

The NUDE & NATURAL NEWSLETTER

THE NATURIST SOCIETY

NATURIST ACTION COMMITTEE • NATURIST EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Discovery Beach Project

Local effort acknowledges the importance of developing positive local relationships

SEATTLE, Washington — Sometimes it's a bother to have to explain the difference between a *naturist* and a *naturalist* to people, but not during the Naturist Action Committee's Discovery Beach Project in Seattle, Washington. NAC board member Mark Storey and Body Freedom Collaborative's Daniel Johnson understood that if skinny-dippers were going to have any chance at seeing an officially sanctioned clothing-optional beach in the Seattle area, that local naked folk would have to develop good relations with city officials and site authorities. One way of getting that started was for NAC to work with the Seattle Parks & Recreation Department on a series of beach cleanups at the city's Discovery Park.



Naturist volunteers participate in the cleanup of Seattle's Discovery Park on April 22, 2006. PHOTO: JOHN CORNICELLO

Storey approached the Parks Department with the idea in the early part of 2006, and Parks officials said they were happy to work with skinny-dippers on some clothed environmental restoration projects. As a national organization, NAC understood the need to work with local groups to move naturist freedoms forward regionally. The Sun Lovers Under Gray Skies (SLUGS) stepped in to co-host the first work day

on March 18, and the Body Freedom Collaborative co-hosted the second on April 22. The City told NAC that they'd be happy if NAC could provide 10-15 volunteers each day, as that would make it worthwhile to call in docents to lead the cleanups. With the help of The SLUGS and BFC, the NAC work parties totaled 21 in March and 19 in April. City staff and docents on both days expressed delight at the turnout.

Keeping the summer weekends free for naturist club events, Storey selected March 18, April 22, September 23, and October 21 for the three-hour, Saturday work parties at Discovery Park's North and South Beaches. The NAC volunteers work side by side with other volunteer groups under the leadership of the docents. Storey was quite clear with City officials about who NAC was and that part of its mission is to advance opportunities for family-friendly nude recreation on public lands, but that those associated with NAC also wanted to show good environmental citizenship and to introduce themselves as valuable members of the community. NAC understood that helping Seattle with a series of clothed beach cleanups would help to do all of that.

The most recent event - on Saturday, April 22 - repeated the task performed in March. Winter storms had tossed large pieces of Styrofoam onto the South Beach shore, and the waves had pulverized the packaging material into granular pieces. The main problem was that birds were pecking at the grains of Styrofoam and becoming poisoned. Officials at Discovery Park once again asked NAC volunteers in April to get on their hands and knees for nearly three hours to pick the specks of white debris from between the rocks and shore grasses. It was tedious work, but a project the City naturalists believed to be important.

Although Parks officials higher up understand who the Naturist Action Committee is, the docents and fellow volunteers at each work day often did not. Storey explains how well things have worked out so far.

"The people working with the City get to know us initially just as another bunch of friendly volunteers. As the morning progresses and we're working together picking up

see *Discovery Beach* on page 2



Naturist volunteers pose with bags full of trash gathered at the April 22 cleanup.

PHOTO: JOHN CORNICELLO

Discovery Beach (continued from page 1)

bits of Styrofoam, they casually ask, "What exactly is NAC?" A naturist will respond, "That stands for the Naturist Action Committee." "Oh, you're naturalists?" "No, we're *naturists* - nudists - skinny-dippers - we like clothing-optional beaches."

By this time the docents who asked the questions have already decided we're okay people; so they lean back, look a little surprised, grin, and make some kind of joke about spending the day with "naked people." And that's *exactly* what we want: For the City of Seattle to think its okay - and maybe a little bit amusing - to work with naturists.

Storey's wife works for the Seattle Parks Department, so he knows that stories quickly spread among city employees. If a city employee or docent has an interesting story to tell, it's sure to make the rounds quickly, and very few stories can beat being assigned a leadership role over a group of skinny-dippers on a beach cleanup.

The Naturist Action Committee is continually looking for just the right opportunity to push for a clothing-optional beach in the Seattle area. Whether that opportunity arises or not, it is a win-win situation for skinny-dippers to develop good relations with local authorities and to show them that they can be a valuable part of the city. The cost in money is small (NAC offers lunch to the volunteers after each beach cleanup), but the potential gains in public relations are great.

If you will be in Seattle on September 23 or October 21, and if you wish to take part in the NAC Discovery Beach Project, contact Naturist Action Committee board member Mark Storey by e-mail at storey98@aol.com or by phone at (206) 361-9428.



NAC board member Mark Storey picks Styrofoam from the grass at Discovery. PHOTO: JOHN CORNICELLO

NAC, Black's Beach Bares Meet with State Official

CARLSBAD, California — In response to a complaint, local park rangers at Torrey Pines State Park temporarily closed Black's Beach to nudity on March 12. The incident that triggered the action took place well outside the traditional clothing-optional area of the park. In addition to the brief closure, park officials subsequently posted a sign at the north end of the beach declaring that "Nudity in the State Park System is Prohibited."

The troubling response became the topic of a meeting that naturist activists requested with a California State Parks official. Representing the Naturist Action Committee at the April 13 meeting was board member Allen Baylis. Lloyd Johnson and Claudia Kellersch spoke on behalf of Black's Beach Bares, a local naturist group that has taken on the responsibility of stewardship at the beach. Kellersch is also a NAC Area Representative.

The concerned naturists met with Denny Stoufer, Superintendent of the San Diego Coast District for California State

see **Black's Beach** on page 4

2006

Upcoming Naturist Gatherings, Festivals and Events

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

CALL *The Naturist Society* at (800) 886-7230
VISIT www.naturistsociety.com
WRITE *TNS*, PO Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903

- June 19-25 **Eastern Naturist Gathering**
Eastover Resort, Lenox, MA
www.eastover.com
- July 10-16 **Nude Recreation Week**
Throughout North America
- July 20-23 **Western Naturist Gathering**
Laguna del Sol, Wilton, CA
www.lagunadelsol.com
- August 8-13 **Northeastern Naturist Festival**
Empire Haven Nudist Park, Moravia, NY
www.naturistrochester.com

Two Return to Boards of NAC and NEF

OSHKOSH, Wisconsin — In an uncontested election, incumbents Mark Storey and Jonathan Shopiro have returned as directors of the Naturist Action Committee (NAC) and the Naturist Education Foundation (NEF).

Directors of NAC and NEF serve three-year terms. Each year, a third of the nine seats on the board become available. NAC issues a yearly call for candidates, and when there is a race among qualified nominees, the members of The Naturist Society are asked to decide the outcome by a direct vote.

This year, incumbent Don Stanton decided not to run, and there were no nominees other than Storey and Shopiro. NAC Chairman Bob Morton thanked Stanton for his service to NAC and NEF and said that in keeping with the bylaws of the organizations, the vacant position would be filled by appointment.

Morton noted that the hard work associated with being a volunteer NAC board member may be a bit daunting. But he adds, “The reward that comes from having made a difference for naturists is tremendous.”

NAC board member Mark Storey is a familiar figure to naturists. A frequent contributor to *N* magazine (and its editor at large), Mark has coordinated a number of NAC’s successes at the state legislative level and has become a force for proactive change in the public’s acceptance of naturism.

NAC director Jonathan Shopiro is a certified massage therapist, and modestly describes himself as “previously a computer scientist.” He first came to the boards of NAC and



Mark Storey



Jonathan Shopiro

NEF in 2002, and has been involved in both political and informational aspects of the two groups. Jonathan occasionally writes for *N* magazine and for the *Newsletter*.

You may view the complete candidacy statements of Storey and Shopiro at the web site of the Naturist Action Committee: www.naturistaction.org.

Ohio Legislature Poses Year-Round Challenge / Opportunity

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Some state lawmaking bodies meet for a few months and go home. Some aren’t even in session every year. But the Ohio legislature never takes a year off. In 2006, which has been a typical legislative year for Ohio, lawmakers convened their session on January 3 and won’t adjourn until December 31.

What happens between the opening and closing gavels is dizzying procession of introductions, hearings, amendments and votes. Those are features of other state legislatures, and lawmakers in a few other states stay in perpetual session. But more than most others, Ohio seems to be a hotbed for legislation that could affect naturists.

The Naturist Action Committee has retained a legislative lobbyist continuously in Ohio since 2002. Partnering with NAC to meet the expense of the lobbyist’s fees are the American Association for Nude Recreation and its regional affiliate, AANR-Midwest. NAC expresses its grateful appreciation to these two organizations.

NAC Area Representative Bob Neinast and NAC Chair/Executive Director Bob Morton work closely together on Ohio legislation. Here are a few recent highlights:

House Bill 23 - sexually oriented business anti-nudity law. NAC was responsible for removing public-lands language from this bill. Status: signed

into law by Gov. Bob Taft with the changes we wanted.

House Bill 50 - originally criminalized nudity in one’s own home in the presence of one’s own children. Rewritten with language offered by NAC. Became law with the revised wording.

House Bill 284 - addresses a section of existing law that forbids involving children in “nudity-oriented matter.” NAC has proposed alternative language.

Senate Bill 245 - proposes dangerous increases to penalties for public indecency. NAC has testified against this bill and will do so again in May. Watch for a possible NAC Action Alert.

Black's Beach

(continued from page 2)

Parks. Stoufer was aware of the tradition of nude use at the park, but he was unfamiliar with many of the legal precedents, policies and interpretations that support clothing-optional recreation in California state parks. Baylis seized the opportunity to educate the superintendent with documents he had brought for precisely that purpose.

Kellersch presented Stoufer with information from the official web site of Grey Whale Cove, another California State Park. The site notes that the park's "most popular activity" centers on its clothing-optional beach."

Johnson noted that existing policy already allows a spectrum of special uses at State parks. Johnson pointed out that the wording and location of the new sign at Black's actually encourage user conflict, rather than limiting it. The sign will be considered further.

The meeting went well, and the traditional stretch of beach at Torrey Pines is still clothing-optional. Additional work remains to be done, but an essential dialog between naturists and State Park officials has been renewed.

DONATE TO NAC!



The Naturist Action Committee is a nonprofit volunteer organization that exists to advance and protect the rights of naturists. NAC relies entirely on voluntary donations.

Won't you help today?

- NAC P.O. Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903
- PHONE (TOLL FREE) (800) 886-7230
- ONLINE www.naturistaction.org

Ruthe Badger (1951 - 2006)

Wisconsin DNR Official Figured Prominently in Mazo Beach Fight

MADISON, Wisconsin — Ruthe Badger has died at the age of 54. A long time employee of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, Badger was Regional Director for DNR's South Central Region until her retirement last year.



Ruthe Badger.

Her job made her a lightning rod for those opposed to the nude use of Mazo Beach, a traditionally clothing-optional site located in her Region on DNR land along the Wisconsin River. Chief among Badger's detractors was Ralph Ovadal, a former beer truck driver and failed dairy farmer turned self-annointed fundamentalist preacher.

Ovadal and his band of followers have repeatedly attempted to block access to Mazo Beach and have tried to provoke confrontations with those who walk the dirt road to the clothing-optional portion of the river. Ovadal himself has been fined multiple times for disorderly conduct, including a \$1,000 fine for an incident at Mazo in which he publicly called a female beachgoer a "whore" and a "harlot."

Badger did not suffer such fools. Responding in 2001 to one of Ovadal's veiled threats of violence, she wrote:

"The beach at Mazomanie has been used by people very peacefully for clothing optional uses. ... The only concern of violence started last year when you and your group started protesting, and you are the persons causing this situation. If you truly wish to avoid an explosive situation, and an 'ugly, perhaps tragic incident' it is up to you to change the behavior of your group."

Following his receipt of that letter, Ovadal turned his attention toward Badger personally, picketing her home and attempting by innuendo to besmirch her name among her neighbors.

Ruthe Badger did not allow such intimidation to affect her professional performance. Never an outright supporter of the clothing-optional beach, she was tough and fair-minded in her administration of public policy. She will be missed.



A follower of Ralph Ovadal pickets Ruthe Badger's home on November 27, 2001. In addition to the picketing, Ovadal's minions knocked on the doors of residents in Badger's neighborhood, passing out a flyer that asked, "Is One of Your Neighbors an Accessory to Child Abuse?"

THE NEWSLETTER editor: Bob Morton

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