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News Release

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Reception for Maple Meadow Farm Festival Contest to be held at NMCC

Aroostook County - The Maple Meadow Farm Festival, hosted by the Gregg Family in Mapleton, is a celebration of the arts and agriculture in The County. Now in its fifth year, organizers of the event are hosting an art contest, the winner of which will be announced on April 19 at a reception in the Northern Maine Community College library, as part of NMCC's National Community College month program of activities.

The purpose of the contest is to have local artists design illustrations that capture the essence of agriculture. Artist from throughout Aroostook County and beyond are currently working on submissions, which will all be displayed in the NMCC Library during the reception, at which time the judges will announce the winning piece.

"This idea of hosting an artwork contest came from the traditional wedding anniversaries," said Miriam Gregg, festival organizer and instructor at NMCC. "Since we are celebrating the Festival's fifth anniversary, signified by paper in traditional wedding anniversaries, the family was interested incorporating paper into the Festival."

In addition to marking the festival milestone, the artwork will become the image of the upcoming event to be held June 25 and 26 at the Gregg's Farm in Mapleton. The festival has grown each year, attracting thousands of attendees.

"We want our promotional material to emphasize our mission, and we're hoping that an illustration will capture our celebration of the arts and agriculture," said Andrea Gregg, festival organizer.

"The winning design will be displayed on the festival poster, the farm website, and other marketing and promotional media," said Miriam Gregg. "The print will also be available to purchase during the Maple Meadow Farm Festival."

The selected artisan will receive \$200 for their winning piece and promotional benefits where the prints are sold, as the artwork will be accompanied by a short profile of the artist.

According to the Gregg Family, the art contest is not only an opportunity for them to promote their festival, but also a chance to show appreciation for local artisans. With a large number of artists participating in the contest, family members are impressed and grateful for the interest.

In addition to artists, community businesses are taking an interest in the contest. Morning Star Art and Framing has agreed to help the Gregg Family out in the finishing process of the paintings. The local business will be matting the paintings, giving them a more professional finish for displaying them to the public.

“The art contest will be a fun event but it will also display the importance of agriculture, arts, and community members working together,” said Miriam Gregg. “We are looking forward to the public attending both the reception announcing our art contest winner and the Maple Meadow Farm Festival in June.”

The reception will be held on Tuesday, April 19, between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. It is free and open to the public. There will be light refreshments.

The Gregg Family and NMCC invite and encourage the public to attend this reception to support the artisans who contributed to the contest. For more information, contact Andrea Gregg at (207) 764-3942.

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