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

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Little Beach, Hawaii and Nude Use A Cautionary Tale

Part 1, by Bill Schroer, NAC Chair

The Back Story

Described in the book, "The World's Best Nude Beaches," as possibly the "...finest nude beach anywhere in the world", Little Beach is among the most well-known beaches in the global nudist community. Visited by nudists (and textiles) from around the world, Little Beach is iconic and unique in Hawaii with a long history (70 years +) of (generally) tolerated nude use.

The story of how Little Beach, a popular 450 foot stretch of secluded beach in Hawaii with a legacy of accepted nude use, is now posted with "No Nudity" signs and is seeing citations for nudity. This is both a compelling and cautionary tale for nudists and friends of nude beaches everywhere.

To best understand the Little Beach story requires an understanding of its geography and location as it now sits within the Hawaii DLNR (Department of Land and Natural Resources). Little Beach is a part of

Makena State Park, which comprises 165 acres (0.7 km²) in Makena, south of Wailea on the island of Maui, Hawaii. This State Park contains three separate beaches and a dormant volcanic cinder cone. Big Beach (aka Oneloa Beach) is one of Maui's signature beaches with sands extending over 1/2 a mile. "Big Beach" is one of the largest, undeveloped beaches in Maui. One can enjoy relaxing on the beach with only nature in sight. A black-lava outcropping separates Little Beach from Big Beach. Makena is on the leeward side of Maui which usually offers protection from the trade winds, but sometimes in the afternoons the winds wrap around and can cause sandstorms on the beaches. There are great views of the island of Lanai, Kaho'olawe, and Molokini atoll. The "Makena cloud" that stretches from the top of Haleakala to Kahoolawe is often overhead, cooling the sand.

Little Beach, a small beach just north of Big Beach, is separated by a steep lava outcropping (the tip of Pu'u Ola'i), and requires a 5-minute hike. It

is without amenities and has no lifeguard. The beach is only 450 feet (140 m) long and can seem crowded at peak times, given its small size but significant popularity. Little Beach is situated in a secluded cove and is bordered by two lava outcrops. The beach is also known as Pu'u Ola'i Beach, named after the cinder cone that backs the beach. It is considered a great swimming beach with a shallow sandy bottom. There's often a gentle shorebreak present that attracts bodyboarders and surfers. On calm days, the snorkeling conditions are excellent. (But beware of dangerous rip currents when the surf is high.) The water at both Big Beach and Little Beach is some of the clearest/bluest ever seen, and the sand is a beautiful bright gold. Little Beach is a great place for body surfing and snorkeling (albeit some occasional currents). Also, if one hikes around the rocks through the trees on the North side of the beach, there are some beautiful views of Makena, Wailea and the West Maui mountains in the distance over the cliffs.

Beyond the physical attractiveness of a beach that is seen as beautiful even by Hawaiian standards (where beautiful beaches are the order of the day), is the culture. As one visitor noted:

"Little Beach is a beautiful beach. But what makes it

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really amazing and unique is the friendly and genuine crowd and the carefree (and clothes free!) attitude. Something about the lack of clothes (or maybe the people who choose to go without them) seems to make people incredibly friendly and happy. And that's really the draw of Little Beach. It's absolutely the friendliest and most "aloha" beach I've ever been to."

The Hawaii State Parks website (hawaiistateparks.com) states: "Little Beach is one of the few Hawaiian beaches where local police tolerate nude sunbathing." This is in spite of the fact that state park regulations prohibit nudity and always have. Even the Hawaii Tourism Authority website (www.gohawaii.com) cites Little Beach as accepted for nude use: "Although state park regulations prohibit nudity, Little Beach is frequently used as a nude beach." From 1987 to 2020, no known nudity citations were issued.

The historic nude use of Little Beach dates back before the creation of the first "Friends of Little Beach" to at least the 1950s....and probably before that. The notion that controversy surrounding the accepted nude use of the beach has only recently surfaced is inaccurate. As far back as 1969, when the beach became popular among "hippies" and others that had discovered its ideal location for nude sunbathing, the police were raiding the place. On a regular basis police patrols looking for runaways, draft-dodgers and nude sunbathers harassed, chased and arrested Little Beach users. The "colony" of those who camped and even lived on Big Beach and Little Beach continued, however, to grow to some 300-400 before finally being evicted permanently in 1972. Nude use persisted at Little Beach just as before.

In the early 1980s, Peter Crowley, newly arrived from California, was amazed by the scenic beauty and culture. Along with some other regulars they created the Friends of Little Beach, hauled trash out, acted as lifeguards and welcomed visitors. At one time the FoLB newsletter published to a distribution list of 2,500. Crowley became known as the "Mayor of Little

The screenshot shows the GoHawaii.com website with navigation links: EL REQUIREMENTS, ISLANDS, EXPERIENCES, HAWAIIAN ISLANDS, CULTURE, PLANNING, and LANGUAGES. The main content area contains the text: "The area is divided into two beaches known as Big Beach and Little Beach. Big Beach is located south of Wailea near the Makena Beach and Golf Resort and provides a secluded alternative to more crowded beaches in Kaanapali and Lahaina. Little Beach is a small cove without amenities and no lifeguard. Although state park regulations prohibit nudity, Little Beach is frequently used as a nude beach." A yellow highlight is under the sentence "Little Beach is frequently used as a nude beach." Below the screenshot is the caption: "[From the GoHawaii.com website, highlighting added.]"

Beach" and the beach, even though devoid of any services, facilities or official personnel, took on the image of the "go to" nude beach in Hawaii.

The calm lasted only a time, however, as a new Maui County mayor in the 1980s (a former police officer adamantly opposed to nude sunbathing) again challenged nude use at Little Beach and directed the police to arrest nude sunbathers. Many arrests were made, both local and tourist, and nudists feared the potential loss of the beach. But the nudists found unexpected support in District Court Judge John Vail. He threw out many of the arrests for both toplessness (doesn't meet the definition of nudity) and nudity (Little Beach was isolated and those who did visit a known nude beach were not likely to be affronted or offended). The mayor who initiated the persecution of the nudists was not re-elected.

However, then, as Little Beach (and Big Beach) had become Makena State Park under the auspices of the DLNR, persecution of nudists was again ramped up under a park rule prohibiting nudity. And, to defeat the argument Little Beach was "isolated" Park management announced plans to build a staircase over the bluff to make Little Beach "accessible". This never happened. In 1987, Peter Rowley was given a citation for nudity under State Park rules. The case went all the way to the Hawaii Supreme Court where it was dismissed on a procedural technicality. Enforcement against nudity was again relaxed. Ironically, although it was not revealed in the trial, Park rules were not applicable to Little Beach at that time. Little Beach and Big Beach were not legally incorporated into the State Park until 2006.

The '90s saw a period of relative calm and continued nude use. For many contemporary nudists, and those who visit occasionally, this is the only Little Beach they've ever known. A world famous beautiful beach with accepted

nude use, laid back visitors and a warm and friendly culture was what many saw and experienced. The idea of the controversy and ongoing, if episodic, attempts to end nude use at Little Beach was not on the occasional tourist's radar screen. For local Little Beach users it appeared best to "let sleeping dogs lie."

The Gathering Storm

In fact, opposition locally to the nude use at Little Beach (and other beaches in Hawaii where social nudity was practiced), although invisible, never went away. It was suppressed, waiting for a more opportune time. That change in the ability of the anti-nudists to prevail occurred as a result of three overarching factors, all of which contributed to the political climate resulting in a current attempt to ban nudity at Little Beach:

- ▶ Complacency/lack of community relationship building and the increase in the US political polarization.
- ▶ Increased behavior problems at Little Beach going beyond nude sunbathing.
- ▶ Significantly increased visitor traffic/ Covid-19 and the volcanoes.

1. Complacency and lack of community relationship building

The Friends of Little Beach user group was robust and active through the '90s and into the 2000s. As many activist nudists realize, a robust user group is essential to the stability of a nude beach. The newsletter achieved visibility and a respected level of distribution (as noted above). In those days most communications were still snail mail, printed newsletters and phone calls. The first website was observed in January of 2002, although the group had been active throughout a decade prior to that. The last website capture was reported in 2017. Over the years the FoLB team had passed leadership on from one group to another. However, as the challenge to Little Beach nude use

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was not visible during this period and the vast majority of visitors were tourists who left after a week or so, the local enthusiasm to continue to maintain the beach organization diminished. In effect, the single most important safeguard to the continuance of a nude beach was losing steam. The website was last updated in 2012 and ceased to exist after 2017. In 2015 the organization was dissolved and the remaining funds were donated to charity. Leadership of the group was older, tired, moved on or found other challenges. The baton was not passed and the group disbanded.

Nudist activists recognize maintaining a nude beach requires two core elements:

- ▶ Establishment of the presence of beach “ambassadors” and/or a user group to establish beach etiquette, monitor behavior, haul trash and, generally, demonstrate good citizenship to the authorities, who will on the basis of that good behavior (and the lack of a need to allocate extra law enforcement resources) tend to leave the beach alone.
- ▶ An external PR/communications campaign to demonstrate to the local community and especially the business community that the nude beach is an asset, not a liability. The value of increased business and visitors to the area, and the visibility generated by a positive attraction of non-sexual nude use and overall commercial benefits, all need to be communicated with clarity and consistency. Often, nude beach user groups will meet with city leaders, be members of the Chamber of Commerce and participate in community development meetings to demonstrate good faith and build personal relationships.

While the FoLB appears to have achieved the first objective handily for a considerable period of time, the gradual decline and disappearance of the group in the 2012-2017 time frame resulted in a reduced beach presence. This was unfortunate, and the decline just happened to coincide with the rise of anti-nudity and conservative sentiments and the increase of problems on the beach (more detail on that later).

There is little evidence the FoLB or anyone else made any significant inroads into the second objective. While the development of a proactive PR/communications campaign to build relationships with the community and business community is challenging in both time and resources, the failure to execute this initiative resulted in a largely unchallenged neutral or negative view of nude use by some members of the community writ large as seen in the 2015 KITV example (also detailed later).

Additionally, the voices against the nude use at Little Beach (and elsewhere in Hawaii) included a few vocal native Hawaiians who claimed (without evidence) that nudism was contrary to their culture and offensive to native Hawaiians. Whether accurate or not the “violation of native culture” card is a powerful political weapon in Hawaii and tends to be seen as important and treated with sensitivity. There is little evidence the FoLB attempted to build bridges with native Hawaiians during the quiet times, share information (revealing historically native Hawaiians did live in various states of undress and only adopted clothing and the concept of body shame when introduced by Protestant missionaries in the 1800s), or otherwise attempted to defuse the anti-nudity native sentiments.

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[Photo of Little Beach by "dronepicr", CC-BY-2.0, slightly cropped.]

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While tourists from around the world continued to visit Little Beach and enjoy what for all intents and purposes appeared to be a community supported or at least tolerated level of accepted nude use in paradise, they were mostly unaware of the struggle for nude use behind the scenes.

Looking back to an earlier FoLB website in 2002, Tom Collins wrote of a new DLNR task force designed to update the plan for Makena Beach State Park (including Little Beach):

The public meeting was attended by over 200 people mostly clothing-optional use supporters. There were two Native Hawaiian women that "testified" against clothing-optional use. One of them called the pro-clothing-optional use people (about 180 of the 200+ in attendance) "just a bunch of haoles." She also stated that "our people (meaning Native Hawaiians) don't come out to meetings."

The latest move by Charlie Maxwell, a "Hawaiian Activist" and committee member is to support 'Na Kapuna 'O Maui' in their efforts to make the entire Makena State Park a state or national cultural site in hopes that such a designation will result in a "higher level of enforcement" (sic: stop clothing-optional use of Little Beach). Na Kapuna 'O Maui is a group of Hawaiian elders that want to "bring the culture back to the Beach."

In effect, while the FoLB was still monitoring and being good stewards of Little Beach in the early 2000s, the seeds of a growing anti-nudity sentiment were forming throughout the larger community. The claim by some native Hawaiians that nude use is incompatible with Hawaiian culture belies their own understanding of their history. While native Hawaiians maintain a fierce determination to protect their culture they sometimes seem unaware of what their culture is. After the discovery of Hawaii by James Cook in 1778 (and its subsequent "conversion" by Protestant missionaries) some of their true culture appears to have been erased from the collective consciousness. As an example the "muumuu" (the long open-waisted dress attributed to Hawaiian origin) was in fact introduced by Protestant missionaries as one additional tactic (beyond introducing the concept of body shame) to put clothes on the natives.

As noted earlier, regardless of accuracy, the perception that nude use is incompatible with native Hawaiian culture allowed for a narrative that both native and non-native Hawaiians became sensitized to: nudity is not us and we do not want it.

In addition to the native voices that were raised in opposition to the nudists, the notion that social nude use of a local beach is seen by local people as illegal, immoral, harmful to family values and the good nature of the neighborhood is nothing new to nudists. This sense of nude use as something not part of the community was a growing resentment among local community members as well.

As an example from a 2015 KITV (TV) news report documents, neighbors who have tolerated nude use at one local beach see such use as a growing threat to the safe order of the community:

They [some local residents] try to come here three or four times a month, but lately they say the nudity has become a bit much.

"Maybe once in a while we will see one or two but it's kind of disturbing. We just like our family to relax and have fun. So to see someone turning over bare-naked, it's kind if disturbing," said William Kahapea.

Nudity isn't allowed here. Along the highway, signs are posted warning that any illegal activities, including nudity, could lead to an arrest and fine.

But residents say the problem is that someone has begun advertising the beach on gay websites. "It began showing up on websites as Polo Beach a great place to hook up for guys," said resident Mike Dailey who also is head of the Mokuleia Polo Association. Not long after that, the complaints began increasing.

"The nude crowd got more visible and in your face," said Dailey.

"There were activities that are going on in the bushes that are inappropriate for children. Nobody wants to see that and now on the weekends people

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[Courtesy FoLB]

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won't even walk down there anymore. So, it's taken away from the community." [underlining by the author] Dailey said. "We hope something can be done to return the beach to the community so it doesn't get controlled by one small group," said Dailey.

The date of the above report (2015) is significant. While this news report did not reflect the behavior at Little Beach, it doesn't matter. A charge against "nude beaches" is a brush that tars all nude beaches. And, regrettably this report date coincides with the dissolution of the FoLB and the loss of an organized group of nudists who could be in a position to respond to such charges other than as individuals. With the loss of FoLB there was no organized "voice" to refute the charges. Further, there was no longer a user group to monitor behavior and prevent the kinds of activities nudists know are harmful to nude beaches. The lack of a challenge to these and similar charges at beaches, including Little Beach, began to turn the tide of public opinion on this issue.

2. Increased behavior problems at Little Beach

If the only issue at Little Beach was nude sunbathing and the idyllic description of the culture described by the visitors above, the story may have ended there.....at least insofar as prosecution of nude use goes. However, as nudist activists have learned from other former nude beaches, not everyone who goes to a nude beach is only a "nudist" willing to maintain beach etiquette. There are those who visit nude beaches with their own agenda which may include gawking/accosting females, drug use, public sex, soliciting for sex, drunkenness, partying with boom boxes or other loud noises that disturb the peace, etc. This behavior often attracts the attention of the police as a result of complaints from visitors, sometimes including nudists themselves. The result is often a sledgehammer solution that includes the elimination of nudity on the beach along with prohibitions against alcohol, drug use, etc or even the case of closing the beach entirely.

While drum circles, fire dancers and parties have a long history at Little Beach, some of the negative behaviors described above sometimes accompany such activities and were presumably managed by the FoLB/Maui Sunseeker regulars who served in the role of beach ambassadors. After the loss of FoLB/Maui Sunseekers who provided that overwatch from the late '80s until the 2015 time frame...there was no effective check on the behavior (especially on Sunday nights) when the drum circles were in full swing.

Fast forward to 2020, the Covid-19 pandemic and the struggle by the DLNR to maintain social distancing on the beach as well as monitor behavior. Whether the decision to begin putting pressure on the activities at Little Beach was a good faith effort by DLNR to protect visitors from Covid-19 or

whether the aggressive efforts which began in 2020 were an opportunistic "cover" to allow the DLNR to do what they've wanted to do since 2002...which is to either eliminate the nudity at Little Beach or close the beach....is an open question.

The fact is, however, that in the May-June 2020 time frame Little Beach was closed for 4 weeks due to "unruly student behavior." Meanwhile, neighboring (and more dangerous) Big Beach remained open. Also, in May 2020 the first citation (since 1987) for nudity was issued.

It is unclear whether these increasing enforcement incidents were isolated or part of a larger strategy to gradually put pressure on the nudists. However, it became clear in 2021 this pressure was neither isolated nor unplanned. In January 2021, the DLNR got the opening they were looking for. An out of control drum circle/party crowd on New Year's weekend took over the beach for 3 hours and flaunted the Covid-19 Emergency Rules. The DLNR, which should have been there to enforce the law, was instead monitoring social media, and moved swiftly. As a result Little Beach was closed for more than 9 weeks to punish the uninformed with no concern for the hundreds of visitors that had travelled thousands of miles to vacation at Little Beach.

During the time of the beach closure a locked gate was installed to prevent access. Vandals cut the chains and destroyed part of the fence which gave the DLNR additional ammunition to demonstrate they were right in the first place...to eliminate the claimed criminal behavior centered at Little Beach.



When Little Beach was re-opened (with the locked gate repaired and in place) there were prominent signs with a list of prohibitions, the first of which (emblazoned in red) was "No nudity". This was followed by a list of other prohibitions (no drugs, alcohol, etc.) But there was no mistaking the message: the nudist activity was the primary target. Nearby Big Beach had no similar signs posted. Additionally, as part of the "punishment" meted out to Little Beach its hours were cut during the week as well as on Saturday and Sunday. Now, with Little Beach closing at 4PM on weekends, the opportunity to enjoy a sunset on the beach is effectively lost.

However, the DLNR wasn't done yet. Now, all out-of-state visitors must pay a \$10/day parking charge along with a \$5/person access fee. Since the access route is a registered shoreline access, which under HRS 155-9 may not be obstructed by action, the access fee is illegal and the agency responsible for enforcement is the DNLNR. A couple will pay a minimum of \$20/day to visit Little Beach. Additionally, citations for nudity have reappeared and continue. While the DOCARE (police) sweeps are episodic (usually around the closing time on weekends) and the odds of being ticketed are not high, the threat to being cited for topfree or for nudity on Little Beach is a reality. The laid-back culture and sense that Little Beach is

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an accepted nude use beach is at least partially gone.

In contrast to the supportive Judge John Vail from the 1980s regarding the judicial view on nudity, the current bench is finding all those cited as guilty. A public defender has found one of the current judges notably hostile to nudists and is using prosecutorial language in his findings. He is not open to the defense motions and the message continues.....if you are nude you will be ticketed. If you appear in this court you will be found guilty.

3. Increased Visitor Traffic/Covid-19/ Volcanos

A third factor impacting Little Beach is a series of externalities. Until the threat of Covid-19, visitor traffic at Hawaii beaches had been increasing at a significant rate.

"Before the global pandemic, Hawaii saw record-level visitor arrivals and expenditures in 2019. Maui County saw more than 3 million tourists that year, sparking calls for better infrastructure, tourism management and resource protection." [From a 9/2021 article on mauinews.com.]

This continued increase in tourist traffic generated more pressure on Hawaii's beaches than experienced previously. All Hawaiian beaches in Maui, and Hawaii overall, were experiencing considerable user pressure. This was not necessarily a problem at Little Beach, except sometimes when the drum circle group arrived. The DLNR was apparently feeling the pressure and looking for ways to reduce the "problems," of which nudists are seen as one. Of course, some see the Park administration as seeing all visitors as a nuisance. If there were no visitors, their job would be much easier. With increased visitor traffic comes the potential for increased levels of interaction between clothed sunbathers and nudists. Although in some localities it is residents who object to having to share their beaches with anyone. Complaints grew on some beaches as more textile bathers expanded (or were pushed) into areas once visited primarily by nudists only.

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United we stand for justice:

- ❖ New "Clothing Optional Beach" Signs - see back
- ❖ Remove the Gate & apologize for desecration of a sacred cultural resource
- ❖ Restore Sunset Closing Time - 7:45PM, 7 Days
- ❖ Stop Extortionate Visitor Fees (e.g. \$30/day for a family of 4)
- ❖ Send Police When Help Needed, not for Harassment
- ❖ Repeal Tyrannical Park Rules that penalize harmless pleasure

Add your voice - Go to Friends of Little Beach website:

LittleBeachMaui.ORG

Again, more visibility and pressure to resolve "user conflicts" on what once was a "live and let live" environment.

Once the pandemic hit, visits to Hawaii were dramatically reduced as quarantines and lockdowns discouraged visitor traffic. While beaches were closed for a time, they gradually reopened and the pressure to maintain social distancing created a challenge to allow visitors on the beaches, while keeping them 6 feet apart. (Although, this was not an issue on Maui with its 30 miles of beaches.) Even with reduced visitation, beaches are a fixed size, and again clothed bathers were being moved farther down the beach...in some cases into areas that had previously been nudist or nude friendly.

Volcanic eruptions are another factor (always a threat in Hawaii) and intensified in 2018 with a major eruption at Kilauea on the Big Island. This eruption destroyed some 700 homes and required the evacuation of 2000 people. While this eruption, and others that have taken place since then, have not occurred on Maui or affected Little Beach, there is only a limited amount of beach space on all of the Hawaiian islands...and the reduction of beach access on one island has a ripple effect on the others. Along the Puna coastline on the Big Island, Kehena Beach is now the only accessible spot where there used to be a series of accessible beaches. Where some beaches had previously been somewhat isolated and nude use was tolerated, the reduction in available beach space put clothed and nude sunbathers in close proximity. The resulting pressure created crowding and problems with over 100 citations issued over a four-week period in 2020 for public nudity, drug use, alcohol, marijuana possession, etc.

As reported by SFG, police officers say there are simply too many people who want to enjoy the state's beauty spots. "We are seeing the population increasing and now everybody is trying to find a space where they can enjoy the ocean" noted DLNR Lt. Lawrence Terlep Jr.

While this increase in visitor usage on Hawaiian beaches largely did not affect Little Beach, it increased the overall pressure on the DLNR to address user conflicts on the beaches. Nudity has been an issue for the DNLN for some time and now the circumstances gave the DNLN, or at least the head administrator, the excuse needed to target nudity on the beaches. And, Little Beach is ground zero for nude sunbathing in Hawaii.

[In Part 2, more details of current events will be shared, along with the good news: Friends of Little Beach is back!]



NAC at GNI NakedFest

By Bill Schroer, NAC Chair

GNI (Gay Naturists International) holds an annual gathering which was entitled “NakedFest” this year. As one of NAC’s biggest donors, NAC attends each year to provide an update on NAC work, conduct workshops, and network with participants and board members of GNI.

This year Jim Dickey and Bill Schroer, NAC Board members, attended the event. NAC sponsored a social hour on Friday night (August 20), conducted a total of 8 workshops and made a short report at the “Miss Lace 2021” event.

Jim and longtime supporter Seth Paronick hosted the “Legally Nude” social hour. It was a big hit and gave us the opportunity to welcome attendees on the first night of NakedFest.

We thanked GNI for their generous contributions which, in 2019, helped in the creation of Blind Creek Beach, the first new officially sanctioned nudist beach in the US in at least 20 years.

[Editor’s Note: Read more about our involvement with Blind Creek Beach in the June 2020 and December 2020 newsletters.]

In addition to reporting on challenges to nudism in the U.S., we conducted workshops on a variety of issues and enjoyed the social events and festivities that accompanied NakedFest.

It was a very positive event and NAC appreciates GNI’s ongoing financial support and their invitation for us to attend their gathering each year.



NAC at VVRC Car Show

By Doug Hickok, NAC Board Member

Among the 30 or so vehicles at the annual Valley View Recreation Club (VVRC) Car Show, in Wisconsin, was a rather unexpected addition. A black cop car with the push-bar on the front, spotlight on the side, and the blueberries and cherries on the top. At the front, a sign read “The Naturist Action Committee ...because naturists don’t deserve THIS back seat!”

Across the row, the only classic motorcycle at the show was proudly flanked by “Nude Beaches YES!” signs.

Indeed, board members Jim Dickey and Doug Hickok were trying to get some attention with their entries. We had a NAC/NEF table set up with all kinds of information from both organizations. NAC and NEF Area Representative Claude Richards, who actually owns the motorcycle, was helping out as well.

While we did gather some interest in the NAC and NEF initiatives, the presence also helped us reconnect with some activists in the area and quite a few regulars who frequented Mazo Beach. It’s especially important for beach user groups to stay connected, and remain able to address the issues they face. While Mazo Beach has been closed to everyone (including naturists), sometime, it’ll reopen to everyone, and naturists need to be present as well if we intend to keep our small slice of beach.

Car Show weekend is among the best events in the Midwest, and it’s great that so many naturists in the Midwest decide to migrate to Valley View for the event. The NAC and NEF table certainly raised awareness of our mission among the Midwest naturists.



NAC at the Florida Governor's Conference on Tourism

From September 8th through the 10th, representatives from the Florida tourism industry got together to learn and network to make the industry even stronger. Among them this year was NAC board member Susan Shopiro, along with over a dozen other naturists from B.E.A.C.H.E.S, South Florida Free Beaches, Tampa Bay Free Beaches, and Suncoast Naturists.

Although there wasn’t a booth on the show floor, a hospitality suite staffed by naturist volunteers was successful in bringing people in and educating them on the impact naturist travel has on Florida. In some cases, information went in the opposite direction. Naturists had some feedback from VisitFlorida on amplifying their message, and some feedback from the business that maintains the brochure racks in places like the state’s Welcome Centers, among others.

This is the first time NAC had representation at this event, and perhaps it’ll happen more in the future – not just in Florida but other areas with a naturist presence as well. Getting the message out that we exist and that we bring money to the local economies can only help our case.



Lee Baxandall and The Naturist Frontier

By Shannon Lewis

“It is romantic to pursue frontiers,” Lee Baxandall writes in an editorial published in the June 1977 issue of *Free Beaches* newspaper, which was printed at his National Free Beaches Documentation Center in Oshkosh. “Frederick Jackson Turner’s thesis of the Western frontier ever motivating the unsettled American, ever preventing him/her from coming to terms with social and personal limitations, is a vital perception for us all,” he notes. “But so are the possibilities of setting newer, more realistic frontiers to deal with.”

In Baxandall’s view, naturism represents one such frontier, a psychological frontier, an opportunity for humans to redevelop a deeper relationship with each other and with nature itself, which Baxandall describes as “the possibility of intimacy.” He suggests that “with all other frontiers that investment and military and economic planning set, the frontiers of the spirit went under wraps.”

Victorian morality, he points out, “undid the humane, warming practices of earlier-style family and social and tribal life.” We came to define a civilized society as one in which “flesh had to be covered up, to be denied.” He points to later efforts to censor displays of the human body, including “the prudish Comstock Laws,” which “forbid and heavily punished... the intimate, the fleshly.”

Baxandall believes the intimacy of non-erotic social nudity is “a primary target and frontier of the human potential movement... and the free beaches movement.” His statement here brings to mind the opening page of his August, 1976 *Green Mountain Quarterly*, which depicts a sign that reads “You are entering Free Beach. Territory of The Mind.” Baxandall makes clear his belief that a clothing-optional beach offers far more than the possibility of a suntan.

Baxandall wrote extensively in defense of the naturist idea, but I think his argument that our society has neglected to push beyond our own psychological frontiers, even as it passionately confronts its territorial and economic frontiers, is one of his most intriguing essays. More often than not, naturism is marketed as a niche leisure activity with vague benefits to one’s



body image. A weekend at a private resort or a Caribbean cruise. A day spent sunbathing on a clothing-optional beach. But perhaps failing to more fully explore the motivations of the nude resort enthusiast or beach-goer undermines our efforts to gain public acceptance. We sometimes seem fearful of coming across as too philosophical, too serious, but how do we expect to be taken seriously by a public that remains skeptical of our motivations, without daring to defend naturism as something more than sunbathing?

“It may seem presumptuous,” Baxandall writes, “to endow such significance to the enthusiastic efforts of many Americans today to find places where they can put all their flesh under the sun and into the water and into the view of others.” But Baxandall makes it clear that such efforts are significant, for they challenge our generally unwavering collective commitment to a societal absolute. Naturism does have a purpose, with benefits that extend far beyond relaxation and recreation.

“If we’re serious about replacing the vicious or the delusive frontiers of the past centuries... then we must also look at these other frontiers so suppressed in the national life,” Baxandall concludes. “This frontier is necessary to cross.”



*On behalf of the boards of the Naturist Action Committee and the Naturist Education Foundation, we want to say **thank you** to all of our donors, supporters, and partners.*

Without your continued support, we will see increased threats and erosion to the rights of nude recreation opportunities across North America. Both NAC and NEF have challenges ahead, like many of our naturist organizational partners, and your support makes it possible for us all to meet those challenges.

While November is the time to be thankful, a time to remember, and to embrace those who enrich our lives, we recognize that beyond this month, there is still much work to be done. We will continue to honor our missions and vision, working toward a world where we can be more thankful for the naturist lifestyles and nude recreational opportunities that each of us enjoys.

*Thank you,
The NAC and NEF boards.*



We Can't Do It Alone

We're seeking a few volunteers for specific tasks. Contact Doug.Hickok@NaturistEducation.org if any of these sound like a good fit.

- ▶ If you're good at MS Office, LibreOffice, or OpenOffice, there's a collection of about 130 single-page stories that need to be converted from old formats to PDF format, and look nice for printing. Our April 2021 newsletter certainly offers a clue about the content, and we'll mail you a free book to help with the effort. Beware that reading these stories can be very difficult at times.
- ▶ A simpler task would be to split up some PDF files into separate files. Old newsletters were scanned on a sheet-fed scanner and came out as one big file. Splitting them and naming them appropriately would be a big help to make them available.
- ▶ If you are within driving distance of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and don't mind spending some weekend time at a library, we definitely have tasks for you.
- ▶ We're seeking someone to identify addresses and do targeted mailings to various places throughout the country. Ideally, that person could also help us finalize the materials being sent too.
- ▶ If you're willing and able to stand up in front of a class and deliver a PowerPoint presentation on naturism, let us know.
- ▶ Beach advocates are always welcome. NAC can help strengthen your user group.
- ▶ Lastly, we want your photos! We could always use photos of nude beaches, and other abstract photos that convey the clothing-optional way of life.

Last Month's "Caption This!" Winner

Mine's bigger!

Size doesn't matter...



All of the submissions we had were similar to this theme, so everyone's a winner! Some were even blocked by our SPAM filter as having "SPAM-like qualities". If your submission sounds like a Viagra advertisement then you might want to rethink your wording.

A Slight Publication Change

Since the NAC and NEF newsletter was re-started in February 2020 (after about a 10 year hiatus), we've been doing things a little differently with the publication.

To start, the old publication was quite simply called *The Newsletter*. It started way back in February 1992, only a year after NAC was incorporated, and ran somewhat sporadically until October 2011.

As exciting as the title was, we felt a different title was in order. As I wrote in the May 2020 newsletter: "This newsletter was intended to be somewhat retrospective, opting to announce things we've done instead of discussing things we're currently working on." This still mostly holds true, even as some of the huge projects span many months of effort, and some encounter issues and delays. Generally speaking, this newsletter is a record of our own story, not unlike the many thousands of

stories currently housed in the NEF Research Library.

The proposed title "*Pages of History*" had some form of agreement among the Board. Since we'd be announcing things from each month, I figured it was appropriate to publish at the end of the month.

There's been gentle push-back on that concept ever since. In our modern forward-thinking society, publishing at

the very end of a month is completely backwards from every other publication out there.

We're changing over to publish early in the month. Rather than publishing an October newsletter on October 31st, we're publishing this as an "October/November" newsletter. Look for the December newsletter early in December. 

Month	Year	
Sep Oct Nov	1950	Some periodicals weren't very periodic, like <i>American Nudist Leader</i> , pictured here from the NEFRL catalog. Sometimes they published monthly, sometimes quarterly, sometimes between.
Nov Dec	1950	
Jan Feb	1951	
Mar Apr	1951	
May	1951	
Jun Jul	1951	
Aug	1951	
Sep Oct Nov	1951	
Jan Feb	1952	

If you're looking for the next part of the series, "**The American Roots of Nude Culture in the United States**," stay tuned. There's plenty of interesting material from Macfadden and *Physical Culture* magazine coming up next year.

Caption This!

This ongoing series highlights a time when cameras were allowed and cheesy photographs were encouraged. (See the May 2021 newsletter for more details.) All photos are from items held at the NEF Research Library.

About this Photograph

It's hunting season! Time to pull out those guns and practice on some targets. This photo appears in the July 1957 issue of *Sunshine and Health*. Photo credits indicate: "by Dick Falcon at Lake Como" (I'm not finding a shooting range in Lake Como's list of amenities. If you have more info, let us know!)

Now it's your turn to Caption This! 

Send your caption ideas to:
Doug.Hickok@NaturistEducation.org

Please include:

- ▶ Your name that we can print if yours is selected. (Full name, or first name, or nickname, or anonymous...whatever you prefer)
- ▶ The type of caption (Title above, Caption below, Speech Bubbles, or a mix of all these).
- ▶ The caption wording, or who said/thought what.



Winners get fame in the next newsletter!

Like This Newsletter?

Sign up today and be notified each month!

Newsletters provide you with original content about:

- ▶ the activist efforts of the Naturist Action Committee,
- ▶ the educational & public outreach efforts of the Naturist Education Foundation, &
- ▶ 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>

By signing up, you'll also get occasional NAC Action Alerts, Advisories, and Updates too.



NAC is on Facebook and Twitter too!
<https://Facebook.com/NaturistAction/>
<https://Twitter.com/NaturistAction/>



Like Our Efforts?



Please support NAC with 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 with 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 Members