

South Florida Free Beaches  
Florida Naturist Association

# The SunDial

*The Journal of Florida Naturism*

Spring 2009

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



*photo: Anne Sue Fischer*

## *The Jungle Nature Trail at Sunsport Gardens*

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### A nude beach in the Conch Republic?

Talk about getting a clothing-optional beach in the Keys goes back many years. Recently, however, there have been some developments that show great promise that this may soon become a reality.

### Florida Keys Free Beaches

Back in November 2008 the first strategy meeting was held in Miami by SFFB and B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation with a number of Florida Keys naturist residents. Subsequent meetings in Key West in early 2009 resulted in the formation of a committee initially named *Florida Keys Free Beaches*. A six-member board was elected of Keys residents; advisors to the group include Tom Chittenden, SFFB's first president, now a Key West resident; my wife Shirley of B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation; and myself. This is not a social club but a political action committee with the express purpose of obtaining clothing-optional beaches in the Keys.

On March 21, FKFB members attended a charette-style meeting of the Friends of Higgs Beach (not a naturist group). About 75 people attended, including Key West and Monroe County officials. FKFB floated the idea of a c/o beach during break-out sessions. SFFB provided copies of its Naturist Government Affairs packet to both a Monroe County and a Key West commissioner that attended; that's the same material we present to Florida state and local legislators annually.

Subsequently, copies of the Naturist Government Affairs packet were delivered to the other city and county commissioners, and to a number of key hospitality business leaders, either in person by FKFB members, or by mail.

### Higgs Beach

The only county beach in Key West, Higgs Beach, had recently been allocated money for improvement from Tourism Development Council funds. At an April 15 meeting of the Monroe County Commission, Commissioner Sylvia Murphy suggested the possibility of including a c/o area at Higgs; this was seconded by Commissioner Mario di Gennaro. The Board voted 4 to 2 to ask County Attorney Suzanne Hutton to research the feasibility and legal issues. Shirley Mason shortly sent Ms. Hutton case law on the relevant Florida statutes.

### Key West Free Beaches

FKFB decided on a name change to reflect the new interest in a Key West location. So from now on, we'll refer to KWFB rather than FKFB; however, it is the same committee. There is a new web site: [www.kwfb.org](http://www.kwfb.org)

### Higgs or Smathers?

Shirley and I traveled down to Key West at the beginning of May, along with SFFB & B.E.A.C.H.E.S. board member Albert Pantaleon. We attended several meetings along with KWFB principals Tracy & Alan Leigh, Dean Townsend, Herman de Boer, and Tom Chittenden.

### May 6, 2009

In separate meetings, we met with Key West Commissioner Teri Johnston and Monroe County Commissioner Heather Carrouthers. Both commissioners indicated that they were favorable to a c/o beach in Key West. We raised the issue of establishing a c/o area not at Higgs, but at Smathers Beach, a Key West city beach. KWFB feels that mile-long Smathers on the east side of the island, away from downtown, would be a better logistic choice than the much smaller Higgs.

### May 7, 2009

We met with John Giuliano, Executive Director of the Key West Business Guild, in a meeting arranged by KWFB member Dean Townsend. Mr. Giuliano said that his organization's members are 100% in favor of our proposal and the organization would provide a letter of support, and solicit letters of support from individual businesses.

Later we met with two members of the Monroe County Tourist Development Council, Executive Director Harold Wheeler and Director of Marketing Research Jessica Bennett. Mr. Wheeler said the TDC would add a nude beach question to its website visitor survey. SFFB will post a link to the survey when the TDC implements it.

By the way, if you haven't signed up for the SFFB newsletter, we invite you to do so now, so we can inform you when the survey is running. Just go to [www.sffb.com](http://www.sffb.com) and use the sign-up link at the right.

Shirley Mason later met with Assistant Monroe County Attorney Christine Limbert-Barrow, who had been assigned the c/o beach project by County Attorney Suzanne Hutton. Since the City of Key West does have an anti-nudity ordinance (though Monroe County does not), Ms. Limbert-Barrow agreed that would be one obstacle to the Smathers Beach location. However, she observed the law was poorly written and could be modified to conform to Florida Statute 800.03, under which case law does not criminalize nudity absent lewd behavior. Shirley gave Ms. Limbert-Barrow a copy of B.E.A.C.H.E.S.' Program Partner agreement with the Miami-Dade County Parks Department for Haulover Beach.

### Prospects & Plans

KWFB preliminary inquiries indicate that of the six-member Key West City Commission, three would be likely to vote in favor of a c/o beach at this point. As the mayor, who has a tie-breaking vote, has indicated opposition, we would need to pick up at least one more commission vote. A



favorable vote would need to include the necessary modification to the Key West anti-nudity ordinance. The support of business interests and the community will be a key element here. Higgs remains a fall-back site if a Smathers site can't be negotiated with the City of Key West.

KWFB has assigned responsibilities for various aspects of this program to 8 individuals. This will include among other things, the preparation of a Power Point presentation and a video, arranging live interviews on local media outlets, writing press releases, writing a revision to the Key West anti-nudity ordinance, and further meetings with local, county and state legislators, as well as with tourism interests.

### Florida Legislature

In 2007 and 2008, we had to deal with a number of bills that would have modified Florida Statute 800.03: HB 801, SB 2354, HB 269, SB 1842, SB 2058, HB 41 & SB 2544. We opposed them, and none passed.

This year was relatively quiet. We opposed SB 1428 (House companion 793), which would have modified FS 901.15 to allow warrantless arrests for FS 800.03 (indecent exposure). We felt this would erode constitutional protections, and encourage false and grudge accusations.

Both bills were withdrawn from consideration on May 2nd.

### Florida State Parks

Some 25 years ago, a change in the Florida Administrative Code closed traditional nude use areas at a number of state parks, such as Honeymoon Island, Bahia Honda and MacArthur Beach State Park.

In the next few months we'll be traveling to Tallahassee to meet with state administrators to explore the possibility of having this modified to allow c/o areas again at select state parks. Ramon Maury, SFFB's lobbyist, has meanwhile been doing some preliminary inquiries.

### The Value of Organization

People sometimes ask, "Why should I contribute to SFFB?" Well, I hope the above will give you a clue. We employ a legislative lobbyist in Tallahassee, and it costs money to do this and to print Naturist Government Affairs packets and to maintain a website and to provide an e-newsletter to keep you informed of breaking developments. I and the other SFFB board members aren't paid, but we incur expenses for trips on SFFB business, such as the ones we've discussed above.

Please consider joining or donating.

*Richard Mason*

## The SunDial A Quarterly Journal of Florida Naturism

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# B.E.A.C.H.E.S

## Foundation Institute

B.E.A.C.H.E.S. hosted the first of its planned 2009 special events – *Love the Skin You're In* – at Haulover Beach February 20-22. Future events are scheduled for:

**July 10-12**  
**October 23-25**  
**December 31-January 2**  
*(pending logistic approval)*

Event specifics & updates will be posted at  
**[www.beachesfoundation.org](http://www.beachesfoundation.org)**

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## “Love the Skin You’re In”



Mark Orpen photos



Ed Weber photos

Additional event info on page 10





Mark Orpen photos



Frank Wendeln photos



Richard & Shirley Mason  
pose with Rene & Tom of  
Under the Sun  
at the trailer donated to  
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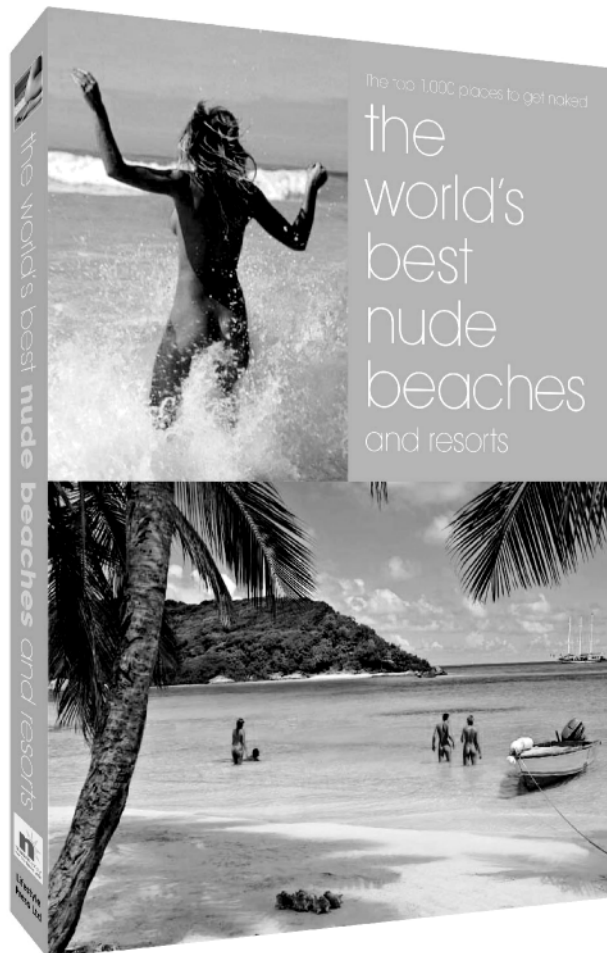
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This latest edition of the famous "Baxandall Guide" is a great reference guide. It's also a great way of presenting naturism and nude recreation to non-naturist friends who may be curious.

*Offer expires July 31, 2009. Book will be mailed separately from membership cards; please allow 30 days for processing and delivery.*

## **FREE: SUBSCRIBE TO THE SFFB MONTHLY EMAIL NEWSLETTER**

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# SFFB/FNA SPONSORSHIP & AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

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# B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation Institute

from  
page 5

## 2009-10 Capital Improvement & Programming Campaign for Haulover Beach

In keeping with B.E.A.C.H.E.S.' Mission, the capital improvements are both in harmony with and continue to fulfill the approved Haulover Park Master Plan. B.E.A.C.H.E.S. uses part of the proceeds from its Program Partnership concession at Haulover, from private donations, and from its scheduled 2009-10 special events at Haulover for the following activities and projects:

**Hire a full-time grant writer** to help B.E.A.C.H.E.S. provide better physical access for the handicapped public by **purchasing wheelchairs**, equipment and staff to assist, maintain and administer **B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Handicapped Accessibility Program**; build additional chickee (tiki) huts for needed shade throughout the beach (a health and safety issue); **expand** Haulover's **clothing-optional area** with dune plantings and restoration; conduct **Sunshine Health Literacy** and **Save Our Beaches** educational programming; and train additional volunteers for the **Haulover Beach Ambassador Program**.



B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation is now certified to receive donations through the eBay Giving Works program.

The program is administered by MissionFish, a 501 (c) (3) that is a collaboration of the Points of Light Institute, Pew Charitable Trusts, and The Case Foundation.

**eBay sellers:** Please consider making a donation of 10% or more to B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation or another charity of your choice the next time you offer an item for sale on eBay. Giving Works ID #30900.

**Naturist Businesses:** Make a 100% donation of goods or services to B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation for it to auction directly. Receive a tax credit and mention on B.E.A.C.H.E.S. web site.

For additional information (PDF format):

[www.beachesfoundation.org/givingworks.pdf](http://www.beachesfoundation.org/givingworks.pdf)

B.E.A.C.H.E.S. would like to thank the co-sponsors & vendors at the *Love the Skin You're In* event.

The Naturist Society – naturistsociety.com

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A Special Heart-Felt "Thank You"

The service, products, talent and skills of the numerous volunteers and businesses were invaluable to this event. It's always been a selfless community effort to improve this facility and preserve Haulover's legal nude status. Let's show our appreciation by supporting them.

### RAFFLE & SILENT AUCTION GIFTS

Club Orient – Saint Martin – cluborient.com

Bare Oaks Naturist Park – BareOaks.com

Newport Beachside Resort – Sunny Isles Beach, FL

SunSport Gardens – sunsportgardens.com

Kaufman Towels (terry robe and lounge chair towel)

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## Playalinda Beach Update

There is no federal anti-nudity law, and one of the most popular naturist beaches is at Gunnison Beach, Sandy Hook, New Jersey, part of the National Park Service; here signs are posted clearly marking the clothing-optional area. (See [www.gunnisonbeach.org](http://www.gunnisonbeach.org))

Canaveral National Seashore (CANA) features two traditional naturist beach areas; but here some issues have precluded such an open acceptance as at Gunnison. (See our Spring '08 *SunDial* feature, available online at [www.sffb.com](http://www.sffb.com) for the history.) The CANA web site ([www.nps.gov/cana](http://www.nps.gov/cana)) currently states in its FAQ section:

*“Brevard County ordinance 95-21 prohibits public nudity throughout Brevard County, including the Playalinda Beach area of the National Seashore. For more information regarding this ordinance, or to express your concerns, please contact the Brevard County Sheriff’s Department, or speak with a law enforcement ranger.”*

The penalty is a maximum of \$500 and/or 60 days in jail. What the web site doesn’t state is that there is no comparable ordinance in Volusia County, in which the northern part of CANA lies, where naturists also use the southern area of Apollo Beach. What the web site also doesn’t state is that, per 95-21, CANA could opt out of the Brevard ordinance at any time by naming the naturist area as one “expressly designated, with signage or otherwise, as a location where nude sunbathing is permitted.”

Visitors need to decide for themselves whether to skinny-dip at Playalinda. However, since the enactment of the Brevard ordinance in 1995, arrests have been exceptional and sporadic. The rangers do not enforce the local Brevard anti-nudity ordinance; Brevard sheriff’s deputies may, but don’t currently regularly patrol CANA just to enforce this one ordinance. The distinction involves some legal and pragmatic issues of concurrent jurisdiction and of judicial venue that would apply to such arrests and prosecutions.

My friend Marianna and I visited Playalinda Beach on Wednesday April 29th to check out current conditions.

Driving in, you’ll see a very large sign by the toll booth warning against beach nudity. There’s another sign



Priorities?

as the road bends north before the beach parking areas begin. The same large signs are also prominent at dune crossovers 13 and 14, which lead to the traditional clothing-optional use area. Judging just by relative sign size, environmental & safety concerns are less of an issue.

We drove in around 9 AM and paid our \$3 per person fee. We counted a total of 10 vehicles spread among parking lots 1 through 12; these are the “textile” beach areas.

There were already 20 cars parked in lot 13. Two rangers were sitting in their vehicles at the end of the public roadway, and we chatted with them pleasantly for a minute or two. Like they really care we’re going skinny-dipping.

The traditional clothing-optional beach area now extends about one-half mile from crossover 13 north to the “back-country” area. It was once longer, but the back-country area was recently expanded southward. A \$2 permit allows you to enter this area of the public commons; otherwise you may get fined. If you paid your money and walked about twelve miles north, you’d be at the traditional clothing-optional area of Apollo Beach, accessible by vehicle only by a circuitous drive of some fifty miles from Playalinda.

We ran into Marianna’s friend “Fisherman Wayne,” a beach regular who always brings his fishing gear to the beach. We spent a pleasant six hours sunbathing and skinny-dipping without incident. By noon we estimated there were around 100 naturists at the beach—plus a few unobtrusive clothed gawkers.

I strolled up and down the beach, and aside from one small pile of cigarette butts, there was no trash. So if you visit, pack out what you bring in; there are trash receptacles by the dune crossovers, including bins for recyclables.

When we left at 3 PM all 48 parking spaces in lot 13 were filled; none of the “textile” beach lots were anywhere close to full, with an average of perhaps 9 cars per lot.

I could only visit the beach that day, but Marianna visited the next three days as well. She estimates that on Friday and Saturday there were about 400 naturists on the beach each day, and notes that the four parking lots nearest the naturist area were full when she left on those days.

As the parking areas are about one-quarter mile apart, be prepared to walk and bring wheeled carts for your gear, or rack your bicycles on your car, especially on weekends. There’s a hefty fine if you don’t park in a designated spot.

One should note that Playalinda (but not Apollo) is closed for a number of days in advance of shuttle launches, and plan visits accordingly; information on closures, and a park map, are posted on the CANA web site noted above.

CANA’s beaches have chemical toilets at the parking lots, but no water, no showers, no concessions, and no life-guards at the traditional naturist areas. There is some rather dated information on CANA’s naturist beach areas at [www.central-fla-naturists.org](http://www.central-fla-naturists.org) ☀

Michael Kush

## Naturist Youth Camp by Stephanie Reamer

If you went to Sunsport Gardens during the week of July 20 thru July 27, 2008, chances are you at least heard the kids. It was the second annual Sunsport Gardens Youth Camp, and once again this year I was a counselor. This year camp was so much better than last year. The kids that were here were all really amazing, the activities were fun and who could ever forget the trip we took to Haulover Beach.

For 2008 we had nine campers. They had a lot of fun. At closing circle a couple of the kids said there was absolutely nothing they would change about camp next year, and every single one of them can not wait to come back next year. One of the campers suggested maybe having a horseback riding activity next year. I think that would be a pretty cool idea. I won't forget any of the kids that were here and how much fun we had while they were here.

We had so many activities planned for this year that we didn't even get to finish them all. We went in the pool at least twice every day. The pool is always a big hit with the kids; can you blame them it was really hot that week. We also had tons of activities that involved huge amounts of water. We had water slides, water balloon tosses, and relay races, all to cool the kids off. Morley had wonderful workshops for the kids that taught accepting other people's differences, the change your body is going through, and the difference between things that are different due to age of things and that are different due to the way you were born. To me it seemed like the kids had so much fun that the whole year till youth camp next year is going to seem to take an eternity.

One thing I don't think anyone, child and adult alike, will ever forget is our trip to Haulover Beach. Jumping in the waves and playing in the sand, what could be more fun? The kids had a blast. (Don't let any of the adults fool you. They had, if not as much fun as the kids, more). I am sure everyone agrees that we appreciate the lunch and safe trip South Florida Free Beaches provided for us that day. And even though it threatened to rain, the clouds passed right over us for a perfect day ending in a pizza party.

I cannot wait until next year. My mom, who also happens to be the camp director, says that already a group of at least six more kids are planning to come next year. All you sixteen years or older kids that want to be counselors, we will need more that just me. All the fun is over at least until next July. ☀



Tropical Botany Walk

**2009 Naturist Youth Camp  
Sunsport Gardens Family Naturist Resort**

**July 19 thru July 26**

**For information contact Camp Director  
Sandi Reamer at 800-551-7217**

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



Morning Stretch

photos:  
Grey Vanaman

  
the naturist society  
[www.naturistsociety.com](http://www.naturistsociety.com)



# Tan & Green: Putting Nature Back in Naturism

## FLORIDA'S ECO-NATURIST RESORTS

by Michael Kush

### Prelude

Many nudists in the U.S. probably aren't aware that naturist pioneers like Heinrich Pudor and Richard Ungewitter had wider concerns than the physical and psychological benefits of nudism, including diet reform (often advocating vegetarianism), temperance, and a turn to a way of life in harmony with the natural world. While many nudist resorts, lack of clothing aside, are indistinguishable from a textile private gated community, others still try to preserve green space and maintain a more natural environment.



Sunnier Palms wildlife sanctuary

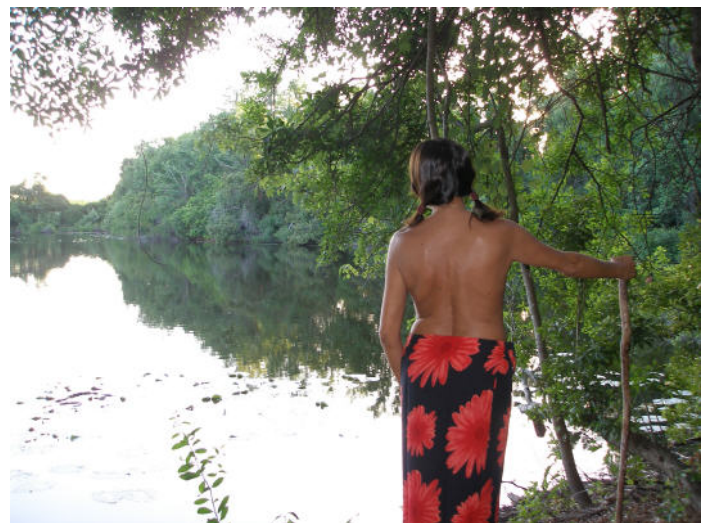
*photo: Michael Cooney*

**A version of this article first appeared in  
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Two views of Heron Lake from Lake Como's secluded Gerald & Thekla wetland trail

*photos: Michael Kush*



**Lake Como Family Nudist Resort** in Lutz became a resident-owned cooperative in 1997, and the shareholders must approve any substantive land use change. The resort was once noted for three orange groves bordering on the north, west and south. Aside from a few remnant trees, these are now gone, a victim to decreasing orange yield, and the high cost of replanting in citrus to maintain an agricultural zoning on that land. Instead, the shareholders chose to replant 26 acres in slash pine, a far less costly undertaking, both initially and ongoing, as the pines don't require the fertilizers, herbicides, fungicides, and pesticides that the orange trees would have. The new trees will eventually provide extensive shady bowers for walks and

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## TAN & GREEN

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picnics, as well as for wildlife, and will be selectively harvested when mature, allowing for a mixture of old and new growth.

In addition to the 26 acres of pine, Como's current Forest Management Plan, written by Pasco County Forester Arthur Clothier on February 27, 2006, identifies 25 acres of old cypress stand. In 2007 Como was accepted into the Pasco County Forest Stewardship program, which fosters combined land usage for timber, wildlife, recreation, and water management, with an emphasis on improving the habitat for hawks, deer, songbirds, and other wild species.

In addition to the 51 acres of woodland, Como's 200 acres includes 60 acres of wetland. Thus more than half the acreage is undeveloped, or has been "planted back" to a more natural setting. Five lakes are on or border the resort, including 35 acre central Big Moss Lake. Como's Friends of Nature volunteers have adopted the Naked Duck Pond in the south grove under Pasco's Adopt-a-Pond program, having planted a number of native species in and around the pond. It also holds monthly "green days" on which volunteers remove exotics and non-native species throughout the resort.

Como has two nature trail systems. The Orange Blossom Trail, about a mile in length, is accessible by bike or golf cart, as well as on foot. It runs along marshy Deer Lake in the west grove, then between the old cypress trees and new pine plantations in the west and south groves.

The Gerald and Thekla Wetlands Trail, named for the two residents largely responsible for its development, provides about one-third of a mile of foot paths, and runs through a canopy of mostly cypress. A hundred feet or so down the trail there's a small clearing with benches that's a nice place for a quiet read or for meditation. The clearing marks a split in the trail. The left fork runs northwest and ends at Sunset Point on Big Moss Lake; the right fork continues along Heron Lake to a small clearing with an overview of that lake and then on into a stand of ferns. Heron Lake, originally a burrow pit of perhaps seven acres created in the 70s, is now well-stocked with fish, turtles, and other aquatic life.

In 2008, Como adopted a single-stream recycling system as it became available, allowing for the recycling of metal cans, glass, paper, and most plastics. It also installed saline systems in the pool and hot tub, which greatly reduce the need for chemical additives. The water is maintained at salinity close to that of human tears, and electrolytic cells generate chlorine as the water passes through the system. An additional advantage is that the chlorination is largely confined to the cells, rendering the water far easier on the eyes.

**Sunnier Palms** is a "re-creation" of the earlier Sunny Palms Nudist Resort in Dade County, which included 40 acres of pine forest, of which only 5 acres were developed. When the owner sold the property to DuPont in 1984, some Sunny members started looking for a new site, and eventually found one in St. Lucie County. Sunnier has only about a dozen full-time residents and 55 trailer/RV sites, and adjacent to the smaller developed area is a 12-acre wildlife sanctuary, a native pine forest surrounded by canals and citrus groves. Visitors may tent in the sanctuary, but they have to carry in their gear as no vehicles of any kind are permitted.

Sunnier is a volunteer operated co-operative nudist park and wildlife sanctuary; perhaps uniquely among nudist facilities, it offers discounts not only to members of the national nudist organizations, but also to members of major environmental groups. Its charter stipulates that no member may profit from the operation; indeed, it mandates that if the property should ever be sold, any profit must be gifted to another nonprofit. Resident T. A. ("Toni") Wyner notes, "If folks know nothing about Sunnier, they need to know the dedication of volunteer members whose talent and commitment have made Sunnier the success it is and will hopefully continue to be in perpetuity for the benefit of Naturists for generations to come." And, one may add, not only for the benefit of Naturists.

Sunnier has had the Sierra Club, the Audubon Society, the Conservation Alliance, the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission and several biologists, botanists and Native Americans help identify flora, fauna, birds, insects, snakes, and fish to compile a hefty species list including several endangered species; among them are: pileated and other woodpeckers, Chuck-will's-widows, snail kites, sandhill cranes, woodstorks, great horned owls, wild boar, gopher tortoises, bobcats and deer. Sunnier's property is in the eight mile circle of the local Audubon Society's annual bird count, in which it assists.

Sunnier grows the host plants of numerous butterfly species, and provides live butterfly displays constantly on loan to schools, scouts and other educational facilities and organizations—a project begun by Wyner back when she lived at Sunny Palms. In 1994, Sunnier harvested hundreds of larvae, caterpillars, and chrysalides of the rare *Atala* butterfly from a neighboring development, where its cycads, the butterfly's host plant, were being inundated by *Atala* because of the absence of a local bird population. Just before the *Atala* were about to be killed with a pesticide at the development, cycads were planted at Sunnier, and the butterflies relocated there.

Sunnier has planted exotic Chinese litchi fruit trees, and there are also coconut palms, macadamia nut, passion fruit, papaya, mango and assorted other fruit, nut or spice trees. The County's Master Gardener Director approved a Master Gardener's request to serve his mandatory field hours at Sunnier, and in one year he has volunteered more than 100



hours. Also provided is a common garden area where residents may grow fruits and vegetables, and the resort composts its own green manures. Outside its own grounds, Sunnier has actively participated in many local community green projects, including mapping horse, bike and pedestrian trails.

**Sunsport Gardens Family Naturist Resort** was established by German immigrant Hugo Forester in 1965; the land was formerly a tomato farm. According to long-time resident Tex Reutter, Forester rented a plane and flew over South Florida, suddenly exclaiming to the pilot “Dat’s de plaze!” when he saw the 40 acres that he would gradually transform into a tropical Eden, digging ponds and planting trees, largely with his own hands. At Forester’s death in 2001, his heir, a nephew living in Germany, honored his uncle’s legacy by refusing to sell the property for non-nudist use, though he could have gotten more money if he had. The new owners now continue Hugo’s vision, with the cooperation of many volunteer residents, with eco-friendliness a key value.

Today, Sunsport has a natural feel with ponds and canals with vegetation on their banks and unpaved roads to encourage wildlife, and it hosts many varieties of water and land birds, lizards including iguanas, armadillos, bobcats, red fox, turtles, fish and otters. Naturist Action Committee board member Morley Schloss and John Koch, president of the regional chapter of the Sierra Club, are both Sunsport board members and shareholders who have long advocated protecting the environment.

Sunsport has a system of jungle nature trails over 10 acres of the property. Some trails are wide enough to be fire breaks and to provide access for fire equipment. The trails have allowed the staff to reach and eliminate dangerous invasive vines such as *Lygodeum* (old world fern) and air potatoes in the jungle areas. The Florida State Forestry Department is considering using Sunsport as a model in a slide show to demonstrate what can be done to eradicate invasives and prevent forest fires. Complementary to the elimination of invasive species such as the vines, Brazilian pepper trees and Australian pines is the planting of native species which can withstand South Florida’s occasional floods and draughts.

Sunsport has also planted an orchard with 45 varieties of tropical fruit trees such as Carambola (star fruit), Sapodilla, canistel (egg fruit), mangoes, papayas, guavas, bananas, Surinam and Barbados cherries, jobatocoba, soursop, loquats, jakfruit, sapotes, rose apples and various citrus. Sunsport member Don Sanborn operates *Nekked Man Nursery* which sells native plants to members and to the general public.

Sunsport invested \$16,000 for solar panels that are the primary heat source for the swimming pool, hot tub spa and showers, dramatically reducing the use of propane, and

also adds salt to the pool and spa water to reduce the need for chlorine.

The resort’s strong multi-stream recycling program is maintained by member Charles Murray, who may often be seen shifting through the trash to make sure no recyclables were thrown away or placed in the wrong bin. Styrofoam, the one type of plastic which cannot be recycled in Palm Beach County, has been banned from the restaurant. Sunsport is also converting to low energy lighting to reduce energy consumption.

## Postlude

Clothed only with the sun and the gentle breeze, and desiring nothing more for completion, a camper emerges from his tent at Sunsport and watches the play of otters in the pond; sky-clad, in the raiment of nature or of nature’s God or gods, a kayaker skirts the wetland shore along Como’s Big Moss Lake, warming her skin like the shy, lurking alligators in the sun’s new-born morning radiance; quiet bird-calls gently waken the camper in Sunnier’s palm forest, in lieu of the insistent beep of the digital alarm clock, once carefully packed but now thankfully forgotten in favor of nature’s gentler, more organic rhythms. These are moments that cannot ever be forgotten; places that must be preserved for future generations. ☀



The Island at Sunsport Gardens  
photo: Anne Sue Fischer

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