



Q&A: THE SWAMP FOX ALL WOODEN ROLLER COASTER

Why is a ride on a wooden roller coaster unique?

The history, visual beauty and architectural design of wooden roller coasters add to their mystique. But what really sets wooden roller coasters apart is that they deliver a very different ride experience from steel roller coasters.

Wooden coasters seem to have personalities all their own. From their rumbling, shuddering sounds to their thrilling vibrations, wooden coasters heighten the rider's sense of danger. A wooden coaster's train seems to fight to stay on the track. Functioning as a shock absorber, the coaster structure is designed to sway with the force of the moving train.

The wooden roller coaster experience can be different throughout the day as the temperature or the weather changes. Rain brings out the rich smell of the wood, and expansions and contractions in the wood can translate into more movement.

Some people even claim that wooden coasters run better at night when the grease on the track and the wheel bearings loosen up. In one experiment performed on the Swamp Fox, operators found that the train ran its track anywhere from 8 to 10 seconds faster at 9 p.m. than it did around 2 p.m. in the afternoon.

How many wooden roller coasters are in operation in the United States?

According to the Roller Coaster Database (www.rcdb.com) there are approximately 115 operating wooden roller coasters in America.