

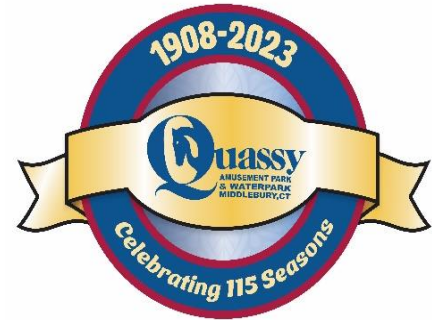
## NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Distribution

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<https://www.quassy.com/>

Photos are available [here](#)



### Quassy Amusement Park and Waterpark – True Americana

**Middlebury, CT** – Quassy Amusement Park and Waterpark is one of America’s longest-standing amusement parks and this year, the beloved amusement park is celebrating its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Quassy was built during a time in American history when hopes were low and reality was grim. At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, Americans were desperate to find an escape from the tragedies of ongoing wars, economic disasters, and prolonged political conflict. As great things evolve during times of strife, America’s entertainment industry was fostered and flourished into the overarching entity it is today and quintessential Americana amusement parks like Quassy were permanently woven into the fabric of American history.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, America reaped the benefits afforded by the advancements made during the Industrial Revolution which sparked an economic upturn, mass immigration, and extraordinary concentration of wealth in a period known as the Gilded Age. As the wealth disparity widened, working was lauded by the low- and middle-class while luxury and leisure were sought by the uber-wealthy. After the turn of the century, the American economy began to take a turn for the worse. Men were drafted into the military, women returned to the workforce, and the desire to seek and create affordable entertainment to escape the doldrums rapidly increased.

In reaction to this cultural shift, amusement parks, zoos, carnivals, and other entertainment destinations began to pop up all over the country and Americans started to place a significant value on recreation and leisure which offered a fun escape from reality. In 1937, three friends and Waterbury, Connecticut natives, John Frantzis, Mike Leon, and George Terezakis seized this All-American opportunity and bought Quassy and developed the property into an Americana wonderland with paddleboats, a classic carousel, amusement park eats, and an entertainment pavilion. The pavilion once held a roller rink as roller skating was a popular activity at the time but now, the century-old pavilion is still being utilized as an event and gathering space. After World War II ended, Quassy officially became a fully functioning amusement park. John Frantzis’ family now owns and operates this all-American amusement park, which has been a proud family-run business for multiple generations.

As Quassy celebrates its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary, John's grandson, George Frantzis, keeps the tradition alive and ensures Quassy remains an all-American classic and entertainment destination the whole family can enjoy. "It's nice to sell fun," explains George. "Putting smiles on peoples' faces - it doesn't get any better than that." The longevity of the amusement park and waterpark is a marvel in and of itself but the Frantzis family's dedication to simple and wholesome family entertainment and American values has proven to be a worthwhile investment.

New England's most beloved amusement park was founded in 1908, a year that sparked many major moments in American history. It was the first year rung in by the Time Square ball drop in New York City and it was also the first year Mother's Day was celebrated. But the biggest historical event that occurred in 1908 was Henry Ford's release of the Model T engine which made motorized transportation more accessible to the masses. Skee-ball was also invented in 1908, one of the first of thousands of arcade games now played throughout amusement parks and arcades across the country.

The history of Quassy is also quite a remarkable tale. Prior to building the amusement park, nestled against Lake Quassapaug, an area once populated by Native Americans. Lake Quassapaug was translated to mean "Big Pond" or "Big Rock." Spending time at the shore was also a treasured activity for families at the turn of the century and Lake Quassapaug was especially popular for fishermen who claimed they caught fish by the bucketful. Before the park was acquired, the area was a trolley park owned by a trolley company and an electric company. The trolley line that snaked through Middlebury, Connecticut, and Lake Quassapaug generated a perfect spot for a summer resort featuring swimming, a picnic grove, dancing, and a carousel.

When Quassy was founded, there were only 46 states admitted to the Union. Since that time, air travel was invented, as was the invention of the microwave and frozen food! Quassy also stood beside Americans as they witnessed the moon landing in 1969 and the explosion of the Challenger. Quassy was a haven for families who feared the repercussions of the invention of the atomic bomb and welcomed outcast Vietnam Veterans when they returned home from a tumultuous and controversial war. It's incredible to think that the world operated in a completely different way than it does today, but the American spirit of Quassy remains steadfast. To this day, families can visit Quassy and ensure every member will have a fun-filled day to remember. New Englanders recall spending summers in their youth at Quassy, going on field trips and spending the day with their friends, their memories filled with nothing but great times.

In 2023, as Quassy celebrates its 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary, it has stood the test of time and maintained iconic attractions like the carousel and paddle boating but continues to keep guests on their toes by regularly adding new rides and attractions. This season, Quassy unveiled the Super Himalaya, a fast-paced circular thrill ride that speeds up to 12 revolutions per minute with spectacular lighting features, peaks, and valleys. The American treasure is also home to the Wooden Warrior, an epic wooden roller coaster that was rated among the top 25 roller

coasters in the world. Quassy's waterpark, Splash Away Waterpark, was a welcomed addition to Connecticut families in 2002, with new additions every couple of years. Rocket Rapids Water Coaster, the first ride of its kind in Connecticut, debuted last summer.

Today the iconic landmark, situated among the rolling hills of Northwestern Connecticut on the shores of Lake Quassapaug, is solely owned by the Frantzis and Anderson families.

Regardless of what the future holds, despite the trials and tribulations Americans will face in their lifetimes and through all the highs and lows, Quassy will always be a beacon of New England, providing solace during hard times while preserving quintessential Americana and creating pure, long-lasting memories.

To learn more about Quassy, visit: <https://www.quassy.com>.

### **About Quassy Amusement Park and Waterpark**

Quassy Amusement Park & Waterpark is in its 115th year and features more than two dozen rides and attractions. Rides include the award-winning Wooden Warrior roller coaster, Reverse Time, Frantic, Yo-Yo super swings, Free Fall 'N' Drop Tower and Grand Carousel. This year the park is introducing its new ride "The Super Himalaya." The lakeside waterpark has 16 slides including Rocket Rapids, Saturation Station modular play area and a splash pad for toddlers. Quassy also features a laser maze attraction in its huge arcade building. The park also has a restaurant, redemption arcade, games, live entertainment, and special events. Season passes are on sale now at the park office and through the Quassy website at [www.quassy.com](http://www.quassy.com). Company picnics, school field trips and other catered events are also being scheduled through the park office at (203) 758-2913. Quassy is located at 2132 Middlebury Road, Route 64, in Middlebury, Conn., on the shores of Lake Quassapaug. Learn more about Quassy Amusement and Waterpark at <https://www.quassy.com/> or by following @quassyamusementpark on social media.

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