

**South Florida Free Beaches  
Florida Naturist Association**

# The SunDial

*The Journal of Florida Naturism*

Spring 2008 April-June Vol. 8 - No. 2 [www.sffb.com](http://www.sffb.com)



## **Canaveral National Seashore**

*Members of Tampa Area Naturists enjoy the naturist area at the southern end of Apollo Beach during a 2006 visit.*

*In background: seven miles of 'textile' beach*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE & FLORIDA LEGISLATURE REPORT

Although there has been a lot of activity on the naturist scene statewide, I am going to focus on the most critical issue, the Florida Legislature. Since 1994, SFFB/FNA has been sending Government Affairs Committee members to Tallahassee, and supporting a paid lobbyist there.

Largely because of the number of bills proposed in the 2007 session affecting our issue, I spent the first week of March in Tallahassee at the opening of the 2008 Florida Legislative Session. There I met with SFFB/FNA's lobbyist, Ramon Maury. Together with Ray, or alone, I met with most of the members of the House Homeland Security Committee and the Senate Criminal Justice Committee, as well as with their staffs and with as many others that I could in four days. I arrived with forty SFFB/FNA Naturist Information Packets, and left with two. Ray, of course, will be on point to monitor future developments until the session ends.

Rep. William Snyder of Martin County had introduced House Bill 801, which could potentially have banned and made a felony of nudity in any public park in Florida. We opposed a comparable bill in 2007.

This brings up an important point. We don't automatically consider legislators hostile to our interests because we view a bill as potentially harmful to naturism. Often, that is an unintended consequence of a bill introduced over other concerns, and a middle ground can be reached that reconciles our concerns with the real intent of the legislators.

In conversation with Rep. Snyder, he said his bill was introduced to help police reduce the increased occurrence of men visiting parks to meet men for the purpose of having sex in the park by increasing the penalty for an *unnatural and lascivious act* (FS 800.02). Presently, those cited under 800.02 plead out to a misdemeanor and go back to the parks. A felony ups the crime to one where the convicted will appear on the Public Safety Department's registry, and the penalty will result the convicted losing their marriages, their professional licenses, or their jobs, as well as seeing some jail time. The nudity issue (FS 800.03) was included because of the concern that some men will expose themselves as a signal to others that they are there for sex.

After we explained the unintended negative consequences the bill's wording would have on Haulover Beach and naturism, Rep. Snyder agreed to remove that portion of the bill relating to FS 800.03. Senator Aronberg agreed to remove the similar wording from his Senate companion bill as well.

Now the question has been raised by some in the gay press whether this bill is anti-gay. 800.02, of course, contains no

explicit reference to gender. However, in *Harris v. Florida* (2nd DCA FL 1999), where 800.02 was a lesser included offense in an 800.04 conviction, the court defined an "unnatural and lascivious act" as "sodomy". We take it that this definition is effectively now voided by the U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003). It's an open question at this point then as to what would be an act both "unnatural and lascivious". Snyder's felony penalty provision may possibly force a test case in which 800.02 might be overturned altogether.

We take Snyder's comments as an acknowledgement that parks are not generally frequented by men or women looking for casual consensual straight sex in the bushes, rather than indicating an anti-gay bias. As is widely known, most of the men seeking trysts in the parks are not members of the gay community, but married men—which also raises a health issue for their spouses.

Legal issues aside, we believe sex in a public park is inappropriate, and that responsible gay men, naturist and non-naturist, as well as responsible straight naturists, can therefore support these bills as amended. The quickest way to loose a naturist beach is to tolerate sexual activity on or in proximity of the beach. There is a strong U.S. Supreme Court case on the issue of nudity causing an adverse secondary effect upon a community. We must never allow this to be a factor at Haulover. So to both gay and straight we say: "Get a room."

However, this so far favorable outcome does not mean we can rest. The original wording or other anti-nudity wording can be added back as an amendment at any time in committee or on the floor of either chamber before this session is over during the last week of April 2008.

Neither Rep. Snyder nor Sen. Aronberg had to delete the reference to nudity in their bills. They did it because we asked them to and showed them the reason why.

It may be appropriate to contact both men and thank them for amending the bill and let them know you appreciate their cooperation:

Rep. William Snyder  
2400 S. Federal Hwy, Suite 250  
Stuart, FL 34994-4590

Phone: 772 221 4904 (District)  
Phone: 850 488 8832 (Tallahassee)  
Fax: 772 221 4906

Email: [williamsnyder@myfloridahouse.gov](mailto:williamsnyder@myfloridahouse.gov)

Senator David Aronberg  
6417 Lake Worth Rd., Suite 210  
Greenacres, FL 33463

Phone: 561 433 2627 (District)  
850 487 5356 (Tallahassee)  
Fax: 561 434 3995  
Email: aronberg.dave.web@flsenate.gov

If these bills do not pass into law this year they will be back next year. This would give both communities time to speak with our legislators, as well as the sponsors of the bills, and craft a bill more closely tailored to public sexual activity, that also protects people from wrongful arrests.

Democracy works, but you have to participate in it.

We may squeak by again this year, but have learned that every year there is a new threat.

*Please don't forget to donate to SFFB/FNA's Legal/Political Action Fund. You can donate by using the form on page 7, or online.*

*This is an election year, and SFFB/FNA donates to the campaigns of candidates that support our issues. We need your help to be successful.*

*Richard Mason*



### **Naked Lunch?**

Well, not really. But, aside from the occasional tee shirt, how do you tell the nudists from the textiles out on the street?

During the *two dollar bill promotion*, Pasco County's many nudist resorts and communities order quantities of \$2 bills from the banks, distribute them as change to their residents and members, and encourage them to use the bills at local area businesses.

This restaurant, around the corner from Lake Como and Paradise Lakes resorts, and a few miles south of Caliente, openly acknowledges the value of the nudist trade.

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## SFFB/FNA RECEIVES AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY AWARD



photos:  
Albert Pantaleon

South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association was presented with the **2008 Willis Murray Spirit of Hope Award** at a ceremony on March 28, 2008, at the Miami-Dade College North Campus during the Northwest Miami-Dade Relay for Life. Shown accepting the award are President Richard Mason and Vice-president Norma Mitchell.

SFFB/FNA was selected because of its skin cancer awareness and prevention programs, including hosting free public skin cancer screenings at Haulover Beach and distributing skin cancer awareness literature. SFFB/FNA would like to express its thanks to the American Academy of Dermatologists for its program of skin cancer awareness and its provision of free cancer information literature, and to the many AAD physician members who volunteered their time and professional services for the free skin cancer screenings hosted by SFFB/FNA over the years.



photo: Michael Kush

The living nude peace sign was formed under the direction of T.A. Wyner at Haulover Beach on Thursday, March 20, 2008, the start of the sixth year of the Iraq War. It included participants from Sunnier Palms and Sunsport Gardens nudist resorts, members of SFFB, and other Haulover visitors. Disabled Vietnam War veteran Ken Lauer is at the apex with sign. For additional photos, visit [www.sffb.com/peace08](http://www.sffb.com/peace08)



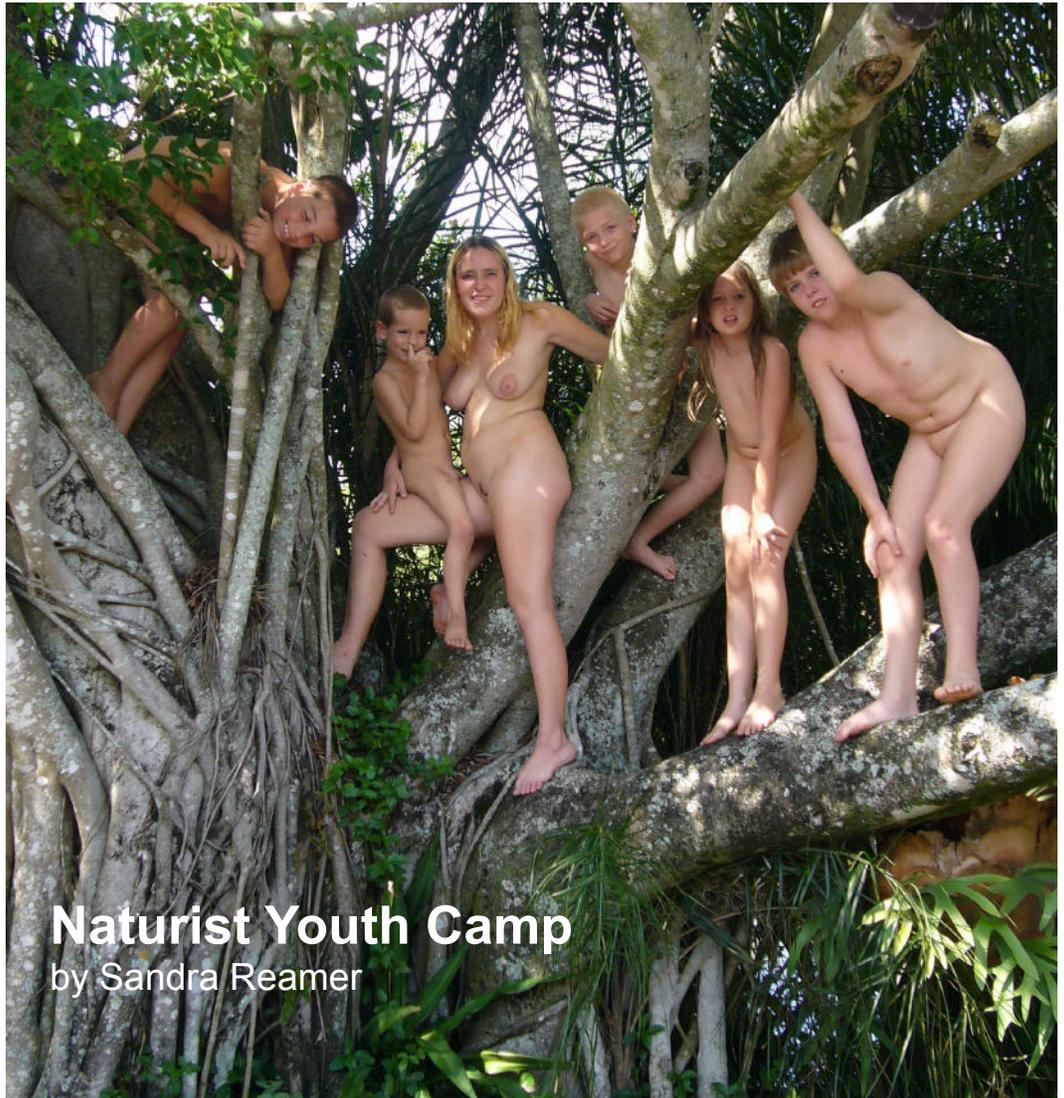
Nicky Hoffman Lee of *The Naturist Society* presents the 2007 Baxandall Leadership Award to Shirley Mason, *Mother of Haulover Beach*

Attention all naturist youth campers! Bring your bug spray and a whole lot of sunscreen because this is a clothes-free camping experience.

Sunspport Gardens Family Naturist Resort in Loxahatchee Groves, Florida is proud to be hosting The Naturist Society Youth Camp for the second time. The camp will be held from Sunday, July 20, through Sunday, July 27. The camp program emphasizes many activities that encourage personal growth, such as developing a positive body image and body acceptance, that in turn will encourage and enhance a higher self-esteem. The campers will also experience and develop positive relationships and naturist ideals.

During this fun-filled week, campers will be living in tents. Campers will participate in workshops that will help them to feel good about themselves, encourage team work and develop new friendships. Activities will include body acceptance games, sing-a-longs, swimming in Sunspport Gardens' pool several times a day, arts and crafts, outdoor sports like wiffle ball, tug of war, and slip-n-slide (all with an interesting messy twist), dancing, karaoke, a ten foot sundae, nightly campfires with s'mores, and many opportunities to explore Sunspport Gardens' 40 acres of natural beauty. This is to just name a few highlights!

Thanks to South Florida Free Beaches for hosting a wonderful fun-filled day at clothing optional Haulover Beach last year. Without them the experience would not have been the same. The experience was so successful that we have planned another day trip to Haulover Beach this year where campers will play in the sand and surf, take a walk on the beach, tie-dye, and do some body painting. As the counselors experienced last year, body painting turned into a "paint the counselor" activity, so counselors beware!



## Naturist Youth Camp

by Sandra Reamer

*Youth campers explore Sunspport Gardens' tropical flora with counselor Stephanie Reamer*



*photos: Anne Sue Fischer*

*Campers pose with Stephanie, her mom & camp director Sandra, and camp staff member Morley Schloss*

*continued on page 6*

## Naturist Youth Camp *continued from page 5*

Without exception campers will grow in independence, self-reliance and creativity and will develop strong bonds and lasting new friendships, all while having a wonderful fun-filled time that they will always remember.

The camp is designed for young people of all ages. For the very young special arrangements will need to be made with the parents to ensure a positive camp experience. For the older camper, we encourage your help as counselors.

Parents, especially those of young campers, are encouraged and welcome to stay at Sunsport Gardens during the week of Youth Camp. Last year all of our campers came from the Florida area. This year we are hoping for campers from all across the country.

The cost for all eight days of fun, growth and community, including all meals, is only \$200. No one will be excluded

due to finances. The deadline for enrollment will be July 1, 2008. If you have any questions, need to make financial arrangements, miss the enrollment date, or want to volunteer to help, please contact Camp Director Sandra Reamer by email at [budneedsme@comcast.net](mailto:budneedsme@comcast.net) or call toll-free: (800) 551-7217.

Please come join us for these eight fun-filled days of unforgettable life experiences and lasting friendships at Sunsport Gardens in sunny South Florida. ☀



## My Life As a Nudist by Stephanie Reamer

My name is Stephanie Reamer. I am 17 years old, and I am a nudist. My first experience of the lifestyle was in the April before I turned 16, almost 2 years ago. At this point I moved to Sunsport Gardens in Loxahatchee, Florida. At first I was a little uncomfortable with taking off my clothes in front of people I did not know. I mean, what if the person started staring at me? After a little while I realized that it isn't a sexual thing, being nude.

Nudity is self realization. When you're nude you can't hide from yourself. You can't hide anything that you don't like. The people in these places don't care if you're fat or skinny, short or tall; they don't even care if you have a face full of zits. The only thing they care about is if you're a good person.

It's a shame that more young people don't come to the nudist resorts. Most young people are afraid because they don't have the "Perfect Body" but that doesn't matter here. Society today puts way too much stress on the super skinny. I don't understand why people think a size 0 looks good. People my age that are that skinny just look sick to me. If younger people would try coming into these places just once, maybe they would realize that they are beautiful just the way they are. You don't have to be anorexic to look good.

I know that a lot of people in their 20's and 30's are worried because they have kids and they don't want their kids exposed to nudity. I just want to let all those people know that there is nothing wrong with nudity. And guess what else, I bet the kids would like it. My niece is 1 year old and she lives here. Her mother and father are 21 years old. I live here with my parents and my younger brothers who are 10 and 4.

Being nude is about being free. You are free from the judgement of other people. Free from pretending to be

something you're not. And free from hot sticky, sweaty clothes.

My favorite part of Sunsport is Friday nights. On Friday nights the camp has this thing called a Drum Circle. They have a fire and people sit around the fire, some of them playing drums, others belly-dancing, and others sitting around, hanging out, talking to people they actually like, and listening to the sound of the drums. On Saturday nights they have dances. They aren't formal; there is just someone playing music and everyone is just having a good time. Another thing the camp does is they have volleyball mostly on weekends and on Wednesday night. They also have a game called Petanque. Petanque is a team sport that I don't completely understand. But they play every day and they're always looking for more people to play.

The only problem with living here is that, while there are many children, there aren't very many people my age. That needs to change. I think younger people would enjoy living here. There would always be something to do. And if there wasn't anything to do, you could always go skinny dipping in the pool which is always at a perfectly refreshing temperature. ☀

*NOTE: Stephanie Reamer will be a counselor in Sunsport's Youth Camp again this year. She is completing her senior year of high school online. To address Stephanie's concerns, Sunsport offers grounds fees of only \$6 per day for people aged 18- 30 with student IDs. Young people under 18 are free with permission of a parent or guardian.*

[www.sunsportgardens.com](http://www.sunsportgardens.com)

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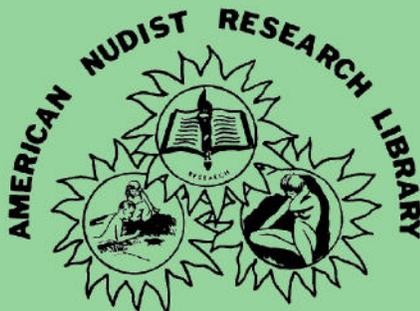
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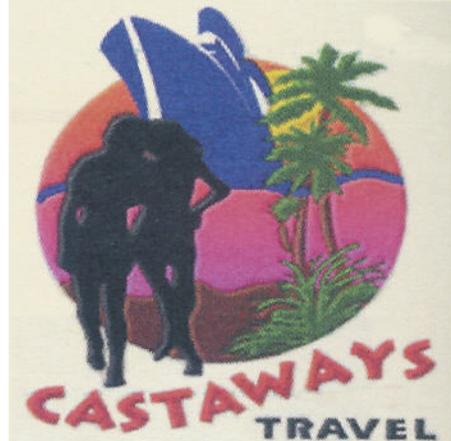
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# MELANOMA

- It's Not Just Skin Deep

by Nichole Smith  
The Naturist Society

*"Come into the sunlight—untempered by knowledge and prudence—is increasingly an invitation to die"*

The above quote is a statement made by The Naturist Society founder Lee Baxandall little more than ten years ago, and it would appear to be as true today as it was then. Skin cancer has achieved quite the reputation over the years, it is safe to say; most of the population has at least heard of skin cancer, and knows it is sun-related. Yet, as Baxandall states, unimpeded by this we venture out anyway, believing that it "won't happen to me". More and more though, skin cancer is happening to "me", so what can be done about it? In this health conscious age, how do we hold to our ideals and remain safe?

There is a plethora of information on the Web about skin cancer and prevention. Just google a few terms and a barrage of information will soon be at your fingertips. Sifting through the facts, figures, and research-based conjecture can be a difficult and daunting task. The subject is rife with opinion, statistics, and promising research, but what do we accept as fact and what do we ignore as fiction?

## **Varieties of Skin Cancer**

We know there are three types of skin cancer: basal and squamous cell carcinomas, and melanoma. Prolonged frequent exposure is the root cause for almost all basal and squamous cell carcinomas. They affect primarily the epidermal layers and appear most often on areas of the body that are regularly exposed to the sun, for example the face, lips, ears, neck, scalp, arms, shoulders, and back.

Basal cell carcinoma, or BCC, is the most common of the three and accounts for about 75 percent of the annual skin cancer cases. Basal cell carcinoma is rarely fatal and has multiple symptoms or attributes: itchy red patches of skin; pearlescent type bumps in pinks, browns or white; bloody, oozing, open sores that don't close for weeks; and scarlike areas of skin.

Squamous cell carcinoma, SCC, accounts for 20 percent of skin cancer cases annually and looks wart-like, sometimes crusty or bleeding. Undetected and untreated SCC may spread beyond the epidermal layer to body tissues or organs causing disfigurement or death.

Malignant melanoma, the third and most lethal form of skin cancer is responsible for five percent of skin cancer cases annually. Discovered quickly, melanoma can usually be completely cured. If ignored and untreated it may become

invasive, spreading internally, metastasizing, and often proving deadly. Most melanomas appear like a misshaped or discolored mole.

There are four types of melanoma; they are all dangerous, however, some are more so than others. Superficial spreading melanoma is most common; it spreads through the epidermis spending a long time on the surface before penetrating deeper and becoming invasive. The same is also true of lentigo maligna and acral lentiginous melanoma. Unlike the other three types of melanoma, nodular melanoma is very aggressive and moves very quickly.<sup>1</sup>

## **Risk and Prevention**

Skin cancer is on the rise. The American Cancer Society estimates there will be more than a million diagnoses of skin cancer in 2006; 62,190 will be melanoma. Over 10,000 people will die of skin cancer this year, 7,910 from melanoma alone.<sup>2</sup>

Excessive sunburning at a young age is believed to be a primary cause of malignant melanoma, however other factors can be traced to genetics, immune system deficiencies, and occupational exposure. Anyone can get skin cancer, but there is greater risk if you are fair-skinned and freckle easily, have lighter colored hair and eyes, a large number of moles or irregular shaped moles, a genetic history of skin cancer or personal history of blistering sunburn, you work or play outdoors, have had radiation treatment for acne, or live in intense year-round sunshine. See how at risk you are by taking the quiz at the right.

Many tests and studies have been done and seem to show that it is not so much exposure, as it is irresponsible exposure that can lead to melanoma. A study of 4,000,000 U.S. Navy members followed sailors who developed melanoma. The study revealed that sailors who worked under deck had a higher incidence of skin cancer than deck workers, about .3 percent higher than the U.S. average at 9.2 percent.<sup>3</sup> Although deck workers are not immune to melanoma, it would seem that those under deck and those with no or minimal tan are at a greater risk.

We also know the best way to prevent skin cancer is to be smart about sun exposure. Stay out of the sun between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM when the ultraviolet rays are at their strongest. Cover up when in the sun and seek shady areas. Skin cancer rates are highest in Australia, and as such they have developed an awareness program that the EPA has adopted. The program is called "Slip Slop Slap" for slip on a shirt, slop on sunscreen, slap on a hat. The EPA's brochure took it further with wrapping on sunglasses that block 99-100 percent of UV rays and checking the UV index. The UV index predicts how strong the rays will be on any given day. These ratings are from 1-11, with 1 being low and 11 high.<sup>4</sup>

See page 12 for  
skin cancer risk quiz,  
melanoma photos  
and notes

## **The Benefits of Vitamin D**

Although there are cancer risks related to the sun and UV rays, there are also numerous studies and reports of cancer and disease prevention benefits of the sun in relation to the vitamin D it provides. Vitamin D deficiency and the development of juvenile diabetes has been known to scientists for years. Vitamin D also functions as a hormone regulating the bodies absorption of calcium and phosphorous for strong bones. This little known and underrated vitamin has many other important roles and functions in the body.

Boston Professor Dr. Michael Holick has done extensive research on the multitude of benefits the planet receives from vitamin D. Dr. Holick is a professor of dermatology, biophysics, and physiology. Some of his discoveries show that activated vitamin D can treat osteoporosis, kidney failure, and psoriasis. It has an important role in many metabolic functions of the body, as well as muscle, cardiac, and neurological function. There is also evidence that vitamin D aids in the maintenance of healthy cardiovascular and immune systems, which lends credence to the many reports exhibiting that people who live closer to the equator (and thus get more sun exposure and vitamin D) have fewer cases of other cancers such as colon and prostate cancer, breast and ovarian cancers, psoriasis, multiple sclerosis, and rickets, although in these areas more cases of skin cancer are present.<sup>5</sup>

Sunlight and UVB exposure is the body's best source of vitamin D. Everyone should get outside and into the sun; however recommended sun time varies depending on location and skin type. Some sources say 20-30 minutes daily, while others say two or three times a week in southern climates is optimum.<sup>6</sup>

Vitamin D is naturally present in some foods and fish oils, and in vitamin D-fortified milk. In northern areas a combination of multivitamins and fortified foods is an important source of vitamin D. The government recommends children and adults should get 5 micrograms daily; seniors aged 51-70, 10 micrograms; and age 71 and up 15 micrograms daily.<sup>7</sup> Experts recommend 1000-1500 international units or 25-35 micrograms daily.<sup>8</sup> It is too early to say vitamin D is a cancer preventer, as many more trials need to be done. However, current statistics show a reduction of certain types of cancer in people who get the recommended daily dosage through whatever method available.

## **Sunscreens, UVA & UVB**

When choosing a sunscreen there are three important factors: skin protection factor (SPF), broad spectrum blockage, and chemical ingredients. SPF relates to the amount of sunburn protection that sunscreen can provide when used properly. An SPF-15 blocks 93 percent of UVB rays, and SPF 30 blocks 97 percent of the UVB rays— it is not double the protection, but a higher blockage amount. No matter what the SPF, sunscreen still needs to be applied every couple of hours, depending on activity levels.

Broad spectrum blockers protect against both UVB and UVA rays. Ultraviolet rays are divided into categories based

on the distance their wavelength travels into the earth's atmosphere. UVA rays travel the furthest (320-400 nm or nanometers) penetrating to the subcutaneous tissue of the exposed individual, UVB rays extend 290-320 nm, penetrating the dermal layers, while UVC rays extend 100-290 nm and are absorbed by our ozone layer.<sup>9</sup> There is no mandatory rating system for UVA rays so the SPF only applies to the UVB factor, however one is at least getting some protection from UVA rays. UVB rays primarily impact the skin's surface, and are the main source of sunburn. UVA rays penetrate further into the body down to the subcutaneous layer, which is responsible for skin growth and regeneration. Extensive UVA exposure results in premature aging, wrinkles, and the leathery appearance of the skin.<sup>10</sup>

Ingredients vary greatly in sunscreens and blocks. There are a variety of organic or chemical, and inorganic or physical ingredients used in sunscreen. The physical ingredients block UVA and B rays while the chemical ingredients block UVB with little or no UVA protection. Some recent studies have also shown that chemical sunscreens (particularly para-aminobenzoic acid or PABA and bezophenes) absorb into the body, and can cause skin reactions and other gender based issues.<sup>11</sup> When choosing a sunscreen, look for PABA-free, oil-free, broad-spectrum blockers. Key ingredients to look for in terms of UVA protection are titanium dioxide, zinc oxide, parsol 1789, and mexoryl (not legal in the U.S., but can be found under the counter at some pharmacies).<sup>12</sup>

There are other opportunities to get that perfect tan without exposing yourself to harmful UV rays. There are a variety of sunless tanning lotions on the market that come in a variety of light to dark tans. Minimally some people experience irritation or allergic reactions to sunless tanning products. However, with a variety of brands on the market, if one disagrees with you, you can always try another. Some sunless tanners contain sunscreens but often not with a very high SPF, so you may still need to apply a separate sunscreen when outdoors. And of course tanning booths still exist, however the UV exposure here is greater than with natural sunlight, so you are not really preventing much by using them.

## **Early Warning Signs**

Identifying the early warning signs of skin cancer is paramount. Malignant melanoma usually presents itself with a change in the size, shape, or color of an existing mole or with a new mole growth. The "ABCD" method for spotting melanoma is aptly named: Asymmetry—a growth with unmatched halves, Border irregularity— ragged or blurred edges, Color—a mottled appearance with varying shades and colors, and Diameter—a growth more than .1875 of an inch across, or any unusual increase in size.<sup>13</sup> Check yourself often, using a mirror to get to hard to spot areas, and regular checkups with a physician is not a bad idea either.

As with everything in life, moderation is the key! Armed with the proper precautions, being outdoors under the sun can be both fun and healthy. Just be aware of the risks and take measures to protect yourself. ☀

## SKIN CANCER RISK QUIZ

To calculate your skin cancer risk, circle the number that applies to you in each category, add them up, and compare your total with the scoring key.

### Hair color:

Blond/Red = 4  
Brown = 3  
Black = 1

### Eye color:

Blue/Green = 4  
Hazel = 3  
Black = 2

### Freckles:

Many = 5  
Some = 3  
None = 1

### Your job is:

Outdoor = 4  
Mixed = 3  
Indoor = 2

### After one hour of exposure to the sun, you:

Burn, maybe blister = 4  
Burn, then tan = 3  
Tan = 1

### Before age 18, you lived in the U.S. in the:

South = 4  
Midwest = 3  
North = 2

### Do you have a family member who has had skin cancer?

Yes = 5  
No = 1

### **SCORING:**

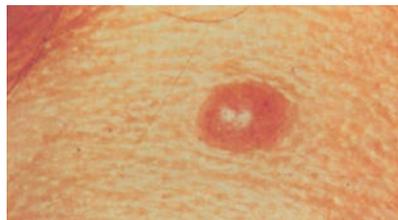
**10-15: Below average risk**  
**16-22: Average risk**  
**23-25: High risk**  
**26-30: Very high risk**

Risk Quiz source:

American Academy of Dermatology  
[www.aad.org](http://www.aad.org)

This Melanoma article originally appeared in the Winter 2006 issue of *N Magazine*, and is reprinted here with the kind permission of The Naturist Society

## NORMAL MOLE



**SYMMETRY:** Round or oval with one half matching the other.



**BORDER:** Clearly defined smooth border.



**COLOR:** Uniformly tan or brown.

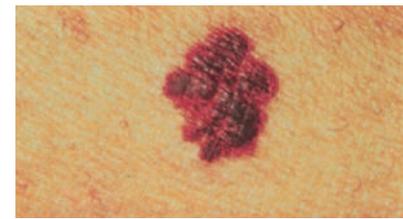


**DIAMETER:** Normal moles are usually less than 6mm—the size of a pencil eraser.

## MELANOMA



**ASYMMETRY:** The shape of one does not match the other.



**BORDER:** Edges uneven, ragged or notched.



**COLOR:** Different shades of brown, black or tan.



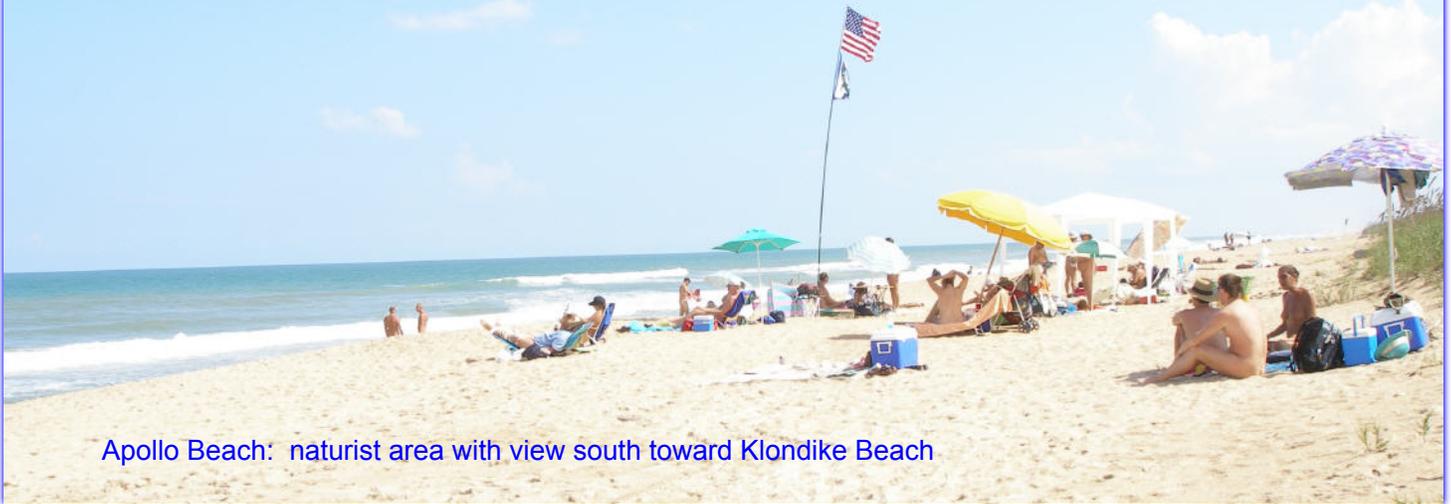
**DIAMETER:** Most melanomas are at least 5 mm in diameter, watch for any change in size.

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# CANAVERAL NATIONAL SEASHORE

Michael Kush



Apollo Beach: naturist area with view south toward Klondike Beach

Canaveral National Seashore (CANA) offers miles of pristine, undeveloped Atlantic beach. From the south, you can access about 5 miles of Playalinda Beach, with 13 small parking lots available along the road. From the north, the less accessible Apollo Beach has 5 tiny parking lots along about 7 miles of road. There are chemical toilets located at each parking lot, but drinking water and showers are not available on the beach. Klondike Beach, a twelve-mile stretch between these two areas, has no road access and requires a backpack permit from the Park Service for exploration. (*Cost \$2, limited to 25/day.*)

Long before CANA was created in 1975 as a National Park, skinny-dippers were using remote areas of Cape Canaveral—although this usage really goes back before Columbus to the native-American residents. Not all in the National Park Service (NPS) have always welcomed or respected the rights of the skinny-dippers, despite the official NPS policy to "accommodate wide ranging differences among visitors in lifestyles and values." An NPS employee who was also a member of The Naturist Society leaked an internal memo from NPS Southeast Region communication director Jim Howard with an anti-nudity rule draft, that was reported in TNS's Spring 1985 issue of *Clothed With the Sun* (now *N Magazine*):

*"Nudity is not permitted in any area of the National Park System. Violators will be dealt with in accordance with local law where applicable. Where there is no local law, violators will be subject to six months in jail or fined \$1,000 or both."*

No such NPS rule was ever approved, but park administrators attempted to use Florida Statutes 800.03 (exposure of sexual organs) and 877.03 (disorderly conduct), at times posting signs referencing the statutes, to deter Canaveral's traditional skinny-dippers; this wasn't terribly effective, as case law on these statutes made them difficult to use to control mere nudity.

CANA Superintendent Wendell Simpson then encouraged Brevard and Volusia Counties to enact anti-nudity ordinances. Brevard County, in which the southern section of CANA lies, did so in 1995, while Volusia County in the

*continued on page 14*

Apollo's nude sunbather sign



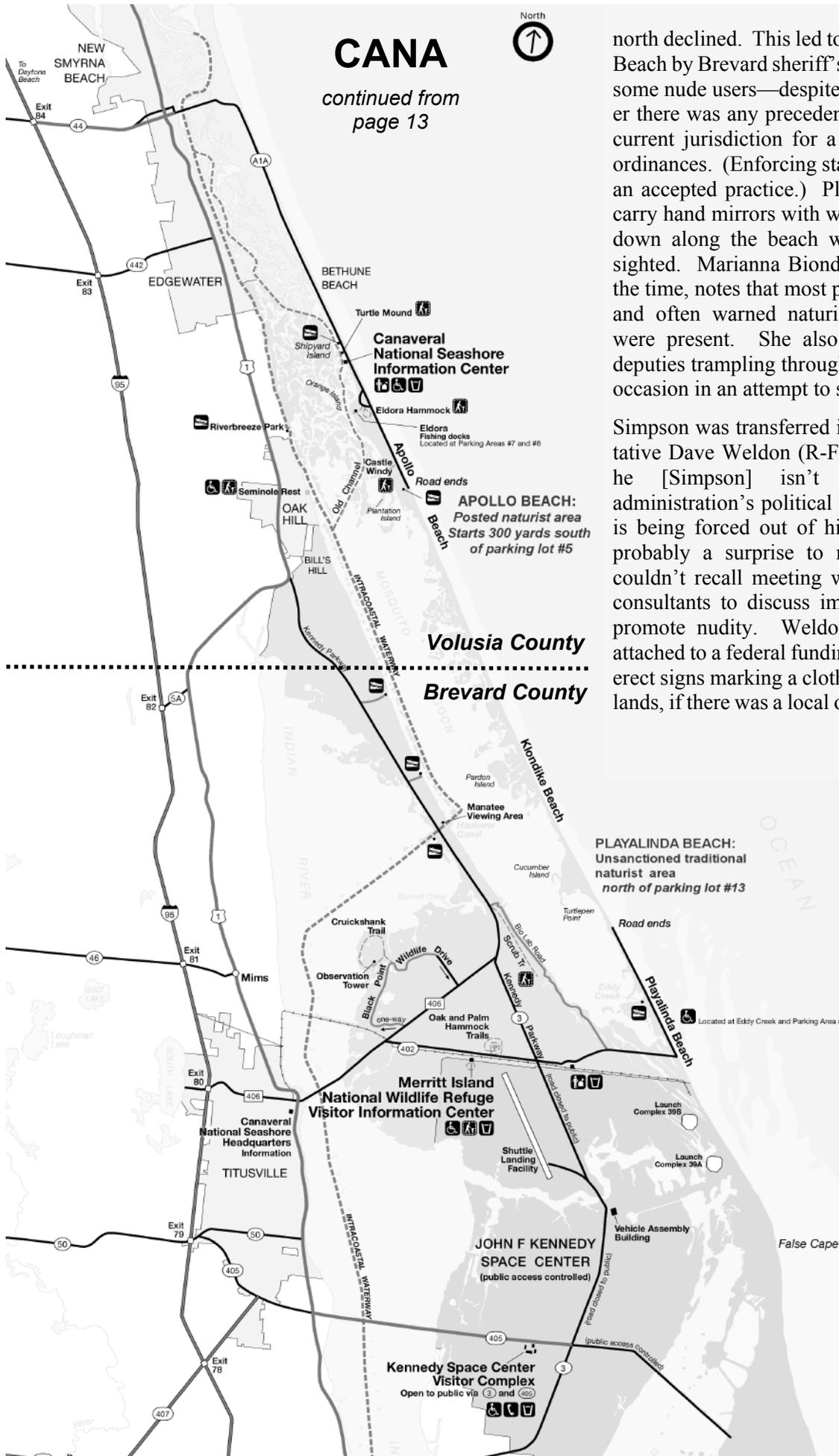
Apollo's southernmost 29-space parking lot #5, north of the naturist area, fills up early. The next lot is almost 2 miles back.



photos: Michael Kush

# CANA

continued from page 13



north declined. This led to periodic raids of Playalinda Beach by Brevard sheriff's deputies, and the citation of some nude users—despite legal questions over whether there was any precedent for the NPS to allow concurrent jurisdiction for a county to enforce its local ordinances. (Enforcing state statutes on federal land is an accepted practice.) Playalinda naturists started to carry hand mirrors with which they could pass signals down along the beach whenever the deputies were sighted. Marianna Biondi, a regular at Playalinda at the time, notes that most park rangers were protective, and often warned naturists when Brevard deputies were present. She also remembers overly-zealous deputies trampling through the dunes on horseback on occasion in an attempt to surprise the naturists.

Simpson was transferred in 1997, and U.S. Representative Dave Weldon (R-Fl) opined that "Just because he [Simpson] isn't promoting the Clinton administration's political agenda regarding nudity, he is being forced out of his job." This statement was probably a surprise to most naturist leaders, who couldn't recall meeting with the President as expert consultants to discuss implementing his program to promote nudity. Weldon then had an amendment attached to a federal funding bill forbidding the NPS to erect signs marking a clothing-optional area on federal lands, if there was a local ordinance against nudity—as



Sign at Playalinda dune crossover #13

CANA website:  
[www.nps.gov/cana](http://www.nps.gov/cana)  
 Entrance fee: \$7 per person as of Jan. 2008  
 Hours: 6 AM to 8 PM (April – Oct)  
 6 AM to 6 PM (Nov – March)

there was in Brevard. (This amendment probably would have allowed CANA to let the naturists install their own signs, however.) But in any case harassment of skinny-dippers soon died down.

With 2000 came a promise of tolerance, when a landmark General Agreement was negotiated with Simpson's successor Bob Newkirk; it allowed a sign to be placed at Apollo Beach marking the traditional nude use area, while the naturist organizations agreed to notify their members to use only that area of Apollo. Instrumental to this agreement was Bob Morton, executive director of TNS's adjunct political action 501(c)(4) organization, the Naturist Action Committee (NAC), who flew in to negotiate in person with Newkirk. The agreement with CANA was signed by representatives of NAC, TNS, and the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR). Central Florida Naturists (CFN) declined to sign the agreement, largely because its request for more parking spaces was ignored, though it advised its members to respect its provisions.

Though Playalinda was not included in the agreement, Newkirk respected naturist use of the traditional area there—though users got a little nervous a few years ago, when Randy Ball announced he would be a candidate for Brevard County Sheriff. During his tenure as Florida State Representative in the 1990's, Ball had sponsored anti-nudity legislation repeatedly—bills that kept NAC and South Florida Free Beaches on their toes for years. It was in fact Ball's first attempt at such legislation in 1994—largely another attempt to end skinny-dipping at CANA—that caused South Florida Free Beaches to first employ a professional Tallahassee legislative lobbyist. As it turned out, Ball soon dropped out of the race for Sheriff.

Carol A. Clark became Canaveral's new superintendent in January 2005. A strong indication that the Newkirk agreement was an ongoing success came later that year, when Superintendent Clark agreed to temporarily relocate the naturist area at Apollo to near parking lot #4, including moving the "nude sunbathers" sign, while parking lot #5 was under construction. As further confirmation of this success, NAC area representative and CFN board member Marv Frandsen, in researching the NPS's complaint incident reports for 2004, found its assessment that nudity complaints at Apollo were now "near insignificance". As naturists have always contended, signage is an important component to eliminate potential user conflicts. (Haulover, with prominent signs, has virtually no user conflict issues.)

But Clark subsequently became a little more skittish. Late in 2006, a new sign stating the Brevard anti-nudity ordinance appeared at Playalinda Beach—but only at dune crossovers 13 & 14, near the traditional naturist-use beach. This, of course, would confuse any newcomers looking for this area, and invite complaints from others. In Nov. 2007, after years of absence, Brevard sheriff's deputies drove 12 miles or so into CANA to tell three naturist visitors to leave Playalinda Beach, or face arrest. And they've returned

since. Reports have also been received that the sign identifying the nude use area at Apollo Beach had been removed late in 2007. Is CANA now encouraging user conflicts?

Superintendent Clark has been on leave for many months, and meanwhile CANA has been under the control of Chief Ranger Eric Lugo, a Simpson appointee. Because the Brevard sheriff has claimed he is only responding to phone complaints from Playalinda, some speculation has arisen that these complaints are being generated by a hostile NPS employee. While no arrests have been reported to date, naturists anxiously await a new resolution regarding the management of naturist use at CANA, either under Clark or a new appointee. And naturists are now acting.

On February 7, 2008, NAC area representative Robert A. Allen and several other Brevard naturist citizens spoke before a meeting of the Brevard County Commission and an audience containing upward of 50 naturists. The speakers, who were allowed more than a half-hour of time, pointed out the questionable police resource allocation practice of sending deputies to Playalinda to harass nude sunbathers, rather than fighting serious crime in the community, and the negative impact on tourism such harassment creates. Allen pointed to the results of a *Florida Today* poll that showed 98% of Brevard citizens wanted the nudists left alone and clear signs installed to direct skinny-dippers to the traditional areas and to alert unwary 'textiles', and requested that Brevard County work with CANA to have such signs installed. Follow-up meetings are now under way with individual commissioners.

An additional issue: in March, the 'backpack area' sign at Playalinda was moved a half-mile south, reducing the traditional naturist area by half. Three tourists—one from Virginia and a Nova Scotia couple—were shortly cited and fined \$150 for straying a hundred feet or so beyond the sole sign posted on this very wide beach. Would these tourists now eagerly contemplate a return trip to Brevard County, or recommend a Florida vacation to friends at home?

One must assume that Theodore Roosevelt, the creator of the National Park system and a skinny-dipper himself, were he alive today, would be bewildered at all this fury over the naturists, CANA's most numerous patrons, who just want their fair share of the shore—or rather, to be left in peace at the traditional 2 miles of remote naturist-use beach along the 24 miles of CANA's Atlantic shoreline. ☀

*Additional information:*

[www.central-fla-naturists.org](http://www.central-fla-naturists.org)

[www.naturistaction.org](http://www.naturistaction.org) > *Success Stories* > *Apollo* contains the full text of Superintendent Newkirk's proposal and the General Agreement for Apollo Beach negotiated by NAC. It was also a primary source for historic information throughout this article.

Or email Bob Allen at: [playalinda2008@aol.com](mailto:playalinda2008@aol.com)



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