



JUDGES' COMMENTS:

"This continues to be a great creative waterpark that provides entertainment and memories for many."

BEST PRIVATE WATERPARK (Class 14)

Morey's Piers & Beachfront Waterparks, Wildwood, N.J.

It's called the "Sky Ponds Journey," and the name couldn't be any more fitting for four elevated pools connected by single or double tubes that drop riders from pool to pool. The ride is part of Morey's Piers Raging Waters Waterpark in Wildwood, N.J.

Raging Waters is the "adventurous" half of Morey's Piers waterparks, which was christened in 2006 after years of having both waterparks operate under the same name. After much deliberation, Morey's Piers decided to separate the two into different experiences. One led to the adventurous Raging Waters; the other became a resort beach club-type park called Ocean Oasis Waterpark & Beach Club.

Ocean Oasis includes high-end amenities such as wireless Internet, cabana rentals and towel service, basic spa services, live musical performances, and concierge. The controversial decision to sell alcohol in the form of beer, wine and frozen tropical cocktails also was made to extend the facility's list of services.

But having great rides and a new, upscale remodel of the original waterpark isn't enough to pack the place. A list of programs was made, led by an activities director, to entice families to come join in the games and events. The programming was so popular that the same concept was adopted at Raging Waters with the Sunny C. Gull's Treasure Hunt. Guests are given treasure maps and, with the help of clues and riddles, they embark upon treasure hunts across the park.

Morey's concentrates on hiring staff members from the regular areas, but also has been developing a strong international recruiting program. It hires more than 750 students from 30 nations. In addition to jobs and ESL classes, the newcomers take trips to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. Other cultural opportunities include exchange dinners, where students bring traditional dishes and talk about their countries. — *Rin-rin Yu*



FACILITY HIGHLIGHTS: Two distinct and separate waterparks re-branded to cater to different needs • The Annual Way Rubber Ducky Regatta is a fund-raiser featuring 11,000 sponsored rubber ducks, which make a 1,100-foot voyage along the Endless River • Offers wireless Internet, cabana with towel service, and another high-end amenities

FEATURES: Outdoor pool • Leisure pool • Therapy pool • 2 hot tubs • 2 lazy rivers • 27 water slides • 2 diving wells • 1 spraypad • 1 water playground