

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT/ PROGRAM/ EVENT 2011-2012:

Note: Any program since last year's deadline is eligible.

Category: (Please circle or highlight the category for which this program is being submitted.)

- Women - Education - Community - International - Cultural - Diversity - Public Policy

Title: Hydrofracking presentation

Part I:

Other community groups involved, if any (list):(5 points) Town of Stoneateles

Number of members involved in planning or putting on the program (5 points) 7

Number of nonmembers involved in the program (5 points) 3

Number of members who attended or benefitted (5 points) see attachment

Number of nonmembers who attended or benefitted (5 points) approximately 275 people

Number of new members who joined (if any)(5 points) _____

Part II:

Describe your project/ program/ event in 75-150 words. Be sure to include:

- how the project addressed AAUW's mission (15 points)
- branch goals in doing this program (10 points)
- specific action steps in planning this program (15 points)
- steps taken for community visibility (Attach newsletter and newspaper articles.)(10 points)
- measurable impact on the community (10 points)
- lessons learned for future programs/ projects/ events (10 points)

Attach copies of newsletter and newspaper articles about this project/ program/ event.

(No more than 4 pages maximum)

Mail or email the original of your entire application with supporting materials to:

- Peggy Kelland, AAUW-NYS Program Vice President

- 13 Susan Lane, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

smkell45@aol.com

Questions? (845)297-0507

The Skaneateles Branch 2011-12

Individual Program Event

This event featured two women dairy farmers from Pennsylvania. They both signed leases allowing hydraulic fracturing for natural gas on their land. Their county is widely fractured and they spoke about the impact on themselves and their property (especially air and water quality) and on their community. They also spoke of deep divisions in their rural community, and of the information any landowner must have before signing a lease. Many audience members were farmers, who asked very good questions. Some had obviously signed leases. One farmer told me she was going to find out much more information after listening to the speakers.

The event was video recorded by students from Syracuse University school of journalism. Other media representatives took pictures and wrote featured articles about the event. These are enclosed. AAUW's visibility was greatly augmented by presenting this program. We also reached out to a part of the community, farmers, who do not ordinarily come to our events.

This was a terrific educational program and a great example of women empowering themselves. The biggest hurdles were persuading them to come and pre-publicity. The lesson learned was to plan for a larger venue.

Kathleen Goss

Attachment to Individual Program Event

Members who attended or benefitted:

The event was open to the public and no record of attendance was taken. The venue held 300 people (per the fire code) and many people had to be turned away. (This is in a Village of 3000 people, although we had attendance of people outside the Village). I saw many of our members there.

The event was covered extensively in the local papers, so that our members, and the larger community, definitely benefitted even if they did not attend.

Kathleen Gorr

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kathleen Gorr".

Fracking forum set in Skaneateles

Two farmers who signed drilling leases will talk about their experiences.

By **Catie O'Toole**
Staff writer

Two Pennsylvania dairy farmers will speak Wednesday night about their experiences after signing leases for natural gas drilling by hydraulic fracturing.

Dairy farmers Carol French and Carolyn Knapp will present "Hydrofracking: The Good, the Bad and the Very Ugly" at 7 p.m. at the Skaneateles First Presbyterian Church, 97 E. Genesee St., Skaneateles.

French and Knapp will discuss their observations of hydrofracking in their community.

"They will address the benefits, the negatives, lease negotiations and the effects of intensive fracking on the air, water, roads, quality of life, health of people and livestock, and land values in Bradford County," according to a news release.

Bradford County is the second "most fracked" county in Pennsylvania. The county is in northeastern Pennsylvania's Endless Mountains region.

French and Knapp will answer questions. The public is invited to attend.

The presentation is sponsored by the Skaneateles branch of the American Association of University Women.

For more information, contact Skaneateles AAUW President Kathy Gorr at gorrlaw@yahoo.com or 685-6545.

Contact Catie O'Toole cotoole@syracuse.com or 470-2134.

Funds would reinstate coach

FUNDS, FROM PAGE A-3

JDYAA, and fundraisers may be organ the future.

Sports such as soccer and lacrosse historically fielded two teams, but this fall were only enough coaches for one team modified boys and girls soccer and football. The same would be true in the spring football.

The funds would reinstate five coach modified level and three assistant coach the JV/varsity level.

The West Genesee school district faced a similar crisis, and parents there started a group for modified sports to bring back 12 coaching jobs. When the group raised \$50,000, an Alec Baldwin (whose mother, Carol Baldwin lives in Camillus) kicked in another \$25,000.

The J-D cuts hurt.

"I think there were 26 boys cut from and 20-some girls," said Joy Binder, an organizer. "At this age everyone should have the chance to play a sport if they want to. There were no cuts and everyone was accepted."

Stephanie Harley said she has two children in elementary school, and she would like to have the chance to play modified sports.

"It's so important for their development, their health and their confidence," she said. "They learn so much about being on a team at that age."

Contact Elizabeth Doran at edoran@syracuse.com or 470-3012.

To help

The SaveJDSports committee is accepting donations, which are tax-deductible, at SaveJDSports.com or by checks sent to JC SaveJDSports, Box 308, Jamesville, N.Y. 13078-0308.



limited-edition Holiday Bullseye get.com through December 31, base price goes to St. Jude and they care for, up to \$375,000. out Target's partnership with com/StJude. Or visit stjude.org.

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'Since the gas started'

Pennsylvania pair recount their hydrofracking experience

By Amanda Wada

Protestors carrying anti-fracking signs at Skaneateles First Presbyterian Church seemed to be preaching to the choir Wednesday at the "Hindsight is 20/20" hydrofracking presentation sponsored by the American Association of University Women.

Two farmers from Bradford County, Pa., Carolyn Knapp and Carol French, came to Skaneateles to discuss their experience with the Pennsylvania gas industry.

While they claimed alliance to neither pro- nor anti-fracking, Carolyn and Carol clearly warned of what they called a "community divide."

"Carolyn and I have chosen not to label ourselves whether we are pro- or anti-gas," Carol said. "We are simply living in a time of miscommunication, succumbing to misinformation while our safety and well-being are in question."

"Because of this, we are seeing our communities become divided. Some have drawn the line and will not budge on either side. Everything has become black and white, no one has taken the time to explore the grey issues. The result has become a divide in our community. And our communities need each other's support the most."

Carolyn and Carol have first-hand experience with hydrofracking. They are both Bradford County dairy farmers. Carol runs a conventional dairy operation, Carolyn an organic farm.

Both agreed to lease property rights to the gas industry for hydrofracking purposes.

It was standing room

the area has been hit hard economically. Residents have seen the cost of living skyrocket as a fleet of workers flooded the sleepy, rural community.

"Rentals went from \$350 to \$1200 a month," Carol said. "That's just for a one room apartment." Food prices have also increased, as have taxes.

Law enforcement and emergency services are also feeling the burden of the quickly expanded community.

"Many of the local police forces are beginning to speak up about crime," Carolyn Knapp told the crowd. "It's mostly DUIs and bar fights." Carolyn explained that the area's jails are filled, and the state has begun shipping its inmates to New York.

"Welcome to New York," exclaimed one member from the audience.

The gas industry has brought hundreds of tractor trailers onto aging county roads, leaving many of them inaccessible.

"The gas industry is really hammering the road, and the roads just fell out from underneath them," Carolyn said. "For two weeks I went with four-foot ditches in front of my road. Since then they've re-done the road twice."

"Carolyn also has two to three hundred trucks passing by her right now," Carol added. "For two weeks children could not get to the school because of these roads. For two weeks, people that were on dialysis could not get to the hospital to receive treatment because of these kind of roads. Also, there was no federal mail delivered for two weeks."



AMANDA W

As Carol French, right, speaks about the Pennsylvania hydrofracking experience, Carolyn Knapp, left, holds an enlarged picture which shows a row of heavy commercial traffic brought by the gas industry to Route 6 in Bradford County Penn. At one point, community members could not access the roads for two weeks to receive mail, go to school even get to the hospital, French said.

"swirly white" drinking water, and held back tears as she told us of her daughter's recent health problems.

"Three weeks ago my daughter had a fever for three days. She's 24 years old. She never complains. She had diarrhea, she had cramps, stabbing pains in her stomach.

"After a week she lost 10 pounds and she asked me to please take her to the hospital. Mind you, we don't have health insurance — like a lot of farmers in our area, but I did take her like a mom would. They did blood work

and urine samples and they did an MRI.

"The blood samples didn't show any high elevated white blood cells, but the urine did. In the MRI, they found fluid in her abdomen. Her right ovary is enlarged, and her spleen and her liver are slightly enlarged."

Carol's daughter has since decided to move to Tennessee to escape the risk of further health problems.

After their 90-minute presentation, Carol and Carolyn opened the floor to questions.

Members of the audi-

ence raised concerns about how fracking could affect central New York if the gas industry were to begin drilling here.

"It's a beautiful, beautiful area here. I didn't realize how beautiful it was," Carol said. "But your way of life will change. The tourists will be gone. I think you guys will end up hiding in your homes."

Amanda Wada is an editor/reporter for the Eagle Observer. Reach her at awada@eaglenewsonline.com.

Fracking firsthand

Pennsylvania farmers share experiences of negotiating with drilling companies

Nate Robson
Skaneateles Journal

SKANEATELES — A pair of Pennsylvania dairy farmers shared their firsthand experiences with the natural gas industry and how their communities have changed by hydraulic fracturing.

Carol French and Carolyn Knapp, both of Bradford County, Pa., spent nearly 30 minutes discussing how to negotiate a property lease with the gas industry, as well as the health and environmental impacts of hydrofracking during a talk on Nov. 16.



A packed audience listens to two dairy farmers' experience leasing land to a gas drilling company in Pennsylvania. Photo provided

See FRACKING, Page A5

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Fracking

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Both French, a midsize dairy farmer, and Knapp, an organic dairy farmer, leased land to the gas industry and agreed expectations of becoming rich are often exaggerated.

The industry can pay anywhere between several hundred to several thousand dollars per acre of land, but the big money is in royalties, French said. Royalties only kick in if the industry uses

the land for fracking, meaning a property owner wouldn't receive money if a company set up equipment on a neighbor's land, but fracked underneath their acreage.

The lease terminology can be so convoluted that the women urged property owners to hire a lawyer to iron out the details.

"You need oil and gas lawyers to look at the leases," French told an audience of several hundred at Skaneateles' First Presbyterian Church. "The lawyers we had practiced elder law, and they didn't have a clue."

The complicated nature

of leasing with the gas industry caught many in the audience by surprise. David and Ellen Suarez said they barely had a grasp of the lease requirements at the end of the session.

"It seems like they (French and Knapp) had to become lawyers to understand what was happening with their own leases, it was all very technical," said Ellen Suarez, of Syracuse. "I didn't understand half of it because it was just so complicated."

Outside of leasing woes, the two Pennsylvania women described how they saw the gas drilling operations destroy

their roads, making it impossible for children to get to school or for letter carriers to deliver mail to residences. They also said water and livestock became contaminated by fracking chemicals.

French told two stories where a neighbor lost almost 80 cattle after they supposedly drank contaminated water. Residents in their community were treated for enlarged spleens and livers, possibly due to drinking water contaminated with fracking chemicals, she added.

The contamination can also damage crops.

While the companies are obligated to replace contaminated water wells, they are not responsible for crops and livestock, French said. Even with wells, residents were urged to get a thorough and independent water test to ensure they can prove in court the gas industry contaminated their water sources.

"We have serious contamination — people have died," French said. "Now we have milk in Pennsylvania that is contaminated. ... I know that this area is great wine county and you should be concerned about that."

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Pa. farmers describe impact of fracking

► Skaneateles church packed with residents to hear first-hand account.

NATE ROBSON
The Citizen

SKANEATELES — A pair of Pennsylvania dairy farmers were in Skaneateles Wednesday to tell residents about their first-hand experience with the natural gas industry and how their communities have been changed by hydraulic fracturing.

More inside on fracking
• Moravia residents want town ban.
• State DEC holds first public hearing in Dansville
See Page A6.

Carol French and Carolyn Knapp, both of Bradford County, Pa., spent nearly 90 minutes discussing how to negotiate a property lease with the gas industry and the health and environmental impacts of hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking.

See FARMERS, A6



Nate Robson / The Citizen

Carol French, left, and Carolyn Knapp speak to an audience of several hundred central New York residents at First Presbyterian Church in Skaneateles Wednesday. The two Pennsylvania dairy farmers were in Skaneateles to discuss their experience with the natural gas industry and hydraulic fracturing in Bradford County, Pa.

Continued from A1

Both French, a mid-size dairy farmer, and Knapp, an organic dairy farmer, have leased land to the gas industry and said expectations of becoming rich are often exaggerated.

The industry can pay anywhere between several hundred to several thousand dollars per acre of land, but the big money is in royalties, French said.

Royalties only kick in if the industry uses the land for fracking, meaning a property owner wouldn't be entitled to any of that money if a company set up equipment on a neighbor's land.

The lease terminology can also be so convoluted that both women urged property owners to get a lawyer to iron out the details.

"You need oil and gas lawyers to look at the leases," French told an audience of several hundred at Skaneateles' First Presbyterian Church. "The lawyers we had practiced elder law, and they didn't have a clue."

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vania that is contaminated ... I know that this area is great wine country and you should be concerned about that."

Staff writer Nate Robson can be reached at 282-2248 or nathan.robson@lee.net. Follow him on Twitter at [CitizenRobson](https://twitter.com/CitizenRobson).

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Auburn Citizen
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