

Got History? We Do!

The following is a detailed timeline of the history of Enchanted Forest Water Safari. Visit the Museum of Enchanted Memories (in the back of the park, across from Timber Bear's Barnyard) for photographs and other supporting information. Use the timeline as your resource to complete the questions that follow the timeline. This program is intended to be completed before or after your visit to EFWS, as it requires detailed reading and additional time.

An Enchanted Tale – The History of Old Forge Properties Enchanted Forest Water Safari, Old Forge Camping Resort, Calypso's Cove & Water's Edge Inn

- 1949** The theme park industry is born in the Adirondacks. Lake Placid businessman Julian Reiss teamed with Harold Fortune and designer Arto Monaco to build a summer home for Santa Claus on Whiteface Mountain. The village they created, Santa's Workshop opened in July 1949 and was the first of America's Theme Parks. With their great natural beauty and close proximity to metropolitan areas of the North East, the Adirondacks were the perfect incubation site for this new industry which catered to the increasing mobile, post war generation and their families.
- 1952** Edwin Ovenson opened Frontier Town (North Hudson).
- 1954** Charles Wood opened Storytown, USA (Lake George) and Arto Monaco opened his own Land of Makebelieve (Upper Jay). At the same time another idea for an incredible theme park is born. Through the visionary minds of Joseph Uzdavinis and A. Richard Cohen the seed of inspiration is planted for what will eventually grow to become The Enchanted Forest.
- 1955** Plans begin for a fantasyland in the hamlet of Old Forge. The Enchanted Forest, a small theme park "for the Young and the Young at Heart," springs to life.
- April 1956** Three local businessmen - A. Richard Cohen, Joseph Uzdavinis, & Donald Rice purchase 80 acres of swamp land on the north end of Old Forge and begin construction on a \$250,000, 35 acre project - Enchanted Forest of the Adirondacks is born. The park is designed by world-renowned artist, Russell Patterson whose previous works have included drawings that created many of the fashions from the 1920s flappers, a comic strip about a model he named "Mamie," and set designs and costumes for Fox and Paramount, including 1934's "Fools Rush In." Patterson also designed many theaters, hotel lobbies, Christmas display windows at Macy's, restaurants and nightclubs. (New York Times, 1977) Born in 1894, Patterson was in his early 60's when he designed the Enchanted Forest. Groundbreaking for the theme park took place on April 24th, only a couple of months before the park opens its gates. 50 to 75 carpenters, bulldozer operators, electricians, plumbers, woodsmen, painters, artists and other skilled laborers worked practically around the clock to get the park ready for opening. The Enchanted Forest of the Adirondacks purchases the "Osprey" a 50' boat that later becomes Captain Kidd's Pirate Ship. The Osprey was built in 1912 and originally transported passengers on 6th, 7th and 8th lakes.
- July 7, 1956** Enchanted Forest of the Adirondacks opens for business with 35 employees. Paul Bunyan welcomes guests to the park as they enter the "Forest" of Storybook Lane Little Houses: Sleeping Beauty, The Crooked House, Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater, Little Bo Peep, Ali Baba's Cave, Cinderella's House, Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Red Riding Hood, & Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs. Also featured are Captain Kidd's Pirate Ship, The Bowl Mill, where guests watch woodenware being produced from the log to the finished product, the Paul Bunyan Wood Center, the Candy Cane Snack Bar, the Camera Shop & Yukon Village. The Yukon (Dawson's City) recreated the look and feel of a gold mine town in the late 1880s where Live Mounties and miners roam the village. Guests can get face silhouettes and hear tall tales in the Saloon. Many shows are performed in the Yukon over the years including magic shows as well as knife and gun shows. Dawson city features the Yukon gift shop, the Post Office, Klondike Kate's Saloon, a Jail, the Barber Shop, the candy store and a livery stable. Kids could play in the Mounties' office/jail, the barbershop and the post office. The Enchanted Princess, Robin Hood and often a Pirate also roam the 'Forest,' greeting guests and posing for pictures. Further up the path, crossing over a small stream you reenter the woods and the path continues through animal lane, where a collection of homes for some of the more famous animals represented in rhyme were included such as Peter Rabbit, Billy Goats Gruff, Mother Goose and the Three Little Pigs. This first season also features a special attraction - a Hansel & Gretel movie set tent. The set features figures and elements from a recent movie of Humperdinck's opera based on the Grimm Brothers fairytale. The only mechanical ride is the train. Admission is considered reasonable: \$1.00 for adults and \$.25 for children. Rides are extra. Guests receive get a card that gets marked on when they ride a ride or buy something in a gift shops or in the snack bars, and then they would pay on the way out based on how many marks they had for each item. Approximately 140,000 guests visited the Enchanted Forest the first season, and on the last weekend of the '56 season, 2200 people came out for family fun in the forest.

- c. 1957-58** Chief Maurice Dennis and his family begin developing an Indian Village, which would explain Adirondack Indian life and lore to guests who ride the Train to this exhibit.
- 1959** A new policy for '59 – Paul Bunyan Club Card: You admission price on your first trip through the Forest this year entitles you to a free-return pass for the remainder of the season. (Rides are extra) The Paul Bunyan Club continues today, but enables you to return at half price off the regular admission ticket for the remainder of the season. The Fishing Pond is added to the park. Guests pay \$.25 to fish for 10 minutes with bamboo poles and barb less hooks baited with worms. The pond is well stocked with hungry fish!
- Mid-Late 50s** In the mid to late 50s several attractions debuted at the park including the Alamo, the Roller Coaster, King Arthur's Castle and Noah's Ark. Several other attractions debuted around this time but were only here for a couple of years: The Rodeo Ride (resembled a small Merry Go Round for kids) and the Rocket Ride (similar to the helicopter ride, but miniature rockets.)
- Early 60s** Sometime in the early 60s the Bowl Mill closed and woodenware was no longer being produced. The bowl mill is later used as an indoor stage where circus acts often perform. A miniature replica of the park is built. The pony ride and the covered wagon ride begin around this time in the Yukon. The covered wagon rides leave from the village up a path behind the Yukon. Later the covered wagon becomes a stagecoach ride in order to hold more guests. At one point there is a mule train ride (3 mules) that winds along a trail through "Boot Hill." In 1960 the Hand Cars are added to the front of the park. The uniforms for ride operators are red and white striped jackets. Often a folk singer would perform in the Saloon. Train Robberies often occur where the train was stopped and people were asked for gold that they had panned for in the Yukon, or often times gold was hidden in the engine car. This also occurred with the stagecoach rides. This all added to the idea of theme parks in the 50s and 60s.
- 1962** The Great Wallendas (5th generation), the world's most spectacular high wire act featuring Karl Wallenda and family perform at the park for 27 days from early July to early August. Several smaller acts perform for the remainder of the season. The Wallendas start the season performing in the Yukon where they set up their wire diagonally across the buildings. The new circus arena opens later in the season to ensure the future of live entertainment at the park. Acts in the following years are top notch for the time period and take precedent over the park in advertising. Admission is \$1.25 for adults and \$.75 for children. This fishing pond is relocated just below the Yukon village.
- 1963** The Great Wallendas return for a 64-day engagement, the longest engagement in Wallenda history so far. Part of an NBC special documentary (for the DuPont show) is filmed on the Wallendas was at the Enchanted Forest in late August 1963, as well as a CBC documentary (for Telescope) and an Educational TV Circus Feature (National Educational Television Network, "American Circus.") The documentaries on the Wallendas give national recognition to Enchanted Forest, putting their name on the map. From July 1st to Labor Day the park is open from 9:00am to 9:00pm due to the popularity of the Wallendas. The late closing continues for a couple of seasons. They perform daily with other performers such as trained animals, clowns and an aerial ballet at 11am, 3:30pm, & 8pm. Tino Wallenda, Karl's oldest grandson debuts on the high wire at the park at the age of 12. The park is also open on weekends until mid-October, which also continues for several seasons to come. Admission in July and August is \$1.35 for adults and \$.75 for children. In spring and fall it is \$1.00 for adults and \$.50 for children!
- 1964** John "Tarzan" Zerbini, the youngest of the world's most famous animal trainers is featured in the circus ring for a two-month engagement along with Mimi, star of the trapeze. Tarzan faced wild, bloodthirsty lions that responded to his every command. Shows are held at 11:15am and 3:30pm daily, and at 12:00pm, 2:30pm, and 5:00pm on Sundays and Holidays. Also performing this year are Bumpsey the Clown, the original "Sad Sack" clown, who has been performing since 1916 and is part of the "Circus Hall of Fame." This sad face clown never smiles as part of his act, but is often laughing harder than the guests on the inside! Paul LaCross the world's fastest gunslinger, who is no stranger to the Enchanted Forest, performs at the park from Aug. 24th-30th. New this year is a "Family-Fun-Pac" where you receive 15 rides for \$1.95, which is good for all members of the family and all rides. Probably considered the actual first "Local's Day," the Enchanted Forest holds an open house on Monday, June 29th from 7:00pm – 9:00pm. Admission and rides are free for the evening for resident families of the Adirondacks from Otter Lake to Raquette Lake - Free rides in the "Forest," free circus show at 8pm, free refreshments courtesy of Pepsi Cola Co out of Utica. The crowds came and the park ended up staying open an additional hour! Admission is \$1.25 for adults and \$.50 for children. After the circus begins, admission is \$1.35 for adults and \$.75 for children. Dave Garroway, TV star of NBC, visits the park with his son, who is a camper at Woodcraft Camp.
- 1965** Opening weekend special guests include: The Wallendas, performing twice daily on May 30th and 31st, & Baron Daemon, a Central New York TV Personality. Joining Karl Wallenda this season is his daughter Carla Wallenda. Tarzan Zerbini returns for another summer gig at the forest along with Jackie, star of the trapeze. The Northeastern Lumberjack Championship is held at the Enchanted Forest under the watchful eyes of larger than life lumberjack Paul Bunyan! The event is held at the circus ring and 10 Northeast states are represented. 3 new rides are added to the Enchanted Forest: the Flivver Cars, the Boats and the Helicopters. Admission is still \$1.35 for adults and \$.75 for children.

- 1966** Enchanted Forest celebrates its 10th anniversary with a huge 5 ft. by 5 ft., 200 lb. cake that was eaten for the next week! The cake is decorated as a replica of the park. Here for the special event are Hugo and the Zacchinis. Hugo Zacchini, son of the inventor of the Cannon act, thrilled thousands in his daily artistic flights of 180 feet from a cannon to a safety net at approximately 90 mph. The boom of Hugo's cannon can be heard throughout Old Forge. The Zacchini troupe trapeze act, world famous aerialists, shared the starring role. Emmett Kelly, world-renowned clown made thousands laugh for several days leading up to the 4th of July, & Charlie Frank the original the "Egg-Man" clown gathers smiles throughout the park! Charlie's badges have been given to him by Police Chiefs and other officials wherever he has appeared throughout the nation. Two new characters are introduced this year: The Strawman & The Tinman from the "Land of OZ." Hal Haviland and his Tom Thumb circus perform at the park featuring a miniature pony and 10 trained dogs. By this year approximately 1.2 million guests have visited the park and staff numbers have risen to 50.
- 1967** The Wallenda Duo: Andy & Jenny (daughter of the famed Karl Wallenda) perform opening weekend from May 30th – June 2nd. Charlie Frank, "Egg Man" clown is featured again in June. Hugo and the Zacchinis are featured circus stars throughout July and August. Wonder Island and the Whale Boat Ride are new attractions this year featuring figures from the famous Lewis Carroll tale such as March Hare, Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts. New Wizard of Oz characters such as Dorothy and the Cowardly Lion appear this season. Also new this season is an animated circus band and an animated Ole King Cole exhibit. The animated circus band is located in the back near the circus ring and is later relocated to the center of the train station loop.
- 1968** The arch in the front parking lot is hoisted into place by a large crew of workers and a massive crane. The arch becomes the sign welcoming visitors to the park. The arch came from the 1964 New York City World's Fair and was trucked to Old Forge in 1967. The Wallendas perform opening weekend from May 30th through June 2nd. Performing are Karl Wallenda and Karl's grandson, Ricky, who is Karl's 2nd grandson to debut on the high wire at the Enchanted Forest. The Wallendas end up staying on for an extra weekend. "Tarzan" Zerbini performs June 9th with his bloodthirsty lions. "The Nerveless Nocks," one of the world's greatest swaypole acts, who have previously appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show, perform throughout July & August. The Punch & Judy show is added this year, which features a trained chicken and rabbit. The show was presented in the livery stable next to the candy store.
- 1969** The Nerveless Nocks return again this summer for July & August! The Rixos also perform their "Free Balanced Ladder Act" The \$100,000 Sky Ride is installed by Hall's Ski Lift Company. The Sky Ride resembles a ski chair lift until fiberglass balloons are added. The ride has 37 chairs (30 chairs today) and soars up to 50 feet in the air.
- Late 60s/
Early 70s** Around this time the covered wagon ride changes to the stagecoach ride, a miner's cabin was added along the trail and boot hill was moved to its current location.
- 1970** A dedication ceremony is held for the Sky Ride. Arto Monaco, of the Land of Make Believe, designed the balloons that were recently added. Karl Wallenda's 50th Anniversary Performance Celebration is held at the park featuring 5 Big Acts from Aug. 24th through Labor Day! WADR (A local radio station out of Rome which Cohen and Uzdavinis were also partners in) holds its 1st annual Country Music Celebration at the park. The celebration continues through the mid 70s with performers such as Crystal Gayle, Jim Stafford, Lynne Anderson, Blake Emmons and Jamey Ryan. Also debuting this year is the 1st annual Fiddler's Contest held at the circus arena. Mr. Mogyorsi also performs with his lions and dogs. In the early 70's the park acquires the small ferris wheel for children.
- 1971** Mr. Mogyorsi and his dogs perform Memorial Day weekend, as well as Al Lemonzine's comedy act. Karl Wallenda & the Great Wallendas return yet again performing late August through Labor Day! For a couple of weeks in August, guests can see Triple Somersaulting Fay Alexander and the Flying Alexanders. WADR's Second Annual Country Music Celebration is held at the park on Aug. 28th and 29th as well as the 2nd Annual Fiddlers Contest. There are currently ten rides in all featured at the park: The Ponies, Stagecoach, Sky Ride, Train, Flivver Cars, Hand Cars, Boats, Helicopters, Roller Coaster, and the Whale Boats.
- 1972** The 3rd Annual Fiddlers Contest occurs in early June. Karl Wallenda & the Great Wallendas perform July 1st through Labor Day! Featured are Tino and Delilah Wallenda and Louis Murillo. Also performing at the beginning of the summer is Hanna Barbera's "The Yogi Bear Show." A staged musical and the Punch and Judy Animal Show (trained rabbit and chicken) perform in the Yukon. The Enchanted Forest purchases the antique carousel (dated from 1920), the Ferris Wheel and the Tilt-A-Whirl from Suburban Park in Manlius when the park closed its doors. A Pay-One-Price (POP) admission ticket is offered at the end of the season. The \$3.00 ticket includes admission to the park and all rides and rerides.
- 1973** "The Enchanted Forest Parade in the Sky" is a popular attraction, which was an experiment in the last season of '72. Characters from the forest ride the sky ride at a special time and then meet and greet guests for photos at the end of the ride. Bombu the Comedy Gorilla performs at the Enchanted Forest with his trainer Joe Brannum, as well as a trained animal show. WADR's 4th Country Music Anniversary Celebration is held at the EF. The park offers a regular admission price and a Pay-One-Price option that includes all rides and re-rides. If you buy the POP ticket, you get unlimited access to all the rides by showing a string wristband.

- 1974** Admission this year is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.75 for juniors and \$1.25 for children; (ages 3-11) children under 3 are free. The Sky Ride and Train are open weekends until Oct. 14th. Animals at the park become more exotic as buffalo and lamas are added. Many performers come to the park in '74: Cowboy Joe Philips & his Dancing Horse Golden Mist and Wonder dogs, Diane Wilson & her animals, Tino Wallenda on the high wire, McCaw bird show, Merlin the Magician, & Charlie Frank "Egg Man" clown. Two special performances include: "Love Rides the Rails" by Wimsey Studios. It's an Ole Fashion Melodrama that takes place on Aug. 7th 6:30pm at the circus arena. Two post season events take place this season. Sept. 14th & 15th is a Dueling Fiddler's Weekend with shows at 2pm and 6pm. Sept. 20th & 21st brought a Folklorico Ballet Aztlan de Mexico, a magnificently costumed ballet of 50 plus singers and musicians to the park after it had closed for the season. Circa 1974, Kentucky Fried Chicken is put in next door to the Enchanted Forest.
- 1975** The 60' Ferris Wheel, The Old Fashioned Antique Carousel (built in 1920) and Colonel's Bucket Tilt-A-Whirl open for operation this season. A gift shop is added to the east side of the main entrance building. The lobby gift shop and Sky Ride are open evenings. A character parade occurs twice daily including the Wizard of Oz characters and 4 new animal cartoon characters. A Country Music Festival featuring Tommy Overstreet & the Nashville Express takes place on July 13th with 2 performances. There is a Magic Illusion Show, "How the Forest Became Enchanted" on the Forest's new indoor stage. Performing for the circus show are Pam's Krazy Kanines, Charlie Frank "Egg Man" Clown, & Judy and Toto's performing chimps from the Daktari TV Series. Los GiralDOS also perform in the circus with their "Wheel of Death." Ralph Adams performs his illusion act. There is a Charlie Chaplin look a like show once daily. On Sat. Aug. 23rd Freddy Weller performs at 2 & 6pm, and on Sun. Aug. 24th Narvel Felts performs at 2 & 6pm for WADR's 6th Anniversary Celebration. The park remains open on weekends from 10am to 6pm through Mon. Oct. 13th.
- 1976** The park celebrates its 20th anniversary celebration (20th Funderful Year!). "In the spirit of '76 we're putting a lot more magic in the mountains" Over 2 million guests have visited the Enchanted Forest in the past 20 years. This is the last season of operation for the whale boat ride. The park remains open on weekends again until Oct. 11th. Performers include: Vino Venito, a Sword Balancer, Windley's Wonderland of Pure Magic, & Ralph Adams Illusion Show. The Character Sky Ride Parade continues. The 7th Annual Fiddler's Contest features Gordon Terry, a featured fiddler on the Johnny Cash Show. The 1st Annual Paul Bunyan's Woodsman Games take place June 19th & 20th with 5 events. One event is a chain saw contest where competitors have to make 3 cuts through a ten-inch pine timber in the fastest time. WADR's 7th Annual Country Music Celebration features Roy Head, Marty Martel, The Midnight Special Band & the Mel Street Show.
- April 18, 1977** Timothy Noonan and family purchase Enchanted Forest of the Adirondacks and the adjoining KFC restaurant and begin a long-term plan for improvement and added fun! 14 rides are on the park grounds: Train, Sky Ride, Ferris Wheel, Tilt-A-Whirl, Carousel, Roller Coaster, Hand Cars, Helicopters, Boats, Flivver Cars, Little Ferris Wheel, Stagecoach, Ponies, and the Whale Boats. The Whale Boats were discontinued for the '77 season due to multiple repair needs.
- 1977** The park is now staffed by 55 employees and features 5 gift shops, 13 rides and a number of storybook recreations. Several simple business changes are made and park business increases by 15 percent. Pay-One-Price tickets become the only admission option. The Paul Bunyan Club Card now allows visitors to come back for the remainder of the season at half price instead of being admitted for free for the remainder of the season after a small initial fee. This is the last season of operation for the pony ride.
- 1978** Enchanted Forest's popularity increases as an amusement ride area is constructed in the back of the park behind the Woodcenter called "A Step Beyond." Featured rides are The Roll-O-Planes, The Scrambler, The Rock-O-Planes, The Round Up, & The Bumper Cars. The Boats are relocated to "A Step Beyond" from the front of the park. The rides are open at night from 7-11pm during peak seasonal times... "Some Enchanted Evening... It's yours every July & August night in "A Step Beyond." This becomes the last season of operation for the stagecoach ride. The Great Valentino performs his single high wire act.
- 1979** The Woodcenter burns down in the spring due to lightening. Merchandise and snack bar equipment are lost. A new Woodcenter is built the same year and opens in July. Carla Wallenda's Mini Circus performs at the park twice daily.
- 1981** A Giant Sky slide is bought and installed at the park this season next to the Roller Coaster. The Loyal Repensky Riders are the featured circus act performing bareback horseback riding stunts, the Valentino Dou-Double Trapeze Act, A Ladder Trapeze Act, Sliding Luigi's Comedy Table Act, and an entertaining clown.
- 1982** Attendance at the park has increased by 70 percent from 1977 when the Noonans purchased the park. The Loyal Repensky's return again this summer. This year the act features the Bareback Riding Act, The Spanish Web, The Ladder Act, A Boxing Act and a Clown.
- 1983** The Helicopters are relocated to "A Step Beyond." The Hand Cars and King Arthur's castle are taken out and discontinued to make way for a new project. Construction begins on the first water slide at the Enchanted Forest. The Circus engagement includes Mike Rice & Co. Animal Show featuring elephants, ponies, dogs, an Aerial Cradle and Comedy Low Wire.

- 1984** "Wild Waters," a two flume, 360 ft. plus water slide opens, the first water slide at Enchanted Forest. A new building is constructed next to the main building to include an arcade, changing rooms and a snack bar. In mid-August a ribbon cutting ceremony is held to commemorate the new slide. Here for the ceremony are Congressman David O'B Martin, Assemblyman Anthony Casale and CAA Executive Director Bob Hall. Also appearing are the members of the Covey-Pashley Post 893 of the American Legion who honored the dedication. "Wild Waters" is open nights in early July from 6:30-10:00pm (weather permitting) along with the arcade, gift shop, and snack bar. A couple weeks later the slide is open only on Friday and Saturday July 20th and 21st. Circa 1984, the Alamo, which is beginning to rot, is taken down. The circus attractions this year are the Flying Gaona's on the trapeze and teeterboard, and Welde's Dancing Bears. This is the beginning of a rich history of performances for the Gaona's at the park.
- 1985** New offices are put in upstairs above the changing rooms. Another new building is added on to the back of the existing changing rooms where the arcade moves to. The Paul Bunyan Gift Store is expanded. Storybook Lane sees a new addition this year - The Hansel and Gretel gingerbread house opens for the summer season. Created by park artist Jack Molesky, the house took approximately four years to complete. This is the last season for the Roller Coaster, as it is sold to SeaBreeze in Rochester the following year. Circa '85 the 30 year old building that is the ice cream parlor that used to be the camera shop is taken out. The park begins selling season passes which offer a summer filled with fun and excitement al for one low price. The Gaona's return again performing on the trapeze and teeterboard. Performing in the act are father Arturo, brother Alfredo, sons David and Julio and daughter Chela. Also performing this summer are Dennis and Anita Zoppe performing the "Dynasty Duo" Aerial Cradle Act and Anita's Comedy Miniature Horse Act. After the season the Tilt-A-Whirl and the Carousel are relocated to the back of the park in "A Step Beyond."
- 1986** Raging Rapids, a 700 ft. tube ride and Tadpole Hole, a kiddie slide and pool, are constructed. This is the last season of operation for the Giant Dry Slide. Construction crews begin to clear land in the fall to make way for the park's largest expansion so far. Circa '86 - In the fall the Candy Cane Snack Bar is taken down to rebuild a new snack bar. Also built in the fall is a new maintenance shop. During the winter a new ladies locker room and a fun and games building are built behind "Wild Water." The Great Wallenda Duo performs featuring Ricky and Deborah Wallenda on the high wire and the aerial cradle. Also performing were Henry and Erna Bertini with their chimpanzee and dog act.
- June 1987** Construction begins on Water Safari. Animal Lane is moved from the center of the park to the area behind Snow White's house. The Flivver Cars and the Small Ferris Wheel are relocated to the same area. The Ferris Wheel is moved from the front of the park to "A Step Beyond" and replaces the Roll-O-Plane ride. Noah's Ark is taken down due to the expansion and multiple repair needs. 200,000 yards of sand fill are trucked in, in 24-hour shifts, to create the man made Water Safari hill. The Oasis Café opens this season. Performing for the circus is the Swiss Family Nocks with their 2 swaypoles with mid-air exchange, a motorcycle on an inclined wire, and their poodle and bird fantasy act.
- 1988** The first rides of their kind in NYS are constructed – Themed on an African Safari, Water Safari is opened. Water Safari includes 16 new rides - the Congo River Rapids, the White Cobra, Bombay Blasters, Nairobi Narrows, Killermanjaro Speed Slide, Serengeti Surf Hill, Lake Nakura activity pool, Safari River Expedition and Mombasso Hot Springs. The rides were constructed by water slide designer Richard Croul. Also included in this project are Pygmy Pond featuring 3 kid slides, and the Kid Wash. This project increases the park to 50 acres. The park is now known as...Enchanted Forest/Water Safari. An official day of celebration is held in early August to commemorate the opening of Water Safari. Here for the ribbon cutting are Assemblyman Anthony Casale, Senator James Donovan, Herkimer County Legislator Ron Soltys, and TOW Supervisor George Hildebrant. A concert is held at the lake front at 7:00p.m. and a fireworks display at 9:00p.m. In the fall a greenhouse is built to house the palm trees that were recently shipped in to theme Water Safari. Featured circus performers are the Flying Cortez Trapeze act and the Robinson Duo Aerial Cradle act, along with Miss Constancia's Uncaged Leopard Act featuring 2 leopards and one jaguar.
- 1989** Due to the major expansion, Enchanted Forest Water Safari's attendance increases over 70 percent from the previous year! More jobs are created in the area due to the Water Safari. Circa '89 a men's locker room is built on the backside of the games building. Beginning in the fall the Yukon gift shop is removed and Klondike Kate's is expanded. The Yukon buildings are connected and the jail and the barbershop are moved next to the candy store and the post office is taken out. The daily circus show for the summer features The Nocks Duo on the swaypoles and a giant aerial wheel. Dondi and Family begin a rich history of performances at the park this summer performing early June through mid-August. The lucky Bros. Round out the season from mid-August to Labor Day performing their comedy knockabout table act, juggling and the Miss Maya dog act.
- 1990** Construction begins on the 1100 ft. Amazon Family Tube Ride and the ¼ acre Tidal Wave pool located on the far side of the Water Safari hill. Welde's Dancing Bears return for another season. Also performing for the duration of the summer is the Flying Caceres on the Trapeze and a Revolving Ladder Act. From mid-June to mid-July the park sees Chris Munoz's Captain USA cannon act, and Luis Munoz's Comedy Bounding Rope Act and Clown Act. The Wallenda Duo featuring Terry Trofer and Delilah Wallenda perform on the high wire and their daughter Lijuana performs her Spanish Web.

- 1991** The 1100 ft Amazon Family Tube Ride and the ¼ acre Tidal Wave Pool open. The "Island Trader" is also built, featuring food and gifts. Alice & Wonderland Island is moved to animal lane across from Humpty Dumpty to make room for new pavilions. In the fall construction begins on a new second story ladies locker room. Two exciting circus acts return to the park this summer: The Flying Gaona's on the trapeze and a comedy trampoline act, as well as Dondi the Elephant and Family. The park wins first prize in the Brass Ring Award signage category for advertising from the International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA). The three-dimensional billboard features a family on the Amazon tube ride. Created by park artist Jack Molesky, the billboard took about 3 months to complete.
- 1992** The ladies locker room moves to the second story. The arcade under the offices moves across the path to where the ladies locker room was (next to the games building), and the front snack bar moves from the front of the main building to the back where the arcade was. The Paul Bunyan Gift Store is expanded again to create a larger T-Shirt area. Sand filters are put in for Pygmy Pond, Raging Rapids and Wild Waters. Paradise Café, "Where Food and Fun Are One!" goes into the building next to the front parking lot to replace the previous "Italian Princess." Centron's Aerial Platform Motorcycle Act and the Slide for Life are performed by John Winn from June 5th through June 22nd. Another new circus act enters the ring this summer. Eddie Schmitt's performs with his six Royal Bengal Tigers and one leopard. The Flying Gaona's return from the end of June through Labor Day performing on the trapeze and the cradle act.
- 1993** Paradise Café changes to Paradise Café Gone Pasta. Circus acts this season include Derrick Rosaire's Bear Act, The Giraldo Family on the high wire with a juggling act and the Jasmin Duo aerial cradle act.
- 1994** A major transformation occurs and Calypso's Cove is born; the 3-acre family entertainment center features go-karts, batting cages, miniature golf, bumper boats and an arcade. Calypso's Cove names stems from a Caribbean theme. Construction on the project began in the spring and crews worked around the clock to get the attraction open as soon as possible. The 1st annual Calypso's Cove Charity Go Cart Race is held and the Enchanted Forest wins 1st place! Local businesses vie for the coveted trophy while racing for a predetermined charity. Crossroads Eatery is added to the park featuring Dippin' Dots and Funnel Cakes. The first local's day (technically the 2nd) for area residences begins. Locals are admitted at a substantially discounted price while proceeds from the event go towards the Ruth E. Noonan & J. Richard Noonan scholarship fund. The Wallenda Family high wire act is featured at the park along with Miss Delilah's Captivating Cloudswing. Dondi and Family return for another season of laughs.
- 1995** On July 15th a huge microburst hits Old Forge overnight knocking down trees and scattering debris everywhere. Old Forge is out of power. It's mid July, hot as can be and the park does not open for a crucial Saturday of picnics and outings. The Lemoines Aerial Motorcycle on the high wire act and a cradle act are performed several weekends throughout the end of May and into June. The Flying Caceres return again this summer on the trapeze from mid-June through Labor Day. Eddie Schmitt also returns with his Royal Bengal Tigers for the duration of the season. Newlyweds Mike Pollice and Liette Lecours slide down Surf Hill after their wedding completely dressed in tux and gown!
- 1996** Due to the loss of power in '95 four diesel generators are installed. During the operating season, the company now generates all its own power. Many summer nights in Old Forge prove to be quite chilly. Due to this, the park also added two diesel powered 6 million BTU water heaters to ensure warmer, refreshing water for visitors. All water rides now feature approximately 80 degree heated water, as EFWS is now one of the few parks in the country to heat its water. The Old Forge KOA Camping Resort is added to the company's properties with 21 cabins and many tent and RV sites. Daughter Kelly comes on board as vice president to head the management teams at the park and at the KOA. The EFWS stops opening on Memorial Day and begins opening in mid-June due to weather conditions and slow business in late May. The Flying Gaona's return yet again for another summer performing on the trapeze and the trampoline. Captain Bill Morris and his family Elephant act perform mid-June through Labor Day.
- 1997** Animal Lane is revamped to include a new barnyard and animals indigenous to the Adirondacks such as the black bear, who reside at the park for only a couple seasons. The offices are remodeled and expanded again! Local's Day becomes an annual event at the Enchanted Forest. 25 camping cabins are constructed during the winter season and additional sites are added to the Old Forge KOA Camping Resort. The KOA main lodge is enlarged and remodeled in the likeness of a Camping Cabin. Brunon Blazak and his tigers are the animal act for the summer. Mike and Debbie Winn perform the Skymasters Swaypole act along with the Wheel of Destiny.
- 1998** An \$8.4 million expansion project begins this year at the park and campground. A new loading dock and warehouse are built, where 85 camping cabins are constructed, then added to the KOA, along with 15 camping cottages and 3 new restroom/shower facilities. Construction begins on the Adirondack Expedition 8 new rides located in the back of the park. The Indian Village is taken out and the train tracks are redirected to make room for the 1999 expansion. An Adirondack Rock Climbing wall is added to Calypso's Cove. Enchanted Forest/Water Safari launches its website, www.watersafari.com. The park begins to bring "famous" characters such as Scooby Doo, Sponge Bob Square Pants, and Tommy and Chuckie, to the park for a day. The original shop and bowl mill are torn down and a new maintenance shop is built. Beginning this year and into 1999 the old shop and greenhouse are revamped to create "Expedition Keys." The Flying Cotez Trapeze act and the Garcia Aerial Cradle act along with Derrick's Rosaire's Bear act round out the bill for circus performances this season.

- 1999** The "Adirondack Expedition" is added to the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari bringing the park to 65 acres. This new expansion is themed on the Adirondacks and includes two single tube rides, "The Black River" and "Rondaxe Run", a family tube ride, "Cascade Falls", a great water activity structure, "The Sawmill", and an action river, "The Log Jammer." The Trading Post is also built in the Adirondack Expedition. It features beach gifts and several food items. A train station "Wilderness Junction" is constructed over the train tracks next to the circus ring. The maintenance shop built last year is changed to the "Mill Arcade." A new maintenance shop is completed this spring out back near the pit. Mike and Debbie Winn return this season with performances on the swaypoles and the giant Wheel of Destiny. Dondi and Family return for their 4th season of entertainment at the park!
- 2000** The Flivver Cars are moved again to a new location behind the circus ring and next to the Merry Go Round. Enchanted Forest/Water Safari starts an exchange program that brings international students to work at the park for the summer. "Kahuna Kurls" changes to "Boardwalk Fries." Two circus acts return this summer: Dondi and Family and The Flying Cortez performing on the trapeze and the aerial cradle/cloudswing.
- 2001** After a five-year franchise agreement, KOA's name is changed to the "Old Forge Camping Resort." Mike and Debbie Winn return as the Skymasters performing on their 2 swaypoles and the giant Wheel of Destiny. JP the clown adds to the circus lineup warming up the crowd before shows and meeting and greeting guests at the park entrance. JP also did balloon sculptures around the park. This season's animal act is Irvin Hall's baboons along with a comedy unicycle act with juggling.
- 2002** Enchanted Forest/Water Safari's first and oldest water slide "Wild Waters" is taken down and the new body slide "The Shadow" is constructed. In the fall a new house is constructed for Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs. Several games are taken out of the front games building including Flip-A-Chick, Goblet and Bottles, turning it into an arcade. Dondi and family return for another season along with the Flying Cortez on the trapeze and aerial cradle/cloudswing.
- 2003** The new Snow White exhibit opens in July. Pizza Hut Express is added to Calypso's Cove. It features personal pan and medium pizzas. Mike and Debbie Winn return again as the Skymasters performing the swaypole act and the giant Wheel of Destiny. Dondi and Family also return.
- 2004** Tiki Tim's Surf Shop replaces the front arcade. For the first time in 10 years the Enchanted Forest Water Safari wins the 11th annual Calypso's Cove Charity Go Cart Race! Circus performers include Dondi and Family and The Ojeda Family high wire act with Miss Nataly performing her chiffon aerial act. Similar to the cloudswing, Nataly's act uses long fabric chiffon strands to hold her up.
- 2005** The Enchanted Forest celebrates their 50th season! A new museum, called the Museum of Enchanted Memories is constructed across from the barnyard to commemorate the past 50 seasons! Construction on the museum begins in the fall and is completed the following spring. Daughter/Curator/Park Historian/Special Events Coordinator Katie Noonan and park Artist Scott Stoddard head the project. The museum is named by 4th grader Kelsey Perretta, who won "The name the Museum Contest" at the TOW schools. A 5th grader Christine Ferguson came up with Safari through the years. We used part of her name for the Museum slogan "Fun Throughout the Years". A large 50th Anniversary Celebration is held on July 16th. Events include a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the new museum with speeches given by Katie and Tim Noonan and Senator James L. Seward and an Alumni Reunion. Presenting a circus show that goes hand in hand with its history, the park brings the Flying Wallendas to perform on the high wire. Featured is Tino Wallenda, who debuted on the high wire at Enchanted Forest in 1963 at the age of 12 (43 years ago) under the watchful eyes of his grandfather, the famous high wire legend – Karl Wallenda. Also performing in the act are his children Alex and Aurelia. Aurelia also performs her unbelievable cloudswing act, the best one ever performed at the Enchanted Forest. Another great reoccurring circus act returns this year - Dondi and Family performing a special 50's act that goes back to when the park first opened. In mid-April, watersafari.com launches online sales. Season passes, tickets and souvenirs can now be purchased online. Cinderella's house is refurbished, the floor is lifted and the set design is redecorated. The oldest section of the park – Storybook Lane gets a new edition. The building that used to house Snow White and the 7 Dwarfs comes alive with Timber Bear's Den. In the winter, the cabin located in the front of the park is moved to the campground to make it 132 camping cabins. Thirteen additional cottages are built, bringing the cottage total up to 28. www.WaterSafari.com gets a new look!
- 2006** The Noonan family adds the Water's Edge Inn and Conference Center to Old Forge Properties. The hotel is located directly across the street from EF/WS with 76 rooms ranging from standard rooms to suites. WEI specializes in small business conferences. The hotel is equipped with an indoor heated pool & sauna, a lakefront library, an arcade and complimentary high-speed wireless internet. The Water's Edge Inn is located on the Fulton Chain of Lakes. Long term plans for improvements are set into action. Mike and Debbie Winn, "The Skymasters", return with their Swaypole and Wheel of Destiny acts. Newcomer Shane Jared Johnson "Tiger Trainer Extraordinaire" and his 5 Bengal tigers join the Family Circus Show. The Old Forge Camping Resort adds 12 more cottages, bringing the total number of cottages up to 40. Lake Serene Rentals is built, creating a convenient place for guests to rent boats, purchase firewood, fishing bait, beach toys and snacks. www.OldForgeCamping.com gets a brand-new look, which is easier to use and more fun! Calypso's Cove's Pizza Hut Express now delivers to guests staying at the Old Forge Camping Resort and the Water's Edge Inn (summer season only).

Present

The family owned and operated company now has 50 year round team members with a seasonal staff of over 500. Enchanted Forest Water Safari, NYS's Largest Water Theme Park now covers 65 acres and features over 50 rides and attractions including 31 water rides with heated water, as well as 12 traditional amusement rides. Paul Bunyan still welcomes guests to the park as you enter the oldest section of the park – Storybook Lane. This fantasyland is one of the largest and best preserved storybook attractions in the country. Calypso's Cove offers family oriented afternoon and evening entertainment to the guests of this area. The Old Forge Camping Resort, with over 400 wooded sites on 130 acres with 133 heated Camping Cabins and 60 Camping Cottages offers affordable, convenient lodging. A shuttle bus provides service to Enchanted Forest Water Safari from the campground. The Water's Edge Inn has prime lakefront location directly across the street from EFWS. Guests are able to 'Stay & Play' when staying with OFCR or WEI and visiting EFWS. Overall, the company provides guests to the area with family entertainment that is both affordable and enjoyable for all, with unprecedented value and service as our main goal. We are Central New York's family entertainment destination while providing the Ultimate Adirondack Experience.

With hundreds of thousands of visitors each year to the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari and Calypso's Cove and over 25,000 camping sites rented at the Old Forge Camping Resort in a year, the properties provide an economic base to the community in which they reside.

Over the years, Enchanted Forest Water Safari has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars in free passes to non-profit groups and causes. In 1997, the company began the Ruth E. Noonan and J. Richard Noonan Memorial Scholarship program. In June of every year several \$1,000 scholarships are given to Town of Webb graduating seniors also in August of every year several \$1,000 college scholarships are given to deserving team members of the company. Since it's inception, over \$100,000 in scholarship money has been given to aid in the future education of many students.

Established in 1994, the Calypso's Cove Charity Go-Kart Race takes place in September each year. With over 30 entrants, local businesses vie for the coveted trophy. Each year over \$5000 is raised for local charities, which have included the Home Aide Service of the Central Adirondacks (HASCA), Old Forge Fire Department, Kinderwood Preschool Program, the Polar Bears Ski Team, the local Babe Ruth Summer League, the Historical Association and the Old Forge Arts Center. Since 2000, the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari has organized a team to walk and raise money for the Utica Making Strides Against Breast Cancer walk. Each year the team has raised several thousand dollars. Since 2004, EFWS has been a sponsor of the entire event along with several other upstate NY businesses.

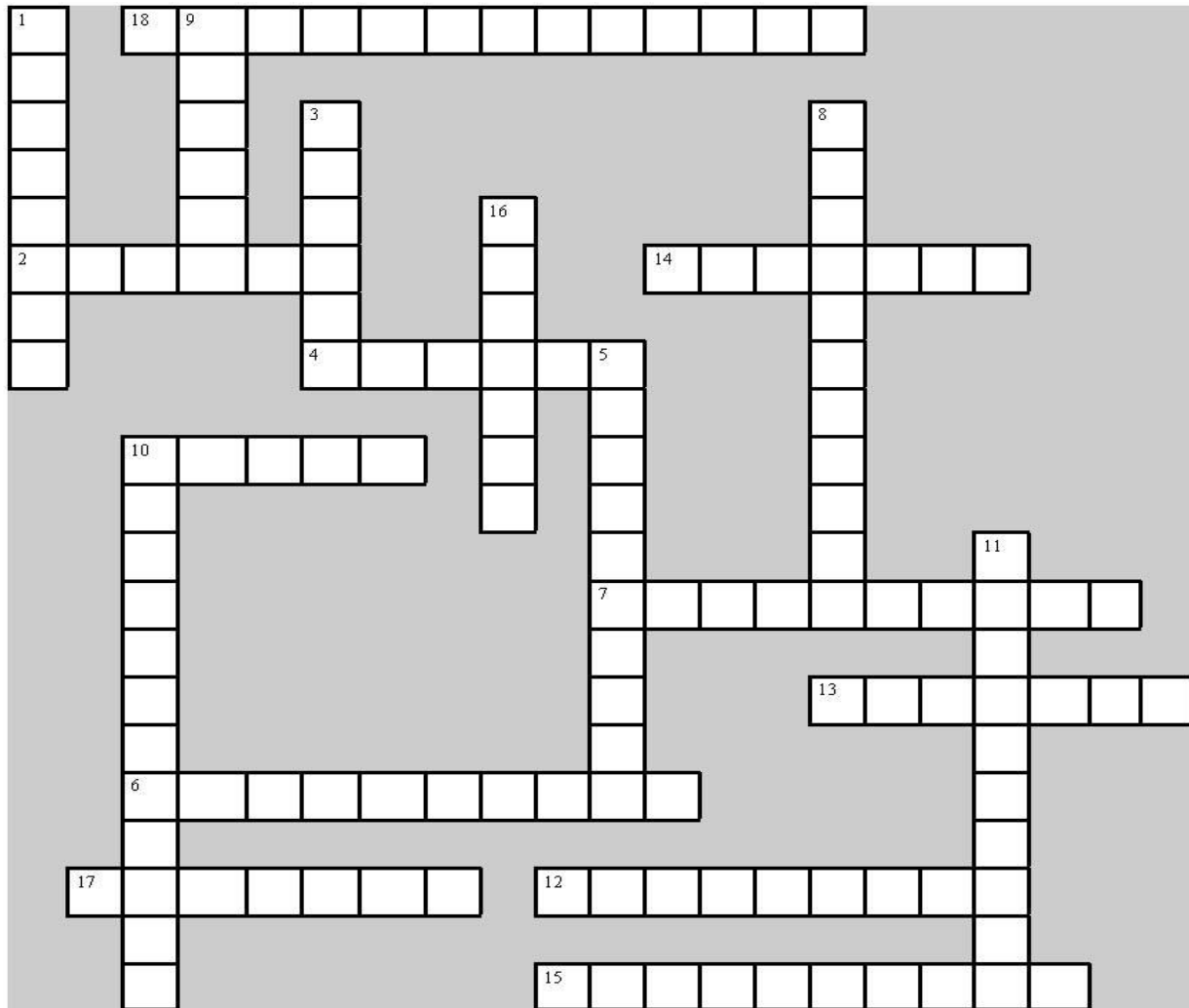
Future

Enchanted Forest Water Safari has many ideas for added family fun in the future! Visit our website for constant updates and more information.

Katie Noonan, Daughter/Events Coordinator/Park Historian/Shareholder, who grew up at the Enchanted Forest, has dedicated a great deal of her time researching the park's history, much of which has not been recorded over the years. Many people helped her along the way with their fond memories, photos and artifacts, which all contributed to this history. Special thanks go to her, her family, the Uzdavinis family, park team members, and alumni who used to work at the park over the years.

Got History? Crossword Puzzle

Complete the puzzle using the clues below. Answers can be found in the history timeline.



Down

1. Last name of the famous high wire family that has performed at EFWS since the early 60's.
3. Last name of the Indian Chief who developed the old Indian Village.
5. The building that burned in 1979, and then was rebuilt.
8. The amusement ride area in the back of the park.
9. The 110 ft. Family Tube ride.
10. Name of the 3 acre family entertainment center located right next door to EFWS.
11. EFWS's mascot who's den was built in 2005.

Across

2. Last name of the family who owns Enchanted Forest Water Safari.
4. The newest waterslide at Enchanted Forest Water Safari.
6. Mike and Debbie Winn are known as the _____.
7. The Adirondack _____ was added to EFWS in the late 90's.
10. Last name of the water slide designer who constructed the rides of the Water Safari Island.
12. The amusement park that bought the Roller Coaster in 1985.
13. Tarzan _____ was a popular circus guest in the 60's.
14. Last name of the artist who designed the award-winning billboard and Hansel & Gretel's Gingerbread House.
15. Name of the first water slide at Enchanted Forest.
16. In 1970, this type of contest began.
17. Last name of the groom who slid down Safari Hill in his tuxedo in the 90's.
18. The hotel directly across the street from EFWS.

**Use the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari History Timeline to answer these questions.
Level 2**

1. How many years has each of the attractions been at Enchanted Forest/Water Safari?

_____ The Shadow

_____ The Train

_____ The Amazon

_____ Black River

_____ Tidal Wave Pool

_____ Museum of Enchanted Memories

_____ Calypso's Cove

_____ Sky Ride

_____ Timber Bear's Den

_____ Raging Rapids

_____ Bombay Blasters

_____ Hansel & Gretel's Gingerbread House

2. How much older is the Train than the Shadow?

3. Name three attractions that were built in the 21st Century.

4. Choose three years listed in the history of EFWS. Identify who was the President of the USA at that time.

5. How long was Enchanted Forest open before it became Enchanted Forest Water Safari?

6. Calculate the percent of time that Water Safari has been part of Enchanted Forest.

7. How long have Mike Pollice and Liette Lecours been married?

8. Are you older or younger than: Calypso's Cove? The Amazon? Killermanjaro?

9. Are your parents older or younger than the Enchanted Forest?

We've Got History, Yes We Do...We've Got History, How 'Bout You?

10. On a separate sheet of paper, construct a time line that notes important milestones in your life (your birth, first tooth, first vacation, big sports events, moving, first day of Kindergarten, etc).

11. Research and construct a time line to commemorate the important events in the history of your school.

**Use the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari History Timeline to answer these questions.
Level 1**

1. Which ride is no longer at the Enchanted Forest/Water Safari?
 - a. Cascade Falls
 - b. Killermanjaro
 - c. The Tidal Wave Pool
 - d. Roller Coaster

2. Which slide replaced "Wild Waters"?
 - a. Rondaxe Run
 - b. The Shadow
 - c. Ferris Wheel
 - d. Black River

3. What was the name of Enchanted Forest Water Safari's Mascot in 2005?
 - a. Timber Bear
 - b. Safari Sam
 - c. Johnny Rio
 - d. Danny the Deer

4. What is the name of the giant who has stood greeting guests since 1956?
 - a. Peter, Peter Pumpkin Eater
 - b. Timber Bear
 - c. Paul Bunyan
 - d. Ali Baba

5. Which ride has been at Enchanted Forest since opening in 1956?
 - a. The Shadow
 - b. Pygmy Pond
 - c. The Train
 - d. Killermanjaro

6. What is the name of the Family Entertainment Center next door to EFWS that opened in 1995?
 - a. Klondike Kate's
 - b. The Oasis
 - c. Carousel Café
 - d. Calypso's Cove

7. What is the last name of the family that purchased the Enchanted Forest in 1977?
 - a. Wallenda
 - b. Noonan
 - c. Zerbini
 - d. Uzdavinis

8. In 2001, the Old Forge KOA Campground changed its name to what?
 - a. Calypso's Cove
 - b. The Old Forge Camping Resort
 - c. Cascade Camping
 - d. The Water's Edge

9. In 2006, the Noonan family purchased the hotel that is directly across the street from Enchanted Forest Water Safari. What is the name of that hotel?
 - a. The Water's Edge Inn
 - b. Calypso's Cove
 - c. Old Forge Hotel Resort
 - d. Timber Bear's Den

10. In what year did Cascade Falls and the rest of the 'Adirondack Expedition' open?
 - a. 2006
 - b. 1999
 - c. 1956
 - d. 2002

11. Which ride is NOT part of the Adirondack Expedition?
 - a. Black River
 - b. Rondaxe Run
 - c. The Log Jammer
 - d. The Amazon