



East Coast Snocross returning to Bangor

BY JOHN HOLYOKE
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — Snowmobile enthusiasts from around the state are expected to flock to Bass Park next weekend as the Paul Bunyan Snocross brings its high-speed snow show to the Queen City for the second straight year.

The event, which is a stop on the East Coast Snocross tour, is one of two Maine events planned for this winter’s competition season. The second — the North

Woods Sno-X Challenge, will be held March 12-13 at Historic Pittston Farm in Rockwood.

The Paul Bunyan Snocross is organized by the Eastern Maine Community College Foundation and serves as a fundraiser for scholarships to the school.

“[Fans] are going to see wild, flying action,” said event coordinator Jennifer Khavari. “The circuit comes with professional racers — this is all they do.”

But that’s not all you’ll see ... or experience ... at the races.

More adventurous recreational sledders can also suit up and race during the weekend.

“There’s a trail class, so you or a neighbor, or anybody who owns a snowmobile can enter and run in a heat,” Khavari said. “That’s really exciting for the amateur racers.”

And there’s also a 120cc class for youth riders.

“[The young riders] are so cute, and they take it just as seriously as the pro riders,” Khavari said.

Spectator gates open at 10 a.m.

Jan. 30 and Jan. 31. Admission is \$15 for a single day or \$20 for the weekend. Children 7 and under get in free.

Khavari said the first Paul Bunyan Snocross, which was staged a year ago, was “wildly successful,” but attendance wasn’t quite as high as organizers hoped it would be.

“Honestly, we had higher expectations, attendance-wise, for sure,” she said. “We were expecting 10,000 [for the weekend], and we got about 6,000.”

One of the reasons for the optimism: Bangor’s rich history of oval-track snowmobile racing, which dates to 1968 and stretched over several years before petering out.

“We didn’t directly get that 1970s oval race fan coming back,” Khavari said. “We had heard that Bass Park drew 12,000 to 15,000 people at one point. We were hoping for a fraction of that, which we got. But again, it was something new for the area and was a

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Kris Sader looks over a tree on Monday in the Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden at the University of Maine in Orono.

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Winter wonderland

Orono artist finds inspiration in snow-covered garden

BY AISLINN SARNACKI
BDN STAFF

Standing before a row of towering locust trees, Kris Sader gazed up at the long, sharp thorns adorning the branches overhead. A few years ago, she had used a ladder to reach those thorns, she recalled. With sterile clippers, she had carefully harvested a spiky bundle of them to use in her artwork.

“I’ll need to measure this again,” she said, wading through the snow to place her hands on the smooth bark of a nearby birch. The tree had grown markedly wider since she had measured it two years before.

For the past several years, Sader, 64, has been planning and creating pieces for an outdoor art installation that will be located in the winter garden of the Lyle E. Littlefield Ornamentals Trial Garden. Located on the campus of the University of Maine in Orono, the garden is just minutes from her home.

In essence, she plans to “clothe” the garden using natural wool combined with plant materials she has collected from the space — including thorns, twigs, beans and seeds. She envisions trees and granite sculptures wrapped with wonderful garments that express the garden in all its seasons.

“I like to tickle the subconscious of the viewers,” said Sader of her artwork.

Primarily a printmaker, Sader began creating site-specific environmental art installations in 2002 after taking an intensive three-week course on the artform.



Thread and collected plant matter sit on a table in artist Kris Sader’s studio in Orono recently.

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“I became fascinated,” Sader said. “[In the course] we asked ourselves things like, ‘When you walk through a space, how do you respond to that? Is it something you want to say? Or is it something the site wants to say?’”

“At the time, there wasn’t a lot of this going on in the U.S.,” Sader said of the artform.

Wind patterns, bird migrations, apple blossoms and tree bark — these aspects of nature and more have inspired Sader’s many art projects over the years. Nature is often at the center of her work.

“I’ve always liked being out in nature,” Sader said. “It’s a physical kind of work. I love the natural processes, the surprises.”

The winter garden art installation involves many stages and art pieces, she said, and she anticipates it will be ready to install this spring or next winter.

“It’s going to be a big challenge,” said Sader about the installation.

She began the process by gathering plant material from the garden. Twigs, thorns, seeds, beans and nuts — she bundled them up and brought them home. Some material she dried and laid aside; some she wrapped in natural wool, bound the bundles with twine and boiled them in water. She then carried the bundles to the winter garden and buried them in different locations, marking each site with an orange flag.

It wasn’t the typical start to an art project, but Sader had her reasons.

“A lot goes on in the soil,” Sader said. “Even in the wintertime.”

An organic gardener for about 40 years, Sader grew up in Tuscon, Arizona, where she spent her days playing in the desert and “creating things” with her sister, who also has grown up to be an artist. With her husband, Steve, Sader lived in many states and raised two daughters before moving to Maine in 1987.

While her husband taught forestry courses

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Cold snap good for fishing derbies

After mild weather in December and early January left ice anglers on dry land, a week of frigid weather has socked in many of the state’s lakes and ponds, and organizers of fishing derbies have exhaled a collective sigh of relief.

The derbies, it appears, will go on.

“I certainly feel a lot more confident now than I did two or three weeks ago,” Greg Hawes, who organizes the G&M Family Market Hancock County Ice Fishing Derby, said.



JOHN HOLYOKE

The derby is set for Jan. 30 and 31, with the weigh station at G&M Family Market in Holden. Anglers are allowed to fish any legal waters in Hancock County, and Hawes said he spoke with state fisheries biologist Greg Burr about ice conditions Thursday morning.

“The last time they went out was last weekend, and they’re seeing that any small lakes and ponds — under 200 acres — have 4 to 8 inches of ice,” Hawes said. “The bigger lakes have thinner ice in the middle, with slush. But that was last weekend, and all week long we’ve had some bitterly cold nights. He feels fairly confident that by next weekend, you’ll be able to go pretty much wherever you want to go.”

Some of the area’s most popular cold-water fisheries are just off Route 1A, headed east from the store. Among those are Phillips Lake, Green Lake and Beech Hill Pond. The weigh station will be open from 3 to 4 p.m. on both days of the derby.

One addition to this year’s event: Hawes said the angler who registers the first fish from each category — salmon, togue, white perch, brook trout, pickerel, bass, splake or brown trout — each day will get to spin the “wheel of prizes.”

Up in the St. John Valley, Paul Bernier, chairman of the Long Lake Ice Fishing Derby, is battling the rumor mill and said those who are telling others the derby will have to be delayed are wrong.

The derby is on, Bernier said, and will be held Jan. 30 to 31 as originally planned. Some new waters have been added for this year’s event, and anglers will be allowed to fish on Long, Cross, Square, Eagle, St. Froid, Portage, Beau and Glazier lakes, Carr Pond and the St. John River.

“With the expanded amount of water bodies in this year’s derby, we can’t be everywhere all the time,” Bernier said in a news release. “But we want people to use good judgment and be safe.”

In an email, Bernier reported he’s confident that many of the waters will be covered with safe ice by derby weekend.

“My cabin has been out on Long Lake for 2½ weeks now,” Bernier wrote. “I am sure that there is an average of 8 to 12 inches everywhere. Some places might have a little less, but overall it is safe.”

There are some water bodies that deserve extra caution from anglers, though.

“I am quite worried about Glazier Lake and the St. John River,” Bernier wrote. “Glazier is basically a [river], and word is the thickness varies quite a bit. The St.

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1-Minute Hike: North Penjajawoc Forest

Difficulty: Easy-moderate. The 105-acre preserve contains a network of trails that travel through a mature mixed forest to vernal pools and small wetland areas. Watch out for exposed tree roots.

To reach the preserve, you need to walk nearly 1 mile on easy, smooth trails in the Rolland F. Perry City Forest, more commonly known as the Bangor City Forest. Therefore, your hike will be nearly 2 miles — to the preserve and back — plus any walking you do on preserve trails.

How to get there: From Interstate 95 Exit 187, drive north on Hogan Road a little less than 0.5 mile, passing McDonald’s and Olive Garden on the right, to the traffic light where Hogan Road

ends at Stillwater Avenue. Turn right and drive on Stillwater Avenue for 0.1 mile, then turn left onto Kittredge Road. Drive about 1.5 miles to the parking lot at the end of Kittredge Road. The hike starts in the Bangor City Forest.

As you pass through the trailhead gate of the city forest, keep in mind you are entering a nesting area for great horned owls, which have a track record of defending their territory against people and dogs.

At the first trail intersection in



AISLINN SARNACKI



A wooden bridge built by volunteers in 2013 helps snowshoers cross a partially frozen stream on in North Penjajawoc Forest in Bangor.

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the forest, turn left and head west of the East-West Loop Trail. In less than 0.25 mile, you will come to an intersection with the Deer Trail; veer left, staying on the East-West

Loop Trail. Soon you will cross a wooden bridge. Just after the bridge you will come to a four-way trail intersection. Continue

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