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11TH ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL KICKS OFF AUGUST 30

BETHEL, NY (August 4, 2009) – 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 by volunteer organizations that are able to benefit from this fundraising opportunity as well as by 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.

The annual Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods occurs every Sunday 11am - 4pm, August 30 through Columbus Day weekend, rain or shine. Located approximately 90 minutes from New York City at the site of the original 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 60's and Woodstock, and make a full day of their visit.

Admission is FREE and Parking is \$2.00 per car. 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 community event quality event.

Be part of the annual "Gathering of the Scarecrows"; a great opportunity to promote your business or organization. There will be prizes for the favorite scarecrow. Contact the Harvest Festival office for details and a registration form at 845.295.2448.

August 30 - The Harvest Wine Festival

Six years young and aging like a fine wine, the Wine Festival is a celebration of wine, food, art and entertainment. The festival features a tasting of regional wineries from the Finger Lakes and the Hudson Valley's Shawangunk Wine Trail, short seminars and other elements of interest to connoisseurs, collectors and wine lovers. Wine is available for tasting and for sale. There is a \$5 tasting fee, which includes a complimentary souvenir glass (while supplies last). Wineries include Whitecliff Winery, Glenora Farm Winery, Silver Stream Winery, Glorie Farm Winery, Swedish Hill Winery, Pazdar Winery, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, Knapp Farms, Fulkerson Winery, Anthony Road Winery and White Springs Winery.

Music by: Joe Crookston and Helen Avakian
Performance by: The Dance Emporium of Middletown

September 6 - Alpaca Festival

Soft, cute and new to the farm, come out and celebrate the 9th annual Alpaca Festival. Exhibits will feature live alpacas and explain the history of alpaca farming while spinners and weavers demonstrate how the fiber is made. A boutique will offer scarves, shawls, gloves, hats, jackets, dresses, skirts, sweaters and teddy bears.

Music by: Erin & John Slaver and Somerville
Performance by: The Janice Center
Book signing by: Barry Lewis and Alan Lewis

September 13 – Taste of Sullivan Bicentennial Event

The first annual “Taste of Sullivan” is a great opportunity for local residents and visitors to come sample what some Sullivan County’s favorite eateries have to offer! Ten local restaurants will be on hand, showing off their signature flavors and utilizing locally grown and produced foods. This is a true farm-to-table experience. \$5 tasting fee.

Music by: Albey and Darren, Stacy Cohen and Friends
Book signing by: Sharon Phillips

September 20 – Earth Day in Autumn

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.

Music by: Janet Burgan and Judith Tulloch
Book signing by: Upper Delaware Writers Collective and Catskill Area Writers

September 27 – Mountain Music Festival

The Mountain Music Festival is a celebration of the music that originated in small towns and mountain villages across America, and became what we know today as bluegrass, old time and country music. Guitars, banjos, mandolins and sweet harmonies are all part of this rich and ever changing tradition of American music. Workshops include, Old time Banjo workshop with Bob Bell, Kid’s guitar workshop with Larry Kitzmiller, Bluegrass guitar workshop with Larry Mandon, Harmony Signing workshop with Anne Loeb and a Musicians Jam Session at 3:00pm.

Music by: Jesse Kitzmiller; Anne Loeb and Mike Baglione; Two Steps Back; North Country; Mike Burns Band
Performance by: D.R.E.A.M. Tank Tub Band
Book signing by: Rilla Askew

October 4 – Chili Day in October

Sponsored by: Jeff Bank and M & M Auto Group

The heat is on at this years' seventh annual "Chili Day in October" festival. The day will feature a friendly competition between area fire departments to see who can create the best chili. Visitors are welcome to taste and vote on several varieties and styles of chili. Who will the trophy go to this year? Come out and be the judge!

Music by: John Zanger and The Shots and the Bergen County Firefighter's Pipe Band
Book signing by: Patrick Thomas

October 11 – Rustic Home Craft Festival

Sponsored by: A & J Hometown Oil, Inc. and Catskill Regional Medical Center

The Columbus Day Rustic Home Craft Festival will feature the largest gathering of craft artists ever assembled at Bethel Woods! As many as 80 local artisans will feature hand-made country home crafts including wood carvings, home furnishings, pottery, accessories and other accents for the home. All items

will be on display and available for sale, additional items include hand-made jewelry, clothing, hats and more!

Music by: Cooper Boone and The Don't Do Darlings

Performance by: Act Up Teen Theater

Book signing by: Joe Freda

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.

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