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BUSCH GARDENS NAMED MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK BY ENTHUSIAST ORGANIZATION

Mt. Prospect, IL – The **National Amusement Park Historical Association (NAPHA)** released the results of its eagerly awaited 24th Annual *NAPHA Amusement Parks and Attractions Survey*.

For the twentieth consecutive year, **Busch Gardens** (Williamsburg, VA) was named the Most Beautiful Amusement Park. **Walt Disney World** (Lake Buena Vista, FL) was the second Most Beautiful Park, a position it has held since 2005. Busch Gardens also nabbed the second spot in the Favorite Theme Park category.

Kennywood (West Mifflin, PA) was once again named by NAPHA members as the world's favorite traditional park, and **Walt Disney World** (Lake Buena Vista, FL) won honors as the top theme park. Perennial favorites, **Voyage** (Holiday World, Santa Claus, IN) and **Millennium Force** (Cedar Point, Sandusky, OH) topped the list for the favorite wood and steel coasters, respectively. Three roller coasters were named the Best New Attractions of 2009 – **Diamondback** at Kings Island (Kings Island, OH), **Manta** at Sea World in Orlando, and the **Worlds of Fun's** Prowler (Kansas City, MO).

The survey, the oldest of its type, is highly regarded within the amusement park industry and within enthusiasts' circles. "NAPHA's survey results are important not only to park enthusiasts, but to the industry. Many parks feature the results prominently in their marketing and advertising materials," noted NAPHA's Survey Coordinator, Marlowe McClasky Futrell.

MOST BEAUTIFUL PARK

As noted above, **Busch Gardens** in Williamsburg was named the Most Beautiful Park for the twentieth consecutive year. **Walt Disney World** has held the second spot for the last five years.

FAVORITE TRADITIONAL PARKS	
1	Busch Gardens, (Williamsburg, VA)
2	Walt Disney World (Lake Buena Vista, FL)

FAVORITE TRADITIONAL PARKS

Kennywood and **Knoebels Amusement Resort** (Elysburg, PA) have been neck and neck in the standings since 1996 with each in holding one of the top two positions in this category. In this year's survey, Kennywood edged out Knoebels, with Blackpool Pleasure Beach (Blackpool, UK) in the third position.

FAVORITE TRADITIONAL PARKS	
1	Kennywood (West Mifflin, PA)
2	Knoebels Amusement Resort (Elysburg, PA)
3	Blackpool Pleasure Beach (Blackpool, UK)

FAVORITE THEME PARKS

Walt Disney World, once again was named as NAPHA members' Favorite Theme Park, a position that they have held since 2002. **Busch Gardens** (Williamsburg, VA) came in at number two, with **Holiday World** and **Universal Studios / Islands of Adventure** in the third and fourth spots.

FAVORITE THEME PARKS	
1	Walt Disney World (Lake Buena Vista, FL)
2	Busch Gardens (Williamsburg, VA)
3	Holiday World (Santa Claus, IN)
4	Universal Studios/Islands of Adventure (Orlando, FL)

BEST PARK FOR FAMILIES

Walt Disney World topped **Knoebels Amusement Resort** as the Best Park For Families for the second straight year. Since 1999, Knoebels has been named as the *Best Park For Families* eight times.

BEST PARK FOR FAMILIES	
1	Walt Disney World (Lake Buena Vista, FL)
2	Knoebels Amusement Resort (Elysburg, PA)
3	Idlewild and Soak Zone (Ligonier, PA)
4	Holiday World (Santa Claus, IN)

FAVORITE WOOD ROLLER COASTER

Voyage (Holiday World) nabbed the top spot as Favorite Wood Roller Coaster for the second consecutive year. **Phoenix** (Knoebels Amusement Resort) followed at number two, while Thunderhead (Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, TN) was the third favorite wooden coaster. These three coasters have held the top three positions for the past four years.

FAVORITE WOOD COASTER	
1	Voyage, Holiday World (Santa Claus, IN)
2	Phoenix, Knoebels Amusement Resort (Elysburg, PA)
3	Thunderhead, Dollywood (Pigeon Forge, TN)

FAVORITE STEEL ROLLER COASTER

In the Favorite Steel Roller Coaster category, **Millennium Force** (Cedar Point) nabbed the top spot for the eighth consecutive year. **Magnum** (Cedar Point) was second, followed by Phantom's Revenge (Kennywood). Phantom's Revenge has not been in the top three since 2006.

FAVORITE STEEL COASTER	
1	Millennium Force, Cedar Point (Sandusky, OH)
2	Magnum XL200, Cedar Point (Sandusky, OH)
3	Phantom's Revenge, Kennywood (West Mifflin, PA)

BEST NEW ATTRACTION

Three roller coasters were named by NAPHA members as the Best New Attraction for 2009 – **Diamondback** (Kings Island), **Manta** (Sea World Orlando), and **Prowler** (Worlds of Fun). In 2008, the honors went to Waldameer & Water World's Ravine Flyer II. Other past winners include Maverick (Cedar Point) (2007), Mystery Mine (Dollywood) (2007), Renegade (Valleyfair!, Shakepee, MN) (2007), Voyage (Holiday World) (2006), and Hades (Mt. Olympus Water and Theme Park, Wisconsin Dells, WI) (2005).

The **National Amusement Park Historical Association**, founded in 1978, is an international, educational and enthusiast's organization dedicated to preserving and documenting the heritage of the amusement park industry, past, present and future.

For more information about the survey, please contact Marlowe McClasky Futrell, Survey Coordinator, at (412) 831-6315 or at thefutrells@comcast.net. For more information about NAPHA, please call Steve Schwahn, Marketing/Media Relations Coordinator, at (630) 378-4710 or via email at sschwahn@napha.org, or go to www.napha.org.

This study was conducted for NAPHA by **MMc Marketing Research**, which can be reached at (412) 813-6315, or via email at marlowemmc@comcast.net.