



„Nude Volleyball Superbowl“

The 45th Nude Volleyball Superbowl was held 5th – 14th September at White Thorn Lodge in Pennsylvania, USA

Unfortunately, it was cold and rainy for the main tournament weekend. But that didn't stop over 60 enthusiastic teams from playing volleyball on 12 courts. A total of 994 people registered this year. They included many young college volleyball players who were having their first nude experience. The quality of play at the AA level was incredible. It was as good as what you see in the Olympics or professional tournaments. In fact it is so good that ESPN, the American sports magazine, put together a semi-pro team to participate in the 2009 tournament. The result was a superb article in their printed magazine and a great video on their website. (You can still see it today.)

The first tournament was held in 1971. Wayne and Betty Alwine wanted to organize a tournament that would bring all of the nudist players from the east and Midwest of the United States. They made an agreement with White Thorn Lodge to host the first one on the last weekend in August of 1971. At that point, White Thorn was only 10 years old and the tournament was a great promotional opportunity for the club.

Shortly after that, it was agreed that the tournament should be held on weekend following Labour Day; the date that it still occupies. But as the popularity grew (as many as 2,000 people have attended) the event was expanded to start on Labour Day and last all week. But the main tournament is still on the last weekend with the finals on Sunday afternoon.

Wayne passed away in 2012. But Betty continues to play a key part in the event. During the tournament, you can usually see "Volleyball Betty" on the side-lines smiling and cheering.

With 80 hectares (200 acres) of space, White Thorn Lodge is a perfect place to hold such a large gathering. But it still takes a lot of coordination and planning to accommodate, feed, and manage up to 2,000 people. The White Thorn members have this down to a science. As a co-operative club, members are required to volunteer their time and, during the Volleyball Superbowl, many go above and beyond their requirements. A small army of people does everything from providing directions, to cooking, to pick up garbage and cleaning.

For several years, the number of attendees was dropping as the average age of players was going up. But that trend appears to have reversed itself, largely due to the incredible enthusiasm of the Tiki-Tombas. They started as a small gathering of young, college volleyball players looking to do something different. They've since grown into an informal group numbering in the hundreds. When they are at White Thorn, it is impossible to miss them! These young men and women are not just there to play hard (which they certainly do!). They are also there to have fun! Their participation is bringing back to the game energy and enthusiasm that only youth can provide.

Near the Alps, at 25 km from the center of Turin, 20 minutes from the airport Caselle. Caravans, plots for Recreation Vehicles and tents, completely equipped bungalows, caravans with chalet. Pool, solarium, jacuzzi and sauna. Clubhouse restaurant, petanque, mini-tennis, table tennis, Volleyball. Mountain bike circuits and trails in the Park Mandria

Sights: Venaria Royal Palace and Park, St. Michele Abbey, Rivoli Castle, Mole Antonelliana, Egyptian Museum, Piazza S. Carlo, Basilica of Superga.

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Le Betulle





„Calanques of Marseille“

The tenth National Park in France is the first one in Europe to be coastal, terrestrial and peri-urban as well.

Il am talking about the world-famous Calanques of Marseilles of course stretching from the south east of the city to La Ciotat via Cassis. This site is stretching over 8,300 hectares (20750 acres).

This vulnerable area in which some activities are age-old has been at last protected after twenty years of passionate debates and five years of consultations with the authorities and users' representatives. Naturism being part and parcel of this site, it deserved to be defended in order to be kept alive on the local scene. For four years the A.P.N.E.L (Association pour la Promotion du Naturisme En Liberté) has been working on the recognition of the practice of naturism in this emblematic place.

The most was made of these four years to weave bonds of friendship between the various associations of environmental protection and the numerous representatives of the users connected to this massif. We definitely must do our best to protect nature, which is the basis for the practice of naturism for the future generations. However one must bear in mind that the 8,300 hectares area of The Calanques are not exactly the same as a naturist resort in which you can stay naked everywhere. Naturism is tolerated as long as it is practiced in isolated spots.

There are places as busy as the Canebière (name of the most famous avenue in Marseilles) on Christmas Eve and others, which are almost deserted and lend themselves better to our practice which not only means to be naked on the beach but also includes activities such as hiking, rock-climbing, sea-outings (kayaking or boating). As a symbol of freedom, tranquillity, escapism and well-being, the values conveyed by The Calanques are akin to those surrounding naturism and other environment-friendly practices.

The time has come for our sound and natural practice to be in keeping with the users and lovers of this soothing nature. This was made possible thanks to the Calanques Charter which states that a « free naturist practice » has existed for more than a century in this area.

This recognition within the framework of a national Park is unique in Europe; not only does it show open-mindedness and positive consultations from authorities but also that attitudes have changed allowing our practice to become commonplace.

This was made possible by showing that naturism has been in existence for a long time in the Calan-



ques with documents and photos to prove it. This shows that the knowledge of our past history can help us build up our future. It teaches us how not to repeat the same mistakes and enables us to go further into our claims. The history of naturism has been longstanding and to keep it alive every one of us should endeavour to carry out research into it to pass it on to the future generations lest we should start from scratch again in the forthcoming decades. In Marseilles it all started around 1905 with small isolated groups with Abbot Urbain Legré then in 1928 an association called « The Naturists of Provence » was founded, it was a branch of « Vivre » by Kienné de Mongeot and it only disbanded in 2001. But it was Doctor Poucel from the « Excursionistes Marseillais » organisation who really spurred the movement on the national scale. Thanks to his well-argued pieces of writing, he managed to explain all the medical benefits of nudity practiced in a natural environment to the people around him, whether they be his botanist friends, the hikers or his fellow-doctors. He wrote many books on our lifestyle but also on botany and medicine. He was an advocate of full-nudity in the naturist magazines of the time such as « La Vie au Soleil », « Vivre d'abord », « Nudisme et Santé » and other less widely-known magazines. Much appreciated, he led numerous key figures to take up our lifestyle. We can consider that thanks to him naturism belongs to the cultural heritage of the city.

Now let's describe further in detail this new Park for those who do not know it. The dazzling whiteness of the sedimentary rocks reflects the sunrays from daybreak turning the massif into a scene of everlasting light. Consequently one can lie there naked all year round when the mistral (name of the strong cold dry northerly wind of southern France) gives a respite. The massif is remarkable with its three fishermen's villages (Callelongue, Sormiou and Morgiou) and what is referred to as « life in the cabanon ». These villages belong to Marseilles city districts and are peculiar to Marseilles' way of life. Then everything depends on the things you will discover and on the starting points you will choose as there are many starting points, some of which are unfamiliar and others which are frequently used as Luminy University, Callelongue or Port-Miou.

It is not that easy for those who are not familiar with the place to find the spots that lend themselves to a free naturist practice. And when we talk about freedom, we mean a sound family practice when possible, free from deviant behaviour. Of course, you must respect other users especially, because many people are not yet accustomed to nudity, making sure to cover thanks to Velcro secured shorts or a 'paréo' should you have an unexpected encounter. In case of last minute



encounters you should remain as natural as possible or even explain what you are doing and I can assure you things will be fine as long as we are on trails, which are supposedly used by nature lovers. The Calanques are a place which is not given away, there is no car-park near the bathing spots, no restaurants, no fountains and you would rather wear some good hiking boots not to hurt your feet. Considering these problems, the « Association Naturiste Phocéenne » of which I am the president will offer as far as possible to show you round the place while you are staying in Marseilles allowing you to discover many wild settings of which you will have unfading memories.

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„The Naturists and the Nazis“

When Naturism became a mass movement: The exhibition in Potsdam “Simple. Natural. Life” reconstructs Life-Reform Projects in Berlin and Brandenburg.

By Christian Schröder

Scenes from the soundless movie “Neusonnland”, a naturist colony at the Lake of Motzen. Paddle boats with two or three occupants pass by. The camera pans and shows a woman with a child, standing in the weeds, waving. Scenic views through groups of trees on the shimmering lake. Tents are erected. Fist ball games. A dance performance, introduced by tambourine beats. Then the dusk starts descending. Summer solstice, celebrated with a torchlight parade. Teens ignite stacked wood, then dancing again. “Holy glow calls the youth together”, says an interim title.

What is irritating on these pictures, originating from 1926, is not the nudity of all actors. It is the signs predicating the Aryan and body culture of the Nazis. In the end titles of the film, which is shown during the exhibition “Simple. Natural. Life” in the “House of the Brandenburg-Prussian History” at Potsdam, a symbol can be seen, looking like a three-legged swastika. After the First World War the Lake of Motzen, south of Berlin close to Königs Wusterhausen, had risen to a place with utopic potential. Whereby utopias do not necessarily lead to improving the world. Under the motto “We want to improve the healthy sensual thinking and combat the false shame”, there had been some “Naturist Unions” at the Lake of Motzen during the Empire times already. Yet, these groups had still bashfully practised their activities on private grounds. During the Weimar Republic, naturism developed to a mass movement. At these Brandenburg waters this meant: to coach services with gastronomy and best rail link to Berlin.

Propaganda for more light and air

In 1931 the “Daily Express” in London pretended, surely a bit exaggeratedly, that there were “100.000 nude Berliners” in the capital city. Books presenting the project “Lake of Motzen” with many pictures had titles like “We are nude – and we call us by first names” or “150 days in nudity”. Soon the public fell apart into fractions. A group of young naturists left the traditionally reform-orientated “Freisonnland-Bund”, which fanatically practised gymnastics with medicine balls and iron balls during “Body Training Weeks”. Their main trainer Hans Surén was to celebrate many successes during the “Third Reich”.

The Lake of Motzen is one of the 15 locations and themes, which are presented during the excellent exhibition about “Life reform in Brandenburg 1890-1939”. “Simplicity”, Naturalness”, later also “Beauty” and Health” were the guiding concepts of a movement, which turned against the experience of existence in the modern, industrialized world, against distance to nature and isolation. It was about the return to Paradise - nothing less, “the happiness of our being, which can only exist in the relationship with nature”, as it was stated in a contemporary text. Berlin, where the history of the “Wandervogel” (hiking) movement started in 1901 by the foundation of a “Commission for Student Excursions”, served as centre of all the visions, which ranged from vegetarianism and naturopathy to the settlement movement. It was the “pole from which everything emanated”, said the curator Christiane Barz.

Stars and nerds were among the life reformers, sometimes also a personal union. In 1909 the painter of Modern Art Fidus, born at Lübeck in 1868 as son to confectioner named Hugo Höppener, moved with wife and children from Berlin to Woltersdorf. There he built the massive “Fidushaus”, according to his own concept, in the residential area of Schönblick, where several of his most successful artworks were created, like “Lichtgebet” (prayer of light), the back view of a blond young man, greeting the day with raised arms. A piece of propaganda for more light and air, which was said to have hung for some time in every tenth home.

Urbanistic optimism for the future

After Georg Bauernfeind, son of a pastor, had died following a two-month fasting, in that house, Fidus renamed his profitable company according to the alleged martyr as “Verlag des St-Georgs-Bundes” (Edition of the St-George-Union). The artist dealt with the German culture, joined the NSDAP and portrayed Hitler in 1943. A counter-figure to Fidus is Gustav Nagel, the self-proclaimed “itinerant preacher and temple guard of the Arendsee”. Pictures show him imitating Jesus, scarcely clothed, a haggard body, holding a banner: “Ich komme zu euch in friden” (antique German: I come to you in peace).

The innkeeper's son has invented his own phonetic spelling and advocates "gotfertrauen und selbstvertrauen" (faith in God and self-confidence). When he digs a living cave in the woods at Arendsee, close to Wittenberge, the local people started an incapacitation procedure. But Nagel receives the backing of prominent advocates, among others the sexologist Magnus Hirschfeld. Later on the preacher, living on gifts of fruits and vegetables, starts taking to the road; during his trips he provoked formation of crowds and even reaches Jerusalem. Between 1924 and 1930 he unsuccessfully candidates three times for the Reichstag. In 1952 he dies in a sanatorium, in which he was admitted on the initiative of the State Security.

Urban visions generally are regarded as projects of future optimism. But a colony, named "Heimland", already by its name signals ideological backwardness. Founded in 1909 on a ground of 117 hectares close to Rheinsberg, it was the ambitious project of the publicist Theodor Fritsch, who published the anti-Semitic magazine "Hammer". The "Vegetarische Obstkolonie Eden" (vegetarian fruit colony Eden), founded in 1913 and still existing in Oranienburg, was the model. Fritsch thought about a "City of the Future", as a "Plant Nursery of German Life". Plans show buildings erected ring-like around a radially shaped city centre. Even tunnels had been conceived. Loads should be transported underground. Yet, only eleven houses were built. The cooperative was liquidated in 1926. Heimland failed due to lack of women and lack of agricultural knowledge by the "Hammerleute" (Hammer people).

The End due to the Economic Crises

Only a few kilometres away, close to Neuruppin, the "Freiland" Colony Gildenhall was founded. It was created by the carpenter and constructor Georg Heyer of Berlin in 1921, it was supposed to be a 'Model Colony' and attracted artists from the Werkbund and the Bauhaus. Amazingly, the rather left-utopian Gildenhall maintained friendly contacts with the folkish Heimland. The colony had been designed by the architects Otto Bartning and Adolf Meyer, among others. At its best times there were 19 workshops, the "Grotesque Ballet" was based on Oskar Schlemmer. In the museum, one can see furniture made of yellow-orange wood, ceramics and geometrically patterned wall hangings. At the end it was the worldwide economic crises that financially broke the neck to the cooperative.

"Simple. Natural. Life" is an amazing, sometimes scaring exhibition. Brandenburg shows itself as an "Open Air Laboratory of Modern Art". Not all the ideas, which had been tried there, were philanthropic.

House of the Brandenburg-Prussian History), Potsdam, till 22nd November.
The catalogue (vbb) costs 19 - 24,99 Euro

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