



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EARTH DAY IN AUTUMN AT BETHEL WOODS THIS SUNDAY!

BETHEL, NY (September 14, 2009) – The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods continues with its annual Earth Day in Autumn festival this Sunday, September 20th. Earth Day in Autumn provides festival goers the opportunity to connect with organizations working to promote environmental awareness. Throughout the day visitors can learn about renewable energy, land preservation, sustainable green building, recycling and much more! Come out to see live eagles and raptors by Delaware Valley Raptors (Demonstration of Live Birds of Prey) at 1pm.

This year marks the eleventh anniversary of the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods, an annual event celebrating the bounty, talent, and beauty of Sullivan County and surrounding areas. Over the years, the festival has grown from a small farmer's market with a handful of vendors and a few guest musicians, to a full festival featuring close to 100 vendors each week as part of the farmer's market, craft village and festival food areas. The Festival also presents artist demos, corn & hay mazes, pony rides, art and education programs, a Woodstock and '60s themed table auction, "gathering of the scarecrows" and more.

A sense of community is reflected throughout the Harvest Festival. The corn and hay mazes are operated each week by volunteer organizations that are able to benefit from this fundraising opportunity as well as the chance to share information about their group and possibly recruit new volunteers. The Children's Area features various activities each week that are presented by community organizations that also have the opportunity to educate others about their mission.

Celebrate Earth Day in Autumn at The Harvest Festival with exhibits and demonstrations from local and regional environmental and conservation organizations including Apple Pond Farm Renewable Energy Education Center, Basha Kill Area Association, Eagle Institute, edible and medicinal plant and mushroom exhibits with Nathaniel Whitmore, Green Demolitions, Mid-Hudson Energy Smart, Sullivan County Audubon Society, Snakeman's Snake Show, Transition Towns Sullivan, Gardens by Kelley, Catskill Mountainkeeper, Damascus Citizens for Sustainability, Catskill Citizens for Safe Energy, Sullivan County Community College, Delaware Highlands Conservancy and Sullivan Renaissance will be on site with the Electric Mini Cooper.

Activities held in the Children's Area this week will include a recycled art activity with Matt Sherman, an all-natural tie-dye, leaf rubbings, and vegetable stamp project with The Museum at Bethel Woods Education Manager, Margaret Hughes, a Hungry Caterpillar project for small children and an origami animal themed mask project for the older kids with Catskill Art Society. The Corn and Hay Mazes will be operated by, and proceeds will benefit Delaware Highlands Conservancy and the Bethel Youth Board. The Sullivan County SPCA will also be on site with adoptable dogs.

Celebrate the Earth this week with Margaret Hughes, Museum Education Manager, where the art activities are all based on local produce. All-natural tie-dye, leaf rubbings, and vegetable stamps will be

available in the museum tent this week! Bandanas are available at no charge (while supplies last), or bring a shirt from home to decorate.

This week the Catskill Art Society will be offering arts and crafts for children of all ages. Small children can join in to make their very own Hungry Caterpillar while listening to a reading of the famous story. Older children will enjoy creating an animal themed mask, taking inspiration from the Harvest Festival's presentation of Birds of Prey or learn the art of Origami. In keeping with the Earth Day theme, recycled materials will be provided for the arts and crafts projects. Additionally, CAS will offer face painting.

Don't miss live folk music by Janet Burgan at 11:30am and Judith Tulloch at 2:30pm. Upper Delaware Writers and Catskill Area Writers will be at the festival signing their books.

This year a Table Auction of handcrafted oak tables will benefit community and children's programming. The auction takes place for the duration of the Festival, ending Columbus Day Weekend. The tables which will be on display each week, were handcrafted of oak by Catskill Outdoor Furniture and are uniquely decorated by area artists with themes from the '60s and the Woodstock Festival. Many of these artists also participated in the bench auction last year.

The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods occurs every Sunday from 11am - 4pm, August 30 through Columbus Day weekend, rain or shine. Located approximately 90 minutes from New York City at the site of the 1969 Woodstock festival in Bethel, NY, Bethel Woods is the perfect day trip or weekend getaway. Harvest Festival attendees can also add a ticket for The Museum at Bethel Woods, which explores the '60s and Woodstock, and make a full day of their visit. Take the free museum shuttle bus between the museum and the Harvest Festival, from 12:00 – 5:00.

A \$2.00 per car parking fee has been implemented to help offset costs to operate the Festival, and permits Bethel Woods to continue to present this important quality community event. Admission to the Festival is FREE.

The Harvest Festival schedule is as follows, for more information please visit www.BethelWoodsCenter.org

September 27 – Mountain Music Festival

October 4 – Chili Day in October

October 11 – Rustic Home Craft Festival

About The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods:

The Harvest Festival is one of several programs that reflect the commitment to community that serves as the fundamental mission of the Bethel Woods Center for the Arts. The festival reflects our mission to support sustainability and continued regional economic development through this annual commitment to provide a venue for our local farmers, artisans, community organizations and businesses. A visit to the Festival offers the opportunity for people to gather and form relationships in ways that are absent from traditional retail/buyer transactions. We connect local and regional growers and artisans with the community and provide an opportunity for shoppers to buy local and support a regional economy. The benefit of being able to interact with the hard working families who produce and harvest their food and the thrill of watching artisans create their wares keeps Festival goers coming back week after week; year after year. The grown and harvested food and crafted items are acts of personal inspiration, and the festival offers visitors the opportunity to learn more about this process and to better appreciate and understand its value.