

South Florida Free Beaches
Florida Naturist Association

The SunDial

Winter 2007

Jan-March

Vol. 7 - No. 1

www.sffb.com

The Body of Art –
A Festival of Nude Art
Cypress Cove Resort



Special Issue:

Florida's Fabulous Nudist Resorts

- Mid-Winter Naturist Festival – page 4
- The Body of Art Nude Art Festival – page 10
- Florida's Fabulous Nudist Resorts – page 11

photo: Dave Brown

The SunDial

A Quarterly Journal of Florida Naturism

Current issue, back-issue archive, and advertiser information online at: www.sffb.com/sundial.html

Email: sundial@sffb.com Phone: 305-893-8838
Fax: 305-893-8823

Editor: Michael Kush

Printer (offset lithography):
Thompson Press, Inc.
16201 NW 54th Avenue, Miami, FL 33014
305-625-8800

Publisher:



SOUTH • FLORIDA
FREE BEACHES

Florida Naturist Association, Inc.
PO Box 530306, Miami Shores, FL 33153

*Incorporated 1980 – Creators & mentors of Haulover Park's clothing-optional naturist family beach—
Dedicated to preserving and protecting free beaches and naturist rights in Florida.*

Website: www.sffb.com

SFFB/FNA Officers, Directors & Beach Ambassadors:

Richard Mason, President & Treasurer pro temp
Norma Mitchell, Vice-president
David Baum, Secretary
[open office], Treasurer

SFFB/FNA Directors & Beach Ambassadors:

Justin Hopkins – Paul Friderich, Jr.
Clyde Lott

SFFB/FNA Beach Ambassadors:

Annette Almanza – Marianna Biondi – Bruce Frendahl
Michael Kush – Norman “Doc” McClesky
Mike Reynolds – Shirley Mason – Ondre Reid
Martin Wedegis – Ray Zandarotti

Tallahassee Legislative Lobbyist:

Ray Maury, The Maury Group



SUN CLUB

SFFB's Naturist Social Group

View current activities and sign up for email event announcements:

www.sffb.com/sunclub
[case sensitive]

Phone inquiries: 954-961-2908

Mobility-challenged Haulover Beach visitors:

Free Electric Beach Wheelchairs Available For Your Use

Contact park office: 305-947-3525



Electric wheelchair, tiki hut shelter and beachside shower projects executed by B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation with funding by a Miami-Dade Parks Department Capital Improvement Grant and by contributions to B.E.A.C.H.E.S.' Haulover Park Improvement Fund.

Donations to B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation are tax-deductible – see page 7.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Richard Mason

Local Briefing:

While most of us are busy working to pay our taxes and to find time to take a little respite on the beach or at our favorite nudist resort, there are thousands of lobbyists and businesspeople working to get control of public lands so they can convert them to profitable commercial enterprises. With park departments much neglected by government entities and getting the short end of county and state budgets, schemes are constantly presented to turn public parkland into cash streams for investors and government departments. The promises of jobs and a percentage of gross revenue and taxes can be enticing.

At the Florida state level, a few years ago we witnessed the new investors in the failed Cypress Gardens convince the governor and legislature to hand out \$25 million in taxpayer money to attempt to revive the failed privately-owned attraction. A nice attraction – but it could not compete with Disney World, Universal, and Busch Gardens in the free market. Despite the taxpayer handout, it's now failed.

Locally, we have seen investors convince Miami-Dade County residents to turn over 39 acres of virgin scrub forest next to MetroZoo to private interests to build a theme park, hotel and shopping center. The reason? They were told the new attraction would be a better use of the land and would bring more people to the struggling county zoo. (In Miami-Dade, County Charter Article Six requires a county-wide voter referendum to give away or develop parkland.)

This scheme was quickly put on the ballot for a vote this past November. Hundreds of thousands of dollars were suddenly available for a brilliant media and direct mail campaign, which included expensive color brochures in every mailbox in the county. Endorsed by the Miami Herald – which hasn't seen a development it didn't like – the proposal passed. Public interest groups simply don't have the money to oppose such a massive PR campaign by the developers.

I don't sit in judgment on whether this was the best use of that land. Personally, because we have a park-to-people ratio deficit compared to most other areas of comparable population, I oppose giving up public parkland without replacing it with additional public land elsewhere.

The warning light is lit! The thing that should concern Haulover visitors is this: Suppose a plan was hatched to take a section of Haulover Park and turn it over to developers? I'm sure what happened last November was not lost on those eyeing more beachfront land. Lobbyists who have a strong influence in this county would try to get it on the ballot, and based on the promise of new taxes and jobs, the people could well vote to sell or give the land away.

If there ever was a reason for Haulover visitors to get on board and join or support the one nudist organization responsible for the creation and mentoring of the designat-

ed nudist beach at Haulover, South Florida Free Beaches, now is that time. If we don't know who you are or how to contact you, we can't alert you if we should need your support in speaking up. Please see our form on page 7.

Florida State Business:

SFFB's Government Affairs representatives will again be speaking at the South Florida legislative delegation public hearings that are held in each county each session. We also plan to be in Tallahassee in March to meet with newly elected state legislators to educate them on the benefits that Haulover's nudist beach brings to the Florida tourism industry. And our professional lobbyist will be reviewing legislative bills for any anti-nudity wording that could affect the continued existence of our beach.

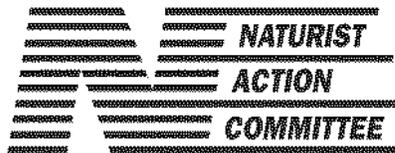
National Report:

On December 12, 2006, the Ohio legislature passed Senate Bill 245. Aimed at sexual predators, this bill makes it a serious crime for an adult merely to be nude in front of a minor. The Nudist Action Committee opposed the bill as worded, and lobbied bill sponsors and committee members to reword the bill to protect nudist families. They were ignored. So now it is a serious crime in Ohio for nudist parents to skinny-dip with their kids, or take them to a nudist resort.

South Florida Free Beaches has fought and defeated similar bills introduced in Florida, that if passed would have effectively closed Haulover Beach to nude recreation.

The message to the beach visitor: If you live in New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, Missouri or any other state, who would you call to protect your rights as nudists if a bill similar to the Ohio bill were introduced in your state?

Your only proven choice is the Nudist Action Committee – the nudist fire department. A \$20 annual donation will help support the cause, and you will receive the NAC newsletter informing you of legislative threats throughout the U.S. We urge you to send in your contribution today:



Nudist Action Committee
PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903

www.naturistaction.org

See you at the beach, or at one of the Nudist Gatherings or Festivals listed elsewhere in this newsletter.

Stay informed. Be involved! ☀



Mid-Winter Naturist Festival

Sunspport Gardens Resort
Loxahatchee, Florida

February 15th – 20th, 2007

*Join hundreds of naturists from across the
USA for six days of*

Fun, Growth & Community

*featuring New Age experiential workshops
focusing on health, personal growth,
arts, ecology, and relationships.*

Information – schedule – registration:

www.sunspportgardens.com • 800-551-7217



photos of 2006 Festival by David Baum



the naturist society
www.naturistsociety.com



**It's all at Lake Como
Family Nudist Resort**

large lap pool - clay tennis courts
18-person hot tub - petanque
35-acre private lake - horseshoes
full-service restaurant & Butt Hutt bar
children's play area - nature trails
200 acres of Florida paradise
owned & managed by residents
RV & tent campers welcome!

www.lakecomoresort.com

Como Birthday Bash ♦ Feb. 9 - 11

Free Beer Band & fireworks poolside Saturday
Raphael & Company poolside Sunday with food & cake

Bare Buns Biker Bash & Poker Run ♦ Feb. 16 - 17
benefiting Lopez Veterans' Nursing Home

Super Bowl South Volleyball Tournament ♦ March 2 - 12
Sand & grass courts - All experience levels welcome

For event information:

1-877-TRYLAKE

rene@lakecomoresort.com



**Florida's Most Beautiful
Nudist Resort**

Relax by the pool, dine in the Lakeside Restaurant, enjoy a game of tennis or a walk at sunset. At Cypress Cove Nudist Resort & Spa, you set your schedule and we'll make your visit memorable.



Ask about our year-round event schedule, including singles weekends, sporting events, live music & more. . .
Bring in this ad & first time visitors receive complimentary tour & day visit! SFFB



**CYPRESS
COVE**
NUDIST RESORT & SPA

Located in Kissimmee, minutes from major attractions.
Reservations: 407.933.5870 Toll free: 888.683.3110
Specials & Event info: www.cypresscoveresort.com
Email: relax@cypresscoveresort.com
First-time visitor special may not be combined with other offers.



Family Naturist Resort

14125 North Road, Loxahatchee, FL 33470

www.sunsporgarden.com

phone: (800) 551-7217

email: manager@sunsporgarden.com

Affiliated with The Naturist Society

♦ Clothesfree Recreation in a Natural Tropical Paradise ♦

"Relax & Enjoy Clothesfree Fun in the Sun"

87 degree swimming pool, spa, sauna, volleyball, tennis, pentanque, horseshoes, full service restaurant, RV hookups, camping, cabin rentals, children's playground, fishing, boating, jungle nature trail, Saturday dances.

► Under new management

► Just a short drive from Haulover Beach

FREE PASS

THIS COUPON ENTITLES ONE FIRST TIME VISITOR TO ONE DAY AT SUNSPORT GARDENS

*The Naturist Society
Presents...*

*TNS members
receive
discounts...
join today!*



Midwinter Festival • February 15-20
SunSport Gardens, Loxahatchee, Florida

World Naked Gardening Day • May 5 • World Wide

Eastern Naturist Gathering • June 18-24
Eastover Resort, Lenox, Massachusetts

Nude Recreation Week • July 9-15 • North America

Western Naturist Gathering • July 26-29
Lupin Lodge, Los Gatos, California

The Northeast Festival • August 7-12
Empire Haven, Moravia, New York

Avalon Music Festival • August 10-12
Avalon Resort, Paw Paw, West Virginia

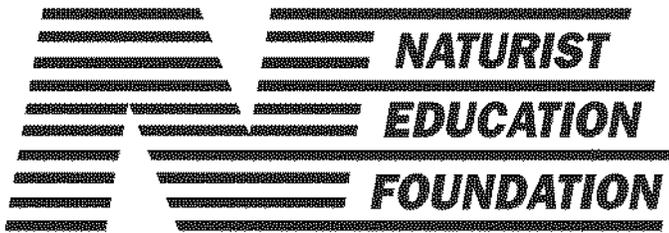
Canadian Naturist Festival • August 16-19
St-Antoine-Abbé, Québec, Canada

For More Information Contact: The Naturist Society



800-886-7230

www.naturistsociety.com



NEW POLL SHOWS THAT 54% OF AMERICANS – 65% OF THOSE UNDER 35 YEARS OLD – APPROVE GOVERNMENT-DESIGNATED CLOTHING-OPTIONAL BEACHES

Friday, October 20, 2006

NATURIST EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES RESULTS OF NATIONWIDE ROPER POLL ON SKINNY-DIPPING AND NUDE SUNBATHING

Oshkosh, Wisconsin

A new nationwide poll commissioned by the Naturist Education Foundation (NEF) and conducted by the prestigious polling firm of Roper Public Affairs, indicates that close to three-quarters of Americans approve of nude sunbathing on beaches set aside for that purpose.

In the scientific sampling of 1009 U.S. adults conducted recently by Roper, 74 percent of those polled said they believed people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from local officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose. The sustained high approval rating for nude beaches is up slightly from the 72% who responded favorably to an identical poll question posed by Gallup in 1983, and off a bit from the high of 80% who approved in a 2000 poll commissioned by NEF and administered by Roper.

The NEF/Roper Poll 2006 was conducted September 8th-10th, 2006, and surveyed 1,009 adult U.S. residents. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3 percentage points. Roper Public Affairs is a subsidiary of GfK NOP, LLC, an international research business.

Responses to other questions in the poll suggest that more than 55 million Americans have, at one time or another, skinny-dipped or sunbathed nude in mixed-gender groups.

A majority of Americans favor the proposal that a portion of public land should be set aside by governments for nude

recreation, as is often done for other special recreation interests like snowmobiling, surfing and hunting. Approval for government designation of clothing-optional areas has risen from 39% in 1983 to 48% in 2000, and has reached 54% in the 2006 survey.*

“Public approval has been building continually for designating clothing-optional areas,” noted NEF Chair Bob Morton. “But governmental agencies have been slow to respond to the emerging demand. This updated poll demonstrates that the trend is certainly no fluke. A majority now expects governments to respond.”

The Naturist Education Foundation, Inc. is the nonprofit education and informational adjunct to The Naturist Society, an organization with thousands of members who enjoy nude recreation throughout the U.S. and Canada. By gathering and disseminating information, NEF promotes body acceptance and an understanding of naturist issues. ☀

**In the 2006 poll, support for government-designated beaches was highest with those under 35 years old – 65%*

View poll data at: www.naturisteducation.org

Editor's note:

The new Roper poll results come hot on the heels of the 2006 National Leisure Travel Monitor survey taken by Yesawich, Pepperdine, Brown & Russell/Yankelovich Partners, which showed an increasing interest in travel to destinations offering nude recreation, particularly among younger Americans.

See the AANR press release in the Fall 2006 SunDial.

**Travel the Path
to
Naturism!**

**SOUTH FLORIDA
FREE BEACHES**

www.sffb.com

www.naturistsociety.com

SFFB/FNA SPONSORSHIP & AFFILIATED ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIP

Online at www.sffb.com/sponsors – or use the form below

SFFB/FNA Annual Sponsorship (\$35) New Sponsors see below \$ _____

SFFB/FNA Legal Defense/Political Action (LDPA) Fund (donation) \$ _____
Supports our Florida legislative program & professional lobbyist

Affiliated organizations:

B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation (tax-deductible donation) \$ _____

Naturist Society Annual Membership with *N Magazine* subscription: \$ _____

US: \$53 Canada: \$58 Other: \$68 Senior/Student (US only): \$43

Senior (65+): enclose proof of age; Full-time Student: enclose copy of student ID

Federation of Canadian Naturists Annual Membership \$ _____
 includes *Going Natural* magazine subscription

US: \$40 Canada: \$35 Other: \$45

Total check amount or credit card charge: \$ _____
 (Make all checks payable to: **SFFB/FNA**)

Name(s): _____ Date: _____

Address: _____ Email: _____

City/State/Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Check enclosed Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Card number: _____ Expiration Date: ____/____

Signature: _____ **Billing address** zip code _____
If other than above

Mail to: SFFB/FNA, PO Box 530306, Miami Shores, FL 33153-0306



Due to product availability we may substitute a cooler of comparable value to the one shown.

FREE TO NEW FIRST-TIME SFFB SPONSORS

16-can insulated beach cooler:

Perfect for your next trip to the beach.

Room for water bottles and food, too!

Removable plastic liner for easy cleaning

Full zipper top with E-Z access flip lid

Front pocket & adjustable shoulder strap

Imprinted with SFFB logo

Send cooler Do not send cooler

Offer applies only to new \$35 annual SFFB/FNA Sponsorship or to a \$35 minimum donation to the SFFB/FNA LDPA Fund. Offer extended through March 31, 2007



The quest for a clothing-optional beach in the Tampa Bay area

Family Naturist Beaches



TAMPA AREA NATURISTS
www.tanfl.com

- If you reside near or visit Florida's Gulf Coast...
- If you think a clothing-optional beach will be an asset to Florida's Gulf Coast tourism...
- If you think recent polling indicates Americans approve naturist beaches (see page 6)...

Tampa Area Naturists needs your help to make it a reality! TAN is currently lobbying Bay area tourism and other interests with the goal of getting local government approval for a designated naturist beach. Financial contributions to defray costs of literature, mailings, and professional services may be sent to the address below. (Make checks payable to Tampa Area Naturists, Inc.) Or you may join TAN online at the TAN website. Those who want to be actively involved in this historic effort to further naturist interests should contact TAN by mail or email.

www.tanfl.com

TAN@tanfl.com

TAN, PO Box 923, Lutz, FL, 33548-0923

THE NEWEST #1 RETAIL BEACH PRODUCT!



colors available
LIME GREEN
BLUE
AQUA
PINK

Certified 99% UV, UVA, UVB Protection



- ♦ Zone of Privacy™ separates you from others on the beach
- ♦ A unique way to protect people from sun, wind & sand
- ♦ Specially designed Wind Screen, 2 Tier Tilt Umbrella & Carry Bag
- ♦ New attachable Beach or Baby Shelter available



View & Purchase Complete Product Line Online

800-960-1470
(USA Only)

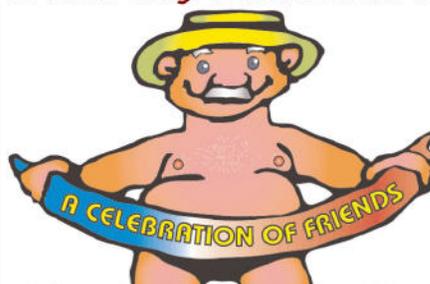
www.BREEZEBREAKER.net

Global Islands, LLC & Breeze Breaker, ENT, LLC
Naples, Florida

Nude Beaches
YES!
NudeBeachesYES.org

beaches in: CA - FL - NJ - NY - WI - OR - TX

A four day rendezvous of mature men



charitable donation \$35
no agenda

Sheraton Yankee
Trader Hotel
Fort Lauderdale

reservations:
954-467-1111

mention
"A Celebration of Friends"

Where Maturity Means Something

June 21 - 25, 2007

Info & online booking: www.celebrationoffriends.org

TAKE IT OFF, TAKE IT ALL OFF WITH YOUR \$100 COUPON BELOW.



Providing clothing-optional vacations and cruises worldwide™

Use \$100 coupon for any **CASTAWAYS TRAVEL** nude vacation to:

- Grand Lido Resorts
- Breezes Resorts
- Hedonism Resorts
- Couples Resorts
- Sandals Resorts
- Eden Bay Resort
- Hidden Beach Resort
- Desire Resorts
- Secrets Resorts

or any other all inclusive nude vacation of seven (7) nights or more.
Must be 25 or over to use coupon on seven (7) night vacation.

Donna Daniels & Jim Bailey, CTC, MCC, Owners
 Box 90174, Houston, TX 77290 • 800/470-2020 • 281/362-8785
 E-mail: info@castawaystravel.com • www.castawaystravel.com
 Monday-Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Texas time

VALUE CERTIFICATE

ONE HUNDRED DOLLAR COUPON from CASTAWAYS TRAVEL

Pay for a seven (7) day vacation for two adults with Castaways Travel at one of the participating resorts above and Castaways Travel will deduct \$100 off your total bill by submitting your Original signed Coupon to Castaways Travel at time of booking. Cannot be used with any other discount or offer from Castaways Travel. Call Castaways Travel to book your trip. Must announce you intend to use \$100 Coupon at time of quote and reservation or discount will not apply. Price will not be adjusted until Original Coupon is accepted by Castaways Travel. Cannot be used after a reservation has already been made. Offer void in those states that may prohibit its use. Must be 25 or over to use coupon.

Names _____ Address _____

Telephone _____ E Mail _____

Must be 25 or older to use coupon. Restrictions apply. Offer may be withdrawn without notice.

BIG BUCKS

• PLEASE TELL OUR ADVERTISERS YOU SAW THEIR AD IN THE SUNDIAL •

Jen Roberts Realtor®
 JenLeeRoberts@yahoo.com
 www.JenLeeRoberts.com
 Classic Realty Group, Inc.

**South Florida
 Real Estate...
 Naturally**
 Specializing in Hollywood
 and the Haulover Beach area

(954) 614-3553

Cafe Azul Bar & Grille
 15000 Collins Avenue
 Haulover Park
 Bayfront

*Free Parking/
 Boat Docking
 for Patrons
 at North End of
 Haulover Park
 at Boat Ramp*

*Fresh Catch Daily
 Seafood Specials*

1/2 Lb. Burgers
 Pizza - Salads
 Subs & Sandwiches
 Churrasco - Fajitas
 Quesadilas - Ceviche
 Buffalo Wings
 Calamari

*Free Delivery
 to Bal Harbour,
 Surfside and
 Sunny Isles Beach*

2 for 1
 Happy Hour
 at our Tiki Bar
 Weekends from
 4-6 PM

(305) 944-1415

The Best in Casual Dining
 in Haulover Park -
 Across Collins Avenue
 From the Naturist Beach

THE BODY OF ART – A FESTIVAL OF NUDE ART

Protagoras claimed that “Man is the measure of all things,” and classical Greek artists found their greatest achievement in the depiction of the human form – not in the heavily-robed and turbaned portrayals of courtiers and priests of the Persian barbarian artists, but in the grace and simplicity of the nude human body – the quintessential mortal creation of nature. (The Greek term *barbaroi* does not quite have all the negative connotations of our borrowed word; it simply means those who were outside the orbit of Greek language and culture.) Public nude art graced the temples of the gods and other public spaces in Athens, Delphi, and many other cities. Even the athletic festivals at Olympus, Delphi, and other cities, in which athletes competed in the nude, were primarily religious festivals, dedicated to Apollo, or Zeus, or some other divinity.

Then came the barbarians, and western art largely avoided the nude for a millennium.

With the Renaissance, nude art came again to the fore, as the works of Da Vinci, Michelangelo and others glorifying the human form soon appeared even in the greatest temple of Christianity, the new Saint Peter’s basilica in Rome. The Judeo-Christian West could again agree with God that what He had created in His image was “very good.” As Michelangelo himself asked, “Who is so barbarous as not to understand that the foot of a man is nobler than his shoe, and his skin nobler than that of the sheep with which he is clothed?”

In our own civic temples to liberty in Washington, one can also find nude public art. Perhaps the most famous example today is the nude-breasted female statue *The Spirit of Justice*, veiled by John Ashcroft, and recently uncovered by Alberto Gonzales. Such are the vagaries imposed by the whims of our federal executive appointees.

Nor can one walk the streets of our mature and cosmopolitan cities, like New York and Chicago, without encountering nude statues and friezes on the older public buildings. In Chicago, only a few years ago, the *Earth From Above* exhibit of photographer Yann Arthus-Bertrand, publicly displayed downtown in Millennium Park off Michigan Avenue, featured a photo of nudists at a French resort.

Yet the barbarians are still in our midst, as one hears of protests and even the censorship of art works on public display in some cities that simply depict the natural, nude human form. A number of years ago, photographer Jock Sturges was harassed over his photos of nudist families in France, which were labeled “pornography” by some. Yet, as Sturges himself pointed out, he was only taking art-quality family photographs of individuals who happened to be nudists – and in most cases his personal friends of many years’ standing. Nor did his use of a 30 pound 8 x 10 tripod-mounted view camera lend itself to surreptitious photos of unwilling subjects that were uncomfortable with their own nudity.

Nudists should realize that a culture that questions the appropriateness of such art for general public viewing is not one that is going to be very friendly to nudists and nudism, and therefore it is in our interest to promote nude art and artists – our natural allies.

In this spirit, Cypress Cove Nudist Resort in Kissimmee, Florida, held its third annual festival of nude art, *The Body of Art*, on Saturday and Sunday, October 21 and 22, 2006. Fifteen artists displayed works in various media: oils, acrylic, pencil, photographs, sculpture, mosaic, and glass, in an open-air exhibit set up on the shore of the Cove’s 50-acre private lake. The only requirement of the artists was that thirty percent of the works each displayed were nudes. Nor did the Cove impose a “gallery commission” on any art works sold at the festival.

To ensure maximum attendance, the Cove waived its grounds fees for the festival. On Saturday, 250 visitors who had never been to the Cove before passed through the gates, and 83 of the 84 hotel rooms were booked that night. There were also 200 RV and tent campers. The resort couldn’t tally the member visitors who had gate cards. It’s estimated that altogether about 900 people – guests, members, and residents – viewed the exhibit, and the artists sold a number of works during the festival. Cypress Cove Resort co-owner Barbara Hadley purchased two glass art works from artist Drew Trahan – featured on our cover photo – for her personal collection, and empty spaces on Sunday showed that a number of art works had been sold the day before.

Carolyn Hawkins, AANR’s Public Relations Coordinator, attended both days, with other AANR staff. A number of visitors signed up to become AANR members, and several interested in becoming members of Cypress Cove were referred to the office. The weather was magnificent, and, aside from the art show, the Cove’s recreation complex was packed with nudists socializing in the pools and hot tubs, and enjoying the poolside music. A nice feature for families is the large kids’ play area that is part of the pool complex.

The First Place Award went to artist Ed Meredith, for his (literally) visceral paired portraits titled *Adam and Eve*. Second and Third Place were awarded respectively to Dan Burleigh-Phillips, and to the husband-and-wife team Linda and Dan Handley. Julie Eberwein received the Owner’s Selection Award, and one of her works was purchased for permanent public display at Cypress Cove.

The Cove owners hope for an even larger display next year, and will be advertising in the local Central Florida artist and community publications for participating artists. Artists interested in displaying at next year’s show may wish to contact Cypress Cove; contact information may be found on the website at www.cypresscoveresort.com ☀

View the winning art works on page 12.

Florida's Fabulous Nudist Resorts by Michael Kush

Nudist Resort Basics for First-time Visitors

In the Peter Sellers movie *A Shot in the Dark*, Inspector Clouseau is forced to strip before entering the grounds of a nudist resort in France, with predictable comic results. However, Cypress Cove's dress code is probably typical of most U.S. resorts: "Nudity is permitted and encouraged at all times...nudity is customary when the sun is shining...nudity is required in the pools and hot tubs."

With a few exceptions, U.S. nudist resorts are residential communities, with varying facilities for guests. Also, AANR and TNS-affiliated (*discussed later*) nudist resorts are family resorts, not adult-only facilities. Most resorts do not charge entry fees for minors accompanied by their parents, and most provide play areas for children. (About 30 kids participated in Lake Como's 2006 community Halloween trick or treat costume parade and party.)

There are two universal rules at all resorts: never sit down nude, without placing your towel down first, and never enter the water without taking a soap shower. Nudist resorts all feature hot showers with soap dispensers at the pools and hot tubs. Otherwise, each resort offers a unique experience and ambience, at which this article can only hint. The resort websites are a good source for additional information, with pricing, photos and lists of amenities.

We'll start with Pasco County, in which, for historical reasons, about half of Florida's resorts are located.

Pasco's Two Upscale Resorts: Paradise & Caliente

Imagine a nicely-landscaped gated residential community of condos and manufactured homes (*casitas* in Caliente's parlance); put a luxury resort and spa in the middle of it – then add nudists: the result is Paradise Lakes or Caliente Resort, the two Pasco resorts that now vie to capture the luxury nudist market – both a far cry from the "nudist camp" image still prevalent with many Americans. (And neither resort seems to be hurting from the competition, as Paradise is currently adding new residential condo units, and Caliente has plans to expand its grounds.)

Technically, 25-year-old 72-acre Paradise Lakes Resort (www.paradiselakes.com) is not a nudist resort, but bills itself as clothing-optional: "You choose to keep your clothes on or not". Caliente Resort and Spa (www.calienteresort.com), which opened in 2004, insists that "...weather permitting, social nudism must be practiced! You may wear clothing in the main clubhouse only." However, one may question whether these different policies result in much real difference in practice.

The action at Paradise and Caliente is centered on large recreation complexes, with multiple pools (each resort has five), hot tubs, gourmet restaurants, lounges, nightclubs, full spa facilities, exercise rooms and boutiques. It's not unusual to have close to a thousand deck chairs in the pool

complex at either resort in season and on the big holiday weekends. (Cypress Cove in Kissimmee is the only other Florida resort that rivals them in the number of visitors.) You will find live music on many weekends, and you can get the full luxury spa beauty treatment throughout the week. So prepare to be pampered! (*See Caliente review in Winter 2006 SunDial.*)

However, don't expect to pull up at either Caliente or Paradise with a case of beer and a cooler of steaks for the barbee, because these resorts—unlike all the other resorts discussed below—will not allow day visitors or hotel room guests to bring in their own food or drink. Both luxury resorts offer guests deluxe hotel rooms, suites, and condos, but don't cater to campers—although Paradise owns the separate Paradise Pines RV Park nearby.

Pasco's "Nature" Resorts

After the sybaritic luxury of Caliente or Paradise, visiting 200-acre Lake Como Resort (www.lakecomoresort.com) is rather like time-traveling to a 50's summer lakeside retreat – albeit with nude residents. The hotel rooms are clean, though not luxurious, and the full-service restaurant offers a decent and good-value breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu. Or you can camp in your RV or tent, and cook your own food on one of the resort's outdoor grills. Como offers weekly DJ dances and the ubiquitous Karaoke, monthly jam sessions, and live local bands six or so times a year during holiday and special event weekends.

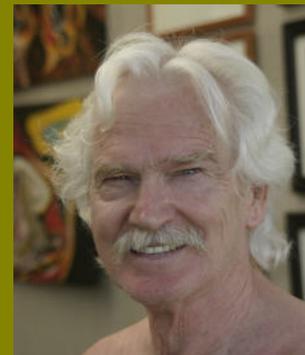
Como's 35-acre cypress-lined Big Moss Lake is its hub, as along about a third of its shore are spread out the North Grove outdoor event area, pool, restaurant, hot tub, sauna, various game courts, Butt Hutt bar, sandy beach, boats, and a children's playground. Three new clay tennis courts and six volleyball courts—hosting the Super Bowl South Volleyball Tournament in early Spring—are located in the new West Grove recreation complex.

What Como offers is a community atmosphere, and "natural surroundings, not concrete and condos." Established in 1947, since 1997 it has been a cooperative, and most of the front desk, restaurant and maintenance staff are residents. Some amenities – like the pool handicapped chair-lift – are donations from residents. Buildings take up only around 10% of the grounds, and 70 acres are wetlands. From Como's West Grove sports complex, you can hike nude (shoes are recommended) along Deer Lake, through the new pine plantation, around the South Grove, and then down the Wetlands Trail that runs between Big Moss Lake and Heron Lake – about one mile one way. (A planned future boardwalk trail extension will eventually allow you to walk completely around Big Moss Lake.) You'll see bird aeries, bat houses, hand-carved statues, and even a working bee hive on your trek – and perhaps view deer, osprey, sand-hill cranes, butterflies and other wildlife.

continued on page 14

THE BODY OF ART

CYPRESS COVE RESORT
2006 award winners



First place (blue ribbon)
Ed Meredith
Adam and Eve



photos of art & artists by Dave Brown



Second place (red ribbon)
Dan Burleigh-Phillips



Third place (white ribbon)
Linda & Don Handley



photo: Paradise Lakes



photo: Dave Brown

Cypress Cove's beach, lakeside restaurant & park at daybreak on a Saturday morning



Paradise Lakes' main pool area on a typical weekend



photo: Mark Ashworth

Lake Como's Sunset Fall Classic Car and Corvette Show featured 102 vehicles on display on the North Grove lawn



photo: Mark Ashworth

Jammin' with the Nunes at Night band during Lake Como's November Bare Buns Biker Bash on a rather cool night in November

There's something for everyone at Florida's Fabulous Nudist Resorts

A hiker stops to enjoy the view of Heron Lake on Lake Como's Wetlands Nature Trail



photo: Caliente Resort

Caliente Resort's central pool & spa complex at night

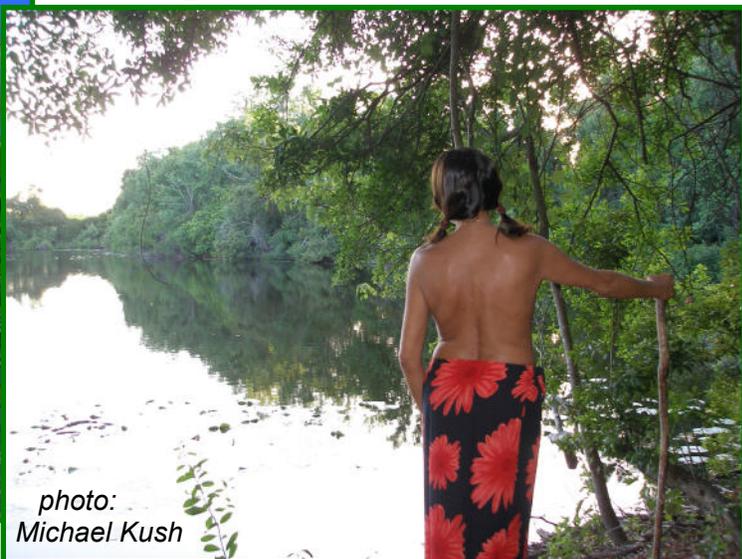


photo: Michael Kush

Florida's Fabulous Nudist Resorts continued from page 11

Gulf Coast Resort (www.gulfcoastresort.com), a 40-acre resort located in northeast Pasco County, is less well known than Como, Caliente, or Paradise, and offers a quiet rural nudist retreat. (The other Pasco resorts cluster in the south central part of the county.) It has a restaurant open in season for breakfast and lunch, and also Friday and Saturday nights for dinner. The poolside bar is open “during outdoor dances and during the snowbird season on nice-weather weekends.” Otherwise, there are the usual recreation facilities: pool, hot tub, and courts for tennis, volleyball, shuffleboard, and (of course) petanque.

Pasco County's Island Group (www.theislandgroup.org), a stone's throw from Caliente, is unique in being a nudist day campground, with no permanent residents or overnight stays. There's no restaurant, but there are grills to cook your own food, as well as a pool, hot tub, and clubhouse.

Central Florida

Cypress Cove Resort (www.cypresscoveresort.com) in Kissimmee, Florida's largest resort in area at 260 acres, combines elements of the luxury and natural resorts. It has a central recreation complex with two pools, two hot tubs, *Cheeks* bar & grille, an adjoining children's play area, spa facilities, and a boutique – perhaps not as luxurious as Caliente, but no means rustic. Naturally, there are tennis, volleyball and petanque courts available too. There's also a large full-menu restaurant overlooking the 50-acre lake, but you're welcome to cook your own food on the charcoal grills on the lakeside lawn next door. The food at both *Cheeks* and the lakeside restaurant is reasonably priced, and of a quality and value comparable to the popular chain restaurants like *Friday's* or *Bennigan's*.

Guest accommodations are provided in 84 spacious hotel rooms housed in five two-story villas, there are 126 RV hook-up sites, and tent campers are welcome. There are also 224 permanent resident home sites.

The grounds are park-like, with 130 acres of protected wetlands around four-fifths of the lake – although unlike at Lake Como this marshy area has no trail access. There's usually DJ music during the weekend, with live bands perhaps six times a year during special events – like July's Parrot Head Music Weekend – and the holidays. The resort's singles' weekends are also popular.

Cypress Cove is home to the American Nudist Research Library (www.anrl.org), dedicated to preserving nudist publications for posterity. Be sure to stop in and visit the library when you're there, for a glimpse of much fascinating nudist history.

By the way, you may swim in the lake at both Lake Como and Cypress Cove, although the resorts advise visitors that alligators may be present, so it's at your own risk. The less adventurous may opt to explore the lakeshore in rowboats or paddleboats, available at both resorts.

Florida's Atlantic Coast Resorts

I haven't visited Volusia County's Sunny Sands Resort (www.sunnysands.com), but it seems a smaller version of Lake Como, judging from the pictures and information on its website. Naturists visiting clothing-optional Apollo Beach at Canaveral National Seashore may wish to consider this resort as a convenient place to stay overnight.

Sunsport Gardens (www.sunsportgardens.com) in Palm Beach County is closer to the traditional appearance of the “nudist colony”—it's literally several miles from the highway down an unpaved road winding past plant nurseries and equestrian facilities. An ongoing project is maintaining the lush native Florida vegetation found throughout the resort. There's a small restaurant—which always features one vegetarian entrée—but no bar, although you're welcome to bring in your own alcohol. Tent and RV campers are welcome, and probably include the majority of visitors, but there are also rental cabins available. Dances and drum circles mark the weekends, but the big event is the Mid-Winter Naturist Festival in February, which usually brings in 300 or more participants from across the country. (See *Sunsport review in Spring 2006 SunDial*, and page 4 feature in this issue.)

Sunnier Palms (www.sunnier.com) in St. Lucie County—like Lake Como, a cooperative owned by its residents—is set in 12 acres of natural pine forest, and may be the only resort offering discounts to members of major environmental organizations. Accommodations are limited to RV hookups and tent camping. No pets are allowed. “Types of activities enjoyed by all include heated pool and hot tub, volleyball and other game courts, yard games and nature walks. Nudity is expected throughout Sunnier Palms property.” There is no restaurant or bar.

Seminole Health Club in Broward (*phone: 954-473-0231; no website*), which is under new ownership as of 2006—is basically a 10-acre RV park for nudists, with a pool, hot tub, and tennis and petanque courts.

Admission Considerations, and the National Nudist/Naturist Organizations, AANR & TNS

Resorts sell annual memberships of varying cost; non-members pay a daily fee, usually ranging from \$20 to \$30 dollars. Members of The Naturist Society (TNS) and the American Association for Nude Recreation (AANR) receive discount admission (typically 20% off) at all affiliated resorts. Therefore, TNS or AANR membership is a good investment for those interested in visiting different resorts. Some resorts will occasionally offer a free day visit to first-time visitors, other introductory specials, or reduced-rate evening visits.

Our Canadian friends may instead wish to check into the Federation of Canadian Naturists (FCN), the national nud-

Florida's Fabulous Nudist Resorts conclusion

ist organization of Canada, which is also honored at most U.S. resorts. (www.fcn.ca) A number of Florida resorts will also accept the South Florida Free Beaches membership card for a discount; these are listed on the SFFB website. Use the form on page 7 to join SFFB, TNS or FCN.

Founded in 1931 as The American Sunbathing Association, AANR's existence spans most of the time of the establishment of private nudist resorts in the U.S., and it may be considered the trade union of nudist resorts & nudist resort residents, in the sense that many resorts mandate AANR membership for their residents. (Cec Cinder's book *The Nudist Idea* contains a fair amount of information on the early days of the organization, such as its fight with the US government over the dissemination of nudist publications through the mails.) AANR membership includes the monthly color *Bulletin* newspaper, and voting privileges for its board.

TNS was established in 1980 to advocate naturism and defend public skinny-dipping sites from increasing government interference. TNS membership includes the quarterly *N Magazine*, and voting privileges for board members of its legal and educational adjunct organizations, the Naturist Action Committee and the Naturist Education Foundation. TNS Naturist Network resorts are expected to adhere to a policy that reads, in part: "The Naturist Society does not recognize groups or clubs which promise or intend primarily to promote sexual activity, or which practice a policy of exclusion based on race, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation or disability. It is acknowledged that single male visitors may be subject to a quota if a club or resort deems this unavoidable...Clubs...are expected to accept a 'couple' as defined by The Naturist Society card." (TNS will issue a joint card to a gay couple living at the same address.) A legacy of founder Lee Baxandall – who now resides at Palm Springs' Desert Shadows Resort – this policy is fully endorsed by current TNS management.

Today, many "resort nudists" visit the designated naturist beaches in the U.S. and Europe, and many "free beach naturists" have become nudist resort members or residents. So AANR advocates protecting "[public] nude recreation in such places where there is an established tradition for sunbathing," and TNS has established affiliations with essentially the same resorts as are also members of AANR. And, while sometimes differing in legal and legislative tactics, the two organizations have cooperated recently on certain legal, legislative and free beach issues.

We should here note that some resorts may place quotas or restrictions on single male visitors. Paradise Lakes requires single males to be members of one of the national nudist organizations; at Caliente, single males must be members of at least a year's standing. Lake Como, Sunsport Gardens, and The Island Group have no restrictions or quotas. Single males are advised to call other resorts that have no

published policies before visiting. Singles may also wish to check into the singles' weekends that are periodically offered by many of the resorts.

Nude Beaches vs. Nudist Resorts?

In the past, some resort owners may have had concerns that a nearby naturist beach would hurt their revenue. In fact, Haulover's naturist beach has led to an increase in the customer base of the two closest resorts, Seminole and Sunsport—as well as greatly benefiting the South Florida hospitality industry generally, drawing an estimated half-million tourist visits each year. SFFB has also advised motoring tourists on convenient nudist resort stop-overs along their routes to Haulover.

Rather than being a threat, a popular nude beach can offer a large pre-qualified pool of potential resort customers. We suspect that a designated nude beach in the Tampa area – an ongoing project of Tampa Area Naturists (www.tanfl.com) – would similarly increase custom at the nearby resorts in Pasco County — and generally for all the local hospitality industry. Why not stay at a nudist resort while they're here, to maximize and diversify their nude recreation time?

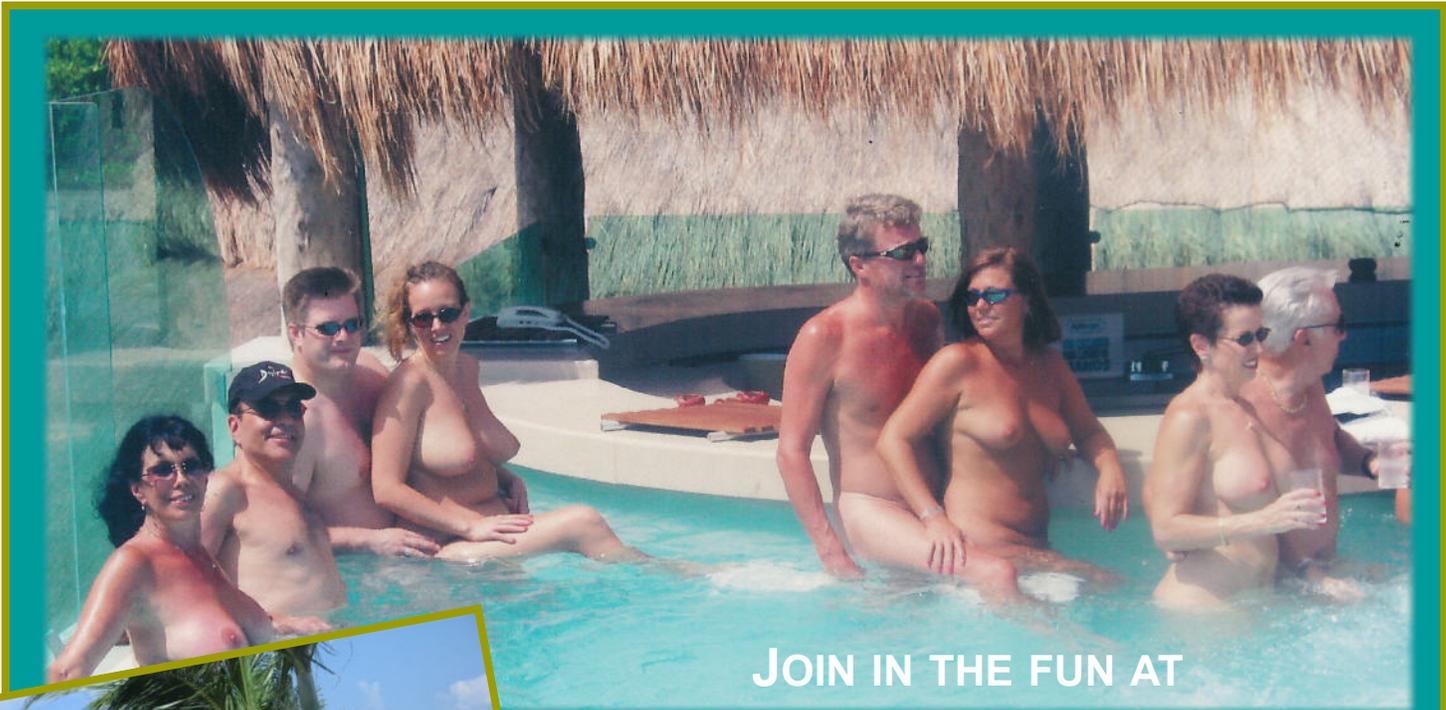
It is hoped that everyone now sees that it isn't a zero-sum game between free beach naturists and the private resort nudists, but rather a symbiotic relationship. A thriving nude beach can only increase Americans' acceptance of and thirst for nude recreation. And indeed, the resorts are more in competition with each other, than with clothing-optional beaches — something quite apparent in Pasco County. Yet the continued success of the neighboring Pasco resorts shows that the market is still largely under-served; the number of annual visitors to all U.S. resorts is only a small percentage of those that have at one time participated in some form of nude recreation – upward of 55 million Americans. (See page 6.) ☀

Lack of space & familiarity led us to omit mention of the following AANR/TNS affiliated resorts in northern Florida:

*Panhandle area: Riviera Naturist Resort, Sunburst Resort
Northeast Florida: Hidden River Resort.*

Links to these resorts, and to all affiliated U.S. resorts, may be found at:





JOIN IN THE FUN AT

Caribbean Hideaways, Inc

YOUR GUIDE TO THE CARIBBEAN – CLOTHES FREE!

Over 35 years experience providing naturist couples and singles with the best in *au naturel* travel

SAVE WITH SPECIAL GROUP RATES!

For your custom vacation quote visit

www.caribbean-hideaways.com

or call us toll-free at

800 - 828 - 9356

featured resorts include:

- Desire Resorts, Mexico • Hidden Beach Resort
- Club Orient • Sorobon, Bonaire
- Sunset Beach Resort & Spa • Eden Bay
- Grand Lido Braco • Grand Lido Negril
- Couples Ocho Rios & Negril • Cap d'Agde
- Hedonism II • Hedonism III
- Breezes Golf & Beach Resort • Desert Shadows



Eden Bay Resort



Desire Resort



Hidden Beach