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Maine Forest and Logging Museum Establishes a Working Season, a New Admissions Process, and a New Museum Store!

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(Bradley, ME) – Beginning May 15th and running until November 15th, the Maine Forest and Logging Museum will establish a regular admissions process and gate. During its regular season, the museum's new hours will be from 10 am to 5 pm, Wednesdays through Sunday. The museum will be closed Mondays, Tuesdays and most holidays, except in the case of special events and private rentals. The new admittance fee will be \$3 for people over the age of twelve. Daily admittance will be free to members. Members, as well as receiving free entrance to the museum during regular hours, will receive Museum Store discounts and discounted entrance to events and programs. Children 12 and under also receive free regular daily admission to the museum.

While at the museum, patrons will be able to visit the Leonard's Mills Campus, a settler's cabin, a replica of the first known commercial alewife smokehouse, a 1920's sawmill complex (still under construction), the Alewife Fish Ladder, and view the Grady Machine Shop and Lombard Log Hauler - we have one of only three running steam - powered Lombards in existence! The museum also has a nature and wilderness trail for hiking, grounds for picnicking, and many beautiful sights. Self-guided tours with interactive maps will soon be available at the gate which will be housed in the museum store (smartphones necessary for scanning QR codes, but there will also be web links). On most weekends, guided tours will be available - call ahead for tour times and details!

The museum will continue to put on its annual events including Heavy Metal on August 4th where the Lombard runs on steam. During Heavy Metal you will see many other large logging machines, and folks can have a hand at blacksmithing. Life in the American Revolution happens on September 12th and 13th, and Living History Days on October 3rd and 4th. Additionally this year, patrons can enjoy a free - to - the public event on May 30th - the Bradley Alewife Festival, as well as our Museum Store Grand Opening! The Museum Store will now house local artisans' work as well as other very unique items. The museum will also continue to add other programs and smaller events such as photography classes, hands on blacksmithing, woodworking, and other ways to engage with the forest culture of Maine - past, present, and future!

Jill Packard, Executive Director states, "The Maine Forest and Logging Museum, known locally as Leonard's Mills, really needed to make these changes. For many years, it seems the museum has been stuck between being a park and what it was created to be - a multi-dimensional

museum. That said, the museum has some *very real needs of repair* and we are hoping that the community will come out and support it as it steps to this next level. We really recognize that so many people call this place 'their place in the woods.' We hope it continues to be that and that people will take advantage of the programs we will be providing. If we are going to create a sustainable future, we need to see that we are all in this together - past, present, and future - and Maine's future will *always has and always will* include the forest and its products! It's time to make sure people *deeply* understand that."

Sherry Davis, Program Coordinator adds, "The museum also could not move in this new direction without the dedicated commitment of so volunteers. We really do have amazing crew and the museum would not exist without them. Our folks work hard and they create - they create with their head, their heart, and their hands, some on a weekly basis. We are so thankful for our community and we hope that it continues to grow as it has over the last several years."

For more information about the changes that are coming up, you can participate in a town-hall style conference call. If you would like to participate, please RSVP to communications@maineforestandloggingmuseum.org to receive the call in date, time, and registration! For information about volunteering, you can go to the museum's website or email Sherry Davis, Program Coordinator, directly at sherry@maineforestandloggingmuseum.org!

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The MFLM is a nonprofit organization incorporated in 1960. The mission of the Maine Forest and Logging Museum is to preserve, celebrate and educate people about the sustainable forest culture of Maine. For more information about the museum, its programs, and events, go to their website at www.maineforestandloggingmuseum.org . You can also follow the museum on its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com.Maineforestandloggingmuseum](http://www.facebook.com/Maineforestandloggingmuseum), or Twitter - @MFLMuseum.