

South Florida Free Beaches
Florida Naturist Association

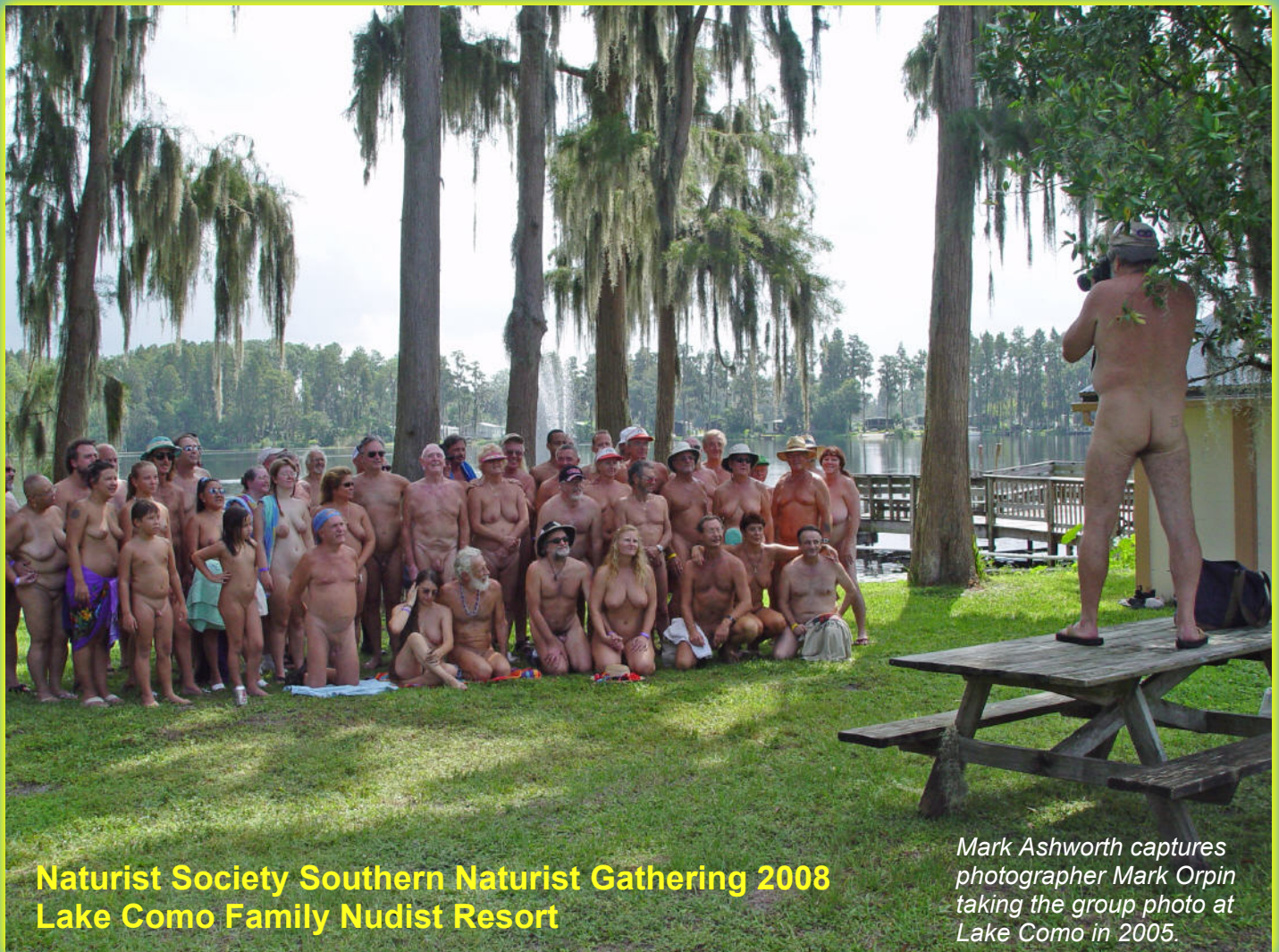
The SunDial

The Journal of Florida Naturism

Summer 2008

Aug. – Sept. Vol. 8 – No. 3

www.sffb.com



**Naturist Society Southern Naturist Gathering 2008
Lake Como Family Nudist Resort**

*Mark Ashworth captures
photographer Mark Orpin
taking the group photo at
Lake Como in 2005.*

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the naturist society
www.naturistsociety.com

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of advocacy for
nude recreation and
body acceptance

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Haulover's Naturist Beach Celebrates its 17th Anniversary

During July, 2008, there were two celebrations on Haulover's Naturist Beach. The first celebration by South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association was on July 12th. We set up our canopies and tables and had two large sheet cakes for our beach visitors. Tom Chittenden, founder and former president of South Florida Free Beaches, drove up from his home in Key West to attend the event. Many old members from the Virginia Key days were there as well.

The second celebration was on July 26th through 28th. This was a Festival sponsored by BEACHES Foundation and South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association. Seven canopies were set up and all three chickee huts were used to provide information, merchandise, ice cream, fresh fruit, mixed tropical drinks, draft beer, and information about naturism, BEACHES Foundation, South Florida Free Beaches and the Naturist Society.

The beach was packed with locals and tourists from many countries. Our information tables were busy answering questions about the history of the naturist beach. We gave away back copies of TNS' *N Magazine* and *Naturally Magazine*. With the ever-changing population of beach visitors, and the many "first timers," it was satisfying to SFFB/FNA members to have created this naturist paradise tropical beach.

Haulover Beach Watch

The Lifeguard Towers are a great addition to the beach. The lifeguards have had to endure the old, hurricane damaged towers for much too long. The new towers will give them greater visibility and the beach visitor improved safety.

Remember to say Thank You to the Lifeguards who are part of a highly trained Beach Safety Unit of the Miami-Dade County Fire Department, when you are on the beach. ***They are there to risk their lives to save yours. There is something special and honorable about that.***

SFFB/FNA lobbied to get the Lifeguards out from the Park Department into the Fire Department where they would have greater resources available to them.

The new restrooms are up and running and we have been getting various complaints at the beach: "They are out of hand soap." "There is no cold water from the water fountain." A peer review of the facility reveals that the hand soap dispensers are too small for the volume of visitors. The same is true with the water fountains. We have reported those issues to the park management. You can do the same by calling: 305-947-3525.

Has anyone noticed that the large informational signs that were at the entrances to the naturist beach have been missing for the past year? The signs that had the words "Beyond this point you may encounter nude sunbathers." This is a very important sign for avoiding user conflict. What does it mean? Hello folks. Is anyone using this beach paying attention? It is suggested you do!

Playalinda Beach at Canaveral National Seashore

The management of Playalinda Beach has been hostile to the naturist beach users for the past year, from the reports we are receiving. They continue to call the Brevard County Sheriff's Department requesting deputies to visit the naturist beach because of inappropriate behavior. This scam is their way of building a file of incident reports to use against the naturist beach visitors.

The Friends of Playalinda Beach, led by Bob Allen, after being disrespected by the park management by having their offers to help ignored, have tried to meet with the new Regional Director, Southeast Region, David Vela in Atlanta. Mr. Vela has not yet responded to Mr. Allen, and requests to meet have been ignored. Mr. Vela, however, did respond to Senator Nelson, to whom Allen had sent a copy of his letter to Vela. Mr. Nelson kindly sent a copy of the letter to Mr. Allen.

Mr. Allen believes there is much misinformation in Mr. Vela's response to Senator Nelson, and has written in response to Mr. Nelson. Among numerous items, Vela notes Brevard anti-nudity ordinance 95-21, without noting this ordinance contains an exception for designated places; he further notes the so-called "Weldon Amendment" to U.S. Public Law 108-7 Sec. 128 prohibiting the posting of signs in national parks designating clothing-optional areas where there is a local ordinance, without realizing this amendment was allowed to lapse in the 110th Congress in 2007; and he cites incidents of "disorderly conduct" at Canaveral without documentation of what the nature of those incidents were, or whether they actually occurred in the traditional clothing-optional areas.

Another example of discrimination cited by Mr. Allen against naturists by current Canaveral Superintendent Clark is her insistence that naturist volunteers for erecting dune fencing would have to undergo criminal background checks, while this has never been required of non-naturist volunteers for periodic beach clean-ups. As Mr. Allen notes in his letter, why not require criminal background checks of all visitors to the Seashore?

In addition to Senator Nelson, Bob Allen has responded to the Vela letter with a letter to Senator Martinez, as well as most of the Florida U.S. Congressional Delegation.

The battle for naturist rights at Playalinda is heating up. Petitions are available at the beach on weekends at the SFFB/FNA canopy or at the chickee hut ice cream stand. If you are a naturist beach user, this is your battle too. Support the fight to save our Free Beaches.

SFFB/FNA has tried to keep naturists abreast of the issue through the new Email newsletter. If you have not signed up, do so now. It is free. You can sign up through our web site: www.sffb.com or at the beach canopy or chickee hut ice cream stand.

Brevard County, Florida: The Election Cycle

Brevard County has a county commission of five commissioners. Three are not running for re-election.

Background: The Brevard County Commission voted in an anti-nudity ordinance in 1995 on a 3 to 2 vote. The three pro-anti-nudity commissioners are leaving. It is by this ordinance, arguably a misuse of concurrent jurisdiction, that the Canaveral management is harassing naturists at Playalinda.

Of the many candidates running for the three empty seats, there are three that have promised to review the anti nudity ordinance. SFFB/FNA and the Friends of Playalinda are supporting those three. Also, a candidate for sheriff in Brevard County is running against the incumbent based on the Playalinda issue. If elected, he promised to leave the naturists alone and not send deputies to Playalinda to harass them. Contact Bob Allen to get those names at Playalinda2008@aol.com.

Naturists have an opportunity to make a difference this year in Brevard County. If you live there, vote, volunteer or donate to our candidates. If you don't live there you can still volunteer if in the area or donate. Info available through same sources as above. This is an important way to save Playalinda.

San Onofre, California

Orange County Superior Court Judge Sheila Fell sided with the Naturist Action Committee and ruled that the Director of California Parks cannot close the naturist beach at San Onofre State Park without a public hearing. NAC awaits a final ruling on the matter. Stay tuned. The Naturist Action Committee, who has supported us in Florida in our fights to stop anti nudity legislation, also needs financial help to continue their nationwide legal efforts to preserve naturist rights. Send to: NAC PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903. Make check out to NAC. Or they take Visa / Mastercard at www.naturistaction.org

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The SunDial A Quarterly Journal of Florida Naturism

Ad info & issue archive: www.sffb.com/sundial.html

Email: sundial@sffb.com *Phone:* 305-620-7090

Editing & Design: Michael Kush *Print Run:* 10,000

Printer: Thompson Press, Miami, FL

Publisher: So. Fl. Free Beaches/Fl. Naturist Assoc. Inc.
PO Box 530306, Miami Shores, FL 33153

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Holland: Land of the Free Beach

**Bart
Wijnberg**

*Excerpted & adapted with
permission from the longer article
appearing in the Summer 2008
issue of The Naturist Society's
N Magazine.*



photos by Bart Wijnberg

There are more than 160 nude beaches in the Netherlands, although the country is no larger than 150 x 200 miles. As many as 60 naturist swims at indoor pools and numerous spas complete this picture. There's something for the whole family.

The Dutch law on public nudity might sound like a dream to most US naturists, and yet it is reality, and has not been questioned politically since its inception. The Dutch Naturist Federation, of which I was President at the time, got the help of a senator, well-versed in legislation and a staunch naturist himself. It was in the mid-70s that this law was passed.

The law states (in translation): *"A municipal council can designate public places for nude recreation. Outside those designated public places one can still legally enjoy nude recreation as long as that place is suitable for that purpose."*

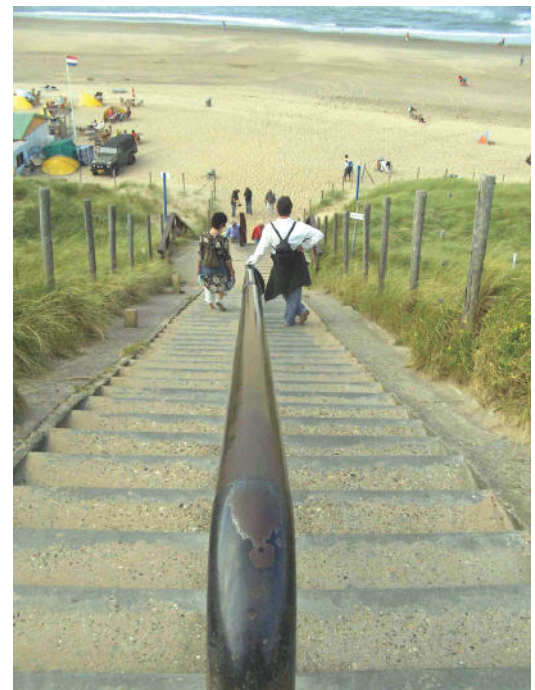
The challenge was to satisfy two different constituencies. The Netherlands federation had to keep both happy and avoid opposition. The first constituency was the municipal councils. They had to get some power, or at least the feeling of having some. Hence the start of the legal text: "municipalities can designate specific places..." But knowing that some of these municipal councils, especially in some coastal areas, might be conservative, the Dutch built in a kind of safety valve: the notion of "suitable" places. In other words, even if a council did not designate some area for clothing-optional use, it could still be a suitable place and give impunity to the nude user. It is in the end the judge who would have to decide. That addressed the concerns of the second constituency: the naturists and others who would like to enjoy nude recreation. So everybody was happy, because this seemed to be a balanced approach.

We have had a few court cases, but the sound legal basis has safeguarded acquittal in most if not all: judges deemed the place where nude recreation occurred—outside any specifically designated area—to be "suitable".

When I explained this law and the Dutch acceptance of it to an American naturist friend, his comment was, "It is so *sane*, and so *un-American*. I am green with envy." ☀

Scheveningen Beach in the Hague is its oldest, officially designated as a naturist beach in the 70s; up and down from beginning to end is about a hour's stroll.

Signposts at either end announce it's a designated naturist beach, and a wooden fence erected along the length of the naturist section allows "textiles" to pass around the naturists.



A Very Brief History of The Naturist Society by Mark Storey

Lee Baxandall becomes a naturist activist

In the summer of 1974, the superintendent of the Cape Cod National Seashore proposed a ban on nudity to include the traditionally clothing-optional Truro beaches on the Atlantic side of Cape Cod. He argued that the nude use was attracting too large a crowd for the site.

Lee Baxandall and some other free beach enthusiasts developed a support group—the Free the Free Beach Committee—to protest the ban. Since Lee Baxandall was the only self-employed member of the group, and thus had job security, the task fell to him to be the public spokesperson for the group. With his ownership of a publishing firm in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, he was also the obvious choice to direct any activist writing projects that came up.

In May 1976, Baxandall met with Beachfront USA*—another free beach advocacy group—in Los Angeles to discuss ways of combining their efforts and to advance the free beach movement. They agreed to designate August 7, 1976 as National Nude Beach Day in order to make inroads on the public's view of beach nudity. In coming years, this successful event would become National Nude Weekend; and in 1992 it became National Nude Recreation Week. TNS and other naturist organizations each year receive hundreds of phone calls from inquisitive media representatives trying to figure out what is going on. It gives TNS the chance to explain the principles of naturism, and to alert members of the general public to the clothing-optional opportunities in their regions.

Baxandall and others also agreed that a center to store the primary materials of the clothing-optional movement was needed. Baxandall volunteered to use his Oshkosh facilities to house these documents and to have Oshkosh be the physical location for a new Free Beaches Documentation Center. Initially, the FBDC concentrated on collecting information pertaining to free beaches, but soon expanded to concern itself with all elements of clothing-free use of public lands. It intended to preserve documents such as posters, flyers, manifestos, news items, photographs, legal documents, and publicity paraphernalia for use by students and writers with serious interest.

In June 1976, FBDC began publication and distribution of Free Beaches newspaper. Copies were available for the price of a donation to the FBDC. The tabloid provided updates on where readers could rec-

reate nude, and it kept them abreast of challenges to their naturist freedoms.

Birth of The Naturist Society

By the end of the 1970s, Baxandall and other free beach leaders on both the East and the West coasts saw the need for a broader-ranging, centralized naturist organization. The American Sunbathing Association was serving the needs of nudist clubs that owned property, but did virtually nothing for nude use on public lands. Defenders and promoters of clothing-optional beaches, hot springs, or just naturism in general were isolated at best, and in many regions nonexistent. Baxandall called for an organizing conference to be held in San Francisco in May 1980. Beach leaders, coming from both sides of the nation, met to agree on how to proceed effectively and efficiently to promote and defend clothes-free use of beaches.

Attendees agreed that the unifying organization's business office should be called The Naturists, Inc., and that the organizational membership should be called The Naturist Society. By the time TNS issued its first set of membership cards in September 1980, it had 879 paying members, as well as dozens of contributors.

article continues on page 10

**editor's note: Beachfront USA was profiled in the Spring & Summer 2006 issues of the SunDial, available online at www.sffb.com.*



TNS's Nicky Hoffman Lee (right) at Haulover Beach

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

Keeping Our Beaches Bare

B.E.A.C.H.E.S. FOUNDATION WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING BUSINESSES AND INDIVIDUALS FOR DONATING OR CONTRIBUTING AT A VASTLY REDUCED RATE TO THE HAULOVER 17TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN SPECIAL EVENT. WITHOUT THEIR HELP, THIS EVENT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE. SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION BY SUPPORTING THEIR ESTABLISHMENTS.

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SFFB does not share, sell or publish its email list.



Haulover's clothing-optional section 17th anniversary party: July 2008

*Thanks to the individuals and companies
assisting at the event - see page 6*



photos: Ed Weber



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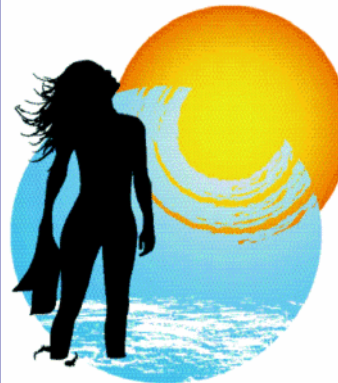
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The Naturist Society from page 5

TNS Naturist Gatherings and Festivals

One of the central features of TNS from its first year in existence was its member-driven regional Gatherings. TNS' first Gathering was held on October 24-26, 1980 at Elysium in Topanga Canyon, California. TNS accepted club owner Ed Lange's gracious invitation to use his club grounds to host this convention of free beach, hot spring, and naturist club leaders, as well as any TNS member who cared to join the discussions.

One innovation announced at the 1980 Gathering was the formulation of Naturist Special Interest Groups, or SIGs. Baxandall got the idea of SIGs from the Mensa group. SIGs were to provide a common meeting point on topics and activities of interest to TNS members.

In 1981, TNS held its first Eastern Naturist Gathering at Pine Tree Association in Maryland, one of the East Coast's oldest and best-established nudist clubs. Every year since then, TNS has had at least one Gathering on both the East and the West coasts. In the 2000s, the trend has been to highlight two major Gatherings: one each on the West and East Coasts, with regional Festivals in other parts of the country.

The Gatherings and Festivals bring together naturists from around the country for educational seminars, legislative updates, sports and games, and the chance to meet, support, and learn from one another. Some events have as few as 50 attendees; others have attracted nearly 800. Each is successful due to the volunteer efforts of TNS members who host the majority of the seminars, workshops, displays, and performances. It's at the Gatherings and Festivals that TNS' grassroots spirit is most clearly manifested.

Clothed With the Sun – N Magazine

Some Sun (formerly Free Beaches) readers had complained about its low newspaper quality, so Baxandall chose a more resilient and archival quality for TNS' new magazine, *Clothed with the Sun*. TNS wanted to present the growing trend of clothing-optional beach use to recreation managers and law enforcement officials as being led by people who were organized, well informed, and able to articulate a coherent mission. The professionalism of CWS aided this effort.

The office staff found production and distribution of the magazine much easier than that of the Sun, which was sent out to everyone who made a contribution to FBDC. CWS, on the other hand, was mailed to the TNS membership, who in turn was supplying a large portion of the articles and reviews. Although at present TNS has a cadre of writers willing to provide regular features for TNS' journal, the

vast majority of the magazine's photos and articles are contributed by TNS members and supporters from around the world.

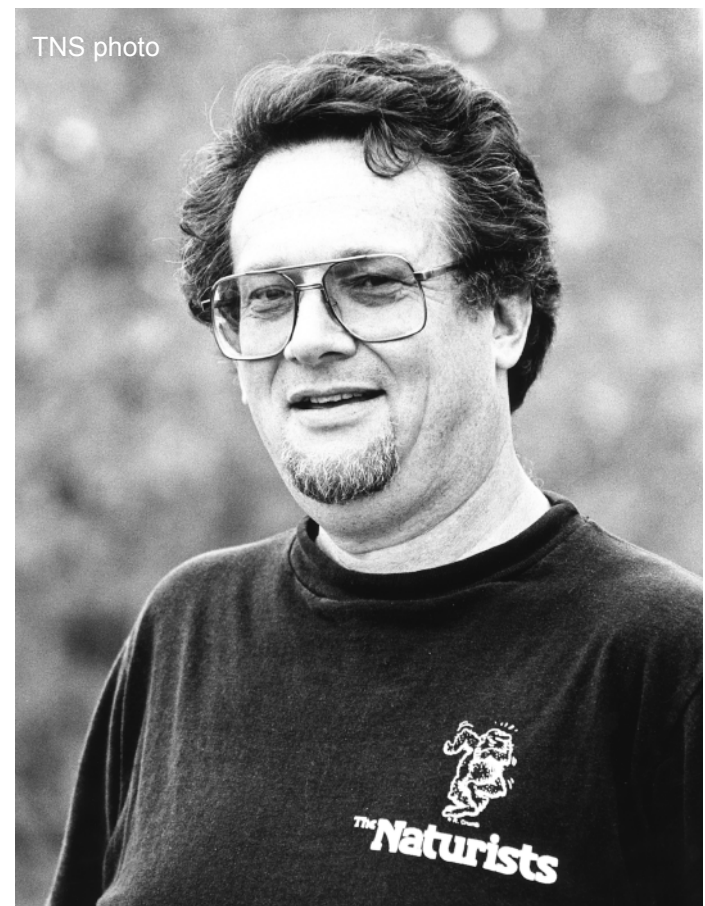
In 1989, TNS issued its first copy of *Nude & Natural* magazine. Although TNS recognized that altering names was a risky move, it decided that the change would reinforce the biological value of social nudity by linking the words "nude" and "natural," and focus attention on two core naturist values: social nudity and a sympathetic relationship to the natural environment.

N has continued the tradition of journalistic excellence established by CWS. N in size alone nearly doubles most other naturist publications around the world. TNS is proud to be a leader in covering naturist history, social commentary, arts coverage, travel reports, and other naturist-related topics.

NAC & NEF

As populations increased and once-remote beaches grew more popular with non-naturists, some site authorities in the 1980s began to challenge longstanding nude use of specific public lands. TNS received a rising number of calls for information about existing sites whose clothing-optional status was under attack, and recognized that it

article continues on page 14



Lee Baxandall, founder of The Naturist Society

President's Message from page 3

We received a letter from a painter, who lives in Florida, who is seeking clients who would want a nude painting of themselves. She also does paintings of other styles. The fee is reasonable.

Contact : P Kirwin. Phone: 1-727- 869-3368 – email: pkirwin361@hotmail.com

The more things change the more they stay the same, department. But they don't have to.

Naturist beaches, nude recreation at resorts, and the search for that comfort zone, where we can enjoy both, and not have to look over our shoulder in fear of the police or a park ranger., because of a new law, continues. It is only slowed up by the lack of support by those that enjoy both.

The remedy: join South Florida Free Beaches/Florida Naturist Association today

We have no revenue source other than membership dues to support our associations operating expenses and our Political/Legal Action Fund to support our donations to candidates, our paid lobbyist in Tallahassee and other legal and political expensive.

Our financial records are open for inspection upon request.

Richard Mason



The **Free the Free Beach** Committee:
Lee Baxandall at Truro Beach on Cape Cod, circa 1975



Lee Baxandall with Phineas Baxandall and Joanna Moore, from a 1980s TNS publicity photo for National Nude Weekend.



photo: Leif Heilberg

The first TNS Naturist Gathering at Elysium in California, 1980

***“Body acceptance
is the goal***

***–
Nude recreation
is the way.”***

Lee Baxandall

*photos:
TNS
archives*

The Naturist Society and
Lake Como Family Nudist Resort
welcome all naturists to the
Southern Naturist Gathering

Lutz, Florida
October 16–19, 2008

Registration form & schedule:

[www.naturistsociety.com/
events/SNGPage.htm](http://www.naturistsociety.com/events/SNGPage.htm)



Naturist leaders compare notes



the naturist society
www.naturistsociety.com

2005 Gathering photos: Mark Ashworth



photo:
Michael Kush

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More about Gatherings on page 10.

The Sting of the Sea

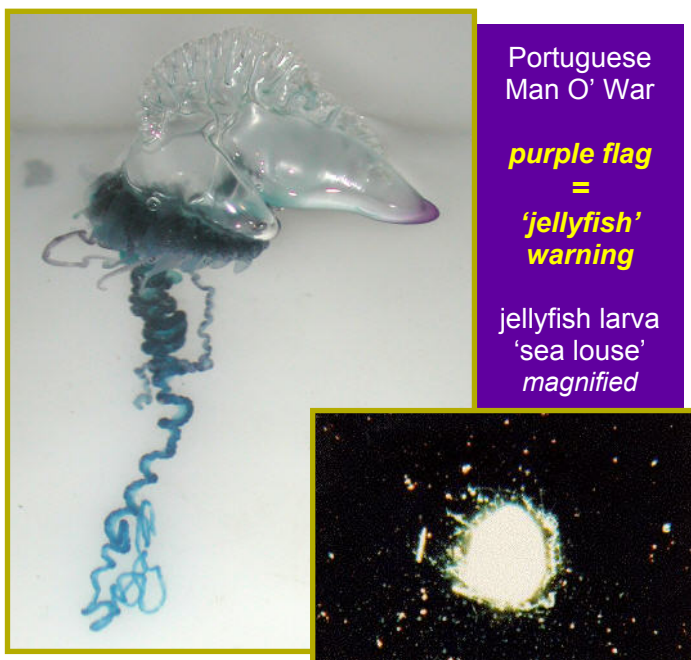
Michael Kush

If you swim in the ocean often enough, you'll probably eventually encounter *Cnidaria*: the sessile corals & sea anemones, and the mobile jellyfish, especially the latter. *Cnidê* translates 'sting' or 'nettle', and these all possess tendrils lined with hundreds or thousands of stinging cells (*nematocysts*); when triggered by contact, a stinging cell shoots out a poisoned dart like a miniature hypodermic needle. A stunned small fish or other prey is then drawn by the tendrils into the creature's oral cavity for digestion. Swimmers and waders can just as easily fall victim to this totally automatic response.

There are many species of jellyfish (class *Scyphozoa*); all are radially symmetrical and capable of locomotion. Often translucent and light in color, they can be hard to see when you're swimming through water that isn't calm and clear.

Also commonly seen floating at the mercy of the waves is the jellyfish cousin, the Portuguese Man O' War (class *Hydrozoa*), which is not a single animal, but a colony of individuals hanging off an oblong gas-filled float. I once wrapped one of the very long and sticky tendrils around an arm while swimming, which raised a burn-like lesion that lasted a few days. The purple Man O' War are often washed ashore in heavy surf and can then still sting if you touch them. Make sure your kids don't go near them.

Just as with bee stings, reaction to *Cnidaria* toxins varies with individuals. If stung, don't rub the site, which only further irritates the skin. A favorite remedy is flooding the area with a mild acid, like plain white vinegar, which seems to help neutralize the toxin and lessen the pain. (The Haulover Beach lifeguards have vinegar on hand for this purpose.) Lacking vinegar, at least flush the skin with fresh water. Applying meat tenderizer to the skin is another common palliative. In most cases, the irritation will subside in less than an hour, even if untreated.



the jellyfish *Olindias formosa*

It's not uncommon to experience temporary mild dizziness if stung by a large or by several *Cnidaria*. Though rare, severer distress may occur in those particularly sensitive, or in those who have received large amounts of venom; young children and the elderly are naturally more at risk. If a victim experiences symptoms such as palpitations, difficulty breathing, headache, fever, chills, or more than slight dizziness, it's best to seek immediate medical attention. Steroids and sometimes antihistamines are often prescribed as treatments.

Before reaching their various adult forms, most *Cnidaria* float around as larvae in the ocean's plankton soup, and are in that form already capable of stinging. Though often present in small numbers, favorable conditions can cause heavy concentrations of the larvae close to shore; these are the infamous and annoying so-called *sea lice* outbreaks.

The best preventative for avoiding or at least mitigating *sea lice* attacks is to swim nude, because the larvae can easily penetrate clothing, and the friction of the fabric against the skin will cause numerous stinging cells to trigger, resulting in irritating 'bathing suit rash'. (Infested clothing should be soaked in vinegar and washed, because the nematocysts may still trigger for some time after the larvae are dead.)

In extremely heavy infestations you may still experience some irritation skinny-dipping, particularly under head, facial or pubic hair, but nowhere near the discomfort that you would if wearing a bathing suit. The palliatives and warnings for their adult relatives apply to the larvae as well.

A purple warning flag at the beach indicates the presence of *Cnidaria* or other harmful sea critters. ☀

References & links for further information:

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cnidaria>
<http://www.fau.edu/safe/sea-lice.html>
<http://dermnetnz.org/arthropods/sea-bathers.html>

The Naturist Society from page 10

must develop a means of meeting these challenges while continuing the mission of promoting naturism through the journal, Gatherings, and the network of beach support groups, naturist clubs, and SIGs.

After a series of attempts at working with various like-minded groups, TNS finally hit upon its most successful approach. By 1990, TNS had enough members, enough respect among the naturist and non-naturist communities, enough useful ties with other naturist organizations, enough experienced and battle-seasoned leaders, and a journal of sufficient and consistent quality to take on the task of forming a model naturist action group of its own. In August of that year, TNS officially formed the Naturist Action Committee, soon after to be registered as a 501(c)4 non-profit corporation.

NAC's stated goals were threefold: legal action, lobbying, and public relations. Its board is democratically elected by the TNS membership, with each TNS member getting one equal vote. Any qualified TNS member may run for one of the nine board positions, and stand for re-election after three years. N was designated NAC's official organ.

In February 1993, after three years of planning and submitting applications to the Internal Revenue Service, TNS announced the official formation of NAC's 501(c)3 sister organization, the Naturist Education Foundation. NEF's goal is to educate politicians, business owners, and the general public about naturism. The board members of NAC are automatically also the board members of NEF.

Gallup & Roper Polls

Back in 1983, TNS had commissioned the respected Gallup Organization to survey Americans on three questions pertaining to nude recreation: (1) Do you believe that people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose? (71.6 % said yes); (2) Local and state governments now set aside public land for special types of recreation such as snowmobiling, surfing, and hunting. Do you think special and secluded areas should be set aside by the government for people to enjoy nude sunbathing? (39.1% said yes); and (3) Have you personally ever gone skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing in a mixed group of men or women either at a beach, at a pool, or somewhere else? (14.7% said yes).

Wanting to know if the acceptance of skinny-dipping among U.S. adults had changed since 1983, NEF commissioned a similar poll in 2000, this time with the nationally respected Roper Starch Organization. The 2000 Roper poll showed that the number of people believing that those "who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from officials as long as they do so at a beach

that is accepted for that purpose" had risen from 71.6% to 80%. It showed that those believing that "special and secluded areas should be set aside by the government for people who enjoy nude sunbathing" had risen from 39.1% to 48%. And it showed that the number of people who had "gone 'skinny-dipping' or nude sunbathing in a mixed group of men and women either at a beach, at a pool, or somewhere else" had risen from 14.7% to 25%.

In 2006, NEF commissioned the Roper Public Affairs (the company had changed its name since 2000) to ask the three questions yet again. For the first question regarding interference of nude sunbathing, the number had dipped to 74%—higher than in 1983, but a bit lower than in 2000. For the second question asking about setting aside public land for nude sunbathing, the number saying "yes" rose to 54%. And for the third question asking how many had gone skinny-dipping in mixed company, the number remained steady at 25%. These polls—stretching from 1983 to 2006—show a firm U.S. acceptance of at least some forms of skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing on public lands. All three polls were reliable enough to draw the attention of the media, legislators, and business communities around the world.

NAC Area Representatives & Legislative Alerts

In 1995 NAC established the Naturist Action Committee Area Representative program. NAC Area Representatives are TNS members willing and able to oversee a specified geographical region as an assistant to the NAC board member covering that area. In 1996 NEF established an analogous program of NEF Area Representatives who wish to assist NEF in promoting naturism, but who are not particularly interested in doing the political or legislative work on which NAC tends to focus much of its energy.

To make itself even more effective in getting information out to naturists and to direct letters, phone calls, faxes, and e-mails to key legislators considering important bills pertaining to nudity, NAC has established an online NAC Alert System delivered by a variety of naturist list servers. The NAC Alerts have proven invaluable in marshaling immediate grassroots naturist support when the need arises.

Guiding Principles

What distinguishes TNS from other naturist groups in many people's minds is the organization's commitment to inclusion, and its establishment of the Naturist Network as a way to promote those naturist clubs, resorts, and beach-support groups that adhere to this basic philosophy. TNS acknowledges that a private club or group has every right to choose its associates. However, to be part of the Naturist Network, clubs and groups must practice a high degree of inclusiveness.

TNS has, for instance, led other naturist (or nudist) organizations in its demand for acceptance of all sexual orienta-

tions at naturist functions. This does not mean that TNS accepts public sexual behavior from anyone in naturist contexts, as some critics of the policy have implied. What it means is that it does not matter to TNS whether naturists are straight, bisexual, or gay; and as long as a visitor at a naturist setting behaves in a manner that would allow all people to be comfortable—children, singles, couples, grandparents—he or she should be welcome.

TNS also strongly and publicly supports the development of women's rights, the preservation of the natural environment, and the advancement of the arts. Since the 1980s, TNS has published nearly 30 features on topfree equality in CWS and N. NAC has worked with the Topfree Equality Rights Association (www.tera.ca), and has funded challenges in court to give women the same right as men to bare their chests in public. Perhaps the most dramatic example was TNS' involvement with the Rochester Topfree Seven, a group who successfully challenged a discriminatory law in New York State to gain topfreedom for women there in 1992. (Santorelli & Schloss v. state)

On a related note, N shows naturists—women as well as men—in all their assorted shapes, sizes, ages, and abilities. As America has gained weight or aged, so too have the people in N. No naturist organization or magazine more accurately displays the beauty and vitality, as well as the warts and scars, of naturism as TNS and N magazine.

Environment and Culture

Arising from the ecological awareness of the 1970s, TNS continues its emphasis on our natural connection to the biosphere. Beach and hot spring support groups in the Naturist Network often host clean-ups, assisting the local management agency in caring for the sites. TNS events routinely offer workshops and seminars about the natural world, and vegetarian choices are offered during meals.

N has covered many important artworks and events that illustrate the themes of body acceptance or social nudity. Articles have appeared discussing paintings, sculpture, opera, theater, performance art, literature, and cinema. TNS has supported a number of artists who have shown special talent in developing naturist themes in an aesthetically satisfying manner. TNS has sponsored workshops in art modeling, figure drawing, silk screening, watercolor painting, acting, dance, photography, and music.

The Next Generation

In January 2002, Baxandall handed the reins of TNS to three women who had worked closely with him over the years: Nicky Hoffman Lee, Judi Ditzler, and Margaret Thornton. Slowed down by illness, Baxandall was unable to contribute as mightily to TNS' work as he had in the past. The task of editing N went to Ditzler for eight years until

she moved on to another job; today Hoffman Lee capably manages production of the journal.

Now well into the 21st century, TNS acknowledges that naturists and non-naturists are becoming cyber-literate and that more and more people are looking to the Internet for their information and reading recreation. Although TNS remains a membership organization expressing itself primarily through the printed word and face-to-face personal interaction, TNS has responded to the call for online access with a Web site www.naturistsociety.com and new discussion board. NAC also has a rich Web site providing detailed information about U.S. state and Canadian provincial laws as they pertain to nudity. NEF's online Toni Egbert Law Library, too, is a valuable source of information for lawyers looking for information on court cases of interest to skinny-dippers.

This is where TNS stands today. Its members are loyal—retention rates stay above 80 percent—and retain much of the volunteer, grassroots spirit that helped to move issues of body-freedom out of the mid-century dark ages of corporate nudism. It is established as the leading advocate for nude use on appropriate public lands. And its magazine is a model and benchmark for many naturist publications.

With all of its diversity and idiosyncrasies, The Naturist Society moves ahead in a largely unified front, proclaiming still that “Body Acceptance is the Idea—Nude Recreation is the Way.” Expect even more from TNS in the decades to come. ☀

www.naturistsociety.com

JOIN TNS TODAY

Members receive quarterly **N** magazine and membership card good for discounts at hundreds of Naturist Network participating nudist resorts.

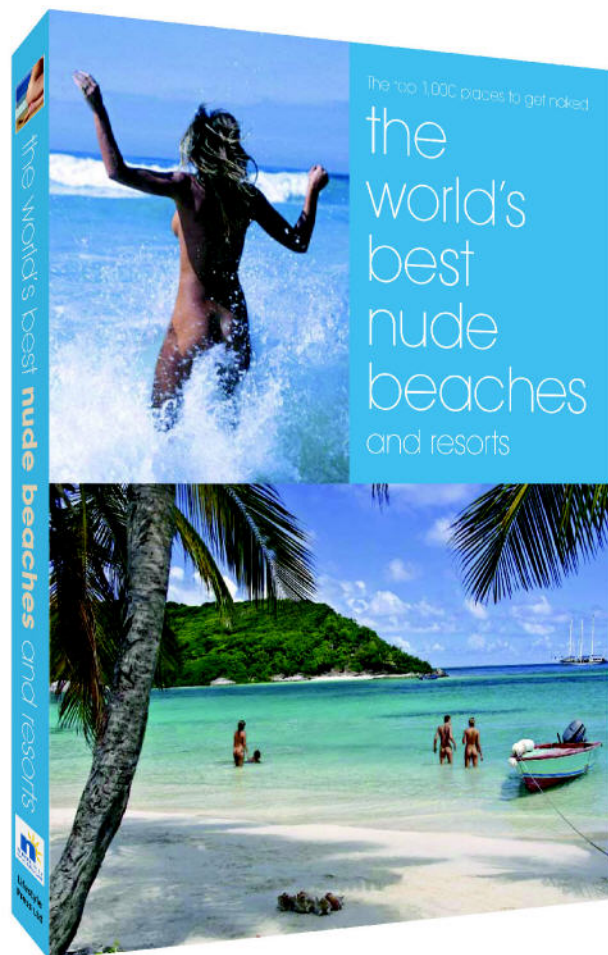
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