as superintendent of what was then called Reedy Creek State Park, holds a fawn found at the park. Photo courtesy of the N.C. Division of Parks and Recreation**



# Hammocks Beach State Park

When white neurosurgeon William Sharpe met Black country club guide John Hurst in North Carolina, a friendship began that spurred Sharpe to purchase about 4600 acres of land in North Carolina that he left to Hurst to manage. Despite the racial threats and attacks received for Hurst's role on the land, Sharpe maintained Hurst's role, and at the age of 67, made plans to transfer the land to the Hurst family. Noting the racial and financial challenge to receiving the land, the Hurst family looked to the North Carolina Teachers Association (NCTA), the Black education organization, to own and finance the land. In 1950, Hammocks Beach was transferred to the NCTA, and became a main meeting place. In 1961, the NCTA deeded much of the land to the state, resulting in the creation of Hammocks Beach State Park, opened specifically for Black people.

The first coastal space for Black people during segregation, Hammocks Beach was a haven for rejuvenation, outdoor recreation and pride for Black residents of North Carolina. Despite its lack of resources, it was among a few places in the southeast United States where Black citizens could freely access the Atlantic shore.

Following the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the park system was integrated and Hammocks Beach was opened to all visitors. Since the 1960s, the park has steadily grown. Today it covers over 1600 acres, including a large mainland section, Bear Island, Huggins Island and Dudley Island.



C. Payne Lucas and Freddie Hill Lucas stroll on the beach at Bear Island at Hammocks Beach State Park, circa 1961.  
Photo courtesy of North Carolina State Parks

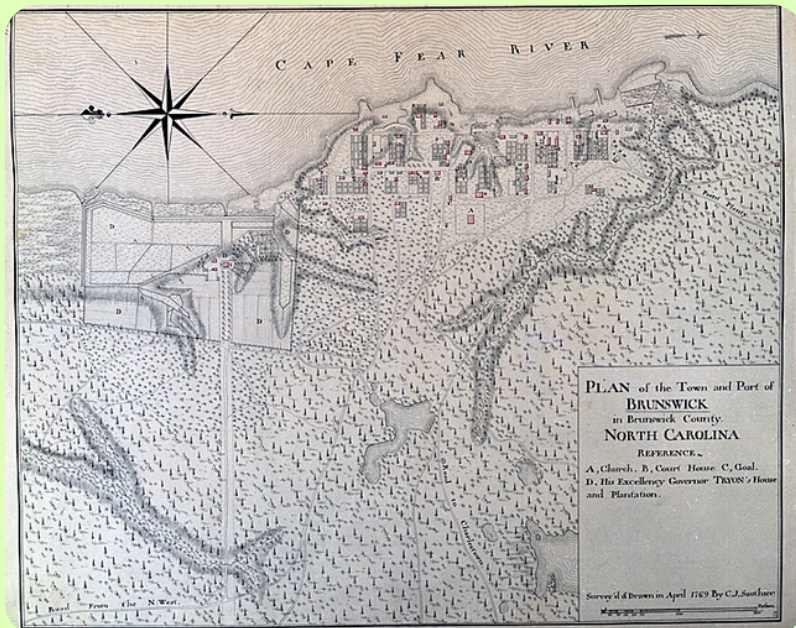
For more information about the history of Hammocks Beach State Park, click the link in the title and [HERE!](#)

# Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site

In addition to the colonial American and pre-Revolutionary history associated with this state historic site, Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site is also tied to important events that shaped the lives of North Carolinians of African descent.

The Town and Port of Brunswick, as it was historically called in the 18th century, is also a site of disembarkation where many enslaved Africans were brought to North Carolina.

From 1771 to 1775, over 302 enslaved people were imported through Port Brunswick. The town of Brunswick's commercial and military success came through the selling of African captives' work and products.



Plan of the Town and Port of Brunswick in Brunswick County, North Carolina, Joseph Clade Sauthier, 1769. British Library.

For more information about this history and the site, follow the [Africa to Carolina](#) program and click the link in the title

# The Cape Fear River

Winding throughout the piedmont and coastal regions of the Tar Heel state and touching 20 counties, the Cape Fear River is a significant waterway in the state of North Carolina not just for being the largest waterway in the state, but for its historical significance to the history of North Carolinians of African descent.

## The Cape Fear and Slavery

The Cape Fear River is the site connected to the importation and disembarkation of enslaved people through the ports of Brunswick and New Bern and the port and town of Wilmington. A notable history on the Cape Fear River is of enslaved Black steamboat pilot, Daniel Buxton. From Fayetteville, NC, Buxton was revered for his skills on the *A.P. Hurt*. Records show that Buxton worked as a pilot on the river for at least 50 years.

## The Cape Fear and Turpentine

Along these ports, the Cape Fear River also supplied much of the world's turpentine during the 18th and 19th centuries. Turpentine is the resin of longleaf pine trees and were referred to as "naval stores" for the strengthening and preserving of sailing ships. Much of the turpentine found on the lower Cape Fear was produced through the labor of enslaved people. Through the civil war, the production of petroleum, and the over-exploitation of longleaf pine forests, the turpentine industry in North Carolina declined.



Cape Fear River, Fayetteville, NC, October 27 (1939?), photo taken by Sharpe. From the North Carolina Conservation and Development Department, Travel and Tourism Division photo files. North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, NC

You can learn more about this history through the [Africa to Carolina](#) program

**Over-exploitation: The overuse of a resource faster than it can be replenished.**

# PROGRAMS

2025 BLACK HISTORY MONTH TOOLKIT

**Learn more  
about some  
of the  
programs  
and  
initiatives  
that the  
AAHC  
promotes!**



African American Music Trails of Eastern N.C. Festival, Wilson, 2023. Photo Courtesy of Department of Natural and Cultural Resources of North Carolina.



# ROOTED SOWING SEEDS OF FREEDOM

A FAMILY EVENT!

FEB. 15, 2025

2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

FREEDOM PARK

218 N WILMINGTON ST,  
RALEIGH NC, 27601

The tour lasts 45 minutes and does involve some walking and standing. Best of all, this enriching event is free, but spaces are limited, so be sure to register at the link below to secure your spot!

more information: [AAHC.NC.GOV/EVENTS](https://AAHC.NC.GOV/EVENTS)

45 minutes long  
guided tour  
with planting  
activity

Join us for a special  
tour of Freedom Park,  
followed by a planting  
activity highlighting  
your definition of  
freedom and how it  
relates to nurturing  
hope and growth in  
our community.

The North Carolina

African American

Heritage

Commission



NORTH  
CAROLINA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL &  
CULTURAL  
RESOURCES

# Sowing Seeds of Freedom Activity

## Overview:

Planting seeds is an excellent way to examine growth and progress. In this activity, we will consider our definition of freedom and how it relates to planting and nurturing seeds in the hope of growth.

## What You Will Need:

- Soil
- Water
- Seeds
- Pots



## Instructions:

- Step 1:** Read the seed packet. Learn about the seeds you use, including how deep to sow them.
- Step 2:** Label the pot. Write the plant's name, the date, and some of your personal growth goals on the pot.
- Step 3:** Prepare the soil. Crumble the compost to remove large lumps, then fill the pot almost to the top.
- Step 4:** Plant the seeds. Make a hole twice as big as the seed for large seeds with your finger, then gently push the seed in. For tiny seeds, sprinkle them on top of the compost with space between them.
- Step 5:** Gently water the soil using a watering can with a rose head. You can also place the pot in a water tray to allow the soil to absorb water.
- Step 6:** To retain moisture and heat, cover the pot with plastic wrap, a plastic bag, or a propagator top. Then, put it in a sunny windowsill, greenhouse, or cold frame.
- Step 7:** Check the soil every few days to see if it needs watering. As the plants grow, discuss with a friend or neighbor how quickly they grow, how many leaves they have, and how they feel. Follow the directions on the seed packet to monitor your plants' progress and growth.

# ROOTED: SOWING SEEDS OF FREEDOM TOURS

## Guided Tours of Freedom Park!

Join us every Saturday during Black History Month for a 45-minute guided tour of Freedom Park



Discover the rich history and design intentions of this remarkable space, along with the powerful stories of the "Voices of Freedom." Please note that the tour involves some walking and standing.

***REGISTRATION REQUIRED***

Register [HERE](#)

For more information contact us at [ncaahc@dncr.nc.gov](mailto:ncaahc@dncr.nc.gov)

### TOUR SCHEDULE

**Saturday, Feb. 1  
2:00pm**

**Saturday, Feb. 8  
2:00pm**

**Saturday, Feb. 15  
2:00pm\***

**Saturday, Feb. 22  
2:00pm**

\*-Additional activity scheduled

# Black History Month 2025

## Educational Series: Honoring Black Environmental Pioneers Across the State of North Carolina

This educational series aims to highlight Black environmental pioneers each week during Black History Month. Subjects will include agriculture, history, education, and culture. Follow us on all social media platforms and in the February 2025 NCAACH newsletter to see the highlighted pioneer each week!





# OUR MISSION

**The North Carolina**

**African American**

**Heritage**

**Commission**

The North Carolina General Assembly created the African American Heritage Commission (NCAAHC) in 2008 to “assist the Secretary of Cultural Resources in the preservation, interpretation, and promotion of African American history, arts, and culture.” With this legislation the NCAAHC has identified African American heritage practitioners, such as curators, docents, and museum directors, as priority service populations. The NCAAHC was recognized as a division of the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources in 2017, after being housed in the Office of Archives and History and the North Carolina Arts Council. The Commission works across the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources to achieve the mission of preserving, protecting, and promoting North Carolina’s African American history, art, and culture, for all people.

*Stay connected with us!*

**WEBSITE**

**NEWSLETTER**

**YOUTUBE**