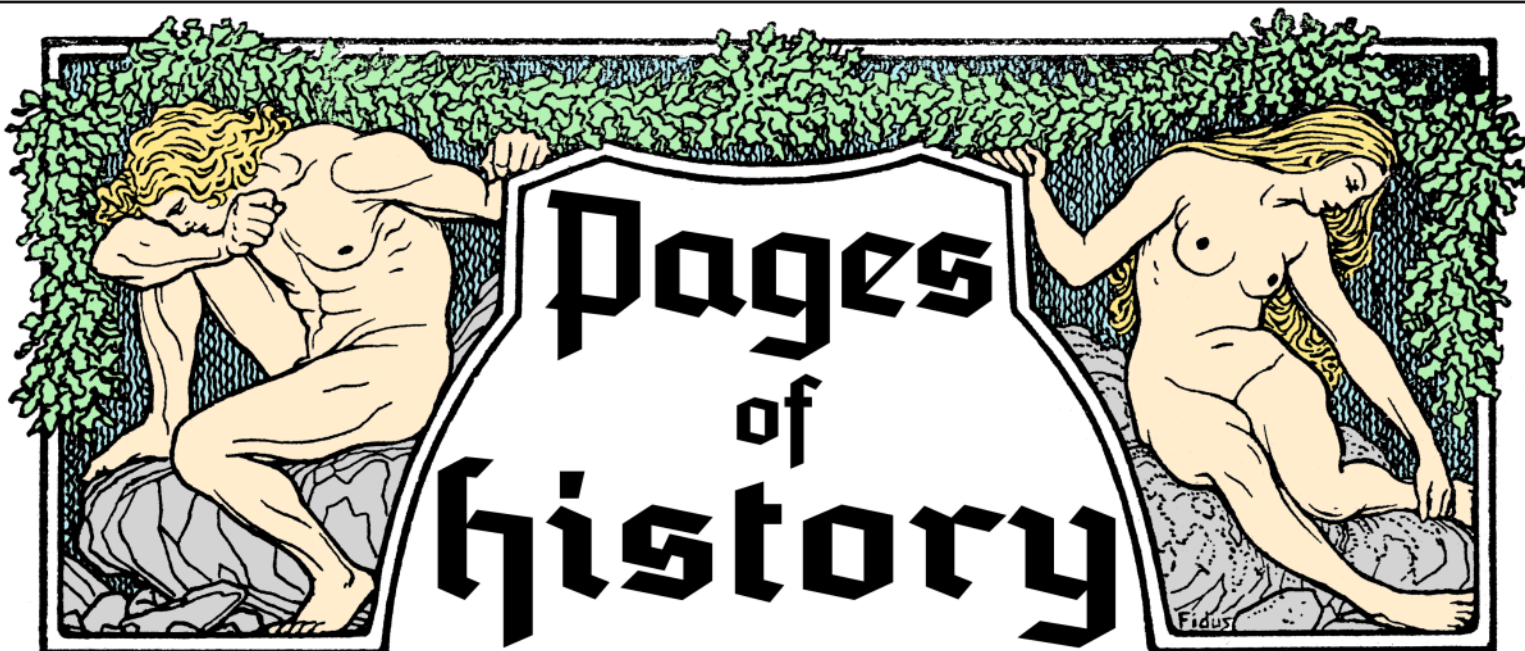




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The Newsletter of the *Naturist Action Committee* and the *Naturist Education Foundation*

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NAC and NEF Attend Multiple Summer Events

By Jim Dickey

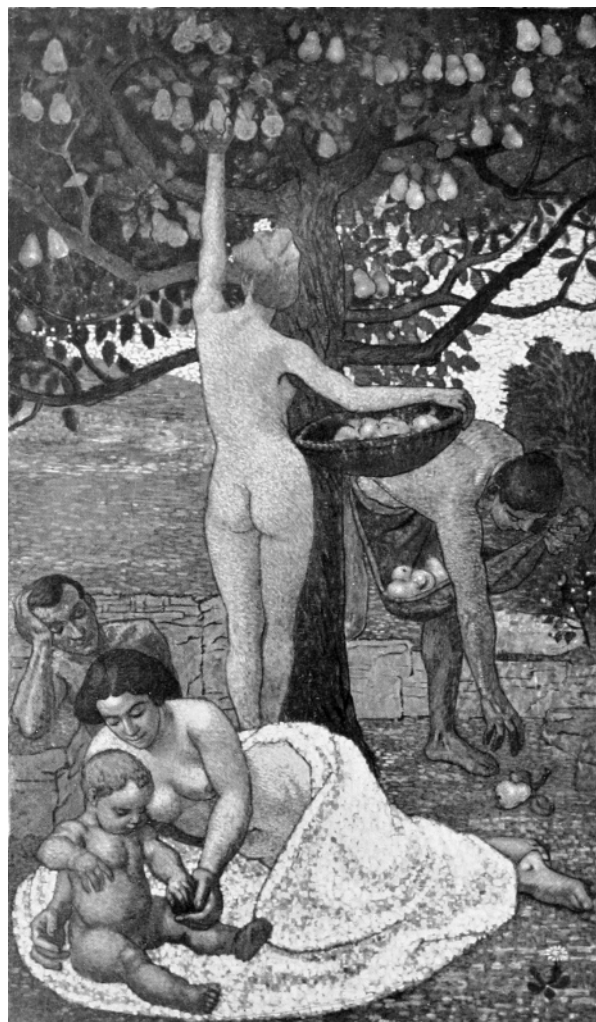
NAC and NEF folks attended a number of the various summer happenings in 2026.

The MoonGroove Music & Arts Festival at White Thorn Lodge in Pennsylvania drew around 1,300 folks. The ENG (Eastern Naturist Gathering) at P.S.H.S. Inc. (Penn Sylvan Health Society) probably surpassed fifty friends and family. We also enjoyed the many excellent offerings at the WNG (Western Naturist Gathering) at Lupin Lodge near Los Gatos California with over 35 friends.

The second year of sponsorship of the 6th annual MoonGroove Festival had three board members plus attend the four day celebration. All greeted folks and answered inquiries each day at our booth. All three (for a second consecutive year) helped lead the Nudism 101 panels, an exchange of info, ideas, and strategies on two different days.

The ENG Gathering returned from 2019 to bring this family and community together again at the end of July in Pennsylvania. NAC and NEF banners were hung, grand friends visited, and many long term relationships were rekindled, to be repeated.

At the WNG, five days of superb activities were on the schedule. Exceptional presentations were accented with friendly competitions, music, free time, beach and museum trips, a talent show, campfire s'mores with music, artistic creations, and with more music. Everywhere, all the food was good and we strongly recommend you add these opportunities to your 2027 agenda.



GNI: A Naturist Community Built Upon Trust and Love

By Maxwell Jones

NAC and Gay Naturist International have had a long-standing collaborative relationship through which each organization receives support and education from one another. Every year at the annual GNI Naked Camp in the Poconos of Pennsylvania, representatives from NAC have met with GNI members to have discussions about naturism, activism, and the unique experiences of gay naturists. The community of men who comprise the membership of GNI find comfort in knowing that they have the support and solidarity of the broader naturist movement. Indeed, naturists of all stripes could do well to follow the example of harmonious community that has been built over the years by GNI.

Each annual gathering requires passionate volunteer work to organize the various workshops, social hours, stage shows, and meals. However, many aspects of the gathering, such as decorations, parties, and dances, are labors of love put together not by GNI leadership, but by members who dedicate their time and talents to help make Naked Camp a success. What we saw demonstrated was naturists putting in the work to make a collective experience better for everyone around them not out of a sense of obligation or with the expectation of reward, but because they are a community in which trust, respect, and love for one another are core values that drive them to cooperate.

Each year a contest is held at Naked Camp to recognize a "Mr. GNI". This contest is not a beauty pageant, but a recognition and celebration of a person who is identified as having values that are vital to naturists. A winner is also typically selected based on their contributions to spreading the idea of naturism to more people in the world. It has been traditional at these gatherings for the NAC representatives to give a brief presentation before the winner is announced. This year's was as follows:

I'm Maxwell Jones and I'm here this week along with my fellow board member Luke to represent the Naturist Action Committee. If you're not familiar, NAC is a 501(c)(4) non-profit organization that was created to protect and advance the rights and interests of naturists in the United States. I'd like to thank the GNI board for having us and continuing to acknowledge the long-standing relationship between our organizations.

NAC's mission is to make naturism an accepted part of society. This is becoming a greater challenge in our fast-changing world. Naturist leaders are aging out of activism, resorts and campgrounds are closing, and nude beaches are being threatened by moral panic. Naturism needs you.

The gay community especially is no stranger to facing adversity. We have organized in the darkest of times, provided mutual aid to one another, and changed the world for future generations. This GNI Gathering embodies the collaboration, camaraderie, and love that have kept our hopes and dreams alive. Take these gifts with you beyond the Poconos.

Tell a close friend about your experiences with social nudism. Host a naked game night or potluck. Get a few people to go skinny dipping or organize a naked hiking trip. You could even give your time or expertise to a naturist non-profit organization!

You can make a difference just by creating more opportunities for nude recreation in the world. But most importantly, it is through building communities of trust and love, like this one, that we will keep the spirit of naturism alive.



Worth a Thousand Words

by Olaf Danielson

Photos, they say are worth a thousand words. Are nudist photos the same?

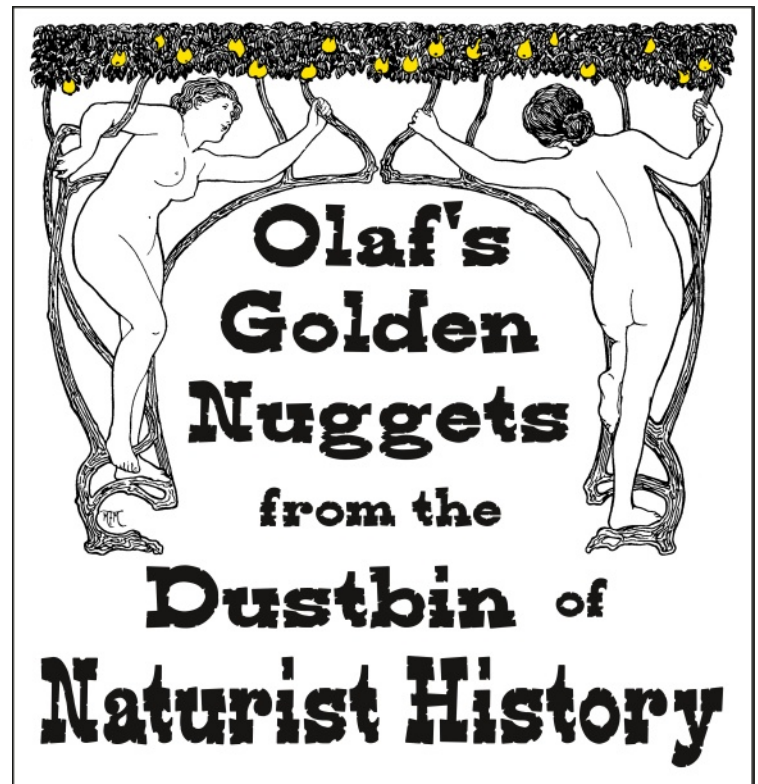
Lately, I have been browsing the internet to see what is out there. This has been a result of two independent tracks. First, I was given some photos that will eventually end up in NEFRL archives that I had no research interest in getting, but I have them. That led me to research the story about what I had been given. Secondly, when I look deeper, I find other things even more interesting. It seems I am always getting pulled into one rabbit hole or another.

This led me into the world of the Sixties thru Eighties “nudist” beauty pageant craze of the era. These events started with the Miss Cosmos Pageant held at Oakdale Guest Ranch in California in 1965 as a way of making money to support the infamous Mel Hocker’s nudist operations there. About the same time, Hocker became fed up with the ASA and left to join the nascent American Health Alliance, and was even the only known member on its board of directors besides past ASA managing director, Norval Packwood, and past ASA president, Mervin Mounce. Sadly, however, despite bringing in many for the two day events, these pageants brought in few new members. By 1974, Hocker was out of money and he sold the place to Bill and Fran Flesher, who changed the name to the Treehouse Fun Ranch, but kept up the tradition of nudist beauty pageants, and rejoined the ASA.



[New NEFRL photo of a food stand at a Ms. Nude Cosmos pageant, mid-Seventies.]

Treehouse held Miss Nude USA, Miss Nude California, and other named events. Other California locales got in on the action, some like Swallows only did it once, holding a Mr. and Ms. Nude pageant in 1981.



[NEFRL Photo of former Swallows’ manager in 1981, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kisslinger.] Jack, still very much alive in Florida, told me he dated a former Ms. Nude California who thought the pageants were great fun, but “Big Sue” Lattimer, who owned Swallows then, did not think much of them and only allowed Jack to do the one event.

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The 1981 Ms. Nude California pageant at Treehouse was well covered by a reporter/photographer named Elisa Leonelli who wrote a very long essay on the event. Her entire photographic documentation of the event is stored at the Claremont College Library archive in California. I contacted Ms. Leonelli to gain permission to use a photo for research purposes, but alas I got a “you are not allowed to use any of my photos under any circumstances” reply. Apparently, I struck a nerve. The photos and her essay are easily readable at the clickable QR code here. From there, you can follow the link to her essay, or click the “Ms. Nude” series to see the other 60-ish photos.



It is not like these are so hard to come by. I was given some from the 1978 event. Most have Bill Flesher in them and a stuffed bear.

[NEFRL Archive photo]



A little too “meat market” for my tastes, but unlike pageant hosts Naked City and Ponderosa in Indiana, and Seminole in Florida (just to name a few), the 1978 named Treehouse Fun Ranch Family Nudist Resort seemed to stay in good graces of the ASA. How? I am not sure.



The event held at Treehouse that I want to see photos of was the 1983 Nudeo-Rodeo, where Bill brought cowboys, cowgirls, and livestock together with nudity and had an event. Sadly, I am still waiting for a donation of these.

There are odd caches of photos and other archival material all over the place. There is a nudist archive at St. Lawrence University. Penn State holds the largest specialized collection on “Utopia” found anywhere in the United States. However, it is almost easier to see the gold in Ft. Knox than to

get access to the many odd books they have. Going there is on my bucket list.

Some photos don’t need to even have people in them to be interesting. This photo came up for sale on Ebay this August. I researched the location. It was taken in Whites, New Mexico in 1976. It was an attempt to get the tourists to slow down after descending down the hill from Carlsbad Caverns National Park into this small town.



[From Ebay, August 2026. The slide sold for \$18.50, the author bid \$10.]

A similar sign was put up in Lancaster Pennsylvania by Lavonne Schlurich in 1978, which according to her, slowed traffic to a crawl making the street safe for children. Suddenly, the sign became more of a tourist stop than the local Amish.



[From the Evening News, Harrisburg PA, July 7, 1978.]

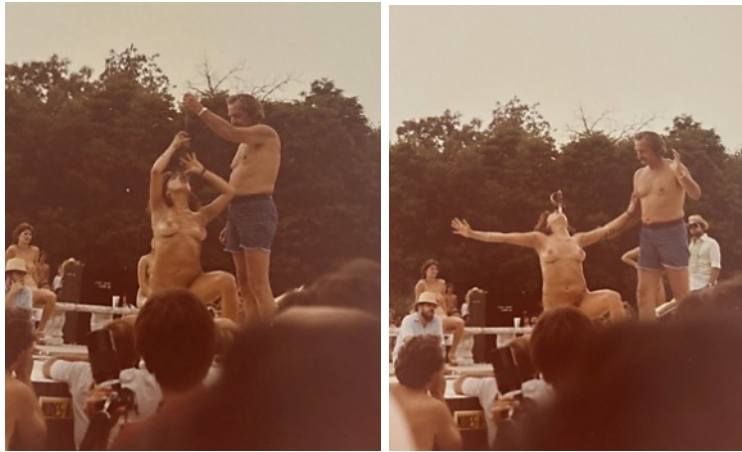
The other time this was known to occur was a local initiative in Williamantic, Connecticut in 1965 when such a sign slowed traffic, but also got the ire of the state police. In Connecticut it was considered entrapment to erect any signs cautioning drivers to “Slow Down!” As a point of law, the perpetrator of the sign got a \$40 fine.

Here is a set of photos from the 1979 “Nudes-a Poppin” Pageant at Ponderosa Club in Roselawn, Indiana. Now I know

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that in 1979, Ponderosa was neither ASA nor NNC, due to the sexually exploitive type of pageant they had, but the picture is still interesting. It seems everyone has a talent.



[Nude sword swallowing during the talent part of a nude beauty pageant at Ponderosa. Photos for sale on Ebay in 2026 for \$30 each or best offer.]

How about cutting wood with a chainsaw while naked? Or maybe not....



[Photo from ANRL archives taken at Sunshine Beach Club, Hudson, Florida circa 1961 by Dick Falcon.]

A few photos and a thousand words and there are still so many more questions you probably want answers to. For that matter, so do I, and that is why I keep digging for archival material.



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