



Northeast News

2022 Summer Meeting Edition

NEAAPA Newsletter

Welcome To NEAAPA's Two-Day 109th Summer Meeting

It's official!

Welcome to NEAAPA's 109th Summer Meeting and its first two-day extravaganza! We have lots in store for all over the next two days and we hope you take the opportunity to make the most out of all the offering! I know I will. Two days of FUN, for sure!

First up on the agenda: Golf at the Cranston Country Club. I'd like to thank Pete Barto and the Golf Tournament Committee for putting this together. We sincerely appreciate all the hard work that went into organizing this extremely important event. Besides a great day on the course, the net proceeds from this event go toward NEAAPA's Pinnacle Scholarship Award program.

Next up is the Seekonk Grand Prix. Thanks to Terry Darling, Wayne Darling, and the staff for hosting our time there. Enjoy the day playing mini-golf, riding go-karts and bumper cars and boats, video games and more. Sounds like a very competitive day!

Then to round out our first day, we'll be heading over to Roger Williams Park Zoo. The lower zoo will be open exclusively for NEAAPA guests. I hope you're hungry because I hear there's a great menu in store for us! Thanks to Ron Patalano and his staff for the hospitality and opening the zoo for such a great event. Additionally, be sure to seek out Steve Gioe and thank the entire SSA staff for all the great food and drinks!

On Tuesday morning we return to spend a full day at Roger Williams Park Zoo & Carousel Village. Be sure to keep an eye out for goody bags, exclusive-to-NEAAPA zoo tours, and more at check-in. Throughout your day you'll be able to explore exhibits, climb aboard the train and sail the skies on the zip.

Last, but certainly not least, please join us for a tour of Rhode Island Novelty. Tour the showrooms, warehouse, and distribution areas of the 500,000 square-foot facility. Thanks to Bob Nowak, Chris Bourgeois and the staff.

As you can see, we have quite an agenda. This would not be possible without the enthusiasm and dedication of all our members. Thanks again to all!

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Roger Williams Park Zoo Hosting NEAAPA Summer Meeting.

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Next Edition:
IAAPA Attractions Expo
Submissions to: secretary@neaapa.com
Or ron@quassy.com

Summer Meeting

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Earlier this year we also had our first member meet-up, held at Laser Bounce in Queens New York! Thanks to Ryan D'Amico for hosting our first event of this type and I'm looking forward to our next. Also, thanks to Joe Montalto and the Membership Committee for getting this initiative off the ground.

In May, we also had our in-person NEAAPA Spring Leadership Seminar. As usual, this also went extremely well.



Dave Oberlander

Many thanks to Chris Nicoli and the Canobie Lake Park Events Team, as well as Chef George, Chef Zach, Kevin Catubig, Garrett Barrows, and the team at Sodexo Live!

Getting Staff To Stay

I'd like to tell a story about my days at Paragon Park and how we addressed having enough staff to push through the Labor Day weekend. A culture existed there that promoted longevity which was created by the employees themselves. It was not created by management and rumored to be that it was not known to management. The concept of something happening was known by some team members but not the details until the very last day.

After my first year there, at 13, I was expected to work through the end, although like students of today they wanted time off before returning to school. At the time, just about everyone, including college students, didn't go off to school until after the Labor Day weekend.

On Labor Day Monday, just after the park made the announcement that they were closing for the season, the employees would seek out the selected staff member most admired, grabbed that individual and hoisted them over their heads and proceeded to dump that person in the Congo Cruise. It was a fun day for all. During my high school years, I never missed working through the end of the season. All season long the team would plan and vote on someone each week to be our catch for that last day. Funny, it was difficult to find any one of the candidates near the end of the day, but in the end, we were successful in finding the winner.

These days, for a variety of reasons, that cannot happen in the same way in today's world. Many colleges and schools are now starting before Labor Day, not to mention the legal and safety implications.

Create A Culture

Think about creating a culture that speaks to today's team members and see if an idea can grow out of that. One thought would be to work with management to create an event that is rewarding, not specifically to the staff but to the community.

A surprise three-hour event catered to their families and friends, Make-A-Wish kids, etc. The staff would work on the program all season long with management to create a memorable event that each team member will look forward to each year.

I know that there are many events that we all do to address many different clubs and organizations but try having your team members plan one that happens on the last day, or thereafter, to get them to buy into the premise that they too are part of the success of your attraction.

Enjoy your time these next two days playing golf, competing at the Seekonk Grand Prix, dinner and visiting Roger Williams Park Zoo, and touring Rhode Island Novelty.

Yours in NEAAPA

Dave Oberlander, President

"Laughter is timeless, imagination has no age, and dreams are forever." – Walt Disney



We Welcome Your News
Submissions to *Northeast News*
(text files and jpeg photos) may be
e-mailed for consideration to:
secretary@neaapa.com
and ron@quassy.com

More Than 100 Attend Annual Meeting; Two Are Inducted Into Hall Of Fame

MYSTIC, Conn. – More than 100 were in attendance March 14-16 for the 109th Anniversary Education Conference & Annual Meeting of NEAAPA, the Northeast' Entertainment Association, at the Hilton Mystic here.

The highlight of the three-day event was the induction of industry icons James Patten III and the late Haig Gulezian into the NEAAPA Hall of Fame at the Tuesday gala dinner and business meeting.

Patten had a storied career in the amusement park business at Salisbury Beach, Mass. He also served on the Board of Directors for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) and chaired the organization's safety committee.

In 1970 he helped to introduce the vendor showcase at NEAAPA's annual meeting, which continues to this day. Following his retirement, Patten and his wife moved to Florida.

Gulezian entered the industry in the 1950s by constructing Haig's Miniature Golf in Methuen, Mass. In 1979 he purchased land in Nashua, N.H. and built Fun World, an indoor entertainment complex with the latest video games. The business later expanded with outdoor go-karts, indoor bumper cars and even indoor mini golf.

More rides were added indoors during the late 1990s and Haig's legacy continues today as Fun World is operated by his daughter, Sandra Gulezian-Manougian, and grandson, Peter Manougian.



Hall Of Fame

Sandra Gulezian-Manougian (left) and her mother, Gladys Gulezian, accepted the NEAAPA Hall Of Fame award honoring the late Haig Gulezian. (NEAAPA photo)

Others Honored

NEAAPA President Dave Oberlander and Awards Committee Chairman John Guertin also presented the following awards during the dinner:

President's Award: Charlene Conway, Carousel Family Fun Centers, Fairhaven, Mass., for serving as the organization's treasurer for numerous years.

Meritorious Service Award: Ron Patalano, operations director at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, R.I.

Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award: Rui DeSilva, maintenance supervisor, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn.

Paragon Award for Marketing Excellence: Greg Banecker, Gateway Ticketing Systems, Gilbertsville, Pa.

Pinnacle Award for Guest Service Excellence: Emma Krushinski, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark.

"She's a tireless advocate for our industry and resolute in carrying out the duties as treasurer," Oberlander said of selecting Conway for the President's Award.

In reference to Patalano receiving the service award, Oberlander noted: "Ron was honored for making great progress in spearheading value for our membership and our guests, and for his volunteerism."

Keynote speaker at the dinner was Ryan Stana, chief executive officer at RWS Entertainment Group, JRA & Binder Casting in New York. He touched on the history of RWS and how it has grown into a world-renown entertainment organization over the past two decades.



Charlene Conway

ades.

Michael Shelton, IAAPA's director of education, safety, and membership, provided an update on public affairs outreach by both NEAAPA and IAAPA.

(See ANNUAL MEETING, Page 6)

Photo Highlights From NEAAPA



Paragon Award for Marketing Excellence winner Greg Banecker (center) of Gateway Ticketing Systems, Gilbertsville, Pa., accepted the honor from NEAAPA President Dave Oberlander (left) and Awards Committee Chairman John Guertin. (NEAAPA photos)



Keynote speaker at the dinner was Ryan Stana, chief executive officer at RWS Entertainment Group, JRA & Binder Casting in New York .



Meritorious Service Award was presented to Ron Patalano (right), operations director at Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, R.I., by NEAAPA President Dave Oberlander.



President Dave Oberlander addressed the dinner crowd.

(Right) - Dinner had more than 100 guests in attendance.



Conference And Annual Meeting



NEAAPA Hall Of Fame photo display always greets attendees at the annual meeting.



Vendor showcase (left) and education sessions (below) during the annual gathering in Mystic, Conn.



Annual Meeting

(Continued From Page 3)
Years Of Membership

The following NEAAPA organizations were also recognized for membership milestones:

90 Years: Lake Compounce Theme Park, Bristol, Conn.

20 Years: Carousel Family Fun Center

15 Years: Intermark Ride Group, Nashville, Tenn.; RWS Entertainment Group

10 Years: Amusement Associates, Lynbrook, N.Y.; Aquaboggan Waterpark, Saco, Maine; Morningside - A Kitty Hawk Kites Flight Park, Charlestown, N.H.; S&S Worldwide, Logan, Utah; Essex Steam Train & Riverboat, Essex, Conn.

The 2022 NEAAPA officers slate is as follows: President Dave Oberlander, Centerplate, Mashpee, Mass.; Vice President Chris Nicoli, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.; Treasurer Charlene Conway and Secretary Ed Hodgdon, Hodgdon Consulting, Scarborough, Maine. Reception And More

The NEAAPA conference kicked off on Monday, March 14, with an evening reception at Mystic Aquarium, Mystic, Conn.

Several workshops were held throughout the day Tuesday at the hotel as well as a noon lunch and board of directors meeting.

More than a dozen suppliers took part in the 5 p.m. vendor showcase followed by a cocktail reception and the dinner and business meeting, in which 110 attended.

The president's breakfast on Wednesday closed out the event.

Sponsors of the conference were:

Gold: Dippin' Dots, Paducah, Ky.; Naughton Insurance, Providence, R.I.; Premier Rides, Inc., Baltimore, Md.; RWS Entertainment Group and S&S Worldwide.

Tuesday Night Dinner: McGowan Allied Specialty Insurance, St. Petersburg, Fla. and Ralph S. Alberts Co., Inc., Montoursville, Pa.
Tuesday Night Reception: Sally Dark Rides, Jacksonville, Fla.

Afternoon Break: NXT Capture, Orlando, Fla. and Zamperla Inc., Boonton, N.J.

Morning Registration: Amusement Today, Arlington, Texas, and Carousel Family Fun Center

Badge Sponsor: North American Amusements, Weymouth, Mass.

"The 109th Educational Conference and Annual Meeting was a great success and that I'd like to thank everyone for their support, contributions and participation," Oberlander said.

For more information visit www.neaapa.com

Jeffrey Davis Is New GM At Lake Compounce

BRISTOL, Conn.— Jeffrey Davis has been named the new general manager at Lake Compounce here. He joined the park team in February.

Davis brings more than 25 years of amusement industry experience and expertise to Lake Compounce.



Jeffrey Davis

Most recently, Jeffery served as the director of operations at Dorney Park & Wildwater Kingdom in Allentown, Pa.

Davis began his career within the amusement industry at Sesame Place, working on the park's operations team for more than 20 years, climbing the ladder to become Sesame Place's vice president of operations.

"I am thrilled to join the team at America's Oldest Amusement Park," said Davis. "Lake Compounce has so much to offer its guests including a rich history, brand new park transformation, Connecticut's largest water park and more! The team and I are looking forward to welcoming guests back for the

2022 season."

Davis previously served as president and a board member of the Pennsylvania Amusement Parks and Attractions Association (PAPA). He holds a Bachelor's of Science in Operations Management from Pennsylvania State University, a Master's in Business Administration from Holy Family University and an International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Certificate of Educational Achievement from the IAAPA Institute of Executive Education.

About Lake Compounce

Lake Compounce is a timeless New England tradition. Featuring more than 45 rides and attractions across the park's amusement and water park, Crocodile Cove, Lake Compounce is America's Oldest Amusement Park celebrating 175 years.

Stokes Named To IAAPA Post

ORLANDO, Fla.—Zachary Stokes has been named the new public affairs manager for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) North America.

In this new role, he is responsible for supporting IAAPA's public affairs program of work in the United States and Canada, with emphasis on U.S. state level engagement and grassroots mobilization.

Zach brings extensive experience in legislative management, policy analysis, and coalition building to the position.

For the past 10 years, he worked on Capitol Hill supporting Rep. Kurt Schrader (OR-05) where he focused on policy issues ranging from science, technology, and immigration to defense and education. Prior to that, he worked for Walt Disney World Parks and Resorts.



Zachary Stokes



Winning Class

George Frantzis II, an owner of Quassy Amusement & Waterpark (back row center) presented commemorative T-shirts and park passes to the winning class. (submitted photo)

Students Name Quassy's New Water Coaster 'Rocket Rapids'



MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – And the winner is: Rocket Rapids!

That is the official name given to the new water coaster at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark here, Quassy officials announced.

The state-of-the-art attraction's name was coined by Mrs. Jessica Papp's fourth grade homeroom class at Canton Intermediate School, Canton, Conn., in a contest among local and area elementary and middle schools.

Quassy's management team selected Rocket Rapids from the submissions, which were received before schools went on recess for the holidays.

"It wasn't an easy decision," George Frantzis II, a park owner, said the process to choose the ride's name. "We had an incredible list to select from before it boiled down to the winner in a second round of voting."

"Our fourth graders are so honored and thrilled to have been chosen to name the new Rocket Rapids water ride at Quassy," Mrs. Papp said in a statement to the park. "This contest was something that one child found out about and felt passionate about in the fall, and he got our whole group of students really excited! After narrowing down our many ideas, the name Rocket Rapids was chosen due to the speed and exciting twists and turns people will experience when they ride."

She added, "To have a contest like this where community members can contribute to naming a huge new ride is really amazing! It was something that brought our homeroom class closer together. We could not be more excited! Thank you!"

Students Honored

The students in the winning class received commemorative T-shirts from Quassy as well as individual passes to visit the park this summer.

The largest single investment in the park's 114-year history, the raft ride propels two-person rafts uphill by using water jets along its twisting, diving course. Riders accelerate on high-banked turns known as Flying-SAUCERS. ProSlide Technology Inc. of Canada provided the attraction, which is the first of its genre in the state.

For more information visit www.quassy.com.

McEvoy To Retire As IAAPA President

ORLANDO, Fla.—Hal McEvoy, president and CEO of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA), the global association for the attractions industry, announced he will retire from his position on April 1, 2023.

McEvoy has served on the executive team for IAAPA since he was hired in April 2017 as chief financial officer. He was named interim president and CEO in February 2018 and was selected to be president and CEO after a comprehensive executive search concluded in October 2018.

"Hal has done a tremendous job leading this association through some truly exciting and unprecedented times. Under Hal's leadership, our association completed the headquarters relocation from Alexandria to Orlando, worked with the Board and Relocation Task Force to design and build the new headquarters building, and grew membership and total revenues to all-time highs in 2019," said Ken Whiting, 2022 IAAPA chairman and president of Whiting's Foods at Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk, Santa Cruz, Calif. "We are grateful for all Hal has done and look forward to working with him in the year ahead."

McEvoy, who began his career in 1975 as a part-time accounting clerk at Busch Gardens Tampa, brought an extensive background in corporate finance, accounting, financial controls, audit, and operations to the association.

After his graduation in 1976, McEvoy was promoted to cash control supervisor and worked his way up through the company to become vice president of finance for Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA.

In December 2012, Hal relocated to Orlando, when he was promoted to corporate vice president of internal audit and compliance for SeaWorld Parks and Entertainment, the position he held prior to joining IAAPA.

To allow for an orderly transition and not to disrupt the association's operation for 2022, Hal has agreed to serve as president and CEO until his retirement on April 1, 2023. IAAPA will conduct a global search for a new president and CEO. The search will be led by the IAAPA President and CEO Search Committee.



Hal McEvoy

Manufacturers & Suppliers News

Tibbitts Promoted At S&S

LOGAN, Utah—With the retirement of long time Service Manager Scott Holliday, S&S Worldwide has named James Tibbitts to the post.



S&S WORLDWIDE
Engineering Excitement

James has been a member of the organization for nearly two decades, starting in 2003 in the weld shop fabricating rides. After five years he moved to a role of working with customers by supplying

them with parts for their rides. This position morphed into a role where James was managing, building, and servicing the company's small rides.

S&S President and CEO, Tim Timco, commented, "James is very deserving of this promotion, and I am extremely confident that our technical service department is in very good hands with James as the department manager. I not only congratulate James but look forward to what he adds to our management team."

Jungen Takes The Helm

RICHMOND, British Columbia, Canada—WhiteWater West has named Michael Jungen as president of its Vantage Technology Ltd., subsidiary.

Vantage Technology helps venues unify their systems around their guests and enables seamless, personalized experiences that drive rave reviews.



Michael Jungen

The Vantage platform collates powerful data that reveals guest behavior in real time, thus unlocking revenue opportunities for venues and streamlining their operations at the same time.

The combination of practical digital transformation with location-based entertainment makes Vantage a perfect fit for Jungen to take the reins. He has a successful track record implement-

ing cutting-edge technologies for the attractions and hospitality industries.

Stephens Join Baynum Painting

NEWPORT, Ky.—Baynum Painting has announced that long-time amusement industry professional Terry



Terry Stephens

Stephens of Newnan, Ga., has joined its staff.

Stephens has more than 32 years experience working at seven different parks across the nation.

Most recently he served as maintenance director for Six Flags and has in-depth knowledge of amusement park operations, maintenance, and ride construction. Terry is joining Baynum's amusement construction division,

which over the last several years has grown its capacity

to include new ride installs, relocations, water park ground up builds, and other major renovation work throughout the industry.

Barto Launches New Company

MECHANICSBURG, Pa. — Amusement industry veteran Pete Barto has launched a new company, PB Amusement, LLC (PBA).

Barto said his firm will focus on matching operators with the best, brightest, and most appropriate new products and services available to the market.



Pete Barto

"My oldest childhood memories were of our family going to Hersheypark, Dorney Park, Morey's Pier, Canobie Lake Park, Joe's Playland and Salisbury Beach (to name a few), and for me, it wasn't just about the rides, it was about the entire experience...the sites, the smells, the sounds, the tastes, and the anticipation of the lifelong memories that were bound to be created during my day in the park. I loved it all." said Barto.

After working for other well-known hospitality experts like Domino's Pizza, McDonald's, Kiddie Academy Childcare Learning Centers and Billy Casper Golf Management, Pete's first official industry job came when he was offered the opportunity to sell booth space and sponsorships for the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expos.

After a successful multi-year run that helped Pete establish himself as a trustworthy and recognizable name in the industry, and a two-year stint learning the park side of the business at Hersheypark, he was sought after by many manufacturers to provide successful sales results for well-known industry leaders like Premier Rides, S&S Worldwide and Extreme Engineering.

For more information, contact Barto and PB Amusement, LLC at (443) 756-0280 or email at pbar-to@PBAmusement.com.

Berger Is Promoted At Betson

CARLSTADT, N.J.—Betson Enterprises has announced that Kyle Berger has been promoted to vice president of sales and purchasing.



Kyle Berger

Kyle has been an integral part of the Betson sales team since 2004 and has held progressive roles during his time, most recently managing several national accounts along with equipment purchasing and inventory management.

"Kyle has been a major contributor to the continued success of Betson and the evolution of our business," said Jonathan Betti - senior vice president of sales and business development.

Manufacturers & Suppliers News

Vogelsong Named Manager

MONTOURSVILLE, Pa. — The Ralph S Alberts Company Inc. (RSA) has announced the promotion of Andy Vogelsong to operations manager.

Andy joined RSA in 2011. During his tenure he has been a positive contributor to many areas of operations including foam production, shipping, receiving and most recently as customer service manager, for which he will continue to have oversight.

Key aspects of this new role will be to ensure internal customer driven initiatives such as on time delivery and product quality to achieve RSA's strategic goals, Andy will serve as a liaison between the RSA leadership team and production operations with his laser focus on customer centric solutions.



New NINJAGO ride from Triotech.

Triotech Opens New Ride

MONTREAL, Quebec, Canada—Triotech has announced the opening of the eighth NINJAGO The Ride attraction at Legoland Resort Chuncheon, Gangwon Province, Korea.

NINJAGO The Ride, a unique interactive attraction featuring Triotech's innovative technology Maestro™, requires no hand-held control or device. Guests only move their arms or hands to throw fireballs, lightning, ice, and shock waves to defeat villains. It is very intuitive; all they must do is aim with their hands.

"It's a real pleasure to see NINJAGO The Ride being deployed all over the world. Now visitors to Legoland 1 will be enjoying it too! The ride is very family friendly and typically gets top satisfaction rating from park guests. We often see both children and their parents riding again and again to get a higher score!" reported Ernest Yale, president and CEO of Triotech.

The ride was initially planned for Legoland Billund, in Denmark and Legoland California, but soon others were added in Malaysia and Florida, followed by Legoland Deutschland, Legoland Windsor in the United Kingdom, Legoland New York in 2021, and now Legoland Korea.



Restored Kangaroo Ride At Kennywood.

Premier Helps To Restore Classic

WEST MIFFLIN, Pa. — With much anticipation, Kennywood's iconic Kangaroo ride has bounced back into the park for the 2022 season.

In its same park location and appearing much like the vintage ride it is, the beloved ride is refreshed, updated and ready for generations of families to hop aboard.

"It's simple but not too dull," said Nick Paradise, director of corporate communications. "People really look forward to riding it year after year. You never get too old to ride the Kangaroo."

But that understated appearance should not be taken for granted. It was with great work between Kennywood and NEAAPA supplier member Premier Rides, the company that took on the task to completely redo the ride, to keep that look. But underneath it all, it is state-of-the-art.

"Our goal was to update Kangaroo, but, more importantly, ensure we preserved the long-standing history of this timeless ride," said Jim Seay, president, Premier Rides. "By modernizing the Kangaroo, we can provide many more generations of Kennywood fans the opportunity to happily hop aboard for decades to come."

The Kangaroo debuted in the park in 1962. It was dubbed early on as a coaster even though it wasn't ever officially considered one. But its creator, John Norman Bartlett, tagged it a "Flying Coaster" due to the single, sharp slope in its circular track that would move its cars up into the air.

NEAAPA—The Northeast's Entertainment Association

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Manufacturers & Suppliers News

Management Changes At RWS

NEW YORK – RWS Entertainment Group, the world's exclusive, full-service provider of award-winning guest experiences and attractions, has named former Royal Caribbean Cruises executive Ryan Saab for its new senior vice president, talent casting and recruitment.



Ryan Saab

Saab will serve in this role for RWS and its subsidiary, Binder Casting.

Sean Webb, who serves as senior manager of performer casting, dance, will join Saab at RWS and Amber Snead, associate casting director, will join Saab at Binder.

These three additions come as RWS expands turnkey entertainment operations for theme parks, resorts, cruise ships and more while Binder Casting approaches its 40th anniversary milestone as the longest-running casting firm in North America.

RWS Entertainment Group will fill more than 6,500 roles around the world this year, creating opportunities for dancers, musicians, technicians and creatives on land and at sea. As former head of Casting Operations for Royal Caribbean's entertainment division, Saab will now lead casting and recruitment for one of the largest entertainment talent providers in the industry.

Saab has nearly 20 years of experience as an entertainment production executive, responsible for product development, casting and strategic management.

"Ryan's innovation and creativity are exactly what we're looking for at RWS," said Founder and CEO Ryan Stana. "With his international expertise in talent recruitment, his skill at organizing auditions, plus his ability to build a strong and diverse team, we are well-positioned to provide our clients with incredible talent."

Sean Webb has joined RWS as senior manager, performer casting, dance. Webb joins RWS from bloc, a talent agency representing choreographers and dancers for film, theatre and television. He holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts from University of North Florida.

Greene Named To Position



Cody Greene

FAIRFIELD, Conn. — Ben Haase, managing director of Ropes Park Equipment (RPE), announces the addition of Cody Greene to the RPE team as sales and service manager.

Cody brings an extensive background in the outdoor and adventure recreation industries, starting as a whitewater raft guide in Colorado.

Most recently, Cody was manager of

operations for Robertson Harness, where his responsibilities included sales, customer service, operations, and design. Cody has also been involved with ACCT for many years, including serving as subcommittee secretary for an ACCT task force.

"We are thrilled to have Cody joining our team and bringing his industry expertise to RPE," said Haase. "Cody is passionate about the industry and brings a wealth of knowledge that will greatly benefit all of our customers."

For further information on Ropes Park Equipment visit www.RopesParkEquipment.com.

Storowton Village Early American Summer Days Designed For Children

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.— Storowton Village Museum's Early American Summer Days combines 19th century history with 21st century fun.

Designed for ages 7-12, all sessions give children who have completed grades 1-5 a glimpse into the museum's historical spaces and an opportunity to do themed activities and craft projects. The program takes place Aug. 2-5 at the Eastern States Exposition.

Opportunities Include:

Homestead on the Farm – Discover 19th century life on the homestead,

19th century clothing and living a day in the life of a 19th century family. Get a taste of how Johnny Cakes were made over the hearth fire, visit the blacksmith shop, learn how to churn butter and weave baskets, and meet livestock and other animals that would have lived on the family farm with you.

Archaeology – Using the scientific method, students will "dig" into the field of archeology through a series of hands-on activities and historical information. This session will include an exploration of tools, paleontology, and more. Participants will make their own archeology journal and complete a field dig to learn about 19th century archeology and how the practice has evolved today.

Toys & Games – Kids living on a farm during the 19th century did a lot of hard work but they also made time to play games like town ball and marbles. Have fun like they would have and make early New England-inspired toys to take home, like marble tracks and marshmallow catapults.

Details on this summer program are available online at www.storowtonvillage.com or by calling 413-205-5051 or emailing storow@thebige.com.



Canobie Lake Park Celebrates 120 Years

SALEM, N.H. - Established in 1902 as a botanical garden and pleasure resort, Canobie Lake Park is celebrating 120 years of entertaining families throughout the Northeast.

In staying true to its roots, the park has launched the “Heritage Trail” for 2022, a self-guided tour throughout the facility featuring both the park’s storied history as a quintessential New England Trolley Park as well as the beautiful trees, flowers and landscapes that have shaped their past.



Additionally, “Celebrating 120 Years” is the theme of 2022

with special parties and events scheduled throughout the season including thousands of opportunities to walk away a winner! A park-wide game of Rock Paper Scissors you ask? Oh, yeah, they got it!

Canobie Lake Park’s business model has been to consistently add new rides, attractions and technological advancements in games and park experiences while simultaneously ensuring that their most nostalgic attractions receive the care necessary to ensure continued operation into the next century.

Park Opened In August Of 1902

The park’s oldest attraction, the Antique Carousel, was built in the late 1800s and was with them on opening day – Aug. 23, 1902. The Antique Carousel is one of the few still operated by a rubber tire and houses an original Wurlitzer organ.

Another park treasure is the Yankee Cannonball roller coaster, which has operated at the Canobie Lake Park since 1936 and is still one of the most popular attractions today.

In addition to the launch of the Heritage Trail, the park’s history may be visited in the Museum of Superstars located inside the historic Dancehall Theater.

“It is extremely important to maintain connections to the past. When a school field trip visits the park, we constantly hear stories of how this is now the 3rd, 4th or even 5th generation of a family who rode their first roller coaster on their class trip. Parents can share their childhood experiences with their own children and grandparents may host a trip with their family remembering this may have been the very place where they had their first date decades ago. We truly appreciate the park being part of so many guests lives and that we hold a special place in their heart,” said Chris Nicoli, brand manager. “We are the park where you can have the latest experiences, such as our new waterpark, Castaway Island, while still being the park you have always known. This is an important responsibility.”



File Photo Of Historic Carousel At Canobie Lake Park.



Main Entrance To Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.
(submitted photo)

It is not the park’s intention to force guests to “learn” about the property or for anyone to “teach” them about Canobie’s history. This should happen organically as guests have fun throughout the day. The park’s goal is to have tidbits of information readily accessible throughout the property, so guests walk away with a collection of fun facts on how a family-owned amusement park could have survived 120 years.

Rap Superstar Nelly Coming To The Big E

WEST SPRINGFIELD, Mass.—Diamond-certified, multi-platinum and Grammy award-winning Rap superstar, Nelly, is coming Friday, Sept. 23, to The Big E Arena, sponsored by Truly Hard Seltzer. Concert tickets, available now, include admission to The Big E.

**THE
BIG E**

Nelly has continually raised the bar for the entertainment industry since stepping on the scene in 2000 with his distinctive vocals and larger-than-life personality. His debut album, *Country Grammar*, spent seven weeks at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 and spawned the massive hits “Ride Wit Me,” “Country Grammar” and “E.I.”

His second album, the multi-platinum *Nellyville*, debuted at No. 1 and scored two Grammy Awards for “Hot in Herre” and “Dilemma” featuring Kelly Rowland.

Nelly has since gone on to release the mega hits, “Nasty Girl,” “Grillz,” “Over and Over” with Tim McGraw, “Body on Me,” “Just a Dream,” and most recently, “Lil Bit” featuring Florida Georgia Line, off Nelly’s new album *Heartlands*, released in 2021.

He has won multiple American Music Awards, a Nickelodeon Kids’ Choice Award, Soul Train Music Awards, MTV Video Music Awards, was previously crowned “Top Pop, Rap, and R&B/Hip-Hop Artist of The Year” by Billboard and is ranked by RIAA as the fourth best-selling Rap artist in American music history, with more than 21 million albums sold in the United States. For more information on Nelly at The Big E Arena, visit TheBigE.com.

The Big E, the largest event on the East Coast and third largest Fair in North America, returns to West Springfield, Mass., Sept. 16-Oct. 2.



Nelly To Be At The Big E. (submitted photo)

IAAPA Promotes Shelton To North America Post

ORLANDO, Fla.—Michael Shelton has been promoted to vice president and executive director of the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) North America.

Michael has been a team member for the association since 2018, serving most recently as the director of education, safety, and membership for the North America region.

“With his passion, knowledge, and leadership he will continue the great development of the North America regional office and further expand the regional services and products,” noted Jakob Wahl, chief operating officer, IAAPA. “The membership will benefit from the depth of Michael’s experience in the industry, pulling from nearly 30 years of experience as an operator and with the association.”

Before his employment with IAAPA, Shelton served as the managing director at Hyland Hills Parks & Recreation District in Denver, Colorado. In this role, Shelton was instrumental in the planning and development of new attractions and expansion projects for the park district. His tenacity and vision helped propel Hyland Hills to its prominence in the amusement industry.



Michael Shelton



New Ride Coming To Quassy

Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn., announced it will add a Super Himalaya ride for the 2023 season. The spectacular family thrill ride will be provided by Bertazzon 3B of Italy. NEAAPA member Ital International LLC, Nashville, Tenn., represents the manufacturer in the U.S. (submitted photo)