

GOLDEN TICKET BONUS ISSUE

# AMUSEMENT TODAY <sup>TM</sup>

[www.GoldenTicketAwards.com](http://www.GoldenTicketAwards.com)

Vol. 15 • Issue 6.2 SEPTEMBER 2011

## Holiday World hosts Golden Ticket event for third time

*Amusement Today sees the biggest voter response in survey history*



COURTESY S. MADONNA HORCHER

### Holiday World & Splashin' Safari

Host Park • 2011 Golden Ticket Awards • September 16 & 17, 2011

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin

[tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com](mailto:tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com)

SANTA CLAUS, Indiana — It was **Holiday World's** idea for **Amusement Today** to present the **Golden Ticket Awards** live in 2000. The ceremony was on the simple side, and now over a decade later, the park welcomes AT for the third time. A lot has changed since that time, as the Golden Ticket Awards ceremony has grown into a popular industry event, filled with networking opportunities and occasions to see what is considered the best in the industry.

What has also grown is the voter response. The 2011 awards saw the biggest response from our panel of experts than ever before. New participants and an increase of international voters have had an impact on several positions on our charts, and *Amusement Today* looks forward to an ever-growing community of aficionados to point out all that is great about our industry. Simply by looking at the points on our roller coaster charts will demon-

strate the big influx of additional voters.

Tabulating hundreds of ballots can seem like a somewhat tedious and daunting task, but a few categories were such close races, that a handful of winners were not determined until the very last ballots in the last hour of tabulation. These 'nail biters' always keep us on our toes that there is never a guarantee of any category.

The dedication of our voters is also admirable. People have often gone to great lengths to make sure we receive their ballot in time. And as mentioned before, every vote absolutely counts as just a few ballots determined some winning categories.

One new voter wrote on their ballot: "It is an honor to be asked to vote. Thank you!" And we agree. Not just anybody is qualified. There is a certain distinction and respect that comes with being asked to share a vast wealth of experience. But it is AT and the industry that truly offers the thanks for recognizing the "Best of the Best."

Top, Pat Koch closed the 2006 Golden Ticket Awards ceremony with a tribute to Carol Burnett. Above, Holiday World welcomes AT for the third time in 2011.

COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD

NEWSPAPER

POSTMASTER: Dated material.  
PLEASE RUSH!  
Mailed Monday, September 19, 2011

SUBSCRIBE TO  
AMUSEMENT TODAY  
(817) 460-7220

[amusementtoday.com](http://amusementtoday.com)

[www.GOLDENTICKETAWARDS.com](http://www.GOLDENTICKETAWARDS.com)

JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR THE  
2012 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS AT:



PRSRST STD  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
FT. WORTH TX  
PERMIT # 2069



# NEWTALK

OPINIONS

CARTOON

LETTERS

AT CONTACTS

**EDITORIAL:** Gary Slade, [gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

## Send us your ideas



Slade

As we gather at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari for the 2011 Golden Ticket Awards, we want to remind our industry friends we are always listening to your ideas on how to improve the awards through new categories to consider or the way the GT ballots are distributed.

This year, at the request of many suppliers, we added the names of 75 well traveled ride suppliers to our ballot mailing list. Those returned ballots were included in the final tabulations that included ballots from four different regions of the United States and one international region. See regions map at the right on page 3 for complete details.

If any industry professional has an idea they would like us to consider, let us know. The Golden Ticket Awards are as much yours as they are AT's.

Now for a few quick Golden Ticket fun facts:

- Dollywood is a finalist and/or winner in more categories than any other park — 8.
- The New Texas Giant is only the 7th coaster in Golden Ticket history to debut in the top 10.
- The Voyage holds the record for consecutive wins of any coaster — 5.
- Cedar Point, Schlitterbahn and Busch Gardens Williamsburg have been undefeated in their winning categories for 14 years.
- Magnum XL-200 is the only steel roller coaster to appear on every Golden Ticket top 10 list.
- In 1998, Amusement Today's first year of producing the Golden Ticket Awards, 14 Golden Tickets were awarded from the first-ever survey. This year, 28 Golden Tickets will be handed out.

Thank you to the Koch family and all the staff at Holiday World as our 2011 host park for another great event. See you in 2012 at Dollywood!

*Gary Slade is the founder and publisher of Amusement Today. His love for amusement parks began at age six when he first visited Pontchartrain Beach Amusement Park and Six Flags Over Texas. His long newspaper career helped lead to the launch of AT in 1997.*

**Gary Slade, Founder**  
Publisher and Editor-in-Chief  
(817) 460-7220  
[gslade@amusementtoday.com](mailto:gslade@amusementtoday.com)

**Stacey Childress**  
Web & Graphic Design  
(817) 889-4441  
[schildress@affinitymm.com](mailto:schildress@affinitymm.com)

**John Robinson / W.H.R. Inc.**  
Daily E-mail Newsletter  
[johnwrobinson@cinci.rr.com](mailto:johnwrobinson@cinci.rr.com)

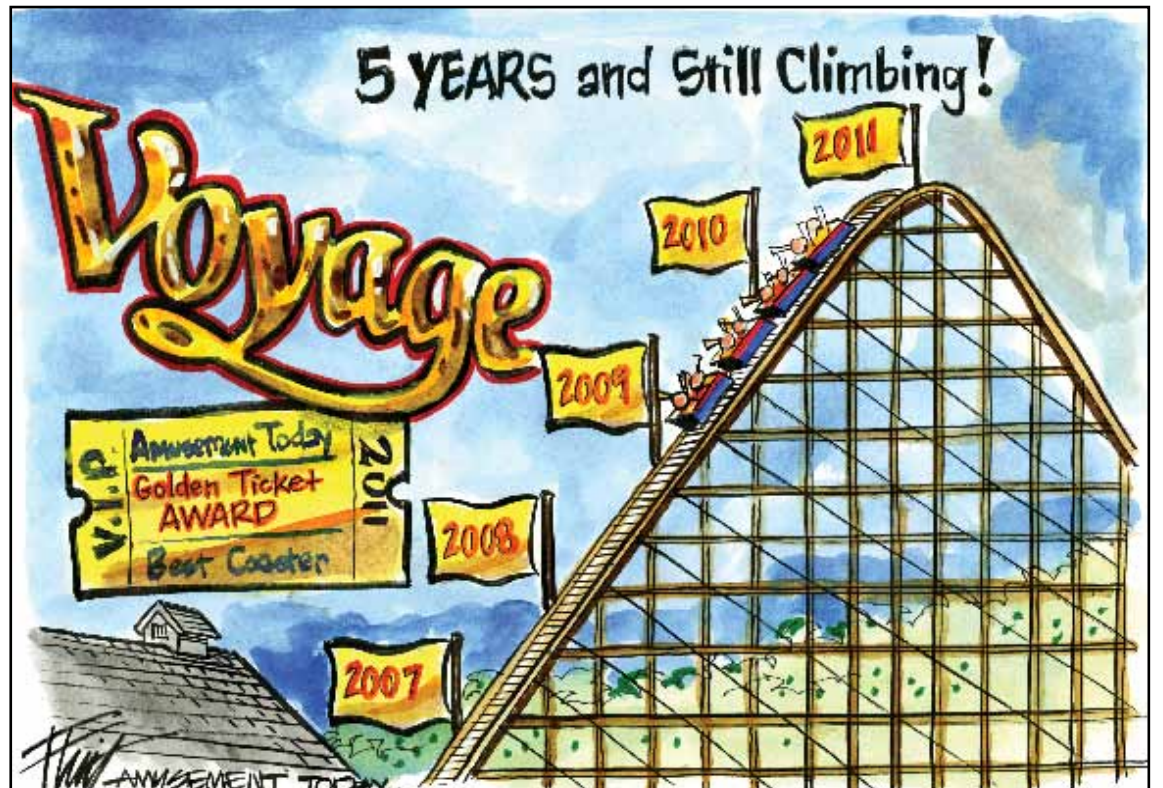
### AMUSEMENT TODAY STAFF

**Tim Baldwin**  
Editorial  
[tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com](mailto:tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com)

**Pam Sherborne**  
Editorial  
[psherborne@amusementtoday.com](mailto:psherborne@amusementtoday.com)

**Scott Rutherford**  
Editorial  
[srutherford@amusementtoday.com](mailto:srutherford@amusementtoday.com)

**CARTOON:** Bubba Flint



**EDITORIAL:** Tim Baldwin, [tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com](mailto:tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com)

## It must be in the genes



Baldwin

I had the privilege to be a part of a group of amusement park enthusiasts doing a tour of German parks this summer. About half of our group were Americans with the other half being European (with a large contingent from the U.K.). It was interesting to listen to the discussions of the parks and the roller coasters. We enjoyed the smallest of children's parks to the most magnificent theme parks. The group debated the attributes of the roller coasters, and often prodded each other to do the water rides even though many days were on the cool side. The one thing the whole group had in common was that everyone was having a great time.

Maybe there is a certain gene that creates an enthusiast. Children seem to have it, but as some people get older they let that gene become buried. Sure, as the body ages, we might not be able to spin quite as much or hang upside down like we used to. Heaven knows as I get older I sometimes prefer the

smoother coaster over one that is a bit more rugged. But, by golly, I still have that gene. I love being in the world of amusement parks. As I watched the group riding a small family coaster over and over in the rain — cheering! — I knew these people had it within them to have fun. Many folks in the industry would have just preferred to stay in their offices, or even head home. But not fans like these.

It is this slice of the public, these enthusiasts, who truly "get" what the industry is about. They can't get to every park every year, and most assuredly long to get to far away destinations which they may never have the means to visit. But they are out there — riding, photographing, documenting and spending. It is this collective mass of fandom to which AT is indebted for telling us who is doing a great job and what new rides are the "must get to" attractions.

When it is my time to leave this earth, I hope it is after I have had one last chance to enjoy a great amusement park trip with friends like these. After all, we share the same genes.

## AMUSEMENT TODAY

**Deliveries**  
2012 E. Randol Mill Rd, Suite 203  
Arlington, Texas 76011

**Member of:**  
IAAPA, AIMS International, PAPA,  
NEAAPA, NJAA, OABA, WWA, TTIA,  
NAARSO and IISF

Subscription rates are: 1 year (14 issues) \$50 in the USA; \$70 elsewhere; 2 years (28 issues) \$90/\$130; 3 years (42 issues) \$130/\$190. Send check or money order (U.S. funds only, drawn on a U.S. bank) to Amusement Today, P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Please allow up to six weeks for your subscription request to be processed and the first issue mailed.

Amusement Today is an independent newspaper, published monthly by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Presort Standard Postage (Permit No. 2069) pre-paid at Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper and its related Web sites are copyrighted and trademarked by Amusement Today 2011, with all rights reserved.

POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to Amusement Today, P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427.

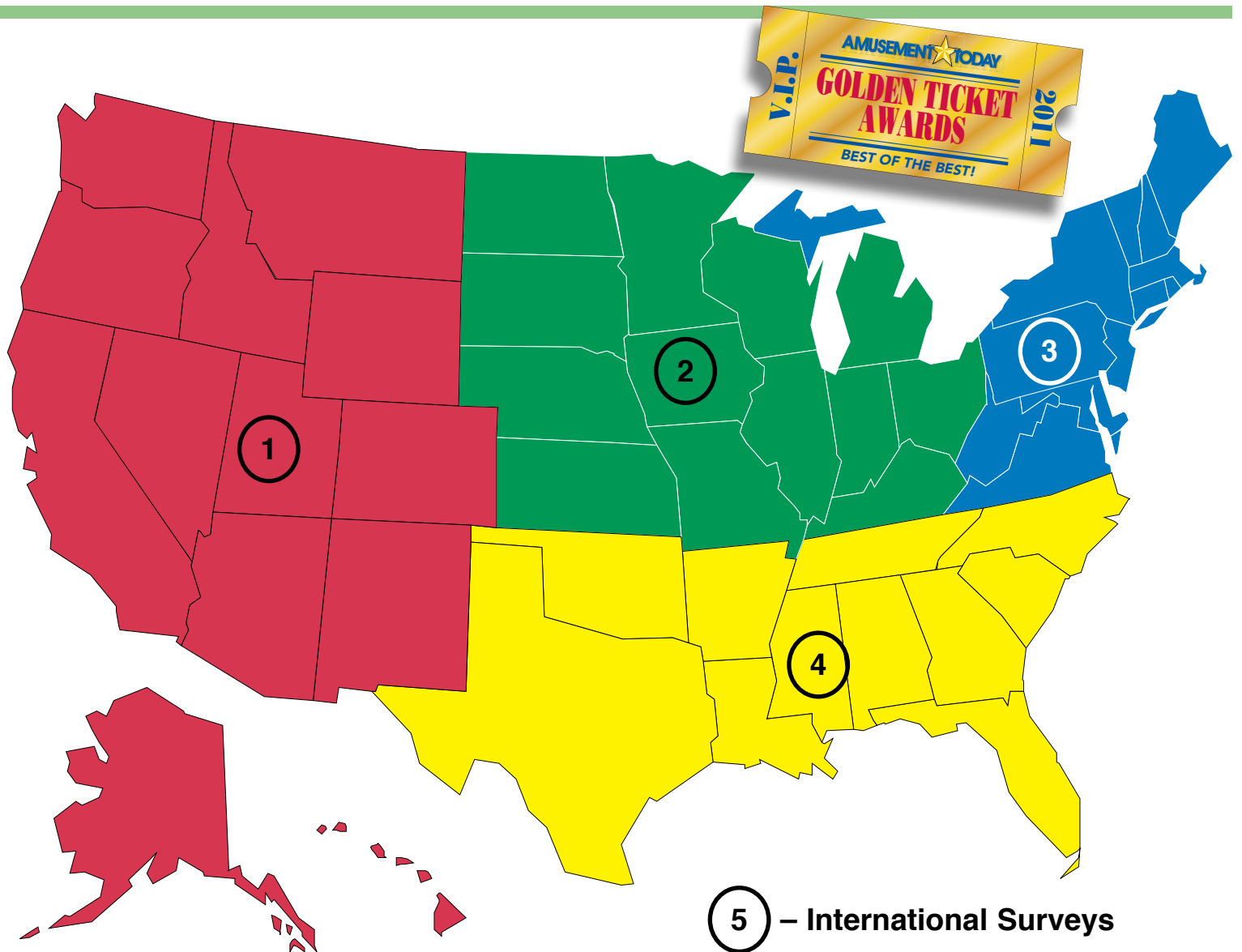
**Contributors:** Dan Feicht, Howard Gillooly, S. Madonna Horcher, Dave Jackson, Jeffrey L. Seifert, B. Derek Shaw, Allan Reid, Janice Witherow, WHR Inc.

### Our panel of experts

Since *Amusement Today* introduced the Golden Ticket Awards in 1998, we continue to seek out the most experienced park enthusiasts to participate in our survey. *AT* follows a fair and balanced protocol of dividing our ballots between four geographical regions (see color map at right) of the United States. In addition to the hundreds of surveys sent to American enthusiasts, international fans are also sought out and we invite such fans to contact us for participation in future years. *Amusement Today* thanks the hundreds of voters who helped form this year's panel of experts and make the 2011 Golden Ticket Awards a reality.

Are you a qualified candidate? Contact Golden Ticket Awards Communications Coordinator Tim Baldwin at [tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com](mailto:tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com) and we'll see if you would make a good representative for your region on next year's new panel.

Of note, park employees, and *Amusement Today* staff are not eligible to be on the panel.



⑤ – International Surveys

# WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, INC.



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OF THE  
2011 AWARD WINNERS  
& NOMINEES!**

The **B!g idea**  
People!

*A Creative Services Company Serving the Amusement, Water Park & Support Industry for over 50 Years!*

1428 Maple Ave. • Hamilton, OH 45011 • 513.737.9012 • [www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com](http://www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com)

# 2011 park winners shine their brightest to take the gold

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com



Since the inception of the Golden Tickets, the categories of **Best Park** and **Best Waterpark** have been dominated by winners **Cedar Point** and **Schlitterbahn**. Some wonder if this lock can ever be broken. But for this year, both parks take the win for the 14th consecutive year. This unquestionably speaks to the quality of the product these parks offer guests.

In the category for **Best Park**, **Knoebels** has now become cozy in the No. 2 spot for the third year in a row.

Continuing to climb is **Europa-Park**, now rising to the No. 3 spot in 2011. **Dollywood** is also seen climbing several notches up into the

top five at No. 4 with **Disneyland** just behind.

The second half of the top 10 sees **Universal's Islands of Adventure**, followed by **Busch Gardens Williamsburg**, **Kennywood** and **Tokyo DisneySea**. A tie for the No. 10 spot—**Holiday World** and **Pleasure Beach Blackpool**—lets AT showcase 11 parks on our chart.

For **Best Waterpark**, **Schlitterbahn's** win comes from the largest percentage of votes on all of our 2011 charts.

A top five is completed by **Splashin' Safari**, **Blizzard**

**Beach**, **Typhoon Lagoon** and **Noah's Ark**. Each of these parks is known for a particular quality, whether it be the latest waterslide products, exceptional theming or a huge variety of attractions. Regardless of which, all these parks rate high marks for fun.

**Idlewild** is thrilled to take the Golden Ticket for **Best Children's Park** for the second year in a row.

"We still can't wipe the smiles from our faces," says Ed Saxton, marketing manager for Idlewild & SoakZone. "The 2010 Golden Ticket was the cornerstone to our entire marketing campaign and we intend for the 2011 Golden Ticket to be the focal point as well." Lipton beams, "What better tagline can you get?"

▶ See PARKS, page 11



Cedar Point's record breaking rides and diverse resort entertainment has swept the category of Best Park for 14 years.  
AT/JEFFREY L. SEIFERT



## Park and Ride Winners

Ranked by percentage of votes cast



### BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2011 (Amusement Park)

New Texas Giant	Six Flags Over Texas	45%
Cheetah Hunt	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	12%
Wooden Warrior	Quassy Amusement Park	11%
Twister	Gröna Lund	5% (tie)
Zippin Pippin	Bay Beach Amusement Park	5% (tie)

### BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2011 (Waterpark)

The Falls	Schlitterbahn	45%
Vanish Point	Water Country U.S.A.	15%
Bombs Away	Raging Waters	8% (tie)
Viper	NRH <sub>2</sub> O	8% (tie)

### BEST PARK

Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	23%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	13%
Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	12%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	8%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	7%
Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	6.5%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	5.5%
Tokyo DisneySea	Tokyo, Japan	5% (tie)
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	5% (tie)
Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	4.5% (tie)
Pleasure Beach Blackpool	Blackpool, England	4.5% (tie)

### BEST WATERPARK

Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas	66%
Splashin' Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.	14%
Blizzard Beach	Orlando, Fla.	6%
Typhoon Lagoon	Orlando, Fla.	5%
Noah's Ark	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	4%

### BEST CHILDREN'S PARK

Idlewild & SoakZone	Ligonier, Pa.	30%
Legoland California	Carlsbad, Calif.	25%
Fårup Sommerland	Saltum, Denmark	11%
Legoland Windsor	Windsor, England	10%
Dutch Wonderland	Lancaster, Pa.	6%

### BEST MARINE LIFE PARK

SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	55%
SeaWorld San Antonio	San Antonio, Texas	14%
Discovery Cove	Orlando, Fla.	11%
SeaWorld San Diego	San Diego, Calif.	10%
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom	Vallejo, Calif.	6%

### BEST SEASIDE PARK

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	29%
Pleasure Beach Blackpool	Blackpool, England	28%
Morey's Piers	Wildwood, N.J.	16%
Gröna Lund	Stockholm, Sweden	5%
Kemah Boardwalk	Kemah, Texas	4%

### BEST INDOOR WATERPARK

Schlitterbahn Galveston Island	Galveston, Texas	31%
Kalahari Resort	Sandusky, Ohio	16%
Kalahari Resort	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	15%
World Waterpark	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	12%
Splash Landings	Staffordshire, England	11%

### FRIENDLIEST PARK

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	32%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	25%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	13%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	12%
Beech Bend	Bowling Green, Ky.	5%

### CLEANEST PARK

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	35%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	15%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	10%
Magic Kingdom	Orlando, Fla.	9%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	8%

### BEST SHOWS

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	30%
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	28%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	10%
SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	8%
Disney's Hollywood Studios	Orlando, Fla.	7%



From the signature tube chutes from its early years to the latest in waterpark innovations, the original Schlitterbahn in New Braunfels, Texas has the unique attractions to win Best Waterpark.

AT/GARY SLADE



Voted Best Seaside Park, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk exemplifies perfectly what the ambience of such a setting should be with an ideal mix of new rides and classic, traditional favorites.

AT/GARY SLADE



## Park and Ride Winners

Ranked by percentage of votes cast



### BEST FOOD

Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	29%
Epcot	Orlando, Fla.	17%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	15%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	13%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	7%

### BEST WATER RIDE (PARK)

Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls	Universal's Islands of Adv.	26%
Valhalla	Pleasure Beach, Blackpool	19%
Pilgrim's Plunge	Holiday World	10%
Splash Mountain	Magic Kingdom	9%
Journey to Atlantis	SeaWorld Orlando	7%

### BEST WATERPARK RIDE

Wildebeest	Splashin' Safari	34%
Master Blaster	Schlitterbahn	24%
Dragon's Revenge	Schlitterbahn	13%
Congo River Expedition	Schlitterbahn	8%
Zoomababwe	Splashin' Safari	5%

### BEST KIDS' AREA

Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	30%
Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	16%
Nickelodeon Universe	Bloomington, Minn.	12%
Drayton Manor	Staffordshire, England	8%
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands	7%

### BEST DARK RIDE

Harry Potter and...Forbidden Journey	Universal's Islands of Adv.	26%
Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man	Universal's Islands of Adv.	23%
Twilight Zone Tower of Terror	Disney's Hollywood Studios	15%
Haunted Mansion	Knoebels Amusement Resort	10%
Indiana Jones and...Forbidden Eye	Disneyland	6%

### BEST OUTDOOR SHOW PRODUCTION

Epcot	Orlando, Fla.	34%
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	17%
Disney California Adventure	Anaheim, Calif.	16%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	10% (tie)
Magic Kingdom	Orlando, Fla.	10% (tie)

### BEST LANDSCAPING

Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	33%
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands	13%
Gilroy Gardens	Gilroy, Calif.	12%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	9%
Epcot	Orlando, Fla.	7%

### BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT

Universal Orlando Resort	Orlando, Fla.	32%
Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	26%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	16%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	10%
Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	5%

### BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	38%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	14%
Magic Kingdom	Orlando Fla.	13.5%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	10%
Disney's Hollywood Studios	Orlando, Fla.	7%

### BEST CAROUSEL

Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	55%
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	18%
Six Flags Over Georgia	Austell, Ga	7%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	5%
Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	4%

### BEST INDOOR COASTER

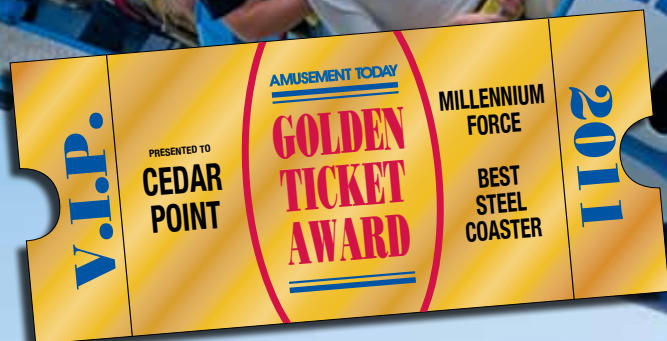
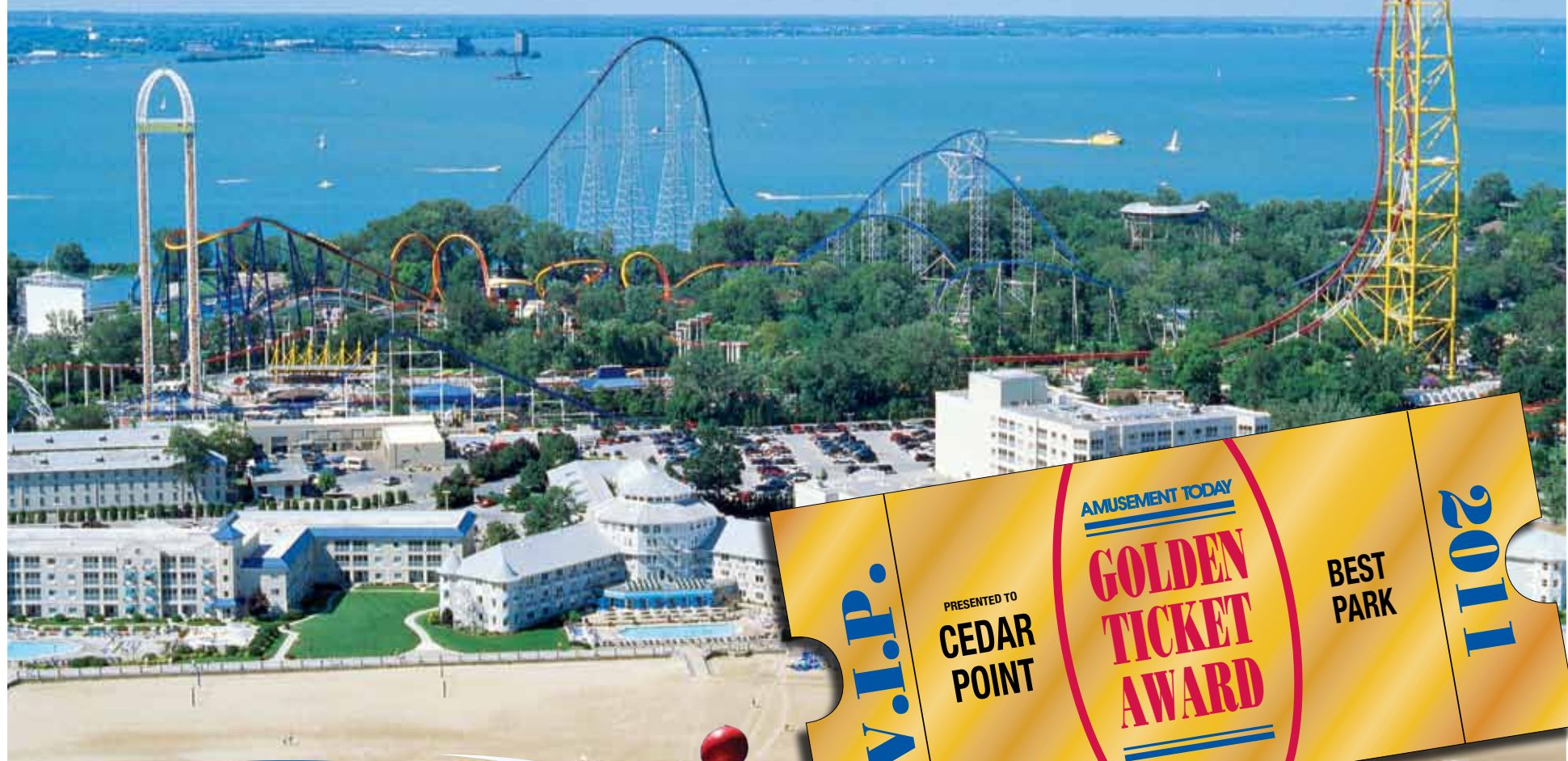
Revenge of the Mummy	Universal Studios Orlando	31%
Space Mountain	Disneyland	15%
Rock 'n' Roller Coaster	Disney's Hollywood Studios	13%
Mindbender	Galaxyland	12%
Space Mountain	Magic Kingdom	9%

### BEST FUNHOUSE/WALK-THROUGH ATTRACTION

Noah's Ark	Kennywood	24%
Frankenstein's Castle	Indiana Beach	23%
Noah's Ark	Pleasure Beach, Blackpool	15%
Ghost Ship	Morey's Piers	13%
Lustiga Huset	Gröna Lund	12%



# Thanks for your support in the Golden Ticket Awards!



**BEST Halloween Event**



**2**

**Halloween Haunt®** Knott's Berry Farm

**TOP Steel Roller Coasters**



**9**

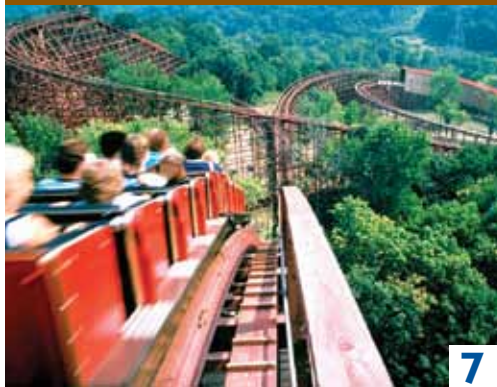
**Top Thrill Dragster®** Cedar Point



**10**

**Magnum** Cedar Point

**TOP Wooden Roller Coasters**



**7**

**The Beast** Kings Island



**11**

**Diamondback** Kings Island



**13**

**Intimidator 305™** Kings Dominion



**9**

**Shivering Timbers** Michigan's Adventure



**15**

**Behemoth** Canada's Wonderland



**18**

**Raptor®** Cedar Point



**10**

**Prowler** Worlds of Fun



**19**

**Intimidator™** Carowinds



**21**

**Maverick®** Cedar Point

**Cedar Point**

Sandusky, OH • cedarpoint.com

**SOAK CITY**  
WATER PARK

Sandusky, OH • soakcity.cedarpoint.com

**Knott's Berry Farm**

Buena Park, CA • knotts.com

**Knott's SOAK CITY**  
WATER PARKS

Orange County • San Diego  
Palm Springs • soakcityusa.com

**Kings Island**

Cincinnati, OH • visitkingsisland.com

**Canada's Wonderland**

Toronto, ON • canadaswonderland.com

**Kings Dominion**

Richmond, VA • kingsdominion.com

**Carowinds**

Charlotte, NC • carowinds.com

**California's Great America**

Santa Clara, CA • cagreatamerica.com

**Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom**

Allentown, PA • dorneypark.com

**Valleyfair**

Shakopee, MN • valleyfair.com

**Worlds of Fun**

Kansas City, MO • worldsoffun.com

**OCEANS OF FUN**  
WATER PARK

Kansas City, MO • worldsoffun.com

**Michigan's Adventure**

Muskegon, MI • miadventure.com

**Wildwater Kingdom**

Aurora, OH • wildwaterfun.com

**Gilroy Gardens**  
Family Theme Park

Gilroy, CA  
gilroygardens.org

**BEST Landscaping**



**3**

**Gilroy Gardens**

**Cedar Fair**  
Entertainment Company

One Cedar Point Drive • Sandusky, OH 44870-5259  
(419) 627-2233 • cedarfair.com

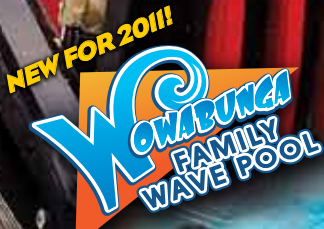
Cedar Fair is traded on the NYSE under the ticker symbol "FUN"

# THANK YOU AMUSEMENT TODAY!



## Idlewild -AND- SoakZone

THANK YOU FOR SELECTING  
US FOR A GOLDEN TICKET AWARD.  
WE ARE DEFINITELY SOAKING  
UP THE THRILL OF THE MOMENT.



VOTED BEST KIDS PARK IN THE WORLD!

— BY AMUSEMENT TODAY MAGAZINE





We're on Top of the World



*Nik Wallenda performs at the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, April 2011*



beachboardwalk.com

Thanks for voting us *Best Seaside Park*

# 2011 World's Best Indoor Waterpark

4 years in a row!



**SCHLITTERBAHN**  
GALVESTON ISLAND *Indoor Waterpark*



*Thanks Amusement Today!*

# ►PARKS

Continued from page 4

Coming in second is **Legoland California**, who just might see some new competition in 2012 from its new sister park in Florida opening shortly. For now, **Legoland Windsor** has jumped onto the charts in the No. 4 position. **Fårup Sommerland** of Denmark (No. 3) and **Dutch Wonderland** in Pennsylvania (No. 5) complete the top five on our chart.



### Best Marine Life Park

continues to see a strong lead for **SeaWorld Orlando** which takes the Golden Ticket for a clean sweep since the category was introduced. The SeaWorld family is further represented by **SeaWorld San Antonio** (No. 2), **Discovery Cove** (No. 3) and **SeaWorld San Diego** (No. 4). **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** places fifth.

SeaWorld San Antonio has already announced a new waterpark for the property, Aquatica, for 2012, while SeaWorld San Diego will be adding a new sea themed coaster, Manta.

**Best Seaside Park** had a closer competition this year. In fact, it was the closest of all races for a Golden Ticket in the 2011 ballot process. **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** still has the historic charm and amazing atmosphere to hold onto the top spot. Dedicated efforts to the park's historic carousel continued to accentuate the park's affection for preservation of the seaside amusement park spirit and classic traditional rides.

"The Golden Ticket Award is a real source of pride not only for the Boardwalk family but for our community as well," states Marq Lipton, VP marketing and sales for Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. "Being home to the best seaside amusement park in the world validates the care and work of our staff and what generations of Santa Cruzans have known for decades — the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is a unique treasure that can't be duplicated."

In an extremely close second place, **Pleasure Beach**



Above, Idlewild wins Best Children's Park for a second year; above right, SeaWorld Orlando brings sea life up close; and at right, Schlitterbahn Galveston is the only indoor waterpark with a Torrent river.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

**Blackpool**, nestled along the promenade adjacent to the Irish Sea, has a long history of packing in a large amount of rides and roller coasters for park fans in the U.K. The Pleasure Beach is a destination many American enthusiasts commonly strive to visit.

Keeping the top five in the same positions as 2010 is **Morey's Piers** on the Jersey Shore; **Gröna Lund** in Stockholm, Sweden; and **Kemah Boardwalk** along Texas's Gulf coast. The three properties have also become quite adept at fitting numerous attractions into limited space.

### Schlitterbahn Galveston Island

maintains its win as **Best Indoor Waterpark**. One aspect this park can boast is its ability to transform into an outdoor facility in eight minutes if pleasant weather allows the roof and walls to open. The Galveston Island park also features the only indoor Torrent river. Walkways to other summer attractions are also covered and heated to offer a wide variety of waterpark fun.

**Kalahari Ohio** and **Kalahari Wisconsin** once again battle it out for a close second and third place. This year, the



AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



AT/GARY SLADE

pair switched positions. Both of these sibling properties offer an enormous space under one roof, filled with a variety of attractions.

**Waterpark** in Alberta at West Edmonton Mall, one of the world's largest malls, and **Splash Landings** at England's Alton Towers complete the top five.

The massive **World**



COURTESY KNOEBELS



AT/TIM BALDWIN



AT/TIM BALDWIN



AT/GARY SLADE



COURTESY B. DEREK SHAW



COURTESY KALAHARI

Top row l to r: Knoebels, Splashin' Safari and Legoland California have enough fans to rate them second in their park categories. Bottom row l to r: SeaWorld San Antonio, Pleasure Beach Blackpool and Kalahari Ohio are also No. 2.

# Top winners for industry cornerstones — friendliness, cleanliness, food and landscaping

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

It is unquestionable that the industry standards that incorporate cleanliness, friendliness, good food and beautiful landscaping complete the guest experience for many visitors.

Pat Koch, director of values for Holiday World & Splashin' Safari, says, "I consider our park to be an extension of my home. When I have guests over to my house, I would never have a messy sink or paper towels (or worse!) on the bathroom floor. We strive to keep the same standards here." Koch continues, "For years I've preached 'cleanliness is everybody's business' to our staff. It's not just the Sweeper Crew, it's me, it's Dan, it's our directors — everyone must pay attention and help to keep the park clean. Our ideal is to have the park look just as nice at closing as it does at opening. It's not easy, but it's also not impossible."

It is this mindset that has **Holiday World** keeping its long standing record of taking the Golden Ticket for **Cleanest Park**.

This category retains its common faces with following finalists **Busch Gardens Wil-**



**liamsburg, Dollywood, Magic Kingdom and Disneyland.**

Many parks have employee programs in place that reward friendliness at the workplace, preparing them for further careers.

The Golden Ticket for **Friendliest Park** stays this year with **Holiday World** where customer courtesy is instilled from Day One.

Reputations, both good and bad, are often created over a period of years. These parks — **Dollywood, Knoebels, Silver Dollar City and Beech Bend** — have captured the hearts of voters and have been long running finalists for their friendly employees.

**Knoebels** has carried **Best Food** category for some time. People often wonder how they do it, and voters tell AT they simply look forward to eating at the park. Delicious food, reasonable prices and tasty options make for a solid eating experience.

Our other finalists also have enticing characteristics: **Epcot** has a wide variety of international cuisine, **Dolly-**



Everywhere one turns, there are lush brushstrokes of colorful beauty throughout **Busch Gardens Williamsburg**. The Virginia theme park has been undefeated in the **Best Landscaping** category since it was introduced in 1998.

AT/GARY SLADE

**wood** and **Silver Dollar City** accentuate the home cooking qualities like eating at your grandmother's place, and **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** is famous for their in-house ingredients and marvelously prepared dishes suitable to each of the park's lands.

**Best Landscaping** goes to **Busch Gardens Williams-**

**burg** for their 14th straight win. It begs the question, can anyone top them? Their lush color and manicured arrangements are nothing short of breathtaking.

**Efteling** in The Netherlands has an international reputation for beautiful grounds and **Gilroy Gardens** in California closely follows.

**Dollywood** is a new finalist in this category and is recognized for the outstanding colorful displays throughout the park. **Epcot** completes the top five. Its sheer size allows for massive flower beds and well manicured green space in the Future World section with more intimate arrangements in World Showcase.



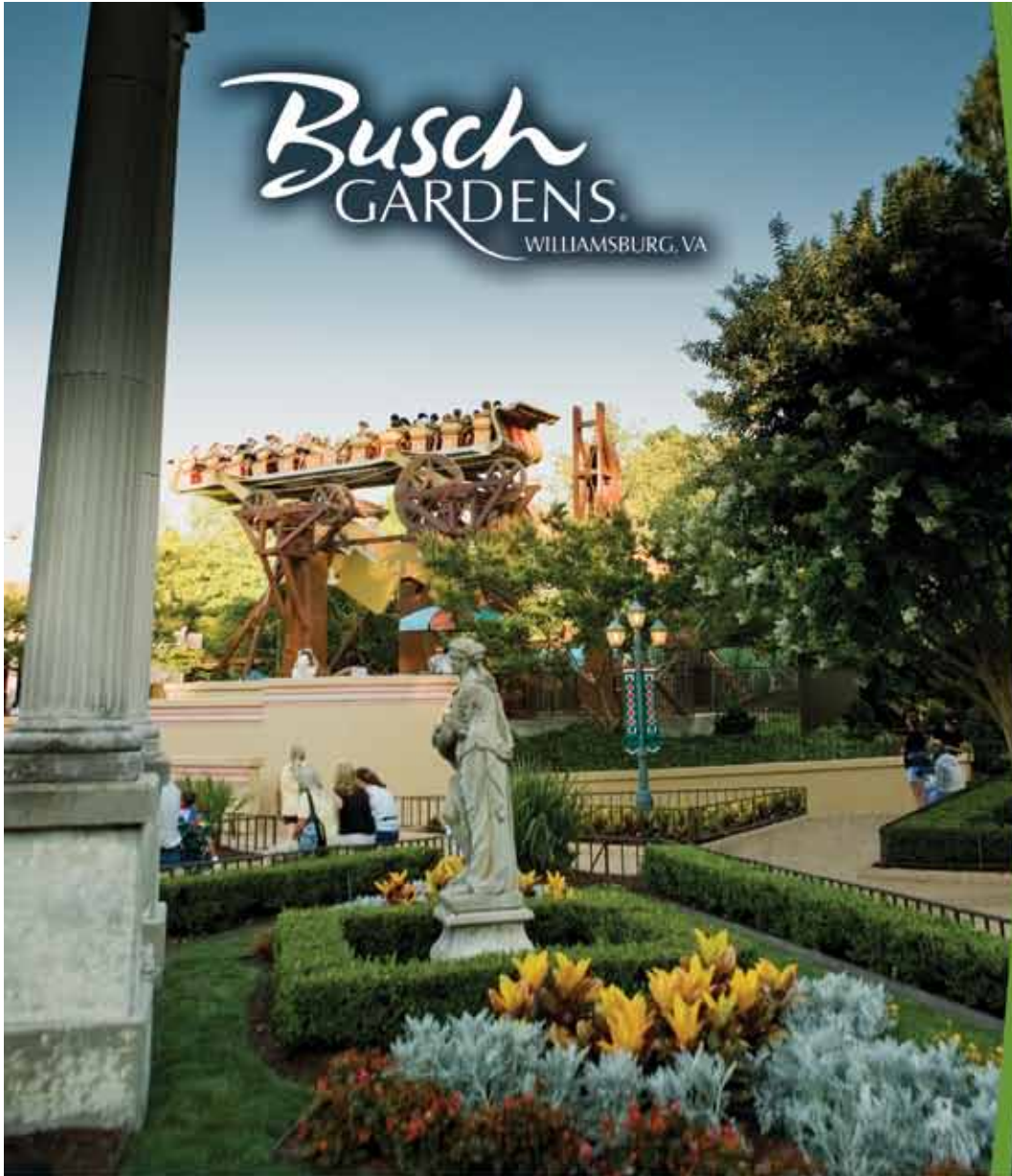
In addition to the great rides, eating at **Knoebels** has always been considered a food experience. The park takes the Golden Ticket for **Best Food**.

COURTESY KNOEBELS/DAN FEICHT



**Holiday World** has always prided itself on its dedication to cleanliness, left, and for having outstanding friendly employees, above.

COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD



**Busch**  
GARDENS  
WILLIAMSBURG, VA

# Turning a Green Thumb into a Golden Ticket

Thank you to all who voted in Amusement Today's Golden Ticket Awards. We're proud to be one of "The Best of the Best!"

**2011 "Best Landscaping"**  
– Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Va

[buschgardens.com/va](http://buschgardens.com/va)

©2011 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved.

# THANKS FOR "DARING THE DROP" ON VANISH POINT

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO VOTED IN AMUSEMENT TODAY'S GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS. WE ARE PROUD THAT YOU ENJOYED THE PURE LIQUID ADRENALINE OF VANISH POINT.

**2011 "BEST NEW WATERPARK RIDE"**  
(2ND PLACE)  
– VANISH POINT, WATER COUNTRY USA

©2011 SeaWorld Parks & Entertainment, Inc. All rights reserved.



# Entertainment delivered by shows and seasonal festivals

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Competition became a little more determined this year in a couple of events. One of AT's tighter battles was in the **Best Shows** category.

**Dollywood**, a park known for its dedicated fans of great shows, managed to hang onto the Golden Ticket for a third year, but **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** made a solid effort to reclaim the title they held for 10 seasons with a spectacular new show called Ovation. The two competitors were separated by just a handful of ballots.

Rounding out the top five was another close tussle between **Silver Dollar City** in Branson, **SeaWorld Orlando**, and **Disney's Hollywood Studios** in Orlando.



The category of **Best Outdoor Night Show** production always leans heavily toward Disney. **Epcot** takes the Golden Ticket one more time in 2011, but again **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**, with its new revamped laser and fireworks show, Lone Star Nights, climbs back up a spot to No. 2.

Last year's introduction of World of Color at **Disney California Adventure** put the park on the charts. Many insiders thought the show might have the caliber to dethrone its sister park

in Orlando. If so, not yet. This elaborate water extravaganza does still dazzle in the No. 3 spot. The introduction of Cars Land in 2012 just might bring new voters back to the California themer.

A tie between similar parks **Disneyland** and **Magic Kingdom** complete the top five.

As Halloween continues to be big business and a huge impact on many parks' attendance, **Universal Orlando** has continued its scary reputation as king of **Best Halloween Event**.

No slouch of its own, **Knott's Berry Farm** hangs on to second place. The Halloween Haunt at Knott's "Scary" Farm is an established tradition.

**Knoebels** and **Kennywood** follow with third and fourth places and the

fifth finalist is newcomer **Europa-Park** in Rust, Germany.

Parks continue to extend their seasons and offer a completely different ambience for their guests with special shows, lighting and decorations as the approach of winter brings new marketing opportunities.

For **Best Christmas Event**, **Dollywood** keeps its win for 2011. Their Christmas event has become nationally famous.

**Silver Dollar City** nudges ahead of **Magic Kingdom** to move up into the No. 2 position. Closing out the top five is **Disneyland** (No. 4), and **Disney's Hollywood Studios** appears back on the charts in the No. 5 spot.



With a famous namesake such as Dolly Parton at the helm of the Tennessee themer, how could the live entertainment be anything less than marvelous? **Dollywood** takes the win for Best Shows.  
COURTESY DOLLYWOOD



**Epcot's IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth** has nightly captivated audiences who visit the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando. This multi-sensory extravaganza wins Best Outdoor Night Show Production.  
COURTESY EPCOT



It's "a haunting we will go" at Universal Orlando. The Florida theme park resort has earned a legendary status for its Halloween event.  
COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



**Dollywood** has a multitude of fans return to the park as winter approaches to catch a festive spirit for the holidays. Best Christmas Event goes to the park for the fourth year in a row.  
COURTESY DOLLYWOOD



# Dollywood®

dollywood.com

No matter the season, thank you for making Dollywood the most entertaining park in the world.



NEW! Dollywood's  
*Christmas on Ice*



# Six Flags Over Texas, Schlitterbahn win Best New Rides

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Since introducing this category in 2005, *Amusement Today* has revealed wooden coasters, steel coasters, and even a dark ride as **Best New Ride (Amusement Park)**. But nothing has ever been quite like this year's ride, or with such controversy.

Changing a wooden coaster to a steel track coaster might seem outlandish to many enthusiasts, but Six Flags Over Texas proved it could be done to fantastic results. **New Texas Giant** has



The New Texas Giant at Six Flags wowed coaster fans with a smooth new layout and massive doses of negative Gs. It was voted **Best New Ride (Park)**.  
AT/SAMMY PICCOLA

is better than the original Texas Giant and some think it's the best coaster they've ever ridden."

The transformation project featured a dramatic new ride profile engineered by Ride Centerline and manufactured by Rocky Mountain

Construction. New style trains were supplied by Gerstlauer.

Coming in second is **Cheetah Hunt**, the new triple launch coaster at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. This new coaster from IntaRide complements a new animal area that features the preservation and

been such an amazing transformation that most coaster fans agree that it is nothing like the original version. Taller, faster, steeper and smoother are the string of adjectives (most notably smoother), and if the steel charts are any indication, those descriptions make a hit.

"When we decided to replace the Texas Giant track with the new Iron Horse steel track, we knew we were taking a big chance with a ride that has such a strong legacy," says Steve Martindale, park president of Six Flags Over Texas. "But we knew that if we could make it work, it would quickly become a new all-time favorite. Many agree the ride



Cheetah Hunt at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay was an integral part of the park's new Cheetah Run area. It came in No. 2 for **Best New Ride**.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN



The Falls, Schlitterbahn's amazing new attraction for 2011, offers guests an unending ride of exciting rapids and was voted **Best New Ride (Waterpark)**.  
AT/GARY SLADE

skill of cheetahs. Guests can interact and observe these animals while the new coaster soars overhead.

**Wooden Warrior** in the No. 3 spot puts Quassy Amusement Park on the map, so to speak. While smaller in stature, the ride has been giv-

en high praise by the coaster fans who have ridden it. It creates more of a destination draw than just the park's usual local audience.

**Zippin Pippin** at Bay Beach in Wisconsin ties for fourth with **Twister**, the new wooden coaster at Gröna Lund in Stockholm, Sweden. The former creates a variation of the preservation aspect as the defunct coaster from Libertyland is recreated to thrill a new generation. Twister is a major feat of engineering as the woodie completely entwines with attractions in extremely limited space within the park.

In the category for **Best New Ride (Waterpark)**, many watched the progress of **The Falls** at Schlitterbahn early in the summer via tours and Web sites. The mid-summer opening delivered on all accounts as the longest waterpark attraction in the world provided rides in length of 25 minutes or more to close to a  
▶ See **NEW RIDES**, page 20



Quassy Amusement Park is all smiles over their long-awaited new roller coaster. **Wooden Warrior** (No. 3) was a perfect fit for their family audience.  
COURTESY ALLAN REID



# THE GIANT STRIKES GOLD

Texas has something new to brag about: The Golden Ticket Award for the best new ride in 2011—The New Texas Giant.

We'd like to thank Amusement Today as well as the dedicated team of professionals who worked so hard to make our new ride such a Giant success.



**Six Flags**  
OVER TEXAS  
GO BIG! GO SIX FLAGS!





# Hybrid Coaster Trains "Texas Giant"

Thank you for recognizing our work with the Golden Ticket Award for the Best New Ride 2011!



Gerstlauer Amusement Rides GmbH  
Industriestraße 17  
D-86505 Münsterhausen  
Tel. (49) 8281 - 99 68 0  
Fax (49) 8281 - 99 68 33  
www.gerstlauer-rides.com  
info@gerstlauer-rides.de

Photos: Gary Slade/ AmusementToday



THE RIDE ENTERTAINMENT GROUP CONGRATULATES  
SIX FLAGS OVER TEXAS & GERSTLAUER ON THE  
**NEW TEXAS GIANT**  
**WINNING 2011'S**  
**"BEST NEW RIDE"**  
**GOLDEN TICKET.**



WWW.RIDEENTERTAINMENT.COM 410-643-9300



# RMC

WE BUILD DREAMS



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Six Flags Over Texas on your golden ticket!



PATENT PENDING

Rocky Mountain Construction is proud to have delivered...



**"THE NEW AS BEST NEW RIDE"**

during your 50th anniversary celebration!

208.772.8181

photos courtesy of amusement today

rockymtnconstruction.com

rmcgroup@live.com

## ►NEW RIDES

Continued from page 16

thousand people an hour. It's waterpark genius.

"It's truly a one-of-a-kind ride," says Darren Hill, general manager for Schlitterbahn. "The Falls utilizes a new area of the park in a new way. It's just amazing."

**Vanish Point** at Water

Country U.S.A. comes in at No. 2. The trapdoor water slides were supplied by ProSlide.

Remaining finalists were **Bombs Away** (also supplied by ProSlide) at Raging Waters in San Jose, California, and **Viper**, the country's first Mega-Tube (supplied by WhiteWater West) at NRH20 in North Richland Hills, Texas.



COURTESY WATER COUNTRY USA



COURTESY PROSLIDE

Clockwise from right photo: Vanish Point at Water Country USA, Bombs Away at Raging Waters San Jose, Viper at NRH20, Twister at Gröna Lund, and Zippin Pippin at Bay Beach were all big hits and finalists in the Best New Ride categories.



COURTESY HOWARD GILLOOLY



COURTESY THE GRAVITY GROUP



AT/GARY SLADE

AMUSEMENT TODAY  
V.I.P. GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS 2011  
BEST OF THE BEST!

Give your food

the ride of its life.

WORLD FAMOUS  
MONTGOMERY INN  
The Ribs King

MONTGOMERY INN  
BARBECUE  
Sauce

# Universal's IOA beats itself in Best Rides categories

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

In Golden Ticket history, there has only been one instance where a park has beaten itself in a category. Cedar Point's Millennium Force beat out Magnum XL-200 for Best Steel Coaster in 2001. Now, it has happened again.

In the category of **Best Dark Ride**, Universal's **Islands of Adventure** has seen the new **Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey** take over the top spot from perennial winner **Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man**. The latest of-



Enchanted benches mysteriously take visitors through **Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey**, which is a new win in the Best Dark Ride category.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



COURTESY ISLANDS OF ADVENTURE



fering totally mystifies guests as their enchanted benches lift and carry them unexplainably through thematic environments and visual projections in ways never seen in a dark ride before. However, **Spider-Man** will soon be receiving a technical upgrade in the months ahead. Is this a new battle brewing?

Rich Costales, senior vice president of resort operations for Universal Orlando exclaims, "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey takes theme park entertainment to an entirely new level and we are grateful for the recognition." Costales adds, "We are



**Wildebeest** uses magnetics to give riders a thrilling uphill water coaster ride and **Splash-in' Safari** a second Best Waterpark Ride win.

AT/TIM BALDWIN

also happy that **The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man** continues to be popular and came in second."

Due to the rise of **Harry Potter**, popular favorites **Twilight**

**Zone Tower of Terror** at **Disney's Hollywood Studios** and the very traditional **Haunted Mansion** at **Knoebels** slip one notch. **Indiana Jones** at **Disneyland** com-

pletes the top five in what is one of the most long listed categories in the Golden Ticket Awards.

The category of **Best Funhouse/Walk-Through Attraction** brought about a very close skirmish between **Noah's Ark** at **Kennywood**, AT's new winner last year, with previous winner **Frankenstein's Castle** at **Indiana Beach**. **Pleasure Beach Blackpool** has a **Noah's Ark** as well that places in third, followed by the newer **Ghost Ship** at **Morrey's Piers** and the elaborate and hysterical **Lustiga Huset** at **Gröna Lund**.

Voters continue to give **Best Kid's Area** to long running leader **Kings Island**, the only park to ever hold onto the Ticket. **Universal's Islands of Adventure** places second, followed by **Nickelodeon Universe** at the No. 3 spot. **Drayton Manor** is a new finalist in this category thanks to their large **Thomas Land**. **Efteling**, another international finalist, closes out the top five.

**Knoebels** once again

takes the brass ring in the category of **Best Carousel**, mostly due to being able to reach for the brass ring. Another U.S. park to allow this age-old tradition is **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** (No. 2), who just refurbished their classic carousel this season in time for the ride's 100th anniversary.

Completing this category are three carousels known for their beauty: **Six Flags Over Georgia**, newcomer **Kennywood**, and **Six Flags Great America**.

Lights out! The Golden Ticket for **Best Indoor Coaster** once again goes to **Universal Studios Florida** for the spooky and thrilling **Revenge of the Mummy**. Premier Rides provided the coaster portion of the ride.

**Space Mountain** at **Disneyland** remains at No. 2, while sister park in Orlando, **Disney's Hollywood Studios** charges up two spots to No. 3 with their **Rock 'n' Roller Coaster**. **Mindbender** at

► See RIDES, page 22



**Noah's Ark** at **Kennywood** keeps the Golden Ticket in a tight race for Best Funhouse/Walk-Through Attraction. This beloved classic has delighted children and families since 1936 and took over the win first in 2010.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



## ▶RIDES

Continued from page 21

West Edmonton Mall's **Galaxyland** and **Space Mountain** at **Magic Kingdom** round out the five finalists.

Let's get wet! **Universal's Islands of Adventure** takes top prize for **Best Water Ride** with **Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls**. Supplied by Mack and highly themed by Universal, this attraction mixes humor, thrill and whimsy to both riders and spectators alike.

This category has a long line of high caliber attractions. Among them is **Valhalla** at **Pleasure Beach Blackpool** and **Pilgrim's Plunge** at **Holiday World & Splashin' Safari** (both from Intamin). **Splash Mountain** at the **Magic Kingdom** and **Journey to Atlantis** at **SeaWorld Orlando** hold the No. 4 and No. 5 spots.

New winner from 2010

▶ See RIDES, page 26



Kings Island's kids' area, now known as Planet Snoopy, has a loyal fan base keeping it on top in its respective category.  
AT/TIM BALDWIN



From historic band organ music to snagging the brass ring to its wood carved beauty, **Knoebels Grand Carousel** wins the Golden Ticket once again.  
COURTESY KNOEBELS/DAN FEICHT



# WORLD'S BEST WATER RIDES

Congratulations to Universal Orlando for the 9-time golden ticket winner **Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls**

INNOVATIONS BUILT ON MORE THAN 230 YEARS OF TRADITION & EXPERIENCE

Start your journey through our wide range of innovative products.

➤ VISIT US ONLINE [WWW.MACK-RIDES.COM](http://WWW.MACK-RIDES.COM)

# Four #1 Golden Ticket Award Winners



## BEST DARK RIDE

Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey™

## BEST WATER RIDE

Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls®

## BEST INDOOR COASTER

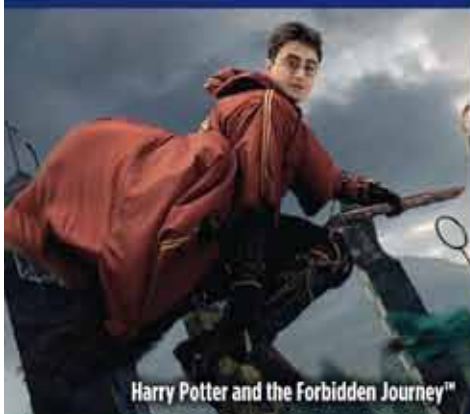
Revenge of the Mummy®

## BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT

Universal Studios Florida® -  
Halloween Horror Nights®



[UniversalOrlando.com](http://UniversalOrlando.com)



Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey™



Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls®



Revenge of the Mummy®



Halloween Horror Nights®

HARRY POTTER, characters, names and related indicia are trademarks of and © Warner Bros. Entertainment Inc. Harry Potter Publishing Rights © JKR.

(s11)

Rocky and Bullwinkle and Friends TM & © Ward Prods. Universal elements and all related indicia TM & © 2011 Universal Studios. © 2011 Universal Orlando. All rights reserved. 249984/0811/RA



**SCHLITTERBAHN**  
NEW BRAUNFELS *Waterpark*

**2011  
World's Best  
Waterpark**  
*14 years in a row!*



**V.I.P.**  
PRESENTED BY  
**SCHLITTERBAHN**  
AMUSEMENT TODAY  
**GOLDEN  
TICKET  
AWARD**  
BEST  
WATERPARK  
**2011**





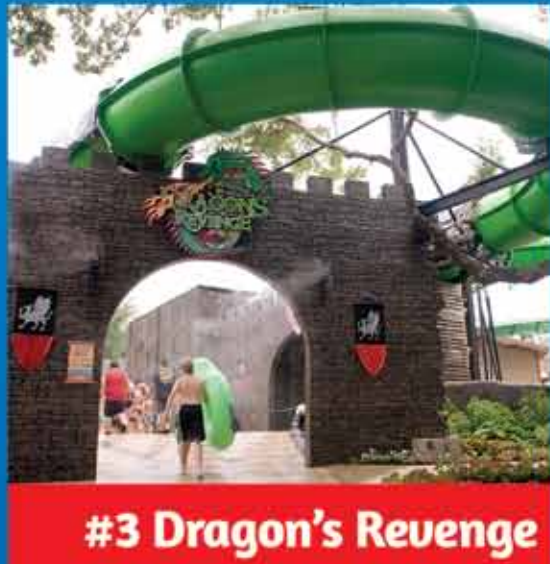
Voted #1  
**THE FALLS**  
 World's Longest Waterpark Ride



# World's Best Waterpark Rides!



**#2 Master Blaster**



**#3 Dragon's Revenge**



**#4 Congo River**

*Thanks Amusement Today!*

The Schlitterbahn family would like to sincerely thank Amusement Today, Golden Ticket voters, park guests and our dedicated team for all of their support and friendship in helping us become the world's best waterpark fourteen years in a row!

## ▶RIDES

Continued from page 22

**Wildebeest** at **Splashin' Safari** retains its win in the **Best Waterpark Ride** category. The longest uphill water coaster in the world has thrilled hundreds of riders an hour, but the park has already announced a bigger brother, **Mammoth**, for 2012. This looks to be the next competition of a park possibly beating itself.

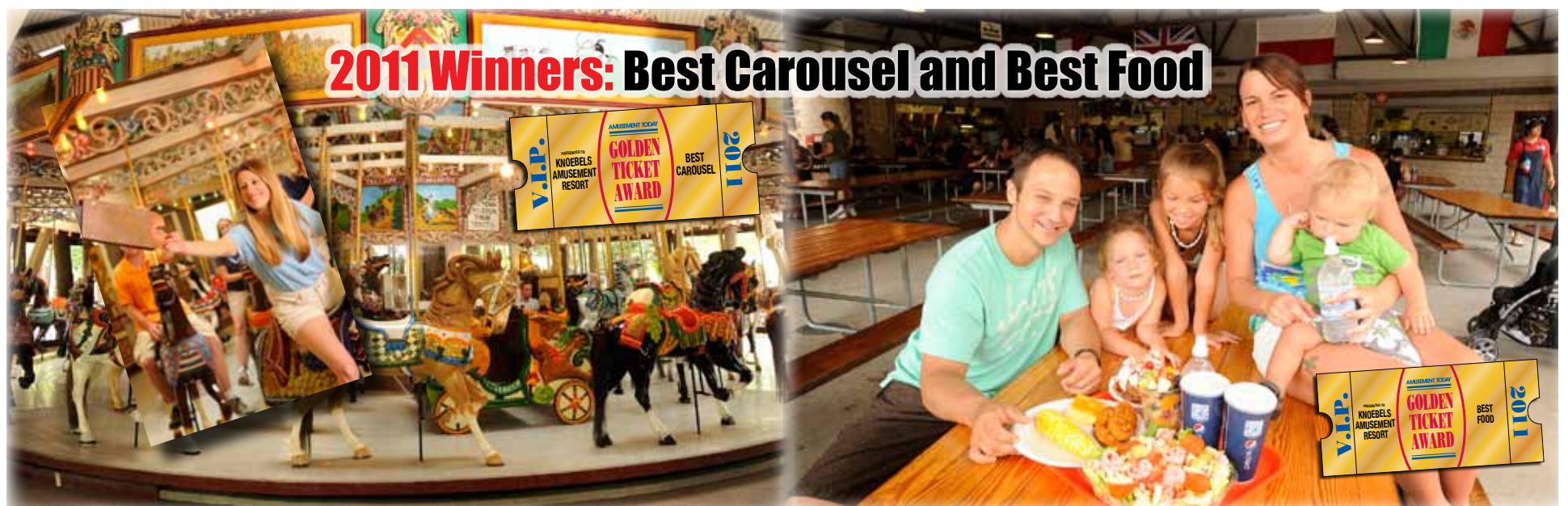
However, **Schlitterbahn** has a long string of attractions among our finalists. **Master Blaster**, **Dragon's Revenge** and **Congo River Expedition** have all brought innovations to the industry. With **The Falls** opening later than expected this season, look for it to find its place on the charts next year. This is one category sure to change. Completing the top five is **Zoombabwe** at **Splashin' Safari**. With all finalists being in only two parks, the industry should take note and visit these popular places to see what all the fuss is about.



Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls delivers big laughs and a big splash at Islands of Adventure. It takes the Golden Ticket for Best Water Ride. COURTESY DAVE JACKSON



Universal Studios Orlando has chills and thrills on **Revenge of the Mummy**, voted Best Indoor Roller Coaster. COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



**2011 Winners: Best Carousel and Best Food**



**The Phoenix**  
Voted #2  
Top Wooden  
Roller Coaster



**Voted #2 Park in 2011**

**Knoebels**

Thank You for  
**Another Great Year!**



## Best Funhouse/Walk-Through Attraction Noah's Ark, Kennywood

Kennywood says **“Thank You!!”**  
to Amusement Today  
and its readers  
for this prestigious award.





# Hydro MAGNETIC ROCKET™



V.I.P.	PRESENTED TO HOLIDAY WORLD & SPLASHIN' SAFARI	AMUSEMENT TODAY <b>GOLDEN TICKET AWARD</b>	WILDEBEEST  BEST WATERPARK RIDE	2011
	<p><b>Proud Supplier of Holiday World and Splashin' Safari's back-to-back Golden Ticket Award-Winning Wildebeest! Congratulations on Winning the Best Waterpark Ride for 2010 and now 2011 !</b></p>			

**Proud Supplier of Holiday World and Splashin' Safari's  
back-to-back Golden Ticket Award-Winning Wildebeest!  
Congratulations on Winning the Best Waterpark Ride  
for 2010 and now 2011 !**

[WWW.PROSLIDE.COM](http://WWW.PROSLIDE.COM)



**PROSLIDE  
TECHNOLOGY INC**

Global Headquarters-2650 Queensview Drive, Suite 150-Ottawa-Ontario-K2B 8H6 Canada

# Thank You For awarding us...

# Best of Both Worlds!

*Two Years Running*

Holiday World and Splashin' Safari are honored to be the first Golden Ticket Award winner to receive the distinction of having the Best Wooden Coaster and the Best Water Coaster simultaneously... now for two consecutive years.



**Wildebeest**  
 FORMERLY  
 WORLD'S LONGEST WATER COASTER

*Best Wooden Coaster  
 For the 5th  
 Consecutive Year*

**Holiday World**

**Splashin' SAFARI**

**#1 for Family Fun**

1(877) Go Family holidayworld.com  
 Jct. Ind. 162 & 245 Santa Claus, Ind.

# Thank you Cedar Fair

**for hosting the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Coasting For Kids fundraiser!**

**Through this valuable partnership and the efforts of all the participants, more than \$62,000 was raised for the mission of Give Kids The World.**

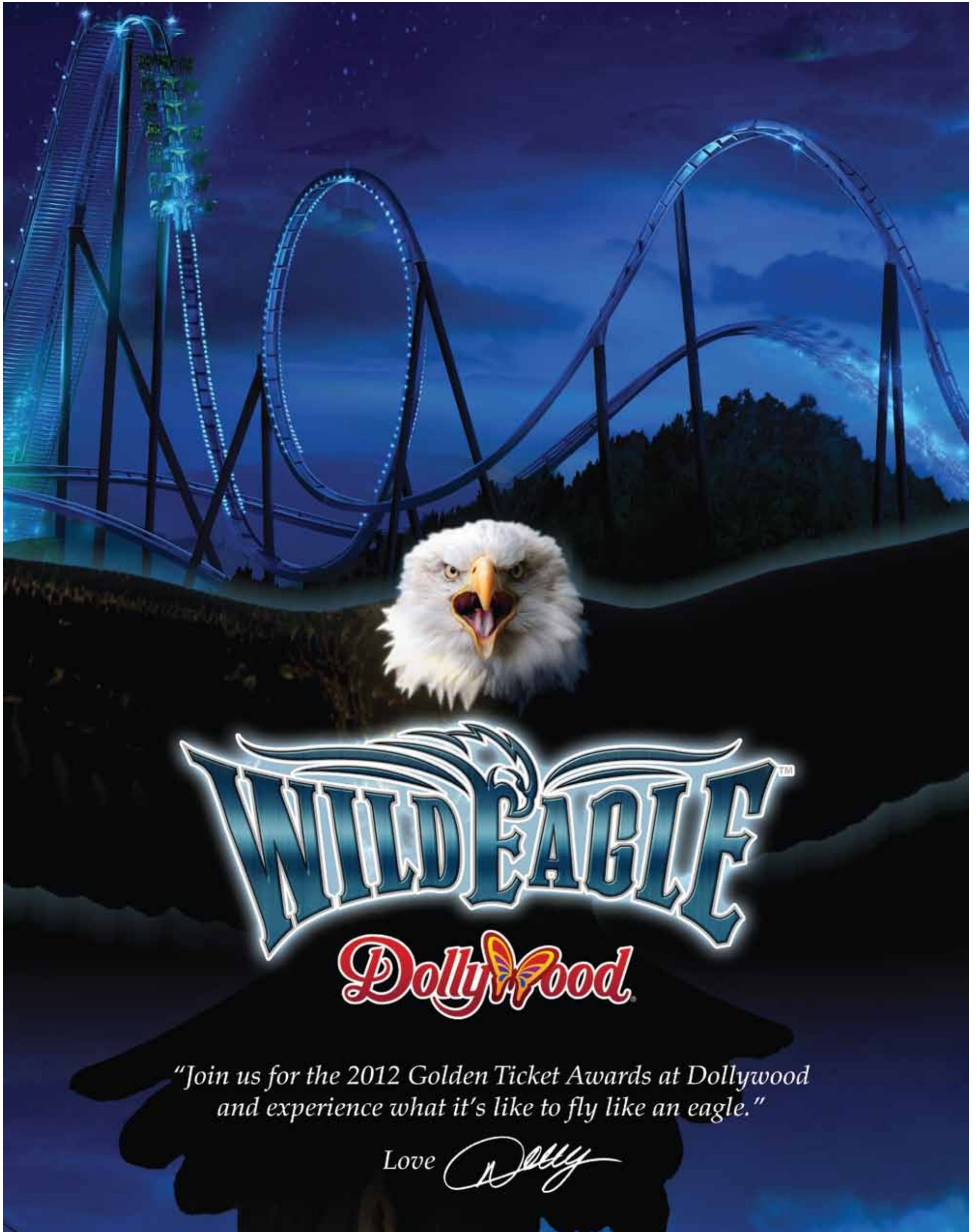
**Thank you for providing happiness and hope for children who need it most.**

- California's Great America • Santa Clara, CA
- Canada's Wonderland • Vaughan, ON
- Carowinds • Charlotte, NC
- Cedar Point • Sandusky, OH
- Dorney Park • Allentown, PA
- Kings Dominion • Doswell, VA
- Kings Island • Kings Mills, OH
- Knott's Berry Farm • Buena Park, CA
- Michigan's Adventure • Muskegon, MI
- Valleyfair • Shakopee, MN
- Worlds of Fun • Kansas City, MO



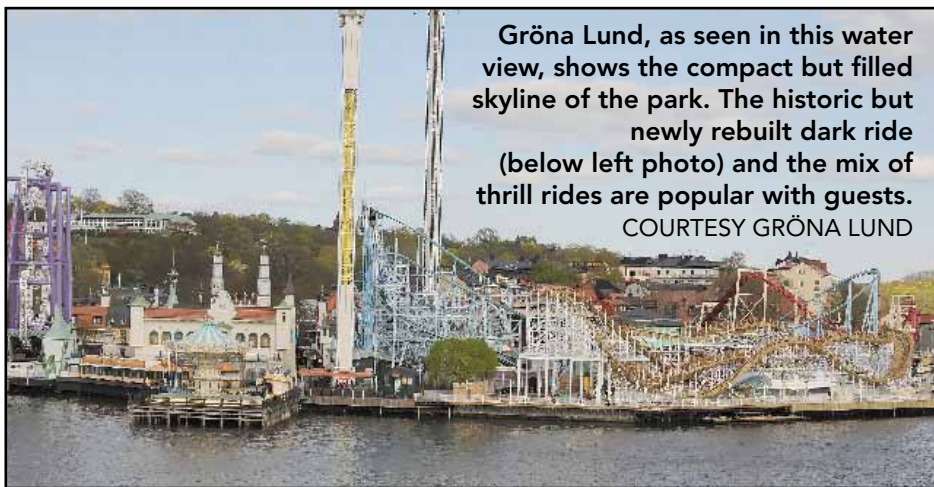
## Coasting For Kids 2011





*"Join us for the 2012 Golden Ticket Awards at Dollywood  
and experience what it's like to fly like an eagle."*

Love *Dolly*



Gröna Lund, as seen in this water view, shows the compact but filled skyline of the park. The historic but newly rebuilt dark ride (below left photo) and the mix of thrill rides are popular with guests.  
COURTESY GRÖNA LUND



## Sweden's Gröna Lund has rich history, thrives as big park in a small space

Tivoli Gröna Lund opened on August 3, 1883 on the lush green island of Djurgården in the city of Stockholm. At only 4,000 square feet it occupied less than one-tenth of an acre. The only ride that first year was a horse-powered carousel; other attractions included a dance hall, small cafe, shooting gallery and a variety of tents hosting circus performers. Over the years it has obviously seen expansion, with its latest acquisition bringing the park's size up to 11 acres. It is the oldest amusement park in Sweden and attracts more than 1.3 million guests per year, making it one of Sweden's leading tourist attractions.

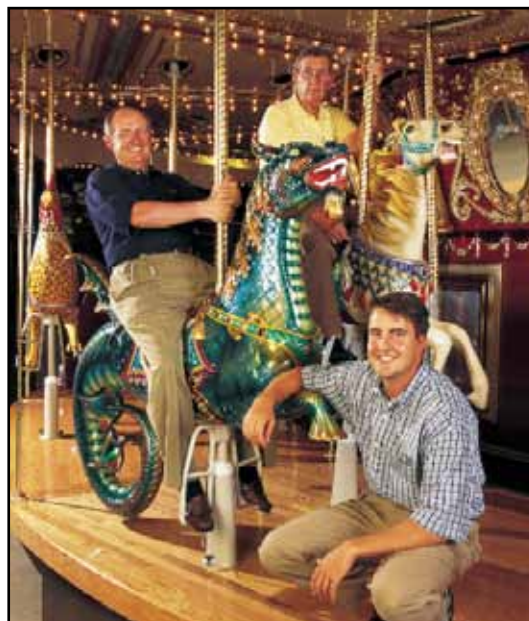
Situated on an island, much of the property borders the beautiful Swedish Harbor with sunny boardwalks and decks. Gröna Lund offers 30 attractions, six restaurants a large concert stage and a smaller theater. Many of the rides are close to or right on the water's edge and some offer spectacular views of the harbor and the city of Stockholm.

During its long history Gröna Lund has seen attractions come and go (including five coasters) but many of the classic attractions such as their famous walk-through funhouse and historic dark rides remain.

Seven coasters adorn the small property with five of them sharing space with each other, creating the world's densest coaster area. A massive Schwarzkopf steel coaster, occupied a good chunk of real estate when it was installed in 1998. A Gerstlauer Bobsled coaster added in 2003 wove in and out of the Schwarzkopf ride and in some places even shared the same supports. A custom-built suspended coaster from Vekoma Rides was installed in 2007. It also hopped over and under the Schwarzkopf coaster. Then much to everyone's amazement, just this past year, Gröna Lund added a wooden coaster supplied by the Gravity Group, that takes riders on a wild ride over the dark ride building and intertwines with the big steel coasters. In order to give their classic 1935 dark ride a new lease on life, a new building had to be erected that would support the weight of the wooden coaster on top of the popular dark ride.

The park is also a popular location for concerts, featuring a variety of Swedish and international artists. Since the main concert stage was built in 1928 notable names such as Louis Armstrong, Dizzy Gillespie, The Who, Abba, Jimi Hendrix, The Eagles, Lady Gaga and even the Beatles have performed here. Today the park can accommodate approximately 32,000 people, and when numbers exceed that, they are forced to close the gates.

*Amusement Today* salutes Gröna Lund's rich history, its creative ability to keep its product new and fresh despite its small space, making it *AT's* choice for **2011 Park of the Year**.



Top-to-bottom, Harold Chance, Dick Chance and Mike Chance show off the company's popular carousel in this archive photo. Chance Rides is also known for its C.P. Huntington trains (below left) and its variations of Giant Wheels (below).  
COURTESY CHANCE



## For 50 years, Chance Rides delivers rides, fun to the amusement industry

Richard H. "Harold" Chance started manufacturing rides in 1946 when he took over the train manufacturing operations for the Ottaway Amusement Company. In 1961 he incorporated in Wichita, Kansas, the Chance Manufacturing Company. Taking what he had learned from building trains for Ottaway, he developed a 24-inch gauge replica of the 1864 Collis P. Huntington Steam Locomotive. The C.P. Huntington Train was born and would become their most successful product, with 369 trains built to date. C.P. Huntingtons operate worldwide at theme parks, zoos, entertainment centers and city parks.

In 1963 Mack Duce of Dallas, Texas approached Harold Chance and asked if he was interested in acquiring the manufacturing rights to a carnival ride that showman Carl Sedlmayr had purchased from a young man in Germany. With no money up-front and a simple handshake it was agreed that Chance would produce the ride and Carl Sedlmayr would receive a royalty for each ride sold. The Trabant turned out to be the second most popular Chance ride with 254 units sold.

These two products helped establish Chance as an amusement ride manufacturing company. Over the next several years additional products were added to the lineup including well-known rides such as the Skydiver, Rotor, Olympic Bobs and Zipper.

In 1970 Chance acquired the assets and manufacturing rights of the Allan Herschell Company. They modernized the Herschell carousel, changed the scenery and replaced the fluorescent lights with incandescent bulbs. With the new look, Chance sold more carousels in 1971 than Herschell had sold in the previous five years. To date, 240 units have been sold.

Richard G. "Dick" Chance formed Chance Industries, Inc. in 1985 to serve as a holding company for Chance Rides, Chance Coach and Chance Operations. Michael Chance (Harold's grandson) added his touch to the family business with the acquisition of D.H. Morgan in 2001.

Today Chance Rides, which encompasses Chance Morgan Industries and Chance Rides Manufacturing, continues to expand and develop exciting new product lines, but hasn't lost site of its past. Amidst the roller coasters and Giant Wheels; Wipeouts and Revolutions, the old reliable C.P. Huntington train is still blowing its whistle as one of Chance's best selling attractions.

Nothing symbolizes the amusement industry more than a ride on a carousel, a Ferris wheel or a train ride. Chance Rides has supplied all three of these great staples, and much more, to our amusement industry for the past 50 years, making Chance Rides *AT's* choice for **2011 Supplier of the Year**.





# Amusement Today honors Richard Kinzel as living Legend

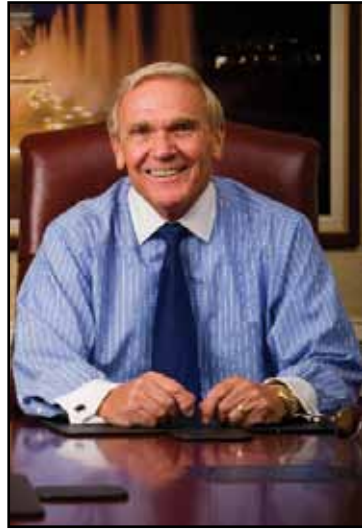
One man, one vision, one very impressive career.

Hired in 1972 in the foods division at Cedar Point, even Toledo-native Richard "Dick" Kinzel could not have predicted the path this new amusement career was about to take him on.

In just three years, Kinzel would be promoted to director of park operations at Cedar Point. His hard work would soon pay off again when he was promoted to become general manager of the newly acquired Valleyfair in 1978. It was at Valleyfair that he laid the groundwork that would soon change the entire amusement industry.

In 1986, Kinzel was promoted to President and CEO of Cedar Fair, L.P., the parent company of the company's two parks.

Seeing that the historic Cedar Point resort numbers were flat, Kinzel knew something big and cutting edge had to be found to bring the crowds back to the Point.



Richard L. Kinzel

That vision would lead him to Arrow Development and the birth of a new wave of steel coaster wars. The end result was the introduction of the world's tallest and fastest roller coaster, the 205-foot tall Magnum XL-200 hypercoaster. Yes, even new coaster terminology was ushered in.

The guests came to Cedar Point in record numbers year after year. That success would



let the company grow in new ways never envisioned.

More record-setting coasters in the 310-foot tall Millennium force and the 420-foot tall Top Thrill Dragster would make their place in the history books.

Not content with just two parks, Kinzel's vision was to expand the CedarFair family the way Six Flags had expanded theirs.

The acquisition of Dorney Park in 1992, Worlds of Fun in 1995, Knott's Berry Farm in 1997, Michigan's Adventure in 2001 and Geauga Lake in 2001 were all but building blocks for what was on the horizon. Kinzel shocked the entire amusement industry in 2006 when Cedar Fair was able to pull off the acquisition of Paramounts five parks. That

purchase moved Cedar Fair into one of the top 5 amusement companies in the world. The company grew from revenues of \$100 million in 1986 to revenues of more than \$977 million in 2010.

Under his watch the company also gained the rights to the Peanuts brand of characters with its purchase of Knott's Berry Farm.

Kinzel's vision has not just been roller coasters and rides. He has enhanced properties with resort lodging. He has built and expanded waterparks. He has entertained guests with state-of-the-art night shows and special events. And not forgetting the younger set, he has assembled impressive kid's areas in all his properties.

And through all this, he has maintained his properties with new paint, new walkways, new buildings and new sections. The Cedar Fair parks are not aging, but are still in growth mode as all well managed amusement facilities



Magnum XL-200

should be.

As **Richard Kinzel** nears his retirement date from the amusement industry, *Amusement Today* takes this time to honor him as our first living **Legend, 2011**.

**GOLDEN TICKET BONUS ISSUE**

# AMUSEMENT TODAY

www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

Vol. 15 • Issue 6.2 SEPTEMBER 2011

## Holiday World hosts Golden Ticket event for third time

Amusement Today sees the biggest voter response in survey history

**V.I.P. GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS 2011 BEST OF THE BEST!**

**Holiday World & Splashin' Safari**  
Host Park • 2011 Golden Ticket Awards • September 16 & 17, 2011

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
@balwin  
#amusementtoday.com

**SANTA CLAUS, Indiana** — It was **Holiday World's** idea for **Amusement Today** to present the **Golden Ticket Awards** live in 2000. The ceremony was on the simple side, and now over a decade later, the park welcomes AT for the third time. A lot has changed since that time, as the Golden Ticket Awards ceremony has grown into a popular industry event, filled with networking opportunities and occasions to see what is considered the best in the industry.

What has also grown is the voter response. The 2011 awards saw the biggest response from our panel of experts than ever before. New participants and an increase of internal voters have had an impact on several positions on our charts, and Amusement Today looks forward to an ever-growing community of aficionados to point out all that is great about our industry. Simply by looking at the points on our roller coaster charts will demonstrate the big influx of additional voters.

Tabulating hundreds of ballots can seem like a somewhat tedious and daunting task, but a few categories were such close races, until the very last ballots in the last hour of tabulation. These 'nail biters' always keep us on our toes that there is never a guarantee of any category.

The dedication of our voters is also admirable. People have often gone to great lengths to make sure we receive their ballot in time. And as mentioned before, every vote also counts as just a few ballots determined some winning categories.

One new voter wrote on their ballot: "It is an honor to be asked to vote. Thank you!" And we agree. Not just anybody is qualified. There is a certain distinction and respect that comes with being asked to share a vast wealth of experience. But it is AT and the industry that truly offers the thanks for recognizing the "Best of the Best."

**Top:** Pat Koch closed the 2006 Golden Ticket Awards ceremony with a tribute to Carol Burnett. Above, Holiday World welcomes AT for the third time in 2011.  
COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD

**JOIN US NEXT YEAR FOR THE 2012 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS AT:**

**Dollywood**

**SUBSCRIBE TO AMUSEMENT TODAY (817) 460-7220**

**amusementtoday.com**

**www.GOLDENTICKETAWARDS.COM**

**NEWS PAPER**  
COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD  
PRESENTED BY  
PT. MORTON, OH  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2011

# Thank You!

Amusement Today says thank you  
to our suppliers who make the  
2011 Golden Ticket Awards possible

**HOLIDAY WORLD & SPASHIN' SAFARI**

**ACCENT AWARDS OF ARLINGTON**

**AFFINITY COMMUNICATIONS / STACEY CHILDRESS**

**EMBROIDME**

**LASER COPY**

**MAILINGS UNLIMITED**

**TEXOMA WEB OFFSET**

**WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, INC.**

**ALL OF OUR CEREMONY PRESENTERS**

# AMUSEMENT TODAY

Your amusement industry **NEWS** source!

**WWW.AMUSEMENTTODAY.COM**  
**WWW.GOLDENTICKETAWARDS.COM**

# TACK SÅ MYCKET!\*

THANK YOU FOR SELECTING US FOR A GOLDEN TICKET. WE ARE PROUD AND HONORED TO BE THE FIRST AMUSEMENT PARK IN EUROPE TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD!

\*Tack så mycket, means thank you very much in Swedish.



# Celebrating 50 years of fun and attractions!



See us at IAAPA Booth #5124

As our tradition continues with the best in family fun, we are proud to be a recipient of the 2011 Golden Ticket Award.



**CHANCE**  
 50 years **RIDES**®

[sales@chancerides.com](mailto:sales@chancerides.com)

316.945.6555 • [chancerides.com](http://chancerides.com)

Dick,  
Congratulations! Thanks for the  
leadership that made us the best.

*The Cedar Fair Family*



**Cedar fair**  
Entertainment Company  
cedarfair.com

# Millennium Force retains Best Steel Coaster Golden Ticket

*New Texas Giant debuts in top 10*

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Since opening in 2000, both **Millennium Force** and **Bizarro** (formerly Superman) have wrestled for the top spot. Up to this year, the tug-of-war has gone back and forth a time or two, with both coasters claiming the Golden Ticket for **Best Steel Coaster** five times each. After reclaiming it last year, Cedar Point's 310-foot steel machine hangs onto it once more in 2011, with Six Flags New England's coaster placing in second once again. This lets Millennium Force have the lead by one year between these two rivals. Both coasters were manufactured by Intamin.

**Nitro** at Six Flags Great Adventure holds on to the No. 3 position once more, and that is where the similarities stop. Everything in the top 10 past this point totally changes.

**Goliath** at Six Flags Over Georgia once again inches up a spot, now residing at No. 4. Kennywood's **Phantom's Revenge** sees a surge of fans and spirits its way from No. 9 last year up to No. 5 in 2011.

The **New Texas Giant** at Six Flags Over Texas debuts in the top 10 at the sixth position. This is the biggest debut of any roller coaster in the Golden Ticket Awards since 2006. New Texas Giant is only the 7th roller coaster to debut in the top 10 in the history of the Golden Tickets. Most certainly, it is the only coaster ever to jump from the wooden charts — it held the Golden Ticket for Best Wooden Coaster in 1998 and 1999



**Holiday Park's Expedition GeForce is huge fun and Europe's highest rated roller coaster.**

AT/GARY SLADE



**Clockwise from top: Cedar Point's Millennium Force soars again at the top of the steel chart. Bizarro at Six Flags New England, Nitro at Six Flags Great Adventure, Goliath at Six Flags Over Georgia and (new to the top five) Phantom's Revenge at Kennywood take the No. 2 through No. 5 positions.**

AT/TIM BALDWIN



— to the steel track charts. With its success this year, it begs the question, "Will it be the last?"

Dave Altman, president of American Coaster Enthusiasts, eagerly gives New Texas Giant high marks. "I rode the original Texas Giant in its inaugural season in 1990. It was fast, smooth and intense." Altman adds, "After riding New Texas Giant this year, all those descriptions are applicable once again due to the new transformation."

The remainder of the top 10 finds each coaster in a different position than last year, creating a significant jumble: Germany's **Expedition GeForce** (Holiday Park) still ranks as Europe's highest rated roller coaster by tying with **Apollo's Chariot** at Busch Gardens Williamsburg for the No. 7 spot. Two coasters from Cedar Point (making three from the park in the top 10) are **Top Thrill Dragster** (No. 9) and **Magnum XL-200** (No. 10). When the Golden Tickets were introduced in 1998, Magnum resided at the No. 1 spot. It is the only roller coaster to appear in every top ten steel chart since that time.

Three international coast-

ers appear on the steel charts for the first time. The highest of these is **Piraten** at Fårup Sommerland (No. 32). Closely following is **Blue Fire** from Germany's Europa-Park (No. 34) and **Olympia Looping** (tied at No. 45), the only traveling coaster to ever make the list in Golden Ticket history.

Additional international coasters on the charts are: **Nemesis** at Alton Towers (England) climbing several notches up to No. 12; **Behemoth** at Canada's Wonderland (No. 15); **Goliath** at La Ronde (Canada) at No. 23; **Goliath** at Walabi Holland (The Netherlands) at No. 36; **The Pepsi Max Big One** in Blackpool (England) at No. 47; and **Lisebergbanan** at Liseberg (Sweden) at No. 48.

The largest jump in positions this year was **Titan** at Six Flags Over Texas, which jumped from No. 42 last year to No. 25 in 2011.

An interesting fun fact to note is that none of the top ten steel coasters go upside down. It isn't until Nemesis appears in the No. 12 spot that inversions play a role in the top rated coasters.

Next year's competition could be rather fierce as significant installations have just recently been announced at Hersheypark, Canada's Wonderland and Dollywood among others in the U.S. alone. Stay tuned.



AT/GARY SLADE



AT/GARY SLADE



AT/TIM BALDWIN



AT/TIM BALDWIN



# The List

## 2011 TOP 50 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
1	Millennium Force	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2000	Intamin	1540
2	Bizarro	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	2000	Intamin	1201
3	Nitro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	2001	B & M	864
4	Goliath	Six Flags Over Georgia	Austell, Ga.	2006	B & M	794
5	Phantom's Revenge	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	2001	B & M	756
6	New Texas Giant	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	2011	Rocky Mountain	743
7 (tie)	Apollo's Chariot	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	1999	B&M	643
7 (tie)	Expedition GeForce	Holiday Park	Hassloch, Germany	2001	Intamin	643
9	Top Thrill Dragster	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2003	Intamin	627
10	Magnum XL-200	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1989	Arrow	510
11	Diamondback	Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	2009	B & M	493
12	Nemesis	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	1994	B & M	470
13	Intimidator 305	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	2010	IntaRide	381
14	Montu	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Fla.	1996	B & M	331
15	Behemoth	Canada's Wonderland	Vaughan, Ontario, Canada	2008	B & M	278
16	X2	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2002	Arrow	276
17	Mind Bender	Six Flags Over Georgia	Austell, Ga.	1978	Schwarzkopf	217
18	Raptor	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1994	B & M	212
19	Intimidator	Carowinds	Charlotte, N.C.	2010	B & M	207
20	Griffon	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	2007	B & M	190
21	Maverick	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2007	Intamin	187
22	SheiKra	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Fla.	2005	B & M	186
23	Goliath	La Ronde	Montréal, Quebec, Canada	2006	B & M	182
24	Raging Bull	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	1999	B & M	180
25	Titan	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	2001	Giovanola	178

★ Expedition Ge Force  
 Germany  
 #1 in Europe  
 TEN YEARS IN A ROW 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011  
 TOP 7 WORLDWIDE  
 Plopsa THEMEPARK  
 Holiday Park  
 www.holidaypark.de  
 Amusement Today "Golden Ticket Award"

# The List



## 2011 TOP 50 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
26	Steel Force	Dorney Park	Allentown, Pa.	1997	Morgan	177
27	Alpengeist	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	1997	B & M	156
28	Dragon Challenge	Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	1999	B & M	149
29 (tie)	Ride of Steel	Darien Lake	Darien Center, N.Y.	1999	Intamin	148
29 (tie)	Volcano: The Blast Coaster	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	1998	Intamin	148
31	Kumba	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Fla.	1993	B & M	144
32	Piraten	Djurs Sommerand	Jylland, Denmark	2008	Intamin	130
33	Kingda Ka	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	2005	Intamin	129
34	Blue Fire	Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	2009	Mack	123
35	Incredible Hulk Coaster	Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	1999	B & M	116
36	Goliath	Walabi Holland	Biddinghuizen, The Netherlands	2002	Intamin	108
37	Powder Keg	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	2005	S & S	102
38	Superman Krypton Coaster	Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	2000	B & M	99
39	Tatsu	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2006	B & M	98
40 (tie)	Goliath	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2000	Giovanola	97
40 (tie)	Superman Ride of Steel	Six Flags America	Largo, Md.	2000	Intamin	97
42	Shock Wave	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	1978	Schwarzkopf	93
43	Space Mountain	Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	1977	WED Imagineering	87
44	Sky Rocket	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	2010	Premier Rides	85
45 (tie)	Manta	SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	2009	B & M	84
45 (tie)	Olympia Looping	R. Barth and Sohn	Germany	1989	Schwarzkopf/BHS	84
47	Expedition Everest	Disney's Animal Kingdom	Orlando, Fla.	2006	Vekoma/WED Imag.	80
48	Pepsi Max Big One	Pleasure Beach, Blackpool	Blackpool, England	1994	Arrow	79
49	Lisebergbanan	Liseberg	Gothenburg, Sweden	1987	Schwarzkopf	75
50	Mamba	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	1998	Morgan	73



**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL THE WINNERS!**

From the designers of AT & the 2011 Golden Ticket Awards.

Publication & Ad Design  
Point-of-Purchase Materials Design  
Logos, posters, fliers  
Web & Flash Design  
TV & Radio

www.affinitymm.com  
info@affinitymm.com

**AFFINITY**  
Communications

# Top wooden coasters are shaken up a bit

Three new-for-2011 coasters make chart

**STORY:** Tim Baldwin  
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com



The impulse to make top 10 lists might just be as old as the creation of numbers. But sometimes the debate that goes into the selections is as much fun as the list itself.

According to the American Coaster Enthusiasts (ACE) online census, 183 wooden coasters exist worldwide. Of that group, 50 vie and battle to maneuver onto our wooden coaster charts. While the shakeup isn't as dramatic as the steel list, things have notably changed.

One thing that hasn't changed is **The Voyage** in the top spot. With its fifth

win for **Best Wood Coaster**, The Voyage has consecutively held onto the number 1 spot longer than any coaster in the history of the Golden Tickets.

Climbing one notch over last year, Knoebels' **Phoenix** marginally climbs ahead of **El Toro** at Great Adventure to take over the No. 2 position. Retaining places from last year are **Boulder Dash** at Lake Compounce (No. 4) and **Thunderhead** at Dollywood (No. 5).

Of note, Phoenix shares one trait with **The Beast** at Kings Island (No. 7). These two coasters are the only woodies

to appear in the top 10 in all 14 years of the Golden Ticket Awards.

Two coasters also have battled their way back into the top 10 having resided there previously: **Shivering Timbers** at Michigan's Adventure (No. 9) and Worlds of Fun's **Prowler** (No. 10).

Three new-for-2011 wooden coasters debut on the charts. Gröna Lund's **Twister** from The Gravity Group is tied at No. 32, **Wooden Warrior** at Quassy Amusement Park (also designed by Gravity Group) debuts at No. 40, and **Zippin Pippin** at Bay Beach — a recreation of Elvis' favorite coaster from Libertyland in Memphis — races in tying at No. 44.

Other woodies appear on the charts for the first time, including **Rutschebanen** at



**The Voyage** at Holiday World now holds the record for most consecutive wins as a No. 1 roller coaster with five years in a row (2007 - 2011).

AT/TIM BALDWIN

Tivoli Gardens in Denmark. Heavy international travel has put this historic coaster on the lists of many. Although exact origins are unconfirmed, it is believed the coaster opened at Tivoli Gardens somewhere

around 1915, making this the oldest coaster on the charts. It is the first and only scenic railway, a classic style of coaster that utilizes a brakeman to keep speeds in check, to ever land on the Golden Ticket charts.

Another classic also appears this year: the recently re-opened **Blue Streak** at Conneaut Lake Park (No. 46). After several years of preservation efforts from enthusiasts and the park itself, this rare Vettel designed woodie runs once again. Blackpool's **Wild Mouse** (tied at No. 44) is also one of the last remaining of a long lost wooden breed of this particular genre.

Joining Blackpool on the international front are: **Balder** at Liseberg (Sweden) rising higher to No. 13; **Megafobia** at Oakwood (Wales) at No. 20; **Grand National**, also at Blackpool (England) at No. 25; **Colossos** at Heide Park (Germany) at No. 29; **Troy** at Toverland (The Netherlands) at No. 33; **El Toro** at Friezpark Plohn (Germany) appearing for the first time at No. 35; **Thunderbird** at PowerLand (Finland) at No. 38; **T Express** at Everland (South Korea) at No. 39; and **Tonnerre de Zeus** at Parc Asterix (France) at No. 50. All in all, 12 coasters on the chart are from outside the United States.

*Amusement Today* also noticed some major jumps by a couple of coasters. **Boardwalk Bullet** (Kemah Boardwalk) shot from No. 38 last year to No. 17 this year, and **Renegade** (Valleyfair) charged from No. 42 up to No. 26 in 2011.



Clockwise from top left: Knoebel's Phoenix, nudging into the No. 2 spot, followed by El Toro at Six Flags Great Adventure, Boulder Dash at Lake Compounce, and Dollywood's Thunderhead create a top five on the Best Wood Coaster chart.

AT/TIM BALDWIN





# PHILADELPHIA TOBOGGAN COASTERS, Inc.



**7 of the TOP 10  
WOODEN COASTERS STILL USE THE  
WORLD'S MOST POPULAR COASTER TRAINS**

**( as do 15 of the TOP 25 )  
64% of wooden coasters use PTC trains  
1,042 PTC coaster cars in operation**



# AMUSEMENT TODAY

Salutes the Winners  
of the  
**2011 GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS**  
for being  
The Best of the Best  
in our industry!



*Thank You!*



for your hospitality in hosting the  
Summer Celebration and the  
2011 Golden Ticket Awards ceremony

## SUPPORTING SPONSORS:



**U.S. FOODSERVICE**  
Your partner beyond the plate.®



**PROSLIDE**  
TECHNOLOGY INC.

**WILLIAM H. ROBINSON, INC.**  
The Big Idea People!





The Voyage  
Roller Coaster

#1 wooden coaster in the world  
for a record 5 years!



congratulations all around from  
**THE GRAVITY GROUP**  
the gold standard for wooden roller coasters



TIVOLI  
Gröna Lund



WOODEN  
WARRIOR  
Roller Coaster



TWISTER



+1 513.948.8400 www.thegravitygroup.com

# THANK YOU AMUSEMENT TODAY!

**EL TORNO**  
TOP 10 WOODEN COASTERS  
VOTED #3

**NITRO**  
TOP 10 STEEL COASTERS  
VOTED #3

**GO BIG**  
Six Flags®  
GREAT ADVENTURE

V.I.P. AMUSEMENT TODAY  
**GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS**  
2011  
BEST OF THE BEST!



**Boulder Dash is proud to be voted one of the best wooden coasters in the world!**

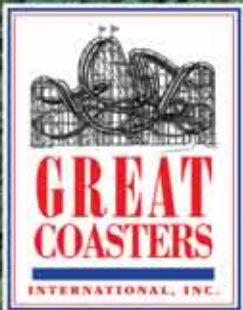
**Thanks Amusement Today!**



Bristol, Connecticut  
[www.lakecompounce.com](http://www.lakecompounce.com)

# Promises are for Politicians We Deliver Results

- 100% Track Record of Success
- Vastly Superior, Proven Trains
- Single Source Design/Build Packages
- Lower Maintenance Costs than our Competitors



Great Coasters International, Inc. • 2627 State Rt. 890 • Sunbury, PA 17801  
570.286.9330 • [www.greatcoasters.com](http://www.greatcoasters.com)



# The List

## 2011 TOP 50 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
1	The Voyage	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	2006	Gravity Group	1631
2	Phoenix	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	1985	Dinn/PTC-Schmeck	1375
3	El Toro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	2006	Intamin	1359
4	Boulder Dash	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Conn.	2000	CCI	1267
5	Thunderhead	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	2004	GCII	1065
6	Ravine Flyer II	Waldameer	Erie, Pa.	2008	Gravity Group	969
7	The Beast	Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	1979	KECO	591
8	Hades	Mt. Olympus Theme Park	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	2005	Gravity Group	494
9	Shivering Timbers	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Mich.	1998	CCI	484
10	Prowler	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	2009	GCII	452
11	Lightning Racer	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	2000	GCII	444
12	The Raven	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	1995	CCI	405
13	Balder	Liseberg	Gothenburg, Sweden	2003	Intamin	377
14	Thunderbolt	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1968	Vettel/Miller	267
15	Cyclone	Coney Island/Luna Park	Brooklyn, N.Y.	1927	Keenan/Baker	264
16	Kentucky Rumbler	Beech Bend	Bowling Green, Ky.	2006	GCII	263
17	Boardwalk Bullet	Kemah Boardwalk	Kemah, Texas	2007	M&V/Gravity Group	241
18	The Legend	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	2000	CCI	240
19	Comet	The Great Escape	Lake George, N.Y.	1994	PTC-Schmeck	215
20 (tie)	Megafobia	Oakwood Theme Park	Pembrokeshire, Wales	1996	CCI	212
20 (tie)	Twister	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	1999	Fetterman-Knoebels	212
22	American Thunder	Six Flags St. Louis	Eureka, Mo.	2008	GCII	196
23	Jack Rabbit	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1920	PTC - Miller	195
24	Cornball Express	Indiana Beach	Monticello, Ind.	2004	CCI	179
25	Grand National	Pleasure Beach, Blackpool	Blackpool, England	1935	Paige	173



CONGRATULATIONS  
TO ALL OF THE 2011  
AWARD WINNERS  
AND NOMINEES!



# The List

## 2011 TOP 50 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
26	Renegade	Valleyfair	Shakopee, Minn.	2007	GCII	161
27	GhostRider	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	1998	CCI	151
28	Giant Dipper	Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	1924	Prior & Church/Looff	147
29	Colossos	Heide-Park	Soltau, Germany	2001	Intamin	139
30	Hellcat	Timber Falls	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	2004	S&S	138
31	Tremors	Silverwood	Athol, Idaho	1999	CCI	134
32	Rampage	Alabama Adventure	Bessemer, Ala.	1998	CCI	127
33	Troy	Toverland	Sevenum, The Netherlands	2007	GCII	123
34	Playland Wooden Coaster	Playland at the PNE	Vancouver, B.C. Canada	1958	Phare	118
35	El Toro	Freizeitpark Plohn	Lengenfeld, Germany	2009	GCII	111
36 (tie)	Apocalypse	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2009	GCII	110
36 (tie)	Twister	Gröna Lund	Stockholm, Sweden	2011	Gravity Group	110
38	Thunderbird	PowerLand	Alahärmä, Finland	2006	GCII	102
39	T Express	Everland	Yongin-si, South Korea	2008	Intamin	101
40	Wooden Warrior	Quassy Amusement Park	Middlebury, Conn.	2011	Gravity Group	99
41	Viper	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	1995	Starkey/Six Flags	95
42	The Boss	Six Flags St. Louis	Eureka, Mo.	2000	CCI	93
43	Racer	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1927	Miller	86
44 (tie)	Wild Mouse	Pleasure Beach, Blackpool	Blackpool, England	1958	Wright	74
44 (tie)	Zippin Pippin	Bay Beach Amusement Park	Green Bay, Wis.	2011	M&V/Gravity Group	74
46	Blue Streak	Conneaut Lake Park	Conneaut Lake, Pa.	1938	Vettel	68
47	Rattler	Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	1992	Pierce	65
48	Rutschebanen	Tivoli Gardens	Copenhagen, Denmark	ca. 1915	unknown	62
49	Blue Streak	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1964	PTC-Hoover	60
50	Tonnerre de Zeus	Parc Asterix	Plailly, France	1997	CCI	52

Congratulations Holiday World!

**dan feicht**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

www.danfeicht.com

dan@danfeicht.com



**Holiday World**



Voted The Number One  
Wooden Roller Coaster  
AGAIN!

# CONGRATULATIONS

**TO ALL GOLDEN TICKET AWARD WINNERS!**  
**IT IS A TREMENDOUS HONOR TO HAVE YOU VISIT OUR PARKS.**  
**YOU ARE THE BEST OF THE BEST!**



## World's Longest Water Coaster



Adding to the excitement for 2012 will be the new Mammoth, the World's Longest Water Coaster. The six-person round boats will slide through a series of enclosed twists and turns and up a series of hills with six drops totaling 282 feet. Hold on tight for the rush of your life on the record breaking one-third of a mile water coaster - Mammoth.



We are THRILLED that the readers of *Amusement Today* have named the Voyage as the Best Wooden Roller Coaster in the World for the fifth year in a row, as well as Wildebeest the Best Water Park Ride for the second year in a row! We are also proud that you voted us the Friendliest Park Staff for the thirteenth year, and the Cleanest Park for the twelfth consecutive year. We could not have accomplished all this without our wonderful employees. They are the heart and soul of this business, and without them we would not be able to say we're #1 for Family Fun!

**Holiday World** **Splashin' SAFARI**

Jct. Ind. 162 & 245 • South of I-64 • Santa Claus, Ind.  
(877) Go Family • [www.holidayworld.com](http://www.holidayworld.com)