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10TH ANNIVERSARY HARVEST FESTIVAL SEASON

BETHEL, NY (August 18, 2008) – 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 other sponsors who share the same commitment to the community and regional economic development.

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.

August 24 - The Harvest Wine Festival

The Wine Festival features a tasting of regional wineries from the Hudson Valley and Finger Lakes, 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 participation fee. Wineries include Brotherhood Winery, Bashakill Vineyards, Whitecliff Winery, Cascade Mountain Winery, Hazlitt 1852 Vineyards, Swedish Hill Winery, Brimstone Hill Winery, Pazdar Winery, Fulkerson Winery, Adair Vineyards, Anthony Road Winery and Hudson-Chatham Winery.

Performers: Erin Slaver, Stacy Cohen and Friends

Book signing by: Paul Vazquez

August 31 - Alpaca Festival

The Alpaca Festival exhibits will explain the history of alpaca farming, demonstrations by spinners and weavers and live alpacas of every color. A boutique will offer scarves, shawls, gloves, hats, jackets, dresses, skirts, sweaters and teddy bears. Sponsored by A & J Hometown Oil, Inc.

Performers: Cooper Boone, Somerville

Book signing by: Beth Quinn - *Unleashed: The Collected Dog Columns*

September 7 - Rustic for the Home

Hand-made furnishings and accents crafted by local artisans will be featured at this year's "Rustic for the Home". As well as an expanded specialty craft area featuring wood carvings, homemade furniture, pottery, accessories and accents for the home. Sponsored by Catskill Regional Medical Center.

Performers: Janet Burgan, Helen Avakian

Book signing by: Rilla Askew – *Harpsong, The Mercy Seat, Fire in the Beulah*

September 14 - Mountain Music Festival

The Mountain Music Festival will include a celebration of traditional acoustic and bluegrass music featuring performances and workshops. Workshops such as Mandolin; Bluegrass banjo; Bluegrass guitar and more! Don't miss the open jam at 3pm in the events tent, please remember to bring your instrument. Performers: Breakneck Annie, Biodiesel Band, North Country and Mike Baglione & Friends with special guest, Larry Packer.

Book signing by: Malachy McCourt – *History of Ireland, Voices of Ireland, Claddagh Ring*

September 21 - 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. This year the Harvest Festival is pleased to welcome Arm of the Sea Theater and their Turtle Island Medicine Show.

Performers: Judith Tulloch

Book signing by: Upper Delaware Writers Collective and Catskill Area Writers

September 28 - The Ag Experience

Cornell Cooperative Extension presents a day of informative agricultural exhibits and farming activities in this Catskill farm experience event. Exhibits include, master gardeners, cows, horses, maple syrup, bee keeping and more.

Performers: Basket Landing and The Bernstein Trio

Book signing by: Larry Winters – *The Making and Un-Making of a Marine*

October 5 - Cajun Festival

At this year's zydeco celebration festival goers are invited to wear the traditional Mardi Gras colors of green, purple and gold and children will have the opportunity to make masks and be part of the "Mask" Parade. Area restaurants will provide a taste of New Orleans with dishes such as gumbo, jambalaya and crawfish.

Performers: Cleoma's Ghost

Book signing by: Sharon Philips – *From Wallflower Blues to Red Hot Dancing Shoes: The Goddess Guide to Joyful Living and Fabulous Self-Care*

October 12 - Chili Cook-Off

The sixth annual "Chili Day in October" features a friendly competition between area fire departments to see who can create the best chili. Who will the trophy go to this year? Come out and be the judge!

Sponsored by M & M Auto Group.

Performers: 1967 - Classic Nostalgia, The Shots & the Bergen County Firefighters Pipe Band

Book signing by: Patrick Thomas – *Empty Graves*

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.

www.bethelwoodscenter.org