



New England News

2018 Annual Meeting Edition

NEAAPA Newsletter

Quassy's George Frantzis II Will Be Inducted Into Hall Of Fame

MIDDLEBURY, Conn. – George Frantzis II, an owner of Quassy Amusement & Waterpark here, will be inducted into the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) Hall of Fame at the organization's annual meeting in March.

A past president of NEAAPA (1998-99), George represents the third generation of his family to be involved at the lakeside property, which his grandfather purchased with two business partners in 1937.

"It certainly took me by surprise and I'm honored to be joining such a distinguished group," he said of the accolade.



The induction ceremony will take place on Tuesday, March 13, during NEAAPA's 105th Anniversary Education Conference & Annual Meeting at the Hilton Mystic in Mystic, Conn.

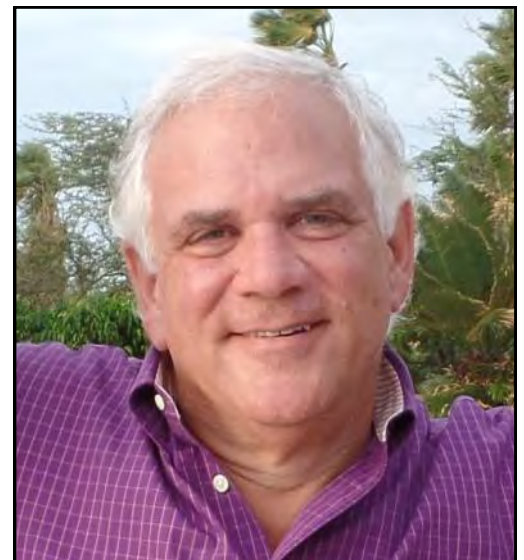
Of the 41 persons currently in the NEAAPA Hall Of Fame, George Frantzis II will become the third family member to be inducted. His late father, George, and uncle, John Frantzis, both served as NEAAPA presidents prior to being installed.

Quassy, founded in 1908, enters its 110th year in 2018 and today is solely owned and operated by the Frantzis and Anderson families.

George grew up working at the park in a variety of positions under the watchful eye of his father. Today, he heads up the sales team, oversees the rides and waterpark staff, manages payroll for the more than 350 seasonal personnel and directs daily operations with business partner Eric Anderson. Eric currently serves at first vice president of NEAAPA.

"Anyone in our industry knows you have to wear a lot of hats – (See **HALL OF FAME, Page 2**)

(See I'm no different," he said of his daily tasks. "During the height of the season the work days are long with very little time off."



George Frantzis II

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Hall Of Fame

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I'm no different," he said of his daily tasks. "During the height of the season the work days are long with very little time off."

Rebirth Of The Property

And he will be the first to admit that Quassy was showing its age at the turn of the century.

In 2002, George and Eric formulated a long-term plan to pump new life into the then struggling property.

"We realized we had to reinvent ourselves as many of the rides were old and the beach was no longer a big draw," he recalled.

The solution – they believed – was to dive into the waterpark business.

To mark Quassy's 95th anniversary in 2003 the park introduced Saturation Station, an interactive modular family water play area, which was the largest single investment in the park's history.

The gamble paid off and set the stage for subsequent improvements in the years to follow.

In 2011 the Wooden Warrior roller coaster, a marquee attraction in the ride area, made its debut at Quassy.

"It was the game changer, that's for certain," George said of the new ride. "While the development of the waterpark helped us to make other improvements throughout the park, Wooden Warrior literally put us on the international map."

Coaster enthusiasts from across the nation flocked to the park to experience the relatively small family ride, giving it rave reviews.

"What made it unique was the Timberliner train that maneuvered the track like a race car," George remarked. "We were the first in all of North America to use this train and the next thing we knew we had coaster groups from abroad booking days at the park just because of the Warrior."

The ride is currently listed among the Top 50 Wooden Roller Coasters in the world, according to a ballot taken by industry trade magazine *Amusement Today*.

Since 2004 Quassy has added eight new rides and expanded the waterpark on three different occasions.

In May the park will open Category 5 Rapids extreme waterslides in Splash Away Bay waterpark. It will surpass any previous investment

Those In NEAAPA Hall Of Fame

Since 1998, NEAAPA has inducted 41 people into the Hall of Fame. The past inductees are:

Roger Shaheen, Shaheen Enterprises
Anthony Pero, Ocean Beach Park
Edward J. Carroll, Jr., Riverside Park
Henry Bowen, Whalom Park
Edward J. Carroll, Sr., Riverside Park
Lawrence Stone, Paragon Park
Alton Lipkin, NANCO / Nancy Sales Co.
George Frantzis, Quassy Amusement Park
Anthony Sr. and Laura Berni, Canobie Lake Park
Claude and Stella Captell, Canobie Lake Park
Kasmir and Rita Ulaky, Canobie Lake Park
Ken and Violet Cormier, Funtown Splashtown USA
Tom Morrow, Canobie Lake Park
Ed Connor, Riverside Park
John Frantzis, Quassy Amusement Park
Robert & Ruth Morrel, Story Land
James P. & Eleanor R. Brady, Six Gun City
John F. Naughton, Naughton Insurance
Wayne McCary, Eastern States Exposition
Conrad Ferla, Rocky Point Park
Suzanne McHugh Piscitello, Canobie Gifts
Fred L. Markey, Dodgem Corp.
Kate Horner-Wall, Lake Compounce/Riverside Park
Anthony Berni, Jr., Carl Berni, Christine Ulaky,
Raymond Captell, Canobie Lake Park
Alan Ramsay, CLM Entertainment
Robert Harkins, Six Flags New England
John & Elizabeth Bowen, Whalom Park
Normand & Cecile Dubois, Santa's Village
Myron Klayman, Paragon Park
Justine Brewer, Southwick's Zoo

and expanded the waterpark on three different occasions.

In May the park will open Category 5 Rapids Extreme Waterslides in Splash Away Bay waterpark. It will surpass any previous investment made by the owners.
Honors

In 2015 *Amusement Today* Publisher Gary Slade honored George and Eric with the publication's Turnstile Award.

"Without their vision, Quassy could have met the fate
(See **FRANTZIS**, Page 3)
of many New England parks of yesteryear and ceased to

Welcome To NEAAPA's Annual Meeting



Dorothy Lewis

Welcome to Mystic, Connecticut, home of NEAAPA's 105th Anniversary Education Conference and Annual Meeting. We are happy you are here.

It's been a busy year since last March as our board of directors and committees have been working hard to bring us this year's gathering. The events and programs are exciting as we bring together this year's partners and guests.

Part of NEAAPA's mission is to be able to offer top-of-the-line educational sessions usually found at major national conferences. The addition of NAARSO Outreach Safety School with 32 hours of accredited classes and certification testing is a first for NEAAPA.

We hope to continue the partnership that allows our members to attend this important training right here in New England. Many thanks to NAARSO for working with us and welcome to all attendees.

Another first for our association is the co-location of an important meeting with IAAPA. Holding IAAPA's regional meeting right here at this event is a great addition to our program.

This meeting gives us the opportunity to hear about important updates of state and federal legislation that affect New England's entertainment and attractions industry. We thank IAAPA and their team for allowing us this opportunity for our members and conference attendees.

Frantzis

(Continued From Page 2)

of many New England parks of yesteryear and ceased to exist," Slade said in presenting the award.

George lives in nearby Woodbury, Conn., with his wife, Joann. They have two grown children, Alexandria and George III.

He is president of the Lake Quassapaug Association, Lake Authority and volunteers as an emergency medical technician with the Woodbury Ambulance Association.

In addition, George sits on the steering committee of the Central Naugatuck Valley Regional Action Council (CNVRAC), a collaborative of community partners from across the local 12 town service areas. The goal is to conduct and build capacity to deliver state-of-the-art prevention strategies for substance abuse.

George is also on the legislative committee of the Waterbury Chamber of Commerce, serves on the grants committee of the Connecticut Community Foundation and is a past board member of the Connecticut Business & Industry Association (CBIA) and Women's Emergency Shelter.

In addition, he has been a speaker at the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo on several occasions.

This gathering provides a forum to network with our peers and industry professionals from New England and beyond. Our educational sessions once again bring us topics delivered by seasoned professionals and add inspiration by former Disney Institute professor Louie Gravance.

Many thanks to all of our sponsors who without their support we could not produce events like this one. We are grateful for your continued generosity and participation.

Cheers to our board and committee members whose dedication and hard work made this ground breaking event possible.

We hope that you enjoy all that NEAAPA offers this week. Our association is moving forward to keep its finger on the pulse of the industry to ensure our members are given the latest on advocacy, information and continued networking opportunities.

Happy 105th Anniversary. NEAAPA!

Dorothy Lewis, NEAAPA president

Past Presidents

A number of past presidents of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) were on hand for the organization's annual luncheon and board meeting during November's International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo in Orlando, Fla. They are (front row from the left): David Daly, Daly Cavanaugh LLP, Wellesley, Mass.; Greg Chiecko, Eastern States Exposition, West Springfield, Mass.; George Frantzis II, Quassy Amusement & Waterpark, Middlebury, Conn. Back row (from the left): David Sugrue, Ocean Beach Park, New London, Conn.; Ryan DeMaria, Canobie Lake Park, Salem, N.H.; Kevin Naughton, Naughton Insurance, Providence, R.I.; Carl Berni, Canobie Lake Park; Jason Freeman, Six Flags New England, Agawam, Mass. NEAAPA has served the industry since 1913. (NEAAPA photos)



Board Meeting

The NEAAPA Board Of Directors met during the annual luncheon held at the IAAPA Expo in Orlando, Fla.

NEAAPA Members At IAAPA





Canobie Lake Adding Water Attractions

SALEM, N.H. – Canobie Lake Park has announced the development of a waterpark scheduled to open for the 2018 season.

Castaway Island at Canobie Lake Park will see the addition of a 370,000-gallon lazy river complete with tidal waves, a zero entry wave pool river entrance, a 60-foot tower with three waterslides, restaurant, tiki bar, children's aquaplay area, 12 cabanas, restroom/changing facilities and maintenance/support buildings.

These new areas of Castaway Island will complement the existing WhiteWater West "Rain Fortress," which opened in 2005 featuring nine waterslides and more than 180 ways to get wet.

As Canobie Lake Park gears up for this major development, it also announced the opening of its newest attraction that became operational at the park last October. The new ride, "Ice Jet", is a Matterhorn ride that is spectacularly lit with

more than 5,000 separate light-emitting diode (LED) fixtures.

"We are extremely excited for this major growth forward," says Chris Nicoli, Canobie Lake Park's brand manager. "The development of this waterpark is a passion project for all of us on the Canobie team as water has been one of the most requested additions to our attractions mix. The resort feel of this new area was specifically designed to transport our guests to a tropical experience while still being close to home."



New England Association Of Amusement Parks And Attractions

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Manufacturers & Suppliers News

The following news briefs are from manufacturers and suppliers that are members of the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions.

Publisher Honored By WWA

Gary Slate, publisher and editor of trade magazine *Amusement Today*, received the World Waterpark Association's Commitment to Excellence Award during the association's 37th symposium and trade show in West Palm Beach, Fla.

Slade is shown in the photo at the right.



RWS Wins Brass Ring Award

RWS Entertainment Group, Long Island City, N.Y., won an International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Brass Ring Award for

Best Theatrical Production: Annual Attendance 1-3 Million for Dance Dance: Heartbeat!

The show was one of a number the company has

produced for Pennsylvania's Hersheypark.

The musical revue featured 10 dancers and four singers performing popular classics as well as songs from some of today's top artists including Bruno Mars, Cher, Lady Gaga and others.



Dunn Named President Of ADG

COHOES, N.Y. – Aquatic Development Group (ADG), designers and builders of waterparks and recreational waterpark attractions, has announced the promotion of Jim Dunn to president. Ken Ellis, formerly president and CEO, will retain the role of CEO.

Dunn joined ADG in 1988, beginning his career in the design department. A registered architect with more than 30 years of experience specializing in aquatics, his portfolio today includes many of the most prestigious waterparks and resorts in the country, and he has established long-time working relationships with clients such as Six Flags, Premier Parks, Gaylord Resorts and Columbus Zoo.



Jim Dunn

Mr. Dunn's work has received numerous awards over the years including multiples Leading Edge and IAAPA Brass Ring Awards, an Aquatics Interna-

tional's Dream Designs Award, WWA Executive Award and special recognitions from IAAPA and ARDA. In 2011 Jim was named to Aquatics International's "Power 25"; a prestigious list of industry influencers working to establish a standard Model Aquatic Health Code

S&S Opening Rides In China

LOGAN, Utah — S&S Worldwide, Inc., will open 12-Seat Double Towers and an Air Launch Coaster for the Sun Tzu Cultural

theme park in China. Sun Tzu Cultural Park in Guangrao county of Shandong province is the first and largest military cultural theme park in China. Sun Tzu Cultural Park is designed to promote Sun-Tzu culture and create a related cultural tourism destination.

Both attractions will open this summer.

Premier Rides Wins Awards

BERLIN— Independent trade journal *Kirmes Park & Revue* has announced the winners of its prestigious European Star Awards during its 6th annual ceremony. held in November at the Columbia Theatre here.

Premier Rides, a Baltimore, Md., supplier of high caliber innovative theme park attractions, won in the categories of Best New Coasters and Best Water Rides.

Presented by *Kirmes & Park Revue*, the awards recognize entrepreneurship, courage and innovation within the European theme park industry.

After reviewing attractions spanning across Europe, including Turkey and Russia, a panel of international experts selected "Hype," located at Särkänniemi, as one of the best new coasters in Europe, and Linnanmaki's "Vonkaputous" as one of the best water rides for 2017.



S&S WORLDWIDE



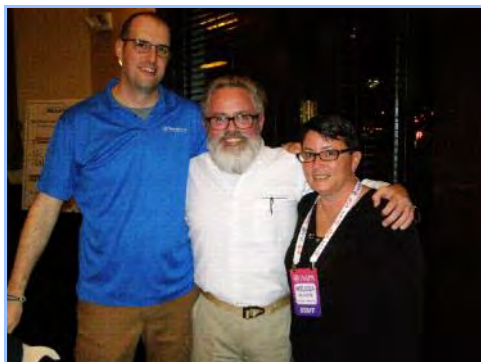
Two Awards

Anssi Tamminen, technical director of Linnanmaki, and Sara Seay, director of sales & marketing of Premier Rides, with European Star

Tom Morrow Social During IAAPA Week

The Tom Morrow Social, honoring the late NEAAPA president, had record attendance Wednesday evening during the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA) Expo week in Orlando, Fla.

Here are some photos from the November dinner social.





New President At Six Flags New England

AGAWAM, Mass. — Peter Carmichael has been named park president of Six Flags New England, the region's largest theme park. He succeeds John Winkler who has taken over as park president at Six Flags Great Adventure and Hurricane Harbor in New Jersey.

The announcement came as a homecoming for Carmichael as he served as the operations manager and director at the New England property from 2004-15. Carmichael is an avid theme park enthusiast with more than 20 years of industry experience.



Peter Carmichael He most recently served as park president at Six Flags St. Louis, Mo. He is committed to providing guests with exceptional thrills and customer service.

"I am excited to rejoin New England's largest theme park," Carmichael said.

"I am eager to rejoin this experienced and passionate team as we continue to delight our guests with innovative, world-class rides and entertainment like the all-new Holiday in the Park that premiered in winter of 2017."

Carmichael joined Six Flags Entertainment Corporation as an operations intern at Six Flags New England during its branding year in 2000 and launched one of the world's most lauded steel coasters, SUPERMAN the Ride. Throughout his time at the Thrill Capital of New England, Carmichael quickly rose through the ranks, holding a variety of managerial roles including rides supervisor, operations manager and operations director.

Carmichael graduated from Penn State University with a degree in Commercial Tourism. During his career, he has participated as an instructor within industry safety seminars and leader within the company on several new initiatives and projects. In his free time, he enjoys visiting theme parks throughout the country with his family.

Quassy Ride Superintendent Dies

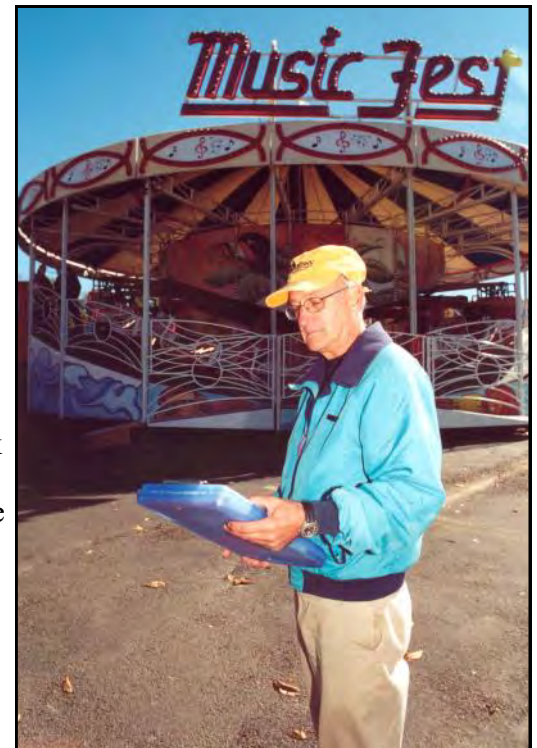
MIDDLEBURY, Conn. — George Zonas, ride superintendent and training officer at Quassy Amusement & Waterpark here, died following a lengthy illness.

The Waterbury, Conn., native came to work at Quassy in 2000 following his 1999 retirement as an international customer service representative and traffic manager for Black & Decker's Pop Fasteners Division in Shelton, Conn.

He illness forced him to step down during the 2017 season at the family-owned park.

"George came to the park shortly after he retired from Black & Decker, looking to fill some time," recalled George Frantzis II, a park owner who worked closely with Zonas throughout the years. "Little did I know that this would be the beginning of a great friendship. George was the type of man that cared for others before himself and never showed defeat, even to his last day on July 5th. We will greatly miss his upbeat charm and inner beauty."

In 2015 he was presented with the Alan E. Ramsay Safety Award from the New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA). The accolade recognizes "an unparalleled commitment to safety in the amusement parks and attractions industry." Ramsay, a NEAAPA past president and Hall of Fame member, was a



George Zonas

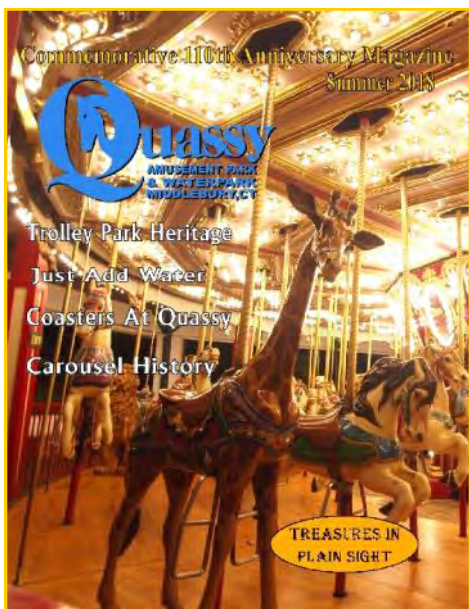
ESE Honored

John P. Collins, director of the Veterans Affairs Central Western Mass. Healthcare System, U.S. Army colonel, retired, (right) presented Eastern States Exposition (ESE) with the VA "I Care" award for exceptional support of veterans' outreach efforts. This marks the first time it has been bestowed upon a community organization. In another first, Collins also presented the exposition with an Outreach Excellence Award for exceptional demonstration of advocacy for veterans in New England. ESE President and CEO Gene Cassidy accepted the awards on behalf of the exposition during the annual Big E Military Appreciation Day. Opening Day at The Big E, West Springfield, Mass., is the largest veteran event in the nation, with outreach benefiting more than 2,000 veterans.



Magazine To Mark 110th Anniversary

MIDDLEBURY, Conn.— Quassy Amusement & Waterpark here will mark its 110th anniversary season by publishing a commemorative color magazine this spring..



"With so much history here at the park, we saw it fitting to undertake such an endeavor to mark this special occasion," said Eric Anderson, a park owner. "This commemorative publication will be one our valued guests and business partners will hold on to for years to come as it will be filled with interesting stories and photos about the property."

Quassy is only one of a handful of remaining trolley parks in the United States – once owned and



NEAAPA Summer Meeting In Maine

SACO, Maine — The New England Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (NEAAPA) will hold its annual summer meeting at Funtown Splashtown USA here.

Planned for Tuesday, July 24, details about the day-long event will be forthcoming in NEAAPA's e-news.

operated by a rail line. Before the Great Depression of 1929 there were more than 1,000 such facilities in the nation, most of them located in the Northeast and New England.

A May release date is anticipated. In addition, the lakefront park has been owned and operated by the same family

**Next Edition Of *New England News*:
NEAAPA Summer Meeting**
E-mail news items (text files) and photos (jpeg) to
secretary@neaapa.com and ron@quassy.com