

Bare Facts

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38° 58' 7" North; 95° 47' 56" West

New Membership Policy Announced

Since its inception, the Lake Edun Foundation has worked hard to further its educational mission to expose residents of Kansas and Western Missouri to the benefits living a naturist lifestyle can have on the individuals and their families and, by extension, our society. We work closely with a local landowner to provide a facility where members of our Foundation can experience for themselves the benefits naturism brings. In doing so, we have also made our beautiful facility available to others.

Recently, our dedicated Board of Directors has spent many hours considering the best ways to cultivate our current membership: retaining current members, encouraging new members, and focusing on our educational mission. We also realize we must address perpetual uncertainty we experience in budgeting to meet our obligations when we rely so heavily on visitor donations.

To this end, at its December meeting the board voted to institute a new policy regarding visits to our leased facility by non-members. Beginning this year, non-members will only be permitted three visits to our leased facility or any Lake Edun Foundation function.

Based on data from last year, this policy change would only have impacted two dozen of our visitors if it had been in place at the beginning of last summer's season. We hope anyone affected by the policy going forward will choose to become a member and supporter of the Lake Edun Foundation to help ensure our long-term viability.

The board believes this new policy will create a lot of positive change regarding the way our organization operates and the activities we are able to plan. We will still have our Open Houses during the summer season to introduce others to the countless benefits of social nudity.

We hope this new policy will encourage those on the fence to "take the plunge," so to speak. And we have some floating docks for them to jump from! All kidding aside, we really do view this as a positive step forward for the Lake Edun Foundation.

In the past, some of our members have taken advantage of our pay-as-you-go plan. We encourage anyone, members or those considering membership, who prefer this method to begin their payments soon. You may arrange scheduled credit card or PayPal payments, or send checks, or set up bank transfers. We try to accommodate.

To make it even more enticing, anyone establishing such a plan beginning in January will be exempt from this visitation policy. As long as they are making regular payments, they may visit whenever and as often as they wish.

If this plan would be beneficial for you, please contact us by email or regular mail. We can work out a program tailored for your circumstances.

Thank You For Your Generous Support

Every year, we are reminded of the generosity of Eduners and our many other supporters. It is because of their gifts we are able to provide our outstanding educational programs and a truly awesome facility in the heart of Kansas.

Enclosed with this issue of Bare Facts, those who contributed this year will find our letter acknowledging their donations. Be sure you place this with your other tax records.

Annual Survey: What Are People Saying?

We continue to analyze results from our year-end survey. This is the second installment in that project.

This year, for the first time we asked about our trails. We know many enjoy hiking or running the trails but were a bit surprised at the response. 86% of all respondents said they had walked the trails at least once. "I walked the trails for exercise as well as enjoying the natural setting of all the trees and plants." "Edun just gets better and better!"

With this level of interest, the Board is considering various ways we can improve our trails. We may even add some trail segments. No doubt, this will become some if the projects our Winter Warriors will tackle.

Not surprisingly, 93% say they like to relax at our special place. "I do go to relax, but it's also very important to me to be at a place where I can freely be nude in nature and with others. Each visit affirms my belief in naturism and the goodness of the body." 78% claim they also hope to meet like-minded people. Interestingly, among members and prior members, the interest in meeting like-minded people climbs to 89%. "Having only visited twice, I wasn't yet comfortable enough to try to be social."

Some of our supporters who have never been LEF members in the past mentioned there were few others to talk with when they visited. On some weekends this past year, that may have been the case and the Board is working diligently to introduce more people to all we have to offer. However, we also need to be mindful that 65 acres can seem to 'swallow' groups making it appear almost empty.

DON'T FORGET

Jan 5; Sat; 8-10; Sauna
Jan 13; Sun; 4-6; Board of Directors
Jan 13; Sun; 7-9; Sauna
Jan 17; Thurs; 7-9; Sauna
Jan 20; Sun; 7-9; Sauna
Jan 30; Wed; 7-9; Sauna
Feb 8; Fri; 8-10; Sauna
Feb 10; Sun; 4-6; Board of Directors
Feb 13; Wed; 7-9; Sauna
Feb 19; Tues; 7-9; Sauna
Feb 24; Sun; 7-9; Sauna

From The Mail Bag

I didn't remember if I sent you my status update. I did take the job in Oklahoma City and got moved down last week.

I don't know how much help I can be for your board at this time, but I would like to try and stay in the loop and will give input wherever I can.

Lake Edun will forever be my home for the naturist living, I can never fully express my gratitude for being allowed the freedoms that the lake has afforded me, and I will forever be in the foundation's debt.

I will make every effort to visit as I will still be making round trips back to the KC area once or twice a month.

– Robert

Is Naturism Just A Hobby?

Ken from Skinnytrippers asks a good question. Ken and a number of others responded to this fundamental question about their involvement/commitment to naturism.

To participate in naturism doesn't carry with it the demand that every waking moment be devoted to naturism. That being said, even casual participation in social nudity carries with it a willingness to take a stand that is counter to the majority opinion. Still, for others naturism becomes a serious organizing principal for their lives.

There is room for both in this splendid social movement. Everyone is needed and has a role to play in furthering the values and practice of naturism.

In reading these responses you may find an opinion that mirrors your own thinking about the value of naturism in your own life. You may also read some that challenge your thinking about becoming more committed to naturism. Either way, the views presented can serve to reinforce your eager anticipation of spring and a visit to Lake Edun. [Ed.]

Is naturism just a hobby for you? Not for me. I tend to feel about naturism the way these people from nudistclubhouse.com feel. How about you? – Ken

For some, I suppose it is a "hobby" they pursue on an occasional basis for "pleasure or relaxation". For me, it's a way of living. It's about having put clothes in proper perspective regarding their usefulness. It's about looking for reasons to be dressed instead of excuses to be undressed. There isn't much hobby time in my nudism.

I clean house nude. I wash dishes nude. I cook nude. I answer the mail and pay bills nude. I wash the dog nude. I garden nude. I read and watch TV nude, (oh...wait...there's some "hobby" time...). I live my life as nude as possible. It isn't my "occupation," but it isn't my "hobby" either. – JoeNJ

Nudism/naturism to me is a belief or philosophy, a set of values I hold that affect the way I act. The core of that belief is that undressed is an acceptable state of dress.

The whys and wherefores of that central tenet vary from person to person, and are the subject of long discussions. Now my PRACTICE of nudism – what I do that expresses and proves out that belief – trends toward being a hobby.

I get to nude beaches occasionally. I don't cover up around my child when going to or from the shower or when changing clothes, but we wear clothes in our house. – JasenJ1

Naked is how I live my life. How can you equate a way of living as a hobby? So definitely not! I believe when people equate nudism as a hobby ... they view it merely as a part-time recreational activity ... like going fishing or bowling. They are only naked when they feel like it.

For Nudists it's totally different, we're clothed only when we need be. Which incidentally, isn't very often. – Creative

I have always viewed it as a lifestyle choice. I suppose to those who only get a chance to be nude socially on vacation or during certain times it could only be a hobby. Being nude is a feeling of freedom and I do gain enjoyment out of it. I agree with you though "social nudity is a good thing no matter what you call it!" - NakedisBeautiful.

I have never considered being a nudist a hobby. I consider it a lifestyle I choose to embrace and enjoy, either at home when I can, or at the local clothing optional resort. – AZofnow

For me it is a fundamental belief system and not a hobby. I think it goes beyond just a way of life when you encounter violent opposition to the human body from textiles with such a vastly different perspective claiming it is shameful, disgusting, offensive and obscene.

I and other nudists think it is normal to be nude and unnatural to be clothed. Very different belief systems. – Rollercoaster94

Naturism, just like being honest, patriotic, and respectful of other people, is a part of my personality. It is not something I chose to do. Rather, it is something inside me. – Oldfrog

Naking

Never heard of naking? Me either until this piece by Ken from Skinnytrippers showed up. The link below will take you to all the pictures of naking Ken has posted. Perhaps you might want to contribute a picture of yourself naking for Ken to post or to Bare Facts. Looks like fun to me, so happy Naking everybody! [Ed.]

Naking is the practice of posing nude with arms stretched out, joyfully and gratefully looking upward. Often a photo of the naking pose is taken from behind, but there's no reason it can't be taken from in front, (full-Monty naking).

Naking is most often associated with freehiking because as the sun and breeze cools the body, one just wants naturally to naked. However, many naked at the beach, in water, and even in snow.

There's no set place for naking, though it seems to be an outdoor experience, probably because of the wonderful feeling associated with sun and breeze on the naked body.

I plan on naking more often. I'll pass on photos I take, and challenge others to do the same. By-the-way, I suppose any naked pose could be used to share the beauty of nudity in nature – jumping, climbing, running, etc. Any other ideas?

Learn more about naking [here](#).

Big Brother And Child Safety

For three years the Hardock family has quietly run a nudist bed and breakfast in Bowmanville, Ontario, Canada. Then an anonymous complainant, concerned about the welfare of their two young daughters, brought Children's Aid Society to their eight-year-old daughter's school.

The oldest daughter was called to the principal's office to speak to two strangers. Her parents said she was scared she was in trouble as she was "interrogated" and asked deeply personal questions.

She said her daughter was uncomfortable with the workers, who reportedly asked her if she was ever naked, if her parents took pictures of naked guests, if she was ever left alone with guests and had ever been touched or been asked to touch another person's genitals. The child was asked if her friends knew her parents were nudists and if she ever had anyone over for sleepovers.

After the school interview, a CAS worker arrived unannounced at their property and looked through the entire house before interviewing the parents. Ms. Hardock says she was asked about still breastfeeding her four-year-old daughter. The case worker also wanted to know about the couple's sex life while their youngest daughter slept in their room for the four months relatives were visiting from China.

After investigating the Hardocks, the CAS closed the case. The Hardocks were relieved, but also angry about what their family had been put through.

"They're too powerful. I didn't do anything wrong. Why am I scared? I need to speak out," said Ms. Hardock. "They treat you already like a criminal."

Behind the parents' anger is fear. Ms. Hardock went from not knowing what the CAS was to learning her children could be taken away while at school, because there was a perceived risk of abuse and the onus would be on the parents to fight in court for their children's return.

"This is very natural and they're thinking something evil," said Ms. Hardock of the CAS. "It's possible my kids now feel naturism is wrong. We raise our kids. It's our business."

Fortunately, this incident ended without further traumatizing the family. We all are concerned about child safety and don't want to leave children in an unsafe environment. Despite this, one is left with the feeling that an injustice was perpetrated on this family by government, because it can.

In all such cases, the burden is on the accused to prove they are innocent. Innocent until proven guilty doesn't apply. In this case, naturism was "on trial" due to the ignorance of someone in the community and by over-protective services workers.

Just a suggestion. Anyone engaged in a naturist business where children might be involved needs to speak with local authorities in advance to educate them about naturism. This might save a whole lot of trouble later. [Ed.]

De-sexualizing The Female Form

An art exhibition in Wellington, New Zealand titled, *The Lady Garden*, turns some new ground. The question asked by Virginia Kennard, the woman organizing a performance art show, is whether we can stop sexualizing the female form.

Virginia comes from a background of being a life model. It was her experience that being naked in front of people for drawing wasn't sexual at all. She added, "I really liked that boundary, that juxtaposition of a naked body, but not being sexualised."

But now a performance exhibition in Wellington is hoping to change people's attitudes to nudity – by de-sexualising the female form.

The Lady Garden is a performance exhibition where everything is on show, but gallery goers insist they're not just there to perve.

A male attending the exhibit commented, "I do respect women and it would be cool to see art that's like that as well – and see women in a natural, true form, and as a companion, not as an object."

Picking up on this comment Virginia says that's exactly the point of her exhibit. "We do it so much – can you not do it? Can you stop it? It's about how common it is in the commercial realm, and how that feeds into our personal perspectives."

The reported observed that on opening night there was little embarrassment in the room.

"You look at a piece and you go, 'Okay cool, I can see that' and it didn't have to be weird. Obviously it's uncomfortable because it's a naked lady – but it wasn't arousing, so to say," stated a male viewer.

This report was aired on TV in New Zealand with no pixilation, bars, or blurring of the bare women's bodies. Pretty amazing!

I think we understand what Ms Kennard meant when she spoke of de-sexualizing the female form. However, a more accurate word that better describes her intention for the exhibit would be her desire to de-eroticize the female form. I don't think anyone wants to neuter either gender as the meaning of the word de-sexualize more readily implies.

Naturists have always aimed to differentiate simple nudity from the erotic – it's not about sex you know, etc. It's the obstinate thick headedness of the general population, aided by commercial exploitation that continues to prop up the naked = sex formula.

All in all, the [show](#) is on the right track and is "eye opening" for at least some who give the message in the art a chance. [Ed.]

Samantha Gilmour's Blog

This is a new blog to me. Just came across it a few days ago and can highly recommend it to Bare Facts readers.

Samantha is an 18 year old young woman raised by a naturist mom and grew up in a naturist park in Tennessee and can easily be seen as a poster child for the benefits of growing up nude.

Samantha is very candid about herself as the following personal history attests. This is a young lady whose blog is worth returning to time and again. [Ed.]

Without making this a huge page of a lot of stuff, this is just a quick page about me. It's kind of personal but nothing I wouldn't answer to anyone wanting to know. I'm pretty much an open book.

The Who

I was born Samantha Lynn Gilmour (we are of British and Welshian heritage) on July 15, 1994, in central Florida.

I am a high school graduate currently attending college for pre-law hoping to go all out and be an all out lawyer. My designated potential career has not been 100% decided but I'm thinking on the lines of representing children in some form or another. I'll let my education determine that.

I am a nudist and was born into it. I only recently came to accept my lifestyle with no more apologies. My mother and I have been on our own when my father passed away in 2006 and despite a little time of rebellious trouble we have become very close and she is the reason why I even attempted to make a blog.

The Why

The purpose of the blog is to just simply help open the issue in a positive light. I am wanting so desperately to get the social prejudiced ideas of who we are and what we do cleared up. I want to help them understand that us children do not get scarred and troubled over being nude (and naked) around your parents, siblings and other harmless and social adults who also live the life.

I use humor whenever I can conjure it up and sometimes I come across as a wise ass, or snotty, but I'm really well-intentioned.

The Where

We live in Tennessee, as I have since I was 4 years old and belong to a nudist resort here. And yes! I am a former child of this nudie resort lifestyle and have yet to suffer psychological consequences – unless you count my humor and then yes, nudism can lead to problems in adults.

Samantha adds, All because I speak highly of us nudist children who have turned out educated and wise about people, life, sex and the world around us, I have to make sure you understand that I am as normal as you. I just do things without clothes. Not everything, but much of my life is involved in nudist activities. I am proud of being a nudist now because I know the tits will drop and the kitty will turn against me. If the genes are accurate, I have a lot of

work ahead of me to keep my body in some kind of decent shape (sorry Mom).

We nudists look at ourselves as regular people with less clothing. We are a family-like society of men, women, children, seniors, disabled, the absolutely gorgeous to the normal everyday types, lawyers, doctors, store clerks and even a known rock musician.

My nudity does not display whether I am a girl or a boy, but a person. I was a straight 'A' student now attending college and yet, my family have been nude around me all my life. We have touched, hugged, kissed and confided in each other. My father was a respectable business man. My mother was a hard working achiever and mom. My best friends came from a nudist resort and I've seen them in the most honest state one can be in and, to this very day, know them and trust them with everything one can in another.

I've never been touched, molested, sexually advanced upon, squeezed, felt or groped in a distasteful manner upon a child. I've seen erections from all ages and knew what they were and why they are like they are and what they do as far back as when I was playing with dolls and having tea parties for my stuffed animals.

She has an interesting [blog](#) you can read yourself.

Naked Jogging Upheld ... Somewhere Else

Victories for naturists do happen now and then, as unfortunately do losses. Still some good news is always welcome. [Ed.]

The right to go jogging in the nude has been upheld by the New Zealand High Court.

Andrew Pointon was wearing only a pair of shoes when he was spotted by a woman while running at 8.30am in a forest near Tauranga in August, 2011. The woman was so offended and threatened by what she had seen that she vowed not to return to the Oropi Bike Park. Subsequently she lodged a complaint with police and three days later Mr. Pointon was arrested as he emerged naked from the forest after another run.

He was charged with offensive behavior and found guilty in Tauranga District Court last December. An appeal was thrown out in June, but a second appeal was upheld by Justice Paul Heath in the High Court at Tauranga.

Mr. Pointon said he enjoyed the freedom of not wearing clothes and began running naked about 18 months ago because he thought New Zealand was becoming more liberal.... "It's just another lifestyle and I want respect for it."

Justice Heath said Mr. Pointon was a genuine naturist who had chosen a time of day when it was unlikely children would be on the track.

Mr. Pointon's lawyer Michael Bott – a specialist in human rights and civil liberties – said he could not understand why women were able to ride naked down the main street of Tauranga during the Boobs on Bikes event without intervention and yet days later his client was arrested going

about his business in a remote area: “It just appears inconsistent and grossly sexist.”

In a similar case, Nick Lowe was convicted of offensive behavior and fined \$200 after he was stopped by police while riding his bike naked in March 2009 – World Nude Bike Day.

However, a year later Justice Denis Clifford ruled Mr. Lowe’s nakedness had not met the test of offensive behavior. He quashed the conviction and fine.

We are encouraged when we find [stories](#) like this.

Documenting Young British Naturists

Publicity about naturism from an outsider in the media is always a gamble. Yes, naturists want their story told in the hope that through the vehicle of the media naturism will take a step toward popular acceptance, or at least tolerance. More often the experience turns out to be more reminiscent of stepping in a fresh cow patty.

Naturism as a whole is woeful when it comes to promoting our cause on our terms. Why do we just wait around hoping some enlightened journalist will ask us to allow them access to do a story about naturism? Nine out of ten times said reporter is a jerk who has no respect for naturism. Further, most of the stories are hackneyed, trite, superficial, and/or obnoxious. In short, they do more harm than good.

Unfortunately, naturists tend to be victims of the infamous “Charlie Brown syndrome” who always kept falling for Lucy’s pulling the football away at the last moment. In other words, hopeless suckers! When are we going to wise up, control the message and make the case ourselves?

I know, easier said than done, not to mention it costs a lot of money. Well, that may have been true twenty years ago, but nothing stops us from using social media and the internet to far greater advantage. As has been said many times before in these pages, naturism needs to hit back at a hypocritical society with our own critique and stop the inane repetition of the shopworn protest that, “naturism isn’t about sex.” That bit of drivel puts naturists on the defensive from the get go. Wise up!

Ok, rant over. The following story from England appears to have a happy outcome – for once. There is a link in the story showing some of the pictures taken. [Ed.]

Britain’s young naturists may be an endangered breed, but Laura Pannack won their trust by agreeing to take her clothes off before she photographed them, discovering an astonishing diversity of subjects.

Her ambition was to portray the lives of naturists under 30, a project that has taken 18 months. She obtained permission to photograph them in several naturist clubs, where photography is normally strictly forbidden. There she documented young naturists standing and chatting in swimming pools or jumping around the table tennis table.

Pannack made contact with about 50 of the 300 young naturists and was astonished by the diversity within this small group, from young trendies to manual workers. Everyone she photographed “was a naturist for a different

reason”: some grew up with naturist parents; others discovered they enjoyed being naked privately, in their bedrooms; a few found like-minded souls on the internet.

Pannack found more young male naturists than female; the women she came across tended to come to it through their families or partners. She believes this is because single women feel more vulnerable and are unlikely to go alone to discover what a naturist club is like. Yet she found the clubs “respectable” and the atmosphere among young naturists “completely unsexual.”

She photographed many of her subjects with possessions dear to them. “I wanted to show that these people weren’t just naked. They were people,” she says. “I didn’t want to photograph their nudity. I wanted to photograph them.”

Learn more about this effort [here](#).

Naturism In China

Information from around the world is always enlightening. Take for example this story from China about a budding naturist movement there. This excerpt from the full story gives a good indication of what one band of naturists is doing. Interestingly, China doesn’t currently have any laws forbidding nudity, but we know that can change overnight. We wish these few intrepid souls well and look forward to a few hundred million new naturists. [Ed.]

China’s naturists often fantasize about baring it all in the sun and the wind, but secluded and safe places are hard to find and public acceptance is equally lacking.

Autumn offers the best weather for Beijing. In 2009, a group of six people took advantage of the golden autumn days and drove 120 kilometers to a far suburb of the capital city in search of a place where they cannot be seen.

One of them had discovered a mountain in Huairou, to the northeast of central Beijing. There were no tourists, and they picked a trail with no traces of other humans. After climbing up for half an hour, they came to a giant flat rock. It seemed ideal for sunbathing au naturel.

In a country with more than 1.3 billion people, it is not easy to find a public space that is naturally secluded. Wherever you go, you are likely to run into someone who is not ready to accept social nudity, or worse, who is prone to interpret such acts as hooliganism, a vague term in China that may encompass anything from sexual harassment to graffiti.

According to Fang Gang, an expert on sex and gender issues, it is impossible to estimate the number of naturists in China, but he speculates the potential is massive.

Likewise, nobody knows how many naturist groups China has because none has been officially registered.

In online forums, there are many groups with a proclaimed interest in naturism. But Fang explains most of them only talk about it. Nothing will come out of it, he says.

Fang Gang, whose recent book on naturism is the first in the country to tackle the phenomenon, argues existing Chinese laws do not make this kind of public nudity illegal.

As a matter of fact, China’s naturists go out of their way to avoid what they call the “textile public”. That is why it is so

troublesome for them to find a natural enclave where they can rest or play sports stark naked.

In a larger picture, Chinese society, unlike the ancient Greeks, does not celebrate the human body. While some can accept the aesthetic beauty of the supermodel type in artistically tasteful arrangements, most tend to treat a regular nude as an ugly sight, something to be covered up.

There is essentially no tradition in China of enjoying the nude for what it is – other than a sexual object.

As the World’s most populated country becomes increasingly ‘mainstream’, we suspect we will hear more stories like [this](#).

Items We Need

Please see our website at lakeedun.com for more details.

- Non-motorized boats
- Chipper we can borrow
- Lawn or lounge chairs
- Large water storage tank
- Plastic barrels
- Concrete pavers
- Aluminum cans, etc
- Wooden Cable spools

In Style magazine, Kevin Bacon confesses he likes to cut a little footloose at home with his family every now and then -- naked. “Not when the nanny is around,” he says. “But I will with my wife and kids.” Why? “There’s something therapeutic about nudity ... Take away the Gucci or Levi’s and we’re all the same.”

Just in case you had any doubts ...



Just a thoughtful reminder from the folks at East Texas area Naturists blog reminding us of the “Good old days,” and where we are now. It is true, a [picture](#) is worth a thousand words. [Ed.]

Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.
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Membership Application
Change of Address Form
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All information provided is strictly confidential. If you are joining as a couple, include names for both people. If you are a couple not living together, make a copy of this form for the other individual. (NB: To promote gender diversity, a couple is defined as one male and one female.) Those willing to assist with upkeep a minimum of 10 hours

per year may deduct \$50. One subscription to our newsletter *Bare Facts* is included with membership. A subscription only to *Bare Facts* is available for \$20.00. New members will receive a Waiver and Release which must be completed before membership is finalized. Visitation restrictions apply to Associate Membership.

Membership Fees:

	Single	Couple	Amount
Lake Edun Foundation Membership	275.00	350.00	_____
Associate Member (Over 125 miles away)	175.00	250.00	_____
Working Membership (Discount)	(50.00)	(50.00)	_____
NUTs Membership (Must be under 30)	75.00		_____
Separate Mailing Address for members		12.00	_____
<i>No Sex, No Violence ... Only Nudity</i> First Naked Plays – DVD		25.00	_____
<i>Lake Edun Exposed</i> – DVD or video		45.00	_____
Naturist Society Membership		60.00	_____
Subscription to <i>Bare Facts</i> only		20.00	_____
Tax Deductible Donation - Improve our Educational Program			_____
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