

November 19, 2008

Farm Catskills plans annual meeting

Farm Catskills will have its annual meeting from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday at The West Kortright Centre in East Meredith. The event is free and open to the public.

Featured speaker will be Tim Schlitzer of FoodRoutes Conservancy, speaking on "A Sustainable Community in a Working Landscape."

Following annual meeting business, which includes a treasurer's report and election of three board members, Schlitzer will speak at 2 p.m., discussing FoodRoutes Conservancy's successful Buy Fresh Buy Local Program, a community education and outreach program to encourage consumers to buy local and to build and shape a new, local food system.

Schlitzer will showcase communities that have successfully rebuilt their local food systems and promoted sustainable agriculture and will offer ideas and solutions to how a community can take an active role in building a healthy local economy by creating a vibrant local food system. The presentation is sponsored by the Northeast SARE Speakers Fund.

FoodRoutes Conservancy is a national nonprofit organization that focuses on conservancy of food heritage while working to rebuild the eroding loss of farms, food processors and food producers in the United States as well as internationally.

FoodRoutes is dedicated to reintroducing Americans to their food — the seeds it grows from, the farmers who produce it, and the routes that carry it from the fields to their tables. For more information, visit www.foodroutes.org.

Schlitzer's skills as a storyteller, producer and filmmaker have garnered regional and national recognition, including two Emmy awards. **Schlitzer was recently awarded the Glynwood Center's Harvest Award for Connecting Communities, Harvest and Food. He is now working to lead the FoodRoutes Conservancy and its 68 Buy Fresh Buy Local Chapters to a new level of success in building community-based food systems.**

Farm Catskills is a not-for-profit community organization conceived by Catskill farmers to protect and promote agriculture and the farming way of life in the Catskill Mountains of New York state. Its mission is to preserve farmland and provide tangible support to the farmers of today and tomorrow.

Farm Catskills partners with residents, businesses, organizations and schools to preserve and nurture the rural heritage of the region and create a sustainable economy.