Vol. 16 • Issue 6.2 **SEPTEMBER 2012** 

### Dollywood hosts Golden Ticket event for second time



### Dollywood

#### Host Park • 2012 Golden Ticket Awards • September 7 & 8, 2012

PIGEON FORGE, Tenn. — "Going for the gold" has such an Olympic connotation, and in this Olympic year, those that were avidly riveted to the worldwide competition can easily draw some comparisons between the Games and the Golden Ticket Awards. Everyone involved would love to take the gold, but sometimes the competition is exceptionally fierce. Witness Michael Phelps and Usain Bolt. A few of Amusement Today's categories seem to contain finalists that maintain a similar tight lock.

The 2012 Summer Olympics also had tales of redemption. Many of this year's athletes competed in the Games in Beijing (2008) and went home with no medals, only to return in London to rise to take gold. In 2007, **Dollywood** hosted the Golden Ticket Awards, yet were without a single win in any of the categories.

This year as Amusement Today returns to Dollywood, the park finds itself on the podium with Phelps-like adrenaline, collecting more Golden Tickets this year than any other park. Last year, the park finished as finalists in more categories than any other competitors, but an astounding five Golden Tickets were claimed in 2012, which ties a record for these awards.

It is also worth noting that viewers of the

Olympics got caught up in many touching stories. As those that watched got drawn into the personal lives of these athletes, it was easy to cheer for them, but also be curiously baffled when watching those that were tragically tearful to collect "only" a silver medal. On the flipside, it was encouraging to see those athletes who tried so hard just to get on the medal stand to simply receive a bronze and be amazingly proud to do so. Likewise, while it is reasonable for parks to strive for their best and fall slightly short of the Golden Ticket, just to rank among the finalists in the Golden Ticket Awards is an amazing accomplishment. The competition around the world is nothing short of intimidating. There is so much good product and amazing parks in AT's Golden Ticket categories, to stand among those rated "The Best of the Best" is a monumental feat indeed. Congratulations are due for each and every finalist in all 25 of our categories and four Publisher's Picks.

The Golden Ticket Awards are often called the "Oscars" of the amusement industry. Perhaps they are much like the People's Choice Awards. But in many ways, the competition is like the Olympic Games as well. Enjoy the fanfare.

— Tim Baldwin

Amusement Today hands out 29 Golden Tickets during ceremony





Dollywood's beautiful park setting and authentic Dollywood Express steam train are but a few of the highlights enjoyed by 2013 Golden Ticket attendees. The Tennessee park picked up a record five Golden Tickets during the two-day event. COURTESY DOLLYWOOD

## **NEWSPAPER**

STMASTER: Dated material. EASE RUSH! siled Monday Sept. 10, 2012

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**SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2013** 



### **NEWSTALK**



AT CONTACTS

**CARTOON OPINIONS** 

**EDITORIAL:** Gary Slade, gslade@amusementtoday.com

### GTA event is for you



Slade

When Amusement Today started the Golden Ticket Awards in 1998, we did it as a way to honor those parks and facilities who were doing a great job.

Long before that first "live" ceremony started at Holiday World, AT still awarded the parks with their winning Golden

Ticket bricks. Some were sent in the mail while the very first bricks to be hand delivered were by former AT staffer Randy Duffer, who hand-delivered winning Golden Tickets to Dick Knoebel, Knoebel's Amusement Resort.

2012 marks the 15th year of the awards and what I am most proud of is that the awards ceremony has given all of us in the amusement industry a reason to get together at the end of the long, hard summer grind.

Sure, the awards are fun for our industry winners, but I must confess that I now enjoy the visitation time with the parks and suppliers during the GTA event.

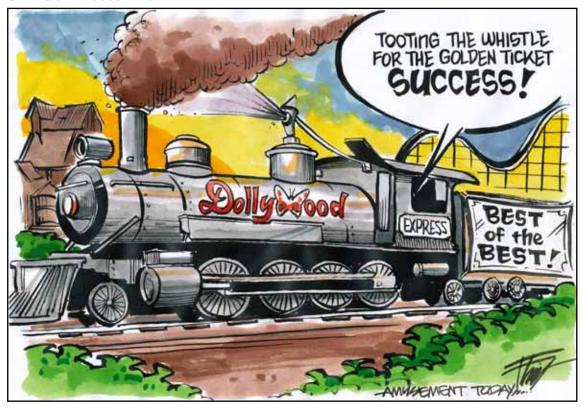
With that said, we have worked hard to keep the program new and fresh each year with different tours and items on the agenda. I think this year's program is another example as we have cut time on the rides, in order to give more exclusive time in two indoor attractions at Dollywood. The National Roller Coaster Museum has its first-ever exhibition of coaster and park history on display and Chasing Rainbows at the Dolly Parton Museum gives time to view all the history and collections on display of the Nashville recording artist fame.

Next year we take our event to the lovely Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, where much of the agenda is already in place. Again, we have some unique tours and events on the agenda. The dates are set for September 6 & 7, 2013, so add this to your calendar and plan to join us!

As we move forward, AT has locked in parks for both the 2014 and 2015 awards. If anyone has ideas or suggestions for something you want to see added to the event agenda, please let us know. After all, the annual Golden Ticket Awards event is for you, the amusement industry professional.

—Gary Slade

**CARTOON:** Bubba Flint



**LETTERS** 

EDITORIAL: Tim Baldwin, tbaldwin@amusementtoday.com

### Hunches



Each year as I tabulate the Golden Ticket Awards I always have a hunch of what might take the No. 1 spot for Best New Ride. There is always strong competition, but I usually have a gut feeling of which way it could go.

This year, however, the playing field was much more competitive than ever. It was certainly an impressive year for B&M. What with introducing their new wing coasters to the U.S., breaking the 300-foot barrier for the first time, building the tallest coaster in Europe, and after a five-year absence, unleashing their newest inverted coaster (their most prolific product) to rave reviews with the European audience — clearly a competitive year just among its own installations. Throw in one of Disney's most thematic and innovative attractions and the competition gets even more elevated. Then add creative launched coasters, a new woodie at the virtually perfect park, immersive dark rides, the world's tallest drop ride and so much more...2012 had a "wow factor"

like never before.

Getting voters to take notice is part of the battle. Savvy marketing, enthusiast events, group tours...it all brings exposure to what parks hope will bring them particular notice to

This year marked the advancement of allowing our panel of experts to vote online for the first time. While this had numerous benefits, it took a little bit of the "nail biting" races out of my hands. Most of the categories had tabulations done electronically, so the ballot-by-ballot tabulation was consolidated into survey end results. We could take a look at certain intervals to see how voting was going, but for a year in which I didn't have a strong hunch for Best New Ride, the down-to-the-wire counting was mostly gone, taking away my delicious moments of suspense. As it turns out, congratulations go to Dollywood for flying above the stiff competi-

As 2013 announcements are starting to surface, I'm already getting hunches for next year. Let the speculation — and the fun — begin.

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### Our panel of experts

Since Amusement Today introduced the Golden Ticket Awards in 1998, we continue to seek out the most experienced park enthusiasts to participate in our survey. AT follows a fair and balanced protocol of dividing our ballots between four geographical regions (see color map at right) of the United States. In addition to the hundreds of surveys sent to American enthusiasts, international fans are also sought out and we invite such fans to contact us for participation in future years. Amusement Today thanks the hundreds of voters who helped form this year's panel of experts and make the 2012 Golden Ticket Awards a reality.

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

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



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### Excellence is acknowledged in 2012 Park Winners

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

There is often speculation that long-time winners just can't be beat. We've seen over the years that this is not necessarily true, but the strengths of our park winners do give testimony to the excellent components that help them take the Golden Ticket. Cedar Point has an unbroken streak of winning our **BEST** PARK category for 15 years in a row. The huge selection of rides, the world class roller coaster collection, the Great Lakes setting and resort hotels — it certainly sets the park up for being tough to beat.

Change is really evident in our other finalists. Europa-Park has inched its way not



only into the finalists, but a bit higher year after year. After nudging up to third place last year, the German park's spectacular offerings have helped it climb one more notch into the No. 2 spot for 2012. Likewise, **Dollywood** had moved up one place to take the No. 3 position.

Knoebels (No. 4) and Disneyland (No. 5) continue to stay in the top five this year. Our voters have placed **Busch** Gardens Williamsburg up a notch to No. 6, while the ▶ See PARKS, page 6



Cedar Point's record breaking rides and diverse resort entertainment has swept the category of Best Park for 15 years. COURTESY CEDAR POINT/DAN FEICHT

Galveston Island Pleasure Pier



### **Park and Ride Winners**

Ranked by percentage of votes cast

#### **BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2012 (Amusement Park)**

| Wild Eagle              | Dollywood                   | 30%      |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|----------|
| Radiator Springs Racers | Disney California Adventure | 15%      |
| Leviathan               | Canada's Wonderland         | 14%      |
| Verbolten               | Busch Gardens Williamsburg  | 7%       |
| Ozlris                  | Parc Astérix                | 6% (tie) |
| Skyrush                 | Hersheypark                 | 6% (tie) |

| Cedar Point Europa-Park Dollywood Knoebels Amusement Resort Disneyland                                      | Sandusky, Ohio<br>Rust, Germany<br>Pigeon Forge, Tenn.<br>Elysburg, Pa.<br>Anaheim, Calif.                                  | 21%<br>14%<br>13.5%<br>9%<br>8%                |  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--|
| Busch Gardens Williamsburg                                                                                  | Williamsburg, Va.<br>Orlando, Fla.                                                                                          | 7%                                             |  |
| Magic Kingdom Universal's Islands of Adventure Tokyo DisneySea Pleasure Beach, Blackpool                    | Orlando, Fia.<br>Orlando, Fla.<br>Tokyo, Japan<br>Blackpool, England                                                        | 6% (tie)<br>6% (tie)<br>4.5%<br>4%             |  |
| BEST WATERPARK                                                                                              |                                                                                                                             |                                                |  |
| Schlitterbahn<br>Splashin' Safari<br>Blizzard Beach<br>Dollywood's Splash Country<br>Aquatica<br>Noah's Ark | New Braunfels, Texas<br>Santa Claus, Ind.<br>Orlando, Fla.<br>Pigeon Forge, Tenn.<br>Orlando, Fla.<br>Wisconsin Dells, Wis. | 53%<br>15%<br>7%<br>6%<br>5% (tie)<br>5% (tie) |  |
| BEST CHILDREN'S PARK                                                                                        |                                                                                                                             |                                                |  |
| BEST CHIL                                                                                                   | .DREN'S PARK                                                                                                                |                                                |  |

| BEST PARK                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                             |  |  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Cedar Point Europa-Park Dollywood Knoebels Amusement Resort Disneyland Busch Gardens Williamsburg Magic Kingdom Universal's Islands of Adventure Tokyo DisneySea Pleasure Beach, Blackpool | Sandusky, Ohio<br>Rust, Germany<br>Pigeon Forge, Tenn.<br>Elysburg, Pa.<br>Anaheim, Calif.<br>Williamsburg, Va.<br>Orlando, Fla.<br>Orlando, Fla.<br>Tokyo, Japan<br>Blackpool, England | 21%<br>14%<br>13.5%<br>9%<br>8%<br>7%<br>6% (tie)<br>6% (tie)<br>4.5%<br>4% |  |  |
| BEST WATERPARK Schlitterbahn New Braunfels, Texas 53% Splashin' Safari Santa Claus, Ind. 15%                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                             |  |  |
| Schlitterbahn<br>Splashin' Safari<br>Blizzard Beach<br>Dollywood's Splash Country<br>Aquatica<br>Noah's Ark                                                                                | Santa Claus, Ind.                                                                                                                                                                       | 15%                                                                         |  |  |
| BEST CHILD                                                                                                                                                                                 | REN'S PARK                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                             |  |  |
| Idlewild & SoakZone<br>Legoland California<br>Fårup Sommerland<br>Legoland Florida<br>Sesame Place                                                                                         | Ligonier, Pa.<br>Carlsbad, Calif.<br>Saltum, Denmark<br>Winter Haven, Fla.<br>Langhorne, Pa.                                                                                            | 31%<br>18%<br>12%<br>7%<br>6%                                               |  |  |
| BEST MARIN                                                                                                                                                                                 | IE LIFE PARK                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                             |  |  |
| SeaWorld Orlando<br>SeaWorld San Diego<br>SeaWorld San Antonio<br>Six Flags Discovery Kingdom<br>Discovery Cove                                                                            | Orlando, Fla.<br>San Diego, Calif.<br>San Antonio, Texas<br>Vallejo, Calif.<br>Orlando, Fla.                                                                                            | 55%<br>11%<br>10%<br>8%<br>6%                                               |  |  |

#### BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2012(Waterpark)

| Mammoth               | Splashin' Safari               | 54%      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| King Kaw Rapids River | Schlitterbahn Kansas City      | 11%      |
| King Cobra            | Six Flags Hurricane Harbor (N. | J.) 7%   |
| The Lost City         | Mount Olympus Theme Park       | 4% (tie) |
| Walhalla Wave         | Aquatica (San Antonio)         | 4% (tie) |

#### **BEST SEASIDE PARK** Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk Santa Cruz, Calif. 34% Pleasure Beach, Blackpool Blackpool, England 20% Gröna Lund Stockholm, Sweden 19% Morey's Piers Wildwood, N.J. 16%

Galveston, Texas

4%

#### **BEST INDOOR WATERPARK** Galveston, Texas 33% Schlitterbahn Galveston Island Kalahari Resort 18% Sandusky, Ohio Wisconsin Dells, Wis. 17% Kalahari Resort World Waterpark Edmonton, Alberta, Canada 12% Splash Landings Staffordshire, England 8%

| BEST KIDS' AREA                  |                              |     |  |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|--|
| Kings Island                     | Mason, Ohio                  | 31% |  |
| Universal's Islands of Adventure | Orlando, Fla.                | 15% |  |
| Nickelodeaon Universe            | Bloomington, Minn.           | 13% |  |
| Efteling                         | Kaatsheuvel, the Netherlands | 9%  |  |
| Knott's Berry Farm               | Buena Park, Calif.           | 6%  |  |
| CI FANEST PARK                   |                              |     |  |

| CLEANEST PARK              |                     |     |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----|--|
| Holiday World              | Santa Claus, Ind.   | 29% |  |
| Dollywood                  | Pigeon Forge, Tenn. | 16% |  |
| Busch Gardens Williamsburg | Williamsburg, Va.   | 14% |  |
| Disneyland                 | Anaheim, Calif.     | 13% |  |
| Magic Kingdom              | Orlando, Fla.       | 8%  |  |
|                            |                     |     |  |

| RE21 2HOM2                 |                     |     |  |
|----------------------------|---------------------|-----|--|
| Dollywood                  | Pigeon Forge, Tenn. | 45% |  |
| Six Flags Fiesta Texas     | San Antonio, Texas  | 15% |  |
| Disney's Hollywood Studios | Orlando, Fla.       | 8%  |  |
| Silver Dollar City         | Branson, Mo.        | 7%  |  |
| SeaWorld Orlando           | Orlando, Fla.       | 6%  |  |
|                            |                     |     |  |





**BEST LANDSCAPING** 

From its signature Master Blaster to its Torrent River and beyond, Schlitterbahn's (left) unique flare and setting keeps the 2012 Golden Ticket for Best Waterpark. Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk (right) multiple winner as Best Seaside Park and winner again in 2012 will host the Golden Ticket Awards on Sept. 6 & 7, 2013. AT/TIM BALDWIN

### Park and Ride Winners

Ranked by percentage of votes cast

42%

17%

13%

11%

10%

Busch Gardens Williamsburg



36%

Williamsburg, Va.

| BEST                                                                                                                                                                       | FOOD                                                                                                                                       |                                                |  |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Dollywood<br>Knoebels Amusement Resort<br>Epcot<br>Silver Dollar City<br>Busch Gardens Williamsburg                                                                        | Pigeon Forge, Tenn.<br>Elysburg, Pa.<br>Orlando, Fla.<br>Branson, Mo.<br>Williamsburg, Va.                                                 | 27%<br>20%<br>18%<br>13%<br>6%                 |  |  |
| BEST WATER                                                                                                                                                                 | RIDE (PARK)                                                                                                                                |                                                |  |  |
| Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls<br>Valhalla<br>Splash Mountain<br>Mountain Slidewinder<br>Pilgrim's Plunge                                                                  | Universal's Islands of Adventur<br>Pleasure Beach, Blackpool<br>Magic Kingdom<br>Dollywood<br>Holiday World                                | re 26%<br>17%<br>11%<br>10%<br>8%              |  |  |
| BEST WATE                                                                                                                                                                  | RPARK RIDE                                                                                                                                 |                                                |  |  |
| Wildebeest Master Blaster The Falls Congo River Expedition Zoombabwe                                                                                                       | Splashin' Safari<br>Schlitterbahn<br>Schlitterbahn<br>Schlitterbahn<br>Splashin' Safari                                                    | 26%<br>23%<br>12%<br>7%<br>5%                  |  |  |
| FRIENDLIEST PARK                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                            |                                                |  |  |
| Dollywood<br>Holiday World<br>Silver Dollar City<br>Knoebels Amusement Resort<br>Beech Bend<br>Magic Kingdom                                                               | Orlando, Fla.                                                                                                                              | 46%<br>25%<br>7%<br>6%<br>4% (tie)<br>4% (tie) |  |  |
| BEST DA                                                                                                                                                                    | ARK RIDE                                                                                                                                   |                                                |  |  |
| Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey<br>Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man<br>Twilight Zone Tower of Terror<br>Haunted Mansion<br>Indiana JonesTemple of the Forbidden Eye | Universal's Islands of Adventur<br>Universal's Islands of Adventu<br>Disney's Hollywood Studios<br>Knoebels Amusement Resort<br>Disneyland |                                                |  |  |
| BEST OUTDOOR SI                                                                                                                                                            | HOW PRODUCTION                                                                                                                             |                                                |  |  |

Orlando, Fla.

Orlando, Fla.

Orlando, Fla.

Anaheim, Calif.

San Antonio, Texas

**Epcot** 

Disney California Adventure

Disney's Hollywood Studios

Six Flags Fiesta Texas

Magic Kingdom

| Gilroy Gardens Efteling Dollywood Tivoli Gardens                                                                                                 | Gilfroy Calif. Kaatsheuvel, the Netherland Orlando, Fla. Copenhagen, Denmark                                        | 13.5%<br>s 13%<br>8%<br>7%                  |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                  | WEEN EVENT                                                                                                          | 7 70                                        |
| Universal Orlando Resort<br>Knott's Berry Farm<br>Knoebels Amusement Resort<br>Kennywood<br>Busch Gardens Williamsburg                           | Orlando, Fla.<br>Buena Park, Calif.<br>Elysburg, Pa.<br>West Mifflin, Pa.<br>Williamsburg, Va.                      | 35%<br>26%<br>13%<br>11%<br>4%              |
|                                                                                                                                                  | TMAS EVENT                                                                                                          |                                             |
| Dollywood<br>Disneyland<br>Magic Kingdom<br>Silver Dollar City<br>Busch Gardens Williamsburg                                                     | Pigeon Forge, Tenn.<br>Anaheim, Calif.<br>Orlando, Fla.<br>Branson, Mo.<br>Williamsburg, Va.                        | 33%<br>13%<br>10% (tie)<br>10% (tie)<br>4%  |
| BEST CA                                                                                                                                          | ROUSEL                                                                                                              |                                             |
| Knoebels Amusement Resort<br>Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk<br>Six Flags Over Georgia<br>Six Flags Great America<br>Universal's Islands of Adventure | Elysburg, Pa.<br>Santa Cruz, Calif.<br>Austell, Ga<br>Gurnee, Ill.<br>Orlando, Fla.                                 | 44%<br>18%<br>8%<br>7%<br>6%                |
| BEST INDOO                                                                                                                                       | OR COASTER                                                                                                          |                                             |
| Revenge of the Mummy<br>Space Mountain<br>Black Diamond<br>Rock 'n' Roller Coaster<br>Space Mountain                                             | Universal Studios Orlando<br>Disneyland<br>Knoebels Amusement Resort<br>Disney's Hollywood Studios<br>Magic Kingdom | 30%<br>16%<br>10%<br>9%<br>8.5%             |
| BEST FUNHOUSE/WALK                                                                                                                               | THROUGH ATTRACTION                                                                                                  |                                             |
| Noah's Ark<br>Frankenstein's Castle<br>Lustiga Huset<br>Gasten Ghost Hotel<br>Ghost Ship                                                         | Kennywood<br>Indiana Beach<br>Gröna Lund<br>Liseberg<br>Morey's Piers                                               | 30%<br>25%<br>14%<br>12% (tie)<br>12% (tie) |

#### **▶PARKS**

Continued from page 4

Magic Kingdom in Orlando jumps right onto the charts in the No. 7 spot — an impressive new appearance. Universal's Islands of Adventure, Tokyo DisneySea and Pleasure Beach, Blackpool fill in the final top 10 spots, respectively.

**BEST WATERPARK** has an equally solid leader with Schlitterbahn, the New Braunfels original that could easily be considered the most innovative of all waterparks. Introducing the uphill water coaster, originating the Torrent Tidal River and theming up water attractions, not to mention innovating the amount of time guests stay in the water with their sheer miles — nearly four! — of tube chutes, Schlitterbahn has been an obvious pioneer in the industry, all within its shaded riverside setting.

**Splashin' Safari** has guarded its No. 2 spot, and has been unable to be shaken in years past. The thriving waterpark in Santa Claus, Indiana, has built some attractions of giant proportions in the last decade, and its most recent two water coasters are ground-breakers in their own right and deserve every accolade received.

Blizzard Beach keeps its No. 3 spot for its thematic whimsy and imaginative ambience. No other waterpark can give a first impression quite like this Orlando legend. Two new faces enter our finalist arena — Dollywood's Splash Country sees a first time appearance at No. 4 and Aquatica in Orlando ties for fifth place with long-standing Noah's Ark in Wisconsin Dells.

The folks at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk take their Golden Ticket for BEST SEA-SIDE PARK seriously, particular with a whisker-thin win in 2011. Voters retaliated in support this year and the park found a more comfortable margin for its category victory. Attendees at the 2013 Golden Tickets will be sure to enjoy all the fun and character of this Pacific gem as the park will host AT's award ceremony next year.

"At the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, we've found the goal of winning the Golden Ticket Award a very motivating training tool and morale

booster," says Marq Lipton, vice president of marketing and sales for the Boardwalk. "The award is discussed in employee orientations and trainings, and it adds pride and excitement to our biannual company meetings. Many of our seasonal employees are local teens who see the Boardwalk as 'just' their local park. Understanding that our park is recognized nationally and internationally is an eye-opener for many of them."

Other finalists include two international treasures — Pleasure Beach, Blackpool (No. 2), and Sweden's Gröna Lund climbing up to No. 3. Morey's Piers (No. 4) dominates the Atlantic Ocean for the States and a new player, Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier completes the top five. This new kid on the block has the ironic twist of knocking sister property Kemah Boardwalk off the finalist podium.

MARINE LIFE BEST PARK is a virtual competition amongst the SeaWorld properties. SeaWorld Orlando maintains its hold of the Golden Ticket in 2012, but sister park SeaWorld San Diego moves up a notch, fueled by its fantastic new Manta attraction. SeaWorld San Antonio takes the No. 3 spot this year, while Six Flags Discovery Kingdom bumps up to No. 4, the only player outside the Busch family. Discovery Cove comes in at No. 5.

Idlewild & SoakZone keeps the title of BEST CHIL-**DREN'S PARK** for a third year in a row, a distinction they are pleased to market to their southwestern Pennyslvania audience. Legoland California holds its No. 2 spot. as does Fårup Sommerland in Denmark in third place. New to the finalists is the recently opened Legoland Florida. This Winter Haven themer has given a new life and entirely different direction for the beautiful property once known as Cypress Gardens. Sesame Place in Langhorne, Penn. is a new face, once again returning to the charts for the first time since 2008.

The category of **BEST IN- DOOR WATERPARK** remains unchanged from 2011 with **Schlitterbahn Galveston Island** holding on to the Golden Ticket. Once again the two **Kalahari Resorts** battle it





Taking home the 2012
Golden Ticket, all as repeat
winners, were from top to
bottom: Idlewild & SoakZone as Best Children's
Park, SeaWorld Orlando,
Best Marine Life Park; and
Schlitterbahn Galveston
Island, Best Indoor
Waterpark.
AT/TIM BALDWIN

out for second and third with Sandusky taking Place and Wisconsin Dells taking Show. Two international properties complete our top five — World Waterpark in Alberta, Canada and Splash Landings at the Alton Towers Hotel in England, respectively.

With the right acknowledgement, placing in these categories can have an impact on everyone involved. Marq Lipton of Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk adds, "Winning the award is a tangible company goal, and helps all employees understand that they are working at a worldclass attraction and that their job performance affects the visitor experience and our standing among the world's top amusement parks. Bottom line, they understand that their job performance is considered a very important part of a bigger picture."





# World-Class Fun

#### **TOP Steel Roller Coasters**







Magnum XL-200 Cedar Point



Diamondback Kings Island



**Intimidator™ 305** Kings Dominion



Top Thrill Dragster® Cedar Point



**Behemoth** Canada's Wonderland



Maverick® Cedar Point



Leviathan Canada's Wonderland

#### **TOP Wooden Roller Coasters**



The Beast® Kings Island



Shivering Timbers® Michigan's Adventure



**Prowler** Worlds of Fu



**GhostRider®** Knott's Berry Farm

### **Cedar Point**

Sandusky, OH • cedarpoint.com



Sandusky, OH • soakcity.cedarpoint.com

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#### Canada's Wonderland

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# From Coast to Coast!





Halloween Haunt® Knott's Berry Farm

**BEST New Ride** 



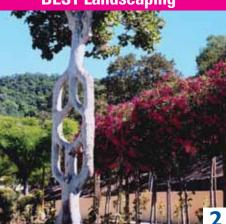
Leviathan Canada's Wonderland

**BEST Kids' Area** 



Knott's Berry Farm

BEST Landscaping



**Gilroy Gardens** 



### Worlds of Fun

Kansas City, MO • worldsoffun.com

Michigan's Adventure

Muskegon, MI • miadventure.com

### **Wildwater Kingdom**

Aurora, OH • wildwaterfun.com



Gilroy, CA • gilroygardens.org

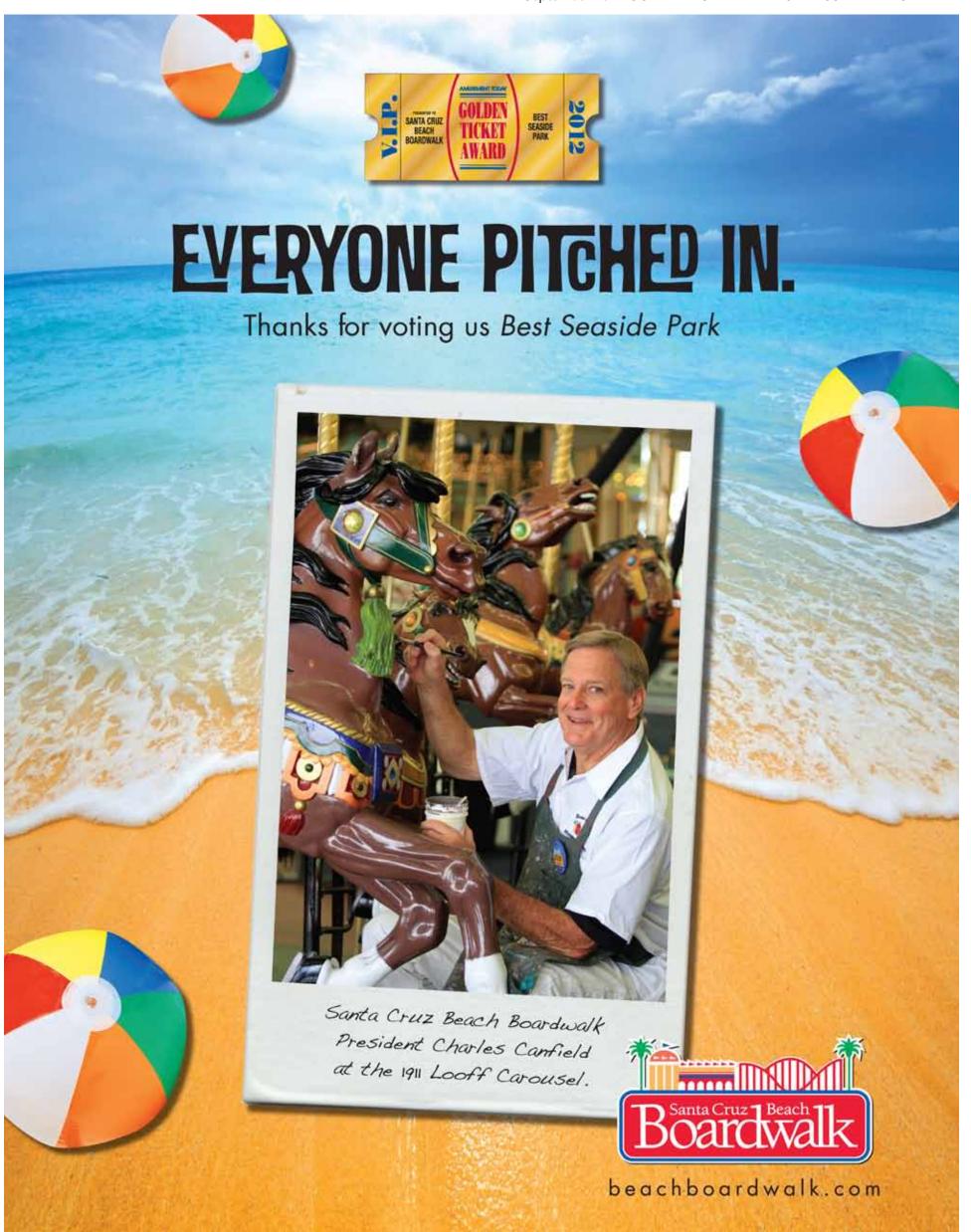
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### Almost there...six parks finish second in Best Parks voting



Best Park (No. 2) Europa-Park AT/JEFFREY SEIFERT



Best Waterpark (No. 2) Splashin' Safari AT/TIM BALDWIN



Best Children's Park (No. 2) Legoland California AT/GARY SLADE



Best Marine Life Park (No. 2) SeaWorld San Diego AT/GARY SLADE

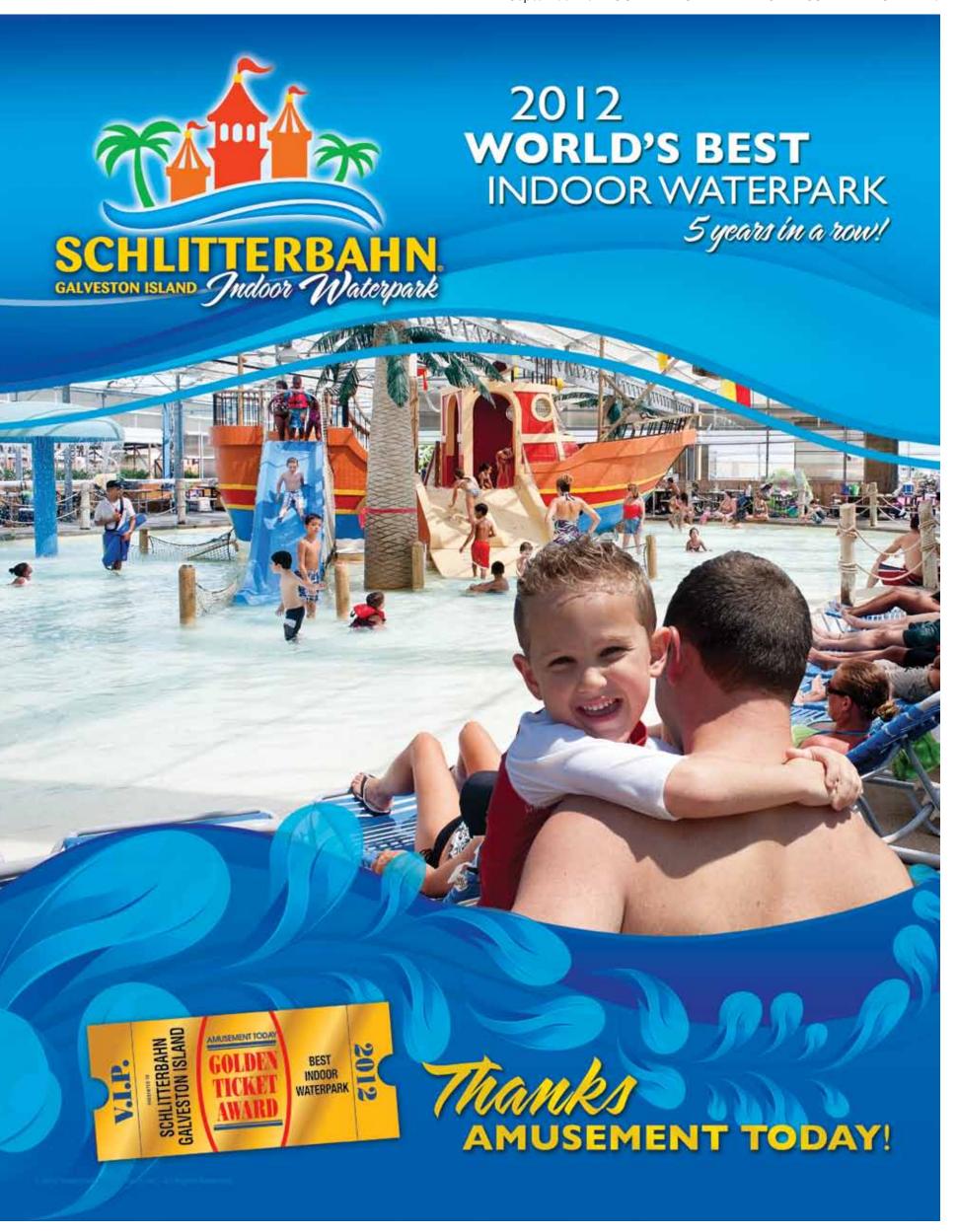


Best Seaside Park (No. 2) Pleasure Beach, Blackpool AT/B. DEREK SHAW



Best Indoor Waterpark (No. 2) Kalahari Sandusky COURTESY KALAHARI





### Dollywood takes two new wins for industry cornerstones — Best Food and Friendliest Park

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

Thrilling rides and great roller coasters help bring guests to come in, but the industry cornerstones make sure they come back. Food, cleanliness, landscaping and friendly employees are key components to a perfect park visit. Each and every park strives (or should) to make high marks in all of these categories.

**Dollywood** rises to the top in our **BEST FOOD** category in 2012. A long-running finalist for many years, the park finally takes the Golden Ticket this year. "We strive to create food that is appealing to the palette while also engaging our guests in the preparation as often as possible," said **Joe Lindsey**, Director of Food Services for

Dollywood. "This Golden Ticket represents the creativity, hard work and dedication of a grateful team who goes above and beyond to be the best."

Long time winner **Knoebels Amusement Resort** takes the silver in the category, while **Epcot** lands the bronze position. As in 2011, the top five also contains **Silver Dollar City** (No. 4) and **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** (No. 5)

CLEANEST PARK is a hardy challenge, not only to motivate your employees to help keep it spotless, but also being at the mercy of each and every park guest. Holiday World has solidified a reputation for taking cleanliness seriously. With staff and guests working in tandem, the Santa Claus, Ind. theme park has a successful formula of always



giving a good first impression and a lasting impression by the end of the day.

In comparison to the 2011 charts, **Dollywood** (No.2) and **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** (No. 3) have done a flip flop with their positions, while cousins **Disneyland** (No. 4) and **Magic Kingdom** (No. 5) have done the same.

The marvelous floral arrangements and manicured landscaping at **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** have given the park world-renowned fame. As the only park ever to secure **BEST LANDSCAP-ING**, Busch Gardens makes

every guest that brought a camera grateful they did so.

Gilroy Gardens moves up a notch to the No. 2 position. Not nearly as big on thrill rides and roller coasters as other contenders in this category, voters still appreciate the effort and beauty that go into the out-of-the-way California jewel. Under various management throughout its history, including opening as **Bonfante Gardens** in 2001, the park has always kept lush landscaping at its core.

**Efteling** (No. 3) has perennially been Europe's most noted park for its landscaping. **Dollywood** (No. 4) and new-to-this-category **Tivoli Gardens** of Denmark (No. 5) complete our finalists.

In a banner Golden Ticket year, **Dollywood** also claims a new win for **FRIENDLIEST PARK**. Always a finalist, the park finally has a victorious grab at the No. 1 spot. "I've always said that Dollywood's most valuable assets go home each night, and that's our hosts," said **Ken Bell**, **The Dollywood Company** president emeritus. "Our hosts breathe life into Dollywood each day, and they treat our guests with a level of Southern hospitality that makes me so very proud to be a member of the Dollywood family."

Holiday World, which has held the award an amazing 13 times, holds the No. 2 spot in 2012. Long-timers Silver Dollar City (a Golden Ticket winner in 2009) and Knoebels hold down the Nos. 3 and 4 spots, respectively. A tie for fifth completes our finalists, with Beech Bend being joined by Orlando's Magic Kingdom.

Top row, left to right: Dollywood took two new Golden Tickets at this year's awards ceremony claiming the top spot for Best Food and for Friendliest Park. The Tennessee themer's down home country surroundings and craftsmen, like this blacksmith, leave guests feelings as if they are part of the Smokey Mountain family. Bottom row left, **Busch Gardens Wil**liamsburg continues its amazing run for Best Landscaping, and is the only park in history to win this Golden Ticket. While Holiday World may have been unseated as Friendliest Park, the Santa Claus, Indiana park kept its top spot for Cleanest Park thanks to examples and leadership set by the Koch family. Show here from left are Dan, Pat and Natalie who lead the charge every day, often seen with pan and brooms in hand. AT/TIM BALDWIN

**COURTESY DOLLYWOOD** 

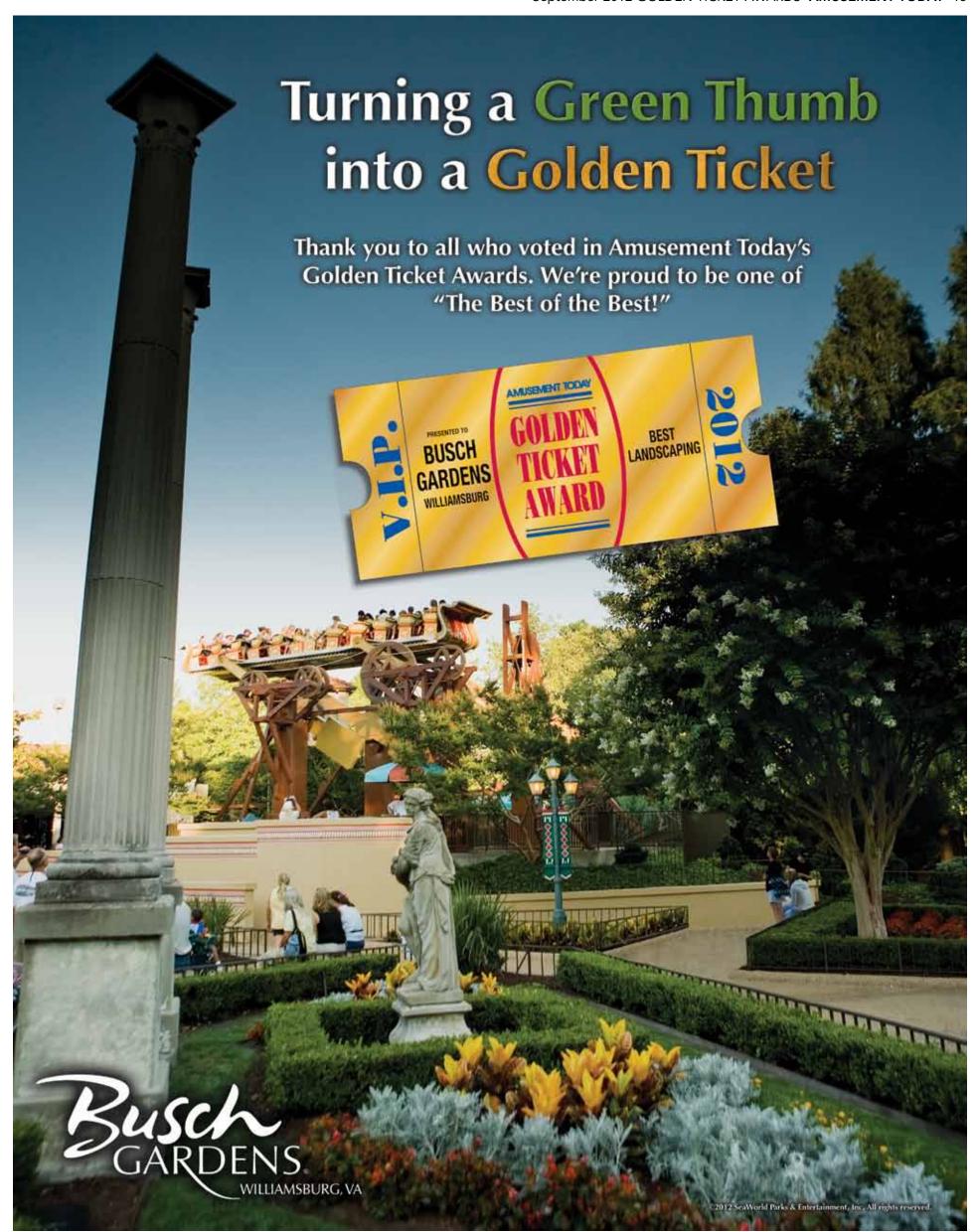
AT/GARY SLADE AT/GARY SLADE











### Seasonal festivals and shows provide superb entertainment

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

The two holiday festival categories retained their Golden Ticket winners this year. Dollywood kept **BEST** CHRISTMAS EVENT and **Universal Studios Orlando** has scared up a five-yearsin-a-row win for BEST HAL-**LOWEEN EVENT.** There was a time when Knott's Berry Farm (No. 2) and Universal wrestled back and forth for the Golden Ticket on this event, but the Orlando themer seems to be running with it for now. Spooky.

On a more interesting

note is that a new player has entered the finalists. In both categories, **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** has entered the scene for each holiday festival. They join the ranks of **Disneyland** (No. 2), **Magic Kingdom** (No. 3) and **Silver Dollar City** (No. 4) for Christmas finalists and **Knoebels** (No. 3) and **Kennywood** (No. 4) for Halloween. October has become a huge attendance season for the industry, and Christmas seems to be on the grow.

For **BEST OUTDOOR SHOW PRODUCTION**, Disney still reigns supreme, although many theme parks are gearing up their game in this



category. **Epcot** continues to take the Golden Ticket, but **Disney California Adventure's "World of Color"** continues to gain momentum, moving into the second place slot this year. **Six Flags Fiesta Texas** (No. 3) has bragging rights for being the only theme park to break through into the block of Disney muscle. **"Lone Star Nights"** still continues to

be one of the most impressive laser/firework/multimedia extravaganzas produced by a regional theme park. Orlando's **Magic Kingdom** (No. 4) and **Disney's Hollywood Studios** (No. 5) finish out the finalists.

Best Outdoor Show Production has seen a lot of activity. Cedar Point, Canada's Wonderland, and the Sea-World and Busch parks have all focused on substantial night shows to keep their guests in the park longer. Disney has a slight advantage to year round operation and a longer show season, but this competition could build in the years ahead.

The category of **BEST SHOWS** has only seen three different winners since AT began our international survey in 1998. Dollywood has held on to it for four years in a row. Six Flags Fiesta Texas in the No. 2 position took the Golden Ticket for 10 years (1999-2008). Our other three finalists in the shows category for 2012 are Disney's Hollywood Studios, jumping up two places to take the No. 3 spot, Silver Dollar City (No. 4), and SeaWorld Orlando completing the five. Incidentally, the original winner in 1998 was Busch Gardens Williamsburg.







Shows and fall season special events keep patrons entertained and help parks extend their fall and winter season with big crowds. Clockwise from top left are this year's Golden Ticket Awards winners: **Dollywood repeats for Best** Shows, Epcot hangs on one more year with Best **Outdoor Show Production;** Dollywood wins by a big margin for Best Christmas **Event and Universal Studios** Orlando edges out Knott's Berry Farm once again for Best Halloween Event.

COURTESY DOLLYWOOD; EPCOT AND UNIVERSAL STUDIOS ORLANDO





Thank you for making Dollywood the most entertaining park in the world.











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### Ride categories proclaim Best of the Best

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

Despite Splashin' Safari debuting the Best New Waterpark Ride with Mammoth, the waterpark's Wildebeest still claims the Golden Ticket for **BEST WATERPARK RIDE**, at least for one more year. The hydromagnetic water coaster opened in 2010 and has claimed the Golden Ticket for a third year. In Golden Ticket history, only two parks have ever beaten themselves. Cedar Point had Millennium Force beat out previous winner Magnum XL-200, and Universal saw Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey beat out the long-running win of Amazing Adventures of Spider-man. Splashin' Safari is now poised to be the third park to potentially do so. Will 2013 be the year?

**Schlitterbahn'**s famous assortment of rides gives them three places in our top five. **Master Blaster**, holding at No. 2, was a Golden Ticket winner for an impressive 10 years. The New Braunfels park also features **The Falls** (No. 3), 2011's Best New Waterpark Ride, and the highly-themed **Congo River Expedition** (No. 4).

Splashin' Safari sees one other finalist with **Zoomba-bwe**. Like Mammoth and Wildebeest, all three rides are supplied by **ProSlide**.

Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls, built by Mack Rides and themed to the hilt by Universal's Islands of Adventure, has dominated the category of BEST WATER RIDE. Only twice was it dethroned and that was by Valhalla at Pleasure Beach, Blackpool in 2003 and 2005. Valhalla stands in the No. 2 position for 2012.



Splash Mountain at Magic Kingdom moves up a notch, snaring the No. 3 spot. Dollywood's Mountain Slidewinder appears on the chart this year, landing at No. 4, and Pilgrim's Plunge at Holiday World, once the world's tallest water ride, rounds out the final five.

Going indoors, the Golden Ticket for BEST FUNHOUSE/WALK-THROUGH ATTRACTION goes to Kennywood's Noah's Ark for a third year win. The classic family-friendly fun journey, beginning with a rocking ship on many various levels, has entertained guests since the 1930s.

Frankenstein's Castle, a previous Golden Ticket winner, still thrills guests at Indiana Beach and holds the No. 2 spot. Two different parks in Sweden take the Nos. 3 and 4 positions — Lustiga Huset at Gröna Lund and Gasten Ghost Hotel at Liseberg, the latter of which returns after dropping off the chart last year. Morey's Piers' Ghost Ship is still the main thrill on the Atlantic Coast, finishing in the No. 5 position.

BEST INDOOR COAST-ER once again is claimed by Universal Studios' Revenge of the Mummy. Themed to the various movies, riders at the Orlando theme park are treated to fire, fog, a swarm of scarabs, a dramatic launch, a cool fake-out and, of course, mummies. Space Mountain at both Disneyland (No. 2) and Magic Kingdom (No. 5) capi-

▶ See RIDES, page 20



Splashin Safari's Wildebeest held onto its top spot to win the Golden Ticket at least one more year in the category Best Waterpark Ride. The hydromagnetic water coaster from ProSlide opened in 2010. AT/TIM BALDWIN



Universal Studios Orlando Resort's two parks kept their three past ride winning Golden Tickets including (above) Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls, Best Water Ride; (left) Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, Best Dark Ride and (right) Revenge of the Mummy, Best Indoor Coaster.

DUDLEY COURTESY
DAVID LIPNICKY;
POTTER/ AT / TIM BALDWIN;
MUMMY COURTESY
UNIVERSAL STUDIOS





### Four #1 Golden Ticket Award Winners



### **BEST DARK RIDE**

Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey™

### **BEST WATER RIDE**

**Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls®** 

### **BEST INDOOR COASTER**

Revenge of the Mummy®

### **BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT**

Universal Studios Florida® - Halloween Horror Nights®



UniversalOrlando.com









#### **RIDES**

#### Continued from page 18

talize on all the fun of a cosmic voyage. For this year, Knoebels enters this category with its new player, Black Diamond (No. 3), giving a great combination of a long dark ride, coupled with a roller coaster journey. This restored and preserved coaster once operated in Wildwood as the Golden **Nugget**. The Knoebels resort is well known for preserving rides from our industry's past, and this is the latest example of their dedication to history, family fun and value. At Disney's Hollywood Studios the Rock 'n' Roller Coaster, with its Aerosmith grooviness, once claimed the Golden Ticket for multiple years. In 2012, it holds the No. 4 position.

Kings Island has maintained that key mix of numerous children's rides, small size coasters, and fun themes to hold onto the **BEST KIDS' AREA** Golden Ticket. This year's win cements their footing as the only park to ever take the gold for this category.

Universal's Islands of



Adventure (No. 2) and Nickelodeon Universe (No. 3) hold their respective positions from 2011, but Efteling in the Netherlands moves up a notch to take fourth. Knott's Berry Farm makes a return to the charts, with a No. 5 spot to complete the finalists.

Many folks believe that **Knoebels** has a true lock on the category of **BEST CAROU-SEL**. Its authentic band organ and ring dispenser make **The Grand Carousel** one of the

Repeating their Golden Ticket wins are (above) Kennywood's Noah's Ark, Best Funhouse / Walk-Through Attraction; (above right) Kings Island's Planet Snoopy, Best Kids' Area and (right) Knoebels' The Grand Carousel, Best Carousel.

AT/TIM BALDWIN; CAROUSEL COURTESY KNOEBELS

park's pride-and-joy, as well as a nostalgic crowd favorite.











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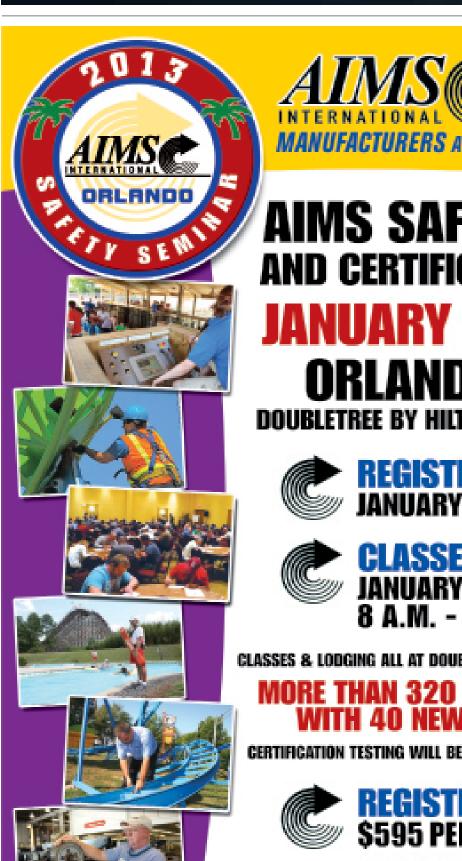
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#### **PRIDES**

Continued from page 20

Rare is the ability to safely operate a carousel where riders reach for the brass ring, but Knoebels has done it beautifully and safely for decades.

Likewise, the 1911 Looff Carousel at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk celebrated its 100th anniversary last year and also shares the grand tradition of being able to reach for the ring. Attendees at the 2013 Golden Ticket Awards are sure to enjoy a whirl on this magnificent piece of history. Six Flags Over Georgia (No.3) and Six Flags Great America (No. 4) take the next spots. Georgia lovingly preserved Riverview Carousel with its wood carved horses and decades of memories from the long lost **Riverview** Park in the Chicago area. Great America's Columbia Carousel boasts the claim of world's largest and its doubledeck platforms beautifully welcome guests beyond a reflecting pool at the park's front entrance. Completing the top five is Universal's Islands of Adventure and their Caro-Seuss-El. Taking tradition and throwing it out the window, this whimsical carousel features awkward Dr. Seuss creations with their blinking, quirky and deliciously fun characteristics to delight kids and every parent that has ever shared the fun world of Dr. Se-

BEST DARK RIDE sees a repeat of our 2011 finalists. New and high-tech dominate the charts with the elaborate Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey taking the Golden Ticket a second year. The Amazing Adventures of Spider-man follows in second. Both of these crowd-pleasing attractions are at Universal's Islands of Adventure.

Twilight Zone Tower of Terror at Disney's Hollywood Studios (No. 3) is also an Orlando resident.

Although spectacular and technically advanced dark rides are wowing guests, **Knoebels** still finds its place as a finalist with their traditional **Haunted Mansion** (No. 4).

Finishing the finalists is Disneyland's Indiana Jones and the Temple of the Forbidden Eye at No. 5.



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

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















### Dollywood, Splashin' Safari win Best New Rides

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

The Best New Ride categories were introduced by Amusement Today in 2005 and they are some of the most eagerly sought. If the competition had to be summed in one word this year, it would be: fierce! Each year, there is always an admirable crop of new offerings, but 2012 seemed particularly impressive. It clearly was anyone's ballgame. If you had the goods, you needed to get the voters to take notice.



**BEST NEW RIDE** this year went to Dollywood's new Wild Eagle. B&M, long considered one of the most reputable companies with which to do business, debuted their newest product — the wing coaster — in Italy last year. Two wing coasters opened in North America this year and it was Dollywood's version that had the dimensions. The largest wing coaster built to date, Wild Eagle perched itself atop Dollywood's highest point. With a lift height of 190 feet, the peak stood 220 feet below the plaza area outside the station. Of the four installations created by B&M, Wild Eagle is the only one to incorporate a vertical loop and has the fastest speed of the breed with a top speed of 61 mph. The view of the Smoky Mountains is dramatic, even if brief. The







Above and left, Dollywood's new B&M wing coaster, Wild Eagle took the gold for Best New Ride, thanks in part to its being the first of its kind in the U.S. and its impressive size and layout. At right, Splashin Safari's new ProSlide Mammoth massive size, capacity and layout took Best New Waterpark Ride. TOP: WILD EAGLE COURTESY DOLLYWOOD; LEFT: AT/TIM BALDWIN; **RIGHT: MAMMOTH COURTESY PROSLIDE** 



ride features four inversions, all taken with fluidic grace.

Spectacular in other ways was Radiator Springs Racers (No. 2) in the new Cars Land at Disney California Adventure. Truly a thematic masterpiece, this mega-themed Test Track like experience had speedsters racing through some of the most unbeliev-

able theming Disney has created to date. It is the premiere attraction in the new themed area, one that has had a major impact on the park, very much along the lines of the **Wizarding World of Harry Potter** at **Islands of Adventure** in Orlando two years ago.

It was long thought that B&M would never do it, but

Canada's Wonderland got the roller coaster firm to surpass the 300-foot threshold. Leviathan (No. 3), B&M's fastest coaster to date, changed the Ontario theme park forever, in both appearance and thrills. Stretching along the park's perimeter and slithering up and over the main entrance, this blue behemoth delivered the wow factor to the park's audience. With an entirely different feel than the previous mega speed coasters B&M has produced, Leviathan was reliably producing an hourly ridership of more than 1,500.

New technology tends to get noticed, and the first roller coaster in the U.S. to feature a piece of track that experiences a free-fall drop — that's big. Verbolten at Busch Gardens Williamsburg (No. 4) introduced this slick trick to America and incorporated it into a fun stylized ride that also features two launches, an indoor "event" building, and a large plunge to the river. Built by Zeirer, this highly-anticipated ride is the latest attraction to be built in the park's Germany section. It utilizes a similar footprint from the removed **Big Bad Wolf** coaster.

This category is completed by a tie for the No. 5 spot. The two finalists are **OzIris** at **See NEW RIDES**, page 27



Finishing No. 2 for Best New Ride, Radiator Springs Racers are but one of the new rides that make up the new Cars Land at Disney California Adventure.

AT/GARY SLADE



Although north of the U.S. border, voters didn't stop from casting a vote for Leviathan, Canada's Wonderland's new 300-foot coaster from B&M. The ride finished No. 3 for Best New Ride. AT/GARY SLADE

### **NEW RIDES**

Continued from page 26

Parc Astérix and Skyrush at Hersheypark. Ozlris is B&M's first inverted coaster in five years, and the excellent Egyptian theming and dynamic layout helped this ride open to rave reviews. Skyrush is the latest coaster built by Intamin to open in the U.S. With a new winged vehicle, riders on the outside of the fouracross seats are suspended over open air. Fans of the ride noted the ride layout's airtime to be quite considerable.

For **BEST NEW WATER-**PARK RIDE, the heavy favorite was Splashin Safari's new Mammoth. Following the huge success of the waterpark's popular Wildebeest just two seasons prior, Holiday World and Splashin' Safari returned with an even bigger uphill water coaster supplied by ProSlide. Setting all sorts of world records, this new bigger version features a length of 1,763 feet, six drops and rafts seating six riders at a time. The hourly capacity can





Two unique and completely opposite types of thrills for Best New Waterpark Ride rounding out the top three spots. Taking the No. 2 position was King Kaw Rapids River at Schlitterbahn Kansas City (left) and King Cobra, Polin's first such ride in the U.S., at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor in N.J. AT/TIM BALDWIN; KING COBRA COURTESY SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE

reach 1,000 riders — on a waterslide. The \$9 million investment is one of the largest ever for a waterpark attraction. For Mammoth to take the Golden Ticket didn't come as a huge surprise. The statistics practically demanded it.

"We have not regretted naming this monstrous water coaster Mammoth – as it's a perfect fit!" exclaims Paula Werne, director of communications for Holiday World and Splashin' Safari.

That's not to say there

weren't other notable rides. Schlitterbahn Kansas City's delayed King Kaw Rapids River proved worth the wait. The second longest waterpark ride in the world (behind The Falls at the mother park in New Braunfels), King Kaw Rapids River provides a never ending ride experience that connects to other channels and rivers in the park, or can circle back to the aquaveyor to do it again. This ride scored the No. 2 spot in the category.

Taking third was **King Co-**

bra at Six Flags Hurricane Harbor adjacent to Six Flags Great Adventure in New Jersey. Supplied by Polin, King Cobra earns top marks for aesthetics and thematic cool factor. The overall snakeskin appearance and imposing Cobra's head are, well, striking. This dual racing slide is a signature calling card for the park, the first of its kind in the U.S.

The Nos. 4 and 5 spots are completed by **Mount Olympus'** new **The Lost City**,

a WhiteWater Rain Fortress that features a blast of water reaching 100 feet in the air and Walhalla Wave, the first one of its kind in the Western Hemisphere debuting with the all new Aquatica San Anto**nio**. The ProSlide ride stands seven stories and guests board four-person cloverleaf tubes for the downward descent. Midway through the ride, riders climb a 40 foot "wave," a virtual vertical wall that gives passengers a feeling of weightlessness.



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### 2012 Publisher's Picks: Park, Supplier

### Disney California Adventure finally gets its icon in \$1.1 billion makeover

When **Disney California Adventure** opened across the front gate from its big brother **Disneyland** in Anaheim, Calif. in 2001, it had big shoes to fill.

While the original park design, rides and other attractions were enjoyed by the

average guests, true Disney fans knew the park was lacking what they called the 'Disney Magic.' Less than stellar attendance in the following years would prove the die-hard fans were right.

The decade following would see the addition of more Disney-branded rides, shows and parades, but despite the efforts, DCA just couldn't get over the hump to the next level.

That was until June 15, 2012.

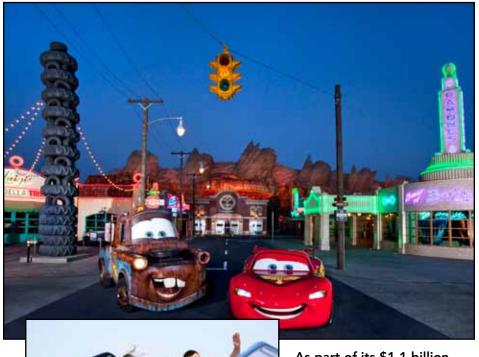
That's the day the park reopened to the public showcasing its new front gate entry area, new Buena Vista Street and new industry-icon **Cars Land**. The \$1.1 billion makeover of DCA was complete, and now little brother had its own star attraction with the **Radiator Springs Racers** car ride.

As this publisher witnessed first-hand, the Disney fandom came by the thousands, camping out all night on the sidewalks just outside the front gate hoping to have a chance to be among the first to enter the new Cars Land. No, this wasn't a line for tickets to a hot concert or to game one of the World Series, it was a line to get into a theme park. Every park operator dreams of this. When I asked one family of four why they spent the night on the sidewalk, their reply was typical of any fan saying, "We love Disney and we buy passes every year. We had this day on our calendar from the very moment it was announced."

Cars Land and the Radiator Springs Racers is the real deal. Every attention to detail that could be thought of is in play in this new section. Rides, signage, concrete rock formations, food, clothing, neon and of course audio tracks all come together to make this the mega-hit of the year.

And the general public is noticing as DCA is enjoying sell-outs on a regular basis, and Radiator Springs Racers is seeing a two-hour wait on most days. DCA has just hit this one of out the park for their grand slam.

Amusement Today salutes Disney California Adventure, its thousands of cast members, Imagineers and it management, for showing the imagination and the creativity needed to make this park the hottest must visit facility of the year, and thus making it AT's choice for **2012 Park of the Year**.



As part of its \$1.1 billion makeover, Disney California Adventure received the highly promoted Cars Land, above, and thrilling Radiator Springs Racers as the park's newest icons.

CARS LAND COURTESY DCA; AT FILE







This season, Cedar Point debuted Luminosity, as the park's new night-time show. The \$1 million-plus production is the largest in park history. It was built and produced by N.Y.-based RWS and Associates Entertainment, Inc.

### RWS rises to the challenge, delivers blockbuster show on tight schedule

I must confess, I would have never believed it, so I had to go see it in person, live.

When **Cedar Point** informed *Amusement Today* they were putting in a big nighttime show on its main midway that would include a huge cast of live performers, LED's and other state of the art lights,



video boards, pyrotechnics and much more, my first reaction was that's a nice way to fill in a season until the next big attractions arrives.

Then the calls started coming in: Gary, you've got to see that show at Cedar Point. OK, now you have my attention. So, I booked a flight to Ohio.

What I witnessed that night on Cedar Point's main midway was unbelievable for any regional park to even attempt to pull off, but CP did just that.

When **Ryan Stana** and his **RWS** team received the call from Cedar Fair they were less than six months out from the project's opening day. They wanted RWS to deliver the biggest, grandest and most expensive night show in Cedar Point's history, a show that would come in well in excess of \$1 million.

RWS met with Cedar Fair's VP of Entertainment, **Charles Bradshaw**, at Cedar Point to discuss the goals of the project and specific requests that came from **Matt Ouimet**, the newly appointed CEO. The goal was to produce a spectacular show that would keep guests in the park later in the evening, provide a live club atmosphere after the show and would be interesting and exciting enough to bring guests back night after night. Once the goals of the project were established, RWS worked with Cedar Fair executives for three solid days to begin to create, from the ground up, an elaborate performance space from a currently vacant midway.

Stana and the RWS crew, as well as countless other supporting companies, delivered a smashing hit. The installation took four months, the rehearsal process took three weeks and the project, which featured 23 dancers, 4 singers, 3 drummers and 2 cirque performers and 10 technical staff members, is now a show that has garnered critical acclaim throughout the amusement industry and was enjoyed by up to 5,000 guests staying at the park later to see Luminosity.

One word to Cedar Point for 2013, you now need a bigger midway! Amusement Today salutes **RWS and Associates Entertainment, Inc.** for its high-octane energy and drive that made the vision of Luminosity at Cedar Point a huge show success this year and making RWS AT's choice for **2012 Supplier of the Year.** 



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### 2012 Publisher's Picks: Person, Turnstile

### Tilman J. Fertitta's love affair with Galveston goes back to childhood

As a kid, **Tilman J. Fertitta** grew up just blocks away from the **Galveston Island Pleasure Pier.** Then as a teenager, he enjoyed the summer sights as a lifeguard at the pool for the **Flagship Hotel** located on the Pleasure Pier.



Tilman's career path would take him into the restaurant business of which he would have much success. Today, as President & CEO of **Landry's, Inc.**, this Houstonbased company operates more than 400 properties in 34 states and 30 international properties. The company has more than 50,000 employees and combined revenues and assists totaling in excess of \$5 billion.

While historical records are not clear, it is known that the last of the local amusement parks closed around 1960. Galveston Island had a rich history of amusements with parks named **Electric Park**, **Chutes Park**, **Joyland Park** and **Pleasure Park**. With its collection of parks,



**Fertitta** 

rides and the **Mountain Speedway** roller coaster, Galveston Island became known as the "Coney Island of the South."

Tilman and the Landry's chain first got their feet wet in amusements when they added a few amusement rides to their popular **Kemah Boardwalk**, a small property on the Texas Gulf coast made up of restaurants, shops and a hotel. That success led to additional rides, and later adding rides and attractions at other Landry's restaurant properties where needed.

As a major player in the Galveston tourism market with restaurants, hotels and attractions, Tilman purchased the Flagship Hotel with the idea of bringing the old girl back to her grand star-studded life. That was until Hurricane Ike wrecked the greater Galveston coast and damaged the hotel beyond repair.

That's when Tilman had the vision to demolish the hotel and bring state-of-the-art amusements to the historic pier. With an investment of \$60-plus million, the **Galveston Island Historic Pleasure Pier** opened in time for this year's summer tourism season marking the return of amusements to the city.

The entire Landry's team did an amazing job of transforming an eyesore into a pier that is now active with food, fun and the making of new memories.

Amusement Today salutes **Tilman J. Fertitta** for stepping up to the challenge of contributing to the rebuilding of Galveston Island and its historic pier following Hurricane Ike by returning amusements to the area following a 50-plus year absence. Amusement Today is honored to name **Tilman J. Fertitta** as our choice for **2012 Person of the Year**.



Following the destruction Hurricane Ike left behind on Galveston Island, Tilman J. Fertitta bought the city-owned historic Pleasure Pier and brought it back to life as a new \$60-plus million amusement pier. It opened this year just in time for the city's tourism crowds. COURTESY LANDRY'S INC.





SeaWorld San Diego showed this season that roller coasters don't have to be big in order to be fun or exciting. It's new Manta ride is never more than 30 feet above ground.

### SeaWorld San Diego's vision for family, capacity was realized with new Manta

Today's technology can make visions never achieved in past decades a reality and do it with ease and grace.

**SeaWorld San Diego**, the nation's first SeaWorld park, has limitations when it comes to adding new attractions. Leased



land, the environment and height are but a few of the many obstacles this marine-life park must overcome before it can move forward on any new capital expenditure.

The park knew it had an aging area of the park that needed to be redeveloped from the ground up. The new attraction needed to be thrilling enough to gain interest from the teen market, but it also had to have the family-appeal as the family market is the backbone of the park. The new attraction needed to have interaction with the guests and it must have a high capacity.

Already having a great relationship with Germany-based **Mack Rides** on previous attractions, SeaWorld turned to them for help. The end result was a four-train family coaster featuring a height of just 30 feet above ground, two-LSM launches, once of which is centered around a 30-second, 22 projector pre-show film on a 270-degree wrap around screen from **Falcon's Treehouse**. With a top speed of 43 mph, SeaWorld had their perfect family coaster.

**Manta** was born on May 26, 2012. Theming elements are found with manta art and manta ray pools throughout the ride entry area, and a massive manta ray interaction pool awaits riders just outside the exit area. A gift shop and small food facility were also part of the overall Manta themed experience.

With Mack's technical support, the coaster continues to deliver as promised. Since its opening on May 26, 2012, Manta has delivered more than 900,000 rides, it has seen 15,628 guests ride in a single day, is riding 1,200 passengers per hour on a regular basis and has seen as many as 66 trains launch in one hour.

Amusement Today salutes the entire team at **SeaWorld San Diego** for its vision to bring a high-tech thrill ride to this marine-life park. One that kept the park's theme in mind, one that reached a broad demographic of riders, and one that would also deliver the capacity demands placed on a year-round destination park. AT is honored to present the first ever **Turnstile Award** to **SeaWorld San Diego**, for the job done in moving the turnstile in 2012, both at the front gate and at the ride.









Galveston is now home to the newly restored Pleasure Pier, bringing back the glory of Galveston's famous history in to the present.

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- Midway Games
- Pier Party Zone
- · Bubba Gump Shrimp Co.
- Gump on the Run To Go
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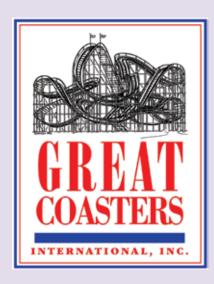
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### Steel Coasters: Millennium Force stays on top



STORY: Tim Baldwin tbaldwin@amusementtodav.com

By mid-August of this season, Millennium Force at Cedar Point had given more than 21 million rides since it opened in 2000. Keeping the Golden Ticket for BEST **STEEL COASTER**, this Intamin creation has taken the honor for seven years throughout the past 15. Only three coasters have received top honors in this category — Magnum XL-200, also at Cedar Point and ranking this year at No. 8, AT's first steel coaster to stand on top, and Bizarro (No. 2), formerly Superman

Cedar Point's Millennium Force keeps its number one spot and reclaims the gold for Best Steel Coaster. The Intamin coaster opened in 2000 and has delivered more than 21 million rides since.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



**Ride of Steel** at Six Flags New England.

Looking at this year's top 10, Magnum is the only one on the charts to have actually been built when Amusement Today started the Golden Tickets in 1998. Newer coasters are striking the fancy of our voters, and with the size and innovation of such rides, it's easy to see why they are so popular. Nitro at Six Flags Great Adventure was built in 2001 by B&M and keeps its No. 3 spot held in 2011. The steel giants just below Nitro have shifted places this season. Climbing a few rungs is Apollo's Chariot at Busch Gardens Williamsburg (No. 4) and **New Texas Giant** at Six Flags Over Texas inches

up a notch to enter the top five

Expedition GeForce at Holiday Park in Germany has consistently been the highest rated coaster in Europe and places this year at No. 6. Intimidator at Carowinds sees the biggest jump this year, leaping into the top 10 at No. 7 from its 2011 position of No. 19. Goliath at Six Flags Over Georgia (No. 9) and Diamondback at Kings Island complete the top 10 by adding two more B&M coasters.

As observed in the past, no coasters currently in AT's steel top 10 go upside down. The first listing on the chart to do that is Montu at Busch Gardens Tampa, placing at No. 14. Not to mention, Best Steel Coaster is a category that celebrates the young. Only 17 of the 50 existed before the turn of the millennium, and only 12 were built in time for AT's first chart in 1998. The oldest coasters on the list are a pair of vintage Schwarzkopf coasters — Mind Bender at Six Flags Over Georgia (No. 20) and Shock Wave at Six Flags Over Texas (No. 26). Both were built in 1978 and still boast a multitude of fans

Eleven coasters are outside of the U.S. Those include: Nemesis (No. 16) Alton Towers, England, which at one time placed in the top 10; Behemoth (No. 17) and the new-for-2012 Leviathan (No. 22), both at Canada's Wonderland in Ontario; Goliath (No. 25), LaRonde, Quebec, Canada; Blue Fire (No. 32) and Euro-Mir (No. 50), both at Europa-Park, Germany; Lisebergbanan (No. 33), Liseberg, Sweden; Piraten (No. 37), Djurs Sommerland, Denmark; Goliath (No. 48), Walabi World, the Netherlands; and Black Mamba (No. 49) Phantasialand, Germany.

Dollywood's Wild Eagle is the highest placing newfor-2012 coaster, coming in at 15th. Leviathan and Hersheypark's Skyrush (No. 42) are the others.

Combined with the wooden charts, Cedar Point has more roller coasters listed than any other park — a formidable seven. **GateKeeper**, their new wing coaster announced for 2013, is bound to be a heavy hitter next year.



No 2: Bizarro, Six Flags New England COURTESY SIX FLAGS NEW ENGLAND



No. 4: Apollo's Chariot, Busch Gardens Williamsburg AT/GARY SLADE



No. 3: Nitro, Six Flags Great Adventure AT/GARY SLADE



No. 5: New Texas Giant, Six Flags Over Texas



### The List

### 2012 TOP 50 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS

| RANK | NAME                | PARK                       | LOCATION                 | YEAR | SUPPLIER       | POINTS |
|------|---------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------|----------------|--------|
| 1    | Millennium Force    | Cedar Point                | Sandusky, Ohio           | 2000 | Intamin        | 1272   |
| 2    | Bizarro             | Six Flags New England      | Agawam, Mass.            | 2000 | Intamin        | 946    |
| 3    | Nitro               | Six Flags Great Adventure  | Jackson, N.J.            | 2001 | B & M          | 650    |
| 4    | Apollo's Chariot    | Busch Gardens Williamsburg | Williamsburg, Va.        | 1999 | B & M          | 597    |
| 5    | New Texas Giant     | Six Flags Over Texas       | Arlington, Texas         | 2011 | Rocky Mountain | 564    |
| 6    | Expedition GeForce  | Holiday Park               | Hassloch, Germany        | 2001 | Intamin        | 537    |
| 7    | Intimidator         | Carowinds                  | Charlotte, N.C.          | 2010 | B & M          | 520    |
| 8    | Magnum XL-200       | Cedar Point                | Sandusky, Ohio           | 1989 | Arrow          | 480    |
| 9    | Goliath             | Six Flags Over Georgia     | Austell, Ga.             | 2006 | B & M          | 444    |
| 10   | Diamondback         | Kings Island               | Mason, Ohio              | 2009 | B & M          | 395    |
| 11   | Phantom's Revenge   | Kennywood                  | West Mifflin, Pa.        | 2001 | Morgan/Arrow   | 374    |
| 12   | Intimidator 305     | Kings Dominion             | Doswell, Va.             | 2010 | IntaRide       | 351    |
| 13   | Top Thrill Dragster | Cedar Point                | Sandusky, Ohio           | 2003 | Intamin        | 332    |
| 14   | Montu               | Busch Gardens Tampa Bay    | Tampa, Fla.              | 1996 | B & M          | 318    |
| 15   | Wild Eagle          | Dollywood                  | Pigeon Forge, Tenn.      | 2012 | B & M          | 292    |
| 16   | Nemesis             | Alton Towers               | Staffordshire, England   | 1994 | B & M          | 238    |
| 17   | Behemoth            | Canada's Wonderland        | Vaughan, Ontario, Canada | 2008 | B & M          | 224    |
| 18   | X2                  | Six Flags Magic Mountain   | Valencia, Calif.         | 2002 | Arrow          | 209    |
| 19   | Raging Bull         | Six Flags Great America    | Gurnee, III.             | 1999 | B & M          | 196    |
| 20   | Mind Bender         | Six Flags Over Georgia     | Austell, Ga.             | 1978 | Schwarzkopf    | 195    |
| 21   | Maverick            | Cedar Point                | Sandusky, Ohio           | 2007 | Intamin        | 189    |
| 22   | Leviathan           | Canada's Wonderland        | Vaughan, Ontario, Canada | 2012 | B & M          | 173    |
| 23   | Kumba               | Busch Gardens Tampa Bay    | Tampa, Fla.              | 1993 | B & M          | 141    |
| 24   | Alpengeist          | Busch Gardens Williamsburg | Williamsburg, Va.        | 1997 | B & M          | 133    |
| 25   | Goliath             | La Ronde                   | Montreal, Quebec, Canada | 2006 | B & M          | 132    |



## The List

#### 2012 TOP 50 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS



| RANK     | NAME                       | PARK                             | LOCATION                       | YEAR | SUPPLIER    | POINTS |
|----------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|-------------|--------|
| 26 (tie) | Griffon                    | Busch Gardens Williamsburg       | Williamsburg, Va.              | 2007 | B & M       | 124    |
| 26 (tie) | Shock Wave                 | Six Flags Over Texas             | Arlington, Texas               | 1978 | Schwarzkopf | 124    |
| 28       | Tatsu                      | Six Flags Magic Mountain         | Valencia, Calif.               | 2006 | B & M       | 116    |
| 29       | Superman Ride of Steel     | Six Flags America                | Largo, Md.                     | 2000 | Intamin     | 115    |
| 30       | SheiKra                    | Busch Gardens Tampa Bay          | Tampa, Fla.                    | 2005 | B & M       | 113    |
| 31       | Raptor                     | Cedar Point                      | Sandusky, Ohio                 | 1994 | B & M       | 111    |
| 32       | Blue Fire                  | Europa-Park                      | Rust, Germany                  | 2009 | Mack        | 109    |
| 33       | Lisebergbanan              | Liseberg                         | Gothenberg, Sweden             | 1987 | Schwarzkopf | 100    |
| 34       | Manta                      | SeaWorld Orlando                 | Orlando, Fla.                  | 2009 | B & M       | 99     |
| 35       | Dragon Challenge           | Universal's Islands of Adventure | Orlando, Fla.                  | 1999 | B & M       | 98     |
| 36       | Titan                      | Six Flags Over Texas             | Arlington, Texas               | 2001 | Giovanola   | 94     |
| 37       | Piraten                    | Djurs Sommerland                 | Jylland, Denmark               | 2008 | Intamin     | 93     |
| 38       | Kingda Ka                  | Six Flags Great Adventure        | Jackson, N.J.                  | 2005 | Intamin     | 91     |
| 39       | Steel Force                | Dorney Park                      | Allentown, Pa.                 | 1997 | Morgan      | 87     |
| 40       | Volcano: The Blast Coaster | Kings Dominion                   | Doswell, Va.                   | 1998 | Intamin     | 80     |
| 41       | Goliath                    | Six Flags Magic Mountain         | Valencia, Calif.               | 2000 | Giovanola   | 78     |
| 42       | Skyrush                    | Hersheypark                      | Hershey, Pa.                   | 2012 | Intamin     | 77     |
| 43       | Ride of Steel              | Darien Lake                      | Darien Center, N.Y.            | 1999 | Intamin     | 74     |
| 44       | Storm Runner               | Hersheypark                      | Hershey, Pa.                   | 2004 | Intamin     | 66     |
| 45       | Afterburn                  | Carowinds                        | Charlotte, N.C.                | 1999 | B & M       | 59     |
| 46       | PowderKeg                  | Silver Dollar City               | Branson, Mo.                   | 2005 | S & S       | 58     |
| 47       | Incredible Hulk Coaster    | Universal's Islands of Adventure | Orlando, Fla.                  | 1999 | B & M       | 56     |
| 48       | Goliath                    | Walabi World                     | Biddinghuizen, The Netherlands | 2002 | Intamin     | 55     |
| 49       | Black Mamba                | Phantasialand                    | Brühl, Germany                 | 2006 | B & M       | 50     |
| 50       | Euro-Mir                   | Europa-Park                      | Rust, Germany                  | 1997 | Mack        | 49     |

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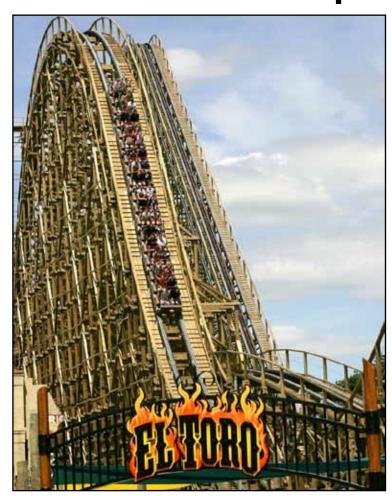
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#### El Toro takes top spot on wooden coaster list



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

Amusement Today has had more different winners in the category of BEST WOOD-EN COASTER than any other category. Over the course of 15 years, six different woodies have risen to the top. Four of those are still in the top five. However, 2012 sees The Voyage being unseated from its five year run in the top spot. In its seven years of operation, the coaster has never been lower than the No. 2 position,

Taking the Golden Ticket for the first time as BEST WOODEN COASTER is El Toro at Six Flags Great Adventure in Jackson, N.J. The ultra-smooth ride from Intamin opened in 2006 and has become a guest favorite, with more than 1.2 million riders each year. COURTESY SIX FLAGS GREAT ADVENTURE



in which it debuted.

This year, the entire top five have shifted positions with not a single one retaining its placement from 2011. Taking over the top spot is El Toro at Six Flags Great Adventure. This Intamin creation has long been known for its extreme airtime and remarkable smoothness. In 2006, the ride debuted at No. 13 and over the years has climbed to higher placements. The Voyage, Holiday World's legendary woodie received substantial structure and track work prior to this season to amp it back to top form, so it looks like 2013 could be a head-tohead battle between these two wooden giants.

Upon hearing the news of

El Toro's win, John Fitzgerald, park president for Six Flags Great Adventure, remarked, "Tremendo! The Golden Ticket Award is an awesome recognition for the park and El Toro. It is without question the best wood coaster in the world!" Kristen Siebeneicher, public relations manager for the park, adds, "Since El Toro opened in 2006, it has given more than 8 million rides. It averages about 1.2 million riders per year the most of any wooden coaster in the Six Flags chain."

The top five shuffle also sees Knoebels' Phoenix at No. 3. For the past decade and a half, this ride is one of two woodies which has maintained its top 10 placement since the inception of the Golden Ticket Awards. Newcomers may enter and others might slip out, but Phoenix has a legion of fans, and they know a good coaster and a brilliant design when they see one. Dollywood's Thunderhead (No. 4) and Boulder Dash at Lake Compounce (No. 5) have switched places to complete a top five which presents a solid block of the best of what the industry has to offer, each from a different supplier and a variety of coaster trains.

The Raven at Holiday World (No. 8), once a No. 1 place holder, has climbed its way back into the top 10. Also of note is **Balder** at Sweden's Liseberg, another Intamin creation that has reached top 10 status, bringing an international woodie to AT's charts for the first time in nine years. Megafobia at Oakwood in Wales, now at No. 27, appeared in the No. 5 spot in the inaugural year of the Golden Tickets. Remaining a top 10 contender for several years, it slipped out following 2003, leaving the chart without a top 10 woodie outside of the States. Like El Toro, Balder is known for its airtime and smoothness, so expect a multi-year charge to remain in the upper echelon of

In total, an impressive 13 woodies on our charts operate outside of the U.S., a tribute to the expertise of our panel of experts. Ten countries are found within this international grouping. **Gröna Lund's Twister** debuted at No. 36 last year and has climbed up to No. 24 in the top half of our list of 50.



No. 2: The Voyage, Holiday World AT/DAN FEICHT



No. 4: Thunderhead, Dollywood COURTESY DOLLYWOOD



No. 3: Phoenix, Knoebels Amusement Resort AT/GARY SLADE



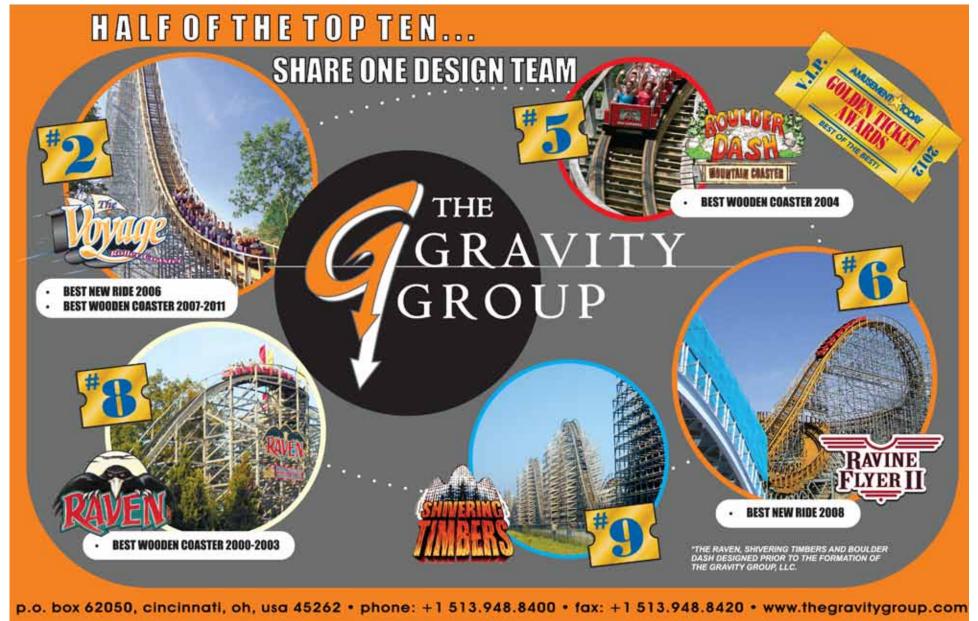
No. 5: Boulder Dash, Lake Compounce AT/TIM BALDWIN



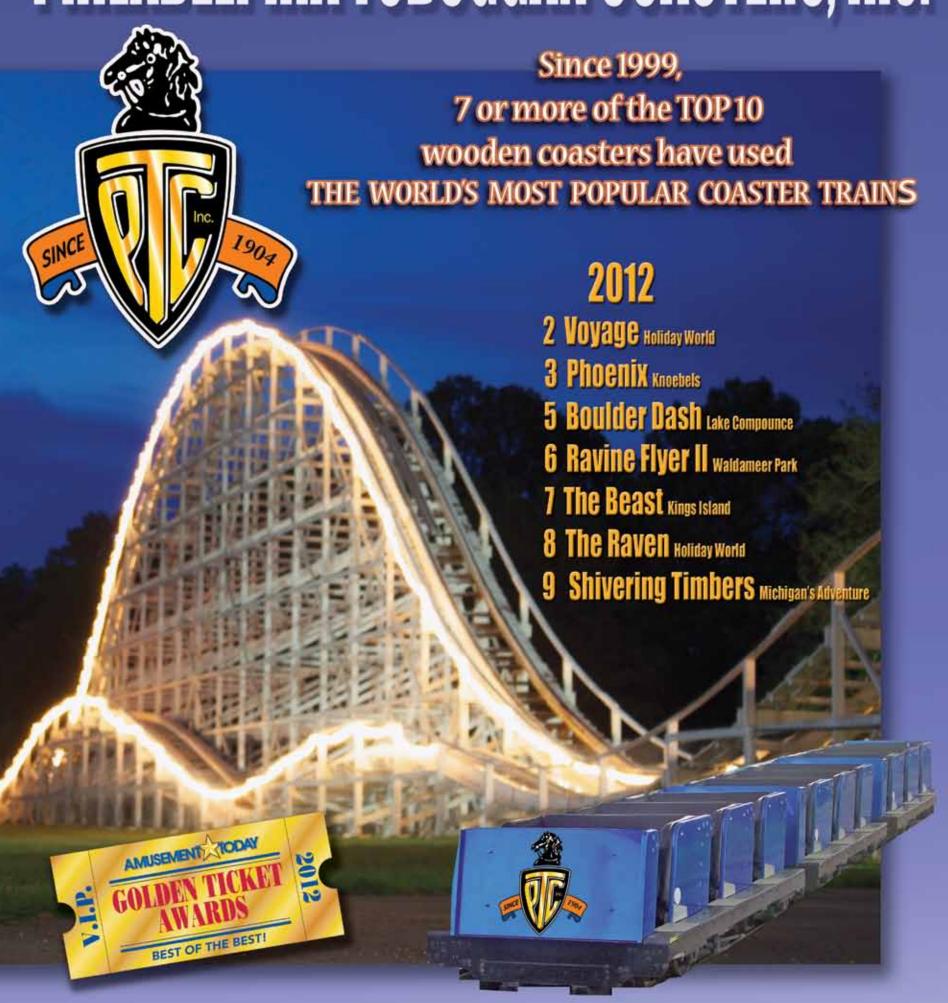












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## The List

#### 2012 TOP 50 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS

| RANK | NAME              | PARK                       | LOCATION                 | YEAR | SUPPLIER            | POINTS |
|------|-------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|------|---------------------|--------|
| 1    | El Toro           | Six Flags Great Adventure  | Jackson, N.J.            | 2006 | Intamin             | 1279   |
| 2    | The Voyage        | Holiday World              | Santa Claus, Ind.        | 2006 | Gravity Group       | 1190   |
| 3    | Phoenix           | Knoebels Amusement Resort  | Elysburg, Pa.            | 1985 | Dinn/PTC-Schmeck    | 1091   |
| 4    | Thunderhead       | Dollywood                  | Pigeon Forge, Tenn.      | 2004 | GCII                | 1018   |
| 5    | Boulder Dash      | Lake Compounce             | Bristol, Conn.           | 2000 | CCI                 | 1009   |
| 6    | Ravine Flyer II   | Waldameer                  | Erie, Pa.                | 2008 | Gravity Group       | 762    |
| 7    | The Beast         | Kings Island               | Mason, Ohio              | 1979 | KECO                | 677    |
| 8    | The Raven         | Holiday World              | Santa Claus, Ind.        | 1995 | CCI                 | 385    |
| 9    | Shivering Timbers | Michigan's Adventure       | Muskegon, Mich.          | 1998 | CCI                 | 378    |
| 10   | Balder            | Liseberg                   | Gothenburg, Sweden       | 2003 | Intamin             | 364    |
| 11   | Lightning Racer   | Hersheypark                | Hershey, Pa.             | 2000 | GCII                | 351    |
| 12   | Hades             | Mount Olympus Theme Park   | Wisconsin Dells, Wis.    | 2005 | Gravity Group       | 344    |
| 13   | Prowler           | Worlds of Fun              | Kansas City, Mo.         | 2009 | GCII                | 284    |
| 14   | Cyclone           | Coney Island/Luna Park     | Brooklyn, N.Y.           | 1927 | Kenan/Baker         | 259    |
| 15   | Thunderbolt       | Kennywood                  | West Mifflin, Pa.        | 1968 | Vettel/Miller       | 228    |
| 16   | Jack Rabbit       | Kennywood                  | West Mifflin, Pa.        | 1920 | PTC - Miller        | 197    |
| 17   | Giant Dipper      | Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk | Santa Cruz, Calif.       | 1924 | Prior & Church/Loof | 179    |
| 18   | The Legend        | Holiday World              | Santa Claus, Ind.        | 2000 | CCI                 | 171    |
| 19   | Colossos          | Heide Park                 | Soltau, Germany          | 2001 | Intamin             | 169    |
| 20   | Comet             | The Great Escape           | Lake George, N.Y.        | 1994 | PTC - Schmeck       | 161    |
| 21   | Tremors           | Silverwood                 | Athol, Idaho             | 1999 | CCI                 | 149    |
| 22   | Kentucky Rumbler  | Beech Bend                 | Bowling Green, Ky.       | 2006 | GCII                | 147    |
| 23   | GhostRider        | Knott's Berry Farm         | Buena Park, Calif.       | 1998 | CCI                 | 142    |
| 24   | Twister           | Gröna Lund                 | Stockholm, Sweden        | 2011 | Gravity Group       | 120    |
| 25   | Troy              | Toverland                  | Sevenum, the Netherlands | 2007 | GCII                | 117    |

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| RANK     | NAME                          | PARK                      | LOCATION                | YEAR     | SUPPLIER           | POINTS |
|----------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------|--------|
| 26       | Viper                         | Six Flags Great America   | Gurnee, III.            | 1995     | Starkey/Six Flags  | 116    |
| 27       | Megafobia                     | Oakwood                   | Pembrokshire, Wales     | 1996     | CCI                | 115    |
| 28       | Apocalypse                    | Six Flags Magic Mountain  | Valencia, Calif.        | 2009     | GCII               | 111    |
| 29       | Playland Wooden Coaster       | PNE Playland              | Vancouver, B.C., Canada | 1958     | Phare              | 107    |
| 30       | Grand National                | Pleasure Beach, Blackpool | Blackpool, England      | 1935     | Paige              | 106    |
| 31       | American Thunder              | Six Flags St. Louis       | Eureka, Mo.             | 2008     | GCII               | 104    |
| 32       | Wooden Warrior                | Quassy Amusement Park     | Middlebury, Conn.       | 2011     | Gravity Group      | 100    |
| 33       | Twister                       | Knoebels Amusement Resort | Elysburg, Pa.           | 1999     | Fetterman-Knoebels | 99     |
| 34       | El Toro                       | Freizeitpark Plohn        | Lengenfeld, Germany     | 2009     | GCII               | 97     |
| 35       | Thunderbird                   | PowerLand                 | Alahärmä, Finland       | 2006     | GCII               | 93     |
| 36       | Hellcat                       | Timber Falls              | Wisconsin Dells, Wis.   | 2004     | S & S              | 90     |
| 37       | Tonnerre de Zeus              | Park Astérix              | Plailly, France         | 1997     | CCII               | 87     |
| 38       | Blue Streak                   | Cedar Point               | Sandusky, Ohio          | 1964     | PTC - Hoover       | 85     |
| 39 (tie) | Boardwalk Bullet              | Kemah Boardwalk           | Kemah, Texas            | 2007     | M&V/Gravity Group  | 80     |
| 39 (tie) | Cornball Express              | Indiana Beach             | Monticello, Ind.        | 2001     | CCI                | 80     |
| 41       | Rutschebanan                  | Tivoli Gardens            | Copenhagen, Denmark     | ca. 1914 | LaMarcus Thompson  | 79     |
| 42 (tie) | The Boss                      | Six Flags St. Louis       | Eureka, Mo.             | 2000     | CCI                | 73     |
| 42 (tie) | Racer                         | Kennywood                 | West Mifflin, Pa.       | 1927     | PTC - Miller       | 73     |
| 44       | Blue Streak                   | Conneaut Lake Park        | Conneaut Lake, Pa.      | 1938     | Vettel             | 65     |
| 45       | Mean Streak                   | Cedar Point               | Sandusky, Ohio          | 1991     | Dinn-Summers       | 57     |
| 46 (tie) | T Express                     | Everland                  | Yonjin-si, South Korea  | 2008     | Intamin            | 55     |
| 46 (tie) | Timber Terror                 | Silverwood                | Athol, Idaho            | 1996     | CCI                | 55     |
| 48       | Great American Scream Machine | Six Flags Over Georgia    | Austell, Ga.            | 1973     | PTC - Allen        | 52     |
| 49       | Wild Mouse                    | Pleasure Beach, Blackpool | Blackpool, England      | 1958     | Wright             | 50     |
| 50       | Renegade                      | Valleyfair!               | Shakopee, Minn.         | 2007     | GCII               | 49     |



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