

The NUDE & NEWSLETTER

NATURAL

The Naturist Society

Naturist Action Committee Naturist Education Foundation

\$20/year

October 2006

Naturist Education Foundation Announces 2006 NEF/Roper Poll

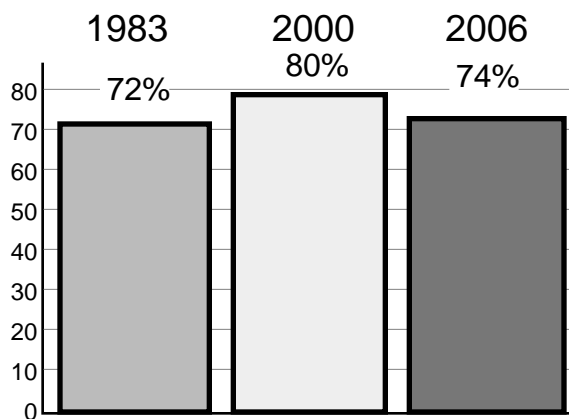
NEF commissions an update ... and adds a new baseline question

OSHKOSH, Wisconsin — A new poll commissioned by the Naturist Education Foundation (NEF) tests the responses of Americans to questions about nudity. The independent survey, which was conducted for NEF by the prestigious polling firm of Roper Public Affairs, updates previous surveys and adds a new question.



In 1983, The Naturist Society (TNS) commissioned an independent Gallup Poll of the attitudes of Americans concerning skinny-dipping and nude sunbathing. The encouraging results were used for years as evidence of the acceptance of naturist activities in the U.S.

NEF, the nonprofit educational and informational adjunct to The see *Poll* on page 8



Do you believe that people who enjoy nude sunbathing should be able to do so without interference from local officials as long as they do so at a beach that is accepted for that purpose?

2006
YES 74% No 24%
 Refused to answer 2%

NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1009 ADULTS, SEPTEMBER, 2006
 MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Sustained Support for Nude Sunbathing

Few American adults object to nude sunbathing that takes place on beaches in designated areas. The conditional acceptance of nude sunbathing measured in 2006 verifies the results from 1983 and 2000, with close to three-quarters of American adults agreeing that it should be allowed without interference from officials.

The slight dropoff from the level of the 2000 NEF/Roper Poll could be real, or it could be attributed to cumulative sampling error. In any case, those interpreting the results must not lose sight of the fact that the sustained overwhelming level of support comes at a time in which American society is far more divided on other issues.

More 2006 NEF/Roper Poll Results ... turn to page 4

Methodology Statement from Roper Public Affairs / GfK NOP

This study was conducted via OmniTel, a weekly national omnibus survey of GfK NOP. Interviews were conducted among 1,009 people ages 18+ from September 8th-10th, 2006. All interviews are conducted by telephone from the four GfK NOP World sites. Together, the four sites have a full-time capacity of 400 lines, and utilize an interviewing procedure known as CATI - Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing. Interviewers have been professionally trained and are continuously monitored and supervised. Each OmniTel study is based on a random digit dialing (RDD) probability sample of all telephone households in the continental United States. The RDD sampling system is totally computer based and provides an equal probability of selection for each and every telephone household. Thus, the sample represents telephone households with both listed and unlisted phones in their proper proportions. All sample numbers selected by this procedure are subject to an original and at least four follow-up attempts to complete an interview.

The margin of error for the entire sample is +/- three percentage points. The margin of error at the subgroup level is higher.

Please note that for questions that do not include a "don't know" answer choice, percentages may not add up to 100%.



*The Naturist Society presents the
2002 Western Naturist Gathering
July 25-29, Laguna Niguel, Calif.*

Prints of Henry Yuen's *Coffee*, from the 2002 Western Naturist Gathering at Lupin, are among the items available in limited quantity as part of this special NAC fund raising event.

A Very Special NAC Fund Raiser Continues

For a limited time only, the Naturist Action Committee is offering a special thank-you to donors who make contributions of \$100 or more to NAC.

By special arrangement with renowned water color artist Henry Yuen, NAC is saying thank you to its donors. You're not only supporting North America's premier naturist activist organization, you'll be acquiring top quality naturist art at the same time. During this special NAC fund raiser, each donation of \$100 or more will be rewarded with a limited edition Henry Yuen print as a token of our thanks!

Yuen's artwork is well known and valued, both within the naturist community and outside it. His naturist watercolors reflect the quiet and thoughtful facets of social nudity, as well as its vigorous and active side. Prints of six different naturist themed Yuen watercolors are among the selection of gifts. First come, first served.

For more information about this special fund raiser, visit the Web site of the Naturist Action Committee: www.naturistaction.org

NAC thanks you for choosing to make a difference!

The Naturist Action Committee and the Naturist Education Foundation

thank the following organizations
for their recent generous contributions!

Avalon
Boston Area Naturist Group
Castaways Travel
Celestial Creations
Friends of San Onofre
Gay Naturists International
Laguna del Sol
Northeast Naturist Festival
South Florida Free Beaches
Southern California Naturist Assoc.
SuperClubs
Travelites
WildFyre Society

The Naturist Action Committee (NAC) and the Naturist Education Foundation (NEF) are, respectively, the political and educational adjuncts to The Naturist Society. NAC and NEF are volunteer organizations that rely entirely on voluntary donations from concerned individuals, groups and organizations.

2007 Upcoming Naturist Gatherings, Festivals and Events

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL
The Naturist Society at (800) 886-7230

- February 15-20 **Midwinter Naturist Festival**
Sunspport Gardens, Loxahatchee, FL
- June 18-24 **Eastern Naturist Gathering**
Eastover Resort, Lenox, MA
- July 9-15 **Nude Recreation Week**
Throughout North America
- August 2-5 **Western Naturist Gathering**
Lupin, Los Gatos, CA
- August 7-12 **Northeast Naturist Festival**
Empire Haven, Moravia, NY

Introducing: Magnuson Beach Bares

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

What do you do if you want a clothing-optional beach but don't have one near you? Start one!

Daniel Johnson of the Seattle-based Body Freedom Collaborative (BFC) and I (often wearing both my Nativist Action Committee and BFC hats) are having way too much fun in Seattle these days. Nude film festivals, nativist-oriented theatrical productions, successes at the State Capitol when lawmakers get the disheveled idea that they can mess around with Washington State skinny-dippers, beach cleanups, World Naked Bike Rides, initiation of World Naked Gardening Day, naked photo-ops throughout the city, naked artists drawing naked models...it all begins to sound like Seattle is the naked capitol of North America. And we're loving it! But we still don't have a nude beach.

Johnson and I have been looking at every stretch of shoreline in and near Seattle, uncovering a dizzying history of nude use here and there. With tips from fellow skinny-dipping enthusiasts locally, we've been taking a closer look at a 200 or so yard length of western shoreline along Seattle's Lake Washington.

At the north end of the sprawling Magnuson Park situated on Sand Point just east of Seattle's University District is a newly deserted naval base (co-used at one time by the U.S. Coast Guard). Given over to the City, the huge tract of land is attracting the interest of every developer and special interest group in the region.

Johnson found long-time beach users and current Seattle Parks & Recreation staff who confirmed intermittent nude use along the shore north of the main (textile-only) swim area. A fenced-in off-leash dog area has been established by the City where some of the nude use had been enjoyed during the 1970s though the 1990s. Blackberry bushes and other non-native shrubs to the south of the off-leash area and nearly 300 yards south to the main swim area provide some isolation for quiet skinny-dipping, and nearly every summer day a few sun-lovers lay out their towels, catch some rays, and cautiously dip into the cool water.

Ryan Trudeau (member of The SLUGS and Fraternity Snoqualmie nativist clubs) has contributed to our recent interest in nude use of Magnuson Beach. Trudeau encouraged Johnson and me to consider focusing on the site when trying to acquire official sanction from Seattle for a clothing-optional beach. A detailed tour of the beach in August 2006 showed Johnson and me that with some volunteer work by local nativists and a relatively small amount of money, the site could be developed into a wonderful urban clothing-



A small handful of the Bares of Magnuson Beach waded into the water of Lake Washington.

PHOTO: MARK STOREY

optional beach, something along the lines—I'd say—of Hanlan's Point in Toronto.

NAC understands that the initial steps in gaining any kind of official recognition of a clothing-optional beach is to establish nude use at the site and to organize a user-group devoted to keeping the site clean, to speaking up for appropriate behavior, and to work amicably with site authorities. To that end, I (as a NAC board member) and Johnson (as a BFC co-director) hosted a kickoff BBQ/potluck on Saturday, September 2, 2006 at what we hope will be the future clothing-optional Magnuson Beach.

Figuring we had absolutely nothing to lose, we advertised the picnic widely on the Internet among every skinny-dipper group we could contact. I told Johnson that I would define "success" as getting six people to show up and claim to be willing to go public with their full names as wishing to create a clothing-optional beach in Seattle. Without a core group willing to go public, willing to go to city council or Parks Department meetings, and willing to be known as skinny-dippers, the project would go nowhere.

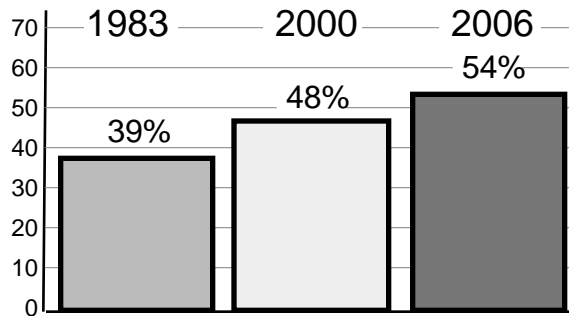
Saturday turned out to be warm and sunny, with temperatures in the low 80s. NAC was providing hamburgers,

see **Magnuson** on page 6



2006 NEF/Roper Poll

(continued from page 1)



Local and state governments now set aside public land for special types of recreation such as snowmobiling, surfing and hunting. Do you think special and secluded areas should be set aside by the government for people who enjoy nude sunbathing?

2006

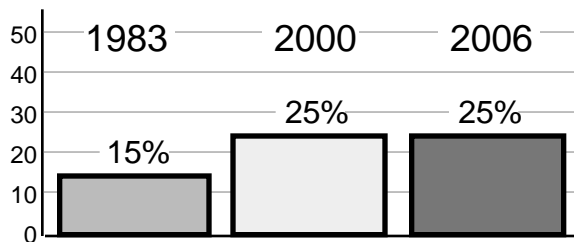
YES 54% No 43%
Refused to answer 3%

NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1009 ADULTS,
SEPTEMBER, 2006
MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3 PERCENTAGE POINTS

A Clear Majority Favors Designation of Clothing-Optional Areas

The 2006 NEF/Roper Poll indicates that the idea of setting aside areas for nude sunbathing now enjoys clear majority support among Americans. Public approval for the idea has clearly been building over the years, but governmental agencies have been slow to respond to the emerging demand. Agencies and public land managers must reevaluate their policies toward the designation of public land for people who enjoy nude sunbathing.

Notable successes already exist where agencies have responded positively to this increasing demand. Among its positive efforts to manage *for* nude recreation, the National Park Service counts recognized clothing-optional areas at the Gateway National Recreation Area in New Jersey and at Canaveral National Seashore in Florida. At the state level, Oregon has designated a portion of Rooster Rock State Parks as clothing-optional, and Collins Beach on Sauvie Island has official clothing-optional signage supplied by the State Department of Fish & Wildlife. Miami-Dade County in Florida has shown vision and has reaped economic rewards by setting aside a portion of Haulover Beach for clothing-optional use.



Have you, personally, ever gone "skinny dipping" or nude sunbathing in a mixed group of men and women at a beach, at a pool, or somewhere else?

2006

YES 25% No 73%
Refused to answer 2%

NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1009 ADULTS,
SEPTEMBER, 2006
MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3 PERCENTAGE POINTS

More than 55 Million Skinny-dippers?

The level of those who say they have gone skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing remains at one of every four American adults. That's over 55 million.

Surprising Support for a New Question

For 2006, NEF added a new question to determine present sentiment and establish an additional baseline by which progress can be measured in coming years. The results exceeded expectations!

Nearly a quarter of Americans (more than 50 million people) support backyard nudity, without interference, even if those who are nude may be visible to others.

Do you believe people should be able to be nude in their backyard without interference, even if they may be visible to others?

2006

YES 24% No 74%
Refused to answer 2%

NEF/ROPER POLL OF 1009 ADULTS,
SEPTEMBER, 2006
MARGIN OF ERROR IS ±3 PERCENTAGE POINTS

Please support the Naturist Education Foundation.

National Polls are expensive. Send your donation of any size to: NEF, P.O. Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903.

NEF is a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation. Donations are typically tax-deductible. Consult your tax professional.

Downtown Vermont Public Nudity

BRATTLEBORO, Vermont — By now, most naturists have undoubtedly heard about a handful of teens and young adults who have discarded conventional notions of public dress in the southeastern Vermont town of Brattleboro. To the delight of some and the dismay of others, these folks have occasionally chosen to shed their clothes at a popular parking lot in town.

EXISTING STATE AND LOCAL LAW

The state of Vermont has no general law forbidding simple nudity in public. Municipalities with such local laws number only a half dozen or so. Brattleboro is not among them. Vermont does forbid "open and gross lewdness," but mere nudity is not considered to be lewd. As a result, those who have chosen to be simply nude in Brattleboro this summer have done so with legal impunity.

ANALYSIS AND REACTION

In stories that have appeared recently in the popular media, Brattleboro has been characterized as exhibiting "liberal" attitudes toward nudity. However, it may be just as accurate to say that the tolerance shown by many in the town is simply a reflection of traditional New England conservatism that places an extremely high value on personal liberty and individual freedoms.

Whatever labels are applied, townfolk are not united in their views on nudity. While there have been significant local expressions of laissez-faire, a vocal few would like to see the nudity stopped - by the passage of a town ordinance, if necessary. Many townfolk seem more troubled by the international focus placed on Brattleboro than by the public nudity that brought the attention in the first place.

Unsurprisingly, naturists have also been divided in their reaction to the events in Brattleboro. Some view the summertime nudity as a refreshing expression of body acceptance in a place where it has not been made illegal. They point out that advances are often accompanied by some degree of confrontation, and they are particularly encouraged by the fact that those who are participating spontaneously are of a younger generation than most naturists and nudists.

Others are concerned generally about any public nudity that appears to lack prior official approval, and they are specifically wary of possible adverse consequences that may result from what some see as "in your face" nudity.

NAC INVOLVED BEFORE THE STORY BROKE

The story was a local one until the Brattleboro *Reformer* printed it in mid-August. As the story was being researched, *Reformer* reporter Kristi Ceccarossi contacted the Naturist Action Committee for general information on public nudity in Vermont and for background information concerning the Ledges, a popular nearby skinny-dipping spot on Harriman Reservoir. In 2002, NAC took out a full page ad in the *Reformer* as part of a successful campaign to overturn an anti-nudity ordinance that affected the Ledges.

AN ORDINANCE IN BRATTLEBORO?

A few disgruntled locals mounted what can only be called a limited backlash to Brattleboro's occasional nudity. Among the most vocal has been Margaret Frost, a resident of nearby Vernon. Naturists with good memories may remember her as the same Margaret Frost who, in 2002, led an effort in the town of Wilmington, Vermont, to prohibit nudity at the Ledges. During that crusade, which ultimately failed, Frost portrayed herself as a resident of Wilmington.

The Brattleboro town selectboard responded by asking attorney Robert Fisher to prepare and present options related to a possible anti-nudity ordinance for the town.

The presentation and ensuing selectboard discussion took place on September 5, 2006, during a scheduled meeting of the selectboard. The Naturist Action Committee had a representative present at that meeting.

The selectboard was told of anti-nudity ordinances in other Vermont towns, but it was NOT presented with any ordinance specifically proposed for Brattleboro, and the body took no action on the issue. Selectboard Chairman Steve Steidle called the notion of an ordinance "a knee jerk reaction to an isolated problem."

One member of the selectboard admonished those who had been naked to "police yourself."

PRESENT STATUS

The Naturist Action Committee continues working with and through local naturists and others to monitor the situation in Brattleboro and to suggest viable alternatives to the prohibition of nudity by ordinance. It's a tricky task, one that must be done gently and with appropriate finesse. Local social and political influence is best accomplished in conjunction with local activists, and this is especially true in New England.

The Naturist Action Committee has not requested that naturists take action on this issue at this time, and in fact, NAC has specifically asked naturists NOT to contact Brattleboro lawmakers.

The Brattleboro selectboard and city manager have already expressed discomfort at having become the focus of so much outside attention. No official action has been taken, and NAC has asked naturists to allow this issue to remain dormant for a while.

Meanwhile, the same worldwide media outlets that were attempting to sensationalize the nudity in Brattleboro just a couple of short months ago are now pointing specifically to the dissipation of the situation there and are wondering if nudity has lost its ability to shock. "Is nudity passé?" Greg Morago of the Hartford *Courant* asked recently.

Nudity is not passé, but if it seems just a little less shocking, will naturists deny that a handful of bored youth in the central parking lot of a small Vermont town in the summer of 2006 played a part in the process?

Magnuson (continued from page 3)

veggie burgers, and all the trimmings; folks were supposed to bring some other food or non-alcoholic drinks to share.

Johnson, my wife Kathy, and I arrived an hour early to make sure our group would have a good spot by the water, and set up tables, chairs, and the new propane grill I bought the week before. A half dozen people showed up at 11:00, with Ryan being the first to go fully nude. Soon others showed up: singles and couples, with a surprisingly even gender mix. I was frying burgers so fast, I did not notice that more and more people were following Ryan's mode of dress.

The cooking and eating area was in plain site of the concrete pathway twenty yards away that connects the main swim area with the off-leash dog area, so I was at first a bit uncertain how the people walking by—some with dogs, some with kids, some on cycles, some by themselves—would take

to seeing a handful of naked folk mixed in with picnickers in varying states of summer dress. Trudeau and Richard Cummings (also of Fraternity Snoqualmie) walked up to those who were swimming, sunbathing, picnicking, or simply standing nearby staring at us and asked in their own polite and reassuring manners if they would mind if our group enjoyed some skinny-dipping for the day. Both said that everyone they spoke to responded in roughly the same fashion: "It's no problem with me; go for it."

By noon we had over thirty people—most of whom were naked—eating lunch, swimming, floating atop air mattresses, sitting on the cobble beach, or wandering around close by. Trudeau and Johnson made sure that everyone who attended the picnic signed one of the Magnuson Beach Bares information sheets and explain what they would be willing to do to help organizers try to gain sanctioned clothing-optional access to the site. Nearly all 30 of the attendees signed up and pledged some level of support. The bizarre news is that *we pulled in over 50 such forms!* Clothed people who were walking by or hanging out near our picnic saw us skinny-dipping and having grand time, and when approached by organizers of our event, said they wanted to support what we were doing.

After some initial research the next day, Johnson concluded that Magnuson Beach Bares—young and newly formed as it is - is the largest beach support group in Seattle. The two of us immediately set up a follow-up date for a second Magnuson Beach Bares outing: Sunday, September 24. There is obviously now a great deal of local enthusiasm over a group of people at least *trying* to get a new clothing-optional beach established. The next step that Johnson, Trudeau, and I plan to take is to work with the City to form a volunteer user group committed to keeping the site clean. We'll look for the proper moment to broach the idea of a one-year pilot program for a clothing-optional beach, in a fashion that worked well at Hanlan's Point.

There is no way of knowing if this project will be successful, but the amount of artful street nudity that Seattle has allowed and enjoyed over the past few years, and the good relations NAC is trying to establish with City and Parks officials have laid a base that must not be ignored.

For more information on Magnuson Beach Bares, see www.magnusonbeach.org.



BUILDING YOUR OWN CLOTHING-OPTIONAL BEACH? Start by actually being there and exercising the option! Experienced naturist activists know that the successful model for free beaches in North America involves a demonstrated history or tradition of nude use on the site. Naturist author and activist Mark Storey cooks up some of the food provided by NAC at the Magnuson Beach Bares picnic on September 2.



NAC puts your donation to work making things happen for naturists

- NAC advances and protects the rights and interests of naturists.
- NAC lobbies lawmakers on behalf of naturists.
- NAC works for naturists on public lands AND in private resorts and parks - without compromising either one!
- NAC keeps naturists motivated and focused with Action Alerts, Advisories, Updates.
- NAC's Area Representative cadre is the preeminent local grassroots naturist program.
- NAC P.O. Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903
- PHONE (TOLL FREE) (800) 886-7230
- ONLINE www.naturistaction.org
- MasterCard, Visa, Discover
- donate online at NAC web site

Olympic Hot Springs Threatened with "Rehabilitation"

PORT ANGELES, Washington — The U.S. National Park Service (NPS) is considering significant changes to Olympic National Park, which is located on the Olympic Peninsula in Clallam County in far northwest Washington. Some of the proposed changes involve Olympic Hot Springs, a popular soaking spot for naturists. Unless the Park Service plan is modified through public outcry, the likely result will include complete removal of the soaking pools at the Springs.



PHOTO: NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

One of the soaking pools at Olympic Hot Springs in Olympic National Park.

THE SPECIFIC ISSUE

To coordinate the proposed changes, the Park Service has developed a 400-page draft of a new General Management Plan. Park Service planners have come up with four versions of management scenarios for Olympic National Park. Those range from Alternative A, which involves the least change, to Alternative D, which is the management scheme preferred by NPS.

The Naturist Action Committee assesses it to be quite unlikely that NPS will ultimately select Alternative A, the so-called "no action" option. "No Action" alternatives are always included in drafts of management plans, but they are seldom given serious consideration.

Alternatives B, C and D all involve the "rehabilitation" of the Olympic Hot Springs site. That's Park-speak for complete removal of the manmade soaking pools located there.

HISTORY AND DISCUSSION

Olympic Hot Springs is actually made up of 21 natural hillside seepages that drain into Boulder Creek, a tributary of the Elwha River. Sometimes called Boulder Hot Springs or Triple 21 Hot Springs, the springs flow year round and are a longtime traditional spot for clothing-optional use. The temperature of the seepages ranges to 138 degrees F, but the seven manmade rock-and-mortar soaking pools that collect the spring water stay at about 105 degrees.

In the early 1900s, a resort existed at the site of Olympic Hot Springs. Public works projects in the 1930s improved the road that runs nearby. The resort buildings suffered from fire, weather and lack of maintenance, and were dismantled in 1972. The road remains in fair condition.

The Naturist Action Committee has conferred extensively with several Park Service managers responsible for Olympic National Park, and for Olympic Hot Springs, specifically. The nudity that's customary at the springs is not a particular problem, and isn't even mentioned in the draft of the General Management Plan.

However, there are two important concerns about the site that are shared by Park Service managers and responsible naturists, alike. The first of those is sanitation. The existing number and arrangement of the soaking pools at Olympic Hot Springs limits the natural beneficial effect of flow-through cleansing. The result is that unhealthy levels of fecal coliform and other contamination are allowed to accumulate, especially in the lower pools.

A second major concern is an undesirable cumulative impact on the local environment. NPS proposes to mitigate local impact by removing the soaking pools altogether.

Naturists familiar with the spring say the best solution does not fit neatly into any of the four prepackaged alternatives.

WHAT NAC IS DOING

The Naturist Action Committee is involved in ongoing discussions with Olympic National Park management and with local naturists who are knowledgeable about hot springs

see *Olympic* on page 6

The educational and informational resource for naturists



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

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

- Toni Egbert Naturist Law Library
- NEF Speakers Bureau
- NEF Scholarship Program
- NEF Publications

- NEF Grants support naturists in the arts
- NEF Public Opinion Polling
- NEF Videos

Olympic (cont'd from page 7)

in the Pacific Northwest and about Olympic Hot Springs specifically. NAC's special thanks go to Rick Pierdes, whose valuable insight has helped shape this NAC Action Alert.

NAC has proposed specific amendments to the General Management Plan that's presently under consideration.

NAC's PROPOSALS

A. Retain soaking at Olympic Hot Springs, but reduce the number of pools at the Springs site to three or four, located near the main source. This will improve cleanliness by offering less restriction to flow. It will help rehabilitate the runoff area, reduce the impact of use and enhance the integrity of the environment.

B. Contract the maintenance of the resource to an experienced caretaker. This approach has been implemented with great success by other agencies responsible for managing hot spring resources in the Pacific Northwest.

C. Convert the road (Olympic Hot Springs Road) to a trail beyond the Altair site. This is similar to an item proposed in Alternative B of the draft of the General Management Plan.

WHAT NAC HAS ASKED NATURISTS TO DO

In a NAC Action Alert distributed September 14, 2006, the Naturist Action Committee has asked naturists to do two things:

1) Send a pertinent comment on the Management Plan to Park Service managers. The comment period closed on September 30.

2) Become involved with a hands-on group specifically supporting Olympic Hot Springs. Naturists still have an opportunity to participate in this important way by contacting NAC Area Rep Howard Williamson by email at wel@oz.net or NAC board member Mark Storey at storey@aol.com.

CURRENT STATUS

The responses to NAC's Action Alert in the form of official comments on the Management Plan have been gratifying. Park Service officials have been told firmly that clothing-optional use at traditional sites in the park is an environmentally friendly, low impact use of the resource.

Naturists are responsible stewards of public lands, and they have shown very clearly that "rehabilitation" of Olympic Hot Springs does not require that the resource be made unusable for those seeking remote recreational experiences.

Poll (cont'd from page 1)

Naturist Society, updated the original poll by commissioning Roper Starch to ask the same three questions in a nationwide survey. Since 2005, Roper has been a unit of GfK NOP, LLC, an international research business.

The 2006 NEF/Roper Poll indicates continued high levels of acceptance for nude sunbathing, with close to three-quarters of the survey sample expressing support for hassle-free nude sunbathing at a beach that is accepted for that purpose.

Personal participation in skinny-dipping has remained consistent at a quarter of the population. Only adults were surveyed, and the present adult population of the U.S. is approximately 220 million. The projected number of American adults who have personally taken part in skinny-dipping or nude sunbathing is an astounding 55 million!

Of course, naturism is a family-friendly activity that's often a way of life. Although the survey was limited to adults, naturist activities are not. Naturist parents frequently include their children in wholesome and traditional activities like skinny-dipping that simply don't require the participants to be clothed.

Perhaps the poll's most encouraging response was to the question that asked about designating public land for nude use. A clear majority of those surveyed, 54 percent, agreed that governments should specifically meet the needs of those who enjoy nude sunbathing by setting aside public land for that purpose.

In addition to the questions that had appeared as part of the polls in 1983 and 2000, the Naturist Education Foundation posed a new public opinion question in 2006. The question asked whether people should be able to be nude in their own backyards, even if they might be visible to others.

The purpose of this question was simply to establish a baseline, a starting place for measuring progress. The result was surprising. Twenty-four percent of those surveyed believe that people should be able to be nude in their backyards without interference, even if they may be visible to others.

The 2006 NEF/Roper Poll is just one of the NEF projects made possible by the generous voluntary support of the naturist community. For more information on the 2006 NEF/Roper Poll and other NEF projects, visit the Web site of the Naturist Education Foundation:

www.naturisteducation.org

THE NEWSLETTER editor: Bob Morton

The NEWSLETTER (ISBN No. 1075-735X) is published monthly by the Naturist Action Committee, The Naturist Education Foundation and The Naturist Society, P.O. Box 132, Oshkosh, WI 54903. Entire contents copyright ©2006. Published items may be reprinted only with prior written permission. We welcome submissions for publication and will print such items based on their acceptability, timeliness and space availability. We reserve the right to edit items sent to us and we usually cannot return materials we receive. Obtain an annual subscription by donating at least \$20 to NAC or NEF today. Your financial assistance is vital! Visa / Mastercard donations accepted at (800) 886-7230, or you may donate online through the NAC web page: www.naturistaction.org