

2017 Publisher's Picks: Supplier, Park

Intamin celebrates 50 years of innovation

For most people in the industry, it is hard to imagine a time when high-profile rides were in short supply. A half century ago, that was quite the case. With a mere handful of theme parks in existence, the demand wasn't there. By the late 1960s, **Six Flags** had opened its second theme park, and a third wasn't far off in development. Before long, the country, if not the world, was in the theme park boom.

"By 1970, the park had matured. We had already put in all the shelf product that was available," said **Errol McKoy**, industry veteran and former Six Flags Over Georgia general manager. "We were put in a position to innovate."

Intamin, a company formed by **Robert Spieldiener** and friend **Ali Saiko** (later to be joined by Robert's brother, **Reinhold Speildiener**), had already begun providing a few rides to the Six Flags parks. Robert's belief that the company could continue to engineer and produce rides was proven correct. Six Flags and the fledgling theme park industry needed a company just like Intamin — one that was ready to innovate new ideas.

During the past five decades, many iconic rides — from towers to parachute rides — and industry staples such as the rapids ride have come from the minds at Intamin.

While flat rides and towers started the company, thrill rides and water rides soon became the company's calling card. Intamin's product line is virtually everywhere around the globe, and the company's contributions can't be overstated. Rapids rides, Shoot-the-Chutes and freefall rides became absolute essentials in the theme park market.

Just glancing at the top of the steel roller coaster charts in this very issue, one can see that Intamin has found enormous success building roller coasters as well. Having had partners and engineering talent that would eventually strike out on their own, Intamin continued to innovate and found spectacular acclaim with sleek new thrillers that pushed boundaries for steel roller coasters and even wood. Fan favorites across the U.S., Europe and beyond solidify Intamin's importance in the theme park industry.

With such a diverse catalog of product and hundreds and hundreds of rides providing thrills and smiles to all parts of the world, Intamin's success story couldn't be more well-deserved. *Amusement Today* congratulates Intamin, on the company's 50th anniversary, as the Publisher's Pick **Supplier of the Year**.



When the industry was looking for new, innovative rides, Intamin stepped in to supply new attractions. COURTESY INTAMIN



Roller coasters, water rides and numerous variations of tower rides have provided Intamin with half a century of iconic attractions.

COURTESY INTAMIN; AT FILE PHOTO

Morgan's Wonderland grows its special message

Life doesn't always go as planned. Sometimes, the right person with the right vision turns an unfortunate situation into something glorious.

In 2005 **Gordon Hartman** made an observation. While vacationing with his wife **Maggie** and daughter **Morgan**, the family enjoyed some relaxation time at the hotel pool. Morgan was eager to play with the other children who were on vacation, but they did not want to interact with her. Morgan had special needs. She was different. At that moment, Gordon resolved to do something to make a difference. There needed to be places where people with and without disabilities could play together, not only to have fun, but have a further understanding that all people are different, and at the same time, have much in common.

Five years later, **Morgan's Wonderland** opened its doors in San Antonio. With the park being completely wheelchair accessible, there were numerous activities to engage people with and without cognitive or physical challenges — train rides, fishing, role play, musical instruments, car rides, playground equipment, a carousel and more. Parents were visibly moved when seeing their children participate in activities they never believed would be possible.

The park readily admits that they conveyed the concept of accessibility a little too firmly in the early years, and many people believed that only visitors with special needs could come. But the vision of the park is for people of all abilities to enjoy time together. In time, the message was clear and everyone felt welcome to come.

Growth continued and many sensory attractions and rides continued to fall into place, as well as an amphitheater entertainment space.

For this season, the park tackled a big problem. Texas can be hot. With more than two years in development and construction, Morgan's Inspiration Island welcomed visitors to get wet. With slides, spray areas, water activities and a boat ride (all supplied by **WhiteWater West**), the all-inclusive water park allows guests to beat the heat. The park has even provided waterproof wheelchairs for its guests, all at no charge. The themed areas and colorful buildings create a water oasis. [See full coverage of Morgan's Inspiration Island in *AT's* October issue.]

In just a few short years, this special non-profit park has welcomed more than a million guests from all 50 states and 67 other countries. For those with physical or cognitive special needs, admission is free. Nominal admission charges apply only to family and friends, as well as the general public.

With its ongoing mission to provide a safe, clean and beautiful environment free of physical and economic barriers that all individuals can enjoy, *Amusement Today* is honored to acknowledge Morgan's Wonderland as **Park of the Year**.



Morgan's Wonderland opened its gates to guests of all abilities in 2010.

AT/TIM BALDWIN



This year's addition was an incredible all-access splash park called Morgan's Inspiration Island. AT/TIM BALDWIN

2017 Publisher's Picks: Person

Jerry Brick keeps Lake Compounce's rich tradition alive and well

On October 6, 1846, **Samuel Botsford**, an influential Bristol scientist, persuaded property owner **Gad Norton**, an original settler descendant, to let him conduct "a series of beautiful experiments in electricity." Well publicized, the event drew thousands of spectators who witnessed the demonstration amidst the beauty of the woods and water. Although the final experiment of "blowing up from shore, two huge jugs of gunpowder tied under a raft in the middle of the lake" failed, it did inspire Norton to action. He put a path around the lake, set up picnic tables, allowed public swimming and rowing on the lake and built a gazebo for lakeside band concerts. **Lake Compounce** had officially opened to the public as a picturesque "picnic" park.

The Lake Compounce history is a rich one with many names and companies having their hand in its long-standing success.

Fast forward to 2009. That's when Lake Compounce was acquired by **Palace Entertainment** (part of the **Parques Reunidos** group) — its current caretaker of this heirloom attraction. Their commitment to the park is simple: to maintain a top-notch family entertainment venue, as well as providing superior guest service, all while continuing to introduce new product for the guests to enjoy.

Jerry Brick began his career with Lake Compounce in 1996 as the park's director of revenue, then director of operations. He became the park's general manager in 2004 and oversaw the transition of the park to today's ownership.

Anyone who has even met Jerry or been on a stroll with Jerry will tell you of his love, and knowledge, of the park's rich history and desire to make it the "Best of the Best." What I noticed during multiple walks through the park with Jerry over the years is his sense of people and community. One can walk



Jerry Brick's (above) passion for Lake Compounce has kept the park a seamless blend of a modern amusement facility and a traditional park.
COURTESY LAKE COMPOUNCE

no more than 100 yards in the park without being stopped and a conversation started up with a total stranger or someone he knows locally from church, the kids' sports practices, an upcoming school function or the neighbor down the street who came out to the park for the day.

Jerry's passion for the park has led to a tremendous growth of state-of-the-art roller coasters and a supporting mix of family rides. He has overseen the expansion of the popular **Crocodile Cove** water park and added **Bear Creek Campground**, a request by guests in their exit survey polls.

Last year saw the addition of the Phobia launch coaster from **Premier Rides**, giving the park an ultra-modern unique steel coaster. This year, the park



turned to **Martin & Vlemminckx Rides** to do a major rebuild of the classic Wildcat and touch up track work on the ranked Boulder Dash coaster. Not stopping there, Jerry turned to **Great Coasters International** for new Wildcat trains and had a new safety control system installed.

Lake Compounce may be the nation's oldest amusement park, but it is far from that once inside the gates as the mix of old and new blend in a seamless environment.

Jerry Brick's passion, and his commitment to a quality, thrilling and safe facility, catering to the New England family audience makes him Amusement Today's pick for 2017 Person of the Year.

Amusement Today uses balanced regions for voting

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 2017 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 were not eligible to be on the 2017 panel.



PARK AND RIDE WINNERS

Ranked by percentage of votes cast



BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2017 (Amusement Park)

Mystic Timbers	Kings Island	45%
Flight of Passage	Disney's Animal Kingdom	15%
Mine Blower	Fun Spot America	8%
InvadR	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	7%
Wave Breaker: The Rescue Coaster	SeaWorld San Antonio	6%

BEST NEW RIDE FOR 2017 (Water Park)

Thunder Rapids	Six Flags Fiesta Texas	47%
Krakatau Aqua Coaster	Volcano Bay	31%
Point Plummet	Cedar Point Shores	7% (tie)
Miss Adventure Falls	Typhoon Lagoon	7% (tie)
Ko'okiri Body Plunge	Volcano Bay	4%

BEST PARK

Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	27%
Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	18%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	11%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	10%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	6%

BEST WATER PARK

Schlitterbahn	New Braunfels, Texas	57%
Splashin' Safari	Santa Claus, Ind.	17%
Volcano Bay	Orlando, Fla.	6%
Dollywood's Splash Country	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	4%
Typhoon Lagoon	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	3%

BEST CHILDREN'S PARK

Idlewild & SoakZone	Ligonier, Pa.	19%
Storybook Land	Egg Harbor Twp., N.J.	11%
Story Land	Bartlett, N.H.	9%
Morgan's Wonderland	San Antonio, Texas	8%
Gilroy Gardens	Gilroy, Calif.	7% (tie)
Legoland California	Carlsbad, Calif.	7% (tie)
Legoland Florida	Winter Haven, Calif.	7% (tie)

BEST MARINE LIFE PARK

SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	58%
SeaWorld San Diego	San Diego, Calif.	10%
Discovery Cove	Orlando, Fla.	8%
SeaWorld San Antonio	San Antonio, Texas	7%
Six Flags Discovery Kingdom	Vallejo, Calif.	6%

BEST SEASIDE PARK

Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	31%
Morey's Piers	Wildwood, N.J.	26%
Blackpool Pleasure Beach	Blackpool, England	25%
Gröna Lund	Stockholm, Sweden	12%

BEST KIDS' AREA

Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	23%
Universal's Islands of Adventure	Orlando, Fla.	13%
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, the Netherlands	10%
Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	9%
Paultons Park	Romsey, England	8%

CLEANEST PARK

Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	26%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	17%
Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	9%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	7%
Magic Kingdom	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	6%

BEST SHOWS

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	46%
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	18%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	5% (tie)
SeaWorld Orlando	Orlando, Fla.	5% (tie)
Disney's Hollywood Studios	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	4%

BONUS COVERAGE

www.GoldenTicketAwards.com

PARK AND RIDE WINNERS

Ranked by percentage of votes cast



BEST FOOD

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	25%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	23%
Epcot	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	17%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	11%
Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	5%

BEST WATER RIDE (PARK)

Valhalla	Blackpool Pleasure Beach	24%
Dudley Do-Right's Ripsaw Falls	Universal's Islands of Adventure	18%
Chiapas	Phantasialand	8%
Splash Mountain	Magic Kingdom	7%
Jurassic Park River Adventure	Universal's Islands of Adventure	6%

BEST WATER PARK RIDE

Wildebeest	Splashin' Safari	28%
Mammoth	Splashin' Safari	18%
The Falls	Schlitterbahn New Braunfels	14%
Master Blaster	Schlitterbahn New Braunfels	8%
Massiv	Schlitterbahn Galveston Island	6%

BEST INDOOR COASTER

Revenge of the Mummy	Universal Studios Orlando	24%
Space Mountain	Disneyland	11%
Space Mountain	Magic Kingdom	10% (tie)
Winja's Fear & Force	Phantasialand	10% (tie)
Black Diamond	Knoebels Amusement Resort	9.5%

BEST DARK RIDE

Twilight Zone Tower of Terror	Disney's Hollywood Studios	16%
Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey	Universal's Islands of Adventure	10%
Haunted Mansion	Knoebels Amusement Resort	9.5%
Amazing Adventures of Spider-Man	Universal's Islands of Adventure	9%
Harry Potter / Escape from Gringotts	Universal Studios Orlando	8%

BEST LANDSCAPING

Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	31%
Gilroy Gardens	Gilroy, Calif.	15%
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, the Netherlands	12%
Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	8%
Disney's Animal Kingdom	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	6%

BEST HALLOWEEN EVENT

Universal Orlando Resort	Orlando, Fla.	26%
Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Park, Calif.	20%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	10%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	6%
Busch Gardens Tampa Bay	Tampa, Fla.	5% (tie)
Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	5% (tie)
Universal Studios Hollywood	Hollywood, Calif.	5% (tie)

BEST CHRISTMAS EVENT

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	47%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	9%
Disneyland	Anaheim, Calif.	7% (tie)
Magic Kingdom	Lake Buena Vista, Fla.	7% (tie)
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	5%

BEST CAROUSEL

Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	41%
Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk	Santa Cruz, Calif.	20%
Six Flags Over Georgia	Austell, Ga.	7%
Kennywood	West Mifflin, Penn.	6%
Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	5.5% (tie)
Efteling	Kaatsheuvel, the Netherlands	5.5% (tie)

FRIENDLIEST PARK

Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	39%
Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	16%
Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	11%
Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	10%
Alabama Splash Adventure	Bessemer, Alabama	5%

BEST FUNHOUSE/WALK-THROUGH ATTRACTION

Noah's Ark	Kennywood	32%
Ghost Ship	Morey's Piers	18%
Frankenstein's Castle	Indiana Beach	12%
Gasten Ghost Hotel	Liseberg	11%
Lustiga Huset	Gröna Lund	10%

BONUS COVERAGE

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THE LIST

2017 TOP 25 STEEL ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	SUPPLIER	YEAR	TOTAL
1	Fury 325	Carowinds	Charlotte, N.C.	B&M	2015	1354
2	Millennium Force	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Intamin	2000	1129
3	Superman The Ride	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	Intamin	2000	705
4	Iron Rattler	Six Flags Fiesta Texas	San Antonio, Texas	Rocky Mountain	2013	657
5	Expedition GeForce	Holiday Park	Hassloch, Germany	Intamin	2001	575
6	Leviathan	Canada's Wonderland	Vaughan, Ontario, Canada	B&M	2012	481
7	Nitro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	B&M	2001	442
8	Diamondback	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	B&M	2009	381
9	New Texas Giant	Six Flags Over Texas	Arlington, Texas	Rocky Mountain	2011	379
10	Maverick	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	B&M	2007	375
11	Apollo's Chariot	Busch Gardens Williamsburg	Williamsburg, Va.	B&M	1999	374
12	Phantom's Revenge	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	Morgan	2001	344
13	Intimidator 305	Kings Dominion	Doswell, Va.	Intamin	2010	330
14-tie	Goliath	Six Flags Over Georgia	Austell, Ga.	B&M	2006	291
14-tie	Wicked Cyclone	Six Flags New England	Agawam, Mass.	Rocky Mountain	2015	291
16	Twisted Colossus	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	Rocky Mountain	2015	284
17	Top Thrill Dragster	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Intamin	2003	276
18	Blue Fire	Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	Mack	2006	272
19	Intimidator	Carowinds	Charlotte, N.C.	B&M	2010	261
20	Nemesis	Alton Towers	Staffordshire, England	B&M	1994	254
21	Taron	Phantasialand	Brühl, Germany	Intamin	2016	253
22	Banshee	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	B&M	2014	244
23	Magnum XL-200	Cedar Point	Sandusky, Ohio	Arrow	1989	238
24	Skyrush	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	Intamin	2012	235
25	X2	Six Flags Magic Mountain	Valencia, Calif.	Arrow	2002	217

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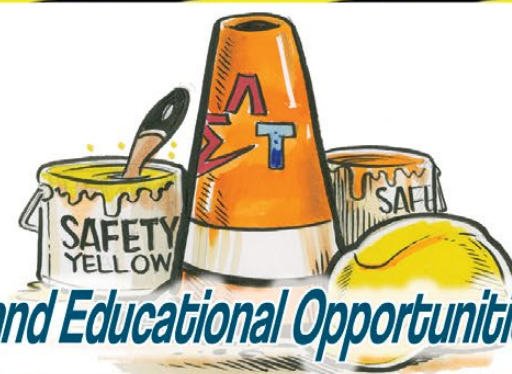
2017 TOP 25 WOODEN ROLLER COASTERS



RANK	NAME	PARK	LOCATION	SUPPLIER	YEAR	TOTAL
1	El Toro	Six Flags Great Adventure	Jackson, N.J.	Intamin	2009	1241
2	Phoenix	Knoebels Amusement Resort	Elysburg, Pa.	Dinn-PTC/Schmeck	1985	1212
3	Boulder Dash	Lake Compounce	Bristol, Conn.	Custom Coasters	2000	1171
4	Voyage	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	Gravity Group	2006	1113
5	Lightning Rod	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	Rocky Mountain	2016	710
6	Beast	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	KECO	1979	666
7	Ravine Flyer II	Waldameer	Erie, Pa.	Gravity Group	2008	612
8	Thunderhead	Dollywood	Pigeon Forge, Tenn.	Great Coasters Int.	2004	560
9	Outlaw Run	Silver Dollar City	Branson, Mo.	Rocky Mountain	2013	541
10	Gold Striker	California's Great America	Santa Clara, Calif.	Great Coasters Int.	2013	489
11	Mystic Timbers	Kings Island	Mason, Ohio	Great Coasters Int.	2017	345
12	Lightning Racer	Hersheypark	Hershey, Pa.	Great Coasters Int.	2000	276
13	Goliath	Six Flags Great America	Gurnee, Ill.	Rocky Mountain	2014	269
14	Boardwalk Bullet	Kemah Boardwalk	Kemah Boardwalk	M&V/Gravity Group	2007	236
15	Wodan	Europa-Park	Rust, Germany	Great Coasters Int.	2012	223
16	Balder	Liseberg	Gothenburg, Sweden	Intamin	2003	221
17	Thunderbolt	Kennywood	West Mifflin, Pa.	Vettel/Miller	1968	220
18-tie	GhostRider	Knott's Berry Farm	Buena Vista, Calif.	Custom Coasters	1998	219
18-tie	Troy	Toverland	Sevenum, Netherlands	Great Coasters Int.	2007	219
18-tie	White Lightning	Fun Spot America	Orlando, Fla.	Great Coasters Int.	2013	219
21	Rampage	Alabama Splash Adventure	Bessemer, Ala.	Custom Coasters	1998	218
22	Cyclone	Luna Park	Brooklyn, N.Y.	Keenan/Baker	1927	217
23	Raven	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	Custom Coasters	1995	214
24	Legend	Holiday World	Santa Claus, Ind.	Custom Coasters	2000	198
25	Shivering Timbers	Michigan's Adventure	Muskegon, Mich.	Custom Coasters	1998	197

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