



CONNECTICUT  
Land Conservation Council

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## VOICES FROM THE FIELD: *WHAT IS A LAND TRUST NOW?*

Whether all-volunteer or staffed, land trusts across the state are recognizing that to stay vibrant, resilient, and effective for generations to come, they need to further engage in what's happening in their communities and beyond.

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**THURSDAY, JUNE 17**  
**ROUNDTABLE ACROSS STATE BORDERS**  
**NOON - 1:30 PM**

In this final conference roundtable, we welcome land trust leaders from across state borders to provide their perspectives on what it means to be a land trust now. Our panelists will share their inspiring stories around where their land trusts started, how and why they have changed over the years, and the challenges and opportunities they have embraced as they continue to evolve in response to issues in their communities and the world today.

### AGENDA

- 12:00 pm** – Opening Remarks & Land Acknowledgement
  - 12:10 pm** – Panel Discussion
  - 1:00 pm** – Audience Q&A
  - 1:15 pm** – Panelist Closing Remarks
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**A BIG THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS  
SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT >>**

# MEET OUR PANELISTS

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## Facilitated by: Kevin Case

*President & CEO, Mohonk Preserve (New York)*

Kevin became the President & CEO of Mohonk Preserve in 2020. Previously, he spent 14 years at the Land Trust Alliance, and was responsible for designing and implementing programs that foster success for the 500 land trusts from Maine to Maryland. His efforts have taken him from the Maine Coast Protection Initiative, to the Alliance's National All-Volunteer Land Trust Program.

## Lillian "Ebonie" Alexander

*Executive Director, Black Family Land Trust, Inc. (BFLT) (North Carolina)*

Ebonie is the Executive Director of the Black Family Land Trust, a niche land trust and one of the nation's only regional land trusts dedicated to the preservation and protection of African-American and other historically underserved landowners land assets. Since joining the BFLT in 2009, Ebonie designed and implemented the African American Land Ethic and Wealth Retention and Asset Protection (WRAP) programs. Together these two programs have assisted landowners to retain family ownership and control of more than \$12.5 million of their land assets.

## Jim Bonesteel

*Executive Director, Rensselaer Plateau Alliance (RPA) (New York)*

Jim led the RPA from its founding in 2008, to its first land conservation project in 2014, its first staff in 2015, to where it is today with six staff and 12,000 acres of forestland conserved. He previously had a career in software development and robotics and got involved in land conservation as a volunteer interest in the early 90's. Jim lives with his wife and three children on the Rensselaer Plateau in Stephentown, NY and enjoys running, skiing, hiking, backpacking, paddling and traveling.

## Robyn Carlton

*Chief Executive Officer, Lookout Mountain Conservancy (Tennessee)*

The majority of Robyn's professional career has been in the area of mental and behavioral healthcare. Prior to becoming CEO of the Lookout Mountain Conservancy, she held positions in the southeast that allowed her to provide direct counseling, as well as designed, developed and administered mental health programs. Adolescence was her area of concentration. The greatest gift she received from her mother was when her mother would say, "Go play outside." The outdoors became her safe place; her foundation. Robyn has two daughters and considers the 18 young men and women from the Intern and Leadership Program her family.

## Kristin DeBoer

*Executive Director, Kestrel Land Trust (Massachusetts)*

Kristin has been working in the environmental field for 25+ years on a variety of issues from recycling and toxics-use reduction to endangered-species recovery and wilderness restoration. She has served as the Director of Kestrel since 2006 and has overseen the organization's growth from a volunteer-led group to a professionally staffed regional land trust and has tripled its rate of land conserved annually. She also serves on the Land Trust Alliance's National Advisory Council and is a volunteer board member of the Northeast Wilderness Trust.