

AMUSEMENT TODAY™

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Park claims "Best Landscaping" for 13th consecutive year

Busch Gardens Williamsburg hosts AT's 2010 Golden Ticket Awards



Busch Gardens Williamsburg Host Park • 2010 Golden Ticket Awards September 11, 2010

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

Winning a Golden Ticket is a beautiful thing. What better place to make the official announcements than at **Busch Gardens Williamsburg**? This Virginia park has won year after year in our poll for its amazing landscaping and sheer beauty throughout the park.

Those attending the ceremony will also be sure to see why Busch Gardens is a winner or finalist in six of *Amusement Today's* various categories.

This year's ceremony brings a touch of sadness among the fanfare and celebration. Will Koch, Jr., who recently passed away this sum-

mer was *AT's* inspiration to hold a ceremony to acknowledge the physical awards. His parks, **Holiday World and Splashin' Safari**, were the first to host the event. (See Legends on page 30).

Since that first ceremony in 2001, the event has continued to grow. Thanks go to the many host parks we've had for the ceremony over the years – **Kings Island, Schlitterbahn, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Dollywood, Legoland California, and Cedar Point**. In some years, nearby parks offered an add-on day to make it even more of an industry celebration – **Knott's Berry Farm and Fun Spot**.

One of the most touching and rewarding ceremonies ever took place in 2008 at

the inspiring **Give Kids The World Village**. Each attendee left with a deeper appreciation for the great work that goes on at this ever-growing community.

Thanks go to the many hosts past and present, and in particular to Busch Gardens Williamsburg in assisting *Amusement Today* in honoring the Best of the Best for our thirteenth straight year. Congratulations to our 2010 recipients.

Deep appreciation also goes out to the hundreds of voters for sharing their experiences with the industry to keep us on our toes and ever striving to do the best we can to offer all the guests that visit each and every park and support this amazing business.



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

Busch Gardens Williamsburg is the host park for the 2010 Golden Ticket Awards. The park's Teatro di San Marco Theater will provide a unique backdrop for the awards ceremony on the evening of Sept. 11. Below, the Virginia themer won Best Landscaping for the 13th consecutive year, the only park to have ever won the award.



PHOTO COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS WILLIAMSBURG

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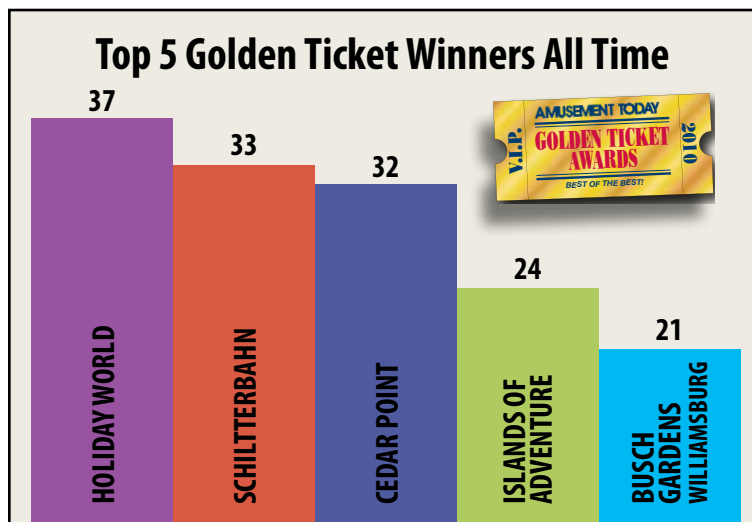


AMUSEMENT TODAY™

Your amusement industry NEWS source!

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Tim Baldwin

Showing the Gold



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

John Hildebrandt stands next to a display of Cedar Point's massive collection of Golden Ticket Awards located in the park's Town Hall Museum.

It's often said that the Golden Tickets are the "Oscars of the Amusement Industry." From time to time, actors are often asked what they do with their Oscars once its won.

I was reminded of this on a recent trip to Cedar Point. General Manager John Hildebrandt was eager to surprise me with something special in the park's Town Hall Museum. Upon entering, prominently located near the front of the museum was a glass display case that showcased the park's many wins over the years. Guests to Cedar Point were able to see the numerous park accolades every day.

So what do the parks do with their Golden Tickets?

"We can barely contain ourselves and hug them first of all," chuckles Terri Adams, COO for Schlitterbahn Waterparks. "We immediately put them front and center in our staff services area — to share with those folks who are behind the magic. We also take them to manage-



Baldwin

ment meetings, board meetings, and anywhere else we can show our 'family' how proud we are to win the awards."

At Knoebels they are on display in the foyer of the main park office.

"We show them off at a park-wide management team to celebrate the award and then at our fall town meeting before sharing the award with the teams most responsible," says Pete Owens of Dollywood. "Christmas, for example, is shared between entertainment and special events."

Reflecting on the Golden Tickets brings a bittersweet warmth to Paula Werne, public relations director for Holiday World and Splashin' Safari. The park is still coping with the loss of park president and close friend Will Koch, Jr. "Will always liked to bring back the Golden Ticket Awards and show them to us at the next all-hands meeting. He always stressed these weren't 'his' awards, but something we'd all earned and won together."

"While the Golden Ticket Awards for our rides adorn the entry hall at our main office, the awards for Friendliness and Cleanliness are proudly displayed in Employees Services," explains Werne. "They are placed by the time clocks to remind our hosts and hostesses that their actions (or inactions) that day could make all the difference in our guests' experiences. I'm sure we'll carry on that tradition."

Melissa Pinkerton, communications director Six Flags New England, reports the park puts the actual awards on display in their executive office. "We then have artwork created that includes the Golden Ticket blown up to billboard size. We put them outside of the locker station facing the walkway so everyone sees them. We also hang them inside the ride station."

So for those pondering what to do with your 2010 awards, big congratulations are offered to you on your successful achievements. Continue to show the gold.

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Turning a **Green Thumb** into a **Golden Ticket**

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

2010 "Best Landscaping"
– Busch Gardens, Williamsburg, Va

buschgardens.com/va

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2010 park winners showcase the Best of the Best

Cedar Point, Schlitterbahn both make it 13 years with an award

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

The lock on Best Park and Best Waterpark continues to be in an iron grip as **Cedar Point** and **Schlitterbahn** boast victories once again in their respective categories. Our panel knows what they like, and these two parks exemplify many great qualities that keep them on top.

Last year, **Knoebels** appeared in the No. 2 spot in our list of ten best parks. They do a repeat this year.

Universal's Islands of Adventure, pushed further in popularity by the new Harry Potter franchise, now rises into the third place spot.

Disneyland, always up to the title of "Happiest Place on Earth" lands solidly in the top five at No. 4.

Tying for the No. 5 position is **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** and **Europa-Park**. Both of these parks are exquisitely themed and gorgeously landscaped.

The next position sees a tie between **Pleasure Beach Blackpool** and **Kennywood**. Both of these parks are noted for their historic charm and dedica-



tion to a mix of new and classic rides.

A three-way tie for the remaining two spots makes our top ten list stretch to eleven actually with Dollywood, Holiday World and Tokyo DisneySea all celebrated for their various strengths.

Following Schlitterbahn's massive win is **Splashin' Safari** taking second place. In the past two decades, this small little section started in 1993 has grown into one of America's largest complexes of large waterpark attractions.

Making a top five on the waterpark list is the

highly thematic **Blizzard Beach** at Walt Disney World in Florida, the enormous **Noah's Ark** in Wisconsin Dells, and **Typhoon Lagoon**, also in Orlando.

Best Children's Park sees a new winner for the category. After a history of placing in the No. 2 spot, **Idlewild** in Ligonier, Pa. can now claim the Golden Ticket.

"It has great atmosphere, a beautiful setting, and lots of charm," says Paul Blick, events director for American Coaster Enthusiasts, who recently visited the park. "I love the Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood Trolley. It had a great sense of nostalgia that took me back to my childhood."

Legoland California still maintains a strong following at the No. 2 spot. The property continues to expand, now with a waterpark.

Fårup Sommerland in Denmark slowly transitions to more of a family park with some larger thrill rides, but its vast assortment of children's play structures and rides that parents and children can ride together still get it noticed by our panel.

► See PARKS, page 11



Park and Ride Winners



Ranked by percentage of votes cast

BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2010 (Amusement Park)

Harry Potter and ...Journey	Islands of Adventure	24%
Intimidator 305	Kings Dominion	21%
Sky Rocket	Kennywood	20%
Intimidator	Carowinds	14%
Ghost Ship	Morey's Piers	4% (tie)
Joris en de Drak	Efteling	4% (tie)

BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2010 (Waterpark)

Wildebeest	Splashin' Safari	69%
Scorpion's Tail	Noah's Ark	12%
Triple Twist	Great Wolf Lodge Kings Mills	6%
Omaka Rocka	Aquatica	5.5%

BEST PARK

Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	26%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	11%
Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	10%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	9%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	7% (tie)
Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	7% (tie)
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	6% (tie)
Pleasure Beach Blackpool	Blackpool, England	6% (tie)
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	4.5% (tie)
Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	4.5% (tie)
Toyko DisneySea	Tokyo, Japan	4.5% (tie)

BEST WATERPARK

Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas	57%
Splashin' Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.	16%
Blizzard Beach	Orlando, Fla.	8%
Noah's Ark	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	6%
Typhoon Lagoon	Orlando, Fla.	5.5%

BEST CHILDREN'S PARK

Idlewild & SoakZone	Ligonier, Pa.	38%
Legoland California	Carlsbad, Calif.	30%
Fårup Sommerland	Saltum, Denmark	8%
Dutch Wonderland	Lancaster, Pa.	6%
Little Amerricka	Marshall, Wis.	4%

BEST MARINE LIFE PARK

SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	60%
SeaWorld San Antonio	San Antonio, Texas	13%
SeaWorld San Diego	San Diego, Calif.	10%
Discovery Cove	Orlando, Fla.	6%
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom	Vallejo, Calif.	5%

BEST SEASIDE PARK

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	37%
Pleasure Beach Blackpool	Blackpool, England	28%
Morey's Piers	Wildwood, N.J.	22%
Gröna Lund	Stockholm, Sweden	5%
Kemah Boardwalk	Kemah, Texas	4%

BEST INDOOR WATERPARK

Schlitterbahn Galveston Island	Galveston, Texas	33%
Kalahari Resort	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	17%
Kalahari Resort	Sandusky, Ohio	16%
World Waterpark	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	12%
Splash Landings	Staffordshire, England	9%

FRIENDLIEST PARK

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	34%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	24%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	20%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	9%
Beech Bend	Bowling Green, Ky.	4%

CLEANEST PARK

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	37%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	15%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	11%
Magic Kingdom	Orlando, Fla.	10%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	9%

BEST SHOWS

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	35%
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	18%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	10%
Disney's Hollywood Studios	Orlando, Fla.	8%
SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	7.5%



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

Voted as our new Best Children's Park, Idlewild & SoakZone offers an amazing array of rides, attractions and activities suited for the young and young at heart.



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

SeaWorld Orlando continues to dominate the Best Sea Life Park category. The park offers a range of shows, animal interactions, coasters and water rides.



Park and Ride Winners

Ranked by percentage of votes cast



BEST FOOD

Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	27%
Epcot	Orlando, Fla.	18% (tie)
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	18% (tie)
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	12%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	8%

BEST WATER RIDE (PARK)

Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls	Universal's Islands of Adventure	24%
Valhalla	Pleasure Beach Blackpool	17%
Splash Mountain	Magic Kingdom	13%
Pilgrims Plunge	Holiday World	11%
Journey to Atlantis	SeaWorld Orlando	9%

BEST WATERPARK RIDE

Wildebeest	Splashin Safari	33%
Master Blaster	Schlitterbahn	21%
Zoombabwe	Splashin' Safari	9%
Dragon's Revenge	Schlitterbahn	8%
Congo River Expedition	Schlitterbahn	7%

BEST KIDS' AREA

Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	33%
Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	13%
Nickelodeon Universe	Bloomington, Minn.	12%
Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	7%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	5% (tie)
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands	5% (tie)

BEST DARK RIDE

Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man	Universal's Islands of Adventure	30%
Twilight Zone Tower of Terror	Disney's Hollywood Studios	19%
Haunted Mansion	Knoebels Amusement Resort	14%
Harry Potter and...Forbidden Journey	Universal's Islands of Adventure	10%
Curse of DarKastle	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	5% (tie)
Indiana Jones...Forbidden Eye	Disneyland	5% (tie)

BEST OUTDOOR SHOW PRODUCTION

Epcot	Orlando, Fla.	40%
Disney California Adventure	Anaheim, Calif.	17%
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	15%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	11%
Disney's Hollywood Studios	Orlando, Fla.	7%

BEST LANDSCAPING

Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	35%
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, The Netherlands	16%
Gilroy Gardens	Gilroy, Calif.	13%
Disney's Animal Kingdom	Orlando, Fla.	5% (tie)
Epcot	Orlando, Fla.	5% (tie)

BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT

Universal Orlando Resort	Orlando, Fla.	32%
Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	25%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	19%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	11%
Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	5%

BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	36%
Magic Kingdom	Orlando Fla.	17%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	16%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	12%
Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	6%

BEST CAROUSEL

Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	50%
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	16%
Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga	11%
Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	9%
Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	4%

BEST INDOOR COASTER

Revenge of the Mummy	Universal Studios Orlando	30%
Space Mountain	Disneyland	16%
Space Mountain	Magic Kingdom	12% (tie)
Mindbender	Galaxyland	12% (tie)
Rock 'n' Roller Coaster	Disney's Hollywood Studios	11%

BEST FUNHOUSE/WALK-THROUGH ATTRACTION

Noah's Ark	Kennywood	34%
Frankenstein's Castle	Indiana Beach	32%
Ghost Ship	Morey's Piers	10%
Hotel Gasten	Liseberg	7%
Lustiga Huset	Gröna Lund	6%



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TOP Steel Roller Coasters



7
Diamondback Kings Island



13
Behemoth Canada's Wonderland



8
Magnum Cedar Point



21
Intimidator Carowinds



10
Top Thrill Dragster Cedar Point



21
Maverick Cedar Point



11
Intimidator 305 Kings Dominion
BEST New Ride for 2010



24
Raptor Cedar Point
BEST Halloween Event



2
Intimidator 305 Kings Dominion



2
Halloween Haunt Knott's Berry Farm



4
Intimidator Carowinds



5
Halloween Haunt Kings Island

TOP Wooden Roller Coasters



7
The Beast Kings Island



12
Prowler Worlds of Fun



24
GhostRider Knott's Berry Farm



4
Knott's Berry Farm



3
Gilroy Gardens

Cedar Point

Sandusky, OH • cedarpoint.com



Sandusky, OH • soakcity.cedarpoint.com

Knott's Berry Farm

Buena Park, CA • knotts.com



Orange County • San Diego
Palm Springs • soakcityusa.com

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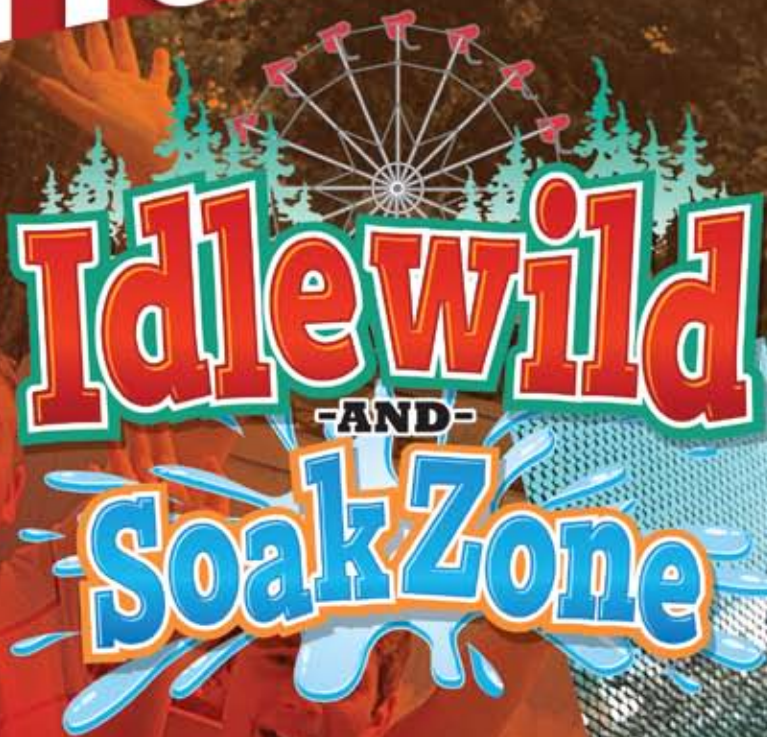
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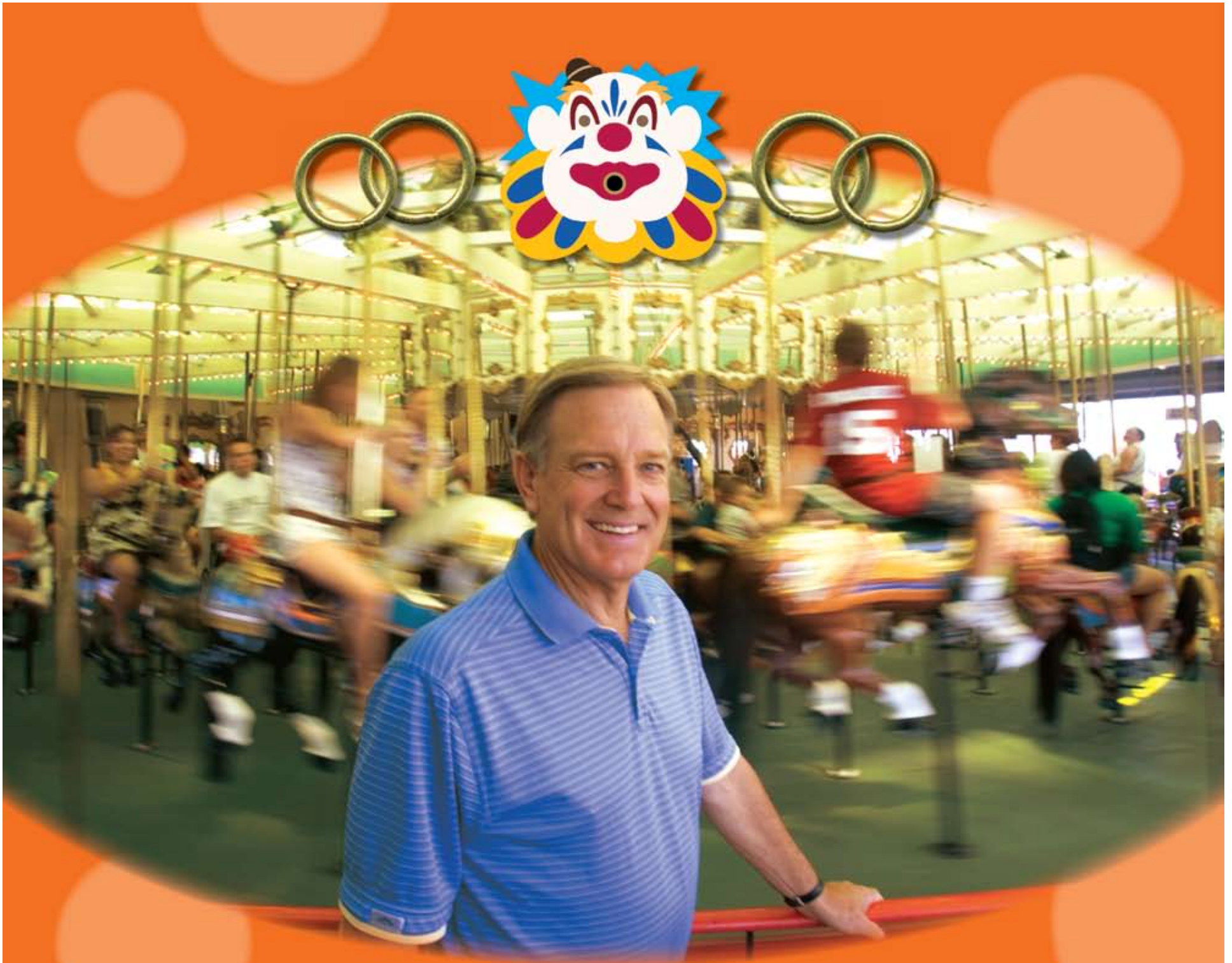
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Your Golden Ticket votes have brought smiles to the faces of those who work so hard to put smiles on the faces of our guests.

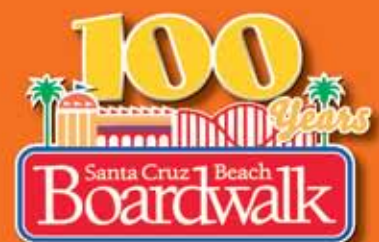


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Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk President Charles Canfield at the 1911 Loeff Carousell.

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WORLD'S BEST
INDOOR WATERPARK **2010**





► PARKS

Continued from page 4

Dutch Wonderland in Pennsylvania caters to the small crowd with fanciful attractions, and **Little Americka** of Madison, Wis., offers various small rides for families to ride together and an impressively long train ride that stretches for miles. These two parks come in at No. 4 and 5, respectively.

SeaWorld Orlando seems to have the upper hand when it comes to Best Marine Life Park. Its sister parks, **SeaWorld San Antonio** and **SeaWorld San Diego** may have to endure a bit of jealousy, coming in at No. 2 and No. 3. The highly exclusive **Discovery Cove** places in No. 4 and rounding out the category is **Six Flags Discovery Kingdom** in Vallejo, Calif., that mixes marine life with zoo animals and thrill rides.

In the category of Best Seaside Park, **Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk** keeps its win for the Golden Ticket. For more than 100 years this seaside gem has delighted families and tourists. It is no wonder its marvelous atmosphere has enchanted so many for so long.

In second place is **Pleasure Beach Blackpool**. This English resort sits on the Irish Sea and packs an enormous amount of roller coasters and rides into a relatively small space.

Like Pleasure Beach, **Morrey's Piers** knows how to pack in rides and can teach several parks a lesson or two about making use of space. The New Jersey conglomeration comes in at No. 3.

A new park in this category is **Gröna Lund** of Stockholm, Sweden. Their waterfront setting sees ferries arriving from Finland during the day. Having just announced a new wooden coaster that will intertwine with two other roller coasters, this park also maximizes its space.

Kemah Boardwalk with its breezy atmosphere completes the top five.

Not far from Kemah, just further south from Houston, **Schlitterbahn Galveston Island** once again takes the Golden Ticket for Best Indoor Waterpark.



AT PHOTO / DAN FEICHT



AT PHOTO / JEFFREY SEIFERT



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

Clockwise from top left, Cedar Point has taken the Golden Ticket for Best Park for thirteen years in a row, matched by Schlitterbahn (top right) for Best Waterpark. Schlitterbahn Galveston Island wins as Best Indoor Waterpark for a third year. Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk has the perfect shoreline ambience to stay on top of the Best Seaside Park category.



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

Second place winners include: Legoland California for Best Children's Park, Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells in the Indoor Waterpark category, and Pleasure Beach Blackpool in the Seaside Park category.

"I think what gets us recognized year after year is the quantity and quality of attractions we are able to offer under one roof," explained Ron Sutula, general manager. "The other advantage we have is that we can also automatically open the roof and walls in eight minutes on those perfect Texas days."

Competing against each other for second place, both

Kalahari Resort Wisconsin Dells and Kalahari Resort Sandusky (Ohio) battle it out. Wisconsin takes the second place grab this year, with the Sandusky park placing at No. 3.

World Water Park with West Edmonton Mall holds fast at the No. 4 position and **Splash Landings** at Alton Towers in England once again completes the five finalists.



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN



AT PHOTO / MARK ROSENZWEIG

Focus on friendliest, food, landscaping and cleanest accent guest experience

Busch Gardens Williamsburg, Holiday World and Knoebels all winners

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

Making it thirteen years in a row, **Busch Gardens Williamsburg** captivates our panel and its guests with the Golden Ticket for Best Landscaping. Park atmosphere is unmistakable as visitors enjoy a park, and the folks at Busch make sure guests enjoy their time wandering the walkways with their lush floral arrangements and varied landscaping.

Continuously held in high regard is **Efteling** of The Netherlands and their beautiful flowers. The park's new racing coaster should bring in many new faces to enjoy the lush creations.

Gilroy Gardens takes the third place spot and sisterparks in Orlando – **Disney's Animal Kingdom** and **Epcot** – tie to complete a top five.

Having lost hold of Friendliest Park last year, **Holiday World** has worked hard to bring it back.

"As much as we told ourselves we weren't resting on our laurels after 11 straight years of Friendliest Golden Ticket Awards," says Paula Werne, director of public relations, "maybe coming in second for a year was the kick in the pants we needed to step it up another notch. Will's message to us was that our growth in size and attendance could not compromise the 'small park feel' we'd always cultivated."

Holiday World went on to revamp and reenergize their hospitality training. The park received hundreds of emails and posts praising the park employees. "We knew that whether or not we won the Golden Ticket, we accomplished our goal," smiles Werne.

Dollywood also has been recognized for their friendly



PHOTO COURTESY BUSCH GARDENS

Much of Busch Garden's miraculous charm comes from its beautiful surroundings.

staff with a second place spot. The third place position is also in the Herschend family – **Silver Dollar City**.

Knoebels and **Beech Bend** round out the five finalists in this very important category.

One category that **Holiday World** didn't lose hold of is Cleanest Park and the voters continue to see it. Addressing a group of park fans ten years ago, matriarch Pat Koch stated, "I want the park to be just as clean when the guests leave as when they arrive." That philosophy stays true today.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg takes the second place role in this category. In addition to their beautiful landscaping, a clean park adds to the ambience of the setting.

The next three parks made for a close race when finishing our group of finalists – **Dollywood**, **Magic Kingdom** and **Disneyland**.

Knoebels has once again

gobbled up the Golden Ticket for Best Food. Tasty treats range from Mexican pizza to pierogies to hand-dipped Teaberry ice cream.

Epcot and **Silver Dollar City** tie for second in the category. Epcot is known for its wide international cuisine, while the down home cooking and amazing skillet dishes never cease to keep Silver Dollar City guests loving dinner-time.

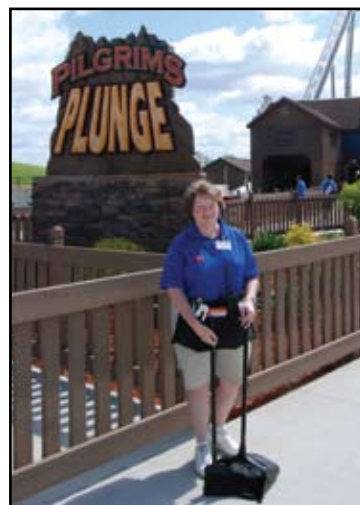
Dollywood also shares such similar fare with its home style offerings and mealtime is a wonderful time.

Busch Gardens Williamsburg shares a flair for offering guests well prepared meals throughout its European setting. The park completes our list of finalists.

It's also fun to know that some of our winners have been featured on the Food Network for their exquisite dishes.



Above, Holiday World places a great amount of importance, and training, on the value of friendly employees. At left, the park also takes the win for Cleanest Park once again.



PHOTOS COURTESY HOLIDAY WORLD



PHOTO COURTESY KNOEBELS

Guests to Knoebels love eating the many different varieties of comfort foods available – from funnel cakes to taco pizza to pierogies – all at family friendly prices.



Universal Orlando, Holiday World win Best New Rides



Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

Each year the staff at *Amusement Today* has a hunch of what might take the lead for Best New Ride. This year, the field was wide open with a huge array of worthy new attractions to seek out the top prize. A launched vertical dive coaster, a 232-foot speed coaster, a steel coaster surpassing 300 feet, the most advanced interactive dark ride ever, an elaborate night show extravaganza, a new themed walk-through, a racing wooden coaster, and a steel coaster with a freefall piece of track – it was anyone's game. And judging by the percentages, the parks seemed to have reached their goals. 2010 will mark a year of a very close race for Best New Ride/Attraction.

For the first time since *AT* introduced this category, an attraction other than a roller coaster takes the Golden Ticket. Universal's **Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey** has placed guests in awe in trying to comprehend what they have just experienced. The combination of flying through movie sequences and being thrust into thematic environments with dark and threatening specters is nothing short of dazzling. The national advertising campaign for Islands of Adventure's new area has multitudes flocking to



At the far end of Hogsmeade in the new Wizarding World of Harry Potter lies the enormous and elaborate Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey, the winner of Best New Ride for 2010.

PHOTOS
COURTESY
UNIVERSAL
ORLANDO

this new attraction.

Coming close is **Intimidator 305** at Kings Dominion. As one of only a rare handful of coasters to break the 300-foot barrier, this steel giant by IntaRide is sure to wow riders and spectators alike.

Hot on its heels is Kennywood's new **Sky Rocket**. Passengers smoothly launch to 50

mph and take a 100-foot vertical dive before soaring through a variety of maneuvers, including three inversions -- all comfortably executed with no over-the-shoulder restraints. The ride was supplied by Premier Rides.

Using the NASCAR theme shared by their sister park, Carowinds opened **Intimida-**



Splashin' Safari's new Wildebeest was a major investment for the park, and a major hit. It easily wins as Best New Ride in a Waterpark this season.

TOP PHOTO /
TIM BALDWIN;
LEFT PHOTO
COURTESY
HOLIDAY WORLD

tor, a 232-foot hyper coaster by B&M. It places fourth.

Two attractions tie for our fifth spot. Morey's Piers opened **Ghost Ship**, a throwback to boardwalk walk-through attractions of yesteryear, this one being inside a gigantic themed ship. Efteling's **Joris en de Draak** is the first racing woodie to debut in ten years. This one

was once again built by GCII, their third racer.

On the waterpark scene, Splashin' Safari's **Wildebeest** was a runaway hit. Taking the category by storm, Wildebeest is the longest uphill water coaster ever built. The hydro-magnetic launched waterslide was supplied by ProSlide. Unseen magnetic forces dramatically propel riders up eight uphill sections.

Even with that landslide win, **Scorpion's Tail** at Noah's Ark still gained some attention. It is the nation's first inclined loop waterslide that begins with a freefall drop. It is supplied by Whitewater West. This new looping waterslide takes second place.

Coming in third and fourth are **Triple Twist** at Great Wolf Lodge in Ohio and **Omaka Rocka** at Aquatica in Orlando. Both attractions were created by ProSlide.

As typical for the close of the season, new announcements and fun rumors create a buzz to energize fans through the upcoming off season, waiting to find the best new rides in 2011.



PHOTO COURTESY KINGS DOMINION

Intimidator 305 at Kings Dominion is one of the rare roller coasters that top 300 feet. It came in a close second for Best New Ride.



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

Noah's Ark opened Scorpion's Tail as America's first looping waterslide. It took second place in Best New Ride in a Waterpark.

Thank You For awarding us... *Best of Both Worlds!*

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



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Wildebееst at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari debuted the World's First ProSlide HydroMAGNETIC ROCKET™ with a ride-up conveyor for their 2010 season. At a whopping length of 1710 feet, Wildebееst is the longest water coaster in the World! Congratulations Holiday World and thank you for your continued support of ProSlide!

Previous ride winners take a re-ride; Kennywood joins in the fun

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

Two new winners have risen to the top of the list this year in our ride categories.

Kennywood's Noah's Ark takes the Golden Ticket for Best Funhouse/Walk-Through Attraction. This classic ride from the 1930s has been refurbished and rethemed over the years, making it a "must do" for any Kennywood visit.

Frankenstein's Castle at **Indiana Beach**, the previous winner in this category, came in a close second.

Morey's Piers' mysterious new-for-2010 Ghost Ship enters the category in third place. Hotel Gasten, an elaborate scare factory at Sweden's **Liseberg** and Lustiga Huset, a wild funhouse at **Gröna Lund**, also in Sweden, close out the category.

Splashin' Safari has triumphantly knocked Master Blaster at **Schlitterbahn** out of its longstanding No. 1 position for Best Waterpark Ride. Wildebeest, the new \$5.5 million uphill watercoaster, opened at Splashin' Safari to rave reviews, getting close to 700 riders an hour.

The two parks absolutely dominated the category this year with Schlitterbahn taking three of the top five. In addition to Master Blaster in second, the park's Dragon's Revenge and Congo River Expedition took fourth and fifth. Splashin' Safari placed third with their Zoombabwe enclosed family raft ride.

Getting wet in the amusement park let a return favorite maintain a hold on Best Water Ride. Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls at **Universal's Islands of Adventure** stays at the top of the charts. The heavily themed Mack flume is a sure drencher.

Valhalla at **Pleasure Beach Blackpool** gives some soaking fun in its combination flume/dark ride adventure. With England's climate often being not-so-sunny, the park sells many a rain cape to people who still want to take in the attraction.

Orlando tourists and residents are keeping it cool with Splash Mountain at **Magic Kingdom** (No. 3) and Journey to Atlantis at **SeaWorld Orlando** (No. 5). Completing the top five is **Holiday World's**

Pilgrims Plunge at the No. 4 spot.

Revenge of the Mummy once again takes the Golden Ticket as Best Indoor Roller Coaster. The launched and heavily-themed coaster at **Universal Studios Orlando** opened in 2004.

Space Mountain at **Disneyland** in California is, to a certain degree, a measuring stick to which all other indoor coasters are measured against. It scores the No. 2 spot.

Its similar cousin in Orlando at **Magic Kingdom** ties for third with Mindbender at **Galaxyland** inside West Edmonton Mall in Canada. The Canadian coaster is all about powerful loops, not darkness and theming. Another Disney coaster – Rock 'n' Roller Coaster at **Disney's Hollywood Studios** – wraps up the top five.

The makeover to Planet Snoopy did not affect **Kings Island's** stronghold on the Best Kids' Area Golden Ticket. The large kids' area, which has seen many themes and expansions throughout the park's 38 year history, got the Peanuts treatment and a fresh new look for 2010.

Universal's Islands of Adventure always succeeds in bringing smiles to kids and usually the parents, too, as they enjoy Seuss Landing together. The amount of Thing One and Thing Two t-shirts sold to young and old is testament to the popularity of this area.

Nickelodeon Universe within Bloomington's Mall of America places third in

► See RIDES, page 18



AT PHOTO / MARK ROSENZWEIG

Noah's Ark has been entertaining guests at Kennywood since 1936. It is one of only two such rides remaining in the world today. The combination funhouse/walk-through has numerous scenes all on a rocking boat.



Wildebeest not only scores as Best New Ride, but also takes Best Waterpark Ride in its debut year. The amazing hydro-magnetic uphill water coaster was a \$5.5 million investment for the park. Passengers in groups of four begin their ride with a conveyor belt lift and then cover a twisting course encountering eight uphill sections that magnetically launch the rafts up the hills. Wildebeest is only the third ride ever to win this category.

AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

Kings Island gave its award winning Kids' Area a new thematic makeover to the popular Peanuts characters this year. It was dubbed Planet Snoopy.



PHOTO COURTESY KNOEBELS

Nostalgia buffs and kids alike agree that reaching for the brass ring is a long-adored tradition that should never go away. Knoebels wins again for Best Carousel.

FIVE #1 GOLDEN TICKET AWARD WINNERS



BEST NEW RIDE

Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey™

BEST DARK RIDE

The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man®

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

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▶RIDES

Continued from page 16

this category. Once a Camp Snoopy, the park has found even greater popularity with its expanded theme. It is open year round.

Speaking of Camp Snoopy, the original at Knott's Berry Farm is the fourth place finalist in this category.

Completing the top five is a tie, making six parks appear on the chart this year. Efteling in The Netherlands, with its huge fairy tale forest, and Busch Garden's Tampa, with its new makeover in its kids section impressed our voters.

Universal's Islands of Adventure has two finalists in the category of Best Dark Ride. Taking top bill once again is the Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man. Entering the category is the brand new Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey. Just open a few weeks during our voting period, this new elaborate and high-tech ride enters the chart at No. 4. Some predict the new attraction will de-throne Spider-Man next year. Our 2011 panel will be the ones to decide that.

Placing second is Twilight Zone Tower of Terror at Disney's Hollywood Studios.



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

Universal Orlando boasts a handful of awards in the ride categories including: Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls, above, for Best Water Ride; Revenge of the Mummy, above right, for Best Indoor Coaster; and The Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man for Best Dark Ride.

The park has tweaked the ride many times over the years, but one thing remains -- the screams heard down the elevator shaft.

Haunted Mansion at Knoebels takes it old school with its traditional dark ride experience, placing third. A tie for our fifth finalist places the high profile Curse of Darkastle at Busch Gardens Williamsburg with Disneyland's Indiana Jones and the Temple

of the Forbidden Eye.

Reaching for the brass ring has not stopped impressing our voters when it comes to Best Carousel. Both Knoebels and Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk offer this traditional experience to their guests, and take our top two spots.

Closing the category are carousels known for their beauty at Six Flags Over Georgia, Six Flags Great America and Hersheypark.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSAL ORLANDO



AT PHOTO / DAVID LIPNICKY

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

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

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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 2010 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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Shows and seasonal events diversify year-round entertainment

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

Dollywood makes it two years in a row, taking the Golden Ticket for Best Shows. With a matriarch known for her high interest in live music, this is a park that takes live shows very seriously.

Six Flags Fiesta Texas still has a loyal audience for their commitment to live productions and the park takes the second place spot.

Rounding out the top five are **Silver Dollar City**, **Disney's Hollywood Studios** and **SeaWorld Orlando**.

The category of Best Out-

door Night Show Production sees a new major player this year. While sister park **Epcot** still takes the Golden Ticket, **Disney California Adventure** debuted "World of Color" and the park jumps on the charts in the No. 2 spot after less than two months of debuting the show. This could be a battle in 2011 between Disney's two coasts. The new "World of Color" has been receiving rave reviews and has created a night audience for the park.

As if the category couldn't get more Disney-esque, "Fantastic!" puts two more Disney parks in the final five. **Disneyland** takes fourth and right be-



hind it is **Disney's Hollywood Studios**.

In somewhat of a night show sandwich, centered between all this Mickey representation is **Six Flags Fiesta Texas**. The long running "Lone Star Spectacular" places the park in the No. 3 spot.

Over the past two decades, Halloween has become big business with many parks finding the holiday to be one of their busiest seasons. Reigning

as the champ for Best Halloween Event once again is **Universal Orlando**. This gigantic event draws in the minions into the reign of terror.

Knott's Berry Farm, also known for its elaborate event, takes the second place position.

Completing our top five finalists for Halloween Event are: **Knoebels**, **Kennywood** and **Kings Island**. Can they scare up some serious competition for our top two contenders?

Many amusement parks take on a completely different feel for the holidays. Lights and decorations make

it feel like a completely different park for returning guests. Since introducing this category, **Dollywood** has held on to the Golden Ticket for Best Christmas Event.

The **Magic Kingdom** scores a second place win this year, ever-so-slightly nudging **Silver Dollar City** to the third place spot. The Branson park has been on the Travel Channel as one of the ten best places to see Christmas lights.

Closing out the category is **Disneyland** in California and **Hersheypark** in Pennsylvania. Chocolate kisses for Christmas seems like a great stocking stuffer to us!



PHOTO COURTESY DOLLYWOOD

For a second year, Dollywood takes the win for Best Shows. Live music has always been a draw for the park.



PHOTO COURTESY EPCOT

Despite new competition from its sister park in California, Epcot wins again for Best Outdoor Night Show Production.



PHOTO COURTESY UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

Universal Orlando brings in crowds by the multitudes for its elaborate Halloween Horror Nights. The resort takes the win once again for Best Halloween Event.



PHOTO COURTESY DOLLYWOOD

The holidays take on a particular magic at Dollywood with its showcase of yuletide shows and dazzling light displays. The park wins Best Christmas Event.



Dollywood
dollywood.com

No matter the season, thank you for making
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Supplier, individual, park each recipients of 2010 Publisher's Pick



AT PHOTOS / TIM BALDWIN
Serendipity is a \$650,000 multiple purpose ship donated to GKTW Village by Fla.-based Environs.

Serendipity fantasy ship a \$650,000 donation to GKTW from Environs

Cost of the Serendipity: \$650,000. The smiles seen on children's faces: Priceless!

The most magical sound

in the world is that of a child's laughter. The Serendipity fantasy ship is a \$650,000 gift from Environs to the children of Give Kids The World Village in Kissimmee, Fla.

Here, children with terminal illnesses enjoy a week-long, cost-free fantasy vacation with their families complete with accommodations, transportation, attractions tickets to Orlando's many theme parks and more.

Standing 90 feet long and 60 feet high, the Serendipity is the largest scenic ship developed by the Environs team to date. It provides a stage for entertainment shows and the giant fantasy ship has taken the weekly Pirates and Princesses party at the Village to a whole new level. A giant screen stretched between the masts also entertains guests at night with "dive-in" movies.

Serendipity anchors a new swimming and waterplay area, named Park of Dreams, that had been in the planning stages for several years. The giant ship was officially christened on March 7 when Give Kids The World Village celebrated its annual Founder's Day, honoring its founder Henri Landwirth.

Environs, based in Jacksonville, Fla., designs, fabricates and installs themed environments to a wide cross section of facilities and parks.

AT salutes Environs, and its employees, as our **2010 Supplier of the Year** for its priceless donation to Give Kids the World Village.



AT PHOTOS / GARY SLADE
Jeff Novotny's donation of land and labor have given the NRCMA a 2,400-sq.ft. building it can call home.

Jeff Novotny donates \$100,000 in land, labor for new NRCMA building

A national roller coaster museum has been a vision of several roller coaster enthusiasts since the early days of the formation of the American Coaster Enthusiasts fan club. Throughout the late 1970s and 1980s, club members began to collect and donate all kinds of items, with much of it stored in Allentown, Pa. In the early 1990s larger items, such as coaster vehicles, would find their way to PTC for storage. In 2001, the National Roller Coaster Museum would be officially formed with a board of directors selected to guide the dream.

When indoor storage space at PTC started to reach its limits, a search for another storage facility began. That search would lead to Larson International in Plainview, Texas, and company owner Jeff Novotny, who serves on the NRCMA's board. Newly acquired vehicles, track, models and much more began their route to Plainview. Through paid freight carriers and personal trips by Novotny, the NRCMA now has more than 70 ride vehicles stored in Texas.

One goal the NRCMA had was to one day have a building it could call its own. Thanks to a donation of land and labor to erect a 2,400 square-foot building (a value of \$100,000) the NRCMA board voted to use seed money donated by members of ACE to build its very own storage and archival facility. This building opened in June 2009 on land it now owned, adjacent to Larson International. Its growth is ongoing, almost on a weekly basis.

Novotny may not be a coaster rider, but he is a fan of its rich history. *Amusement Today* is proud to select Jeff Novotny as our **2010 Person of the Year**.



Jeff Novotny



AT PHOTO / PAM SHERBORNE
The Beech Bend Park ownership team of Dallas and Alfreda Jones and Charlotte Gonzales.

Beech Bend overcomes health, flooding to open waterpark expansion

The best laid plans don't always go as drawn out on paper as Beech Bend Park in Bowling Green, Kentucky, will acknowledge.

For several years, Beech Bend talked of a massive expansion to its waterpark area. Those plans received a green light late last year by park owner Dallas Jones.

In 2010 park guests would enjoy a lazy river, wave pool, a second larger waterplay structure and new picnicing area. That was the plan.

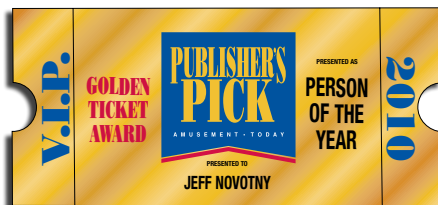
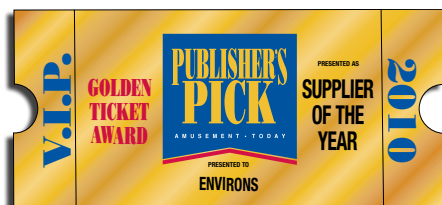
Not planned, Dallas Jones would be admitted to the hospital in January for both open heart surgery and gall bladder surgery. Not planned, a blood infection led to more hospital time throughout most of February. Determined, Jones got back on his feet and back to work at the park.

The expansion plan got back on track, then another setback. On May 1, rain resulting in the worst flooding in Nashville's history would make its way to Bowling Green. The Barren River surrounds the park on three sides. By the time it quit raining, flood waters were 30 feet high in the campground and 20 feet high at the race track. Somehow the park was dry, but the waterpark wasn't. Wave making equipment and fiberglass slides were washed downstream.

A recovery plan was put in place. The amusement park opened on May 7. Work continued, yet again, on the waterpark expansion and as elements were completed, they opened. Not exactly as planned.

Through all of this Dallas Jones, his wife Alfreda and their daughter Charlotte, all had the best plan of all, they had each other.

It's *Amusement Today's* honor to give Beech Bend Park something else to plan, as our selection for **2010 Park of the Year**.



Congratulations

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Thank you for
our beautiful ship,
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Give Kids
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Thanks Jeff!



For donating the land and constructing the first archive building for the National Roller Coaster Museum.





THANK YOU!

Beech Bend Park is Honored to be Named Park of the Year!



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**Six Flags Over Texas
host park for 2011
Golden Ticket Awards**

Six Flags Over Texas, in Arlington, Texas, will have plenty to celebrate in 2011 as the park will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a year-long celebration.

And now the fun factor just increased as the world's first regional theme park will play host to the industry's best, hosting *Amusement Today's* Golden Ticket Awards in Sept. 2011.

Exact date of the event and details will be announced in early 2011 via the publication's new Web site: www.GoldenTicketAwards.com.

Arlington is also home to Six Flags Hurricane Harbor, the Texas Rangers baseball club, the Dallas Cowboys football club and their new massive \$1 billion Cowboys Stadium. AT hopes to organize a tour of this massive facility for GTA attendees, so stay tuned for full details!

Amusement Today honors Will Koch in Legends Series

When *Amusement Today* started its Legends Series last year, the goal was to honor those who had an impact on the amusement industry decades ago. It was meant to bring their name, their legacy and their accomplishments back in the news, so that we never forget their contributions and the ground work laid that has helped build our parks and industry into what they are today.



Will Koch

this year at the young age of 48.

Will Koch, served as Chief Executive Officer of Koch Development Corporation, the parent company of Holiday World Theme Park and Splashin' Safari Water Park,

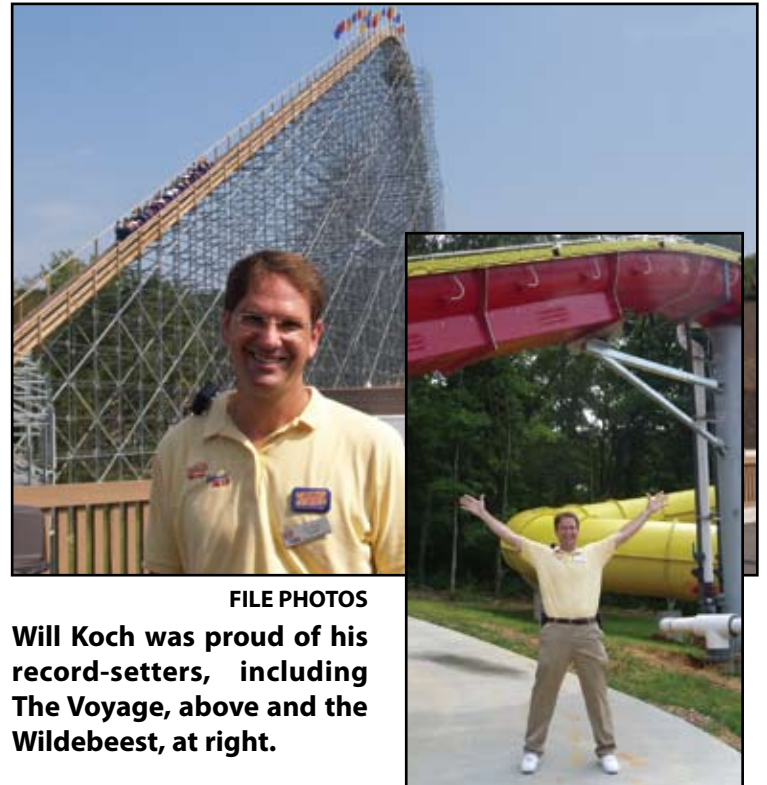
What we didn't envision, was losing one of our dearest of friends, a true industry leader,



until complications from diabetes took him from us far too soon.

Under Will's vision, he took the Santa Claus, Indiana park and grew it into a regional destination. The park added three wooden roller coasters, built a waterpark, added record-breaking rides and became the first park to offer free soda to guests. The guests love it so much, the park now exceeds the one million attendance mark on an annual basis.

The Golden Ticket Awards ceremony that we enjoy today, is the result of Will Koch and his vision for the industry. His offer to *Amusement Today* in 2001 to conduct an 'official' ceremony on the stage of a Holiday World theater pushed the Golden Tickets to another level, and launched an official



FILE PHOTOS

Will Koch was proud of his record-setters, including The Voyage, above and the Wildebeest, at right.

awards event.

Amusement Today is honored to present its second Legends Series award not only in the memory of Will Koch, but to his visions that were, and still are, golden.

Will Koch, thank you for

all you did for our industry, for the lives you touched and for the support and encouragement you gave to *Amusement Today*. You are a Legend in so many ways.

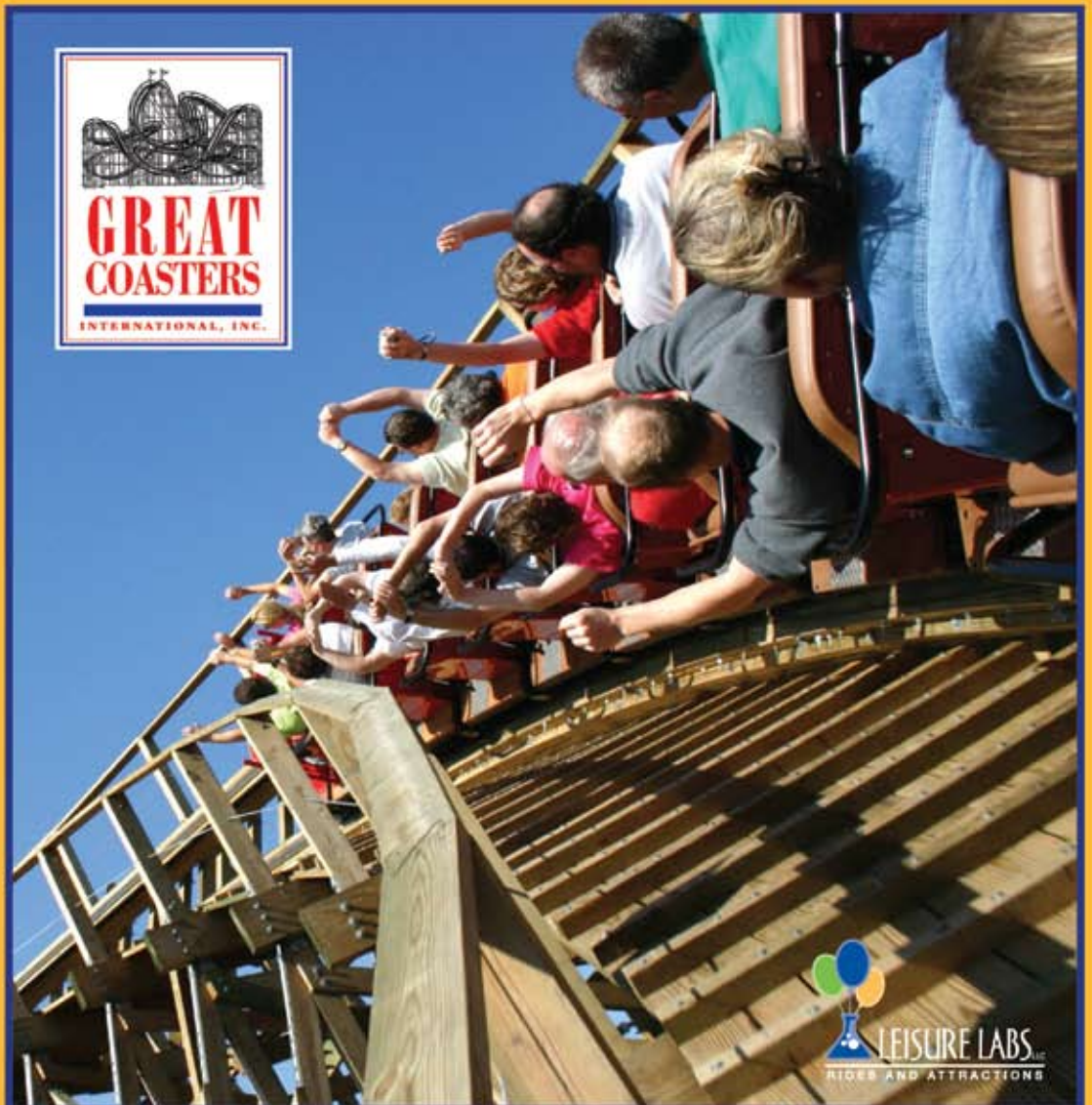
—Gary Slade

Congratulations Beech Bend Park



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Will Koch

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your smile and laugh.*



Paul and Lane Nelson

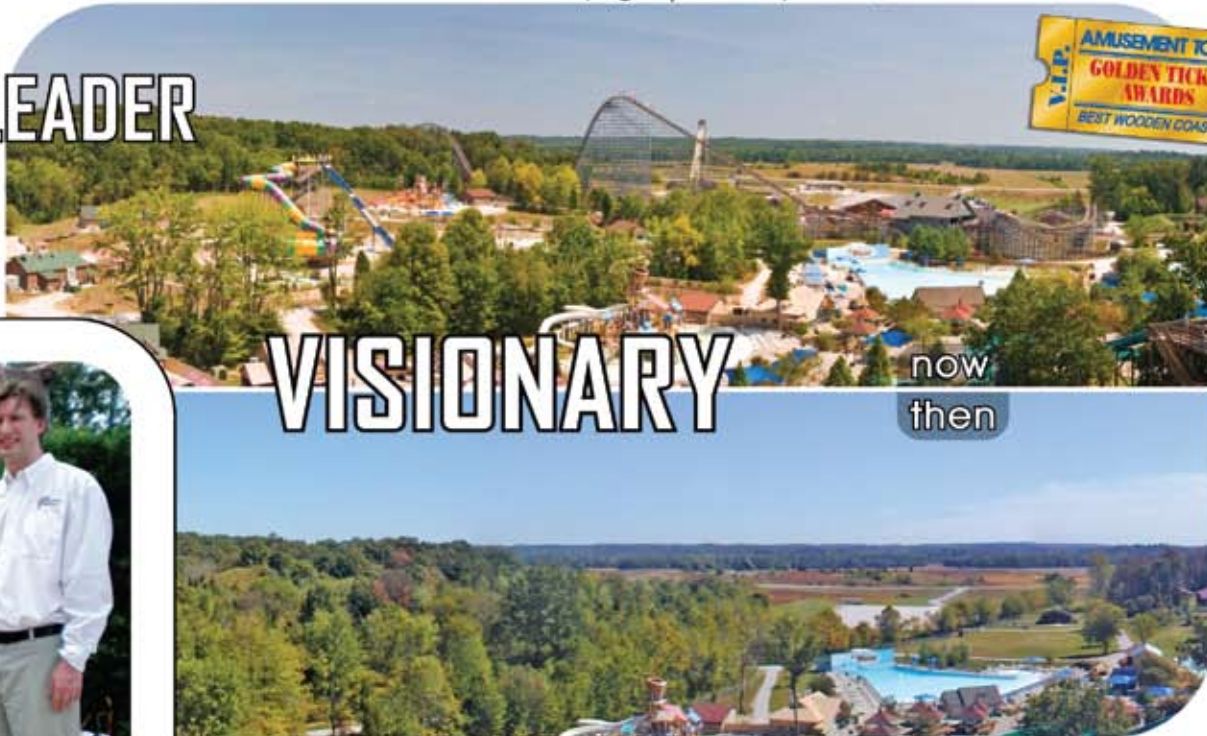
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Thank you

Thank you Amusement Today for honoring the memory of Will Koch with the Publisher's Pick Legends Series Golden Ticket Award. His passion to be the best inspired us all. We stand resolved to continue Will's Legacy.



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Steel Coasters

Millennium Force regains top spot

Tim Baldwin

Amusement Today

What is sure to be a stunning news alert to the coaster world (and Metropolis) is the "bizarre" twist surrounding **Bizarro** and **Millennium Force**. Both roller coasters opened at the turn of the millennium 10 years ago. Starting in 2001, one of these two coasters has occupied the No. 1 slot on the steel charts. For a period of six years, these two steel monsters engaged in a tug-of-war confiscating the coveted Golden Ticket. Since 2006, Bizarro, which was formerly victorious as Superman Ride of Steel, has held on to the title. Transforming to Bizarro last season with an array of additional effects, the steel giant continues to claim legions of fans, but this year's panel put Millennium Force back on top.

"That's incredible news," says John Hildebrandt, general manager of Cedar Point, as the news sinks in. "It's really great timing since the ride is celebrating its tenth anniversary."

That now puts both coasters claiming the No. 1 spot at an equal five years each.

Both of these top contenders were built by Intamin.

A trio of B&M hyper coasters fills out the top five. The oldest of the bunch is Busch Gardens Williamsburg's **Apollo's Chariot**. It opened in 1999 and was B&M's first foray into the genre of out-and-back 200-plus foot speed coasters. It nudges up a spot this year to No. 4, sandwiched between two Six Flags coasters – **Nitro** (No. 3) in New Jersey and **Goliath** (No. 5) in Georgia.

Expedition GeForce continues to reign as the highest rated international coaster on all our charts. Another creation by Intamin, this sleek thriller immediately put Holiday Park in Germany on the radar of every jet-hopping enthusiast. To hold this high position for the better part of this past decade is a testament to how solidly planted this ride is into its fans psyche.

International rides are

scattered among the steel charts. In addition to GeForce, **Behemoth** (No. 13) resides at Canada's Wonderland north of Toronto, and **Nemesis** (No. 18) thrills riders in England at Alton Towers. **Goliath** (No. 30) at LaRonde and **Mindbender** (No. 48) at West Edmonton Mall's Galaxyland are two more Canadian coasters in the lower half of our charts. **Goliath** (No. 41) at Walabi World in The Netherlands, **The Big One** (No. 44) at England's Pleasure Beach Blackpool, **Euro-Mir** (No. 45) at Europa-Park in Germany, and **Katun** (No. 50) at Mirabilandia in Italy all find places on the chart of steel favorites. Enthusiast groups are already planning two European tours next summer which can only boost the exposure of these international parks.

In the U.S., things were on the quieter side when it comes to major new additions. Often, several new thrillers are vying for coaster attention across the country, but this year, that number was a bit smaller. Three high-profile steel coasters opened this year. All found their place on the steel charts in their debut season.

The highest ranking new-for-2010 steel coasters was **Intimidator 305**, which climbed all the way to an impressive spot at No. 11. Kennywood's **Sky Rocket** launched to No. 17 and proved to be a fan favorite rather quickly, with only five weeks of operation during the voting window. Carowinds' **Intimidator** also had a strong opening at No. 21. All three debuts appear in the top 25.

Intimidator 305 was provided by IntaRide, **Sky Rocket** was manufactured by Premier Rides, and **Intimidator** was supplied by B&M.

Of note, for the second year in a row, no looping coaster appears in our top ten. Reaching further down, seven of the top 20 feature inversions. While these coasters are still very popular, it does make one question if the era of the loop is no longer the marketing wow it once was. The highest ranking looping coaster is **Montu** (No. 12) at



Busch Gardens Tampa.

In 2011, something will happen that has never happened in the entire history of the Golden Ticket Awards. The Texas Giant, which took the No. 1 slot on the wood charts in years past, will debut on the steel list, as it is currently undergoing an amazing transformation. While the wood structure will still be maintained, its new Iron Horse steel track will shift it from one chart to the other. Six Flags Over Texas is dubbing it a superhybrid. Stay tuned for this first-of-its-kind development.



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

In a surprise victory, Millennium Force at Cedar Point takes over the prize as Best Steel Coaster after relinquishing the title several years ago.



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

Bizarro at Six Flags New England claimed the top spot for many years, mostly as Superman Ride of Steel.



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

Nitro at Six Flags Great Adventure holds on to the No. 3 spot amid the top five shuffle.



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

Apollo's Chariot at Busch Gardens Williamsburg is the oldest of B&M's trio of speed coasters in the top five.



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

Goliath at Six Flags Over Georgia (No. 5) has thrilled riders and placed in the top 10 since its debut in 2006.

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The List

2010 TOP 50 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
1	Millennium Force	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2000	Intamin	1175
2	Bizarro	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	2000	Intamin	1013
3	Nitro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	2001	B & M	773
4	Apollo's Chariot	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	1999	B & M	573
5	Goliath	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	2006	B & M	560
6	Expedition GeForce	Holiday Park	Hassloch, Germany	2001	Intamin	514
7	Diamondback	Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	2009	B & M	484
8	Magnum XL-200	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1989	Arrow	427
9	Phantom's Revenge	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	2001	Morgan/Arrow	392
10	Top Thrill Dragster	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2003	Intamin	312
11	Intimidator 305	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	2010	IntaRide	295
12	Montu	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay, Fla.	1996	B & M	288
13	Behemoth	Canada's Wonderland	Vaughn, Ontario, Canada	2008	B & M	236
14	Mindbender	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	1978	Schwarzkopf	228
15	X2	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2002	Arrow	213
16	Raging Bull	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	1999	B & M	199
17	Sky Rocket	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	2010	Premier Rides	198
18	Nemesis	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	1994	B & M	181
19 (tie)	Griffon	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	2007	B & M	172
19 (tie)	SheiKra	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay, Fla.	2005	B & M	172
21 (tie)	Intimidator	Carowinds	Charlotte, N.C.	2010	B & M	152
21 (tie)	Maverick	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	2007	Intamin	152
23	Alpengeist	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	1997	B & M	145
24 (tie)	Kumba	Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa Bay, Fla.	1993	B & M	129
24 (tie)	Raptor	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1994	B & M	129

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 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010
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The List

2010 TOP 50 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
26	Ride of Steel	Darien Lake	Darien Center, N.Y.	1999	Intamin	127
27 (tie)	Kingda Ka	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	2005	Intamin	124
27 (tie)	Steel Force	Dorney Park	Allentown, Pa.	1997	Morgan	124
29	Goliath	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2000	Giovanola	122
30	Goliath	La Ronde	Montreal, Quebec, Canada	2006	B & M	120
31	Dragon Challenge	Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	1999	B & M	118
32	Superman Ride of Steel	Six Flags America	Largo, Md.	2000	Intamin	107
33	Manta	SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	2009	B & M	103
34	Powder Keg	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	2005	S & S	102
35	Volcano	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	1998	Intamin	88
36	Expedition Everest	Disney's Animal Kingdom	Orlando, Fla.	2006	Vekoma/WED Imag.	86
37	Shock Wave	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	1978	Schwarzkopf	85
38	Mamba	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	1998	Morgan	79
39	Storm Runner	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	2004	Intamin	74
40	Tatsu	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2006	B & M	73
41	Goliath	Walabi World	Biddinghuizen, The Netherlands	2002	Intamin	71
42	Titan	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	2001	Giovanola	62
43	Incredible Hulk Coaster	Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	1999	B & M	57
44	The Pepsi Max Big One	Pleasure Beach Blackpool	Blackpool, England	1994	Arrow	49
45	Euro-Mir	Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	1997	Mack	47
46	Space Mountain	Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	1977	WED Imagineering	46
47	Steel Eel	SeaWorld San Antonio	San Antonio, Texas	1999	Morgan	43
48 (tie)	Mindbender	Galaxyland	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	1985	Schwarzkopf	42
48 (tie)	Revenge of the Mummy	Universal Studios	Orlando, Fla.	2004	Premier Rides	42
50	Katun	Mirabilandia	Savio, Italy	2000	B & M	41



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Wooden Coasters

The Voyage stays on top; El Toro gaining

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

For the fourth year in a row, **The Voyage** at Holiday World takes top billing on the Golden Ticket Awards list of best wooden coasters.

The Voyage, designed by The Gravity Group, is wooden coaster riding taken to the extreme and a brilliant use of the terrain that lets the trainload of riders build momentum on the return leg heading toward the station. It has become somewhat of a pilgrimage (no pun intended) for enthusiasts to make their way to the Thanksgiving section of Holiday World year after year.

The park had originally intended to debut new trains on the coaster this season, but as testing took longer than expected, the park's PTC trains continued to serve them well, as far as the ranking goes.

This four year win ties its sibling, **The Raven**, for number of years a wooden coaster has held on to Best Wooden Coaster the longest. This year, The Raven re-entered the top ten at the No. 9 spot.

Two years ago, **El Toro** rated No. 4 on the charts. Last year it moved up to No. 3. This



AT PHOTO / TIM BALDWIN

The Voyage claims Best Wooden Coaster for a fourth year, a record also tied by Holiday World's Raven.

year it continues its charge and takes claim of the No. 2 spot. Can the trend drive it to No. 1 next year? Only our panel of experts can decide.

The remainder of the top five shuffles a bit. Knoebels' venerable **Phoenix** flies high at No. 3 this year, with BoulderDash coming in at No. 4 and Dollywood's **Thunderhead** at

No. 5.

Accumulating more than 150 additional points over last year let **Ravine Flyer II** at Waldameer make a solid run for the top five. When one looks at the point range of the second through fifth position, it is easy to see that it is a very hard-fought struggle to grab the second place ring.



It's no wonder the list fluctuates from year to year with the close count found here. And Ravine Flyer II just may break in next year.

Lightning Racer at Hersheypark re-enters the top ten as the highest rated racing coaster on the planet. It celebrates a tenth anniversary this year.

On the international scene, ten wooden coasters, each representing a different country, appear on our list. They are: **Colossos** (No. 18), Heide Park, Germany; **Balder** (No. 21), Liseberg, Sweden; **Coaster** (No. 26) Playland, Canada; **Grand National** (No. 28), Pleasure Beach Blackpool, England; **Megafobia** (No. 30), Oakwood Leisure Park, Wales; **T-Express** (No. 36), Everland, South Korea; **Thunderbird** (No. 37) PowerPark, Finland; **Tonnerre de Zeus** (No. 40), Parc Asterix, France; **Troy** (No. 41), Toverland, The Netherlands; and **Aska** (No. 42) Nara Dreamland, Japan. Of note, Aska has not operated for four

seasons, but its devoted fans keep holding out hope for this highly regarded famous woodie.

In a first ever event, no new wooden coasters debut on our charts this year. With only one new wooden coaster to open this year in the entire world, hopefully this will be a situation not to be repeated. Already on hand are new creations for the upcoming season from both The Gravity Group and Great Coasters International, Inc. in China and Europe. On the homefront, The Gravity Group will build a junior coaster at home in the U.S.

Five roller coasters on the charts are from the 1920s. The oldest is Kennywood's **Jack Rabbit** (No. 20) from 1921. The **Giant Dipper** (No. 22) at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk is a classic seaside coaster from 1924, while Belmont Park's **Giant Dipper** (No. 49) was built in 1925. Coney Island's legendary **Cyclone** dates back to 1927, as does Kennywood's **Racer** (No. 35). All of these roller coasters are designated Roller Coaster Landmarks by American Coaster Enthusiasts.



AT PHOTO / GARY SLADE

El Toro rises one more notch, now climbing into the second place position. Can it keep the momentum?



PHOTO COURTESY DAN FEICHT PHOTOGRAPHY

Knoebels' Phoenix, this year at No. 3, has often been called the perfect roller coaster.



PHOTO COURTESY LAKE COMPOUNCE

BoulderDash at Lake Compounce (No. 4) makes use of its unique mountain setting.



PHOTO COURTESY RICH KOPPELMAN

The curvaceous Thunderhead at Dollywood was built by Great Coasters International, Inc. in 2004.



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2010 TOP 50 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
1	The Voyage	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	2006	Gravity Group	1154
2	El Toro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	2006	Intamin	991
3	Phoenix	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	1985	Dinn/PTC-Schmeck	952
4	Boulder Dash	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Conn.	2000	CCI	874
5	Thunderhead	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	2004	GCII	864
6	Ravine Flyer II	Waldameer	Erie, Pa.	2008	Gravity Group	781
7	The Beast	Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	1979	KECO	552
8	Hades	Mt. Olympus Theme Park	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	2005	Gravity Group	510
9	The Raven	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	1995	CCI	439
10	Lightning Racer	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	2000	GCII	403
11	Shivering Timbers	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Mich.	1998	CCI	393
12	Prowler	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	2009	GCII	386
13	Cyclone	Coney Island	Brooklyn, N.Y.	1927	Keenan/Baker	242
14	Thunderbolt	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1968	Vettel/Miller	214
15	The Legend	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	2000	CCI	211
16	Kentucky Rumbler	Beech Bend	Bowling Green, Ky.	2006	GCII	159
17	Comet	The Great Escape	Lake George, N.Y.	1994	PTC-Schmeck	158
18	Colossos	Heide Park	Soltau, Germany	2001	Intamin	157
19	Hellcat	Timber Falls	Wisconsin Dells, Wis.	2004	S&S	147
20	Jack Rabbit	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1921	PTC - Miller	146
21	Balder	Liseberg	Stockholm, Sweden	2003	Intamin	144
22	Giant Dipper	Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	1924	Prior & Church/Looff	142
23	Evel Knievel	Six Flags St. Louis	Eureka, Mo.	2008	GCII	141
24	GhostRider	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	1998	CCI	133
25	Tremors	Silverwood	Athol, Idaho	1999	CCI	128

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2010 TOP 50 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS

RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	YEAR	SUPPLIER	POINTS
26	Coaster	Playland at the PNE	Vancouver, B.C. Canada	1958	Phare	124
27	Terminator Salvation: The Ride	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	2009	GCII	122
28	Grand National	Pleasure Beach Blackpool	Blackpool, England	1935	Paige	116
29	Cornball Express	Indiana Beach	Monticello, Ind.	2001	CCI	113
30	Megafobia	Oakwood Leisure Park	Pembrokeshire, Wales	1996	CCI	87
31	The Boss	Six Flags St. Louis	Eureka, Mo.	2000	CCI	86
32	Twister	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	1999	Fetterman/Knoebels	79
33	Rampage	Alabama Adventure	Bessemer, Ala.	1998	CCI	78
34	Viper	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	1995	Starkey/Six Flags	74
35	Racer	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	1927	PTC-Miller	70
36	T Express	Everland	Yongin-si, South Korea	2008	Intamin	67
37	Thunderbird	PowerPark	Alaharma, Finland	2006	GCII	57
38	Boardwalk Bullet	Kemah Boardwalk	Kemah, Texas	2007	M&V/Gravity Group	51
39	Hurricane	Boomers	Dania Beach, Fla.	2000	Coaster Works	48
40	Tonnerre de Zeus	Parc Asterix	Plailly, France	1997	CCI	46
41	Troy	Toverland	Sevenum, The Netherlands	2007	GCII	43
42 (tie)	Aska	Nara Dreamland	Nara, Japan	1998	Intamin	39
42 (tie)	Renegade	Valleyfair!	Shakopee, Minn.	2007	GCII	39
44	Timber Terror	Silverwood	Athol, Idaho	1996	CCI	38
45	Grizzly	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	1982	KECO-Summers	36
46	Gwazi	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa Bay, Fla.	1999	GCII	35
47	Blue Streak	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	1964	PTC-Hoover	34
47	Georgia Cyclone	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	1990	Dinn-Summers	33
49	Giant Dipper	Belmont Park	San Diego, Calif.	1925	Prior & Church	31
50	Cyclone	Lakeside Park	Denver, Colo.	1940	Vettel	29

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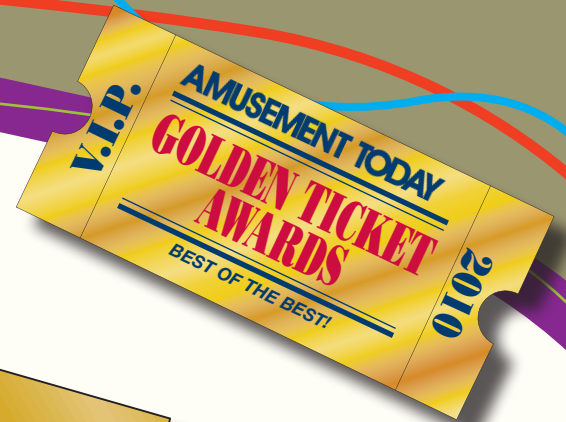
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