

Nature Across Boundaries: Engaging Partners and Stakeholders

Sunday, April 8, 3-6pm



Agenda

3:00-3:15pm Welcome

Brad Berg, Chair, Mohonk Consultations

Laura Heady, Board Member, Mohonk Consultations

and Conservation and Land Use Program Coordinator, Hudson River Estuary Program/Cornell

3:15-3:45pm Empire Forests for the Future Initiative

Michael Callan, NYSDEC Region 3 Supervising Forester

The Empire Forests for the Future Initiative is a comprehensive forestry initiative aimed at assisting private forest owners and others to manage their forests for societal benefits such as climate mitigation, wildlife habitat, and forest products. The initiative is included as a bill in the 2019 Executive Budget. Mike will talk about the existing forest tax law program as well as the proposed changes.

3:45-4:00pm Conserving Trail Corridors

Ed Goodell, Executive Director, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference

Connected landscapes enhance opportunities for recreational enjoyment, by supporting long-distance trails and more public access to scenic and historic attractions. Ed will discuss how the NY-NJ Trail Conference and its partners strive to create trail corridors between parks and forests and sometimes manage to create public parks and forests in the process. The Trail Conference has learned how to do this the hard way and believes the time is right for better public engagement.

Case Study: Black Rock Forest to Schunemunk Mountain

4:00-4:30pm Collaboration and Persistence in Preserving and Enhancing Connectivity

Dr. William Schuster, Executive Director, Black Rock Forest

Bill will discuss how Black Rock Forest has used a collaborative approach for connectivity preservation and enhancement in the Hudson Highlands in Orange County and employed landscape-level data and field-based knowledge of target wildlife species. Project success has benefitted from discussions with local communities and a wide array of the public and property owners, as well as permanent protection of key parcels. The NYS Thruway (I-87) continues to represent a major barrier to east-west connectivity in this region for many species.

4:30-4:40pm Q&A

4:40-5:00pm Break

(continued on reverse)

Case Study: Rensselaer Plateau

5:00-5:30pm Vision, Trust, and Hard Work: How a Small Group of Volunteers Doubled Conserved Land on the Rensselaer Plateau

Jim Bonesteel, Executive Director, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA)

Jim will share the story of how a group of citizens channeled their concern and love for their home on the Rensselaer Plateau to a successful alliance that engages many partners, landowners, and the eleven municipalities on the plateau. In the last ten years, the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance has created a Regional Conservation Plan, established a Community Forest and a Children's Forest, provided countless hours of outreach to plateau communities, and is aiming to conserve 18,000 acres by 2018.

5:30-5:45pm How Did RPA Build Productive Relationships with Municipalities?

Karen Strong, Principal, Strong Outcomes

In her previous position at the Hudson River Estuary Program, Karen worked closely with the Rensselaer Plateau Alliance to engage municipalities in the vision and goals of the alliance. Karen will discuss the strategies and approaches that were used to reach the eleven communities on the plateau and how this community engagement contributed to conservation success.

5:45-5:55pm Q&A

5:55-6:00pm Closing

Thanks to our sponsor!



<https://www.dec.ny.gov/lands/4920.html>

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