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MOUNTAIN MUSIC FESTIVAL AT BETHEL WOODS THIS SUNDAY!

BETHEL, NY (September 24, 2009) – The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods continues with its 3rd annual Mountain Music festival this Sunday, September 27th. The Mountain Music festival is a celebration of traditional and acoustic music from Sullivan County and the Catskills. The event features five bands as well as workshops in banjo, harmony singing, bluegrass guitar and guitar for kids.

A Special First Annual Airing of the Quilts will be presented in the Event Tent. This exhibit will feature quilts from the Catskills presented by the Calico Geese and the Claryville Quilters. In addition to a lovely display of quilts there will be demonstrations and workshops throughout the day.

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.

The Mountain Music Festival will feature performances by:

11:15 – Jesse Kitmiller
11:40 – D.R.E.A.M. Tank Tub Band
12:00 – Anne Loeb and Mike Baglione
1:00 – Two Steps Back
2:00 – North Country
3:00 – Musicians Jam Session on the Stage – Bring your instruments

Workshops presented will include a children's guitar workshop with Larry Kitmiller at 12:00; Banjo with Bob Bell at 1:00; Mandolin Bluegrass guitar with Larry Mandon at 2:00 and Harmony Singing with Anne Loeb at 3:00.

Rilla Askew will be on hand signing copies of her books *The Mercy Seat*, *Fire in Beulah*, *Harpson* and *Strange Business*.

Activities held in the Children's Area this week will include making musical instruments with Matt Sherman, and a tub making and drumming workshop with D.R.E.A.M. Tank Project – bring your own tub to jam along. A Tasmanian wildlife art project will be presented by The Museum at Bethel Woods Education Manager, Margaret Hughes. Travel to the Land Down under with art activities inspired by the wildlife of Tasmania. From 11:00-1:30 children of all ages are invited to participate in activities that will be led by art instructors from Tasmania.

The Corn and Hay Mazes will be operated by, and proceeds will benefit Holiday Mountain Ski Patrol.

Take the shuttle to the museum, where you can enjoy musical performances by The Craggs, a Tasmanian band, and learn about Tasmanian culture. Performances are approximately one hour and will be held at 2:00 and 4:00. Additional art activities begin in the museum at 3:00.

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.

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

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.