

2013

CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER REPORT TO STAKEHOLDERS





Preventing hydraulic fracturing (fracking) in New York State continues to be Catskill Mountainkeeper's number one goal and priority. Thanks to your support, we have successfully kept fracking out of New York for over six years. To achieve our ultimate goal of a ban on fracking and to counter other "false solutions," we continue to advance an alternative vision for our beautiful, ecologically sensitive, and economically vulnerable home region. We are working to create sustainable economic growth in the regions' two largest sectors – tourism and agriculture – and are helping communities transition from climate changing fossil fuels to clean, renewable energies.

This year, we expanded our **Catskill Edible Garden Program**, launched a **Farmers Market** to increase food access, grew our **Trailkeeper Network** initiative and broadened our efforts to promote and protect the **Catskill Park**. We are also working with groups across the nation to fight all forms of **Extreme Energy** extraction, and launched two initiatives to help our communities go green – **Renewable NY** and **Save Energy, Save NY**.

In this report we will bring you up to date on all that we've accomplished in 2013 and our plans for the coming year.



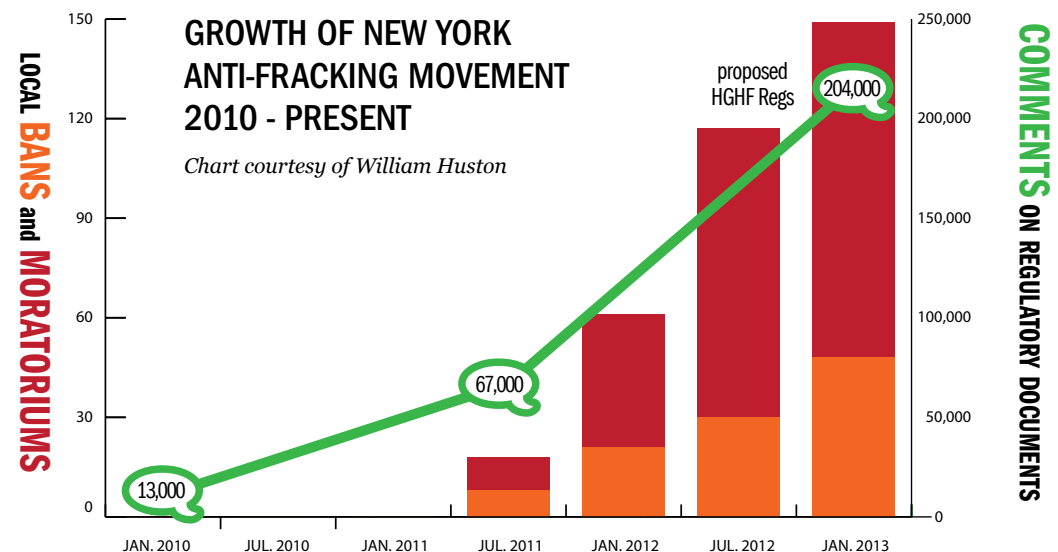
FRACKING

OUR FIGHT AGAINST FRACKING

It has been six years since Catskill Mountainkeeper started fighting to keep fracking out of New York State and so far New York stands alone as the only state with significant developable shale that has withstood the gas and oil industry. We have been able to maintain a de-facto moratorium on drilling by working with partners and coalitions to combine the weight of scientific research and litigation with

a strategic communications campaign to educate and influence the public, media and policymakers. This has resulted in the largest environmental movement in the State's history.

This year we expanded our programming in several areas and celebrated some significant victories, while laying the groundwork to prepare us for the long and complicated fight ahead.





HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT CAMPAIGN

Since 2008, we have been asking government officials to complete a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) to uncover the full impact of fracking on people's health. An HIA distinguishes itself from other kinds of public health investigations by using quantitative, qualitative and participatory techniques and is the only process that will give Governor Cuomo the facts and data necessary to make a science based decision about fracking. This year, we elevated our on-the-ground Health Impact Campaign and worked closely with Physicians, Scientists & Engineers for Healthy Energy (PSE) and Concerned Health Professionals of NY, a group that we co-founded, on a series of letters and petitions to state representatives that were signed by hundreds of medical professionals.

The public protest that resulted from our education campaign and the weight of expert medical opinion has placed significant pressure on Governor Cuomo, influencing him to appoint a 3 member medical panel to review existing data and issue a public report on the health consequences of fracking. On February 12, 2013, the State Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner requested additional time to publish the results of this review citing "the complexity of the issues." The final Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (SGEIS), the rules under which fracking would be governed, will not be published until the DOH public health review is complete.

As of this report the public is still waiting for a release of the SGEIS. There is no indication of when it will be completed, but we must be prepared to respond to a document that is flawed, and have been working with partners at Earthjustice and other organizations in preparation to challenge potential shortcomings with litigation.



COMMUNITY FRACKING DEFENSE PROJECT

While we continue to fight on the state level to achieve a ban on fracking, we are also working on the local level on "Home Rule" to help towns and communities pass ordinances and laws to protect their aquifers, regulate hazardous waste and put limits on road use, which would effectively ban fracking in their communities.

We partnered with the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) to found the Community Fracking Defense Project to provide legal and policy assistance to communities throughout the state. We have established relationships with local elected officials, community groups, non-profit and political organizations to advance the project and have worked with them to organize educational events and rallies.

The Fracking Defense Project continues to provide legal support to the towns of Dryden and Middlefield in these landmark cases affirming the right of New York municipalities to use their land use authority to prohibit gas drilling, including fracking, within their borders. The Dryden and Middlefield cases have won in the lower courts and the case will now be heard by the state's highest court, the Court of Appeals. Catskill Mountainkeeper will continue to assist these towns, so that any community across the state will be able to use their zoning authority to exclude industrial fracking activities.

FRACKING TIMELINE

In this timeline, we highlight Catskill Mountainkeeper's work in the fracking fight over the last six years. We remain thankful to our many partners who have worked with us toward the common goal of relying on sound science and public advocacy to protect the citizens and environment of New York State from the dangerous impacts of fracking.

2008

FEBRUARY - Mountainkeeper first speaks publicly about the dangers of fracking at a forum organized by Mountainkeeper and sponsored by the Sullivan County Farm Bureau and Cornell Cooperative Extension.

FEBRUARY - Mountainkeeper initiates weekly strategy calls with national and grassroots organizations to organize a statewide campaign to educate New Yorkers about the dangers of fracking; this evolves into the first Statewide anti-fracking coalition, the New York Gas Coordination Group (NYGCG).

JUNE - With the help of Assemblywoman Aileen Gunther and Assemblyman Bill Parment representatives from Mountainkeeper, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy, and the Sierra Club meet with the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Division of Mineral Resources in Albany. The DEC admits for the first time that fracking fluid is not composed of just sand and water; in response to the groups' concerns about the cumulative impact from the chemicals in fracking fluid, the DEC tells them that "we are going to wait and see what happens."

JUNE - Mountainkeeper and the Sullivan County Planning Dept hold public forums on gas drilling in Walton and Liberty, NY; Mountainkeeper and the National Park Service host one in Honesdale, PA. Each is attended by over 500 people.

JULY - Governor Paterson signs bill updating oil and gas drilling law; due to pressure from advocacy efforts, he pledges environmental and public health safeguards by directing the DEC to update the Environmental Impact Statement. This marks the beginning of the de-facto moratorium on horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing.

OCTOBER - NYS releases the draft scoping process, outlining which topics will be included in the Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Study (SGEIS), the rules under which the DEC proposes to regulate gas drilling in New York. A cumulative impact analysis is left out of the document. Mountainkeeper is among several groups that testifies and participates in the effort that results in 180 verbal comments and 3770 written comments being submitted, the most ever submitted to the DEC in NYS history.

OCTOBER - Mountainkeeper testifies at the NYS Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation hearing and at every DEC public comment forum across the state; Mountainkeeper is part of the public effort that results in more than 13,000 comments submitted to the DEC.

2009

FEBRUARY - NYS releases the final SGEIS scoping document, which still lacks a cumulative impact analysis.

SEPTEMBER - DEC releases the Draft Supplemental Generic Environmental Impact Statement (dSGEIS)

OCTOBER - Mountainkeeper testifies on the deficiencies of the dSGEIS at the NYS Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation hearing and at every DEC public comment forum across the state; Mountainkeeper is part of the public effort that results in more than 13,000 comments submitted to the DEC.

2010

JANUARY - Mountainkeeper and the NYGCG organize the first ever anti-fracking rally in Albany. More than 500 people descend upon the capitol; the anti-fracking movement becomes a political force.

Mountainkeeper and our coalition partners travel throughout New York State, organizing numerous rallies, forums, seminars and other educational outreach events to explain to the public and our elected officials why gas drilling using fracking is the wrong choice for New York.

Gasland, the award winning documentary by Josh Fox, is released and Mountainkeeper leads over a dozen screenings and panel discussions across New York State.

JUNE - Gasland premiers on HBO and raises the national profile of the anti-fracking movement.

DECEMBER -The NYS Legislature approves a bill that would place a hold on all NYS oil and gas drilling operations, but Governor Paterson refuses to sign it; instead he issues Executive Order 41 which calls for a revised draft SGEIS. This continues the de-facto moratorium of horizontal drilling and high volume fracking.

2011

FEBRUARY - Mountainkeeper presses on with the Health Impact Campaign, and with an effort lead by Dr. Larysa Dyrszka, sends a letter to the NYS Department of Health (DOH) Commissioner highlighting the need for a Health Impact Study (HIA), the gold standard of health reviews.

AUGUST - The towns of Dryden and Middlefield ban fracking within their borders; a gas company sues the towns, challenging their right to "home rule," the authority of towns to zone and regulate industrial activity within their borders. Mountainkeeper begins providing legal assistance to the towns.

AUGUST - Mountainkeeper Board Member Mark Ruffalo introduced Bill McKibben to the issue of fracking at Barnfest 2011. Subsequently, McKibben and his organization 350.org have become leading national allies in the fight against fracking.

SEPTEMBER - DEC releases a revised draft SGEIS for public comment. It is still missing a section on cumulative health and economic impacts.

SEPTEMBER - Mountainkeeper and our coalition partners ramp up the Health Impact Campaign by recruiting more than 300 medical professionals and organizations to sign a letter to Governor Cuomo demanding an HIA; and then work with partners to bring experts from the medical community, including Mount Sinai and the American Academy of Pediatrics, to meet with DEC Commissioner Martens, deputy commissioners and representatives of the Governor.

Through the coalitions' efforts, the comment period for the dSGEIS is extended for an extra month.

NOVEMBER - Mountainkeeper and regional partners influence the Delaware River Basin Commission to place a moratorium on drilling in the basin.

2012

JANUARY - A record 60,000 comments are submitted to the DEC on the revised draft SGEIS, including hundreds of technical comments by medical, scientific and legal experts.

FEBRUARY - State Supreme Court judges rule in favor of the towns of Dryden and Middlefield, upholding their right to home rule; the gas company appeals the decision.

FEBRUARY - Mountainkeeper meets with NYS Assemblyman Robert Sweeney and convinces him to incorporate language and funding for an HIA into the Assembly's version of the state budget, but the State Senate and Governor remove it from their versions of the budget. Despite a strong campaign to reintroduce funding and language for an HIA, it is not included in the final state budget.

MARCH - Mountainkeeper, Citizen Action of New York, Food & Water Watch, Frack Action, Water Defense, the Working Families Party and United for Action launch New Yorkers Against Fracking (NYAF), the first statewide coalition advocating for a ban on fracking.

APRIL - The peer-reviewed study "Potential Contaminant Pathways from Hydraulically Fractured Shale to Aquifers," commissioned by Catskill Mountainkeeper and completed by hydrogeologist Tom Myers, Ph.D, was published in the leading scientific journal, *Ground Water*. It concluded that contaminates from fracking fluids could migrate to our aquifers in a matter of years.

JUNE - Mountainkeeper completes a secondary research study on the known effects of fracking to health which concludes that there are significant health risks at every stage of the drilling operation - from well pad to delivery and underscores the need for a state commissioned, comprehensive HIA.

AUGUST - Mountainkeeper and groups across the state including 350.org organize the largest rally to date. Over 2,000 people march through Albany and deliver the pledge of resistance to the Governors' office.

AUGUST - Ramsay Adams joins Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon at the launch of Artists Against Fracking.

OCTOBER - The Health Impact Campaign grows with the launch of Concerned Health Professionals of NY and a NYAF position paper by bio-ethicist Sandra Steingraber, PhD, and Mountainkeeper Regional Director, Dr. Kathleen Nolan, MD, MSL which calls on Governor Cuomo to conduct a comprehensive Health Impact Assessment on fracking.

NOVEMBER - Pressure placed on the Governor as a result of the Health Impact Campaign influences him to appoint a 3-member medical panel to review existing data and issue a public report on the health consequences of fracking.

DECEMBER - Mountainkeeper helps launch Americans Against Fracking, a coalition of groups working to achieve a national fracking ban.

DECEMBER - Another record-breaking comment period - this time over 200,000 comments are submitted on the second revision of the draft SGEIS; Mountainkeeper and allies NRDC, Earthjustice, Riverkeeper, and Sierra Club submitted hundreds of technical comments.

2013

FEBRUARY - The DOH Commissioner requests additional time to publish the results of the health review citing "the complexity of the issues." This causes the DEC to miss the deadline to release the final SGEIS, extending the defacto moratorium on drilling.

MAY - The NYS Appellate Division rules in favor of the towns of Dryden and Middlefield, the second ruling upholding the towns' right to home rule; the gas company files for appeal, bringing the trial to NYS' highest court, the Court of Appeals.

JUNE - Ramsay Adams and Debra Winger led a panel discussion after a screening of *Gasland 2*, one of many panel discussions they hosted across New York.

JULY - Mountainkeeper joins Earthjustice, Riverkeeper, Clean Air Council, Delaware-Otsego Audubon Society, Delaware Riverkeeper Network, and the Sierra Club to file extensive comments to urge the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to deny the application for the Constitution Pipeline; this is the first significant action of Mountainkeeper's Gas Drilling Infrastructure Campaign.

AUGUST - NYS Court of Appeals decides to hear the Dryden and Middlefield cases.

OCTOBER - Mountainkeeper helps organize public hearings and a rally in Albany to comment on the NYS Liquefied Natural Gas regulations.

NOVEMBER - Mountainkeeper submits primary scientific research and comments to inform the EPA's study of the impacts of fracking on water.

NOVEMBER - Mountainkeeper and partners organize a grassroots effort to pressure the Delaware River Basin Commission to extend the current two-year moratorium.

DECEMBER - Deadline for submission of comments to the DEC's insufficient proposed regulations to govern Liquefied Natural Gas plants in New York State.

DECEMBER - Mountainkeeper files an amicus brief signed by hundreds of businesses to support the towns of Dryden and Middlefield in the Court of Appeals trial of the landmark home rule cases.

2014

SUMMER - Anticipated Court of Appeals ruling on the Dryden and Middlefield cases, determining whether or not NYS towns will have the right to regulate business and industry within their borders.

ANTICIPATED - Release of the EPA's Study of Hydraulic Fracturing and Its Potential Impact on Drinking Water Resources for public comment and peer review.



**LNG Explosion - 40 Killed -
Staten Island, NY
February 10, 1973**

NEW YORKERS AGAINST FRACKING (NYAF)

This year we have been an instrumental partner in New Yorkers Against Fracking (NYAF), the first statewide coalition of groups in New York that support a complete ban on fracking. The coalition, which we co-founded in 2012, now has more than 250 members and is unique because it not only includes environmental groups like Catskill Mountainkeeper but medical groups, religious organizations, businesses, and food advocates. Catskill Mountainkeeper consultant David Braun is the coordinator for NYAF and so far this year has organized hundreds of events and thousands of actions.

Striking evidence of NYAF's success was our coordinated effort to generate comments on proposed drilling regulations last winter. Over 200,000 comments were sent to the DEC, compared to more than 60,000 that were generated in the last comment period that ended on January 11, 2012.



RESEARCH: FIGHTING MISINFORMATION WITH SOUND SCIENCE

Geological Implications of Fracking

This year Catskill Mountainkeeper commissioned a second peer-reviewed study by hydrogeologist Dr. Tom Myers to further explore the findings from his first study, "Potential Contaminant Pathways from Hydraulically Fractured Shale to Aquifers" published on April 19, 2012, which found that contaminants from fracking could seep upwards through geological formations and contaminate ground and drinking water in a matter of years. This second study simulated the migration of fracking fluids using three-dimensional interpretive modeling and was designed to address industry criticisms of the first study, which claimed it did not consider how factors such as drill density, frequency, and proximity to fault lines would change the hydrogeology of the system. The second study substantiated the earlier findings. In September 2013, the completed 51 page report was submitted for publication in a leading scientific journal for peer-review.



EXTREME ENERGY IMMERSION

Catskill Mountainkeeper collaborated with the Expedition Education Institute and Unity College to host a 10 day **ExtremeEnergy** Immersion for Student Climate Leaders. Mountainkeeper Program Director Wes Gilligham taught the first segment of the program and brought students to the affected communities of Dimock, Springdale and Franklin Forks in Pennsylvania to meet with residents and learn first-hand about the impacts of fracking. The students also visited sites to see other forms of extreme energy extraction, like mountaintop removal for coal in West Virginia, before making their way to the Power Shift 2013 conference in Pittsburgh. This was a pilot for a semester-long, fully accredited expedition program to inspire, educate and train the next generation of climate justice leaders.



As we have worked towards a ban on fracking in New York State, we have not only become aware of how much our campaign against fracking in New York parallels other fracking campaigns in the country, but also how similar it is to fights against all forms of extreme fossil fuel extraction.

Whether someone is fighting deepwater drilling in the Gulf, mountaintop removal of coal in West Virginia or tar sands extraction in Canada, the ultimate costs are the same – all of these methods pollute our environment, endanger our health and accelerate climate change. We have come to understand that the more we can help shape the narrative against all forms of extreme energy extraction, the better our chances are of preventing fracking in New York.

This led us to put together two conferences in 2013 (in February and September) of more than 80 grassroots and national organizations that are fighting extreme energy in frontline communities across the nation. Together we have formed the “**ExtremeEnergy Collaborative**” to dispel the false solutions of comparing one dirty fossil fuel over another, like gas for coal, and to raise awareness of how all dirty fossils fuels harm our environment and accelerate climate change. Our ultimate goal is to advocate for a shift from the destructive and consumption-driven fossil fuel economy to a new model based on conservation and efficient, clean, renewable and affordable energy alternatives.

EXTREME ENERGY

The background of the entire page is a photograph of several wind turbines. One turbine is prominently in the foreground on the left, with its blades extending towards the center. In the background, several other turbines are visible against a sky with soft, orange and blue hues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall tone is clean and modern, emphasizing renewable energy.

CLIMATEKEEPER

While the gas industry is going to great lengths to extract every last ounce of carbon-based energy from the earth, scientists have categorically determined that mining and burning fossil fuels is the major reason why our planet is warming. Fracking should be banned for many reasons, but chief among them is that it perpetuates an energy model that is impractical, unsustainable and is the primary driver of climate change. It is clear that we need to stop emitting carbon dioxide and methane, a potent greenhouse gas released during natural gas production, into the atmosphere and switch to renewable energy options for our planet to stay habitable.

While this seems obvious to those of us who have been working in the fight against fracking for all these years, we recognize that there are many people who do not yet understand the cause and effect of burning fossil fuels and climate change. This is why, in late 2013 we launched two new campaigns, “Renewable NY” and “Save Energy, Save NY” to educate New Yorkers about the link between climate change and burning fossil fuels and the ways in which people and businesses can do something about it.

RENEWABLE NY

Renewable energy technologies, like solar, wind and geothermal, generate electricity with a minimum of pollution and carbon emissions; they have the potential to reduce our reliance on natural gas, coal and other fossil fuels significantly. We launched Renewable NY to facilitate our regions’ changeover to safe and affordable renewable fuels.

Renewable NY helps educate New Yorkers about the need for a changeover to renewable fuels, and gives them access to information about how they can make this change in their homes and businesses. We are working with partners to develop a policy platform for renewable energy that can be advanced at the legislative level and we are creating a fund for investors that seek to support renewable energy development by implementing strategic pilot projects.

We are developing a Renewable NY website that aggregates information and resources about these new technologies and how different sectors and regions of New York State can implement them, and are partnering with local non-profits, state agencies and renewable energy companies to organize educational forums to promote this resource.

SAVE ENERGY, SAVE NY

Catskill Mountainkeeper recognizes that energy efficiency is arguably the most important factor in reducing our carbon emissions. We have launched the Save Energy, Save NY campaign to bring information to New Yorkers about what they can do in their homes and businesses to use energy wisely and continue to reduce the demand for energy. There has been a significant trend in the United States to reduce energy but there are still many opportunities for improvement.

Information on climate change, renewables and energy efficiency is already on our website – Catskillmountainkeeper.org and we will grow this very valuable resource in the coming year. Along with meetings, forums, and media outreach we will continue to bring information to the public and our government officials on climate change and what we can do about it.



CATSKILL FOOD INITIATIVE

This year Catskill Mountainkeeper has made considerable progress on our goal to facilitate sustainable economic growth in the Catskills in the agricultural sector. We have expanded our school garden program, provided employment and farm training to 12 high school students, increased food access with the launch of a new farmers market, introduced garden-based learning to over 1,500 students, and helped facilitate a mentoring program for new farmers and people who are considering careers in agriculture.

CATSKILL EDIBLE GARDEN PROJECT



The Catskill Edible Garden Project has just completed its second successful season and is giving students the opportunity to grow and eat healthy, local food and learn about the importance of agriculture to the vibrancy of our communities.

The program, which is a collaboration between Catskill Mountainkeeper, Center for Workforce Development, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Green Village Initiative and Sullivan Renaissance is broken into 2 parts - School Gardens and the Youth Employment Program.



SCHOOL GARDENS



The garden project has now built 7 gardens - 6 on school campuses across Sullivan County and 1 teaching garden on the Cornell Cooperative Extension of Sullivan County campus.

More than 400 students and community members have come out to participate in the garden builds, and garden development has enabled access to garden-based learning for over 1,500 students in the participating school districts. Seven local farms have donated materials or hosted on-farm visits and work-days for students.

Some participating schools are using the garden produce in school cafeterias. Garden and eco-clubs have been set-up and lesson plans on food production, healthy eating, nutrition and the importance of local food systems have been incorporated into classroom learning. When school is not in session, produce is donated to local food pantries.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM



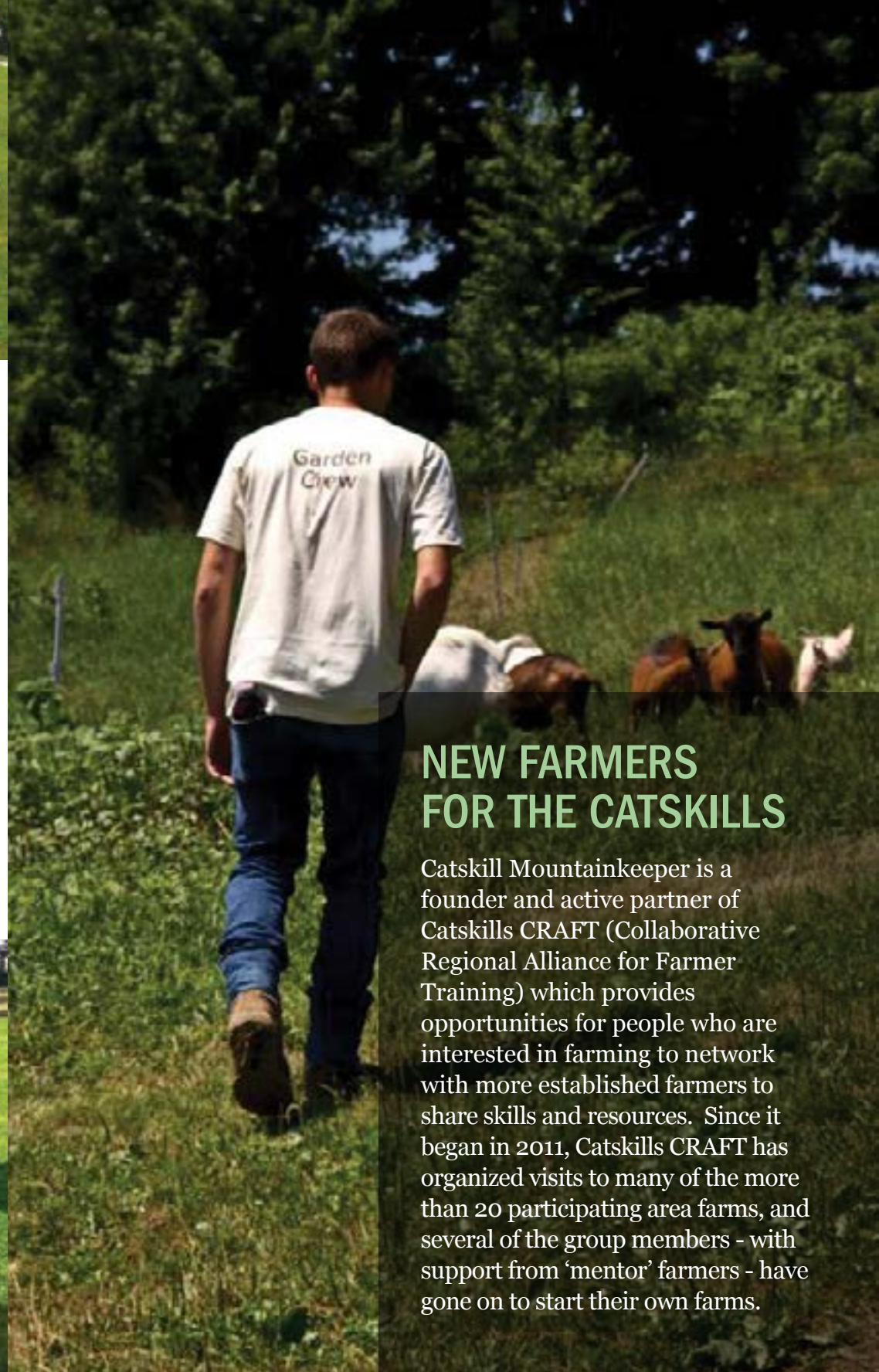
To date the Youth Employment Program has offered paid summer employment to 12 high school students and farm work experience to 24 students. One of the goals of the program is to interest young people in perpetuating the Catskills farming traditions. One graduate of the program is currently working on a dairy farm and several other students have expressed interest in establishing and maintaining their own home gardens in the upcoming season.



FARMERS MARKET DEVELOPMENT

We live in one of the most abundant food producing regions in the state and yet many of our lower income residents live in a “food desert.” To address this, Catskill Mountainkeeper started a bi-weekly farmers market across from the Government Center in Monticello from July through the end of October, in conjunction with the dates that food vouchers for the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and Women, Infant and Children’s Program (WIC) were distributed.

We saw a significant increase in the vouchers that were redeemed for these programs as a result of the market. In addition to making fresh healthy produce available, many of the markets offered recipe tastings and demos using local and seasonal produce and offered additional information about health and nutrition.



NEW FARMERS FOR THE CATSKILLS

Catskill Mountainkeeper is a founder and active partner of Catskills CRAFT (Collaborative Regional Alliance for Farmer Training) which provides opportunities for people who are interested in farming to network with more established farmers to share skills and resources. Since it began in 2011, Catskills CRAFT has organized visits to many of the more than 20 participating area farms, and several of the group members - with support from ‘mentor’ farmers - have gone on to start their own farms.



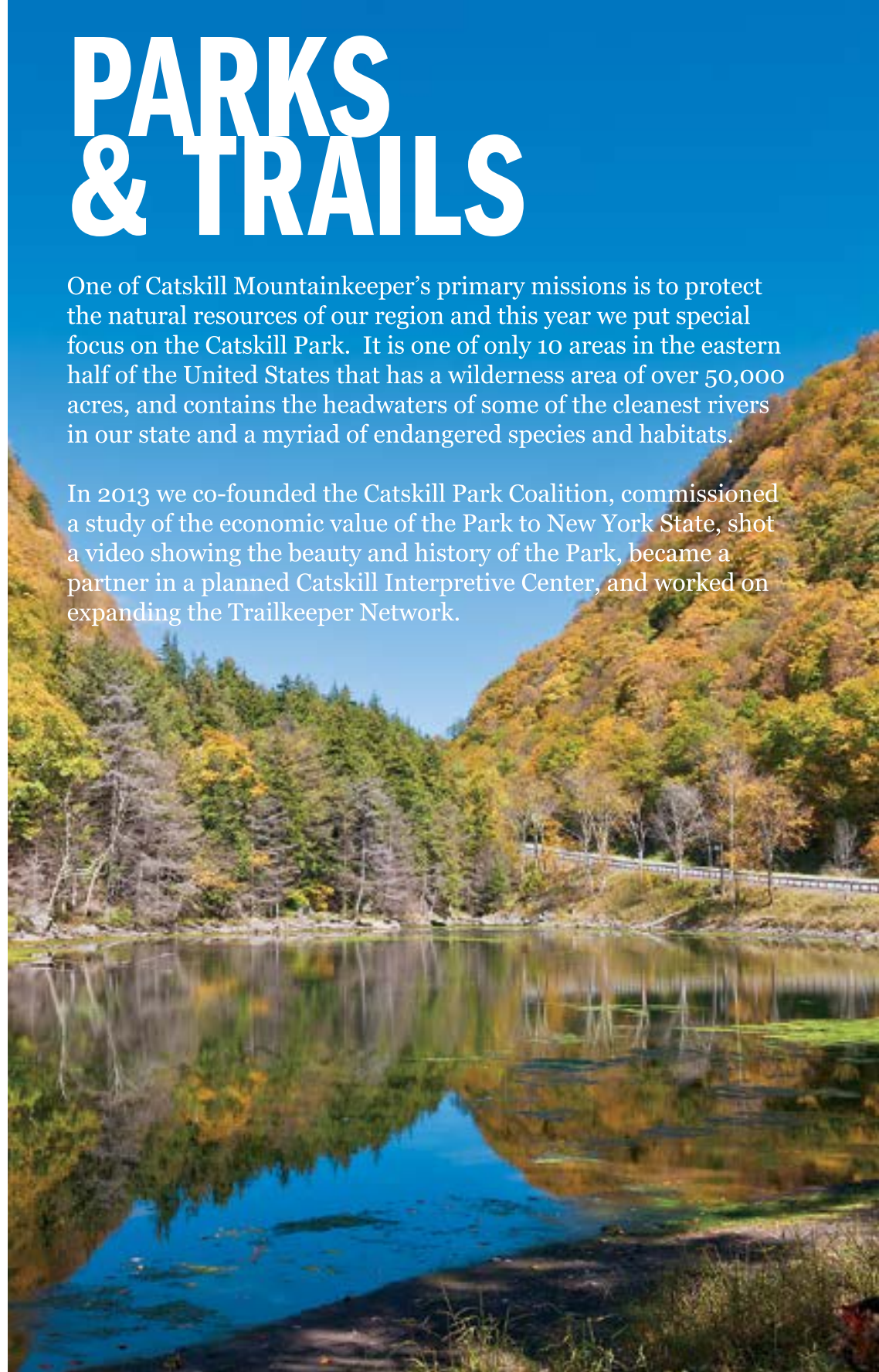
MITIGATING THE IMPACTS OF **CASINOS**

As the push to bring casinos to the Catskills accelerated, Catskill Mountainkeeper worked tirelessly to educate voters about the impact casinos would have in the region. On Election Day, New York voters approved an amendment to the state's constitution to allow seven state sanctioned casinos in New York. The result is that the Catskill region will see at least one Las Vegas style casino. Now Mountainkeeper will work with the Governor, local elected officials and developers to ensure that the best location is chosen and that the negative impacts of a casino are mitigated as much as possible. We want to make sure that the casino succeeds and has a positive impact on the region. The referendum promised to create jobs, lower taxes and support education - we will work to make sure those promises are fulfilled.

PARKS & TRAILS

One of Catskill Mountainkeeper's primary missions is to protect the natural resources of our region and this year we put special focus on the Catskill Park. It is one of only 10 areas in the eastern half of the United States that has a wilderness area of over 50,000 acres, and contains the headwaters of some of the cleanest rivers in our state and a myriad of endangered species and habitats.

In 2013 we co-founded the Catskill Park Coalition, commissioned a study of the economic value of the Park to New York State, shot a video showing the beauty and history of the Park, became a partner in a planned Catskill Interpretive Center, and worked on expanding the Trailkeeper Network.



CATSKILL PARK COALITION

In 2013 we co-founded the Catskill Park Coalition, an advocacy group whose main goal is to strengthen the recreation-based economy of the surrounding communities and make sure that the Park gets its fair share of state resources so that its historic, scenic, and ecological integrity can be preserved. We formed an advisory board of key environmental groups in the region and are planning a strategy to influence our elected officials during the next legislative session.

PARKLANDS STUDY

On February 13, 2013 we released a study that we commissioned with the Catskill Center for Conservation and Development, and the Catskill Heritage Alliance that confirmed with hard data the exceptional economic contribution our world-class wilderness has offered our region and supported the need to maintain its pristine character as the founders of the park intended.

CATSKILL PARK VIDEO

Catskill Mountainkeeper is now putting the final touches on an original video titled "Catskill Park" that brings to the screen the majestic beauty of the Catskills – its history, wilderness and waterways. Premiering in New York City in the spring of 2014, it will be used to educate people about the value of the Park, and will raise awareness of the importance of protecting it and its water sources from threats like fracking, over-development and neglect.



CATSKILL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

Catskill Mountainkeeper is supporting plans for a new visitor's center at a major gateway to Catskill Park on Route 28 in Mount Tremper, NY. Construction of the Maurice Hinchey Catskill Interpretive Center is planned to begin in the spring of 2014. Catskill Mountainkeeper sits on the board of Friends of the Catskill Interpretive Center and we are one of a core group of organizations that have committed to staffing the center when it opens the following fall.

TRAILKEEPER NETWORK

This November we celebrated the one-year anniversary of our launch of **TrailKeeper.org** - an online resource for hiking trails and local area attractions and amenities in Sullivan County. In 2013 we welcomed thousands of visitors to the website, and promoted the project online and at commercial sites throughout the region. We also expanded our partnership to include the Audubon Society, and in 2014, we plan to link trails with information on birding.

Part of the work of Trailkeeper Network is to increase the number of public trails in the region. In Ulster County, we have been working to convert unused railways into accessible walking and biking trails that would expand the existing network of trails in Catskill Park.

Trailkeeper is a collaborative project of Catskill Mountainkeeper and its partners the Delaware Highlands Conservancy, the Sullivan County Division of Planning and Environmental Management, the Sullivan County Visitors Association, and Morgan Outdoors, with assistance from the Upper Delaware Council, Sullivan Renaissance, the New York New Jersey Trail Conference, the National Park Service, Sullivan County Community College Hiking Class, and many volunteers.





COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Being a part of the community that we work so hard to protect is important to Catskill Mountainkeeper. We have created an online community of more than 28,000 activists, which continues to grow daily. While we reach many supporters with the help of new technologies like Facebook and Twitter, we still see great value in traveling across the state to educate, inform and recruit participation in our signature campaigns. This year, we opened a new office in Hurleyville to house our outreach operations and hired a full-time Outreach Coordinator.

To educate and advocate for our causes we have organized and attended events and rallies, hosted workshops, published articles, testified at hearings, met with editorial boards, and collected thousands of petition signatures. Some examples of our educational outreach this year include:



- organized tours for college students to visit fracking sites in Pennsylvania
- hosted the TED Talk “Changing the Way We Eat”
- encouraged a student community newspaper to run a series of articles on local farms and food
- launched a 10-day Extreme Energy immersion program for student environmental leaders

OUR MAJOR EVENTS INCLUDED:



BARNFEST IN WOODSTOCK

This year we hosted our annual Barnfest celebration in Woodstock, NY, and over 1,500 Mountainkeeper supporters came together to celebrate the art, food and culture of the Catskills. We honored Jayni and Chevy Chase for their lifetime commitment to the environment; heard from award winning actor and actress Aidan Quinn and Melissa Leo, and food activist and best-selling author Ben Hewitt, who spoke on the importance of a local food economy. Other honorees and speakers included: Patrick H. Dollard, Sean Eldridge, Paul Green, Levon Helm (posthumously), Natalie Merchant, Catherine Sebastian, Happy Traum, and the Woodstock Land Conservancy.

NEVERSINK FARM-TO-TABLE SUPPER

This summer Catskill Mountainkeeper held our second farm-to-table supper at Neversink Farm, a small-scale organic vegetable and flower farm in the Catskills. We use these dinners to raise awareness about our local agriculture and food system and help bring our supporters closer to the farms and farmers that produce the foods they eat. James Beard Award-winning chef, Patrick Connolly, prepared a sumptuous meal that was inspired by seasonal, local produce.



MID-SUMMER SUPER

Mountainkeeper supporters gathered at the classic Catskill home of John and Patricia Adams to enjoy a delicious farm-to-table supper sourced from local Catskill farms and purveyors. Guests also enjoyed a sneak preview of the original video “Catskill Park,” which will premier in the Spring of 2014.

MEMORIAL DAY REUSE SALE

In keeping with the Catskill Memorial Day weekend tradition, Mountainkeeper hosted its first community tag sale. We received hundreds of donations from supporters, gave new lives to old wears, and in the process met many members of the community interested in learning more about our work to protect the Catskills.



CONTRA DANCE

Justine Sutherland kindly hosted a Contra Dance in Parksville to raise funds for Mountainkeeper’s programs. Seasoned pros along with contra dancing novices showed their support by dancing the night away to wonderful live music.

COCKTAILS WITH COWARD

Generously hosted by Mountainkeeper supporters Ben and Idith Korman, this elegant afternoon at the historic Galli Curci mansion in Highmont was the perfect Catskill setting for the witty Malcom Gordon cabaret and live piano performance, which raised funds to support the Catskill Heritage Alliance and Catskill Mountainkeeper.



STAYING CONNECTED

For Catskill Mountainkeeper, educating the public is a core part of our mission, and today, one of the best ways to do that is with new technology. We utilize social media platforms like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube to keep people informed; use text messaging to quickly reach thousands of supporters with information at rallies; and publish articles in the blogosphere as an important way to help New Yorkers stay connected with newsworthy developments. Many of our programs even have their own websites, like the Catskill Park Coalition, the Community Fracking Defense Project and Trailkeeper Network.



OPT-IN
SUPPORTERS
27,946

 TWITTER
FOLLOWERS
7,873

 FACEBOOK
FOLLOWERS / LIKES
5,000 / 3,189

2013

THANKS TO YOUR GENEROUS CONTRIBUTIONS OF TIME AND SUPPORT, THIS YEAR HAS BEEN AN INCREDIBLY PRODUCTIVE YEAR FOR CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER.

AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO 2014

PLEASE HELP US CONTINUE OUR IMPORTANT WORK AND CONSIDER US PART OF YOUR YEAR-END GIVING.

Tax-Deductible Donations can be made:

- online at www.catskillmountainkeeper.org
- by mailing a check to:
Catskill Mountainkeeper
PO Box 381
Youngsville NY, 12791
- by stopping by to visit us on Rte. 52 in Youngsville



Featured volunteer, Cameron Williams, has donated his time and talents to Catskill Mountainkeeper for several years. He has helped us educate New Yorkers about the dangers of fracking and sustainable alternatives by setting up media interviews, designing brochures, writing for newsletters, staffing information tables at several Mountainkeeper events and advancing our Carbon Neutral Catskills initiative. His keen photographic eye has captured the essence and spirit of Mountainkeeper events and the beauty of our beloved Catskills – some of these photographs are featured in this report. If you see Cameron, please thank him for all that he has given to our community.



CATSKILL MOUNTAINKEEPER

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