



Beech Works

**In coproduction with Adkins Arboretum, Schoolhouse Farmhouse Studio,
and The Menare Foundation**

Presents

ROOTED
NATURE'S ROLE IN THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
WISDOM

2022 / 26 minutes

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SYNOPSIS

Travel through Adkins Arboretum with historian Anthony Cohen to understand how self-liberators used their knowledge of nature to forge a path to freedom. Their methods for navigating, concealing themselves, finding food, and evading capture reflect a deep connection to, and understanding of, the landscape. Filmed over the course of a year, this film explores Maryland's Eastern Shore through the seasons and brings history alive in the landscape you see today.



ABOUT THE PRODUCTION

THE LOCATION

A public garden and preserve devoted to native plants, [Adkins Arboretum](#) comprises 400 acres of cultivated gardens, successional meadows, pine plantations, young hardwood forests, mature bottom-land forests, and wetlands on Maryland's Eastern Shore. The Arboretum is a model for land conservation and provides exceptional experiences in nature while inspiring environmental stewardship, providing respite and healing, and celebrating natural and cultural diversity through the joy and wonder of the natural world.

INSPIRED BEGINNINGS

Damika Baker-Wilson is an Adkins Arboretum trustee and a native of Starr, MD. She initiated Underground Railroad programming at the Arboretum more than 15 years ago after being inspired by the landscape of the Eastern Shore and Kate Clifford Larson's biography of *Harriet Tubman, Bound for the Promised Land*.

YOUR GUIDE

Anthony Cohen is a historian, author, and explorer of the American past who had retraced 1200 miles of this history by foot, boat, and rail. As founder and president of [The Menare Foundation, Inc.](#)—a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation of Underground Railroad history—Cohen creates vibrant immersive educational programs and trains individuals, organizations, and communities to use history as a spark for community revitalization, race dialogue and human potential.

Cohen operates [Button Farm Living History Center](#) in Germantown, Maryland. He has served as a historical consultant for documentaries, publications, community forums and school projects nationwide, and trained Oprah Winfrey for her role as Sethe in the 1998 film *Beloved*.

THE FILMMAKERS

Lauren Giordano and George Burroughs own and operate [Schoolhouse Farmhouse](#), a creative studio that focuses on exploring humans' relationship with the world through film, design, and photography.

BEECH WORKS

A non-profit organization dedicated to broadening public discourse and advancing public education on social issues through thought-provoking documentary and narrative films, [Beech Works](#) strives to engage, inspire, and foster discussion.



CREDITS

A BEECH WORKS FILM

PRODUCED BY

Adkins Arboretum,
Schoolhouse Farmhouse Studio, & The Menare
Foundation, Inc.

WRITTEN BY

Lauren Giordano,
George Burroughs, &
Anthony Cohen

DIRECTED BY

Lauren Giordano &
George Burroughs

FEATURING

Anthony Cohen

MUSIC

KMRU

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