

Bare Facts

Copyright 2003 Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

Official Publication of the Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

July 1, 2003

Box 1982; Topeka, KS 66601 • Voice Mail: 785-478-BARN • e-mail: benude@lakeedun.com • Website: www.lakeedun.com

Private Party Scheduled

A private party is scheduled at our special place August 9. To allow for set-up and clean-up, the land will be closed from noon on the 8th until evening on the 10th. If you have received an invitation to this party, **be certain** you mail in your RSVP.

Social Corner

By Barb

An impromptu fishing derby on the 15th went really well. We had 5 kids fishing, with a little help from a couple grandpas. All the participants caught more than one fish, and everyone got a prize.

Our youngest participant-Christian, age 2, caught the first fish. He actually had more fun throwing his fish back than he did catching them! And take a minute to ask Carver about his grandson's fishing skills!

Three-year-old Caleb caught the biggest fish – a pretty nice bass. He was so excited he nearly fell off the dock.

Ryan, 8, caught the most fish, reeling in 5. Ryan is a fisherman from 'way back, since he was 3, but his enthusiasm continues to grow.

Kianna, 8, caught the cutest fish, a very pretty bluegill. She needed a little help baiting up because while catching fish is fun, worms are decidedly "gross."

Preston, 5, caught the last fish of the derby. He got a little too busy watching everyone else's bobber to keep an eye on his own, and a few got away. Finally, with a little coaching from Dad, he caught Moby Perch.

A good time was had by all, and no fish were hurt in the process – at least none complained. After the derby, all the kids hit the beach and cooled off in the water.

All in all it was a good day. Kids really enjoy our special place, and they all have a ball at event planned just for them. This event even enticed Bruce and Barb's son and daughter-in-law to come to the lake for their first time! It was fun watching their kids show them around the lake!

Any of you folks with kids or grandkids should watch the schedule of events for kids. Or ask Diana, Bruce, or Barb about events coming up for kids. It's going to be a fun summer, so encourage your kids to come and join in!

June 15 we had the annual wedding vows and renewals. Four couple stood up. Nancy performed the ceremony assisted by Stephen and Mary. We all celebrated with wine and cheese for this special event. That evening we enjoyed Karaoke. Thanks, Scott for leading a really fun event.

With the long Independence Day weekend in July, we expect many friends to join us for a Clothing Independence weekend. Bring your favorite fireworks or contribute to a fund so we can have our traditional display off the island. Come prepared for fun, kids, and pot lucks!

Playwright Competition

Since we announced our competition for the best one-act play dealing with issues of body acceptance from a Naturist's perspective, the response has been exceptional. We have heard from a number of playwrights, some professional, some amateur, and we expect to receive a healthy number of entries. Some of these will be from local writers, some will be from across the country.

Even with this publicity, all Eduners can help us get the word out. We don't want any qualified writer to miss this opportunity. If you know someone who is talented and might be interested in submitting an entry, do them a favor and tell them about this contest. If you need additional posters, please contact us. Remember: the deadline for entries is September 26, 2003 and first place winner will receive \$500!

Complete information and rules are available on our website: www.lakeedun.com.

June Open Houses Great Success

Less than perfect weather made our two Open House's in May less than stellar. Be sure to tell your friends and acquaintances about Naturism and invite them to investigate it for themselves at one of our final two Open Houses.

Our next Open House is the 14th. It includes a full schedule of other activities and may be a good opportunity for those who enjoy many activities. On Tuesday the 17th we will host a somewhat more subdued Open House. Surely one of these will fill the bill for those you know who want to know more. But, if you don't invite them, they will miss this opportunity this summer. Make a statement! Tell your friends about Naturism; They'll be glad you did.

DON'T FORGET

Activities designated HN are sponsored by Heartland Naturists

July 3-6: Clothing Independence Weekend - donate clothing

July 4; Fri; Dusk; Fireworks off the island

July 5; Sat; Independence Celebration

July 7-13; TNS; Nude Recreation Week

July 12; Sat; 10-12; Board of Directors Meeting

July 12; Sat; 12-3; Open House

July 12; Sat; 5; Weenie roast or bring your best Brats

July 13; Sun; HN Sun Run; Race of Belenos

July 18; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim in Lenexa

July 26; Sat; Christmas in July Family Weekend

July 26; Sat; Turkey Pot Luck

July 26; Sat; White Elephant Gift Exchange

Aug 2; Sat; 10-12; Board Meeting

Aug 2; Sat; 12-3; Open House

Aug 2; Sat; evening; Chicken Dinner

Aug 8-10; Closed for Invitation Only Private Party.

Aug 10; Survivor Games

Aug 15; Fri; 8-10; HN Swim in Lenexa

Aug 22-24; Good bye to Summer Family weekend

A New Member's Perspective

by Cinni S.

Absolutely no way! That was my first, second, third and fourth opinion about "getting Naked". I held this judgmental opinion for 5 months. Then the warm weather came along and a private, quiet lake sounded more and more inviting.

After several invitations to come out and just "try and see" what Lake Edun was about, I did. I must say that not having a multitude of children running and splashing and screaming was well worth the visit.

My husband bought a pool for the backyard for my birthday. Needless to say, I have returned it, bought a membership for Lake Edun and still gave him change back. I have made it a point to spend at least 1 day a week out there. The quiet is well worth it. I went out just this week by myself. Floating around on the raft, I noticed a turtle sunning on a log and felt a fish take a nibble as I hung over the sides of my raft. The quiet, no neighbors looking in the backyard and the sensual feel of the water gently caressing my body when I "belly flopped" into the water was so relaxing.

I often complain that I miss Boston (my home), but my one day a week at Lake Edun makes me happy to be here.

Thank you, Dee, for calling my bluff on being afraid of near nothing.

Board Considering Change In Policy

For many years, it has been our policy not to permit visitors with genital piercings. This policy was arrived at several years ago after much discussion.

The reasons for this policy centered around maintaining a family-friendly atmosphere. While the board did not believe children would really care one way or the other, parents may be concerned and not bring their children if they were required to explain to their children why some choose to pierce their genitals. Further, as an organization promoting body acceptance, the board believes jewelry is used to accentuate features: ear rings frame the face, lip piercing draws attention to one's mouth, etc. Thus, genital piercings tend to attract attention to one's genitals. This, the board believed, is counter to our purpose.

However, those in support of permitting genital piercing at our special place argue our policy is backward and closed-minded. They point out that an increasing number of young people have genital piercings and believe their piercings accentuate their body in the same way as shaving, tattoos and/or plastic surgery do.

The board discussed our policy at its last meeting. No decision was reached. Before we change this policy, we would like to hear from our members, particularly those with children. Do you believe we should permit visitors and members who have piercings in their genital area?

It is important we hear from many of our members. Whatever your position, please make it known to a board member or write to express your opinion. If you wish to discuss it, contact Dee at merridee@msn.com. We are interested in knowing our members' opinions on this important issue.

Lawmaker Targets Nude Camp For Teens

Lawmakers are always in search for an issue that will get them publicity. About two weeks ago, we learned that Rep. Mark Foley (R, FL) has become upset about a summer camp for young people ages 11 to 18 who pitch tents, swat volley balls and sing around campfires. Seems Rep. Foley doesn't agree with the dress code.

Rep. Foley, one of Washington's leading advocates for missing and exploited kids, doesn't like the idea of a clothes free camp for teenagers, even though all available evidence shows us clearly and convincingly that such an atmosphere is beneficial for their development. And, this camp is the choice for their parents.

But, when there is a potential juicy campaign issue has an elected representative ever been influenced by scientific data or parental rights? In this instance, Foley is running for the U.S. Senate seat held by Bob Graham. He has delivered letters to Gov. Jeb Bush and state Attorney General Charlie Crist, singling out Lake Como nudist resort in Land O'Lakes, which hosted a bare-skinned youth camp that ended recently.

Of course, Foley claims the camp, sponsored by the AANR, appears to exploit children to make money. The camps operate under a Florida law that allows people to be nude as long as they're not lewd. Foley believes the state statutes should change.

"What's wrong with your kids going to Boy Scouts, Camp-fire Girls or sports camps?" Foley said Wednesday from Washington. "It's beyond the pale that this is a normal way to bring up a 14-year-old child." Foley suggested the camps force kids to fixate on nudity during their impressionable years. Normal teen sexual urges can become inflamed by the nakedness around them, he said.

Foley did not cite any scientific study to support his position. Rather, he appeared to rely on a politician's best friend: Fear of the unknown in an uninformed electorate. A fifth term congressman, Foley denies he's raising the nude camping issue to bolster his chances for the Republican nomination for Senate.

Nudists, on the other hand, said the camp's goal is exactly the opposite. Most of the campers have grown up as nudists. Stripping away the clothes actually minimizes the importance of bodies. They point out that kids are natural nudists. But as we mature, somehow that no longer is seen as a wholesome, healthy thing.

The adult nudists who run the camps say they teach teenagers healthy lessons about accepting their sometimes awkward adolescent bodies. Aside from the Pasco camp, others are held in Virginia and Arizona.

"We have always been about a wholesome, family-oriented environment suitable for people of all ages," Erich Schuttauf, executive director of AAND said He called Lake Como's camp, which attracted about 25 young nudists from June 5-13, "good old-fashioned naked fun."

Support our Legal Defense Fund!

7.000 Nude Bodies

by Dick Williams

Spencer Tunick is the artist and photographer who assembles masses of nude people in public settings to create temporary urban sculptures and photographs. He's done this successfully in New York and many cities around the world.

His latest creation was in Barcelona and it was also his largest project. It involved 7000 people to create a "river of bodies." You can find the story if you go to <http://story.news.yahoo.com> and enter Tunick in the search box at upper right then choose any of the several articles on the event.

With this much experience dealing with officials vs. naked bodies in many cultures, Tunick has gained a sense for how different societies deal with the issue. A quote from the article is telling: "In the U.S. they consider the body a crime," said the artist, who has been arrested five times in New York City for working with nudes in public. "In other countries it's celebrated as something special."

The Mayor of Barcelona even thanked Tunick for using the city as a backdrop. Wonder how such an event would go over down on the Plaza or perhaps old town Lenexa?

Even one nude body throws the Johnson County county fathers into convulsions – 7000 of us nude might cause a meltdown.

From The Mail Bag

Dear Lake Edun:

I wanted to drop a line to let you know that I finally made it out during open house. Although I wanted to go out for some of the work days but some family matters prevented that. I'll be out for future work days though.

Lake Edun was wonderful. This was my first experience with social nudity. The experience was much better than I expected. I can't remember feeling so totally relaxed. That is what I will remember most – that and the friendly people. I really appreciate Brett showing me Lake Edun and answering my questions. I'll definitely be out as often as my schedule permits. I'm sending a check for the legal fund. While I was at the open house I heard a conversation about the continuing efforts by some Lake Edun neighbors to close your place.

Thanks again!

- Bradley T.

Maintenance, High And Low

by Nicky Hoffman, TNS Network Coordinator

Whenever I get on the subject of naturism, sooner or later I start rambling on about the need for vigilance.

But you know what? I have my reasons. And thankfully I'm not alone. Consider, if you will, a few words of wisdom from Florida Keys Naturists' Ted Mozino, who notes in a recent FKM newsletter that even the notoriously laid-back Keys were once the target of anti-nudity zealots.

"It almost happened right here in Monroe County," Ted writes, referring to a campaign to ban discreet backyard nude sunbathing. "Fortunately, it was soundly defeated because a grassroots campaign was organized by the former leaders of Florida Keys Naturists, who were strong,

politically connected, and prepared with a legal defense fund."

With the help of the Naturist Action Committee and South Florida Free Beaches, Ted continues, FKN prevailed – but it wouldn't have without a concerted grassroots effort.

Ted's meaning is clear. Organizations like NAC and SFFB can help, but they aren't miracle workers. They need on-site support before the fact; not after anti-nudity forces have launched their attack.

Ted sums up the formula for a naturist disaster this way: "All that is required is that a few people drop their guard, not bother to vote, allow a misconstrued legislative bill to pass, or maybe simply be victimized by greed as developers take some of our best beaches. I know you've probably heard this all before, but when it happens to us, it may already be too late to remedy."

There's no getting around it. As Ted makes clear, the rank-and-file naturists is critical to protecting naturist sites. In fact, I'll go even further and make this statement: the rank-and-file naturists is critical to naturism itself.

Too often we lose sight of this. Our heads are easily turned by press accounts extolling the wonders of what might be called high-maintenance naturism – expensive nude tours and cruises, weekends at fancy clubs and resorts, exclusive condo projects and so on. But for all that, it is sustained, grassroots efforts that keeps naturism vibrant. Without the monitoring and networking that operates only from the grassroots up, naturism runs the risk of becoming a cloistered, decaying, members-only pastime.

And while the fate of grassroots naturism may seem unimportant to some of our more high-maintenance friends, it is worth remembering that naturism doesn't exist in a vacuum. If naturism is to thrive as a high-end enterprise, it must continually draw on a new and younger audience.

In other words it has to appeal to your people, which in turn means your people have to "learn" naturism through personal experience. So ask yourself: if grassroots naturism, the kind that relies more on public lands than on high-end resorts, disappears, then what? Where will young people learn naturism?

It seems a huge stretch to assume that folks who come of age without really knowing naturism will suddenly be drawn to it in their forties or fifties. Life just doesn't work that way.

So maybe it's time that all of us – high-end naturists, low-end naturists and those of us who fall somewhere in between started giving grassroots naturism its due. Remember, we're all in this thing together. And as FKN's Ted Mozino suggests, it all begins at the grassroots.

Items We Need

- Gas powered generator.
- Digital camera
- Plastic Buckets
- Pitch Forks
- Volley Balls
- 55 gal barrels with re-sealable lids
- Can crushers to attach to the recycling containers.
- Chipper/shredder we can use about once a month

At Bare Minimum, We Should Raise Kids To Be OK With Their Own Skin

Marcy Rodenborn for The News Tribune Library, Tacoma, WA

When's the last time you saw yourself naked? Or just partially naked?

I don't really keep track of it myself. I'm usually sort of a blurry figure in the foggy bathroom mirror.

Like 99.99999 percent of America, I am in no way, shape or form the image of a supermodel. I'm healthy. I go to the gym. I eat crispy green vegetables and apply organic carrot-infused face cream. And I have a few outfits that I look pretty darn good in, if I do say so myself. (Thank you, Betsy Johnson!)

But lately, I've been afforded a deeper opportunity to contemplate my relationship to my naked self. A few months ago, a friend of mine invited me to be interviewed and photographed, along with 30 or so other women, as part of Body/Body, a film/photography/theater event about women and their bodies. During the course of the night, we were to be interviewed on film talking about our relationship to our bodies, and photographed in whatever stage of undress we chose.

We all signed releases at the beginning of the evening, allowing all the media taken of us to be used in the final presentation of this project. There had been no photos taken yet, but as I signed it, I knew whatever I chose to show that evening would be available for public consumption.

This wasn't a sexual experience; it was a social and spiritual experience - women telling their stories in order to enlighten and entertain other people about the experience of being in a woman's body in this world. However, there was a little voice inside my head saying, "Isn't this whole type of thing sort of tired? Haven't we heard and talked enough about how bad we feel about our bodies?"

I've been attending women's groups since I was 12 years old. For many, many years I've been holding hands and smoothing foreheads and having my hand held and my forehead smoothed as we've wept about how ugly or fat we feel. "You're beautiful. You're perfect the way you are," I would say or be told.

Now that I'm in my late 30s, I really, really, really want to leave all this behind. Can't we all just move on? Aren't there more important things for us to be focusing our energies on? At the start of this night, I felt a little removed from the whole event.

Another participant excitedly encouraged all of us to "get completely naked" at the beginning of the night. "Let's just commit completely to this amazing experience," she gushed.

One of the first to be photographed, she blazed the trail by stripping completely naked and dancing around trailing a long scarf. She was captivating in her joy and her celebration of her body. After the photographer finished, she handed the woman a Polaroid of herself as a memento of the evening. This glowing woman picked up the picture, looked at it and burst into tears.

"Is that how I look? Oh my god, I'm so fat."

She was a Cybill Shepherd lookalike in her 40s, and she had a normal woman's body. I spent the next 45 minutes holding her hand and smoothing her forehead as she wept. "You're beautiful. You're perfect the way you are."

Clearly there's still work to be done. But what and how? One of my first thoughts is that we shouldn't shield children from seeing the naked human body. The naked body is not necessarily a sexual thing. If they don't see what a normal adult body looks like, will the benchmark be the Playboy magazines and the sites they manage to get to on the Internet? Because most women won't look like that without serious cosmetic intervention.

Of course, it's not so simple as everyone stripping naked and frolicking around. I was talking about this with a very liberal friend of mine who pointed out that it's not always appropriate for the young to see people naked. He had two stepdaughters, and when they reached adolescence he realized that he had to be more cautious around the house.

It's a complex issue, and perhaps the best we can do is to raise our sons and daughters to be completely comfortable in their skin and to not degrade ourselves and others in front of our children.

How many times have you bemoaned your own appearance in front of your children? How many times have you expressed dissatisfaction with the size of your nose or your tendency to freckle in the summer?

There are signs of hope. I mentor teenagers from time to time, and I've been pretty impressed by how all of the girls - from the extremely slender to the pleasingly plump - wear tightish tops and low-rider jeans putting their belly out for the world to see. They may still have lurking self-esteem issues, but they don't hide or cover themselves because they don't look like what's on the cover of Vogue.

Me, I have a serious decision to make. The premiere of this event that I was photographed and filmed for is coming up in August, and I am absolutely terrified to go and see what I look like up there. I feel pretty good about myself these days, but I'm aware that a certain angle on a photograph can plunge me into the pits of despair.

I guess the best I can do is go and hope there are friendly people there to hold my hand and smooth my forehead. You're beautiful. You're perfect the way you are.

Random Thoughts & Reflections

We work hard! And there is much to do. However, in a few days, we, like Americans everywhere, can relax and enjoy another independence day celebration. Be sure to join us at our special place for what is shaping up to be a fun and full weekend which will probably include a few unpublished events.

Increasingly, we use email to send reminders to our members and friends. If you are not receiving these, we do not have your email address on file. Be sure to email us your address. Don't miss something because we do not have your email address.

Keep Your Butts Outta Here

Our caretakers report an increasing number of cigarette butts are being tossed aside or left in our sand beaches and elsewhere. While we are very interested in keeping our special place looking nice, and we do empty butt cans regularly, we do not wish to go around picking up after a few thoughtless or careless visitors.

Please help us. If you see someone leave their butt in an inappropriate place, please tell them to dispose of it properly. If we all help, this will cease to be a problem and further steps by the board will not be necessary.

*'Tis well – but, Artists! Who can paint or write,
to draw the naked is your true delight:
That robe of quality so struts and swells,
None see what parts of nature it conceals.
Th' exactest traits of body or of mind,
We owe to models of an humble kind.*

- Alexander Pope, Epistle to a Lady

Race Of Belenos

By Dick Williams

Have you signed up for the Heartland Naturist race yet? With less than two weeks remaining until race day, you must do so soon. You may visit the Race of Belenos website at: <http://www.sky.net/~rjw/SunRun3/> – print the short form, fill it out and mail it along with your registration fee to the address shown.

The race will be on July 13th at 10 am. Full details will be mailed to you. This is a good event – good for Naturism, good as a way to exercise our right to assemble and practice what we preach and good for you.

It's a 5K or about 3 mile run or walk - a pleasant way so spend a Sunday. There'll be drinks before and during the race and potluck food after the race. Even if you don't plan to do the race itself come on out just to cheer on the participants, help with some of the pre-race work or simply to enjoy the day.

Enjoy Membership In The Naturist Society

Lake Edun Foundation, Inc.

P.O. Box 1982
Topeka, KS 66601-1982
(785) 478-BARN

Membership Application Change of Address Form

Please Print

Name: First _____ MI ____ Last _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ DOB _____ E-mail Address _____

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, you may make a copy of this form for the other member of the couple. (NB: a couple is defined as one male and one female.) A \$50.00 membership discount is offered to those willing to assist with upkeep a minimum of 10 hours per year. One

subscription to our newsletter *Bare Facts* is included with membership. Some may wish to receive *Bare Facts* without becoming a member. A subscription only 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	250.00	300.00	_____
Associate Member (Over 125 miles away) - deduct	(100.00)	(100.00)	_____
Working Membership (Discount)	(50.00)	(50.00)	_____
Assist with educational mission (Discount)	(25.00)	(50.00)	_____
Student Membership (full-time student)	150.00	200.00	_____
Separate Mailing Address for members		12.00	_____
<i>Lake Edun Exposed</i> – Video		35.00	_____
<i>Return to Edun Documentary</i> – Video		35.00	_____
Naturist Society Membership		50.00	_____
Subscription to <i>Bare Facts</i> only		20.00	_____
Tax Deductible Donation - Legal Defense Fund			_____
Total Enclosed - Check, Money Order, or Credit Card			_____

Please charge my Visa; MasterCard # _____ Exp. ____ / ____ \$ _____

Note: There is a \$30 charge for any checks returned unpaid for any reason.