



Tour of the Upper Wallkill River Black Dirt Region: Local Voices not Often Heard

A guided tour to hear the opinions of farmers, historians, planners and environmentalists in a unique agricultural district.

**When: October 19, 2013
8:30 AM to 4:30 PM**

There are a limited number of seats available on a first come, first serve basis!

Pre-registration is required!

To Register Go to:

[Black Dirt Tour](#)

or use attached form

Registration includes the tour plus a vegetarian lunch at the Rogowski Farm (<http://www.rogowskifarm.com/>).

Questions? Contact Simon Litten at 518-861-6719

or

slitten@nycap.rr.com



HUDSON RIVER
ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY

HRES Black Dirt Tour, October 19

The Wallkill River flows north from New Jersey to meet Rondout Creek and, at Kingston, the Hudson River. The upper Wallkill in Orange County has a very shallow gradient and it had a natural obstruction which caused the water to back up during periods of high flow. The region affected by the dammed water was known as the “drowned lands”. Sediment settling out of the impounded water created a deep organic muck soil now called the black dirt. Public and private reclamation projects, beginning in the 18th Century, have turned the black dirt into a richly productive agricultural region. However, the black dirt is still prone to flooding and public expenditures, some of which are controversial, are still necessary to maintain it.

Throughout the day participants will hear local voices describing the challenges of water and land management:

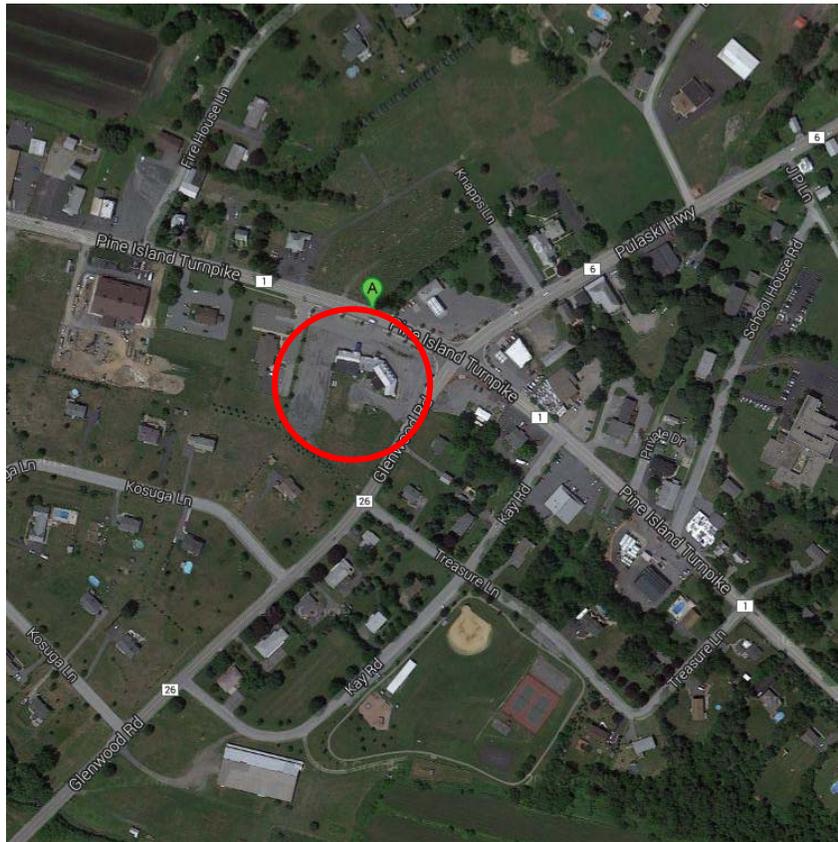
- **Marie Ullrich**, Orange County Agriculture Program Leader, will ride with us on the bus to point out landmarks and answer questions.
- Wallkill Wildlife Refuge Manager **Mike Horne** will talk about the role of the refuge in Black Dirt water management.
- Onion farmer **John Ruskiewicz** will tell us about the region’s history.
- **Mike Edlestein**, Director of Institute of Environmental Studies at Ramapo College will talk about the sociology of the region
- **Cheryl Rogowski**, the only farmer to have received a McArthur “genius” grant, will talk about the practical aspects of farming during lunch at the Rogowski Farm (<http://www.rogowskifarm.com/>).
- **Dave Church**, Orange County Planning Commissioner will talk about the local responses to the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Irene.



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Where we will meet the bus

We will meet at the Jolly Onion at the intersections of County Routes 1, 6, and 26 in Pine Island, NY. The Jolly Onion is no longer in business but we have permission from the owner to use the parking lot as a staging area.



From the NYS Thruway (I-87):

Take exit 17 onto I-84 West. Take Exit 4E onto NY-17 East towards New York. Take exit 124 onto Rt-17A to Florida. Turn right onto County-Rt 6 (Pulaski Hwy). The “Jolly Onion” is located at the intersection of County Routes 6, 1, and 26. (Look for the tour bus).



REGISTRATION
Wallkill River Black Dirt Tour
Saturday October 19, 2013
8:30 to 4:30

Use this Form or Register Online at: [Walkkill Tour](#)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____
 Title: _____ Organization: _____
 Address: _____
 City, State and Zip: _____ Phone: _____ Email: _____

REGISTRATION FEE*- Please circle

Registrant	Amount*
2013 HRES Members	\$15.00
2014 Full Membership Plus Registration**	\$65.00
2014 Student Membership Plus Registration**	\$40.00
Non-member Registration	\$25.00

*Fees include a seat on the bus plus lunch at _____

** Your 2014 membership will qualify you for discounts at all HRES events in 2014.

Mail registration and check to:

Hudson River Environmental Society – Black Dirt Tour
 PO Box 279
 Marlboro, New York 12542

To registration by credit card go to: [Walkkill Tour](#) (credit card registration provided by **Eventbrite™**)
 (direct link: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/8174836155/rss>)

You can also find the tour on [Eventbrite™](#) by selecting *Find events* and typing “Wallkill Tour” in the event field and “Pine Island, NY” in the location field (or leave the location field blank)

Please Note the Following:

- *Seating is limited to 50 participants*
 - *Pre-registration is required*
- *Your registration must be received by October 11th!*

Cancellation Policy:

Registration fees are refundable only if HRES is notified of cancellation by October 14th