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SOFT, CUTE AND NEW TO THE FARM, COME OUT AND CELEBRATE ALPACAS AT THE HARVEST FESTIVAL

BETHEL, NY (August 22, 2008) – The Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods invites you to the 8th annual Alpaca Festival, Sunday, August 31. The Double E Alpaca Farm exhibits will explain the historical and cultural origin of alpaca farming and will feature live alpacas of every color, demonstrations by spinners and weavers, and a wine tasting. Mantequilla Alpaca Fashions will offer a boutique filled with beautiful alpaca fashions such as sweaters, scarves, shawls, coats, gloves, hats, dresses, skirts, and teddy bears. Visitors will have an opportunity for hands on workshops in spinning and weaving.

Don't miss performances by Cooper Boone at 11:30 and Somerville at 2:00pm. Local author Beth Quinn will sign copies of her novel *Unleashed: The Collected Dog Columns*.

Activities in the children's area include making book marks with Girls Scouts Heart of the Hudson, hoola hoops, jump ropes, beach balls and games with the Mid-Hudson/Sullivan Diabetes Coalition and a weaving workshop with Matt Sherman.

Alpacas are members of the camelid family, "cousins" to llamas, and known for their luxurious fiber. The business of breeding alpacas is one of the fastest-growing livestock industries in the United States today. Alpacas are native to South America, particularly Peru, Bolivia, and Chile. They were first imported into the United States in 1984.

The Harvest Festival occurs every Sunday 11am – 4pm, August 24th thru 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, this is the perfect day trip or weekend getaway. Admission and parking are free. 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.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Harvest Festival at Bethel Woods, an annual event celebrating the bounty, talent, and beauty of Sullivan County and the region. In ten years, the festival has grown from a small farmer's market with a handful of vendors and a few guest musicians who provided background music, 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 special events and live performances, a children's area with enrichment activities that include arts and crafts as well as corn and hay mazes, pony rides, "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 10th anniversary season of the Harvest Festival is presented by The Chapin Estate and supported by the Gerry Foundation as well as event day sponsors; A&J Hometown Oil, Inc., Catskill Regional Medical Center and M&M Auto Group who share the same commitment to the community and regional economic development.

September 7 - Rustic for the Home – sponsored by Catskill Regional Medical Center

September 14 - Mountain Music Festival

September 21 - Earth Day in Autumn – sponsored by A&J Hometown Oil, Inc.

September 28 - The Ag Experience

October 5 - Cajun Festival

October 12 - Chili Cook-Off – sponsored by M&M Auto Group

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.

ABOUT THE CHAPIN ESTATE

The 2,500± acre Chapin Estate encompasses hundreds of acres of unspoiled wilderness, including two boating and fishing reservoirs, a private trout fishing stream and miles of hiking trails which are also suitable for mountain biking and horseback riding. The Chapin Estate also adjoins more than 13,000 acres of forever wild forestlands owned by the State of New York. The Chapin Estate homes are specifically designed and built to reflect the owners' unique lifestyle and personal desires, while accentuating the natural beauty and balance with its setting. Located just two hours from New York City, The Chapin Estate provides an "Adirondack experience" all year long, offering amenities including a members only Lake Club and a community exclusive Concierge Service. For more information please contact The Chapin Estate at (866) 5834900 or visit www.ChapinEstate.com.

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