



Begun in October 2022, Talbot Green Hands (TGH) is the local chapter of Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC). We are a collaborative group of local faith communities, taking action to restore and protect our shared waterways.

May 2026

THIS MONTH'S TOP STORIES

* **The Maryland General Assembly legislative session** ended April 14. Two important bills passed:

The Utility RELIEF Act is a major Maryland legislative package designed to lower residential energy bills, modernize the electric grid, and hold utilities and large energy users accountable. provides immediate bill relief, cap utility rate increases based on forecasted spending, and force data centers to pay for their own infrastructure upgrades.

Maryland Transit and Housing Opportunity Act will tackle housing shortage by unlocking underutilized land near transit stations and encourage high-density, mixed use development.

These bills failed:

The CHERISH Our Communities Act would have addressed a critical gap in Maryland's environmental protection system, particularly in disadvantaged and overburdened communities.

The Climate and Transportation Alignment Act would have required the Maryland Department to align transportation projects with state climate goals.

The Maryland Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program "Bottle Bill" would have reduced litter by decreasing beverage container waste in landfills, and increasing recycling rates.

* **Breaking ground at Bethel**

Blackwater Rising (BWR) is developing a new community garden at the Bethel AME Church on Pine Street in Cambridge. They are looking for volunteers as they begin site preparation and begin construction of a shed.



Site preparation at Bethel AME Church in Cambridge

*** The Frederick Douglass Rail Trail (FDRT)**

The FDRT, a planned 9.5-mile, 10-foot wide shared-use path will connect Easton to Queen Anne via the former Pennsylvania Railroad corridor. Designed for walking and biking, it connects to Tuckahoe State Park and highlights the area's agricultural and African American history.

UPCOMING EVENTS

* **Tool maintenance workshop**, Blackwater Rising, May 7, 6-7pm. We will provide tool sharpeners and other supplies, bring the tools that you want to work on.

* **Vine Removal Workshop**, May 18, at Third Haven (see below)

SAVE OUR TREES!



DO YOU HAVE
VINES GROWING IN
YOUR TREES?

HAVE YOU NOTICED VINES
OVERWHELMING TREES IN OUR
PARKS AND PUBLIC SPACES?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

JOIN US FOR A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP
Learn to identify problem vines and safely rescue trees from an infestation

MONDAY, MAY 18 | 5:30-7:30PM

Third Haven Friends Meeting in Easton
Dinner will be provided for participants
Be prepared to walk outdoors on uneven surface

REGISTER NOW: SHORERIVERS.ORG/EVENTS





* **Talbot Green Hands monthly meeting** June 18, at 11:00 at Third Haven and by zoom (email us for a zoom invitation): talbotearthday@gmail.com



Interfaith Partners for the Chesapeake (IPC): www.interfaithchesapeake.org

Lower Shore Outreach Coordinator: Dr Ebony Jenkins, ebony@interfaithchesapeake.org