

The 2020 NAC and NEF Impact Summary

Print this newsletter. Put it in your beach bag. Share it with friends. Let everyone know what the Naturist Action Committee and the Naturist Education Foundation have been up to this year.

This end-of-year newsletter summarizes many of the things NAC and NEF have acomplished in 2020. It's obvously been a rough year for everyone, but we're still defending naturist rights and promoting naturism just the same as we always have.

Our impact has been impressive this year. A brand new and legally-designated nude beach opened thanks in part to NAC, many citations at other locations around the country were dismissed, and we even had a recent win for top-freedom. NEF's grants continue to have a measurable impact. And the NEF Research Library has matured to an impressive and accessible offering of naturist history.

Keep reading for a taste of what we've been up to in 2020.

Newsletter Aims to Meet NAC's Ongoing Information Needs

With this issue we are starting to give the Naturist Action Committee's contributors and naturists throughout North America a clear and timely snapshot of what is being accomplished on a monthly basis.

From it's inception, NAC has urgently moved forward in efforts to preserve existing nude-use areas on public beaches and lands, while also concentrating on protecting endangered sites. We believe it's time to begin reporting to you regularly on what is being accomplished.

Now in its second year, NAC has been busy...

Wait, what? Second year? The

title and first couple of paragraphs are actually from "The Newsletter", February of 1992, that was published through TNS. After many years without a newsletter, these paragraphs again ring true. Earlier in 2020 we started up the newsletter again from scratch.

NAC doesn't have enough content for a monthly newsletter. Neither does NEF. And neither does the NEF Research Library. However, by joining forces, we've been cranking out a pretty interesting newsletter each month for most of the year, and we're committed to keeping it going.

"Pages of History" as it's currently titled, is all original content from NAC, NEF, NEFRL, Area Reps, and others

involved in our activities. We don't churn the same news stories everyone else does (unless we were involved). And we primarily focus on the achievements and activities from each of the organizations.

Check out our newsletter archive and sign up. It's all FREE. The link is on the last page of this newsletter.



St. Lucie County, Florida, Officially Designates a Naturist Beach!

By Richard Mason, NAC Board Member

Commissioners, observing a "recognized" naturist beach area at Blind Creek Beach on Hutchinson Island for over 5 years, voted by ordinance, at their June 2, 2020 county commission meeting to officially designate the over 1/2 mile of beach a "Naturist Beach."

On a 4-to-1 vote the commission members showed their support and appreciation of the efforts made by members of the Treasure Coast Naturists in not only establishing the clothingoptional naturist beach, but also to the care they took of the environment.

"The Naturist Action

past... "

Committee was a major

The Naturist Action Committee was a major financial supporter in the past to the Treasurer Coast Naturists' efforts financial supporter in the when they were forced to an expensive professional Tallahassee

government affairs firm to clear up a land ownership and use dispute between the state of Florida and St. Lucie County on the boundaries and use of Blind Creek Beach.

Various county commissioners and other county officials commented on how the naturist beach visitors kept the beach clean by taking out food and drink containers, educating new visitors on keeping out of the delicate dunes, and because of the beaches remote area, the Treasurer Coast Naturists leased portable restroom facilities for the beach visitors use.

Further, through the Treasure Coast Naturists Beach Ambassador Program they had human resources on the beach to educate beach visitors new to the nude beach experience on the rules known as Naturist Beach Etiquette.

> Blind Creek Beach is the second officially designated naturist beach Florida, but the first one designated by a county ordinance.

Haulover Beach Park's designated Naturist Beach to the south in Miami-Dade County was designated in 1991. Attracting over 1.2 million annual visitors, it is a major tourist destination for both domestic and foreign tourists.

Florida's state tourist agency, Visit Florida, has an option on its web site to enable visitors to the state to locate nudist resorts and clothing-optional naturist beaches.

When asked about potential user county conflicts, one official commented: "If the nudity offends you, you can solve the issue by averting your

How you can help establish additional naturist beaches:

You can support the Naturist Action Committee's future efforts to establish designated naturist beaches and/or protect existing naturist beaches by donating to the Naturist Action Committee.

This is an abbreviated version of the article originally published in our June 2020 newsletter.

Photo by Treasure Coast Naturists.



Naturist Action Committee Goes to the Aid of Florida Beach Visitor

NAC has helped get numerous citations dismissed this year, this is one of the more interesting ones that we wrote about in the September newsletter.

During July 2020 a visitor to Florida's Playalinda Beach in Canaveral National Seashore (CNS/NPS) was cited by a Park Ranger for being merely nude while sunbathing on the beach near parking lot #5. Playalinda Beach has a recognized traditional nude beach section in the area of parking lots #12 & #13.

The visitor from the state of Georgia had picked up the information on the nude beach at Playalinda Beach from the State of Florida's official tourist information website, Visit Florida. However, the website does not list the appropriate parking lot location and Canaveral National Seashore has no signs to identify where the traditional nude beach is located.

He was ticketed for Exposure of Sex Organ and Disorderly Conduct. He

then contacted NAC for assistance. A conviction on the 'Exposure of Sex Organ' charge, while over-broad, could have a person's name end up on a Sexual Predators List.

The NAC representative immediately wrote a letter to the Park Superintendent outlining the errors in the citation and requesting the citation be voided. The conversation was professional and objective. The superintendent agreed to look into the situation and act according to the law and the advice of the US Attorney.

The visitor received a summons to the federal court in Orlando. He did not hire an attorney because the fee quoted was going to be in excess of \$4000.

When he arrived at the court, he was met by the chief ranger and the ranger that issued the citation. They informed him that the citation had been canceled and apologized to him for the mistake and any inconvenience they caused him.

Please support NAC on its mission of naturist activism set forth by Lee Baxandall.

NAC relies entirely on donations from generous naturists like you, now more than ever.

Donations are accepted online or by mail.

P.O. Box 132 Oshkosh, WI 54903

NaturistAction.org/donate



Another Win for Top-Freedom in Minneapolis

When the Naturist Action Committee first got word July 13th that the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board was planning to repeal a law banning female toplessness, we were happy. The situation was already going in our favor, so there was nothing we had to take action on. Per the news story on July 13th, the board was already very much in favor of top-equality.

The ordinance in question is PB 2-21: "No person ten (10) years of age or older shall intentionally expose his or her own genitals, pubic area, buttocks or female breast below the top of the areola, with less than a fully opaque covering in or upon any park or parkway."

On August 19th, the board meeting minutes recorded 20 people opposing the ordinance repeal, and 2 that supported the repeal, during the public comment portion. The board decided to table the motion indefinitely in a 5-to-2 vote.

Due to this uncertain outcome, which usually leads to the motion being dropped eventually, the Naturist Action Committee decided to get involved. On October 21st, Richard Mason sent a letter to multiple boards that were involved or had influence. It's unclear if this influenced anyone's vote, especially since the Park and Recreation Board already was in favor of repealing the ordinance back in July. Perhaps the letter helped to get the motion back on the table.

On November 18th, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board did their "second and final reading". Committee members again pointed out that the ordinance had sexist language ("female breast"), lacked an exception for breastfeeding, and perhaps was unenforceable anyway. (The City Attorney's Office had made it clear that they wouldn't prosecute mere toplessness, as long as there wasn't any lewd behavior.)

The board did their research and reviewed the laws in Minneapolis and at the state level, and even went into case law which dealt more with flashing, streaking, and other things that purposefully drew attention. The state and city laws focus on lewd conduct, not specifically body parts. The board pointed out that ordinances superseded by state law are typically just repealed since laws are already on the books that officers can use. PB 2-21 certainly falls into this category.

The board also brought up that PB 2-21 is a 14th Amendment issue. No males have been cited for toplessness, and the ordinance clearly targets women.

All 9 board members unanimously voted in favor of repealing the ordinance, thus making top-freedom legal in Minneapolis parks.

Naturist Action Committee Pages of History Naturist Education Foundation

Staying Safe – A Public Beach Defense Advisory

By Richard Mason, NAC Board Member

Before a naturist makes a decision to go to a specific beach location to get nude, they should have completed a "predictive thinking" mental exercise on how they would behave if approached by a law enforcement officer, how it would be best for them to act, and what they would do to try to avoid a ticket.

Before you stock the cooler, pack your "legal defense kit". When you go to a public beach, you should have with you a copy of the following:

- ► Your most current membership cards for any nudist organizations you belong to.
- ► The Naturist Beach Etiquette
- ► The Naturist Bill of Rights
- ► Your driver's license
- ► Your passport
- ► The 6th Amendment to the US Constitution

"Before you stock the cooler, pack your "legal defense kit"."

Put these, or copies of them, in a sturdy freezer quality zippered storage bag. The importance of these documents is to differentiate yourself from the other people who may go nude with a sexual agenda in mind.

You do not know why the law enforcement officer is there. They may be there on a specific complaint against you, or they may be there on a sweep.

If they were sent there specifically on a complaint against you, it is important to know because that will kick-in specific US Constitutional protections.

If they are there on a general sweep, then the legal documents will be your first line of defense in differentiating you from the people they were sent there to cite.

Don't reach into your beach bag at any time. If you have everything stowed in your beach bag, inform the officer and immediately give them permission to examine your beach bag. Even if you're top-free, don't reach for your top without permission. Complying with law enforcement commands will help prevent added charges of obstruction. By being proactively savvy and cooperative you may put the officer more at ease and establish a friendly atmosphere which can aid in diffusing the situation.

Inform the officer that if nude sunbathing is discouraged in that location, you will be happy to get dressed and leave the area. If they indicate that they are going to write a citation, ask what law you are being charged with violating. Research will be needed to get the citation dismissed.

Note: NAC and NEF maintain a statute law page and a case law page. They are a great starting point for research, and we welcome any updates that naturists find.

Amendment 6 of the US Constitution states, and has been interpreted, that the witnesses must have provided a signed

complaint or appear in court. In Miami at the police academy they teach that witnesses must sign a complaint and must also appear in court. If there is no one to challenge that issue, it will be overlooked by the system; and not to the advantage of the defendant.

I, thru SFFB and now NAC, have assisted with well over 200 cases. All were dismissed. We first educate the person who was cited. After hearing the elements of the case, we send them information that can help them get the case dismissed in court if they are planning to defend themselves.

We recommend they have an attorney. If the charge is disorderly conduct, they may get lucky on their own and get the case dismissed. If the charges are areas such as; indecent exposure, lewd & lascivious, or sexual enticement, these are serious, and a conviction may get you on the sexual predator list, which can ruin your life.

Nude sunbathing does not reach the level of indecent exposure, but you can get convicted without a strong defense. We work with public defenders and private attorneys.

Naturists need to take the time to study the court decisions concerning public nudity in the state they are living or even the state they are visiting for nude recreation. Visit or speak to the public defender in your county or the county where nude recreation is located. Research the case law together or online or visit a public or university law library. There are students working in these libraries who can help you. Protect yourself and your colleagues.

Protect yourself. Be smart – and polite – about it, and keep the legalities in mind. Please share this information with others too.

This is an abbreviated version of the article originally published in our November 2020 newsletter.



Photo by Susan Shopiro, Blind Creek Beach

National Park Seashore Advice

When visiting a National Park Seashore that has a recognized traditional nude beach section, be sure to stay within that specific beach location and stay close to the main body of naturists.

There have been several incidents where a person has set-up away from the main body of nude beach visitors or has gone to the wrong location and then got nude, only to be cited by National Park Service officers for "Indecent Exposure."

While there is no Federal Law that criminalizes "mere nudity", a few National Park Rangers will cite a person using a state law, utilizing a concurrent agreement that the National Park System has with a state or locale or use the universal legal term "Indecent Exposure."

We at NAC who are made aware of these citations have no way of knowing if these wrongful citations are part of a park management program or just an individual judgment of a park ranger.

Once a citation is issued, they are difficult to get dismissed, and most require an attorney which can get expensive. The best was to avoid these type of incidents is to go to the traditional area and stay there while nude.

Other Large Projects in Progress:

Split Rock at Mohonk Preserve

Gunnison Beach

Lighthouse Beach

Contact NAC if you're willing to help out with these large projects.

Or, show your support by making a donation to NAC.

Newsletter Publication Policy

By Doug Hickok, Editor

This publication's primary intent is to communicate newsworthy items from the Naturist Action Committee, the Naturist Education Foundation, and the NEF Research Library on a monthly basis. All board members are encouraged to contribute, and their contributions take top priority for publication.

We would like to welcome NAC and NEF Area Representatives as well for newsletter contributions. If you're an Area Representative with something interesting to talk about going on in your area, an interesting research project you'd like to share, or anything else you feel might fit in here, we'd be happy to consider publishing it. Even if your NOT an Area Representative yet, but a reader of our newsletter, we may still consider it.

Authors and creators will always retain their copyright for both text and

photos. If you read the fine print, there are some other publishers that state "Material accepted for publication becomes the property of [us]". We're not like that. We'll be happy to run articles after they've been published elsewhere, as long as they fit in appropriately here, and we will never claim your hard work as "our property". (You must submit your original draft though, not one that's been edited by a publisher.) We do claim copyright on the newsletter editing and layout, which actually helps content creators since we can both get involved if infringement happens. There are no strict rules for formatting or length, and we're not picky about "first publication rights", so vour historical works may still be of interest and worth another look.

We look forward to seeing your contributions!

NEF's Covert Mission during COVID

Remember way back in May, when the country was still in lock-down from the first wave of COVID-19? In the May newsletter I told the story of our 5-day cross-country trip while in mobile isolation. I framed the trip as follows:

"NEF had a donation that needed to be picked up in person, from a highrisk donor in his 80's, who has a condition that is progressing at a rate where we probably couldn't wait until next year. The significance of the donation, and the risk of waiting, made it clear that we needed to get this done as soon as possible."

I am still in contact with this donor, and sadly his condition certainly is progressing. We're still getting a few items from him that were missed in May. And we're still working to get this huge collection properly sorted, cataloged, and safely stored.

As-if this original van load of materials wasn't enough, NEF successfully tracked down another large piece of the puzzle over the summer. With a lot of generous help from the source, we're working through the international logistics to get it moved.

It still hasn't been formally announced, but Lee Baxandall would be proud. With NEF's backing, and Lee's blessing from many years ago, it'll be a powerful tool for body acceptance and public engagement well into the future.





NEF Provides Grant for the Sky Farm Historical Document Preservation Project By Susan Shopiro, NEF Board Member

Skinny dipping and air baths have long been part of the American culture whether cooling off on a hot day after outdoor tasks or as part of health However organized Social Nudism came to the United States in the first quarter of the 20th century, imported from Germany by members of the Freikörperkultur (FKK) or free body culture movement. The founders of Sky Farm were followers of this movement. The members of the American League for Physical Culture, as Sky Farm was called then, purchased the land that the club still resides on in 1932.

Since that moment the records of the club's membership, activities, brochures, camp by-laws, rules, advertisements, posters, pictures, blueprints, I could go on have been pictures, piling up in boxes stored in members homes and cabins or in an unheated metal building called the Pole Barn. Some of these documents are 88 years old and showing their age. One leaky roof could destroy the history of the club as well as some of the earliest history of organized nudism in this country.

The members of the Sky Farm Historical Society have organized a

group of volunteers who are currently reviewing all these files, notebooks, pictures, to determine what should be shared openly with naturist libraries and what can be accessed with permission of the Sky The second step of this Governors. project is to preserve in digital format all of the records and the Naturist Education Foundation (NEF) provided a grant to pay for the scanning equipment and storage devices.

Please support NEF on its mission of naturist education and public outreach set forth by Lee Baxandall.

NEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations to NEF are tax-deductible.

Donations are accepted online or by mail.

P.O. Box 132 Oshkosh, WI 54903

NaturistEducation.org/donate





Nude Cruise of 1932

Photos By Susan Shopiro Text By Doug Hickok

This brochure, likely from among the first commercial "nude cruises", was recently re-discovered by a Sky Farm member. They are thought to be from one of the original members of Sky Farm.

This tour was led by Mason and Francis Merrill. Mason was a University of Wisconsin professor of English, who ended up publishing the books
"Among the Nudists" in
1931 and "Nudism Comes to America" in 1932. (NEFRL has a copy of both books.) Between the books and the tour, this must've been a busy time for the Merrills.

More photos and details were published in the September newsletter. 🦃



This Tour

UNDOUBTEDLY the enthusiastic acceptance of the benefits of sunlight and air and the coincident discounting of the ancient arbitrary conventions that have interfered so long with their enjoyment have produced, in Nudism, the most profound change now in process in the social life of Europe.

Yet, although the movement is said to number upwards of three million adherents, the ordinary traveler sees nothing of it. The free enjoyment of sun and air is still forbidden in public places in Europe, except in various localities in Scandinavia and Russia. Nudist practice in reasonably private circles is, however, perfectly legal in the chief civilized countries of Europe. The camps and other places set aside for this purpose belong either to individuals having a personal clientele or to the various nudist organizations and societies in the different countries. To become acquainted with the movement one must, therefore, have entrée to these circles and the average traveler lacks the necessary connections or the time to establish them.

The aim of this tour is to be first of all a good standard tour of Europe with excellent hotel accommodations and the same ample sightseeing arrangements that the best escorted tours provide. In addition it will enable its members to know at first hand this revolutionary form of emancipation that is sweepfirst hand this revolutionary form of emancipation that is sweeping Europe and in which intelligent Americans have a natural and rapidly growing interest. Those who join the party are assured in advance not only that they may expect a friendly welcome in these circles abroad but also that the whole expedition will be carried out in the fullest degree of personal dignity and respect. It will be a free and joyous experience of what has turned out to be, in Europe at least, a consistent enhancement of health, happiness, and wholesome living. Naturist Action Committee Pages of History Naturist Education Foundation

Lee Baxandall: The UW Years and First Published Work

By Shannon Lewis, NAC and NEF Area Representative

In 1952, an Oshkosh high school senior named Lee Baxandall was named Outstanding Wisconsin Teenager for his work in organizing area youth while a member of the Boy Scouts of America. Scouting remained important to Lee well into his adult life. He was an Eagle Scout, and he went on to receive the prestigious Golden Palm Award in 1955. He helped to supervise the Twin Lakes Reservation. Years of Scouting helped to hone Lee's leadership skills. It also introduced him to an activity that would later prove to be very important in his life: skinny dipping.

Lee Baxandall entered the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the fall of 1953, following in the footsteps of his father Raymond, who had graduated from the University in 1924. Like his father, Lee served on the editorial staff of The Octopus, a UW-Madison satirical student magazine that was published from 1920 to 1959. Briefly resurrected in the late eighties, it's sometimes cited as an influence for another famous Wisconsin humor publication, The Onion.

Interestingly, the theme of the November 1923 issue of The Octopus, edited by Raymond Baxandall, is "physical culture," a term that American nudist pioneer Kurt Barthel would use six years later when he organized the American League for Physical Culture, the first nudist organization in the United States.

The February 1954 issue of The Octopus features an essay which may be Baxandall's first published work, a short piece entitled "One Whole Generation of Jelly Fish." The one-page essay describes the 1893 toppling of the university's Bascom Hill Lincoln statue by a group of students, told from the point of view of the statue itself.

Lee graduated from UW-Madison with a baccalaureate in 1957 and a master's degree just one year later, and was recognized by the university for being a member of the Phi Eta Sigma and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies, the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, Cadet Sergeant First Class of the campus ROTC, as well as editor of both New Ideas and The Octopus.

Lee Baxandall's passion for writing and social activism would continue to grow and evolve in the coming years, as would his passion for skinny dipping.

This article is an abbreviated version of two articles that appeared in the August and September newsletters. Check those out for some photos and to read "One Whole Generation of Jelly Fish" for yourself.

Moses Littauer and his 1921 Naturist Colony

By Doug Hickok, NEFRL Director

I stumbled onto an interesting piece of 100-year-old naturist history that isn't in the history books. In general, and to put it into context, this is nearly a decade before the beginning of proper organized naturism in the US.

Image Caption: 'Here is one family of a "Naturist" colony, living on the summit of "Freedom Hill" in the Orange Mountains, N. J. In the foreground is Moses Littauer, the bearded "Master" of the cult. They take "sun baths" each day and are strict vegetarians. The clothing they wear is designed to give them freedom of movement and comfort.'

The article headline is "Vegetarians Live on \$1 a Week. It's Easy -- Head of New Jersey Naturist Colony Shows You How." It goes on to state "You can leave all the complexities of modern existence behind. All you have to do is promise to love and obey two tenets of the Naturist Colony, humanitarianism and vegetarianism."

"Moses Littauer, who fled New York four years ago and built himself a dug-out on Freedom Hill, above Plainfield, has been followed by naturists from New York and other places, until today a colony of 60 are leading the back-to-nature existence in the wooded New Jersey tract."

Read all about it in the November newsletter! It includes the original 1921 article, more details on Littauer, and a couple more pictures.



Fidus Art

By Doug Hickok, NEFRL Director

If the artwork around this newsletter reminds you of vintage German naturist magazines, it's no coincidence. In the June newsletter, I debuted this new style along with a short bio of Fidus after discovering that his artwork is public domain now. From that article:

Hogo Höppener (Fidus) studied the Art Nouveau style, along with other styles, under K. W. Diefenbach. According to the book "Body, Femininity and Nationalism: Girls in the German Youth Movement 1900-1934", the author states the following about Fidus:

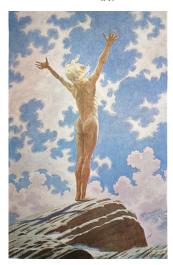
"[Fidus] was not only a painter and draughtsman but also a prophet and a 'priest'. He preached in words and

images the pure love between man and a woman, their merging, the unity of body and soul, the German Gottglauben [believing in God], the unity of nature and culture, the rejection of civilization, intellect, industry, and the urban. Fidus wasn't particularly in demand in modern artistic circles. Generally they found his art appalling, and his messages tasteless. The life-reforming ideals which he had followed found more approval in the youth movement."

Fidus and his art were very much in demand for magazines associated with the youth movement, and concepts like body culture and nudism came from that movement. His art can be seen in numerous naturist publications spanning from about 1900 to 1930, and some even dedicated special issues to him or carried his writings.

A second wave of popularity happened in the 1960's. Fidus was an inspiration to a whole generation of

hippy culture and their artwork. An article from Hippy.com mentions him as "perhaps the greatest psychedelic artist ever, pre-dating the 1960's multi-colored posters and albums by over a half century". We appreciate your art, Fidus, and we thank you for all the wonderful work you've done.



Naturist Education Foundation Research Library Summary of Library Services

Visitation, Tours, and Browsing Limited and by appointment only.

Physical Loans / Inter-Library LoansThis isn't practical for a Research
Library (and rare material archive) such
as ours. There are no physical loans at
this time.

Digital Loans

Debuted in February, patrons can sign up for a "library card" and request items digitally. The digital loans can be viewed in your web browser. We offer items in our audio collection, some celluloid films, and numerous other items for digital loan. Our offerings keep expanding as we digitize new items. There's lots of interesting things to check out! (pun intended!) Best of all, this service is FREE.



Research Requests

Most people have never done this at a library, but it's the best way to access our nearly 16,000 magazines, nearly 1,000 books, and anything else. You don't need a library card for this, and it's also a FREE service. Fill out the simple form and send it in, and we'll see what we can do. The main constraint is that requests must meet "fair use", meaning one article per magazine or less than 10% of a book. Not sure what to ask for? Try our full-text search tool to help identify magazines with the topics you're seeking.

See the NEF Research Library webpage for details on everything above.

The NEF Research Library is proudly a member of:

- ► Wisconsin Library Association
- ► American Library Association
- ► Nudist Library Consortium

Naturist Education Foundation Research Library http://NaturistEducation.org/library







Like This Newsletter?

Sign up today and be notified each month!

Original content about the activist efforts of the Naturist Action Committee, the public outreach efforts of the Naturist Education Foundation, and the preservation of naturist history by the NEF Research Library. Be in the loop with the FREE newsletter!

Sign up on the newsletter page:

http://naturisteducation.org/library/newsletters.html



Like Our Efforts?

Please support NAC on its mission of naturist activism set forth by Lee Baxandall.

NAC relies entirely on donations from generous naturists like you, now more than ever.

Donations are accepted online or by mail.

P.O. Box 132 Oshkosh, WI 54903

NaturistAction.org/donate



Please support NEF on its mission of naturist education and public outreach set forth by Lee Baxandall.

NEF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization and all donations to NEF are tax-deductible.

Donations are accepted online or by mail.

P.O. Box 132 Oshkosh, WI 54903

NaturistEducation.org/donate



Thank you for your support! - The NAC and NEF Board