



**SPIRIT OF PLACE
A HUDSON VALLEY CLIMATE TRAINING
June 13 - 15, 2025**

The Ashokan Center
477 Beaverkill Road | Olivebridge, NY 12461

FRIDAY, JUNE 13

1:30 PM - Arrivals and Check In
3:00 PM Esopus Lodge/front porch

On arrival, follow signs to onsite parking. You will be directed from there to the Esopus Lodge for event check in. If you are staying onsite, you will be escorted to your accommodations from there.

From 2:00 pm—2:30 pm, we will offer an optional “orientation walk” of The Ashokan Center. Meet back at the check in table on the front porch of Esopus Lodge to join.

3:00 PM - Welcome and Opening Ceremony
4:15 PM Location: Beside Killian Pavilion/Meet at Esopus Lodge check in table (rain location: Performance Hall)

Please bring a piece from your place, preferably water that can be poured into a communal vessel; a rock or stone; or a leaf, flower or small piece of wood. We will gather these together as part of the ceremony, and invite you to briefly share your name and what you brought.

Led by Grandmother Clara Soaring Hawk (Ramapough Munsee Lenape), with support from Veronica Raya (Mexico, Purepecha).

4:30 PM - Plenary: Spirit of Place: A Framing Discussion

6:15 PM Location: Esopus Lodge/Performance Hall

Beginning with a presentation from Kareenna Gore and followed by a discussion that she will moderate, this session will introduce some of the key themes and touchpoints for the whole training. We will explore the root causes of our disassociation from the rest of the natural world, how this culminates in climate change, and how to find our way out of it to something infinitely better.

Speakers:

- Kareenna Gore, Center for Earth Ethics
- Victoria Loorz, Church of the Wild
- Dr. Sarah Nahar, Work That Reconnects/SUNY College of Environmental Science & Forestry
- Jeanne Shenandoah, Onondaga, Haudenosaunee (video clip)

6:30 PM - Dinner

7:30 PM Location: Esopus Lodge/Dining Hall

Buffet dinner service in the Dining Hall followed by film screenings, as well as access to a sauna and campfire (weather permitting).

7:30 PM - [OPTIONAL] Short Film Screenings (Performance Hall)

8:30 PM

Women of the Ramapough Lenape Nation
Hope on the Hudson 3: Seeds of Hope
One Dam at a Time

Filmmakers Jon Bowermaster (Seeds of Hope, One Dam at a Time), Lisa Levart and Myles Aronowitz (Women of the Ramapough Lenape Nation) will be present. Please refer to separate handout for more information. Each film is approximately 20 minutes.

Photo Exhibit (Esopus Lodge Lobby)

Visit “Women of the Ramapough Lenape Nation”, a photographic series by Lisa Levart shared in conjunction with the film screening.

SATURDAY, JUNE 14

7:30 AM - Forest Walk led by Del Orloske of the Ashokan Center (optional)

8:30 AM Location: Meet at front porch of Esopus Lodge

7:30 AM - Morning Yoga with Niomi Rupram (optional)

8:00 AM Location: TBD: Meet at information table

7:30 AM - Buffet Breakfast

8:45 AM Location: Esopus Lodge/Dining Hall

8:45 AM - Plenary: The State of the Climate, Global and Local

10:15 AM Location: Esopus Lodge/Performance Hall

We will explore the current state of the climate crisis—its causes, impacts, and what we can do about it. Beginning with a presentation from Tim Guinee that draws on the work of the Climate Reality Project and is animated by a hope-filled call to action, this session also includes remarks and answers from top Earth scientists who are experts in the Hudson Valley region.

Speakers:

- Tim Guinee, Climate Reality Project
- Dr. Joshua Ginsberg, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
- Dr. Shannon Roback, Riverkeeper

Moderated by: Rev. Dr. Gregory Simpson, Center for Earth Ethics/
Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church

Light snacks and beverages will be offered between 10—10:30 am in the Dining Hall.

10:30 AM - Breakout Sessions

11:15 AM

Please see separate handout for breakout descriptions. Select one.

Title	Location	Facilitators
<i>The Past, Present, and Future of Forests in the Hudson Valley</i>	<i>Grove of Trees (outside) Rain location: Dining Hall</i>	<i>Dr. Joshua Ginsberg, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies</i>

Title	Location	Facilitators
<i>Wild Church: Grounding Climate Action in Kindred Relationship with Your Place</i>	<i>Killian Pavilion Rain location: Dining Hall Tent</i>	<i>Victoria Loorz, Church of the Wild</i>
<i>Climate Change in the Hudson River Watershed: Impacts on shared waters for drinking, recreation, and aquatic species.</i>	<i>Discovery Room - Esopus Lodge</i>	<i>Dr. Shannon Roback, Riverkeeper</i>
<i>Plant Wisdom: Learning With the Land</i>	<i>Meet at Esopus Lodge lobby Rain location: Garden Room</i>	<i>Tory Field, Center for Earth Ethics Poppy Jones, Phytotherapy for Land and Soul/Ouroboros</i>

11:30 AM Plenary: Ways of Knowing Place and Planet

12:30 PM Location: Esopus Lodge/ Performance Hall

This conversation about different ways of knowing a bioregion—spiritually, scientifically, and culturally—will focus on ways we engage with soil, seeds, farming, and food. There will be attention to the role of ancestral traditions and working together across different communities. It will also explore how living in close relationship with a place can inform understanding of the whole planet and galvanize action to bring people together to change in positive ways.

Speakers:

- Wes Gillingham, Northeast Organic Farming Association of New York/
Catskill Mountainkeeper
- Kenny Perkins, Native Food Hub Alliance

Moderated by: Liv Bigtree, Onyota'a:ka (People of the Standing Stone),
Turtle Clan, Haudenosaunee; Skywoman's Forever Farm
Karenn Gore, Center for Earth Ethics

12:45 PM Buffet Lunch

2:00 PM Location: Esopus Lodge/Dining Hall

1:30 PM Optional Briefing: Walking with the Legacy of Pope Francis
Facilitated by Dr. Erin Lothes, Bethany Center for Ecological Education
Location: Dining Hall Tent

2:15 PM- Plenary: Healing People and Land Together

3:15 PM Location: Esopus Lodge/Performance Hall

This session will explore how our physical, emotional, and spiritual health are connected to the health of the environment we inhabit. Acknowledging that communities are suffering as they experience ecological degradation and deprivation, we will also explore positive paths to healing and wholeness. The conversation will engage contemporary insights from the science of psychology and ecopsychology as well as drawing from faith and wisdom traditions and taking account of culture.

Speakers:

- Dr. Susan Bodnar, Development, Ecopsychology and Wellness (DEW) Lab, Teacher's College
- Imam Adé Mendes, Yoruba/International Sufi School of Peace and Service
- Alexie Torres, Jubilee Gift Galaxy, Soul of the Movement

Moderated by:

Karenna Gore, Center for Earth Ethics

Rachel Marco-Havens, Butterfly Movement/Woodstock Chamber

3:30 PM- Breakout Sessions

4:15 PM

Please see separate handout for breakout descriptions. Select one.

Title	Location	Facilitators
<i>From Soil to Soul: Life with a Garden</i>	<i>Meet at Esopus Lodge check in table (outside)</i>	<i>Amy Gillingham, Wild Roots Farm Liv Bigtree, Onyota'a:ka (People of the Standing Stone), Turtle Clan, Haudenosaunee; Skywoman's Forever Farm</i>
<i>Celebrating and Mourning using Climate Justice Rituals</i>	<i>Killian Pavilion Rain location: Dining Hall</i>	<i>Dr. Sarah Nahar, The Work That Reconnects/ SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry</i>
<i>Thomas Berry's Legacy and Earth Spirituality</i>	<i>Discovery Room - Esopus Lodge</i>	<i>Dr. Kathleen Deignan, CND, Iona University</i>
<i>Listening and Leading to Heal the Earth and Our Communities</i>	<i>Garden Room - Esopus Lodge</i>	<i>Rev. Thia Reggio, Second Presbyterian Church NYC Rev. Kathryn Beilke, Beyond Plastics</i>

Light snacks and beverages will be offered between 4 pm and 4:30 pm in the Dining Hall.

4:30 PM - Plenary: Voicing Truth, Building Movement

5:30 PM Location: Esopus Lodge/Performance Hall

This session will explore moral truth-telling in environmental and climate advocacy. We will hear from experienced organizers on effective approaches to advocacy, organizing, and communicating science through an ethical lens. We will explore long-term campaigns including as the legacy of coalition work addressing PCBs in the Hudson River and the ongoing work of emissions reduction and the energy transition. Speakers will also share how spiritual perspectives can infuse and strengthen advocacy and coalition work.

Speakers:

- Sister Carol DeAngelo, Religious Organizations Along River
- Samrat Pathania, New Yorkers for Clean Power/New Paltz Climate Action Coalition
- Michael Richardson, Third Act Upstate/Rivers & Mountains Greenfaith

Moderated by: Allegra Lovejoy, Center for Earth Ethics

5:30 PM - Closing remarks

5:45 PM

A time for sharing takeaways from the training

6:00 PM - Closing Ceremony

6:30 PM Location: Beside Killian Pavilion (rain location: Esopus Lodge/Performance Hall)

6:30 PM Dinner and Evening Activities

8:30 PM Location: Esopus Lodge/Dining Hall

Buffet dinner service in the Dining Hall followed by optional activities, including access to a campfire and sauna.

SUNDAY, JUNE 15

8:00 AM - Buffet Breakfast

9:00 AM Location: Esopus House/Dining Hall

Buffet breakfast service available in the Dining Hall. Guests may take personal time walking on the land or in conversation.

10:30 AM Check-out of lodging.