



Refreshed categories reinvigorate 22nd annual Golden Ticket Awards

Silverwood and Rocky Mountain Construction host amusement industry

ATHOL and COEUR D'ALENE, Idaho — When pondering places that exhibit some of the nation's finest amusement parks, Idaho is not a location that might quickly come to mind. That would be a misstep.

Silverwood Theme Park may not have the advantage of being surrounded by plentiful populated cities, but that hasn't stopped the park leaders from creating a worthwhile destination in the countryside of Athol, Idaho. Opened in 1988, the park had a simple beginning.

"We are extremely excited to welcome everyone to Silverwood. My father created this family-owned park 31 years ago, and it has been a lifelong dream to showcase what he created to the industry," said **Paul Norton**, general manager, leading up to the event. "I hope they will be amazed. As soon as they come up the steps and see the carousel and Victorian architecture, I think they will be blown away. I think they'll say, 'We're in North Idaho and THIS is here?' I see that reaction every day.

"The history of the park started with the Victorian town and the early 1900s steam train my father purchased. It was like any kid playing with a train. My father just built this town around it. The park has an old feel to it. You feel immersed back in time," said Norton.

Silverwood sits on more than 400 acres. As the small park grew by adding rides, eventually the property became a regional destination. In 2003,



Silverwood Theme Park played host to industry professionals from around the globe at the 22nd annual Golden Ticket Awards. COURTESY LISA ZIGWEID

Boulder Beach Water Park was added and was included with park admission. An annual Halloween event, Scarywood, began in 2009.

Coaster fans flock to "Roller Coaster Alley." Large roller coasters beckon motorists as they pass the park on the roadway. The park's first installation was the historic **Knott's Berry Farm Corkscrew**, which was the first modern-day roller coaster to turn riders upside down. In a move applauded by preservationists, the ride was relocated to Silverwood in 1990. It has been declared an ACE Roller

Coaster Landmark by **American Coaster Enthusiasts**. Large wooden coasters from **Custom Coasters, Inc.**, followed with Timber Terror and Tremors later in the 1990s. A large **Vekoma** steel coaster, Aftershock, was erected at the park in 2008.

Among all the rides, the 30-minute train ride remains the heart of Silverwood. In recent years, the park has reimagined the journey with new sets, stories and theming along the way, increasing the ride's popularity like never before. Golden Ticket attendees enjoyed special reserved cars during the event.

to welcome the amusement industry to Idaho," said **Fred Grubb**, president of RMC. "I think people will be surprised at the beauty of the area, the friendliness of the people and how big our facilities are. We are proud of what we do here, so hosting the opening reception has been something we were looking forward to for a very long time."

Networking continued on Saturday, Sept. 7, with a welcome reception and tour of Boulder Beach sponsored by **WhiteWater West**.

Tours of Scarywood, the park's culinary department and an overview of the park's integration software provided additional networking opportunities and operational takeaways for attendees.

Following a dinner hosted by Silverwood, the main event took place. The 22nd annual Golden Ticket Awards saw a complete refresh in 2019 (see page 2) and the event was alive with delighted new winners and returning recipients.

The **Coeur d'Alene Resort** served as the accommodations facility for the Golden Ticket Awards. Industry professionals were able to enjoy a final night of networking following the ceremony, among the other noteworthy amenities of the resort.

Complete coverage of the Golden Ticket Awards will be featured in *Amusement Today's* November 1/Pre-IAAPA edition.

*All stories this issue
by Tim Baldwin*

NEWSPAPER

POSTMASTER: Dated material.
PLEASE RUSH!
Mailed Monday, September 9, 2019

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

INSIDE:

- ▶ What's New?...Page 2
- ▶ Golden Ticket Legends...Pages 4-5
- ▶ Publisher's Picks...Pages 6-11
- ▶ Best New Rides...Pages 12-21
- ▶ Best Parks...Pages 22-33
- ▶ Shows, Seasonal Events...Pages 34-39
- ▶ Best Rides, Best Innovation of 2019...Pages 41-50
- ▶ Steel Roller Coasters...Pages 51-55
- ▶ Wooden Roller Coasters...Pages 56-62

The refreshed Golden Ticket Awards for 2019 — What's new?

Amusement Today is incredibly excited to present a fresh take on the Golden Ticket Awards in 2019. As a well-known entity within the amusement industry that has presented awards for more than two decades, *Amusement Today* has welcomed opportunities to listen to feedback, analyze potential changes and improve upon what already exists. Although the awards have served the industry well for two decades, the decision to revamp certain categories and retire others was a unanimous decision. *AT* aims to keep the awards current and relevant, so here are some notable differences.

- The fan base that has been loyal to *Amusement Today* for 22 years continues to serve the industry at large with their support, their promotion, their dedication and their hard-earned dollars. New this year, *AT* has invited a specific representation from suppliers, manufacturers as well as journalists who cover the industry to share their views. The perspective of those working within the business was especially valued, and certain categories were directed specifically at these professionals. In other cases, the enthusiasts were the sole voters. Some categories saw a blend of perspectives — similar to Hollywood's Academy Awards and sports balloting including the All-Stars in baseball, wherein managers, players and writers are involved, as well as fans.

- Five categories were modified to reflect a broader spectrum of what parks have to offer. **BEST SHOWS** was updated to **BEST NEW SHOW OF 2019** to keep the category current. In 2020, all parks are encouraged to enter a brand-new show for consideration. A specific panel formed by *Amusement Today* watched all nominated shows for 2019 before casting their ballots. Parties interested in being on the 2020 show panel can contact *AT*'s Tim Baldwin at tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com. A desire to recognize great park operations was combined with two former categories: **CLEANEST PARK** and **FRIENDLIEST PARK**. With three facets to the evaluation, the new category is called **BEST GUEST EXPERIENCE OF 2019**. **BEST MARINE LIFE PARK** was expanded to **BEST MARINE LIFE/WILDLIFE PARK**. To get a broader picture, **BEST CHILDREN'S PARK** has been modified to **BEST FAMILY PARK**, which now may include parks that have larger rides but still cater to families with kids of all ages. **BEST LANDSCAPING** has been changed to **MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK** and now considers theming and architecture.

- New categories reflect insider perspective such as **BEST INNOVATION OF 2019** and **BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION**.

- The previous category of **BEST NEW RIDE** has been expanded into two new categories: **BEST NEW ROLLER COASTER OF 2019** and **BEST NEW FAMILY ATTRACTION OF 2019**. This expansion allows for even more great new rides and attractions to be showcased.

- To acknowledge a rapidly growing segment of the industry, **BREAKOUT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER OF 2019** has also been created.

- Four categories that have served *AT* well in the past are being retired, and their perpetual winners are being forever honored as Golden Ticket Awards **LEGENDS** (see page 4).

More details are given in the coverage of these new and updated categories within this issue. Many of the core categories are, of course, retained.

Golden Ticket Awards Most-Asked Questions

Amusement Today often receives numerous questions about the industry's most sought-after awards. Here's the full story on the annual selection of the "Best of the Best."

Is the voting panel the same every year?

No. *AT* has never had the exact same panel each year. New people are brought on as others are retired. The common thread is to find the most experienced, well-traveled park fans out there. In 2019, both industry suppliers and journalists were included in certain categories.

How many ballots are sent out?

AT reaches out to around 500 voters each year, and the response is strong. To help keep things balanced, an equal number is divided among four geographical regions of the U.S., and an international segment is also represented.

Does Amusement Today select nominees?

In the core categories, no. Any appropriate ride or park for that category can be voted on. In 2019, new categories were created in which industry professionals and parks could make specific nominations. These new categories are **BEST NEW SHOW OF 2019**, **BEST INNOVATION OF 2019** and **BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION OF 2019**. Once nominations were received from industry professionals in these categories, then designated panels cast their votes.

Can anyone vote?

Amusement Today is looking for enthusiastic park fans who visit several parks a year and have had several years of experience. We are always seeking new candidates for our panel. If you feel your experience is high and are actively visiting numerous parks and attractions each year, contact Tim Baldwin at tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com to inquire if you are a good fit for next year's panel. For our industry panelists, *Amusement Today* is looking for a single representative from manufacturers and suppliers, as well as those involved with writing about the amusement industry.



Winning parks showcase their Golden Ticket Award wins. Cedar Point's Steel Vengeance (left), Carowinds's Fury 325 (middle left) Silver Dollar City's Outlaw Run (middle right) and Knoebels's Phoenix (far right) all display their victories at their ride entrances. AT/TIM BALDWIN; JOHN W.C. ROBINSON



Call **(817) 460-7220** for advertising, circulation or editorial inquiries



Amusement Today is an independent, privately-owned trade newspaper published 14 times per year by Amusement Today Inc., P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005. Print issues are \$50 per year and are mailed Presort Standard Postage (permit No. 2069) Pre-Paid Fort Worth, Texas. The entire contents of this newspaper, and its related websites, are Copyrighted and Trademarked 2019 by Amusement Today Inc., all rights reserved.

Address: P.O. Box 5427, Arlington, Texas 76005-5427, USA

Deliveries: 2012 E. Randol Mill Road #203, Arlington, Texas 76011, USA

Phone: (817) 460-7220

Fax: (817) 265-NEWS (6397)

Websites: www.AmusementToday.com, www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

Founder & Publisher
Gary Slade • (817) 460-7220 x3
gslade@amusementtoday.com

Accounting & Classified
Sammy Piccola • (817) 460-7220 x1
spiccola@amusementtoday.com

Assistant Office Manager, Circulation
Savannah Breen • (817) 460-7220 x5
sbreen@amusementtoday.com

Advertising
Sue Nichols • (615) 477-5432
snichols@amusementtoday.com

Editorial
Dean Lamanna • (817) 460-7220
dlamanna@amusementtoday.com

Tim Baldwin • (972) 697-9745
tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

Jeffrey Seifert • (817) 460-7220 x4
jseifert@amusementtoday.com

B. Derek Shaw • (717) 843-3050
bdshaw@amusementtoday.com

Pam Sherborne • (615) 308-3310
psherborne@amusementtoday.com

Production Manager
John Robinson • (513) 256-1441
jrobinson@amusementtoday.com

Monthly Contributors
David Fake, Bubba Flint,
Lottie Minick, Richard Munch,
Janice Witherow

Association Memberships
ACE, AIMS International, ASTM, IAAPA, IISF,
IRT/iROC, NAARSO, NEAAPA, NJAA, OABA,
PAPA, PACE, SLA, TTIA, WWA

Industry Affiliated Charities
Give Kids the World Village, Morgan's Wonderland,
National Roller Coaster Museum & Archives

Golden Ticket Award Legends return, honor retiring categories

People become legends because of their major accomplishments or their long-running status of noteworthy effort.

Over the past two decades, *Amusement Today* has brought attention to The Best of the Best, acknowledging parks, manufacturers and the rides that have risen to the top. In time, the repetitive nature has indicated that, while the categories have served the industry well, there is a time to bring a close to specific categories that have served their purpose.

And so, *Amusement Today* is reintroducing the Golden Ticket Awards **LEGENDS**, and expanding the award to include not only individuals (as it had previously), but also to include facilities and attractions.

As *Amusement Today* retires these categories, it seemed appropriate to acknowledge them for their achievements, which have been, well, legendary. Legend recipients have special Golden Tickets created to illustrate this renowned status and will have their achievement on display at future Golden Ticket Awards events.



Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
BEST SEASIDE PARK
was introduced in 2007 and **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** claimed the Golden Ticket 11 out of 12 years. Delighting



GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS LEGEND:
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk
AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

beach goers and vacationers since 1907, the Boardwalk is anchored by the classic 1924 Giant Dipper and its Looff Carousel dating to 1911.

"Winning the Golden Ticket for **BEST SEASIDE PARK** over so many years and now retiring as a **LEGEND** is a huge honor," said **Tom Canfield**, Vice President, Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk. "The Golden Tickets have helped showcase our park's importance in the industry and made our employees and guests proud. It was a very fun ride!"



The Grand Carousel, Knoebels Amusement Resort
BEST CAROUSEL started out as a rotating category as the new millennium began before becoming an annual designation in 2007. Over that window of time, the undefeated champ is the **Grand Carrousel** at **Knoebels Amusement Resort**. The Golden Ticket was awarded a total of 14 times in this category.

"The Grand Carrousel will always be the 'Heart and Soul' of Knoebels," said **Leanna Knoebel Muscato**. Located near the very center, as the park has grown up around her, she holds many memories for our guests. When a family comes to visit, they all can ride together. Some will choose to reach for the rings, and others are happy riding a jumper horse, while grandparents may choose a relaxing chariot ride,



GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS LEGEND:
The Grand Carousel, Knoebels Amusement Resort
COURTESY KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT RESORT



GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS LEGEND:
Noah's Ark, Kennywood
AT/TIM BALDWIN

all to the tunes of the antique band organs. It is not unusual to hear a parent or a grandparent pointing out their own favorite horse to their children or grandchildren."



Revenge of the Mummy, Universal Studios Orlando
Since **BEST INDOOR ROLLER COASTER** became an annual category in 2007, **Revenge of the Mummy** at **Universal Studios Orlando** has taken the award the last 11 years. With a dynamic roller coaster built by **Premier Rides** combined with immersive theming from the creative minds at Universal, **Revenge of the Mummy** has become a must-do for every guest visiting the park.

The indoor coaster with a dynamic storyline and startling "fake out" ending opened in 2004.



GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS LEGEND:
Revenge of the Mummy, Universal Studios Orlando
COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO

Costales, executive vice president of resort operations, Universal Studios Orlando.



Noah's Ark, Kennywood
Introduced in 2008, the **BEST FUNHOUSE - WALKTHROUGH ATTRACTION** award has shone a spotlight on those attractions that people don't ride, but experience from strolling through the sights and entertainment within. **Kennywood's Noah's Ark** has taken the award every year since 2010. During that time, the park has continued to invest in the 1936 **Philadelphia Toboggan Company** attraction. The kitschy funhouse has become a beloved part of each visit to the historic park.

"Even within our many rare and historic rides, Noah's Ark stands out as a unique experience," says Kennywood General Manager **Jerome Gibas**. "We're thankful for the support of the Golden Ticket Award voters to make Noah's Ark a nine-time champion as the **BEST FUNHOUSE/WALKTHROUGH ATTRACTION**, and grateful to the team at *Amusement Today* for designating the Ark a **LEGEND**. Noah's Ark certainly is a living legend with Kennywood, and to our guests who happily climb aboard as frequently now as when the Ark first set sail in 1936."

WE'RE HONORED TO BE A

Golden Ticket Legend!



Thank You FROM ALL OF US AT



beachboardwalk.com

2019 Publisher's Picks

Morey's Piers: Park of the Year

It's not easy to make a mark on the industry ... or a city. The Morey family was able to do just that. And it started with a giant slide.

With success in the hotel business, brothers **Will and Bill Morey** noticed something on a trip to Florida that would change their lives forever. A big slide was set up in a shopping center parking lot, and the two gentlemen surmised it could be a hit in their hometown of Wildwood, New Jersey. It was. As the brothers acquired some land, a pier grew around the slide and more rides and attractions came following that successful start in 1969.

Before long, one pier became two. A third pier was added, and Morey's Piers soon became synonymous with a trip to Jersey shore. In time, the properties would not only help define the city, but help it to thrive.

Early years found what was outlandish and trending — typically Hollywood hits such as *King Kong*, *Planet of the Apes* and *Star Wars* — made for iconic attractions that would lure crowds, not to mention make a name for the Morey's brand.

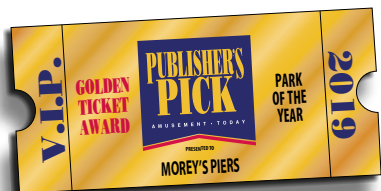
As competitors slowly faded away, Morey's Piers didn't rest on its laurels. It just became better. Water parks became incorporated into the offerings on the piers. As the need for new attractions prevailed, those at the top found brilliant ways to make use of limited space.

Now under the direction of Will Morey's sons, **Jack and Will Jr.**, the piers have a winning formula: Know your audience, know your brand and keep a commitment to family values.

Although beach communities can easily fall into a "party crowd" atmosphere, the Morey's Piers brand has always put families at the forefront. Cleanliness is an automatic rule, and the seaside piers rival major theme parks in their quest to remain spotless. While certain seaside comfort foods are expected to be staples on the beachfront, Morey's Piers pushes itself creatively with outstanding dishes designed and prepared by executive chefs.

Here, more so than any other North American seaside property, Morey's Piers has been a leader at bringing big rides, originally from Europe, to vacationing families enjoying the surf. The variety of rides and the property's unique take on how they are installed continues to fuel the charm and energy found at the facility. A new family coaster from **Zierer** just installed is indicative of that.

Celebrating 50 years of innovation and creative success this season, *Amusement Today* honors Morey's Piers with the Publisher's Pick for **PARK OF THE YEAR**.



With the winning formula of "Know your audience, know your brand and keep a commitment to family values," Morey's Piers celebrated 50 years in 2019. COURTESY CURT SCHIMMEL; MOREY'S PIERS



Kings Island connects guest memories and park history

Listening. It's amazing what occurs when that happens.

As theme parks add decades of history under their belts, their audiences have become multi-generational. Many older **Kings Island** fans can recall watching those episodes of *The Partridge Family* and *The Brady Bunch* that took each family to the Cincinnati park. Just as those memories of aired television shows resonated with loyal park goers, so do the details and experiences that happened years ago. This season, Kings Island listened.

At the announcement last year as well as the debut of Kings Mills Antique Autos this spring, park management was quick to convey that the auto ride was the most requested ride to bring back. The original was retired in 2004, but families were vocal. They longed for an auto ride again. Park officials not only listened, they reacted.

Kings Island offered up a marvelous return. Supplied by **Gould Manufacturing**, the new cars now travel along beautiful landscaping, water features and clever signage. Savvy long timers will note the nods to attractions past in the architecture and billboards as they travel along the roadway. Guests queued up in big numbers for their opportunity to take a relaxing drive.

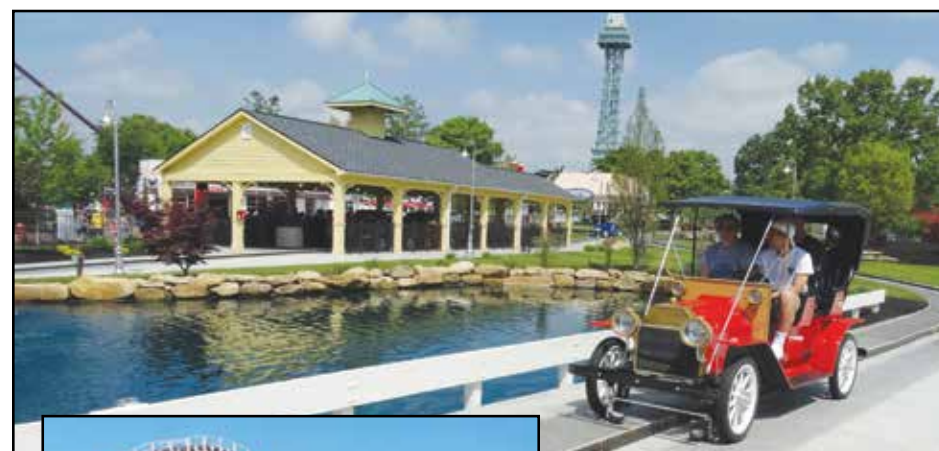
Knowing its audience embraces the park history, Kings Island was on a roll. The glockenspiel at the Festhaus was restored. Parents and grandparents that remember it as children, can now share it with their own.

The park's legendary wooden coaster, The Beast, turned 40 this year and trains were painted in the original colors. Fanciful photo ops for coaster fans and historical displays were placed near the entrance. Those unfamiliar with the ride's beginnings can now be educated with a little more knowledge of the past. Paw prints along the midway also led park goers to the ride entrance.

Knowing the importance of that first impression, the entire front mall received a makeover of new fountains with widened walkways created by thousands of pavers. For close to five decades, families have made a point to take their picture in that setting.

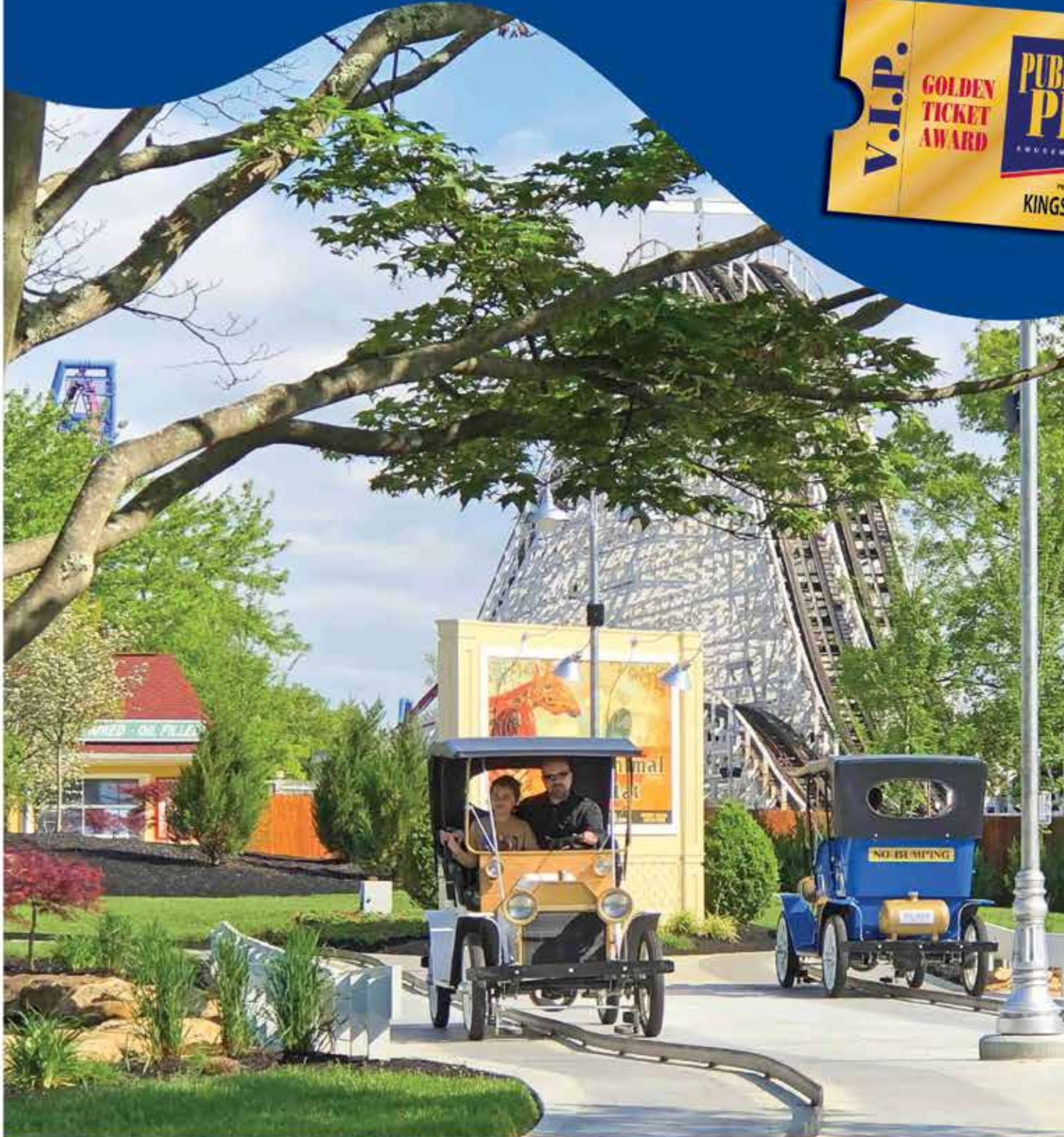
Listening to guests is important. So is respecting one's history as a park and part of the community. When those two combine, there is a synergy that is embraced by everyone involved.

For its respect for its roots and commitment to the guest experience, Kings Island is the 2019 recipient of the Publishers Pick **RENAISSANCE AWARD**.



After retiring the original Kings Mills Antique Autos ride in 2004, Kings Island guests were eager for the attraction to return. In 2019, the park reacted by installing a completely new version, supplied by Gould Manufacturing. AT/TIM BALDWIN; COURTESY MICHELLE MOMANY

Kings Island® **RENAISSANCE AWARD** for the addition of Antique Cars



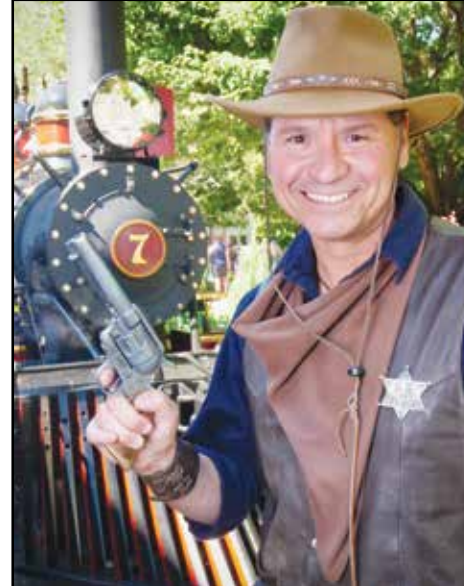
Silverwood delights its visitors with creativity and imagination

When **Gary Norton** opened **Silverwood** in 1988, there were no rides — except for one.

For more than a quarter of a century, the train ride was a staple of each guest's visit. A leisurely ride through the natural setting of the Idaho landscape was a pleasant experience. However, for decades the ride was relatively unchanged. The best joke on the train was: "If you look to the left, you'll see some trees. If you look on the right ... more trees."

Enter Marshal Jack. Or to be precise, **Chris Tortora**, who had experience with Walt Disney World and Universal Studios Entertainment. After learning about Tortora's decade of experience, Gary and **Paul Norton** reached out for some help.

With a revision of the script, a choreographed stunt show and several themed sets, the train ride took on new life. The story of Marshal Jack and his deputies takes guests on an adventure into Silverwood's Mythical Frontier. The journey for a group of missing expedition members involves a search for Bigfoot. In time, each set



PUBLISHER'S PICK, TURNSTILE AWARD: Silverwood Theme Park
COURTESY SILVERWOOD

had static or animatronic Bigfoot characters installed and entertainment was soon placed all along the route.

Even Tortora had his own entertaining surprise. On a whim, he placed a fairy door on the trunk of a single tree. Even though guests loved the sets, the stunt show and Bigfoot well enough, according to Tortora, "They went bananas over that fairy door!"

The following year, an entire Fairy Woods set was added. Stone walls, ogres, tree-stump goblins and spitting trolls — yes, they spit on people on the train! — joined the fairies. Guests loved it. Tortora's next idea was an imaginative take on retail. He thought it would be fun if actors "caught" fairies in butterfly nets. Guests didn't buy them, they adopted them for five dollars. Park management wasn't

completely sold it would work, but they were willing to place a small order of fairies. Not only did they sell like hotcakes, they sold out completely — quickly!

As the train ride gained in popularity, so did sales. For 25 years, Silverwood didn't sell anything on the train. Tortora's idea of adding a saloon girl and her Sherpa on the train walking up and down the train was a stroke of brilliance. Sales of food, water,



theme-related snacks and merchandise passed the \$100,000 mark in just three months.

Business people often equate money with success. In the case of Silverwood, success also finds a home in charity. In its history, the train would be besieged with robbers, with all "theft" going to local charities. With the renewed popularity of the train ride, the donations jumped from around \$8,000 to more than \$50,000 in the first year alone.

The spark of imagination and the magic of storytelling can bring people through the gates and provide memories they will carry with them for years to come. Silverwood just wanted to give guests a thrilling adventure, but it turned into a huge success for everyone.

Amusement Today is inspired and honored to award the Publisher's Pick **TURNSTILE AWARD** to Silverwood Theme Park.

Transporting families back to a simpler time

Congratulations to

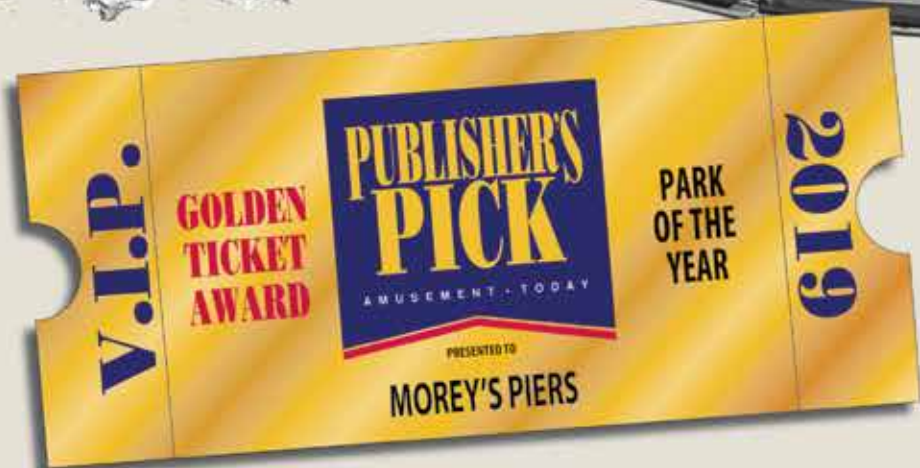
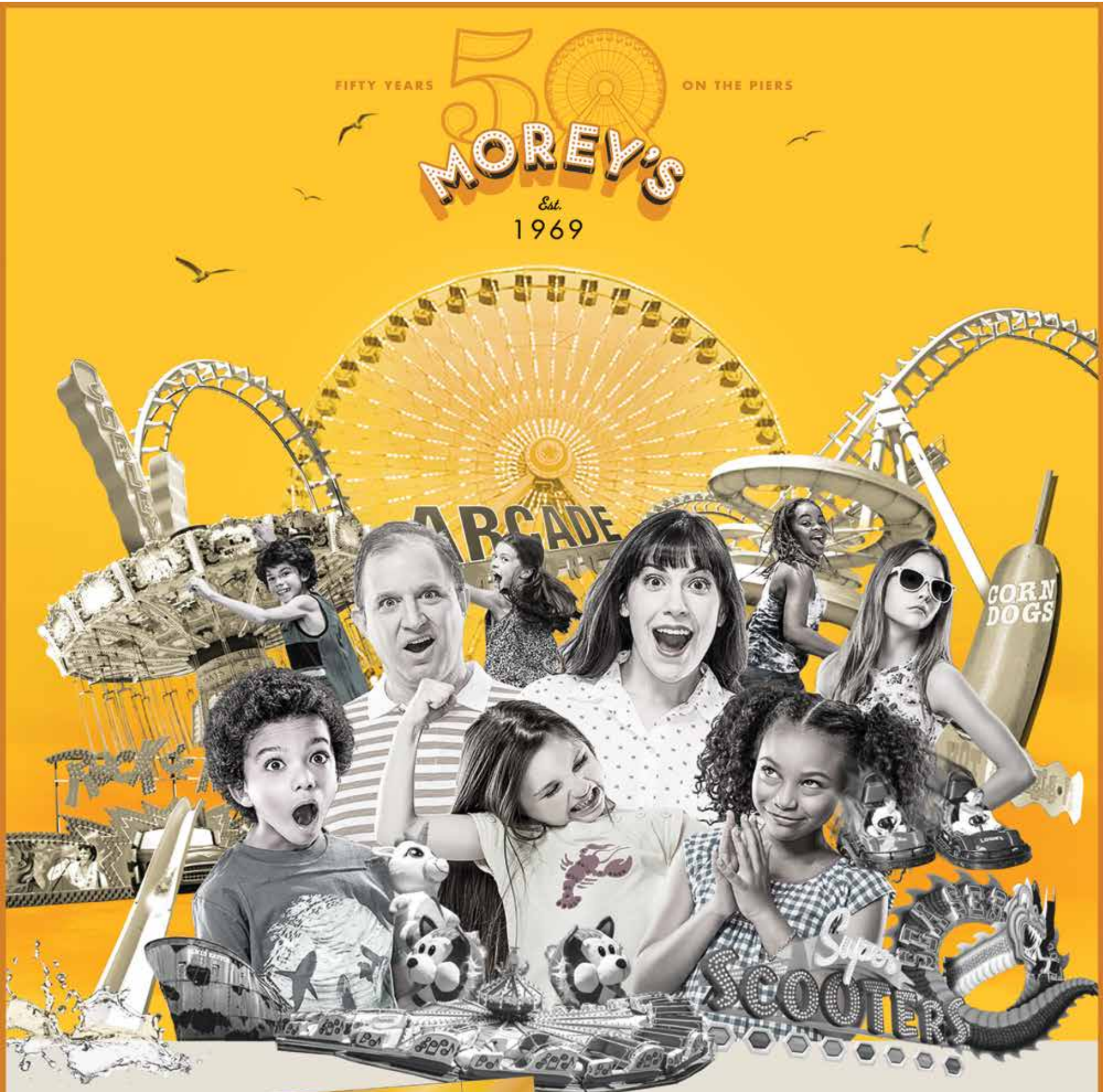
Kings Island
Antique Auto Ride



Gould Manufacturing

Over 50 years of Amusement Industry Experience

www.gouldmanufacturing.com • email: info@gouldmanufacturing.com



Morey's Piers would like to thank **Amusement Today** for honoring us with **Park of the Year** and we congratulate this year's Golden Ticket Winners.

Cheers to Fifty Years!



Congratulations!



Enjoy the view from the top!



EXPERIENCE THE JOURNEY

enjoy



Come & Meet us at
IAAPA Expo Europe
17-19 September 2019
Paris, France
Booth #3424



PolinWaterparks

2019 GOLDEN TICKET AWARD WINNERS

BEST PARK

1) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany
2) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
3) Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio
4) Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.
5) Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.

BEST WATER PARK OF 2019

1) Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas
2) Volcano Bay	Orlando, Fla.
3) Splashin' Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.
4) Typhoon Lagoon	Orlando, Fla.
5) Blizzard Beach	Orlando, Fla.

BEST FAMILY PARK OF 2019

1) Dutch Wonderland	Lancaster, Pa.
2) Sesame Place	Langhorne, Pa.
3) Idlewild & Soakzone	Ligonier, Pa.
4) Paulton's Park	Hampshire, England
5) Legoland Florida	Winter Haven, Fla.

BEST MARINE LIFE/WILDLIFE PARK OF 2019

1) SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.
2) Disney's Animal Kingdom	Orlando, Fla.
3) Discovery Cove	Orlando, Fla.
4) Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Fla.
5) Ocean Park	Hong Kong

BREAKOUT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER OF 2019

1) C.J. Barrymore's	Clinton Township, Mich.
2) Funland of Fredericksburg	Fredericksburg, Va.
3) Two Bit Circus	Los Angeles, Calif.
4) Clifton Hill	Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada
5) Frankie's Fun Park	Charlotte, N.C.

MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK OF 2019

1) Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.
2) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany
3) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
4) Gilroy Gardens	Gilroy, Calif.
5) Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.

BEST WATER RIDE OF 2019

1) Valhalla	Blackpool Pleasure Beach
2) Timber Mountain Log Ride	Knott's Berry Farm
3) Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls	Universal's Islands of Adventure
4) Infinity Falls	SeaWorld Orlando
5) Jurassic Park River Adventure	Universal's Islands of Adventure

BEST KIDS' AREA OF 2019

1) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
2) Kings Island	Mason, Ohio
3) Canada's Wonderland	Vaughan, Ontario, Canada
4) Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands
5) Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.

BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT OF 2018

1) Universal Studios Orlando	Orlando, Fla.
2) Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.
3) Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.
4) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany
5) Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.

BEST NEW SHOW OF 2019

1) Reuben's Swashbuckling Adventure	Silver Dollar City
2) Paddington On Ice — The Grand Voyage	Europa-Park
3) Detention at Rockville	Six Flags Fiesta Texas

BEST NEW ROLLERCOASTER OF 2019

1) The Steel Curtain	Kennywood
2) Hagrid's Magical ... Motorbike Adventure	Universal's Islands of Adventure
3) Copperhead Strike	Carowinds
4) Yukon Striker	Canada's Wonderland
5) Untamed	Walibi Holland

BEST NEW FAMILY ATTRACTION OF 2019

1) Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run	Disneyland
2) Kaleidoscape	Elitch Gardens
3) Kings Mills Antique Autos	Kings Island
4) Tidal Twister	SeaWorld San Diego
5) Masters of Flight	Legoland Florida

BEST NEW WATER PARK RIDE OF 2019

1) Cutback Water Coaster	Water Country USA
2) Lava Drifting	Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park
3) Daredevil's Peak	Perfect Day at CocoCay
4) Infinity Racers	Schlitterbahn Galveston
5) Rapid Remix	Soundwaves Water Park

BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION OF 2019

1) Hagrid's Magical ... Motorbike Adventure	Universal's Islands of Adventure
2) The Steel Curtain	Kennywood
3) Copperhead Strike	Carowinds
4) Sesame Street: Street Mission	PortAventura World
5) The Zenith	Mega Parc

BEST GUEST EXPERIENCE OF 2019

1) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
2) Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.
3) Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.
4) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany
5) Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.

BEST DARK RIDE OF 2019

1) Pirates of the Caribbean: ... Sunken Treasure	Shanghai Disneyland
2) Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey	Universal's Islands of Adventure
3) Twilight Zone: Tower of Terror	Disney's Hollywood Studios
4) Indiana Jones ... Temple of the Forbidden Eye	Disneyland
5) Haunted Mansion	Knoebels Amusement Resort

BEST WATER PARK RIDE OF 2019

1) Wildebeest	Splashin' Safari
2) Krakatau Aqua Coaster	Volcano Bay
3) Mammoth	Splashin' Safari
4) Ray Rush	SeaWorld Orlando
5) The Falls	Schlitterbahn

BEST FOOD OF 2019

1) Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.
2) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
3) Epcot	Orlando, Fla.
4) Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.
5) Europa-Park	Rust, Germany

BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT OF 2018

1) Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.
2) Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.
3) Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.
4) SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.
5) Kings Island	Mason, Ohio

Best New Rides of 2019 display fresh ideas and classic fun

With the changes in place for the **BEST NEW RIDE** categories, *Amusement Today* has spread the love with an expansion of noteworthy observations. This year, voters selected **BEST NEW ROLLER COASTER**, **BEST NEW FAMILY ATTRACTION** and **BEST NEW RIDE in a WATER PARK**. Industry professionals were able to vote on **BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION** based on nominations offered from within the industry.

Best New Roller Coaster

Pinpointing the best new coaster is always a fan favorite. **Kennywood** takes the prize this year with **The Steel Curtain**. The towering 220-foot coaster set a North American record for inversions — nine — but it wasn't the quantity that won over fans. The inversions on this artistic creation were highly regarded for their artistry and fluidity. Combine this with the sports mania of the **Pittsburgh Steelers** and Kennywood took the Golden Ticket for **BEST NEW ROLLER COASTER**.



"We wouldn't be here without the efforts of **S&S Worldwide** and our other partners in bringing **The Steel Curtain** to life," says **Jerome Gibas**, Kennywood general manager. "I want to thank them for the hours put in on this project, along with the efforts of my team here at Kennywood."

Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure rode into second place. The highly immersive roller coaster opened at the beginning of summer at **Universal's Islands of Adventure**. The steel coaster was manufactured by **Intamin Amusement Rides**.

The third through fifth spots were all supplied by different manufacturers, giving the top



BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION:
Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure,
Universal's Islands of Adventure
COURTESY UNIVERSAL

five finalists an installation from each. **Copperhead Strike** at **Carowinds** (No. 3) was supplied by **Mack Rides**, **Yukon Striker** at **Canada's Wonderland** (No. 4) is a product of **Bolliger and Mabillard**, and **Rocky Mountain Construction's Untamed** at **Walibi Holland** closes out the top five.

Best New Family Attraction

One of *Amusement Today's* new categories, **BEST NEW FAMILY ATTRACTION**, allows other rides besides roller coasters to be noted for their thrills.

Taking the Golden Ticket is **Disneyland's Millennium Falcon: Smugglers Run**. Its exquisitely detailed theming and choice of roles for riders thoroughly immersed guests (and voters) in a dynamic, interstellar *Star Wars* adventure.

Family-level thrills were also crowd pleasers with the reimagined attractions in the Nos. 2 and 3 spots. **Elitch Gardens** worked with the artist community **Meow Wolf** to transform a previous dark ride into a mindbending, interactive multi-sensory experience called **Kaleidoscape**. **Kings Island** listened to guests and reintroduced a new version of the park's beloved **Kings Mills Antique**

Autos. The installation included thematic touches and beautiful landscaping, as well as new cars from **Gould Manufacturing**.

Skyline Attractions' first Sky Warp Horizon model opened as **Tidal Twister** (No. 4) at **SeaWorld San Diego**. **Masters of Flight**, a flying theater from **Brogent**, at **Legoland Florida** rounds out the top five finalists.

Best New Water Park Ride

For **BEST NEW WATER PARK RIDE**, **Water Country USA** takes the Golden Ticket for the exhilarating **Cutback Water Coaster**. Supplied by **ProSlide Technology**, the hydromagnetic water coaster has launched uphill sections and highly banked flying saucer turns.

"I guess you can say we're making roller coasters even cooler — we added water," said **Jeff Thomas**, interim president for **Busch Gardens** and **Water Country USA**. "This year, **Water Country USA** joined the exciting world of roller coasters with the addition of **Cutback Water Coaster**. We are thrilled our decisions have been recognized with this amazing ride."

The No. 2 spot is occupied by an incredibly long spinning rapids ride, **Lava Drifting** at **Shanghai Haiching Ocean Park**. The 11-minute ride features elevated channels and actual rapids. The themed attraction was supplied by **WhiteWater West**.

WhiteWater West also delivered a trio of finalists. **Daredevil's Peak** at **Perfect Day at CocoCay** (No. 3) is a stunning waterslide attraction that features North America's tallest waterslide (135 feet) on a private island owned by **Royal Caribbean**, making for an exclusive ride to add to one's list. **Schlitterbahn Galveston** also snagged a record for longest head-first mat slide with **Infinity Racers** (No. 4). **Rapids**



BEST NEW ROLLER COASTER:
The Steel Curtain, Kennywood
COURTESY KENNYWOOD



BEST NEW RIDE IN A WATER PARK:
Cutback Water Coaster, Water Country USA
COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS

Remix at the new **Soundwaves Water Park** in Nashville completes the top five.

Best New Attraction Installation

Seeking the perspective of those in the business, an amusement-industry-exclusive category of **BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION OF 2019** garnered the acclaim from insiders. Nominees were submitted from parks and suppliers in the industry, as well as journalists. **Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure** was crowned the champ in this category that took into consideration the ride, theming, capacity and innovation. With a compelling storyline and immersive environment, **Universal's Islands of Adventure** and **Intamin** cre-

ated a must-do for **Harry Potter** fans and coaster fans alike.

The Steel Curtain (No. 2) at **Kennywood** and **Copperhead Strike** (No. 3) at **Carowinds** were also noted for their innovation.

Sesame Street: Street Mission at **PortAventura World** in Spain came in fourth. The thematic dark ride was a project of **Sally**.

The Zenith (No. 5) at **Méga Parc** in Canada featured cantilevered seats on a hubless Ferris wheel which allowed for a single rider coaster to travel through its center. Some of the carriages on the wheel featured clear floors adding to the innovative view. The wheel was manufactured by **Larson International**. The **Telegraph** coaster traveling through its center is by **Extreme Engineering**.



BEST NEW FAMILY ATTRACTION:
Millennium Falcon: Smuggler's Run, Disneyland
COURTESY DISNEYLAND

THANK YOU

FOR VOTING **STEEL CURTAIN**

BEST NEW ROLLER COASTER

OF 2019



V.I.P.

PRESENTED TO
KENNYWOOD

AmusementTODAY
**GOLDEN
TICKET
AWARD**

THE
STEEL
CURTAIN
BEST NEW
ROLLER
COASTER

2019



KENNYWOOD.COM



RALPH S. ALBERTS
COMPANY INCORPORATED

**THE RIDE VEHICLE
SAFETY PADDING
AND THEMING
SPECIALISTS
FOR OVER**

55
YEARS



CONGRATULATIONS
on being awarded
the Golden Ticket
2019 Roller Coaster
of the Year



R S A L B E R T S . C O M



V.I.P.

PRESENTED TO
KENNYWOOD

AmusementTODAY
**GOLDEN
TICKET
AWARD**

**THE
STEEL
CURTAIN
BEST NEW
ROLLER
COASTER**

2019

CONGRATULATIONS

Kennywood on your
Golden Ticket Award
for the best
new Roller Coaster for 2019

 **S&S WORLDWIDE**
Engineering Excitement



Baynum

PAINTING Inc.

The Amusement Industry's #1 Ride Painting & Coating Service Provider Since 1983



Congratulations to Kennywood!!! Thank You for letting Baynum Painting's team put the finishing touches on your amazing new S&S steel coaster!

Visit the all new baynumpainting.com for more info and to view hundreds of completed ride project photos in our online library

#1 Golden Ticket Award Winners



GOLDEN TICKET LEGEND - PRESENTED 11 TIMES FROM 2008 TO 2018

BEST INDOOR COASTER

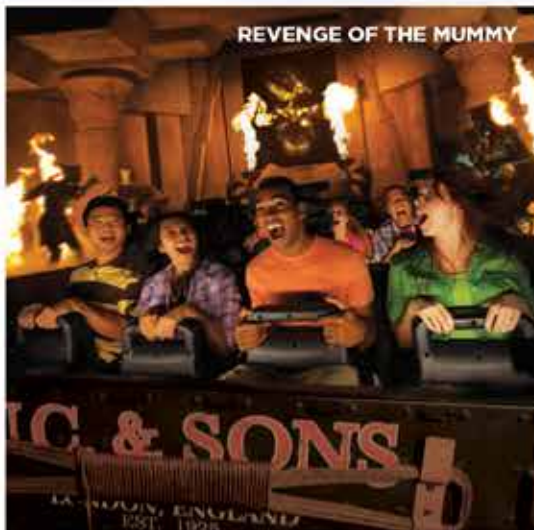
Universal Studios Florida - Revenge of the Mummy

BEST NEW INSTALLATION OF 2019

Universal's Islands of Adventure -
Hagrid's Magical Creatures Motorbike Adventure™

BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT

Universal Studios Florida - Halloween Horror Nights



See it all at UniversalOrlando.com

BUILDING FUN

CHANCE
RIDES

SINCE 1961



WHEELS

Everyone enjoys a view from above, especially from the top of a Chance Rides Wheel. Our wheel sizes start at 63-feet and go all the way up to the observation wheels at 250-feet tall!



TRAINS

Climb aboard a scaled replica of an authentic 1863 locomotive. The C.P. Huntington™ Train is ranked as one of the most popular attractions for guests.



CAROUSELS

Artistically crafted for an authentic, distinctive look, each Chance Rides Carousel is a masterpiece.



RIDES



PEOPLE MOVERS



COASTERS

SALES@CHANCERIDES.COM • 316.945.6555 • CHANCERIDES.COM

New Parts Store PARTS.CHANCERIDES.COM

Congratulations

to **Water Country USA** and **Holiday World** on their
1st Place BEST WATER PARK RIDE 2019 Golden Ticket Awards!

Water Country USA



**#1 BEST NEW
WATER PARK RIDE**

ProSlide PIPEline BLAST™ / FlyingSAUCER®



 **PROSLIDE**[®]
TECHNOLOGY INC
Best Rides. Best Parks.



**Holiday World &
Splashin' Safari**



**#1 BEST WATER
RIDE 10TH YEAR IN A ROW!**

ProSlide HydroMAGNETIC[®] ROCKET[®]



 **PROSLIDE.COM**

Dutch Wonderland takes new Family Park category, other winners hold on

In modifying the Golden Ticket for **BEST CHILDREN'S PARK** to **BEST FAMILY PARK**, *Amusement Today* looked at factors that weren't necessarily aimed at only small children. Those attributes still qualify, but a broader perspective was brought into play. This wider range of parks focuses on rides where adults and kids ride together, thrills are kept in the mid-range, a wide variety of attractions for all family members are offered, and rides don't go upside down for the most part.



The first Golden Ticket winner in this newly modified category is **Dutch Wonderland** in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

"Our whole team is incredibly excited to receive the Golden Ticket Award for Best Family Park!" said **Laura Charles**, general manager. "We work hard to create an environment the entire family will love and are humbled by this honor. It reflects the guest-focused commitment of every single team member, because it is especially through our service that we help create magical memories. As we look to the future, we'll continue growing the park in ways that encourage these shared experiences and memories."

Opened in 1963, the park has compiled a wide range of attractions meant to be enjoyed together. The recent addition of Merlin's Mayhem, an **S&S** family suspended coaster, has continued to elevate the ride product. Charles



BEST FAMILY PARK:
Dutch Wonderland
COURTESY
DUTCH WONDERLAND

also praises the park's ever-popular shows that resonate with all ages of guests.

Sesame Place, also in Pennsylvania, and part of the **SeaWorld** family, places No. 2. Oscar's Wacky Taxi, a **Gravity Group** family wood coaster brought new acclaim to the park in 2018.

Former **BEST CHILDREN'S PARK** winner **Idlewild & SoakZone** enters this chart in the No. 3 position. Interestingly, the top three choices are all located in Pennsylvania.

Paulton's Park in England and **Legoland Florida** complete the list in the Nos. 4 and 5 spots, respectively.

Other park categories find familiar winners locked in place. **BEST PARK** goes to **Europa-Park** for a sixth year. As only the second park



BEST PARK: Europa-Park COURTESY EUROPA-PARK

ever to take the category, the German theme park has recently not only recovered from a devastating fire in 2018, but has emerged stronger and awaits its second gate, **Rulantica**, this fall. The park is a finalist in six categories overall.

Rising to the No. 2 spot is **Dollywood**. With a \$37 mil-

lion investment into its new Wildwood Grove section, the Tennessee theme park continues to widen and enhance its offerings to guests.

Cedar Point, often considered the Coaster Capital of the World, is at the No. 3 spot. Disneyland, which turns 65 next season, enters the top five at the No. 4 position.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg completes the list.

An undefeated champion, **Schlittebahn** continues to slide into the Golden Ticket for 22 years running. The park's fame as **BEST WATER PARK** is not taken lightly, as management continues to

► See PARKS, page 26



BEST PARK, No. 2: Dollywood
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST FAMILY PARK, No. 2: Sesame Place
AT/B. DEREK SHAW



THANK YOU!

**DUTCH WONDERLAND IS HONORED
TO BE VOTED BEST FAMILY PARK!**

**IT'S
FAMILY
TIME.**

DUTCHWONDERLAND.COM •



FUNatDW

EUROPA PARK®

THEME PARK & RESORT

Historic Times at Europa Park!

We are thankful to the readers of Amusement Today for your confidence in us as „Best Theme Park“ 6 times in a row!

europapark.com



Now open: „KRÖNASÅR – the Museum-Hotel!“ – our 6th themed hotel.



Scandinavia – Newly Reimagined. More beautiful than ever!



Fall 2019: Snorri Touren – the new themed ride



Summer 2020: „Pirates of Batavia“ – the legend comes back



CAST OFF into a great adventure!

Opening
28.11.2019

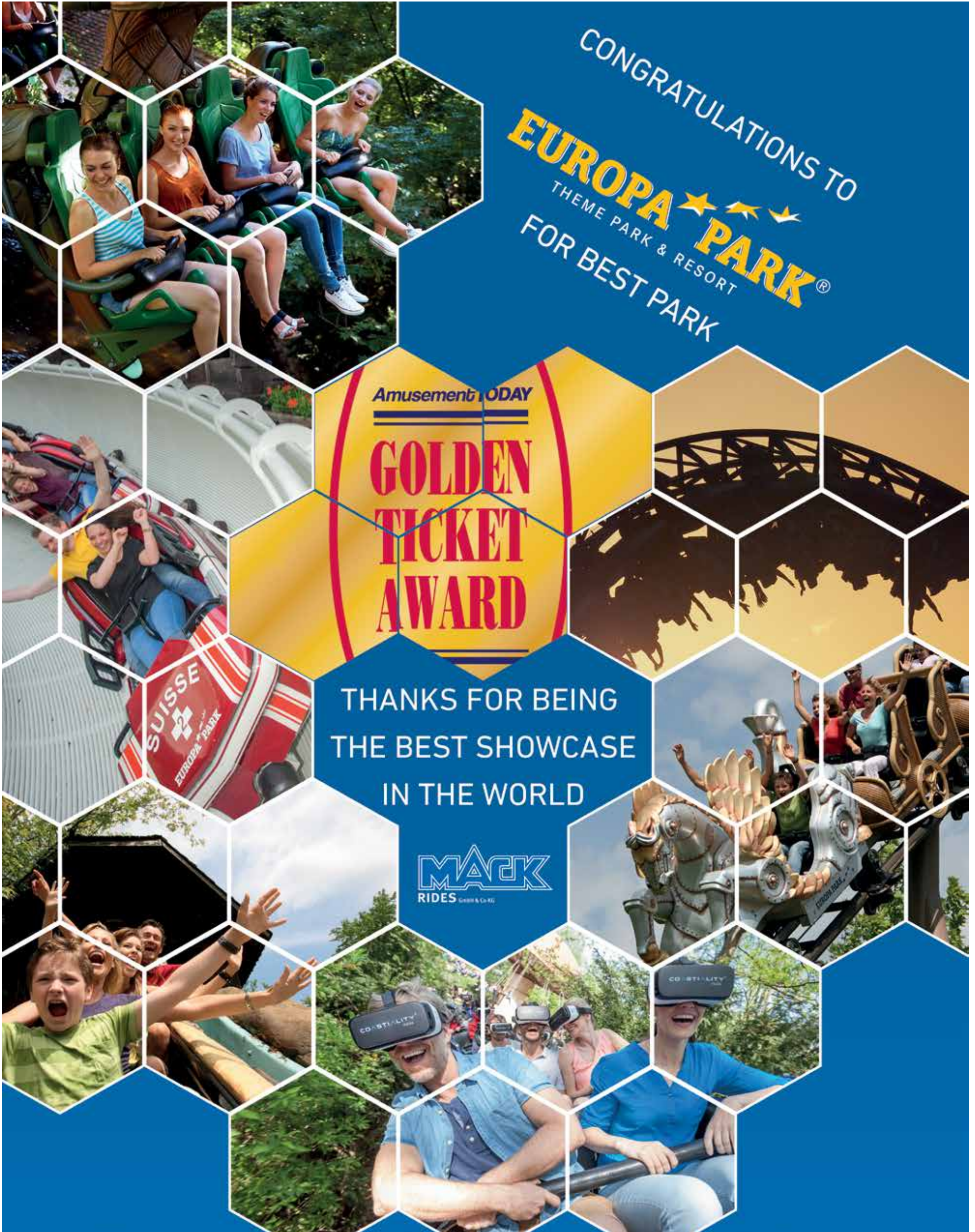
RULANTICA

The new Water World at EUROPA-PARK

Open all year round (except 24./25.12.)

25 water attractions: 17 slides, wave pool, wild river, and much more.

Infos & Tickets at rulantica.com



CONGRATULATIONS TO
EUROPA PARK
THEME PARK & RESORT
FOR BEST PARK

Amusement TODAY

**GOLDEN
TICKET
AWARD**

THANKS FOR BEING
THE BEST SHOWCASE
IN THE WORLD

MACK
RIDES GmbH & Co. KG





BEST WATER PARK: Schlitterbahn
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST WATER PARK, No. 2: Volcano Bay
AT/TIM BALDWIN

*Soaring Eagle's
Combo Towers*

Multiple
rides...
1 Tower!

Soaring Eagle
"Rides to look up to"

Soaring Eagle . Logan, Utah 84341
435-754-7807 . www.soaringeagle-inc.com

► **PARKS**

Continued from page 22

innovate and offers more custom and signature attractions than any other water park.

Climbing to No. 2, **Volcano Bay** continues to welcome first-time visitors to the elaborately themed water park for the **Universal Orlando** resort.

Splashin' Safari (No. 3) remains a crowd pleaser nestled adjacent to **Holiday World** in Indiana. With a recent announcement of a major new attraction, the competition is on for 2020 to



BEST MARINE LIFE/WILDLIFE PARK: SeaWorld Orlando
AT/TIM BALDWIN

see if the park can jump up a notch (or two) for 2020.

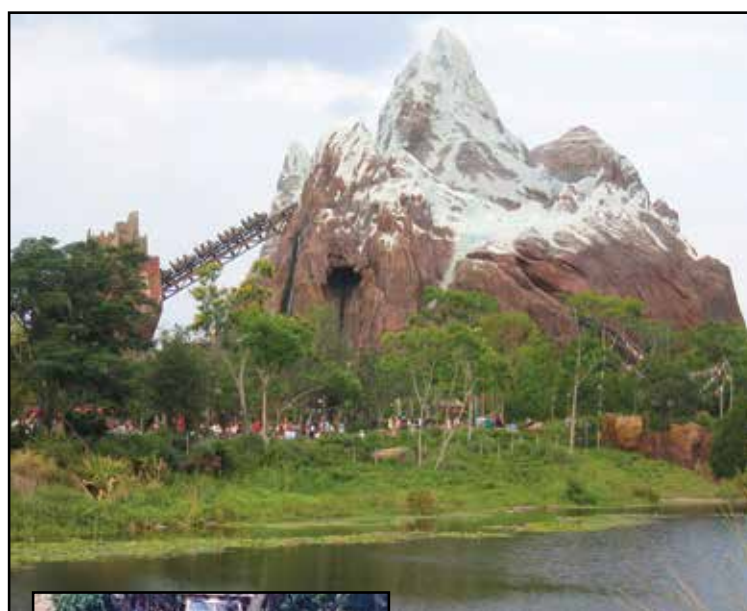
Two **Walt Disney World** properties claim the Nos. 4 and 5 positions, **Typhoon Lagoon** and **Blizzard Beach**, respectively.

The modification of **BEST MARINE LIFE PARK** to expand to **BEST MARINE LIFE/WILDLIFE PARK** didn't deter voters from their respect for **SeaWorld Orlando**. Taking the Golden Ticket for the newly named category, the park opened a new Sesame Street area in the park, just mere months after the opening of 2018's Infinity Falls.

The restructuring of the category did bring in some new faces. **Disney's Animal Kingdom** places No. 2. The park features animal safaris, encounters and educational components, as well as rides and shows centered around the animal world.

There are no closer animal encounters than at **Discovery Cove** (No. 3). The popularity of swimming with dolphins continues to enthrall guests as much as it did when the park opened in 2000. A sister park, **Busch Gardens Tampa Bay** (No. 4) takes guests out of the water and lets them observe wonderful animal habitats on land all within a world-class theme park.

Ocean Park in Hong Kong completes the five finalists.



BEST MARINE LIFE/WILDLIFE PARK, No. 2: Disney's Animal Kingdom
AT/B. DEREK SHAW;
JOHN W.C. ROBINSON

C.J. Barrymore's wins the first-ever Breakout FEC Golden Ticket

According to IAAPA, the family entertainment sector is the organization's largest sector. As this faction of the industry continues to grow, it seemed fitting to reflect this with a Golden Ticket Award. To honor those facilities who are making great strides, *Amusement Today* has created **BREAKOUT FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT CENTER OF 2019**.



BREAKOUT FEC: C.J. Barrymore's
COURTESY C.J. BARRYMORE'S



In its inaugural year, the Golden Ticket goes to **C.J. Barrymore's** in Michigan. This year, the facility added four new rides in a single season. An extensive marketing push via billboards, press and other media showcased the FEC as a destination within the Detroit area.

"Since we added the four new rides, it has really transformed our whole operations," said **Rick Iceberg**, owner. "It has transformed us into more of an amusement park, but we've gone beyond an FEC; we're somewhere in between that

were trying to figure out. We really like where we're at and where we're going. The feeling is really dynamite when you walk through the park now."

A **Soaring Eagle** combo tower, 110-foot **Lamberink** wheel, and an SBF/Visa spinning coaster from **Rides 4 U** have caused a big uptick in business. The Soaring Eagle tower generates the most excitement with the high level of screams, but Iceberg says the biggest ridership has been on the spinning coaster, which he terms the throughput as "amazing."

"We're trying not to look at

the numbers because we had so much rain last year, we don't want to jinx it," said Iceberg who estimates the facility is up 20 percent. "Talk about being superstitious."

In the No. 2 spot is Virginia's **Funland of Fredericksburg**. After adding an indoor spinning coaster in 2018, the FEC roared onto the scene with a brand-new multi-level go-kart track this season. Thunder Speedway twists and turns spiraling 30 feet above ground with a track length of 1,700 linear feet.

Two Bit Circus (No. 3) in Los Angeles opened a flag-

ship location that puts an avant-garde technological spin on classic arcade and midway games while adding a VR arena to the mix. A bar with a robot bartender elevates the property to a new level of cool, as do adults-only evenings on Fridays and Saturdays after 9:00 p.m. An eclectic menu offers "Carny fare. Reimagined," and story rooms provide a unique twist on escape rooms. The FEC even has private gaming cabanas.

Clifton Hill (No. 4) in Niagara Falls, Canada, offers lots of attractions ranging from bowling, a giant Ferris Wheel,

a dark ride and everything from making fudge to wax hands. This year, the facility expanded with a multi-level Speedway go-kart track. The addition attracted the attention of social media for nearly a year before it opened.

Frankie's Fun Park (No. 5) is a brand new FEC in Charlotte N.C. The 21-acre property features three pirate-themed miniature golf course, indoor and outdoor rides, an XD-dark ride from **Triotech** and a **Hologate** four-player VR experience. Glowing bumper cars and bowling alleys add to the cool factor in addition to the flash of the arcade.





STAN CHECKETTS
LOGAN CHECKETTS
THANK YOU FOR
2 GREAT RIDES!



CHEMICAL BANK



LEN SOLED
EARL HELLER
THANK YOU FOR
2 GREAT RIDES!

The 'Breakout' hit of the summer!

C.J. BARRYMORE'S

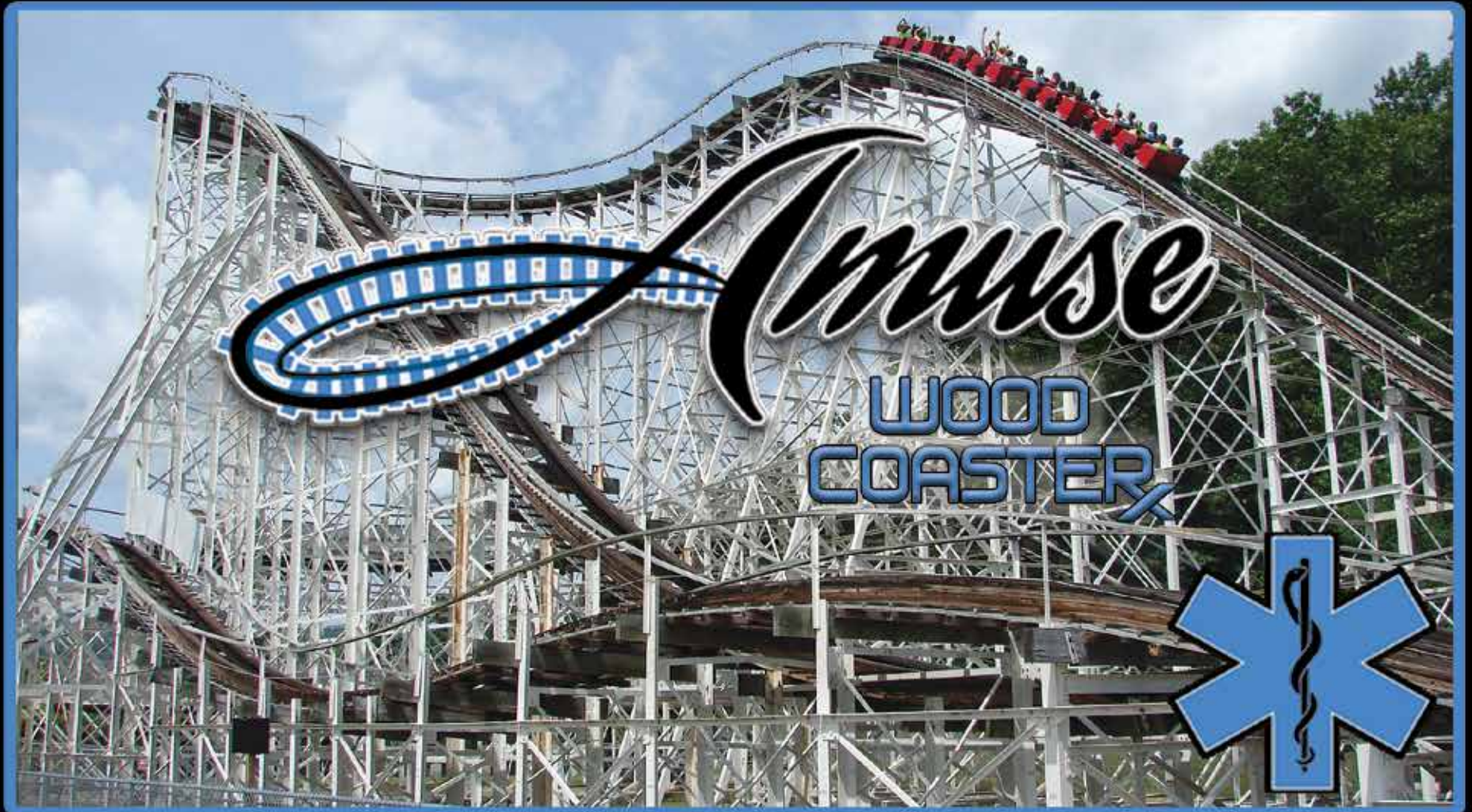
ENTERTAINMENT

EST. 1974



Supplying Amusements New to Used

RIDES 4 U PRESENTS
THE GOLDEN TICKET AWARD WINNER FOR BREAKOUT FEC OF 2019
"C.J. BARRYMORE'S" FEATURING AN SBF/VISA SPINNING COASTER
221 EVANS WAY, SUITE E • SOMERVILLE, N.J. 08876 • (908) 526-8009
RIDES4U.COM



YES, WE CAN DO THAT!



TO SEE MORE VISIT US AT
AMUSERIDES.COM



Sail into the sky with a smile!

THE HUBLESS WHEEL
IT'S A BIG DEAL!

V.I.P. DOLLYWOOD
WILLOW GROVE
BEST KIDS' AREA
2019
GOLDEN TICKET AWARD

V.I.P. LARSON INT'L
HUBLESS WHEEL
44 NOMINATION OF 2019
2019
GOLDEN TICKET AWARD

V.I.P. LARSON INT'L
THE ZENITH (HUBLESS WHEEL)
15 BEST NEW ATTRACTION INSTALLATION OF 2019
2019
GOLDEN TICKET AWARD

...and the crowd goes wild!



PO BOX 638 • PLAINVIEW, TEXAS 79072 • (806) 293-1353 • LARSONINTL.COM



Thank You

for your support in the Golden Ticket Awards!

Best Steel Coaster

- #1 Fury 325® – Carowinds®
- #2 Millennium Force® – Cedar Point®
- #3 Steel Vengeance® – Cedar Point
- #9 Leviathan®
Canada's Wonderland®
- #11 Intimidator® 305
Kings Dominion®
- #13 Maverick® – Cedar Point
- #14 Diamondback – Kings Island®
- #18 Magnum XL-200 – Cedar Point
- #21 Top Thrill Dragster® – Cedar Point

Best Waterpark

- #1 Schlitterbahn®

Best Wooden Coaster

- #5 The Beast® – Kings Island
- #6 GhostRider®
Knott's Berry Farm®
- #10 Mystic Timbers® – Kings Island
- #12 Gold Striker®
California's Great America
- #15 Shivering Timbers®
Michigan's Adventure®
- #24 Renegade® – Valleyfair®

Best Water Ride

- #2 Timber Mountain Log Ride
Knott's Berry Farm

Best Halloween Event of 2018

- #2 Knott's Berry Farm

Best Kids' Area

- #2 Kings Island
- #3 Canada's Wonderland

Best Park

- #3 Cedar Point

Best New Roller Coaster

- #3 Copperhead Strike™
Carowinds

Best New Attraction Installation

- #3 Copperhead Strike
Carowinds

Best New Family Attraction

- #3 Kings Mills Antique Autos
Kings Island

Most Beautiful Park

- #4 Gilroy Gardens

Renaissance Award

- Kings Mills Antique Autos
Kings Island

Innovation of the Year

- Yukon Striker – Loose Article
Storage System
Canada's Wonderland



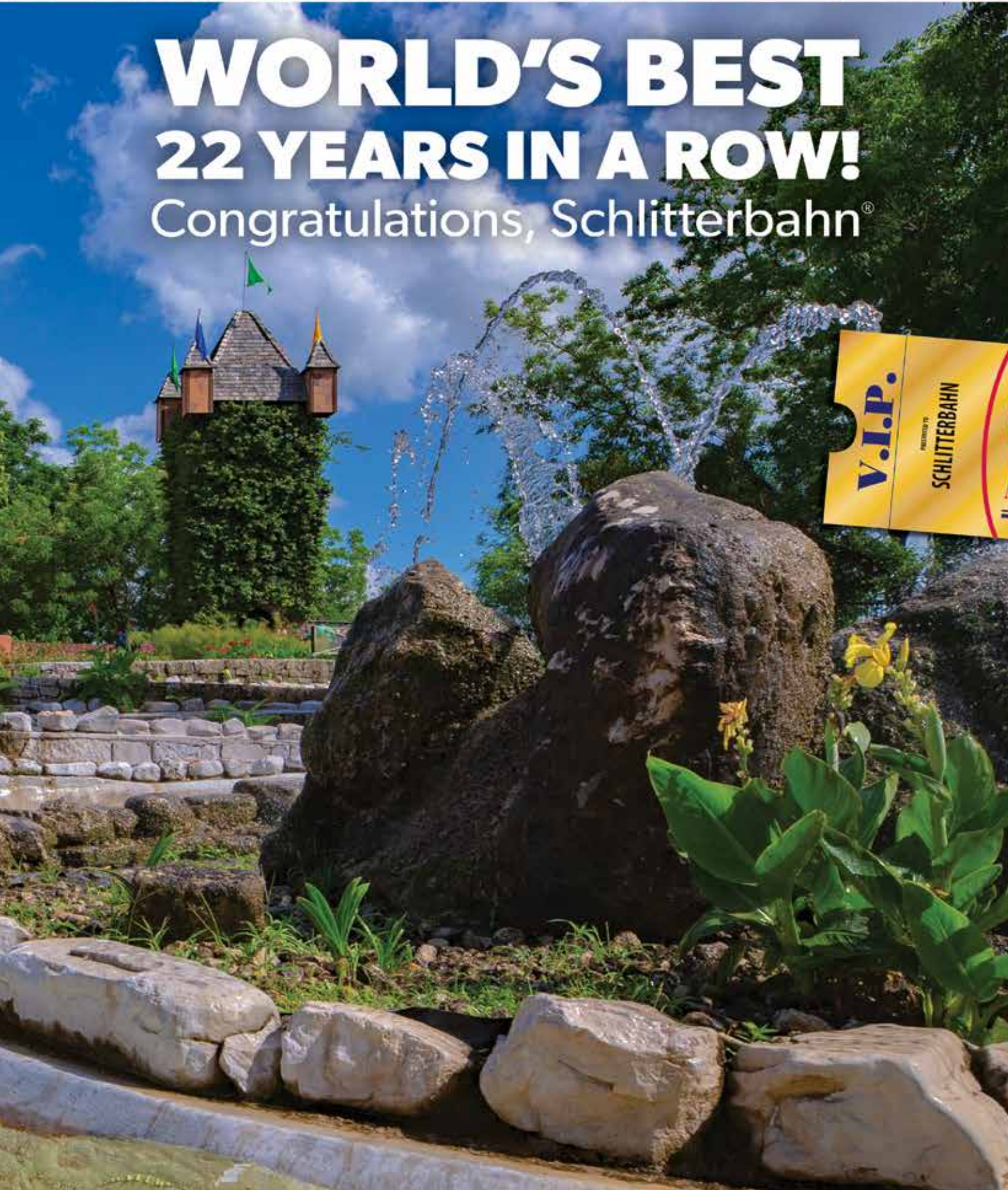


Welcome to the Cedar Fair Family!



WORLD'S BEST 22 YEARS IN A ROW!

Congratulations, Schlitterbahn®



Silver Dollar City takes Best New Show; holiday event winners remain

In a review of the former **BEST SHOWS** category, *Amusement Today* endeavored to bring a fresh approach and modified the category to **BEST NEW SHOW OF 2019**. All parks were encouraged to submit performances that met a simple requirement: The show had to be new for this year. It could not be a previous show with simply a new cast or new parts.

To make the category a success, *Amusement Today* formed a select panel of show fans that made a commitment to watch all nominees and then send in their selections. Three clear favorites rose to the top.

Best New Show of 2019

"Reuben's Swashbuckling Adventure" found favor with the panel for its talented performers, show sets and mix of great music and humor. **Silver Dollar City** produced this show in their large Opera House. The 35-minute show starred 14 singers and elaborate costumes.

"We set out to create a summer show that would attract and entertain families with kids as well as adult couples. That objective is so easy to state, yet difficult to implement inside of a show," said **Brad Thomas**, park president.

"We always strive to ensure our signature production shows entertain but also provide a deeper meaning and a deeper connection. Reuben's Swashbuckling Adventure's interesting twists deliver those meanings and connections in some surprising ways. 91,000 guests attended the limited-edition summer show and gave the show remarkably high



BEST NEW SHOW OF 2019: Reuben's Swashbuckling Adventure, Silver Dollar City
COURTESY SILVER DOLLAR CITY

guest scores. This show was a fun summer adventure for us and our guests, and we look forward to its return next summer," added Thomas.

Europa-Park came in second with **"Paddington on Ice — The Grand Voyage."** The audience was taken on a journey featuring the beloved children's character, Paddington, into an imaginative world that featured dazzling ice skating, lively music and fanciful costumes.

Long known for its high-energy shows and impressive vocalists, **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** debuted **"Detention at Rockville."** What could be viewed as *The Breakfast Club* meets *Glee*, a Saturday detention set inside Rockville



High took student storylines through a string of classic songs from the 1980s. The show placed at No. 3.

In both **BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT OF 2018** and **BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT OF 2018**, the top two spots remain unchanged, but new players entered the pack of finalists.

Best Halloween Event of 2018

Universal Studios Orlando snagged the Golden Ticket with its Halloween Horror Nights, an award it has now held for 12 years. Likewise, **Knott's Berry Farm** maintains its No. 2 position as a strong finisher.

Knoebels keeps its No. 3 spot, but **Europa-Park** enters the group of finalists at No. 4,

the first time the German park has appeared in this category. **Kennywood** closes out the finalists at No. 5.

Best Christmas Event of 2018

It would appear **Dollywood** has a lock on the holidays. The Pigeon Forge park has been undefeated in the category; this year making a 12-year run.

Sister park Silver Dollar City has also been acknowledged for its outstanding Christmas festival and the park continues to up its game each year. In

2018, the park set a new attendance record for its "Old Time Christmas."

The Nos. 3 – 5 spots see a couple new faces. **Hersheypark** (No. 3) makes a return to the finalists and **SeaWorld Orlando** (No. 4) finds itself in the category finalists for the first time. **Kings Island's** Winterfest continues to bring out fans and completes the list of top contenders.

More parks continue to add Christmas events each year, discovering a new marketable way to extend the season.



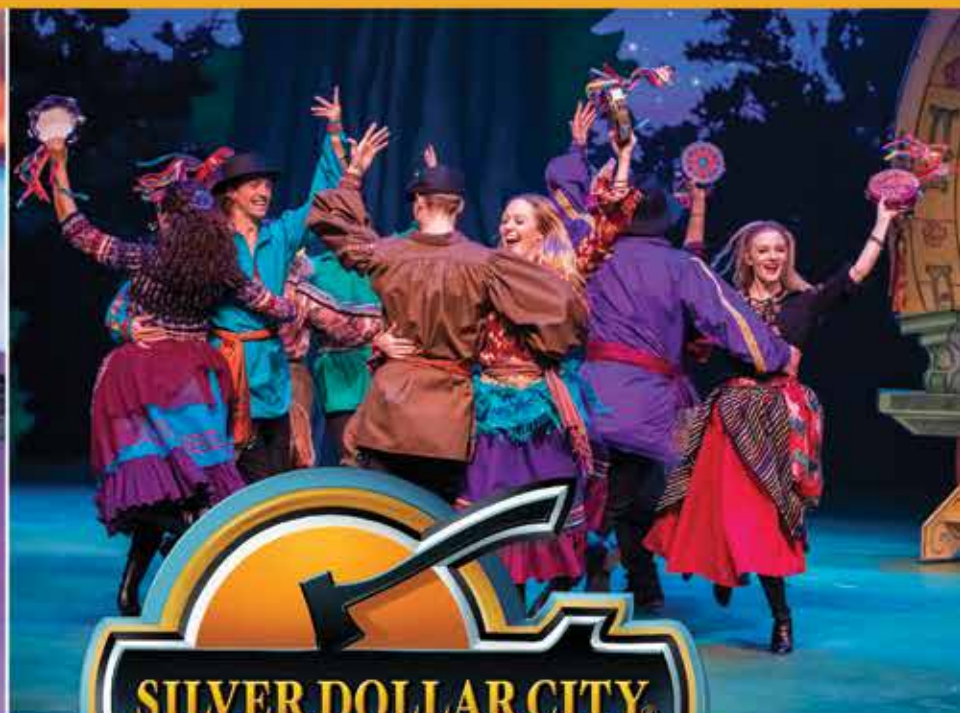
BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT OF 2018: Dollywood
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT OF 2018: Halloween Horror Nights, Universal Studios Orlando
COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



THANKS FOR CHOOSING OUR SWASHBUCKLING SHOW!



SilverDollarCity.com



Branson, MO

Dollywood takes Best Experience; Busch and Knoebels repeat wins

With the 2019 refresh of the Golden Ticket Awards, *Amusement Today* merged some previous categories and combined them with additional criteria. What were **FRIENDLIEST PARK** and **CLEANEST PARK** have now been joined together, along with strong operations to create **BEST GUEST EXPERIENCE**.



Best Guest Experience

The very first recipient of this new Golden Ticket is **Dollywood**. As a long-time finalist in the previous categories, as well as boasting good capacity with its operations, the theme park offers a world-class experience for guests visiting from across the country and around the world.

"We don't do what we do to win awards," said legendary icon **Dolly Parton**. "They are nice, but we do it because we want to provide families an escape to a beautiful place where they can forget about all the things going on in their daily lives and truly enjoy each other. I'm so proud of what we've been able to accomplish here since we opened Dollywood in 1986. The Smokies are where my heart sings. I wanted to give folks the world over a reason to come here and see it for themselves. We've kept adding new things — new shows, new rides — so they'll have something new to enjoy each time they come visit us."

"Winning the Golden Ticket for Best Guest Experience further solidifies what we've known for so long. The unparalleled Dollywood experience provides guests a genuinely friendly, clean and warm environment to create memories they will be able to share forever. From our welcoming hosts and picturesque natural surroundings to our unique attractions, entertainment and food, Dollywood offers an experience impossible to duplicate anywhere else," said **Pete Owens**, vice-president of marketing and public relations.

Holiday World &



BEST GUEST EXPERIENCE: Dollywood
AT/TIM BALDWIN

Splashin' Safari has been a consistent winner in the past for its clean and friendly atmosphere. Its strong No. 2 position is not a surprise. The park makes a commitment to instill strong values to its employees.

Silver Dollar City (No. 3), **Europa-Park** (No. 4) and the original **Disneyland** (No. 5) also stand as industry-leading examples for friendliness, cleanliness and park

operations. Combined, the guest experience is seen as a top priority.

Most Beautiful Park

A modification of **BEST LANDSCAPING** to **MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK** did not throw **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** a curve ball. The perennial Golden Ticket winner still held this category. With the modification of the category to also include



BEST FOOD: Knoebels Amusement Resort
COURTESY KNOEBELS AMUSEMENT RESORT

architecture and theming, all these attributes are found at the Virginia park known for its beauty.

Europa-Park (No. 2) echoes those qualities with its themed architecture and elaborate landscaping. The German theme park built in 1975 illustrates the styling and beauty of numerous European countries.

Dollywood (No. 3), set in the hills of the Smoky Mountains, has numerous examples of fanciful architecture and lush displays of beautiful landscaping.

Gilroy Gardens (No. 4) in California is world famous for the amazing **Circus Trees** as well as sculpted plantings and stunning flower arrangements.

Silver Dollar City (No. 5), like **Dollywood**, has the hills of the Ozarks as a canvas to create a beautiful atmo-

sphere with colorful flora and stylized themed buildings.

Best Food

Park fans have voted with their stomach once again. **Knoebels Amusement Resort** turns up the heat on the competition and keeps the Golden Ticket for **BEST FOOD**. Three parks have claimed this award in the past 22 years. **Knoebels** has snagged it for 16 of them.

Three of the five finalists have charted in all the categories listed on this page, speaking to the caliber of what they offer guests. **Dollywood** (No. 2), **Silver Dollar City** (No. 4) and **Europa-Park** (No. 5) boast their quality in yet another category with a vast variety of delicious food options.

Epcot (No. 3) with its vast international cuisine completes our list of finalists.



MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK: Busch Gardens Williamsburg
COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS WILLIAMSBURG



NEW
FINNEGAN'S FLYER



FROM BEST OUTSIDE – TO BEST NEW RIDE, WE'RE HONORED.

THANKS FOR VOTING US WORLD'S MOST BEAUTIFUL THEME PARK AND 2019 BEST NEW WATER PARK RIDE, CUTBACK WATER COASTER!

Natural beauty meets a tsunami of thrill rides at Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA. Soar among the trees on world-class roller coasters and get launched on the most innovative water rides.

Busch Gardens  **Water Country USA**
WILLIAMSBURG, VA

buschgardens.com/va
watercountryusa.com



NEW
CUTBACK
WATER COASTER




Dollywood's Smoky Mountain CHRISTMAS

Presented By **Humana**.

Featuring

GLACIER RIDGE

“ THERE IS
ABSOLUTELY
NOWHERE LIKE
DOLLYWOOD AT
CHRISTMAS. ”

 Trip Advisor Reviewer,
9 December 2018

GOLDEN TICKET AWARD BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT!



Dollywood

PARKS & RESORTS

Thank you Amusement Today and Golden Ticket voters for making
Dollywood's Smoky Mountain Christmas the best event twelve years in a row!

Dollywood.com



SAVE THESE DATES! **AIMS SAFETY SEMINAR** & **CERTIFICATION PROGRAM** **JANUARY 12-17, 2020** **IN GALVESTON, TEXAS**

Galveston Island Convention Center
Accommodations at Hilton Galveston & San Luis Resort

Early registration is now open!

REGISTRATION ONLY \$595 THROUGH OCTOBER 1!

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: INFO@AIMSINTL.ORG

(714) 425-5747 • www.aimsintl.org  

BUILDING EXPANSION IS UNDERWAY!

**Donations are still needed from
industry suppliers, parks, & individuals.**

mail to:
National Roller Coaster
Museum & Archives
Jerry Willard, treasurer
P.O. Box 5424
Arlington, Texas 76005

Purchase at Amazon:
select **AMAZONSMILE**
and
.5% of your purchase
benefits NRCMA



MARK MOORE PUBLIC SHOWROOM EXPANSION of the National Roller Coaster Museum



NRCMA (a 501c3 non-profit organization)
PO Box 5424 • Arlington, Texas 76005-5424
www.rollercoastermuseum.org

Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Holiday World keep it wet

Dollywood and Shanghai Disneyland are new winners in ride categories

Since **BEST WATER RIDE** was introduced in 2001, only two water attractions have taken the top spot.

Best Water Ride

Valhalla at **Blackpool Pleasure Beach** has splashed into first five years in a row, and seven overall. The indoor flume from **Intamin** plunges riders into fire and fog and larger-than-life scenes sporting a Viking motif. It's a guarantee to get positively wet.

Jumping onto the charts at No. 2 is **Timber Mountain Log Ride** at **Knott's Berry Farm**. Considered to be one of the world's best flumes, renovations and TLC keep this historic **Arrow** ride in top condition. Its length and elaborate theming make it a family favorite.

Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls at **Universal's Islands of Adventure** (No. 3), once a Golden Ticket holder, was supplied by **Mack Rides** and interweaves comical scenes of classic cartoons into a theatrical and exciting final plunge.

New just last year, **Infinity Falls** (No. 4) at **SeaWorld Orlando** makes its first presence on the charts. The dramatic 40-foot plunge from an iconic tower makes for a photogenic finale.

At No. 5 is Islands of Adventure's **Jurassic Park River Adventure**, finding its



BEST DARK RIDE: Pirates of the Caribbean: Battle for the Sunken Treasure, Shanghai Disneyland
COURTESY ALEX RIGSBY

way back onto the charts.

Best Water Park Ride

Holiday World & Splashin' Safari has two **BEST WATER PARK RIDES** on AT's list. Making for a decade of domination, **Wildebeest** takes the top spot once again. In the No. 3 spot, **Splashin' Safari's Mammoth** stands along with its little brother. Both installations are from **ProSlide Technology**.

Moving up several spots to No. 2., **Krakatau Aqua Coaster**

at **Volcano Bay** powers itself up the charts. With its placement, **ProSlide** boasts the three top attractions.

Taking the win last year as **BEST NEW WATER PARK RIDE**, **Aquatica Orlando's Ray Rush** appears on the charts for the first time. The multi-element raft ride is a creation of **WhiteWater West**.

The Falls, Schlitterbahn's endless rapids masterpiece, completes the list of five finalists.

Best Kids Area

In a total takedown, **Dollywood's** new Wildwood Grove has finally unseated the long running champ for **BEST KIDS' AREA**.

"Dolly wanted Wildwood Grove to truly reflect the experiences she had as a little girl growing up here in the Great Smoky Mountains. As we started to develop the area and she began telling stories — some we had heard and some we hadn't — we knew kids were going to love exploring the wilderness of Wildwood Grove she had dreamed up," said Craig Ross, president, The Dollywood Company. "The attractions included in this tremendous land were selected because they reminded her of those same dreams and memories she had from her childhood. The Golden Ticket for **BEST KIDS' AREA** reinforces what guests have been telling us since it opened; Wildwood Grove is a place where families can laugh, play and make memories together."

The former Golden Ticket holder — for an astounding 18

years — is **Kings Island** in a very strong No. 2 spot. The Ohio theme park has showcased the Golden Ticket on signage within the Planet Snoopy area.

Canada's Wonderland (No. 3) in Ontario finds itself on the charts in 2019. With more than 25 kids rides, including three family-friendly roller coasters, children are captivated for hours.



Familiar faces **Efteling** (No. 4) and Universal's Islands of Adventure (No. 5) complete the top five.

Best Dark Ride

A new winner surfaces for **BEST DARK RIDE**. Since its debut in 2001, the category has produced four different winners, with the latest being **Pirates of the Caribbean: Battle for the Sunken Treasure** at **Shanghai Disneyland**. Described by many industry professionals and observers as the world's greatest ride, the three-year-old attraction has swashbuckled to the top.

Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey — a five-year Golden Ticket winner — at Islands of Adventure holds the No. 2 spot.

Last year's winner, **Twilight Zone Tower of Terror** at **Disney Hollywood Studios** lists at third. **Disneyland's Indiana Jones and the Temple of the Forbidden Eye** (No. 4) and **Haunted Mansion** at **Knobels Amusement Resort** (No. 5) complete the finalists.



BEST WATER RIDE: Valhalla, Blackpool Pleasure Beach
COURTESY BLACK POOL PLEASURE BEACH

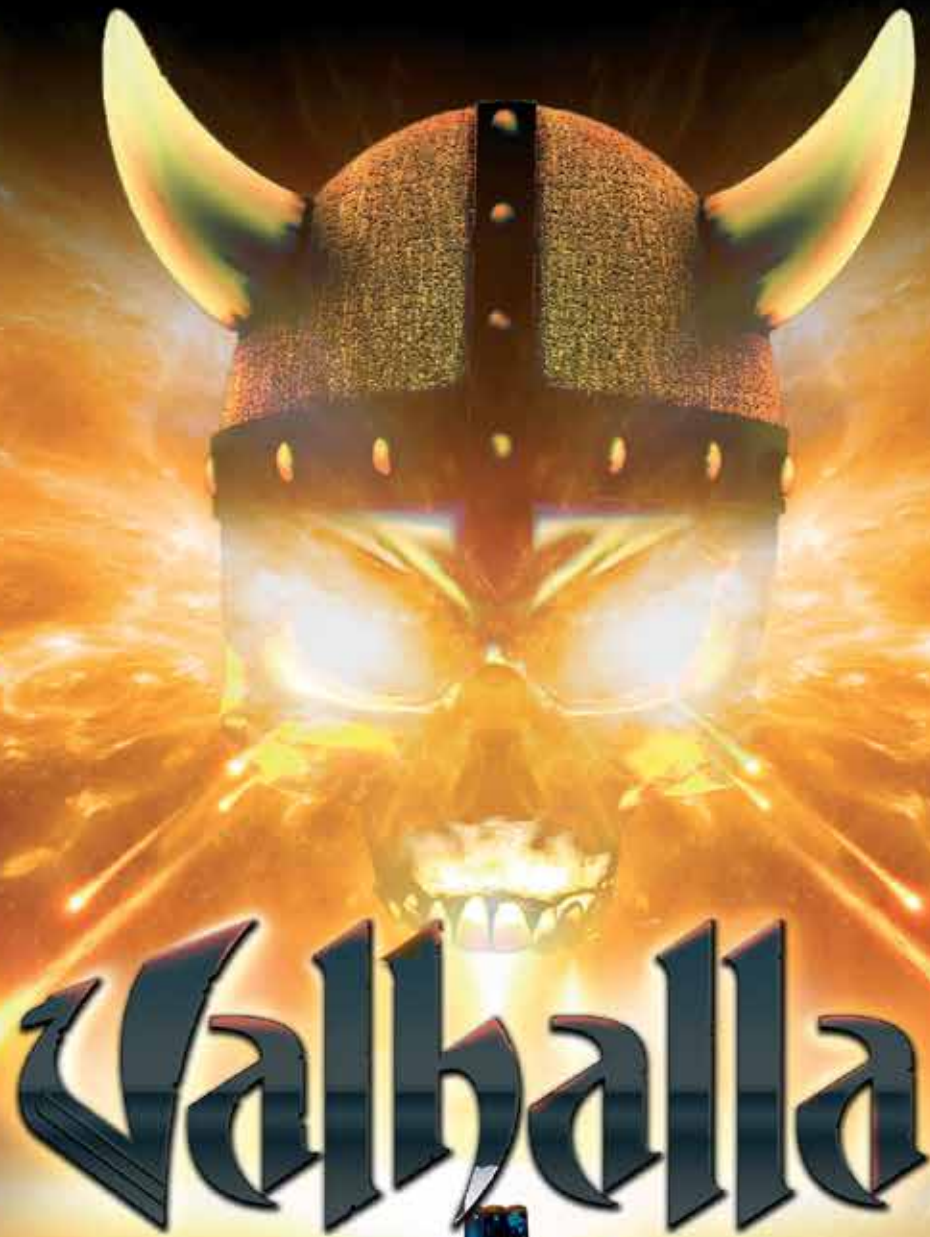


BEST KIDS AREA: Dollywood
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST WATER PARK RIDE: Wildebeest, Holiday World & Splashin' Safari
COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD

BLACKPOOL PLEASURE BEACH



**VOTED THE WORLD'S BEST WATER RIDE
for the 5TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR!**

THANKS TO AMUSEMENT TODAY FOR THIS FABULOUS AWARD

blackpoolpleasurebeach.com



HolidayWorld.com

Santa Claus, Ind.

Holiday World & Splashin' SAFARI®

The Water Coaster Capital of the World!

Wildebeest
#1 Water Park Ride

Mammoth
#3 Water Park Ride



CHEETAH CHASE

The World's First Launched Water Coaster

Coming Summer 2020!



Dollywood
PARKS & RESORTS



WILDWOOD GROVE

GOLDEN TICKET AWARD BEST KIDS' AREA



With 11 new exciting experiences, Wildwood Grove has something for explorers at every age to enjoy. Bring your family to the beautiful Smoky Mountains in East Tennessee!

Dollywood.com



VEKOMA RIDES CONGRATULATES DOLLYWOOD!

WINNER OF THE GOLDEN TICKET AWARD FOR BEST KIDS AREA 2019 WILDWOOD GROVE!



GALLEON 42



SAMBA TOWER



JUMP AROUND

CONGRATULATIONS



is a proud supplier of
3 rides for Dollywood,
winner of **BEST KIDS'
AREA IN A PARK**
at Golden Ticket
Awards 2019



INSTALLATIONS



RIDE TEAR-DOWN & RELOCATION



MAJOR PROJECTS



MECHANICAL WORK



Black Bear Trail @ Dollywood

Congratulations to Golden Ticket winner, Dollywood!

STAY GOLDEN

www.RideEntertainment.com
info@RideEntertainment.com

@RideEntertainment

INTAMIN



www.intamin.com



THANK YOU

to all our customers for their trust and continuous support.

Precision engineering empowers
you to reimagine reality.

Be Boundless.

By combining pure creative thinking and
a proven ability to deliver, WhiteWater can
help you bring your vision to life.

Visit us September 17th - 19th
at IAAPA Expo Europe in Paris at booth #2427
or visit whitewaterwest.com.



WHITEWATER.

Entertain the Possibilities

Best Innovation of 2019

One of *Amusement Today's* new categories brings in the industry voice. Manufacturers and suppliers, as well as industry journalists, evaluated nominees provided by professionals within amusement attractions.

Innovations introduced in the past year had the potential to boost revenue, increase safety, improve the guest experience or offer new products.

The Best Innovation of 2019 Golden Ticket Award showcases the continued progress in creating dynamic changes for the benefit of the amusement industry in all of its facets. The broad brushstrokes of the 2019 nominees demonstrate the ongoing effort to continually improve. *Amusement Today* applauds the accomplishments of the companies involved in making these great strides in innovation.



**Best Innovation of 2019:
Loose article storage and transfer system for Yukon Striker**
*Canada's Wonderland
(Vaughn, Ontario, Canada)*

Canada's Wonderland introduced a new loose article bin system at the station for the new dive coaster, Yukon Striker. There has been great interest among amusement parks in finding a system that is efficient and improves upon the guest experience, instead of making it an inconvenience.

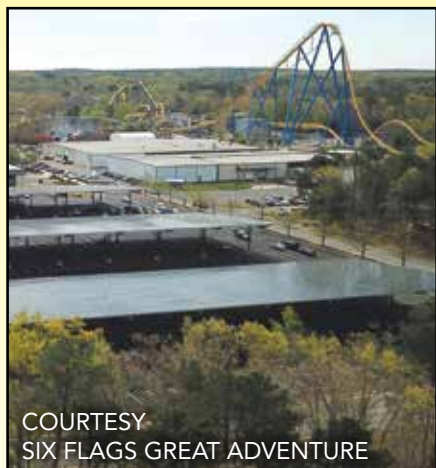
Other loose article storage systems involve lockers outside of the queue which force the guest to be without their phone or bag for the duration of their wait in line.

The park devised a conveyor system to provide the opportunity for guests to keep their belongings with them while in the queue. Their items are placed in the bins, which hang from the conveyor apparatus, before boarding. Items are carried up above the coaster track over to the exit on the other side, in time for riders' departure. This is all done securely, safely and all at no charge to the visitor.

There are two bins for large and small items. The cargo weight limit is 100 pounds for the large items, and 50 pounds for the smaller articles.



**BEST INNOVATION OF 2019:
Loose Article Storage (Yukon Striker),
Canada's Wonderland**
COURTESY CANADA'S WONDERLAND



COURTESY SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

**Best Innovation No. 2:
Solar Farm**

Six Flags Great Adventure (Jackson, N.J.)
Six Flags took innovation a step further by announcing Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey is now almost fully solar powered. The park partnered with KDC Solar LLC for the project, which is divided into two main components: 11 megawatts of solar carports distributed over three parking lots, and 12.5 megawatts of grounded solar panels across 40 acres of land. Many parks in the amusement industry are starting to consider green energy, but Great Adventure is ahead of the game.

After ten years in development, the project ranks the park as New Jersey's largest net metered solar project. More than just going green, the park addressed environmental concerns and preserved available forest and wetland areas by building the solar carports over Great Adventure's parking lot — 40 acres of ground-mounted panels. Conservationists for 45 years, the park has been faithful stewards of caring for 70 species of animals and has been a leader in recycling — more than 60 percent of its annual waste. Innovative thinking has turned the parking lot into an energy resource that provides 98 percent of the park's power needs virtually eliminating all reliance on harmful fossil fuels.



COURTESY INTAMIN

**Best Innovation No. 3:
Dueling Dragons**

Guangzhou Sunac Land (China)

This new coaster by Intamin features two trains. Its unique layout includes one suspended train and one traditional sit-down train. During the ride, they duel each other with several thrilling near-misses. The coaster uses Intamin's LSM drive system, and the trains are simultaneously launched forward into the loop. Stalling by gravity in the loop, the trains then move backward, picking up even more speed (from the same LSM system that launched them earlier) until they reach the crest of a 50-metre high vertical spike.

During the launch and the loop, the coaster trains share a track structure, with one riding along the top and the other the underside of the structure. This unique design opens the door for the possibilities of parks offering two coasters that share/intertwine their structures, saving on costs and adding to spectacle.

Urban Air's Immersive Reality Arena
Urban Air Southlake (Southlake, Texas)

Urban Air successfully launched the world's first Immersive Reality Arena featuring patented gaming engines and hardware products that allow guests, to literally "Get in the Game!" The equipment transports them inside a fully-surrounded, 360-degree digital environment where all arena walls and trampoline floors come to life with animated gameplay imagery and cinematic sound.

Free of AR headsets, players interact with gameplay stories and characters in real life and time. UA patent sensor technology and game engine created by the Urban Air Innovation Lab, allows for speed tracking of fast-moving players and physical flying objects. This mixed reality experience allows gamers a fun tactile experience by integrating their gameplay with UA Adventure Park.

Patented Urban Air Snap ActionBands, RFID collectable wearables, also incentivize guest spending by tracking players points which are later redeemed for fun prizes through the Urban Air "Gear Up! Game On!" guest loyalty rewards App.



COURTESY URBAN AIR

Lava Drifting (Spinning Rapids Ride)

Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park (Anhui Sheng, China), supplied by WhiteWater West

Lava Drifting, a Spinning Rapids Ride at Shanghai Haichang Ocean Park, China, is the world's first spinning rapids ride with actual rapid rivers. Depicting a volcano theme, the ride combines the spins and twists of an exhilarating river rapids journey with the oscillating movements and steep drop from the wings of a Manta and centrifugal spins.

The ride differentiates the classic Spinning Rapids Flume Ride experience by including conveyor lifts, rapid rivers, tunnels, multiple drops, and of course the famous dizzying spins. Flowing through the park and around other attractions with elevated river channels that lead into and out of the ride flume, the ride is spread across different elevation points, coming to a finale with a steep drop into the Manta and oscillating exit.

From an engineering perspective, the Spinning Rapids Ride is a technical showcase. This ride required a control system to manage the world's longest ride path with precision, safety and accuracy. The controls system integrates multi-zone control, advanced vehicle tracking and state-of-the-art safety elements. The patented spin technology of the water ride lends to its thrilling spinning motion that gets accentuated with the actual river rapids — a first for any Spinning Rapids Ride to deploy.

► See INNOVATIONS, page 50



COURTESY OCEAN PARK

Canada's Wonderland®
INNOVATION OF THE YEAR
Loose Article Storage System



cedarfair.com

► **INNOVATIONS**
Continued from page 48



COURTESY SEAWORLD SAN ANTONIO

Environmentally Based Filtration System
SeaWorld San Antonio (San Antonio, Texas)

Turtle Reef, SeaWorld San Antonio's new 126,000-gallon habitat for endangered and rescued sea turtles, was designed with an environmentally based recirculating filtration system that attracts wildlife, completes the ecology circle, reduces water and energy consumption, and enables the park to further its eco-friendly mission.

SeaWorld has some of the most advanced water purification infrastructures in the world built into the foundation of its parks and uses these systems to reclaim and recycle wastewater for reuse. At Turtle Reef, man-made seawater is filtered through a fabricated salt marsh grass wetland, similar to how water is filtered in the environment, and returned to the habitat.

The use of a constructed saltwater marsh to filter the exhibit is a unique example of a biodynamic habitat, using natural elements and processes in an organic way. The team ultimately hopes that the marshland will begin a new standard in animal habitat filtration methods.

Fluidized Sand Bed Furnace

Ralph S. Alberts/Alberts Spray Solutions

Ralph S. Alberts installed a fluidized sand bed furnace to remove degraded foam, paint and powder coating from metal frames that provide the internal structure for amusement park ride equipment, without the release of hazardous air pollutants or harmful emissions. Once the organic compounds are removed from the frame, it can be inspected for safety, recoated and refoamed.

Dramatically cutting turn-around times and reducing energy consumption, the furnace provides an environmental benefit with a clean blast and burn-off process.

The innovative upgrade earned the Pennsylvania's Department of Environmental Protection 2019 Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.

In addition to the reduced process time, the new unit increases efficiency by using an automated loading system. The system requires only one start up each day.

The new system saves energy by using quartz sand as a heating medium. Since sand is significantly denser than air, energy is transferred to the polyurethane quicker therefore, each part requires less time in the oven and is prepped for paint / powder coat within the same cycle.



COURTESY RALPH S. ALBERTS

Vantage

H2O Live (Orlando, Fla.)

With Vantage, for the very first time, operators have a single overview of how every facet of a park interconnects — not only driving operational efficiency but also improving guest satisfaction. Vantage gives operators insights into their guests along with real-time park data empowering strategic long-term planning.

At Island H2O Live!, guests use Vantage's mobile app and 11 in-park kiosks to create their own unique in-park experiences by seeing wait times (also displayed on the seven wait time signs), locating friends, viewing park maps, and choosing profile themes and music playlists to customize attractions. Guests can also earn Park Perks points when they ride slides which can be redeemed for prizes. Park and in-ride photos are also viewable in their profiles (app and kiosks) which can then be shared across their social media channels — Vantage uses an open architecture to integrate with other third-party vendors.

On the operation side, managers can see, in real-time, the park's current attendance, including total entrances and exits, dispatch rates, guest dispersal and dwell times, and queue times—all from the Operator's App on their mobiles or via the Operator's Portal on their desktops. Also, operators can view historical data to help better forecast and plan.



COURTESY H2O LIVE

The Zenith (hubless wheel)

Mega Parc (Quebec City, Quebec, Canada)

The Zenith, a 76-foot, hubless wheel at Mega Parc was supplied by Larson International. The concept of a hubless, spokeless wheel was developed by Jeff Novotny and Walter Larson as part a patent application process that dates back to 1999.

The ride features 24 gondolas (12 per side) and can hold a total of 96 passengers. However, in slower periods, the ride's unique design allows for the park to operate only one side during days when the demand is lower.

The unique hubless design allows for the park's Telegraph attraction (a Cloud Coaster from Extreme Engineering) to pass directly through it while the wheel is in operation. The gondolas also feature both solid and clear floors, allowing some riders an added view — and thrill — when looking down aboard the attraction.



COURTESY LARSON INTL.

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

Our Big ideas are your Golden Ticket!

V.I.P. AmusementTODAY GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS 2019 BEST OF THE

Congrats to the 2019 winners!

513.737.9012 • www.TheBigIdeaPeople.com
A Creative Services Company Serving the Amusement, Water Park & Support Industry for over 50 Years!

Fury 325 holds tight as Top Ten Steel Coasters twist and turn

Whether it be from an industry outsider or a park owner taking notes, there are some interesting observations to contemplate when analyzing the **BEST STEEL COASTER** charts.

On the chart listing the Top 25 favorites, only four were built prior to 2000. The list primarily showcases dynamic new designs built in the past two decades. Of the 25, only 10 go upside down. It is also noteworthy that only three in the Top Ten do not exceed at least 200 feet in height; 17 of the 25 coasters feature either a height or a drop of more than 200 feet.

Amusement Today had its biggest response in its 20-plus-year Golden Ticket Award history from the world's most experienced and well-traveled coaster fanatics. Avid fans have their criteria when rating the hundreds and hundreds of coasters ridden.

The top three remain unchanged from 2018, despite each of the three having its devoted following from hard-core fans. **Carowinds' Fury 325** retains its grip on the Golden Ticket Award at the top spot — 325 feet up to be exact.

"We are incredibly excited that Fury 325 has won best steel coaster in the world for the fourth consecutive year! It is truly humbling, but certainly reinforces what an unbelievably intense and exhilarating ride experience Fury 325 provides our guests year after year" said General Manager **Pat Jones**. "I personally believe it's the best steel coaster as well, but I know there are some truly remarkable new rides out there looking to make their mark."

Keeping their respective places at No. 2 and No. 3, **Cedar Point** has two distinctly different giants. **Millennium Force** focuses on speed and smooth transitions. **Steel Vengeance** is simply the wildest ride in the West. Not only can Cedar Point boast two steel coasters in the Top Ten, but also an astonishing five on

BEST STEEL COASTER, No. 1:
Fury 325, Carowinds
AT/GARY SLADE



the Top 25 chart. The park has become synonymous with towering, record-setting coasters.

From there, the list juggles a bit when compared to 2018. Switching places, **Six Flags New England** sees **Superman: The Ride** inching back up into the No. 4 position. **Expedition GeForce** at Germany's **Holiday Park** holds the highest rated international coaster at No. 5. Both of these, along with Millennium Force give **Intamin Amusement Rides** three of the top five steel coasters.

Twisted Colossus at **Six Flags Magic Mountain** takes the largest leap, jumping up an astounding number of positions over 2018 to the No. 6 spot. The intertwined, racing attraction delivers an unequaled coaster experience when the trains align just right. **Twisted Colossus** is a **Rocky Mountain Construction** (RMC) project, as is the No. 7 placeholder, **Iron Rattler** at

Six Flags Fiesta Texas (as well as the No. 3 **Steel Vengeance**). These RMC projects are the only steel coasters in the Top Ten to go upside down.

Bolliger & Mabillard (B&M) rounds out the rest of the Top Ten. Along with the Golden Ticket winner, B&M has massive steel favorites in the Nos. 8, 9 and 10 positions: **Apollo's Chariot** at **Busch Gardens Williamsburg**, **Leviathan** at **Canada's Wonderland**, and **Nitro** at **Six Flags Great Adventure**.

Both **Cedar Fair** and **Six Flags Theme Parks** have four contenders in the Top Ten.

The only newcomer to the Top 25 chart is **Steel Dragon 2000** (No. 24) at **Nagashima Spa Land** in Japan. A recent tour of that country found numerous enthusiasts adding the 318-foot coaster to their list of favorites. Currently, **Steel Dragon 2000** is the longest coaster in the world.



BEST STEEL COASTER, No. 2: Millennium Force, Cedar Point
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST STEEL COASTER, No. 3:
Steel Vengeance, Cedar Point
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST STEEL COASTER, No. 5:
Expedition GeForce, Holiday Park
AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT

Along with Expedition GeForce, Leviathan and Steel Dragon 2000, **Nemesis** (No. 16) at **Alton Towers**, **Taron** (No. 17) at **PhantasiaLand**, **Helix** (No. 19) at **Liseberg**, and **Blue Fire** at **Europa-Park** comprise the seven coasters on the Top 25 chart outside of the United States.

The oldest roller coaster on the chart is **Schwarzkopf's Mind Bender** (No. 25) at **Six Flags Over Georgia**. The long beloved looping coaster opened in 1978.

See the full Top 50 Steel Coasters at GoldenTicketAwards.com.

BEST STEEL COASTER, No. 6:
Twisted Colossus, Six Flags Magic Mountain
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST STEEL COASTER, No. 24:
Steel Dragon 2000, Nagishma Spa Land
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST STEEL COASTER, No. 4:
Superman: The Ride, Six Flags New England
AT/TIM BALDWIN

CONGRATULATIONS

Carowinds® and Fury 325®



cedarfair.com

THE LIST

2019 TOP 25 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	SUPPLIER	YEAR
1	Fury 325	Carowinds	Charlotte, N.C.	B&M	2015
2	Millennium Force	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Intamin	2000
3	Steel Vengeance	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Rocky Mountain	2018
4	Superman The Ride	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	Intamin	2000
5	Expedition GeForce	Holiday Park	Hassloch, Germany	Intamin	2001
6	Twisted Colossus	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	Rocky Mountain	2015
7	Iron Rattler	Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	Rocky Mountain	2013
8	Apollo's Chariot	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	B&M	1999
9	Leviathan	Canada's Wonderland	Vaughan, Ontario, Canada	B&M	2012
10	Nitro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	B&M	2001
11	Intimidator 305	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	Intamin	2010
12	Phantom's Revenge	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	Arrow/Morgan	2001
13	Maverick	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Intamin	2007
14	Diamondback	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	B&M	2009
15	Mako	SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	B&M	2016
16	Nemesis	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	B&M	1994
17	Taron	Phantasialand	Brühl, Germany	Intamin	2016
18	Magnum XL-200	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Arrow	1989
19	Helix	Liseberg	Gothenburg, Sweden	Mack	2014
20	Steel Dragon 2000	Nagashima Spa Land	Nagashima, Japan	Morgan	2000
21	Top Thrill Dragster	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Intamin	2003
22	Time Traveler	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	Mack	2018
23 tie	Blue Fire	Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	Mack	2009
23 tie	X2	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	Arrow	2002
25	Mind Bender	Six Flags Over Georgia	Austell, Ga.	Schwarzkopf	1978

View the Top 50 steel roller coasters at www.GoldenTicketAwards.com!

UKROPSTHEADS.COM WEB

The faces speak for themselves.

Ukrop's threads
Your image at work

Want your uniforms to have this effect? Contact us today! sales@ukropsthreads.com | 888.559.8988

RMC WE BUILD



208-772-8181 — WWW.ROCKYMTNCONSTRUCTION.COM

THE T-BOX™ TRACK IS COVERED BY US PATENTS 8590455 AND 9566527, AND BY FOREIGN PATENTS. TOPPER TRACK™ AND FOREIGN PATENTS PENDING.



Not all Control System Providers are Created Equal




- **Roller Coasters**
- **Flat Rides**
- **Water Slides & Rides**
- **Themed Attractions**
- **Challenge Courses**
- **Attractions Retrofits**
- **Professional Engineer Services**
- **Engineering Consulting**

When it comes to attraction control systems, you get what you pay for! Our upfront, all-inclusive pricing means no surprise extra fees and costs at your project's end. High-quality components and factory-tested panels assure superior performance. And the amusement industry is our passion: The IOE Team brings over fifty combined years of attraction experience and enthusiasm to your new or retrofit project.

We'd love to help make your project a success. Contact us today and bring the IOE difference to your attraction. IOE is the proud controls provider for Best New Rides: 2016, 2017 & 2018!

**Congrats
to the 2019
winners!**



Control Systems & Consulting for the Amusement Industry
brian@irvineondrey.com • www.irvineondrey.com • 734.353.0679

Phoenix still soars at No. 1, other woodies jockey for position

After the 2018 rise of **Knoebels' Phoenix** into Golden Ticket position for **BEST WOODEN COASTER**, the question remains: Can it stay? The answer is yes.

Phoenix, a Top Ten lister since the Golden Tickets started in 1998, had inched its way to the top spot over the past two decades. Lovingly maintained by the Knoebels clan, a legion of enthusiasts consider it the quintessential example of the pure thrills given by a wooden coaster.

"Earning this distinction two years in a row is an honor for which we feel appreciation beyond words. This is a testament to our team's dedication to maintaining this classic coaster," said **Dick Knoebel**, maestro behind the world-renowned Knoebels Amusement Resort. "When Phoenix was named Best Wooden Coaster in 2018, they knew their efforts had to continue to provide a great ride experience for generations to come."

Originally built in 1948 by Herb Schmeck of **Philadelphia Toboggan Co.**, the defunct woodie from **Playland Park** in San Antonio was carefully reborn in Pennsylvania, only to reach greater acclaim. It is one of seven wooden coasters on the list designated as an ACE Roller Coaster Landmark from **American Coaster Enthusiasts**.

Holiday World's Voyage (a creation of **The Gravity Group**) nudges its way back up to the No. 2 spot. Having received some track work in 2019, the wildly daring woodie is giving hang-on-for-dear-life voyages every operating day.

El Toro at **Six Flags Great Adventure** (No. 3) and **Boulder Dash** at **Lake Compounce** (No. 4) complete

a grouping of finalists that have all held the No. 1 spot at some point. Each of these demonstrate the initiative of going afield of typical thinking and forging into doing something noteworthy, even if each direction taken was down a different path.

That same ambition could be said of the No. 5 wooden coaster. The world record-holding **Beast** at **Kings Island** is legendary. The 7,359-foot-long backwoods monster is celebrating a 40th anniversary this season, and Kings Island has accented the ride and the surrounding area with memorable touches.

The biggest climb in 2019 was delivered by **GhostRider** at **Knott's Berry Farm** (No. 6). It's continued rise, attributed to **Cedar Fair** contracting with **Great Coasters International, Inc.** to rehaul the entire ride a few years back, has reinvigorated fans to fall in love with the ride once again. **GhostRider** surges into the Top Ten for the first time this year.

Two wooden coasters by **Rocky Mountain Construction** insert a pair of wicked layouts into the Top Ten. **Lightning Rod** at **Dollywood** and **Outlaw Run** at **Silver Dollar City** place at Nos. 7 and 8 respectively.

Ravine Flyer 2 at **Waldameer** (No. 9) makes it 11 years in a row in the Top Ten, while **Mystic Timbers** at Kings Island inches its way into that list of elite wooden coasters in the No. 10 spot this year. Kings Island is the only park to have two wooden coasters in the Top Ten.

In contrast to the steel charts, several wooden coasters were built prior to the new millennium — nine. The two oldest on the list date back to the 1920s, **Kennywood's Jack**

BEST WOODEN COASTER, No. 1:
Phoenix, Knoebels Amusement Resort
COURTESY KNOEBELS



BEST WOODEN COASTER, No. 6:
GhostRider, Knott's Berry Farm
COURTESY KEN RILING



BEST WOODEN COASTER, No. 3:
El Toro, Six Flags Great Adventure
AT/TIM BALDWIN

Rabbit (1920) and **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk's Giant Dipper** (1924).

Two wooden coasters not on the Top 25 chart last year appear this season, one returning and one for the first time. **The Comet** at **The Great Escape** (No. 19) is, like Phoenix, another success story of preservation. The Herb Schmeck woodie oper-

ated at **Crystal Beach** from 1948 until the park's closure in 1989. The Comet regained new life in 1994 under the same name in New York. **Valleyfair's Renegade** (from Great Coasters International), often surprising well-travelled enthusiasts as being an undiscovered gem, finally enters the chart at No. 24.

Four wooden coasters

outside the United States roar into the limelight of the charts. **Balder** (No. 13), an Intamin creation along with **El Toro**, is a fan favorite at **Liseberg**. **Wildfire** at **Kolmården** (No. 16), **Wodan** at **Europa-Park** (No. 23) and **Troy** at **Toverland** (No. 25) all have worldwide appeal.

See the Top 50 at GoldenTicketAwards.com.



BEST WOODEN COASTER, No. 2:
The Voyage, Holiday World
AT/TIM BALDWIN



BEST WOODEN COASTER, No. 4:
Boulder Dash, Lake Compounce
COURTESY ALLEN REID



BEST WOODEN COASTER, No. 5:
The Beast, Kings Island
AT FILE



For all ages, for all times.



Thank You Amusement Today & Golden Ticket Voters.
Congratulations to all Golden Ticket Winners.
Your dedication to excellence inspires us all to
serve our guests only the best!



391 Knoebels Boulevard (Rt. 487), Elysburg, PA 17824
800-ITS-4FUN | knoebels.com



FREE Admission • FREE Parking • FREE Entertainment • FREE Picnic Facilities

Five of the Top 10 Wooden Coasters feature PTCI Trains

#1



**"Congratulations
Knoebels Amusement Resort
on winning
BEST WOODEN COASTER
for the
Second Consecutive Year!"**



#2



#4



#5



#9



PHILADELPHIA TOBOGGAN COASTERS, Inc.

3195 PENN AVE • HATFIELD, PA 19440 • TEL (215) 799-2155 • FAX (215) 799-2158
www.philadelphiatoboggancoastersinc.com

THE LIST

2019 TOP 25 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	SUPPLIER	YEAR
1	Phoenix	Knoebels	Elysburg, Pa.	Dinn-PTC/Schmeck	1985
2	Voyage	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	The Gravity Group	2006
3	El Toro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	Intamin	2006
4	BoulderDash	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Conn.	Custom Coasters	2000
5	Beast	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	KECO	1979
6	GhostRider	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	Custom Coasters/ Great Coasters Intl.	1998
7	Lightning Rod	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	Rocky Mountain	2016
8	Outlaw Run	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	Rocky Mountain	2013
9	Ravine Flyer II	Waldameer	Erie, Pa.	The Gravity Group	2008
10	Mystic Timbers	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	Great Coasters Intl.	2017
11	Thunderhead	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	Great Coasters Intl.	2004
12	Gold Striker	California's Great America	Santa Clara, Calif.	Great Coasters Intl.	2013
13	Balder	Liseberg	Gothenburg, Sweden	Intamin	2003
14	Lightning Racer	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	Great Coasters Intl.	2000
15	Shivering Timbers	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Mich.	Custom Coasters	1998
16	Wildfire	Kolmården	Norrköping, Sweden	Rocky Mountain	2016
17	Giant Dipper	Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	Prior & Church/Looff	1924
18	Thunderbolt	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	Vettel/Miller	1968
19	Comet	The Great Escape	Lake George, N.Y.	PTC/Schmeck	1994
20	Jack Rabbit	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	Miller	1920
21	Raven	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	Custom Coasters	1995
22	White Lightning	Fun Spot	Orlando, Fla.	Great Coasters Intl.	2013
23	Wodan	Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	Great Coasters Intl.	2012
24	Renegade	Valleyfair	Shakopee, Minn.	Great Coasters Intl.	2007
25	Troy	Toverland	Sevenum, Netherlands	Great Coasters Intl.	2007

View the Top 50 wooden roller coasters at www.GoldenTicketAwards.com!

**INTERNATIONAL
RIDE TRAINING
CONGRATULATES THE 2019
GOLDEN TICKET
AWARD WINNERS!**



**International Ride
Operator Certification**

FEBRUARY 4-7 2020

**The PARK at OWA
FOLEY ALABAMA**



25 YEARS OF GREAT COASTERS INTERNATIONAL: WHAT A RIDE.

This year, we at Great Coasters International are celebrating our company's 25th anniversary. It's been a quarter of a century building up-and-down roller coasters. These 25 years proved to us that only going up can be fun, also. For that, we would like to thank everyone who supported our journey.

We are looking forward to taking many more rides with you.

Contact:

Headoffice: Great Coasters International, 2627 State Route 890, Sunbury, PA 17801, USA

Sales Office Europe: Günter Engelhardt GmbH, Bischofsholer Damm 77, D-30173 Hannover, Germany

www.greatcoasters.com



YOU MADE THE THRILL!

Thank You, Voters, For Making Boulder Dash One Of The Best Wooden Coasters In The World.



Congrats To Every Golden Ticket Winner!

Coming in 2020!
6 Lane Rally Racer Water Slide

Plus Whirlwind Family Coaster

Ranked...

- 9th Best Wooden Roller Coaster Ravine Flyer II by Amusement Today
- 9th Oldest continuously running Amusement Park in the USA
- 9th Top Water Park by Trip Advisor
- 6th Best Amusement Park Value by Consumers Digest

Waldameer Water World

Visit Waldameer.com

AmusementTODAY
V.I.P. GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS™
2019
#9 WOOD COASTER - RAVINE FLYER II

Congratulations to all the Golden Ticket Nominees!

Thank you to Silverwood Theme Park and Rocky Mountain Construction for hosting the 2019 Golden Tickets!

ALLIED
SPECIALTY INSURANCE

Masters in the art of insuring amusement risks.

Serving the amusement industry since 1983.
www.alliedspecialty.com

Insurance policies are administered by Allied Specialty insurance, Inc. (in California dba Allied Specialty Insurance Agency License No. 0748144). Allied Specialty Insurance is a trademark of AXA SA or its affiliates. AXA XL is a division of AXA Group providing products and services through four business groups: AXA XL Insurance, AXA XL Reinsurance, AXA XL Art & Lifestyle and AXA XL Risk Consulting. Coverages are underwritten by the following AXA XL insurance companies: Greenwich Insurance Company, Indian Harbor Insurance Company, XL Insurance America, Inc., XL Specialty Insurance Company and T.H.E. Insurance Company. Not all of the insurers do business in all jurisdictions nor is coverage available in all jurisdictions.

AmusementTODAY
V.I.P. GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS™
2019
BEST OF THE BEST!



NEW
TURTLE REEF

CONGRATULATIONS
GOLDEN TICKET WINNER!

We are excited to see you in 2020 at SeaWorld San Antonio,
the World's Largest Marine Life Park!

V.I.P. AmusementTODAY
GOLDEN TICKET AWARDS™ 2020
BEST OF THE BEST!



Presented By



Amusement TODAY

Your Amusement Industry NEWS Leader



Thank You for supporting Amusement Today and the Golden Ticket Awards for over 20 years!



The Industry News Leader!

- 14 print issues per year!
- Read by over 9,000 industry creatives!
- 3,500 email subscribers!
- Over 14,000 social media followers!



(817) 460-7220 • www.AmusementToday.com