

The NUDE & NATURAL NEWSLETTER

THE NATURIST SOCIETY

NATURIST ACTION COMMITTEE • NATURIST EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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New Signs at Black's Perturb Naturists

But inflammatory anti-nudity signs seem to make no difference in California's operation of the famous clothing-optional beach

SAN DIEGO, California — Two new signposts appeared at the boundaries of Black's Beach on Friday, August 4. Among the signs each contains, there is welcome and useful information. For example, the north post includes a sign that advises of rip currents. The one at the southern limit actually establishes the boundary of Torrey Pines State Park. Both posts include signs that encourage beachgoers to pack out their garbage.

But each post also includes a sign that states ominously: "NUDITY IN THE STATE PARK SYSTEM IS PROHIBITED."

On viewing the signs, Black's Beach Bares organizer Lloyd Johnson said, "There is no cause for alarm, but there *is* a cause for concern." It's clear that Johnson, himself, is concerned.

Johnson explained that each of the new anti-nudity signs improperly states the protocol used for decades by California Parks to manage nude recreation in state parks. Russell W. Cahill, who was Director of California's Department of Parks and Recreation in the late 1970s, issued a memorandum in 1979 that established a process for allowing clothing-optional recreation in traditional areas. Cahill observed that naturist activity "seems to be a victimless crime at worst, and certainly an innocuous activity." The memorandum became known as the Cahill Policy.

The anti-nudity sign, which is identical on the north and south poles, makes no mention of the accommodation for nudity that has been in place for years. Of the wording of the sign, Lloyd Johnson said recently, "It implies a stronger position than the Cahill Policy allows, and it encourages user conflict."

Since the posting of the signs, no specific operational differences have been observed by naturists at the beach. However, the matter of encouraging user conflict is significant. Johnson believes that uninformed users will see the sign, see those who are nude on the beach, and feel obligated to make a report to the park rangers. The Cahill Policy allows nudity to be suspended when a complaint is made, even in a traditional clothing-optional area.



PHOTO: LLOYD JOHNSON

This new signpost at Torrey Pines State Park appeared at the southern end of Mussel Rocks, the northern extent of the traditional clothing-optional area known as Black's Beach. It's one of the latest in a recent succession of signs posted by officials. According to Black's Beach Bares and the Naturist Action Committee, the second sign from the top improperly states California Parks policy and encourages user conflict.

Kath Rooney is Newest Board Member of NAC and NEF

OSHKOSH, Wisconsin — Michigan naturist Kath Rooney has become the newest director of the Nacurist Action Committee and of the Nacurist Education Foundation. She was appointed by the NAC board in July to fill a vacancy. NAC and NEF operate independently, but by bylaw, their roster of directors is the same.

Kath is an enthusiastic naturist who moves to the board after serving as a NAC Area Representative. She explains: "After years of listening to Bob Morton's talks at Eastern Gatherings, I am happy to be part of the fight for naturist goals. I tell everyone I know that I am a naturist and am happy to explain what that means in my life. I recently bought a home with sufficient

privacy to allow nudity outside. My spare time is now filled with renovating that house so we can actually move into it. Luckily, my significant other, Phil Curtiss, is a painter/carpenter."



NAC Board Member Kath Rooney. PHOTO: PHIL CURTISS

Kath is a veterinarian, having earned her DVM at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. She is a clinical researcher for a large pharmaceutical company, developing drugs to cure diseases in cattle and pigs.

Not surprisingly, NAC's newest board member enjoys skinny-dipping on public land, and she enjoys visiting nudist resorts, especially Turtle Lake.

Kath Rooney fills the seat left vacant when former board member Don Stanton decided not to seek reelection. However, Don remains involved with naturism and has become one of NAC's newest Area Reps.

NAC Chairman and Executive Director Bob Morton applauded Stanton for his volunteer service. Of Rooney, Morton said, "Kath will be a real asset to NAC and NEF. I'm looking forward to working with her."

Kath's geographical responsibilities for NAC include Michigan (with board member Bill Schroer), Colorado, Nebraska, South Carolina, Wisconsin and Wyoming

Black's (continued from page 1)

As with the anti-nudity sign that was posted at Mussel Rocks in March, the recent anti-nudity signs were authorized by Torrey Pines Supervising Ranger Jody Kummer. Kummer has not said what precipitated the August placement of signs.

And frustratingly, as with the signage incident at Black's in March, Denny Stouffer, Superintendent of the San Diego Coast District of California Parks, has claimed to know nothing at all about the more recent matter. Along with Johnson of Black's Beach Bares, Nacurist Action Committee board member Allen Baylis and NAC Area Representative Claudia Kellersch met with Stouffer in May to discuss the earlier anti-nudity sign. [See *Newsletter*, May 2005.]

After the most recent signs appeared in August, NAC's Baylis contacted Superintendent Stouffer once again. Although *Cahill* has been departmental policy since 1979 and has been reviewed and endorsed by state courts (*California v. Bost*, 1989), Stouffer had been unaware of it before his meeting with naturists in May. He appears to remain reluctant concerning its application at Torrey Pines.

Despite the new signs, nudity has *not* been banned at Black's. Meanwhile, naturists remain uneasy while activist leaders seek to resolve the problem with Parks officials.

— 2006 —

Upcoming Naturist Gatherings, Festivals and Events

Naturist Gatherings and Festivals are excellent opportunities to socialize with other naturists and learn what's going on in the naturist community.

Copied but never duplicated, the workshop format at Gatherings and Festivals allows *you* to adjust your own level of participation. Enjoy!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CALL *The Nacurist Society* at (800) 886-7230
 VISIT www.naturistsociety.com
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■ August 8-13 **Northeastern Naturist Festival**
Empire Haven Nudist Park, Moravia, NY
www.naturistrochester.com



PHOTO: JUDY WILLIAMS

Royal Roads Beach

Tucked away near British Columbia's capital city, a gem of a naturist beach is threatened by impending development. What's being done?

Wending along British Columbia's Metchosin Drive, Vancouver Island, past acres of barren gravel pit with beehive truck activity kicking up hectares of dust, one would never realize that just four kilometers away down winding Delgada Road, lies Royal Roads Beach, one of British Columbia's loveliest clothing-optional beaches. Albert Head lagoon, a small salt marsh now protected as a regional park, lies between the beach and the small parking area.

To the south of the lagoon lies the seasonal Air Cadet Summer Training Centre, ACSTC Albert Head, with its wondrous rocky outcroppings providing a haven for Strait of Juan de Fuca wildlife. Southwest of the Albert Head Point, lies smaller Witty's Lagoon, with more difficult access for naturists over barnacled rock ledges, and sun only in the mornings. To the far northeast, one can see the Fisgard Lighthouse National Historic site, and a Canadian Forces Base, CFB Esquimalt Naval Station, on Fort Rod Hill, guarding the entrance to Esquimalt Harbour.

To the north of the gravel loader that extends into Royal Roads Bay, lies Esquimalt Lagoon. The Esquimalt Lagoon Stewardship Initiative (ELSI) was formed to protect the lagoon from degradation by the Lehigh Gravel Pit.

On the day of a recent visit to the beach, a small group of naturists was treated to the sight of one of the rarest birds in the Pacific Northwest, a rail, busily scrounging for insects in the mud while trumpeter swans swam nearby.

The many folks who use Royal Roads Beach *au naturel* co-exist peacefully with the residents on the hill above them. No conflicts exist because the naturists just move north of the second big rock on the beach to enjoy the nearly 1.8 km. stretch of aggregate foreshore beach jumbled with sculpted driftwood windbreaks along its backshore. The beach covers about 3 km. from point to point, with magnificent views of Mt. Baker and of Mt. Rainier south of Seattle.

However, this gorgeous beach faces development along its length if the Royal Bay developers complete the 251-acre subdivision which has been planned since 1995 to run to the edge and beyond of the forested cliffs now protecting naturists from view.

see **Royal Roads Beach** on page 6

World Naked Gardening Day

by **Mark Storey**
Board Member
Naturist Action Committee

The phenomenon of World Naked Gardening Day is beginning to be felt globally. The idea, hatched by the Seattle area's Body Freedom Collaborative in early 2005, was not only to imitate the international flavor of the successful World Naked Bike Ride, but to transfer it to a non-political, completely fun, risk-free activity that most anyone could enjoy nude. Skinny-dipping is not always available to people far from water or safe swimming locations, but *anyone* can garden. And nearly everyone will admit—perhaps only to themselves—that gardening is enjoyed even more when clothes-free.

**World Naked Gardening Day 2006
is Saturday, September 9!**

The idea behind World Naked Gardening Day is to encourage people to try gardening nude—even just once—and to see how much innocent fun it is to work with nature as nature intended. Those who would never call themselves free-range naturists or club nudists will often acknowledge that sitting naked next to their vegetable or flower beds, weeding or planting new seed, is a gentle, unassuming joy. WNGD is all about getting people introduced to that feeling and to an honest connectedness with the natural world.

Anyone can garden, as just about anyone has access to potted plants indoors, back yards needing weeding, nudist club grounds calling for maintenance, secluded mountain trails requiring overhaul, or public parks meriting a stealthy naked clean-up. People can work by themselves, in pairs, or in groups; and they can do so in locations perfectly matching their comfort level for nudity.



Naked gardener Kathy Blanchard harvests some radishes.

PHOTO: MARK STOREY

What is important is that those taking part *tell someone about the fun they've had*. People from India, Brazil, the UK, across North America, and elsewhere have emailed me or the WNGD Yahoo discussion group to tout their naked gardening exploits for the inaugural 2005 WNGD. Since then, I've heard from or about others who, learning of the 2005 WNGD after it was over, still tried some naked gardening of one sort or another. WNGD 2006 is shaping up to be bigger than the first.

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Non-naturist gardeners and the media have shown an astonishing amount of interest for an event that is 100% unplanned, unorganized, and unowned by any particular group. Newspaper reporters and radio DJs I've spoken with this past year all seem to get the lighthearted idea behind the event. Gardening newsletters and magazines have acknowledged it, and always in a friendly though humor-laden spirit. That's okay, as I know that virtually every gardener reading such publications either knows firsthand how much fun it is to garden naked or has dreamed about trying it herself.

The Naturist Action Committee is behind the WNGD and encourages nudist club members to take gardening tools in hand to clean up their club grounds on September 9. NAC

encourages individuals, couples, and families to try naked gardening in their own yards or patios that day. Those wishing to add richness to society's soil might try a foray into a public park nude and alert for a few minutes to make their public garden setting a more beautiful place for all to enjoy. And *tell* people about what you did. You get to choose whom you tell. It may be via your nudist or gardening club newsletter, or in an online discussion group, or - best of all - with a letter to *N* magazine. But tell *someone*. WNGD is for and owned by everyone, so take credit for the good fun you've enjoyed. World Naked Gardening Day is, in every sense of the word, a grassroots phenomenon.

For more information and updates as WNGD 2006 approaches, see www.WNGD.org.



Author and naked gardener Mark works in his backyard. At left is a garden fixture that he hopes will support World Peas.

PHOTO: KATHY BALNCHARD

The educational and informational resource for naturists



NEF is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation.

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Royal Roads

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Plans call for a phased development throughout the coming decade. A 73-acre tract being developed presently is uncomfortably near the lagoon.

Every square metre of land is included in the plan that maximizes the return to the consortium of developers who have undertaken the project. When the City of Colwood proposed in 2005 to increase the forested buffer between the foreshore and the cliff tops from 50 to 100 metres, the developers cried foul and threatened lawsuits.

Local naturist hero and beach lover Dave Henderson, reached out to the Naturist Action Committee's Judy Williams for help when he realized the magnitude of the threat facing his newly-formed Royal Beach Preservation Committee (RBPC).

Recently, Williams and fellow activist Java Padidar assisted Henderson in the creation and circulation of a flyer aimed at increasing support for his fledgling group. The trio also visited Colwood City Hall and spoke with a planner there. In less than an hour on the beach, Williams and Padidar helped Henderson gather his first supporters.



At Royal Roads Beach, Judy Williams of the Naturist Action Committee is flanked by naturist activists Dave Henderson (left) and Java Padidar at the water's edge of the Strait of Juan de Fuca, near Albert Head on Vancouver Island, British Columbia. Note the ironworks that allow gravel from nearby pits to be loaded onto vessels in deeper water. A sizable residential development is being built on land surrounding the pit mining operation, north of the beach.

However, at press time, Williams and Henderson were still delving into the complexities of agreements between Colwood and the developers.

Existing plans are known to involve three access routes to the beach, and a cliff-top waterfront plaza to be sited very close to the cliff's edge. In addition to two schools and their play-

grounds, 500 residential units housed in four-storey apartments are also planned adjacent to the cliff tops.

Next for local naturists is the prospect of uniting with local environmental groups. Together, they may be able to play a role in keeping the beach in its most natural state, possibly with a recognized clothing-optional area.

Sun Allowed to Set on Naturists at Maui's Little Beach

MAKENA STATE PARK, Hawaii — An order that would have cleared Makena State Park of all visitors daily at 6 PM has been partially reversed. Peter Young, chairman of the State Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) has said that the park will remain open each day until sunset.

The announcement was met with mixed reviews by naturists who enjoy watching the sunset in the park at Puu Olai Beach, a clothing-optional area more popularly known as Little Beach. Until the first week of August, the established closing time had been 9 PM. Some naturists are disappointed at the loss of even a few early evening hours at the beach.

The 6 PM closing time had initially come about as a response to a series of recent incidents. Enforcement officials say they have become concerned about allowing people to remain in the park after dark, creating a potential for personal injury and criminal activity. Among other things, they cite sharp lava outcroppings along the trails through the park.

At Little Beach on July 30, a large crowd remaining after sunset became unruly, resulting in calls to police to report robberies and fights. Only a few days later, park authorities posted signs informing visitors of the new 6 PM closing time.

DLNR's Young received a stream of phone calls protesting the early closure. The situation may have driven a further wedge between users of Oneloa Beach (Big Beach) and those at clothing-optional Little Beach. In particular, fishermen at Big Beach are grumbling that they are not the ones who misbehaved, yet they are being chased out of the park.

Among those who oppose the early closing in any form is Wailuku attorney Anthony Ranken, who has represented the Naturist Action Committee in legal matters concerning Little Beach. Ranken was a member of the committee that reached a 1996 compromise on the 9 PM closing time. He questions the response of shutting down the park, instead of more directly addressing the issue of crime.

Good News in California!

NAC issues an update on the American River situation

In June, California Parks authorities declared an abrupt end to the tradition of skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing on the American River in the Auburn Recreation Area. The Naturist Action Committee immediately issued a NAC Action Alert, calling for letters to key California Parks officials and attendance at a local public workshop. The response from the naturist community was overwhelming. NAC offers this update.

The Naturist Action Committee wishes to make you aware of further positive developments in the situation at Auburn State Recreation Area in California.

Recently in Auburn, local naturist activists Marty Brittan and Durand Stieger met with Auburn Sector Superintendent Jay Galloway and Gold Fields District Superintendent Scott Nakaji. NAC board member Allen Baylis participated in the meeting by telephone from his office in southern California.

Messrs. Galloway and Nakaji presented a welcome and encouraging shift in the position of the Auburn SRA toward naturist issues. The dramatic change reflects a thoughtful reconsideration of this matter by California Parks personnel.

INITIAL POSITION REVERSED

Specifically, the park officials have acknowledged that they had initially pursued a wrong path when they sought to prohibit skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing along the American River. Existing California Parks protocols provide a way to manage FOR nude recreation in traditional areas. Both Galloway and Nakaji have now expressed their commitment to those protocols, including the Cahill Policy, a proven field-level method of managing clothing-optional recreation in the California Park system.

Cahill allows rangers to insist that naturist users get dressed for a time when a complaint is received, but Galloway and Nakaji have promised to exercise discretion in considering and processing whatever complaints may be made.

This is an enormous turnaround from the policy of aggressive elimination that characterized the Auburn SRA's approach toward nudity just two months ago.

California Parks officials have also acknowledged that naturists are good stewards of the natural resources in the Auburn unit. Naturists have an excellent reputation in California and elsewhere for being able to police their own behavior. This is important at a time during which staff funding for the use of public land is limited.

The further development of a cohesive local naturist user group will allow naturists to continue making these points with California Parks. Local naturists who would like to help are encouraged to contact NAC board member Allen Baylis by e-mail at rab@baylislaw.com

AN END TO THE LETTER WRITING CAMPAIGN

On June 10, the Naturist Action Committee called you to action to defend skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing at traditional locations on the American River within the Auburn State Recreation Area. There is no question that your spectacular response to NAC's Action Alert played a prominent part in forcing the reconsideration we're now seeing.

NAC thanks you for your enthusiastic involvement!

Now, it is time to end the letter writing campaign, as the next phase of this activist effort unfolds.

WHAT IS NAC DOING NOW?

- The Naturist Action Committee is continuing to work with local naturists and is pursuing the dialog with California Parks officials. This remains a long term process.

- NAC is working with user groups representing other interests, so that understanding may be improved and user conflict minimized.

- NAC is focusing on long term considerations by working to see that naturist interests are properly included in the General Management Plan presently being developed for the Auburn unit.

WHAT IS NAC ASKING YOU TO DO?

This is an Update. NAC is not calling for any new action. The letter writing campaign has served its purpose quite well. NAC is requesting that no further letters be sent at this time.

MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Additional information and links are available on the web site of the Naturist Action Committee.

www.naturistaction.org



NAC Advisory: Mazo Beach

ISSUED August 9, 2006

The Naturist Action Committee (NAC) wishes to advise you of developing situations at Mazo Beach in Dane County, Wisconsin. This NAC Advisory has been developed in close cooperation with Friends of Mazo Beach (FOMB), the local user group for the site on the Wisconsin River.

RALPH OVADAL AND HIS FOLLOWERS

In recent years, Wisconsin religious fundamentalist Ralph Ovadal and members from his small band of followers have protested and picketed in the parking lot at the end of Conservation Drive and along the road to the river. As part of their activities in this so-called "Gospel Gauntlet," the protesters engage in activities that are confrontational and provocative. Many of their specific actions are intended to provoke incidents with naturists who are headed to the beach.

Ralph Ovadal himself has been convicted and fined twice for his activities near Mazo Beach.

Ovadal has not yet made a protest trip to Mazo in 2006, leading some to speculate that an injunction exists that prevents him from doing so. There is no such injunction. It's true that much of Ovadal's attention is being directed elsewhere, but that doesn't prevent him from putting in an appearance at Mazo.

If you should encounter protesters in the parking lot or as you walk to the river, NAC asks that you ignore the Ovadalites and simply refuse to respond to their provocations. Since they believe the sight of naked human bodies will leave everlasting blemishes on their souls, these bigoted zealots will not follow you onto the river bed.

PROPER BEACH ETIQUETTE

Most who are regular visitors to Mazo Beach understand the simple fundamentals of naturist beach etiquette.

However, a few uninformed (or uncaring) visitors to the clothing-optional beach may occasionally attempt to use the area for inappropriate activities. Beach users should know the difference between benign nudity and overt sexual behavior. Rangers from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources know the difference, and they regularly monitor beach activity. Sexual behavior will result in arrest and prosecution, and it affects the reputation of the beach.

Please stand up for appropriate clothing-optional beach behavior.

AVOIDING CONFLICTS WITH OTHER USERS

Dane County authorities have historically declined to prosecute those who are merely nude in the traditional area at Mazo Beach. In fact, in addressing the matter of nudity, the Dane County District Attorney's office has said, "In a place where there's a tradition of nude sunbathing like Mazo Beach it is not lewd and lascivious behavior."

With present low flow conditions on the Wisconsin River, it's become easy to walk to the sand bar in the river. But the sand bar is not a "traditional" clothing-optional area for the purpose of deflecting prosecution. Those who move nudity out toward the main channel of the river and north and south beyond the traditional area are not only discarding their traditional protection, they are increasing the chances of conflicts with other users. User conflicts are a major cause for increased scrutiny and closure of clothing-optional areas on public land.

The Naturist Action Committee and Friends of Mazo Beach ask you to reduce the risk to yourself and the threat to the beach by staying within traditional clothing-optional areas.

PLEASE HELP NAC HELP LOCAL NATURISTS

The programs of the Naturist Action Committee rely entirely on the voluntary support of involved naturists. Please donate generously.

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Or use your credit card to make a direct donation online through NAC's web site:

www.naturistaction.org/donate/

Thank you for choosing to make a difference.

Naturally,

Kath Rooney
Board Member
Naturist Action Committee

THE NEWSLETTER editor: Bob Morton

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