

Midwinter Naturist Festival



Ken Lackman

I personally cannot remember attending a nudist event where I did not have a good time. Being asked to write about the experience is something of a different color when you are not sure if the event is something readers might be interested in. This is not the case when writing about the Midwinter Festival at Sunsport Gardens in Loxahatchee, Florida.

Presidents Day weekend 2009, (Midwinter is always scheduled over this weekend) I attended my fifth gathering and found it to be as memorable, enjoyable, educational, and interesting as the others. It is a pleasure to have been asked to write about my experience, especially this year since it was my girlfriend's first naturist festival experience. The day we returned home, Lesley put it on our 2010 calendar

to ensure nothing else was scheduled for that weekend next year.

I introduced Lesley to naturism about 18 months ago. Ever since our first encounter in Colorado (Valley View Hot Springs), she has wanted to learn and experience more and more of the naturist lifestyle. Lesley and I both agree that meeting individuals and making friends is considerably easier while partaking in almost any naturist activity as compared to similar clothed events (often referred to as textile).

On our drive home Lesley and I talked about the weekend and what she, as a first time attendee, enjoyed most. "I really liked the openness of the people I met. They were different ages, from different parts of the country and different lifestyles, families, couples and singles, but each and every



NICKY HOFFMAN-LEE presents The Baxandall Award to Sunsport Garden's Morley Schloss.



Mark Orpen



David Baum



Grey Vanaman

THE WIDE VARIETY of activities included the music of Armand and Angelina (top left).

person was very friendly. I also enjoyed the varied and interesting topics presented at the meeting sessions. There were also small groups; like the afternoon Nicky and several others got together at our campsite and talked for several hours about naturism in the mainstream of society. There was a hot tub discussion one evening about naturism and the fact that it can be completely non-sexual, a concept that is foreign to a non-naturist. People who are not naturists think being unclothed is always sexual and that is not true at all. I find that being a naturist and attending the festival took away all

the trappings of society. I didn't know, nor cared to know, what people did for a living, how much their house was worth, what kind of car they drove, or what their economic status was. The conversations were much more interesting, and all in all, it was a very relaxed, but stimulating weekend."

Morley Schloss has been coordinating and putting on this event forever (not quite that long) but as long as anyone I know can remember. His talents and ability to bring everyone together is simply amazing. Having said that, he has a fantastic support staff that deserves similar credit

for the wonderful job they do in putting on such an enjoyable event. At the end of each event I have attended, I am always thoroughly impressed by the hard work, support, and dedication everyone involved puts into this event. I find it truly amazing that a small group of individuals can bring so many knowledgeable people to one event to help spread the word about the naturist lifestyle. There are approximately 30 to 40 different presentations/events (no exaggeration) per day on a wide variety of subjects, starting on Thursday and ending on Monday. That means over 200 different things to attend. Who could not find something enjoyable and interesting to keep you busy? If you just want to relax, there is swimming in the heated pool, soaking in the hot tub, or taking a leisurely walk on the nature trail. If you want more physical activity you can get into a game of Petanque, volleyball, tennis, or shuffleboard. The choices are endless.

As far as accommodations go, you can have anything from a pup tent to an expensive and elaborate RV. There are rental trailers at Sunsport, and some people also drive in and out for the weekend. Cost should not be a factor as everything is very reasonable. A person can bring all their own food, buy all their meals at Sunsport, or anything in between. Typically we bring food for breakfast and lunch and buy the dinners, which give us the opportunity to socialize with new people every night.

If you like meeting new people, learning new things, stimulating your senses (drum circle, great food, etc.), relaxing in the warm Florida sunshine, and expanding your understanding of the world, then Sunsport Gardens' Midwinter Naturist Festival should definitely be on your list of things to do in 2010. Mark your calendar for February 11-16, 2010 and get barefoot all over with us. **N**