



Northeast News

2021 IAAPA Expo Edition

NEAAPA Newsletter

Welcome NEAAPA Members To IAAPA Expo In Orlando

Greetings and welcome to Orlando!

It's hard to believe that it has been two years since we were last here at the IAAPA Attractions Expo.

The challenges we have all experienced in the last two years have not been forgotten, yet they have made us all better at what we do...and NEAAPA is stronger than ever due to your continued support and hard work.

First and foremost, I'd like to extend my appreciation to all our members, their families, friends and associates for all you do for NEAAPA!

The value everyone brings to the association is remarkable and we look forward to seeing all of you this week.

This year we are working diligently to provide clarity, structure, goals, responsibilities, and value for all, within each of our committees. Additionally, we are also working toward comprehensive education and training initiatives that would also provide programs to improve recruitment and vision about our industry by focusing on the benefits for career development and FUN!

Furthermore, NEAAPA will aggressively work to approve the knowledge base of our local, state and federal representatives as it pertains to our organization and our membership. We will need your help as well, especially on the local front. They need to know who we are and what we do and how we were we all impacted by COVID-19.

I look forward to seeing you this week and hope that we have a chance to talk about your needs, thoughts, and ideas. I also hope to see you at our board meeting and lunch on Wednesday and at the Tom Morrow Social at Maggiano's that same evening.

Enjoy the Show,
Dave Oberlander, NEAAPA president



Show Floor At IAAPA Expo. (File photo courtesy of IAAPA)

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Next Edition:
2021 IAAPA Expo

**Submissions to: secretary@neaapa.com
Or ron@quassy.com**

Big E Reports Record-Setting Days



WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—A total of 1,498,774 visitors attended the 2021 Big E here, fair officials reported.

During the Fair's 17-day run, an all-time single day attendance record was set when 177,238 visitors came to The Big E on the third Saturday. Daily attendance records were also set: the first Tuesday, Sept. 21, 56,769; the second Sunday, Sept. 26, 136,512; and the third Friday with 113,827 visitors.

A diverse concert line-up of more than 80 individual performances, fabulous fair foods, rides and unique shopping experiences provided something for everyone in the family.

World-Class Entertainment

The epic entertainment line-up this year included ticketed concerts at The Big E Arena, sponsored by Truly Hard Seltzer: Machine Gun Kelly; Billy Idol; Zach Williams with Cory Asbury; Flo Rida with Ying Yang Twins; Pat Benatar and Neil Giraldo; the Goo Goo Dolls; A Day to Remember; and STYX.

The Court of Honor Stage, sponsored by Mattress Firm, brought a stellar line-up of acts: Jesse McCartney; Jay and the Americans; Kameron Marlowe; Foghat; the Donna Summer Experience; Big Bad Voodoo Daddy; 10,000 Maniacs; The Bar-Kays; Broadway's Rock of Ages Band; Plain White T's; Don McLean; Here Come the Mummies; The Outlaws; Big Brother and the Holding Company; Lisa Lisa; Ripe; Kashmir; The Live Led Zeppelin Show; Tribute to the King; Hoobastank; and Darryl "DMC" McDaniels of RUN DMC.

The E Stage, sponsored by Blue Chair Bay Rum, featured fresh sounds of local and emerging talent, offered every day of the Fair.

Other daily offerings were: The Big Parade; The Circus Spectacular; Swifty Swine Racing Pigs, sponsored by Leaf Filter Gutter Protection; Sahara, presented by Camel Kingdom; rides and games on the North American Midway; Zultar, the Comedy Fortune Teller; Mobile Glass Studio; the Roaming Railroad; and more.

The Young Building featured products from around the world, including an exhibit on Ireland's Dingle Peninsula with QR codes for shopping products of the Emerald Isle and an array of themed jewelry from Brian DeStaic Jewelers.

Agriculture

The Eastern States Farmers Market and Wine Barn offered fairgoers a variety of agricultural demonstrations, such as spinning and weaving, cooking demonstrations, samples from The Big E Northeast Gold Wine, Cider & Perry Competition, wine slushies and cheese plates in the Wine Café and more.

The 4-H Beef Grand Champion Steer, raised by Riley Mahaffey of New York, was purchased by Cedar Hill Ranch at the fair's 4-H Beef Auction.

For more information visit thebigE.com



Midway Entrance At The Big E. (NEAAPA photo)



John Conway Jr.

National Ticket's John Conway Jr. Died In Sept.

DANVILLE, Pa. - John Joseph Conway Jr., 57, of Sycamore St., Elysburg, passed away on Sept. 21, at the Geisinger Medical Center in Danville.

Born in Brooklyn, N.Y., on March 24, 1964, a son of the late John J. Jr. and Jeanette (Santoro) Conway, he grew up in Bronxville, N.Y., and spent summers at the family summer cottage on the lake in Franklin, Mass.

Following high school, John attended the University of Hartford and then attended Elizabeth Seton College, Yonkers, N.Y., before he enlisted in the U.S. Army on Dec. 15, 1987, and served as a medic until his honorable discharge on May 27, 1991. He was called to serve in Desert Storm, but the war was over before he flew out.

John then started working for the family business, National Ticket Co. (NTC), as a salesman, working there until he enrolled at Rochester Institute of Technology in Rochester, N.Y. After receiving his Information Technology degree, he returned to NTC to run the IT department.

He wore many hats at NTC, vice president of sales, secretary of the board and chairman of the board.

Member Properties Host Halloween Events

Member NEAAPA properties invited guests to enjoy the fall season with Halloween events for all ages. Here's a sampling from submissions:

Quassy Introduces Terror

Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., held "12 Nights of Frights" with its first-ever haunt event titled Terror At Quassy. The park brought in an outside production company which provided numerous haunt attractions and live entertainment.

In addition, the October event featured the park's major rides, restaurant, arcade and gift shop.

Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular

Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, R.I., presented its nationally-acclaimed walk-through Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular evenings in October. Guests strolled past thousands of intricately carved pumpkins displayed while listening to soundtracks from the 1860s through today.

Spooky Zoo, offering daytime outdoor autumn activities for the whole family, was staged on Saturday, Oct. 23.

Ghost Tours

Storowton Village Museum on the grounds of the Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass., offered ghost tours Friday evenings in October.

Staff and volunteers explained paranormal investigations that took place in the village and shared stories of other unexplained occurrences.

Fright Fest At Six Flags

Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass., ramped up its



Fright Fest At Six Flags New England. (Submitted Photo)

annual Fright Fest on weekends late September through Halloween. In addition to hordes of roaming scare-actors. Fright Fest featured more than 20 gut-wrenching attractions including Nightmares, Terror Tales, Aftermath ZOMBIE'S REVENGE, Slasher Circus 3D, Midnight Mansion and more.

To cater to younger children, the park offer a t rick-or-treat trail, themed shows and rides during the day with the evening program not recommended for those 12 and under.



Terror At Quassy Was A New Event This Year. (Submitted photo)



Jack-O-Lantern Spectacular At Roger Williams Park Zoo. (Submitted photo)

Northeast News

The official newsletter of NEAAPA

Submissions may be e-mailed to:

secretary@neaapa.com or ron@quassy.com

Text files and jpeg photos preferred for editing

More Than 100 Attend NEAAPA

AGAWAM, Mass. – After taking a hiatus in 2020 due to the COVID crisis, 120 members of NEAAPA, the Northeast's Entertainment Association, met in August for the organization's 108th Anniversary Summer Meeting at Six Flags New England here.

The gathering had the best turnout in recent memory, according to NEAAPA Secretary Ed Hodgdon.

A tour of the newly-themed DC Universe was conducted by Six Flags Communications Manager Jen McGrath, who also held a question and answer session. Mike Nuizel, park engineer, conducted a behind-the-scenes look at how Cyclone, the facility's signature wooden coaster, was transformed into Wicked Cyclone.

John Hallenbeck, vice president and executive director of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) North America, provided an update on IAAPA affairs during an afternoon NEAAPA Board of Directors meeting.

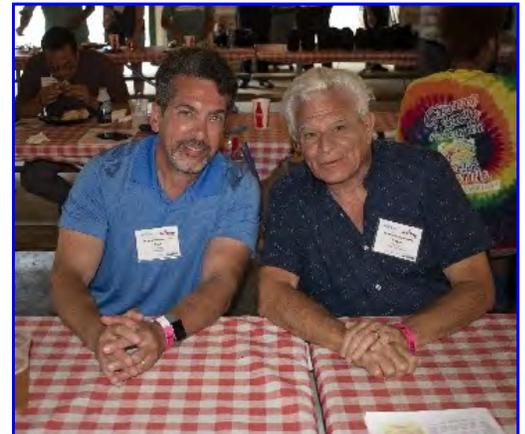
Following a social hour, NEAAPA President Dave Oberlander and Six Flags New England President Pete Carmichael welcomed those in attendance at the start of the dinner.

Among those at the gathering were NEAAPA Hall of Fame members John and Beth Bowen. John is also a past president of the association and Beth served a secretary for many years. The Bowens owned and operated the former Whalom Park in Lurenburg, Mass.

Past Presidents Stephen Lipkin, Carl Berni, Ed Connor, Kevin Naughton, and Eric Anderson were also in the group.

Sponsors included: Event sponsor: Premier Rides; gift bags: Extreme Engineering, Dippin' Dots, Bass Resort Sales, Carousel Family Fun Center, and Gateway Ticketing Systems; name badges: High Mountain Enterprises

Next year's summer meeting will be at Santa's Village, Jefferson, N.H., and will include a golf scramble.



Summer Meeting At Six Flags



NEAAPA photos



NEAAPA Members Win Golden Ticket Awards



Larry Bill

PLAINVIEW, Texas - Started in 1998, the Golden Ticket Awards were established by industry publication *Amusement Today* to shine a spotlight on the amusement park industry by recognizing the “Best of the Best.”

Today, they are among the most sought-after awards among theme parks, amusement parks, family entertainment centers and waterparks.

On Sept. 9, *Amusement Today* released the results of its international poll. In addition to 23 categories voted on by the world’s most experienced park aficionados, industry journalists and ride suppliers, four special awards were given to recognize significant contributions that exhibit perseverance and leadership.

NEAAPA members who won Golden Ticket Awards this year are:

Larry Bill of The Gravity Group, Cincinnati, Ohio, received the Legend Award. **The Gravity Group** also won for Best Innovation for their engineered precision-cut wooden roller coaster track.

DJ Vourderis from Deno’s Wonder Wheel Amusement Park, Coney Island, N.Y., was awarded the 2021 Leadership Award.

Other nominees and honorable mentions: Six Flags New England, Lake Compounce, Santa’s Village, Luna Park, Give Kids The World Village, Ralph S Alberts Co, Inc., and LJM & Associates.



DJ Vourderis

IAAPA Foundation Announces Scholarship Funding

BALTIMORE – The IAAPA Foundation’s Board of Directors has granted scholarship funding for two international students to attend Breda University of Applied Science during the 2021-22 and 2022-23 academic years.

Tom Wages, executive director of the IAAPA Foundation stated, “This funding is an expression of the support that the IAAPA Foundation board members have for the attractions management degree program that Breda University offers, and for Breda’s demonstrated commitment to the attractions industry. The IAAPA Foundation is very pleased to play a role in Breda’s efforts to support the attractions industry.”

Breda University of Applied Sciences is a Dutch vocational university located in the city of Breda in the Netherlands. A medium-sized public institution for higher education, Breda University caters to 7,000 Dutch and foreign students from more than 100 different countries.

As a world-renowned university for leisure and management, Breda University specializes in preparing students for international careers for various industries including attractions management.

Bart Stadhouders, Breda University Coordinator of the Attractions & Theme Parks Management program stated “We are thankful for the financial support of the IAAPA Foundation and the student networking opportunities at the IAAPA Expos. We are very proud of our recent Attractions and Theme Park Management graduates from Breda University. Nearly all of the students found excellent jobs within the attractions industry, working for great companies such as Efteling, Floriade Expo, Make-a-Wish, Plopsa Group, Swedice, and Toverland. It is our stated goal at Breda University to bring more students into the attractions industry in the future.”

The selection process for the scholarships will include an evaluation of the student’s submission of a motivational letter and a video pitch. Two students will be chosen per year to be awarded with this prestigious scholarship.

Jim Seay, chairman of the IAAPA Foundation and president of Premier Rides commented, “The IAAPA Foundation has had a great relationship with Breda University for a good number of years. Their students have an amazing amount of passion for the global attractions industry, and they literally light up the room when they participate in IAAPA Expo educational sessions and the Young Professionals Forums. Their enthusiasm is great for the industry, and it is wonderful that the IAAPA Foundation is continuing to support the students’ aspirations to be a part of our great business.”

The IAAPA Foundation relies exclusively on generous private donations to support the future leaders of the global attractions industry.



IAAPA
FOUNDATION

Manufacturers & Suppliers News

Premier Opens New Coaster

BALTIMORE— Premier Rides has opened a new attraction at Quest theme park in Qatar. The highly-themed multi-launch coaster, named Epiq, is also a dark ride loaded with special effects.

Quest theme park is located inside the Doha Oasis, a stunning luxurious mixed-use development that includes a five-star hotel and residences, a prestigious French fashion department store, cutting-edge cinema, and Qatar's first indoor theme park. The signature attraction of the indoor experiential theme park quest, Epiq is the World's Tallest Indoor Coaster which the Doha Oasis team plans to have certified by Guinness World Records.



Gravity Group Innovation

CINCINNATI - The Gravity Group, LLC has created an alternative wooden roller coaster track system that is both economical and more exact.

The new engineered precut track is by design up to 30 times stronger than the traditional wooden roller coaster track. The track is precut at The Gravity Group facility by precision CNC equipment to the exact shape determined by the ride design.

The additional strength and precise shape ensure that the track will deliver smooth rides and indefinitely be maintenance friendly. Additionally, this engineered precut track is economical and easy to install in prefabricated pieces with predictable results.

European Star Award

MONTREAL—Triotech has announced that its CL Corp. division won the European Star Award for Europe's Best New Rides 2021 for the "Underlandet" attraction at Liseberg together with industry leaders Gosetto and P&P Projects.

CL Corp. designed the entire preshow which includes its "Dynamic Explorer" attraction. This immersive motion cabin takes visitors into a journey underground and immerses visitors into the magical world of Liseberg rabbits. It sets the mood and effectively begins the guest's journey.

"We are very pleased to have participated to this family attraction. The preshow is important to bring visitors into the universe of the ride", stated Deborah Attal, managing director, Theme Parks Europe at Triotech – CL Corp. division. She added, "Our ultimate goal was to create the illusion of moving down underground so that visitors are 100 percent immersed in the story from the first second."

Borges Joins Betson In Sales

CARLSADT, N.J. - Betson Enterprises has announced that Ray Borges has joined the company as an amusement sales representative. As an industry veteran with more than 27 years of experience, Ray will handle sales out of the New England office.

"Ray previously spent a decade with the company in parts and equipment sales from 1996 to 2006. We welcome him back along with his wealth of industry experience which will help us to retain and grow our business in the New England region," said Bob Dipipi, vice president of sales & purchasing for Betson Enterprises.

Donnelly Named To Post

NEW YORK — RWS Entertainment Group, the world's largest full-service live entertainment production company, has announced the appointment of leisure industry veteran Steve Donnelly to the role of director, EMEA and head of the firm's European headquarters in London.

Opened in March 2020, the London headquarters of RWS provides a European base for the company's growing international presence.

For more than 15 years, Steve has thrilled audiences and employers delivering live entertainment and experiences for resorts, theaters, cruise lines and theme parks.

Haller Takes Post At IAAPA

ORLANDO, Fla., – The International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) announced Patrick Haller has joined the organization as vice president of global marketing, communications, and membership.

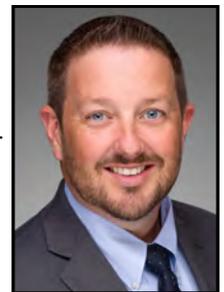
Haller brings an extensive background in association marketing, strategic planning and management. He will lead the association's global marketing, communications, and membership strategy and plan implementation.

With more than 15 years of association marketing and communications experience, Haller is ready to advance IAAPA's key initiatives on behalf of the global attractions industry.

Most recently, he served as senior director of membership and member services at the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) in Washington, D.C. where he was responsible for growing the association's membership, expanding membership value, and deepening the organization's relationships and engagement with members. Prior to joining NBAA, he served as strategy director for member and component support at the American Institute of Architects.



Steve Donnelly



Patrick Haller

Quassy Asks Students To Name New Ride

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – Regional elementary and middle school students will be asked to put on their thinking caps and name Quassy Amusement & Waterpark’s newest attraction.

The lakeside property will introduce the largest single investment in the park’s 114-year history next spring: a gigantic raft ride that incorporates state-of-the-art water coaster technology.

“We had more than 90 entries when we asked schools to help name our new roller coaster in 2011, and we believe students will come up with some great names for our new water coaster, too,” Quassy President Eric Anderson said of the challenge. “We look forward to seeing the entries for this project as well.”

Students will have the opportunity to view a rendering of the huge ride as they ponder possible names for the attraction. Two-person rafts will plunge from a dispatch tower and be pushed uphill by water jets at three separate locations along the course. In addition, a number of banked turns will add to the thrilling experience. The new raft ride will be built this off-season in Quassy’s Splash Away Bay Waterpark.

The rules for entering the contest are as follows:

Submitted names – one per classroom - may not infringe on copyrighted or trademarked products. Submissions must be made by teachers and include the school name, contact information, grade and number of students in the class. The deadline to enter is Dec. 10 and all submissions must be e-mailed to info@quassy.com with Name The Water Coaster in the subject line.



Rendering Of Quassy’s New Water Coaster. (Courtesy ProSlide Technology)

National Roller Coaster Museum Hosts Group Of Enthusiasts



Group Gathers At National Roller Coaster Museum In Texas. (Submitted photo)

PLAINVIEW, Texas – Dozens of ride and theme park enthusiasts descended on the National Roller Coaster Museum (NRCMA) for the Fourth of July holiday to explore the museum collection and, for the first time, see the huge Mark Moore wing.

In addition, the group was also honored to see the unveiling of two new, historically significant ride vehicles that revolutionized the theme park experience.

The first was a Loch Ness Monster Arrow ride vehicle donated by Busch Gardens Williamsburg. The Loch Ness Monster was the first roller coaster with interlocking loops and was the impetus of the first ever American Coaster Enthusiast’s Coaster Con 43 years ago.

The second was the first coaster car designed by Dana Morgan and Steve Okamoto for the West Coaster at Pacific Park on the pier in Santa Monica, Calif. The car was donated by Pacific Park.

The group also saw museum exhibits fabricated with the help of several manufacturing partners.

The most recent addition was a track and train display of the 1938 Rollo Coaster from Idlewild and Soak Zone designed by Skyline Attractions and constructed by Great Coasters International (GCII). The impressive 12 ft. high and 30 ft. long display joins a track and train display of the Cobb and Rosser-designed Texas Cyclone as well as a display of the 1977 Schwartzkopf Super Dooper Looper from Hersheypark. Photos of the installations and a time lapse of the construction are available at rollercoastermuseum.com.