Bark Peeler’s is ‘Disney’ of wood hitch skills

By Natalie Kennedy

An estimated 2,000 people are expected to visit this weekend’s Bark Peeler’s Festival at the Pennsylvania Lumber Museum in Ulster.

“It is absolutely our biggest event of the year,” said Joshua Roth, site administrator. “It’s not uncommon for us to see one-fifth or one-sixth of our yearly attendance over the course of the festival.”

The Lumber Museum typically has 15,000 visitors per year, with the Bark Peeler’s drawing 2,000-plus people the last time it was held in 2019. If recent history holds true, that may mean a huge crowd.

“We expect larger than normal crowds,” Roth said. “That’s been the case since we re-opened in May 2021; every event we’ve done since that point has been the best attendance of that event we have ever recorded.”

Two-person teams will compete to cut the log quickest using a crosscut saw.

Bark Peeler’s is the time when all the pieces of the Lumber Museum come together to provide an educational yet entertaining event.

“Bark Peeler’s” is the Danville World Experience of the Lumber Museum,” Roth said. “If we could do Bark Peeler’s every day, it would be the ultimate experience of what this museum is capable of. It’s the ultimate expression of what we’re all about: educating the public about our lumber history and forest management.”

The most popular event of the four, which focus on lumberjack skills, Too, the greased pole contest and two-person rolling, are held Saturday with the other three, the log rolling, two-person crosscut saw and frog jumping, on Sunday.

The contests are open to the public and frequently draw fans shouting encouragement to the local competitors. Competitor entry points in the four contests with the Sound Chanters Bark Peeler trophy found out Saturday.

Spread across the 10-acre campus are craft and food vendors, along with demonstrations of log splitting, blacksmithing, camp cooking, bird-skill, and the crosscut sawmill.

“The sawmill is another big thing,” Roth said. “It’s one of those times you actually demonstrate the steam-powered sawmill, which makes a lot of noise and the smell of steam. Make sure if you’re attending to see the Bark Peeler’s.”

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Shinglehouse holds summer Fun Fest

By Natalie Kennedy

SHINGLEHOUSE — Assembly Park was filled as people turned out for the annual Fun Fest held on June 25.

After the Saturday morning parade, the crowd gathered at the park where there was a car show, food vendors and vendors.

A crowd stood in line to pick up chicken dinners from the free company, while the Boy Scouts did a brisk business with hamburgers and hot dogs.

In front of a crowd gathered in a semi-circle, two Lumber Museum demonstrations filled their skills in front of the pavilion.

A cornhole tournament kept several teams busy tossing bags to the targets.

Vendors sold chances on baskets, gave out information about the upcoming Potter County Fair and offered crafts for sale.

To see more photos from the Fun Fest see pages 9 and 12.

Big trout caught

By Marilyn McCann

photo by NATALIE KENNEDY

Brantley Bliss of Galeton caught this huge golden trout while fishing with his dad, Josh Bliss, and brother, Jase Bliss.

The family was fishing on the west branch of Pine Creek. Brantley used a blue fox lure on an ultralight fishing rod when he caught the trout at 2:30 p.m. on Monday, June 27.

Galeton kicks off Red Suspender Weekend

By Marilyn McCann

The 12th Annual Red Suspender Weekend will continue to be a hit for downtown Galeton. It is the time of year to celebrate the history and culture of the region.

The event, known as “Red Suspender” Weekend, will continue to be a hit for downtown Galeton. It is the time of year to celebrate the history and culture of the region.

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