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The Newsletter of the *Naturist Action Committee* and the *Naturist Education Foundation*

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Summer Event Highlights for 2023

Each summer, the Naturist Action Committee and the Naturist Education Foundation support some of the events going on. Typically this involves promotion and monetary support, but sometimes we're in attendance as well. See the next couple of pages for details on the events listed below.

GNI's The Gathering, August 18-27

Eastern Naturist Festival, July 20-23
(Register by June 15)

Western Naturist Festival, June 15-18

Sunsport's Family Youth Camp, July 8-16

AANR-Midwest Kids Kamp, June 18-24



The Gathering

[From the website]

The GNI Gathering, aka "naked camp," is a gay, naked camping getaway in the Poconos in Eastern Pennsylvania, just 90 minutes from New York. The event is August 18-27.

Join more than 800 guys from 20+ countries to celebrate the joy of being naked in nature. Men from all walks of life, every age range, race, and body type will be there to enjoy the naked experience of a lifetime!

The Gathering is the summer camp you wish your parents had sent you to.

Accommodations are in rustic group cabins with private toilets / showers in each. Or bring a tent or RV and sleep on our own. (Optional bedding / linen rentals available.)

All meals (breakfast, lunch, dinner, snacks) and beverages are provided. Beer and wine are available during social hours, by the pool, and at the dance club.

Daytime activities include (but are not limited to):

- ▶ Swimming in one of two huge heated pools
- ▶ Working out in our full gym
- ▶ Practicing beginner to intermediate yoga
- ▶ Kayaking, paddle boating, or hiking around the lake
- ▶ Attending a workshop
- ▶ Playing tennis or volleyball

Before dinner, dress up (or stay naked) for any of our fun themed social hour parties.

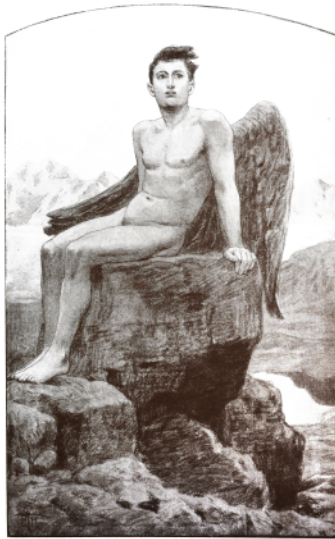
After dinner, enjoy professional entertainers and camp performers, or head over for movie night with popcorn, the piano bar, or a game of bingo.

Finally, after visiting a cabin cocktail party or two, hit the naked dance club unlike any you've seen (and don't forget to dance on a box – you won't forgive yourself if you don't).

Bring a friend, a partner, or come by yourself. You will definitely meet friends – or more – for life!

For more information on The Gathering, visit <https://www.gaynaturists.org/>

[NAC and NEF support The Gathering through promotion. Representatives are planning to attend and will be sponsoring a Social Hour and hosting several workshops.]



Eastern Naturist Festival

[From the website]

ENF is the big east coast clothing-optional naturist festival held on the sprawling 600 acre Eastover Estate in Lenox, Massachusetts July 20 - 23, 2023. Come have loads of fun in the sun at a venue naturists had been asking to return to year after year! What does the tag line mean? No, it's not just for naturists, it's for everybody including newcomers who may be curious and desire to experience even for the first time a clothing-optional naturist event that is completely attended and run by our ever expanding community of volunteers.

Come experience the freedom and enjoy four days and three nights of fun filled naturist activities, workshops, seminars, live entertainment, dancing, nature hikes, health & wellness, personal growth and community building at Eastover Estate all at varying Per Person rates that include meals, accommodations, and taxes. Choose from a variety of rooms, camping or RV. (Due to high demand on space and expected turnout, be sure to book and register as early as possible for best selection, and well in advance of the June 15th registration deadline for this event)

Although you are not required to volunteer for anything, your naturist community would love it if you do . . . because it's not just about recreation . . . but community building!

Please visit their website for more information, to see what's new for 2023, and to sign up to volunteer or attend. <https://easternnaturistfestival.square.site>

[NAC and NEF have awarded a grant to help keep this event going. Representatives are planning to attend.]



Western Naturist Festival

[From the announcements]

The Naturist Society Foundation (TNSF) and the Southern California Naturist Association (SCNA) are hosting a Western Naturist Festival from June 15 to June 18 at Shangri La Ranch Clothing Optional Resort in New River, Arizona.

The SCNA event states "There will be loads of fun and informative seminars, workshops, games, and events, from pickleball and hiking to yoga and water aerobics, political workshops, movies, karaoke, and dances, just to mention a few!" TNSF's advertisement states "this festival is the perfect opportunity to connect with like-minded people, learn new skills, and soak up the natural beauty of the desert landscape."

Shangri La boasts a hot tub, heated pool, and non-heated pool. There is free wifi, the Bare Buns Cafe, a fitness center, and a game room. Opportunities exist for dancing, hiking, biking, water volleyball, water aerobics, and a variety of other outdoor games.

For more information and to register, visit: <https://naturistsociety.com/event/western-naturist-festival/>

[NAC and NEF representatives are planning to attend.]



Sunsport's Family Youth Gathering

[Provided by Sunsport]

The 16th Annual Naturist Family Youth Gathering takes place at Sunsport Gardens Family Naturist Resort July 8-16. Families from across the North America will gather for a clothesfree week of fun and growth. Last summer, families from as far as British Columbia and Wisconsin attended.


The new name, "Gathering" instead of "Camp", is to be consistent with State of Florida definitions. In Florida, camps are either day camps or sleep-over camps for children. Our event is unique in the inclusion of families. Parents and grandparents can participate as much or little as they like. Last summer seven parents joined as full counselors and the others assisted. Each evening the counselors and parents meet to discuss the day including the needs and desires of individual campers and to plan for the next day. Parents refine their parenting skills. The camp provides a wonderful bonding experience for families.

An important part of the Gathering is its teaching, modeling, and practicing interpersonal life skills. These skills which lead to positive relationships and happiness are rarely taught in schools or other places. The skills include recognizing and accepting feelings in self and others, active caring listening, speaking in a non-judgmental way, peaceful conflict resolution, and affirmations of self and others. Just the act of listening intently to others and recognizing their feelings, then repeating back what is heard, can be very powerful. The Gathering is entirely nude for campers, parents, and counselors which promotes body acceptance and appreciation of the great variety of people and how people change with age. All of this results in the formation of a caring, supportive community.



Campers have lots of fun every day. There are sports, canoeing and kayaking, fishing, tie dying, body painting, arts and crafts, constructing and launching bottle rockets, exploration of the food forest in Sunsport's jungle, karaoke, evening campfires, and lots of time in Sunsport's 87 degree pool plus a day playing in the sand and water at clothing optional Haulover Beach. There is always a work project for Sunsport. Last summer, campers decoratively painted rocks and shells which can now be seen in the labyrinth and beside the hot tub. Campers create a claymation video and, on the last evening, produce a variety show to display their talents. Campers have much flexibility in choosing their activities whether their interests are arts and crafts, movie making, sports, science, gardening, or drama.

At the camp, all children (ages 5-17) grow in self-confidence, independence, creativity, and skills while having great fun. Older teens may be able to help as Junior Counselors. Sunsport's restaurant provides healthful and delicious meals. Again this year, AANR-Florida will offer scholarships for the camp. A gallery of camp photos and claymation videos from past years are on Sunsport's website, www.sunsportgardens.com. For more information or to register, contact Morley Schloss at morleynaturist@hotmail.com, 561-254-9878, or 561-791-1361.

[NEF has for many years supported this event through promotion and grants.] 

AANR-Midwest Kids Camp

[From Director Mr. Rick via the AANR-MW website]

Returning to a theme from over a decade ago, the 2023 Kids Kamp will explore ancient cultures in a fun and interactive way. The science of archaeology continues to push back the clock on when people first appeared in the Americas. There is a growing body of evidence that ancient cultures from Europe had a far earlier, and more impactful influence, on the Americas than previously thought. They even left a few signs saying, "We were here".


During Ancient Cultures week we will explore how those cultures lived and thrived, even in areas where we once thought that people could not have survived. We will explore their customs, architecture, art, and ideals. Through looking back we may our path forward.

The campers will learn how most ancient cultures were more comfortable with nudity than we are today and how it was simply viewed as practical and the normal human state. Our campers will explore examples of cultures that embraced differences in a positive way.



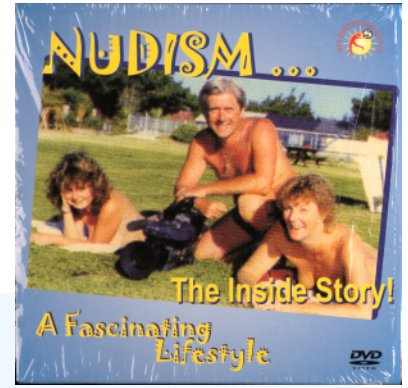
Learning about how great thinkers from the past left their marks on future societies and technologies will help our young campers to make connections that they had never thought about before. The Romans had their hot baths, the Greeks gave us the Olympic Games, the Egyptians developed a rich culture on the banks of the Nile, and the Native Americans showed us how to live in harmony with nature while including all the members of their community. Megalithic cultures left us amazing stone cities and monuments. How was all of this possible?

More info at: <https://aanrmidwest.com/women-and-youth/kids-kamp/>

[NEF last year started supporting this event through promotion and grants.] 

NEF Research Library Adds Digital Non-Fiction DVD's

The following Non-Fiction DVD's (and one lingering Fiction DVD) are available for Digital Lending. Patrons of the library can request these titles and watch them from their phones, tablets, or PC's through their favorite web browser. Membership is free, and loans are free. For more information, visit NaturistEducation.org.



Non-Fiction DVD's:

<u>Asset Tag</u>	<u>Video Title</u>
video513	Nudism...The Inside Story: A Fascinating Lifestyle
video532	Naked Souls: The Spirit of Life
video538	The Gods Must Be Naked!
video539	Variations on a Crimean Theme: Return to Fox Bay
video540	Naked States
video544	History of Naturism (German Video)
video555	Revealing Beauty: Photography and the Nude
video556	Naturist Lifestyles, Number 1, The Early Years
video561	Boobalogues: Our Breast, Our Lives
video562	Dirt Roads, Beachscapes and Bygone Days: A Window to Soap Lake's Past
video577	Sailing, Sea and Sand
video579	Simple Pleasures
video580	Naked Conversations with Nude Women (+ Nude Not)
video581	Lupin Lodge Celebrated 70 Years of Naturist Freedom
video582	Adventures in Freedom I
video583	Adventures in Freedom II
video584	Adventures in Freedom III
video594	Naked in Public I
video595	Naked in Public II
video596	Naked in Public III
video606	The Same River Twice
video609	Naked World: A Revealing Portrait of an Artist and His Subjects
video613	Welcome to Orient Land Trust: Integrating Land Protection and Natural Recreation
video616	Hardfire Exposes the Naked Truth about Nudism
video619	Paradise, Found Then Lost
video620	Photo Sessions I
video621	Photo Sessions II
video622	Photo Sessions III
video671	Chasing the Sun

Added to Fiction:

video214 Crazy, Wild, and Crazy

Walter Green - In Memoriam

By Bill Schroer (NAC Board Chair)

The nudist/naturist movement is better off today because of Walter Green. Walter passed earlier this year but his legacy will live on as naturists/nudists from throughout the greater Maryland area are able to enjoy nude swims and events created, nurtured and developed by Walter.

Walter created his organization (MARNA-Maryland Area Naturist Association) back in the mid-90s when Walter, frustrated that he was not welcome (as a single male) at any of the area nudist resorts, decided to strike off on his own. He began an online forum for single naturists and as membership grew the forum evolved into a club where members would meet. Walter formalized the organization as an AANR (American Association for Nude Recreation) non-landed club (meaning there was no physical place owned by the group to meet or recreate). The group looked for opportunities to meet and socialize as well as enjoy some activity. A nude swim event at a public pool became an idea supported by the group members.

What makes Walter so special (in my book and many others) is not only his initiative in creating and developing the forum and subsequently the MARNA group...but his willingness to be out front as a naturist knocking on doors to find venues willing to rent their space to nudists. As those of us know who are "out" as nudists and work to advocate for nudism and build understanding in the outside world one doesn't always meet with positive affirmation and acceptance...to put it

gracefully. Walter endured refusals, rejections and insults in his search for nude venues...and didn't give up.

When he was successful and found a venue it sometimes didn't last and he would be "evicted" only to start his search all over. But, if anything Walter was dogged. He kept finding new venues and MARNA continued to grow...as more singles, and then couples and then families began attending (he emphasized "family friendly" activities and protocol so young people could be introduced to naturism - those under 18 had to be accompanied by a parent/guardian). He found public or private pools willing to rent their space, he found bowling alleys, he initiated nude yoga classes and he kept moving forward with his vision of a welcoming place for all those interested in naturist experiences and activities.

In addition to being the founder of MARNA and finder of venues, Walter organized volunteers to help staff and promote the events, he established a behavior protocol and he insured everyone behaved. In spite of not having a formal business background he ran MARNA as an ongoing concern that paid its bills and provided a value and a great nudist experience for the members.

While there are many in the nudist community who complain about the lack of nudist venues or the loss of nudist resorts or the closure of a nude beach Walter Green did something about it.

He made ongoing nude events in the Maryland area accessible, affordable,



safe and fun, and he did it without owning a facility, without paid staff and without any compensation for himself.

Regrettably, Walter passed earlier this year but the naturist organization he founded (MARNA) is alive and growing. He has also left us with a successful model for a non-landed club that could be replicated in many communities around the country. Walter Green also provided a remarkable demonstration of what one person can do who has a vision and the courage of his convictions to face the slings and arrows of an often hostile public to bring family friendly nudist events to Maryland.

In appreciation for Walter's accomplishments for naturism and the naturist community NAC is contributing \$250 to the Walter Green fund set up to assist his family. It is a small but heartfelt way for us to celebrate the life and work of Walter Green.

Support the fund at: <https://www.gofundme.com/f/walter-green-iii>



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