



Contact:

Erica Helms, Managing Director for Organizational Development, 914 366 6200 x121

**STONE BARNS CENTER NAMES JILL ISENBARGER
AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Pocantico Hills, NY, March 2009—Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture announced the appointment of Jill Isenbarger as Executive Director. Prior to this appointment, Ms. Isenbarger served as Chief of Staff for The Nature Conservancy, the world’s leading conservation organization with 3,500 employees in 34 countries and an annual operating budget exceeding \$1 billion.

“The Center is delighted to have Jill join our team,” said Fred Kirschenmann, Stone Barns Center Board President. “We are working toward a future food system that relies more on small farms and knowledgeable farmers, and less on rapidly depleting water and energy resources. Jill’s background in community-based conservation and working landscapes will strengthen the Center’s commitment to growing delicious food while protecting and enhancing farmland.”

Dan and David Barber, Co-owners of Blue Hill at Stone Barns and members of Stone Barns Center’s Board of Directors, said “The collaboration between Blue Hill and Stone Barns Center is part of our shared commitment to local food and farmers, and we look forward to seeing that relationship continue to evolve and flourish.”

Ms. Isenbarger will work to broaden the Center’s impact through innovative programs for farmers, children and consumers—providing new generations with the tools to navigate a rapidly changing food system. Ms. Isenbarger said, “I look forward to working with the Center’s board, staff, and partner Blue Hill to raise awareness about local food production, sustainable farming, the pleasures of healthy eating, and responsible land stewardship.”

Ms. Isenbarger held top leadership positions with The Nature Conservancy for more than ten years, including Chief of Staff for three top-level executives and Director of Marketing Programs. While at The Nature Conservancy, Ms. Isenbarger worked to advance climate change initiatives, bring the Last Great Places to urban dwellers through innovative marketing programs, and build support for eco-system services and eco-regional planning. Previously, Ms. Isenbarger worked for Harvard University, United States Senator Carl Levin, and an international architectural firm based in Cambridge, MA.

Stone Barns Center for Food and Agriculture is a farm, a kitchen, a classroom – an exhibit, a laboratory, a campus. The mission of this unique, member-driven nonprofit organization is to celebrate, teach and advance community-based food production and enjoyment, from farm to classroom to plate. In its five years of operation, the Center has offered a unique opportunity for thousands of visitors to learn about agriculture on a working farm, while building connections to the food they eat.

To learn more, visit www.stonebarnscenter.org or contact 914 366 6200.