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Second annual Skowhegan brew fest to feature 26 Maine brewers, free local food samples

On Saturday, Sept. 2, an entire block in the heart of downtown Skowhegan will close to vehicular traffic as 26 purveyors of Maine craft beer, wine, cider, and spirits take to the streets at the second annual Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival.

The event will kick off with a VIP hour featuring specialty brews not available during the general session. Doors will open for VIP hour at 1:30 p.m., with VIP food options served from 1:30 to 3 and brews poured from 2 to 3.

From 3 to 7 p.m. an array of Maine-crafted libations will be on tap for attendees to sample, while local merchants will sell fare ranging from organic tacos to wood-fired pizza. Free local food samples including cheeses, baked goods, and more will be available to all attendees throughout the day.

Designated drivers are welcome and will receive free water, soda, and local food samples.

Live music will enhance the festival ambiance, with performances by the Youngerbloods— a Norway, Maine-based band that writes original music rooted in jazz and blues and also reinvents '60s-era hits—and the Dave Mello Blues Band, a local group that covers Muddy Waters, B.B. King, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Jimmy Reed, and other great blues classics.

Skowhegan's brew fest is one of the only festivals in the state featuring all Maine producers of beer, wine, cider, and spirits. Tours of Maine Grains and Skowhegan's portion of the Langlais Art Trail will round out this Labor Day weekend event, making the Skowhegan Craft Brew Festival an unforgettable close to summer.

Leading sponsors include Skowhegan Savings Bank, Bigelow Brewing Co., Maine Grains, Franklin Printing, Franklin Savings Bank, Hight Family of Dealerships, Butler's Car Wash, Kennebec Valley Tourism Council, the Maine Brew Guide, Ass over Teakettle, the Bankery and Skowhegan Fleuriste, Crooked Face Creamery, DuBois Construction, Kyes-Carpenter Insurance, Laney's Pit Stop, and the Maine Meal.

Tickets are on sale now at SkowheganCraftBrewFest.com and at the Skowhegan Fleuriste (93 Water St., Skowhegan) at a discounted rate from at-the-door prices. VIP tickets are limited, but there is no cap on general admission.