



# Mohonk Consultations

*"Let's talk it over at Mohonk."*

DECEMBER  
2018



The beauty of the natural surroundings at Mohonk, along with its Quaker traditions of peaceful inclusiveness, provide a unique atmosphere for exchanging ideas and creating solutions.

## 2018 was a year of community building.

Mohonk Consultations has helped communities face challenges and find solutions since our beginning in 1980. Our non-profit organization engages and convenes a diverse group of Hudson Valley residents to collaborate on regional issues with global significance.

Our past conferences, forums, award ceremonies, and publications have focused on agriculture and food security, water resources, land conservation, social justice, peace building, and climate change. Mohonk Consultations' mission has remained the same—to foster a clearer awareness of the interrelationship of all life on earth and help develop practical solutions.

Throughout 2018, Mohonk Consultations kept its attention on building community, conservation, landscape connectivity, and sustainable agriculture in the Hudson Valley. We focused on pressing issues facing our local area while also incorporating national and global perspectives.

Embraced by the inspiring venue of Mohonk Mountain House, our attendees shared their viewpoints, expertise, and experiences. As we look back, it's worth recapping our final conference of 2017 that served as the foundation for our first 2018 event.

On Monday, November 6, 2017 a sold-out conference, **Nature Across Boundaries: Keeping Lands and Waters Connected** was held in the Mohonk Mountain House Conference Center. Speakers and attendees came from throughout our region. Laura Heady, Mohonk Consultations board member and Conservation and Land Use Program Coordinator at the NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program kicked off the conference, putting "connectivity" into a Hudson Valley context. Ulster County Executive Michael Hein welcomed everyone, and shared his experience of growing up in the same network of woods that naturalist John Burroughs explored. Hein underscored how fortunate we are to live in an area with protected natural areas and the importance of keeping ecosystems healthy and connected.



Mohonk Consultations board members, Laura Heady (left) and Sandra Smiley (right) with Ulster County Executive Mike Hein at our 2017 Autumn Conference. © J. Bruschini

Presenters outlined innovative planning tools and practical strategies for conserving un-fragmented natural areas. Panelists shared case studies and lessons learned from across the Hudson Valley. Roundtable discussions gave attendees the chance to explore topics more deeply. Speakers represented many organizations, including The Green Infrastructure Center, Ulster County Department of the Environment, The Wildlife Conservation Society, Westchester Land Trust, Town of New Paltz, and the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development. We are very grateful for our sponsors: M&T Bank, Scenic Hudson, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Program.



Roundtable discussions focused on ways to proactively conserve or restore connectivity in nature. © L. Heady

All presentations are available on our website: [www.mohonk-consultations.org](http://www.mohonk-consultations.org).

## 2018 Spring Forum



Our Spring Forum was an afternoon of practical approaches and case studies. © J. Bruschini

On April 8, 2018 our Spring Forum was held in the historic Mohonk Mountain House Parlor, building on the theme of our November 2017 conference: **Nature Across Boundaries**. This forum focused on **Engaging Partners and Stakeholders**, based on feedback from our fall conference attendees.

To reach successful conservation outcomes—especially when planning across boundaries—it is essential to form strong partnerships and have clear communication with peer organizations, municipalities, landowners, and other stakeholders. To explore ways to work with partners and stakeholders, Forum speakers presented connectivity case studies from the Hudson Highlands and Rensselaer Plateau. Speakers represented the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Black Rock Forest Consortium, New York-New Jersey Trail Conference, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance, and Strong Outcomes.

According to Forum organizer and Mohonk Consultations board member, Laura Heady, “This event showcased many of the approaches we learned about at the Nature Across Boundaries conference. In particular, local case studies illustrated how science, planning, and determination can bring a big-picture view to land conservation, and benefit both wildlife and people.”

*Many thanks to our sponsor, NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Program.*



# 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award

## Captain John Lipscomb, Riverkeeper

On June 10th, Mohonk Consultations proudly presented its annual award to recognize and celebrate another unsung hero from our region. The 2018 Distinguished Achievement Award went to John Lipscomb, Patrol Boat Captain and Vice President for Advocacy at Riverkeeper.



Capt. Lipscomb patrolling the Hudson River. © Riverkeeper

For the last 17 years, Captain Lipscomb has patrolled the Hudson River for Riverkeeper, the Ossining-based clean water advocacy organization. From April to December, Lipscomb travels thousands of nautical miles between New York Harbor and Troy, searching out and deterring polluters, and monitoring tributary streams and waterfront facilities.



Left to right: Amanda Higgs, Dan Shapley, Laura Heady, John Lipscomb and Jon Bowermaster. © K. Brown

“Knowing there are people like John watching over the Hudson River gives me hope. He cares deeply and works tirelessly for the Hudson, its tributaries, and the river inhabitants who have no voice to fight for themselves,” said Mohonk Consultations board member Laura Heady, who nominated Lipscomb for this award.

Captain Lipscomb supports researchers conducting studies on the river, and invites regional decision-makers and media to join him on patrols so that “the Hudson has a chance to advocate for itself.” With his contagious enthusiasm, Lipscomb inspires others to become stewards and share in protecting the Hudson River.

The awardee was celebrated by his colleagues and friends, including writer, filmmaker, and National Geographic Adventurer Jon Bowermaster, who shared an outstanding new video of Lipscomb on the Hudson. Amanda Higgs, Fisheries Biologist with the Hudson River Fisheries Unit and Dan Shapley, Water Quality Program Director at Riverkeeper, also told inspiring stories about Lipscomb.

After the “formal” award program in the Mohonk Mountain House Parlor, guests, speakers and the good captain enjoyed a reception and light dinner buffet on the East Porch overlooking Lake Mohonk.



Guests gathered on the East Porch for a light dinner and lovely view of Lake Mohonk. © L. Heady

# 2018 Autumn Conference

Our sold-out **Pastures of Plenty? Food, Justice & Labor in the Hudson Valley** conference took place at the Mohonk Mountain House Conference Center on Monday, November 5, 2018. Presentations and discussions were in English and Spanish with simultaneous interpretation provided for all attendees by Caracol Language Co-op.

This full-day conference offered an unusual opportunity to hear directly from farm workers as well as a wide range of participating organizations and sponsors including: Rural & Migrant Ministry; Worker Justice Center of New York; Hudson Valley Farm Hub; Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Program, and Rondout Valley Growers Association. Diana Zuckerman, a teacher at Rondout Valley High School, brought six students from her Human Rights Club. Students from Bard College, The Mount Academy, Haverford College, UC Santa Cruz, and Columbia University also attended. The keynote presentation was given by Margaret Gray of Adelphi University who is the author of *Labor and the Locavore: The Making of a Comprehensive Food Ethic*.

Agriculture is a fundamental part of the Hudson Valley economy and is essential as a local source of food. Perishable food (vegetables, fruit and dairy) farms are common here and in neighboring regions. This labor-intensive work is frequently done by seasonal workers, who are often immigrants from Central America and the Caribbean. We heard directly from 21 members of this largely hidden community, who described the many challenges they face in doing some of the hardest work in our society while experiencing the uncertainties of seasonal/migratory labor. In addition, local farmers discussed how they managed hiring seasonal workers.

“Our goal was to break down language and economic barriers in order to bring people together who ordinarily would never meet to share their stories, concerns, life paths, and questions,” said Patty Matteson, Mohonk Consultations board member and a conference organizer. “We wanted this conference to enable farmers, farm workers and the public to better understand and support each other.” She added, “Farm workers are generally not included in most stories we read in the mainstream press about farmers or farming.”

Our Spring Forum on April 7, 2019 will focus on a topic coming out of this conference. For more information, please visit our website: [www.mohonk-consultations.org](http://www.mohonk-consultations.org).

*Many thanks to Ulster Savings Bank for being an event sponsor, and a special thanks to Scenic Hudson, the Ralph E. Ogden Foundation, and members of our local community who underwrote farm worker and student attendance.*





# Continuing A Legacy

## 2019 – Mohonk Mountain House’s 150th Anniversary and a Weekend of Peace

2019 will mark the 150th anniversary of the founding of Mohonk Mountain House by the Smiley family in 1869. Since those early years, the Smileys have been committed to sustaining the natural environment and engaging with thought leaders from across the region and around the globe on pressing issues, especially on peace-sustaining initiatives.

Mohonk Consultations is happy to announce that we are collaborating with Mohonk Mountain House to present a very special **weekend peace conference** next year from **November 1st through 3rd**. The conference will build on Mohonk’s long legacy of programs including the *Lake Mohonk Conferences on International Arbitration* held at the Mountain House between 1895 and 1916. Meetings and conferences on peace building have continued. Notable gatherings included seminars and discussions for United Nations diplomats and our 2016 conference: **Realizing a Culture of Peace**.

*“My father, Albert K. Smiley, Jr. established Mohonk Consultations to carry on our family tradition of bringing people together to discuss the interrelationship of all life on earth, with emphasis on the sustainable use of the earth’s resources. The Smiley family is still very involved in Mohonk Consultations with two family members on the board. Our office is at the Mountain House and we hold our conferences, forums and award events here. We are thrilled to work hand-in-hand with the Mountain House to plan the 2019 Peace Conference.” —Sandra Smiley*



1914 Mohonk Conference on International Arbitration attendees gather on the west lawn. © Mohonk Mountain House Archives

Twenty-two International Arbitration Conferences were held between 1895 and 1916. These conferences were underwritten and hosted by Mohonk Mountain House founders, Albert K. and Eliza C. Smiley. As Quakers, Albert and Eliza were strongly committed to the idea of seeking peace rather than waging war.

Influential people attended the conferences—diplomats, government officials, judges, lawyers, college presidents, clergy, editors, journalists and businessmen. Their purpose was to present arbitration to the public in a concrete, positive way and as a practical means of avoiding war.

It is generally considered that out of the “talking it over” at Mohonk, came planning that led to the formation of such groups as the American Society of International Law, the New York Peace Society, the World Peace Foundation, and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Perhaps the most far-reaching outcome of the Lake Mohonk Conferences was the creation in 1899 of the first International Peace Conference at The Hague, Netherlands. A second Hague Conference was held in 1907. A substantial achievement of the Hague Conferences was the founding of the Hague Tribunal. This, in time, furnished an example for later forming the League of Nations and the United Nations.

The Smiley family and Mohonk Consultations are proud to carry on this tradition with our **2019 Peace Conference** to be held in the Mountain House Parlor. Please check our website and Facebook page for more details as they become finalized: [www.mohonk-consultations.org](http://www.mohonk-consultations.org). **We hope you’ll join us!**

# A Heartfelt Thanks to Our Donors!

OCT 2017 TO  
NOV 2018

Martha Afzal  
 Brad Berg  
 Chris & Heather Bernabo  
 Patricia Bladh  
 Ron Brand  
 Kristin Brown  
 Joan Dubois Burroughs  
 Carmine Castaldo  
 Anne Collins  
 The Columbus Foundation  
 Harland Clarke  
 Deborah Dewan  
 Leslie English  
 Fred & Frieda Feldman  
 Anne Finn  
 Patricia Finn  
 Jacob & Mollie Fishman Foundation  
 Anna Forster & Charlie Wells  
 Dan Freedman  
 Susan Allen Futerman  
 Gail Ganter-Toback  
 Laura Heady  
 Evelyn Heinbach  
 Glen Hoagland  
 Martin S. Irwin & Terri L. Moore

Richard J. Jones  
 Nick Joyce  
 Paul and Jane Kellar  
 Eric Kollenberg  
 Peter & Juliette Lane  
 Linda Ruth Lerner  
 Laraine Mai  
 Kevin B. Mathews  
 Patty Matteson  
 Jane Meckling  
 Robert Michel  
 Maryann & Gary Niefeld  
 PFK O'Connor Davies, LLP  
 Annie O'Neil  
 T. Reiss & R.A. Josephson  
 Barbara Lee Rubin  
 Betsy Salt  
 Jeffrey Salt  
 Charles F. & Alice G. Salt Foundation  
 Kathe Sandstrom  
 Jane Schneider  
 Sara S. Senior  
 John O. Senior & Nancy Kimmons  
 Albert K. Smiley & Nina S. Feldman Smiley

Pril Smiley & Keith Labudde, *Clove Hitch Fund*  
 Smiley Bros., Inc.  
 Sarah Underhill  
 Frances & James Wood, *The Braewold Fund*  
 Diana Zuckerman

## In honor of Bert Smiley

Leslie English  
 Fred & Frieda Feldman  
 Larry and Ruth Hauptman  
 Paul & Jane Kellar  
 Linda Ruth Lerner  
 Joel Mandelbaum  
 Kevin & Mary Reilly Mathews  
 Martin S. Irwin & Terri L. Moore  
 Marianne & Gary Neifeld  
 Edward Noyes  
 PKF O'Connor Davies  
 T. Reiss & R.A. Josephson  
 Pril Smiley & Keith Labudde, *Clove Hitch Fund*  
 Sandra Smiley  
 Pasquale Strocchia  
 Charlie Wells & Anna Forster

## Organizations

Gulf Coast Community Foundation  
 Hudson River Tractor Company  
 Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area  
 Hudson Valley Farm Hub  
 Lifebridge Foundation  
 Mid-Hudson Migrant Education Program  
 Mohonk Mountain House  
 M&T Bank  
 New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Hudson River Estuary Program  
 Ralph E. Ogden Foundation  
 Research Foundation for SUNY  
 RiverTides  
 Rural & Migrant Ministry  
 Scenic Hudson  
 Ulster Savings Bank



## A Fond Farewell to Albert K. Smiley III

It is with great sadness we announce the passing of Albert "Bert" K. Smiley, a Mohonk Consultations Consultant, and the son of our founder, Albert "Keith" Smiley, on November 16, 2018 following a year-long battle with leukemia. The President and CEO of Smiley Brothers, Inc. for the last 28 years, Bert retired from that position last June. We deeply appreciate his continuous and generous support of Mohonk Consultations. He will be greatly missed.

## Dear Friends,

We are facing challenging times in the Hudson Valley and far beyond. But how we react to the problems confronting us makes all the difference.

Since Mohonk Consultations' founding in 1980, we have seen reason for great hope, over and over again, in the people from our region who are committed to reaching across different backgrounds and political persuasions to focus on practical solutions to problems. In each of our conferences, forums, award events and public meetings, we've seen just how effective dialogue in an open, supportive setting can be.

Mohonk Consultations was founded by the late A. Keith Smiley and Helen Vukasin. Based at Mohonk Mountain House, it grew, in part, from a long-standing Smiley family tradition of meetings that incorporated a diversity of perspectives. Since the late 1800s, Mohonk has served as a gathering place for those seeking solutions to global, national, and local problems. The beauty of the natural surroundings of Mohonk, along with the Quaker tradition of peaceful inclusiveness, have provided a unique atmosphere for exchanging ideas.

Our tradition of bringing people together to "talk it over at Mohonk" has led to productive networking, creative ideas, and practical, inspired solutions. Here are just a few of our accomplishments:

- The **Farm to Food Pantry** in Ulster County emerged from our **Hunger in the Hudson Valley** forum in 2010 and has grown steadily ever since.
- Mohonk Consultations was instrumental in founding the **Phillies Bridge Farm** in 1994 and has supported it for many years. The Farm continues to operate today as a vibrant CSA.
- The **Hudson River Watershed Alliance** came from our **Creating a Hudson River Watershed Partnership** conference in 2004.

Like most non-profits, we rely on support in the form of charitable donations and/or volunteers. While our events are traditionally held at Mohonk Mountain House, our organization is a separate, 501 (c)3 non-profit. **Please consider donating to support Mohonk Consultations' activities in 2019.** If you are unable to give financially, perhaps you have a skill or resource to contribute. Feel free to inquire—we'd love to hear from you!

We hope you'll explore our website and Facebook page to see the breadth of our activities and history. It's easy to donate online or use the "mail back" section on the last page of this newsletter.

Because of your generosity, we can continue our work to convene programs that galvanize efforts to create practical solutions and sustain effective initiatives in the Hudson Valley.

Thank you so much!

Warm regards,

*Brad Berg*

Brad Berg  
Chair, Board of Managers

*Sandra Smiley*

Sandra Smiley  
Secretary, Board of Managers



Mohonk Consultations, Inc.  
 1000 Mountain Rest Rd.  
 New Paltz NY 12561  
 845-256-2726  
[www.mohonk-consultations.org](http://www.mohonk-consultations.org)  
 @MohonkConsultations



## SAVE THESE DATES

### 2019 Spring Forum: April 7, 3-6 pm

Topic to be announced—a follow up to our 2018 “Pastures of Plenty” conference. Mohonk Mountain House Parlor.

### 2019 Distinguished Achievement Award: June 2, 5-8 pm

Honoring Stiles Najac, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Orange County’s Food Security Community Liaison. Mohonk Mountain House Parlor.

### 2019 Peace Conference: November 1-3

This weekend event is a collaboration with Mohonk Mountain House. Check our website and Facebook page for updates. And subscribe to our e-updates for the latest confirmed details. Sign up via our home page!

## Mohonk Consultations Board of Managers

Bradley Berg, *Chair*  
 Laraine Mai, *Vice Chair*  
 Sandra Smiley, *Secretary*  
 Rob Michel, *Treasurer*

Chris Bernabo  
 Ronald P. Brand  
 Kristin Brown  
 Anne Finn  
 Daniel Freedman

Laura Heady  
 Evelyn Heinbach  
 Martin Irwin  
 Patty Matteson  
 Sarah Underhill

### Newsletter:

Graphic Design: Cody Schatzle  
 Editor: Jesse Chapman-Bruschini

Our newsletters are available as pdfs on our website:

[www.mohonk-consultations.org](http://www.mohonk-consultations.org)

Please note our new email address: [info@mohonk-consultations.org](mailto:info@mohonk-consultations.org)

## Help us create a more resilient Hudson Valley!

You may donate online:

[www.mohonk-consultations.org/donation](http://www.mohonk-consultations.org/donation)

Please note that we process online donations via NY Charities.

Or mail your check made payable to:

**Mohonk Consultations**  
**1000 Mountain Rest Road**  
**New Paltz, NY 12561**

Donations to Mohonk Consultations, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, are tax-exempt under Internal Revenue Code law.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

In memory/honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send me the newsletter via email. My email is above.

Please send me Mohonk Consultations' printed newsletter. My address is above.