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AMUSEMENT TODAY

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BONUS SECTION

AUGUST 2000

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Amusement Today's 2000 Golden Ticket Awards

Fourteen winners named in survey

Tim Baldwin
Amusement Today

The summer season is always a time for regular guests and park enthusiasts to seek out new thrills and attractions at their local parks or vacation destinations across the country. It also is the time for a selected group to share their expertise in rating the "Best of the Best" for *Amusement Today's* Golden Ticket Awards.

Survey overview

In setting a balanced standard, *Amusement Today* has continuously mailed an equal number of surveys to participants divided into four geographical regions of the United States. In addition, a select group of international enthusiasts include their expertise of the parks outside the United States.

Of the surveys returned, the largest percentage came from the east coast (33 percent), with the north central states (21 percent), the southern region (20 percent), and the west coast states (17 percent) responding respectively. nine percent of the responses were from international areas. Industry manufacturers, park management, and the staff of *Amusement Today* were not included in survey recipients.

New for 2000

Due to an early July post-mark deadline, it is always a challenge for a park to see results of their latest coaster appearing in the list, yet seven roller coasters that opened in 2000 made their way into the ranks.

Certainly the most dramatic debut of any coaster ever has to be Cedar Point's Millennium Force, premiering at the No. 2 spot. Unquestionably the "must-get-to" ride of the year, only Cedar Point's venerable Magnum ranked higher. Other new steel coasters were Superman Ride of Steel at Six Flags New England (No. 10), Goliath at Six Flags Magic Mountain (No. 18) and Superman Ultimate Escape premiering at Six Flags Ohio (No. 25).

The wooden coaster category brought numerous surprises this year. Holiday World's renowned Raven, considered by most enthusiasts as the "ultimate night ride," rose to the top of the list this year, proving that bigger doesn't always mean better. Its newest brother, The Legend, also has debuted at No. 7, making Holiday World the only park to feature two wooden coasters in the top ten list. Other new arrivals are Lake Compounce's marvelous new Boulder Dash (No. 12) and the Villain at Six Flags Ohio (No. 21).

While not new for this season, two new performers climbed their way into the rankings. Knoebel's Twister (No. 15) opened last season just after the Golden Ticket survey was tabulated. As you may recall, *AT* predicted last year that France's Tonerre de Zeus would climb into the upper echelon of coasters as more aficionados are making their way to this distant location. Predictions for the years to

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Photo courtesy Cedar Point



Photo courtesy Schlitterbahn

AWARDS

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come? Hersheypark's new Lightning Racer and Silverwood's Tremors look to be rising forces ready to land on the charts.

Oldies but goodies

But new doesn't always mean best. Coney Island's vintage Cyclone, Kennywood's Thunderbolt and Vancouver's Coaster all have 30 years or more under their belt. All three of these coasters are designated by the American Coaster Enthusiasts as Coaster Classics. Two other valued designs on the list are Knoebel's Phoenix and the Great Escape Comet, which



Photo courtesy Knoebel's Grove

Eating at Knoebel's Grove is just one of the park's many pleasures. Knoebel's takes the top spot in the Best Food category.

had previous lives dating back to 1947 until being relocated to their current homes in the 80s and 90s.

An international look

Vancouver, Canada, doesn't boast the only coaster out of the United States on the charts. The aforementioned Tonerre de Zeus, Alton Tower's Nemesis, the Mindbender at Edmonton's Galaxyland and the highly rated Megafobia from Oakwood in Wales are positioned on the lists.

Park categories

Any business likes to hear when they are doing things right. The amusement industry is no exception.

The top three places in the Best Park category clearly illus-

trate what guests are looking for. Cedar Point, with a history of putting in big rides (and lots of them), is always a hit with guests wanting thrills. For the third year in a row, they take top honors for Best Park. Coming in second, Knoebel's Grove is a true leader in offering their guests real, honest value for their money. Great rides, great atmosphere, and great people at an affordable price. Claiming third this year is Islands Of Adventure. Universal spared no expense in created this ultimate themed environment. All of these qualities help place these three parks at the top of the charts.

With an apparent unbreakable grip on the first place spot, Schlitterbahn's one-of-a-kind mix of unique attractions, ideal location and shady environment and cutting-edge innovation culminate in creating the Best Waterpark, according to our survey participants. Blizzard Beach and Wildwater Kingdom, known for their strengths come in second and third respectively.

One visit to Holiday World and guests know why the park is consistently voted as Friendliest Park. And would Santa have it any other way, really? Holiday World has excelled at instilling friendliness from management on down. Coming in second is Knoebel's Grove, and the always pleasant folks at Walt Disney World take third.

There are two categories that seem to be a sure bet each year. Best Capacity easily goes to Cedar Point for moving its lines efficiently and Best Landscaping goes to the perennial favorite, Busch Gardens Williamsburg. In both of these cases, over half of the votes were cast on these parks' behalf. Walt Disney World placed second in both of these categories, and Disneyland and Islands of Adventure shared third place for capacity, while Alton Towers took third for their landscaping.

The battle for Best Food always is hard fought as many parks offer tempting taste treats for their guests. Knoebel's Grove comes out on



Photo courtesy Universal's Islands of Adventure

Spiderman lives up to its "amazing" title as the loads of adventure attraction takes top spot in two categories.

top with their delicious, affordable selection. Kennywood, famous for their fries, places second. Third place goes to Busch Williamsburg, known for great food in establishments with great atmosphere.

Best Shows once again belongs to Fiesta Texas in San Antonio. Throughout the various changes of ownership in its nine years of operation, the showpark's roots run deep and are not forgotten as this beautiful property continues to grow. Busch Williamsburg and Walt Disney World also are recognized.

As a keynote speaker at a recent convention, Pat Koch, the matriarch of Holiday World and Splashin' Safari, spoke some powerful words. "I expect the park to be as clean when the guests are leaving as when they arrive." Being a

ination of Disneyland's Indiana Jones and the Temple of the Forbidden Eye land the attraction at second place. The understated humor and appropriate thematic details have Busch Gardens' Alpengeist placing at third.

One of the most seemingly difficult questions for our survey panelists to answer is the Best Waterpark Ride. Schlitterbahn's Master Blaster came in first. The second place listing is much less specific, people simply liked lazy river attractions at whatever park they visited. Schlitterbahn also placed third with their Raging River, a tube chute attraction that takes riders 30-40 minutes to complete.

Islands of Adventure takes top honors in two categories. The Amazing Adventures of Spiderman took first place in the Best Non-coaster Ride and Best Indoor Attraction. Other favorites in the non-coaster category were S&S Towers, with Cedar Point's Power Tower and the Stratosphere Big Shot being the most

commonly mentioned installations when a single attraction was specified. Intamin's Giant Drops were a close follow-up with Paramount's Kings Islands' Drop Zone garnering many specific mentions. New for the Golden Tickets this year was the strong showing for the Huss Frisbee. This newer attraction is now appearing at more parks each year. Two other indoor attractions taking second and third place were Knoebel's beloved Haunted Mansion and the Indiana Jones themed indoor thriller at Disneyland



somewhat rare perspective in the industry, it is not a surprise to see Holiday World rise to first place with such direction and leadership. Taking second and third place are Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Walt Disney World, parks that are experts in cleanliness.

Ride categories

Best Theming once again is taken by Dueling Dragons from Islands of Adventure. The themed queue, station-house, environment and trains combine to make an excellently crafted themed experience. The detailing and innovative imag-

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Amusement Today's annual Golden Ticket Awards were bestowed upon all first-place finishers in each category. Amusement Today congratulates the many fine parks that won or placed in this year's categories. We also would like to thank the many people who took the time to return our survey forms and participate in the polling process. If you were not selected to vote, and would like your name added to the selection list, please drop us a postcard and we'll be glad to add your name to next year's list of names. Remember, industry employees are ineligible to vote. AT also would like to thank our advertisers for their help in making this Bonus Section possible.

Thanks also go to Tim Baldwin for his countless hours in tabulating the poll results and to Ted Davidson and his staff at Corporate Graphics in Arlington, Texas, for the design and printing of the Golden Ticket Awards.

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The Golden Ticket Awards Bonus Section was produced by the staff of Amusement Today.

Park and ride winners

Ranked by percentage of votes cast

Best Park

Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	33%
Knoebel's Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	18%
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	14%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	11%

Best Waterpark

Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas	49%
Blizzard Beach	Orlando, Fla.	8%
Wildwater Kingdom	Allentown, Pa.	7%

Friendliest Park Staff

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	45%
Knoebel's Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	13%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	7%

Cleanest Park

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	28%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	15%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	14%

Best Shows

Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	22%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Pa.	18%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	14%

Best Capacity (fastest-moving lines)

Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	51%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	7%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	6% (tie)
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	6% (tie)

Best Landscaping

Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	51%
Walt Disney World	Orlando, Fla.	12%
Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	6%

Best Food

Knoebel's Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	20%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	15%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	14%
Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	10%

Best Ride Theming

Dueling Dragons	Islands of Adventure	24%
Indiana Jones...Forbidden Eye	Disneyland	11%
Alpengeist	Busch Gardens Va.	10%

Best Waterpark Ride

Master Blaster	Schlitterbahn	35%
lazy rivers	(no specific location)	16%
Raging River	Schlitterbahn	9%

Best Non-coaster Ride

Amazing Adv. of Spiderman	Islands of Adventure	17%
Space Shots/Turbo Drops	S & S Sports	13%
Giant Drops	Intamin	12%
Frisbee	Huss	9%

Best Indoor Attraction

Amazing Adv. of Spiderman	Islands of Adventure	32%
Haunted Mansion	Knoebel's Grove	15%
Indiana Jones...Forbidden Eye	Disneyland	8%



THANK YOU!

2000 Golden Ticket Awards



Thank you to the staff and readers of *Amusement Today* for this honor. As the 2000 Golden Ticket Award recipient for the Best Wooden Coaster, Cleanliest Park and for the third consecutive year; Friendliest Staff, we'd like to thank all of our staff members for a job well done.

A special thank you goes to CCI and all the contributing coaster enthusiasts, our partners in the design and construction of The Legend. The Best New Wooden Coaster on the planet!



#1
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PARK




FRIENDLIEST
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Thanks for the honors!



Shivering Timbers



Rampage



The Legend



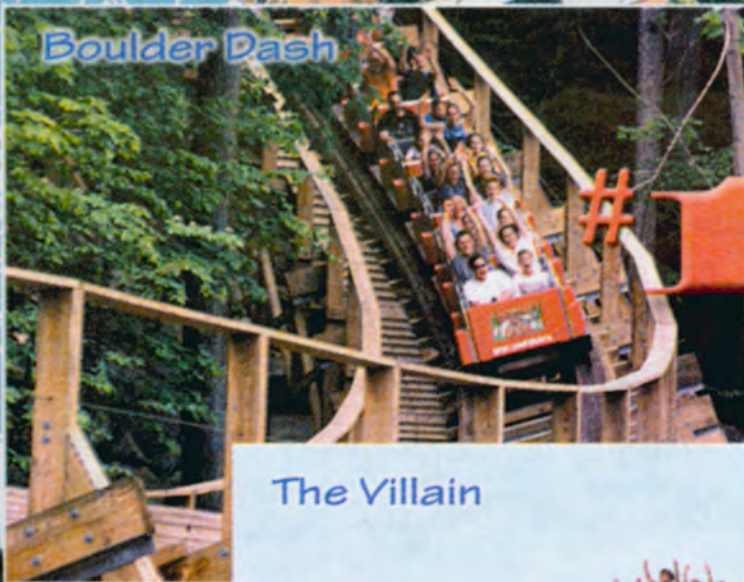
Raven



GhostRider



MegaFobia



Boulder Dash



The Villain



Tonerre de Zeus

Custom Coasters, Inc. International
Hollywood, Florida
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Hollywood World & Escape Park

THE LIST

Top 25 wooden roller coasters

RANK	COASTER	YEAR	PARK	LOCATION	POINTS
1	Raven	1995	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	502
2	Shivering Timbers	1998	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Mich.	490
3	Texas Giant	1990	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	459
4	Rampage	1998	VisionLand	Bessemer, Ala.	341
5	Phoenix	1985*	Knoebel's Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	337
6	Beast	1979	Paramount's Kings Island	Kings Mills, Ohio	305
7	Legend	2000	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	287
8	GhostRider	1998	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	286
9	Megafobia	1996	Oakwood	Pembrookshire, Wales	269
10	Comet	1994*	Great Escape	Lake George, N.Y.	253
11	Cyclone	1927	Astroland (Coney Island)	Brooklyn, N.Y.	212
12	Boulder Dash	2000	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Conn.	201
13	Georgia Cyclone	1990	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	183
14	Thunderbolt	1968	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	182
15	Twister	1999	Knoebel's Grove	Elysburg, Pa.	165
16	Mean Streak	1991	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	117
17	Wildcat	1996	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	116
18	Giant Dipper	1924	Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	114
19	Timber Wolf	1989	World's of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	101
20	Tonnerre de Zeus	1997	Park Asterix	Plailly, France	91
21	Villain	2000	Six Flags Ohio	Aurora, Ohio	86
22	Coaster	1958	Playland	Vancouver, B.C., Canada	79
23	Cyclone	1983	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	78
24	Viper	1995	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	77
25	Grizzly	1982	Paramount's Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	73

Fast Facts: 9 listed coasters were designed by Custom Coasters Intl. Charles Dinn was involved in 6 of the listed coasters (making the Dinn family associated with 15 of the 25). The late Curtis Summers was responsible for 5 coaster designs on the list. Great Coasters Intl. produced one. Two classic designs by Herbert Schreck continue to place in the top ten. Other notable designers from the list include Cobb, Fetterman, Miller, Keenan, Prior and Church, and Vettel. 19 of the coasters operate with PTC trains. 2 coasters operate with Gerstlauer trains.

Point totals were tallied from an exclusive number of experienced park patrons equally selected from four geographic regions of the United States, with an additional amount from outside the USA. Top choice received 10 points, with the 10th choice receiving one point. Point totals are listed on the charts.

THE LIST

Top 25 steel roller coasters

RANK	COASTER	YEAR	PARK	LOCATION	POINTS
1	Magnum XL-200	1989	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	700
2	Millennium Force	2000	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	464
3	Montu	1996	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa, Fla.	327
4	Steel Force	1997	Dorney Park	Allentown, Pa.	319
5	Raptor	1994	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	313
6	Superman Ride of Steel	1999	Six Flags Darien Lake	Darien Center, N.Y.	296
7	Kumba	1993	Busch Gardens Tampa	Tampa, Fla.	241
8	Alpengeist	1997	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	240
9	Apollo's Chariot	1999	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	205
10	Superman Ride of Steel	2000	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	192
11	Incredible Hulk	1999	Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	190
12	Raging Bull	1999	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	189
13	Dueling Dragons	1999	Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	165
14	Nemesis	1994	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	153
15	Desperado	1994	Buffalo Bill's Casino	Primm, Nev.	151
16	Mind Bender	1978	Six Flags Over Georgia	Atlanta, Ga.	144
17	Medusa	1999	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	127
18	Goliath	2000	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	122
19	Steel Phantom	1991	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	119
20	Mamba	1998	Worlds of Fun	Kansas City, Mo.	118
21	Shock Wave	1978	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	117
22	Mindbender	1985	Galaxyland	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada	82
23	Big Bad Wolf	1984	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	81
24	Mantis	1996	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	80
25	Superman Ultimate Escape	2000	Six Flags Ohio	Aurora, Ohio	70

Fast Facts: Eleven of the steel coasters were designed and built by Bollinger and Mabillard (nine of which are in the top 15). Both Arrow and Intamin lay claim to four coasters placing on the list. Three classics from Schwarzkopf still reside among the best. Morgan Manufacturing produced two rides on the list. Giovanola's first coaster in North America also premieres on the list.

Point totals were tallied from an exclusive number of experienced park patrons equally selected from four geographic regions of the United States, with an additional amount from outside the U.S.A. Top choice received 10 points, with the 10th choice receiving one point. Point totals are listed on the charts.



Cedar Fair, L.P.

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#1 Cedar Point

BEST WATERPARK
#3 Wildwater Kingdom -
Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom

BEST RIDE CAPACITY
#1 Cedar Point

TOP STEEL ROLLER COASTERS
#1 Magnum - Cedar Point
#2 Millennium Force™ - Cedar Point
#4 Steel Force® - Dorney Park &
Wildwater Kingdom
#5 Raptor® - Cedar Point
#20 Mamba - Worlds of Fun
#24 Mantis® - Cedar Point

TOP WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS
#8 GhostRider™ - Knott's Berry Farm
#16 Mean Streak - Cedar Point
#19 Timber Wolf - Worlds of Fun



MILLENNIUM
FORCE



STEEL
FORCE



RAPTOR



MILLENNIUM
FORCE



MAGNUM



SANDUSKY, OH



SHAKOPEE, MN



ALLENTOWN, PA



KANSAS CITY, MO



BUENA PARK, CA



SANDUSKY, OH



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