



NATURISTE NOTES



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What's Happened Lately?

Lately we have spent most of our time at Drakes Ridge in the heated lounge with lots of food and conversation. Except for one really sunny day, we have only ventured out when we had a project ready to work on, there were clothes flying on that one sunny day though. We did try a new game called "Rotten Apples". We found no rotten apples in the bunch but we did have plenty of laughs and we'll be playing "Rotten Apples" again soon. Come on spring!!!



What's happening next?

The 2018 Drakes Ridge Event Calendar has been posted on our new website, you can find that and a list of upcoming events at drakesridge.com/events-news. In our spring season we will focus on catching up with friends after the cold winter, enjoying the warm spring sun, working together to make the best summer season yet, and of course, eating together. At our Spring Equinox Celebration we will take a few moments after lunch to celebrate the coming of spring and our founders 80th birthday.

We will also be anticipating and planning for some great summer events. Our first summer get together will be a Birthday Party for all the Drakes Ridge members and visitors. We have more members planning their time off work for Drakes Ridge Vacation Week, and we have another entry for the Regatta. We have four different workshops already schedule for this summer's Learning Retreat. How will spend your time at The Ridge this summer?

Saturday March 24th- Spring Equinox Celebration
1:00pm Your Choice Pitch-in Lunch

Saturday April 7th- Spring Season 2018 Begins with Open Check-in Weekends Only

Saturdays in April- Planning and Helping Parties with Free Dinner (except during events)

Saturday April 21st- Mad Hatters Tea Party
1:00pm Hot Sandwiches Pitch-in Lunch
Campfire After Dark

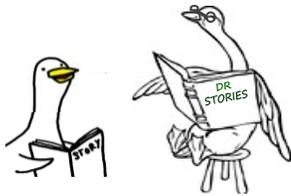
Saturday May 5th- Derby Watch Party
6:00pm Soups, Stews, and Gumbos Pitch-in
Campfire After Dark

You Deserve a Thank You!



There are always projects getting done here at Drakes Ridge, thanks to our members and friends. Bob and Dencil have been cutting more trees down, clearing the brush, and stacking the firewood, which is helping us take big steps towards our goals for the grounds. Bob cleaned out and leveled the outdoor game box. Dencil attended a nudist group meetup in Louisville, and handed out our brochures. Bob, John, and Dencil helped remove, carry, and reinstall a roof on Sherries cabin porch. They also removed the pool covers for summer storage. John, Debbie, Sherrie, and Kelly helped with brush and firewood clean up. Sherrie brought the new Rotten Apples game. Mike and Chris took the first punch card for the new Unclad Camp Trail reward program. Sharon completed the 2018 event calendar, is making edits to the website, and has started making ad posters for the season's events.

Special Stories



Between Chapters

This entry for this section is not as much a story as it is a set up for the next chapter in the history of Drakes Ridge. I combined a few of my favorite things, which I love because of Drakes Ridge, and created a place for us to foster future memories. The bench mentioned in the previous Special Story has found a new home in the middle of the pawpaw patch. The shade of the long, broad, pawpaw leaves create a nice, shady spot for conversation, connecting with nature, and watching the growth of the fruit over the course of the season. When we can harvest enough pawpaw fruits to make some pudding, we'll have a celebration with a Pawpaw Festival. Like me, some of you had only known of a pawpaw, before coming to Drakes, because of Jungle Book. I have included the story of the pawpaw that Sharon found at the Nature Conservancy.

Known as the Indiana banana, the pawpaw is a unique and unusual treat found in the state of Indiana.

Pawpaws (*Asimina triloba*) are small trees known for their large leaves and tasty fruit. They are also the only North American / temperate member of a tropical family of trees, Annonaceae or the custard-apple family.

The pawpaw tree is widely distributed, growing wild in 26 states in the eastern United States, ranging from southern Ontario, Canada to northern Florida and as far west as eastern Nebraska. They survive well in the understory of rich, moist hardwood forests as they can tolerate competition and shade very well.



In recent years the pawpaw has attracted renewed interest, particularly among organic growers, as a native fruit which has few to no pests, therefore requires no pesticide use for cultivation. Many Indiana farmers and landowners look forward to the pawpaw season - fruit mature in late September through mid-October - and you can too. Look for these local, tropical fruits at a market near you.

Is it Ripe Yet?



In the early spring, the pawpaw begins to show its pretty, maroon-colored flowers which give way to clusters of fruit that ripen in the fall. The fruit is a large, light green edible berry with numerous dark seeds. When ripe, it's quite easy to pick. A shake of the tree can bring down several fruits, but a gentle tug will do the trick as well. A ripe pawpaw is soft when squeezed and emits a strong, pleasant aroma. When cut open, the flesh is a bright yellow to yellowish brown.

And the taste? Many people compare the flavor somewhere between a banana, mango and pineapple. Pawpaws are also very nutritious fruits. They are high in vitamins A and C, a good source of potassium and several essential amino acids. It is also reported to be higher in proteins, carbohydrates and minerals than fruits such as apples, peaches and grapes.

By Bennett; Lifelong DR Member and President.

The Special Stories section is a section for friends and members of Drakes Ridge to share their stories. Please email submissions to info@drakesridge.com.

Membership and Attendance Report

The winter of 2018 has been one of the most attended ever. We have plans for even more improvements to help make Drakes Ridge a more comfy place to hang out with our DR family in the winter months. We have seen sixteen different members making one or more visits since the New Year started. The anticipated membership and attendance growth for 2018 is very encouraging.

Grounds and Facilities Report



It is now time to get the Drakes Ridge grounds ready for a comfy, fun filled summer. The pond needs some extra help this spring. A new aerator pump, along with some chemicals, has been ordered, but we still need more parts. This is our current building fund, please help by going to drakesridge.com/donate. We still have a few things to get done this off season along with getting ready for summer. Come out and put your name on Drakes Ridge by helping with a project.

Grounds and Facilities To Do List

Cut down and cut up trees.

March

- Load Trash Truck
- Build Utility Building
- Rebuild Pump House
- Build Firewood Cabinets
- Clean Up Sites and Grounds

April

- Rebuild Concession Stand
- Excavate and Gravel Sites, Roads, Parking, Entrance, Pool, Clubhouse

May

- Build Rental Unit
- Replace Pool Liner
- Remodel Bathroom/Build Bathroom

Office Report



The warm office has been the place to be this winter at Drakes Ridge and a lot of work has gotten done. The new website has been launched and there have been updates almost every day since. We will be building drakeridge.com into all things Drakes Ridge, for our current and future friends, so check back frequently and let us know if there are any ways we can improve our new website. The “Unclad Camp Trail” was finalized and launched by March 1st. Our 2017 tax returns are almost complete and should get filed a few days ahead of the deadline. Newsletters and enews have been fairly regular, but we can always do more to share what we love about Drakes Ridge. The 2018 event calendar was completed, emailed, and posted on drakesridge.com. It is now time to start planning and advertising for those events. Please let us know what you can help us with in the office.

Office To Do List

Website Updates

Event Planning and Advertising for 2018

Communicate through Social Media, Newsletters, Enews, and Bulletin Articles

Contributor Reports



(Formerly Board Report)

We have quite a few contributors planning for their part in the 2018 Drakes Ridge Summer Season. Sharon, Nancy, Shaun, and Bennett have all scheduled events they will host at this summer’s Learning Retreat. Debbie has volunteered to host this summer’s Women In Nude Recreation Charter Party. Bob has volunteered to host the first Wii Bowling Tournament. Kelly will be creating her permanent site this spring, and Bob and Dencil have plans to add a room onto their cabin. What can you do to weave yourself into the Drakes Ridge nudist family?

President’s Report

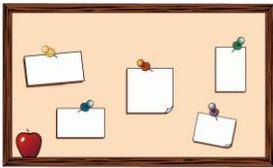
I am now turning my attention towards making our 2018 season be the best season for Drakes Ridge yet. The focus will be on getting the word out about DR, and making the grounds and events the best we can for the season in front of us. I have a whole day each week of the year scheduled for marketing, public relations, and communications projects. I will continue that practice to get as many visiting this season as we can, but as I am writing this I am itching to get back outside and continue the clean and repair of our rustic nude paradise. I still believe our best approach currently is to market to the visitors, so they will come back, to our members so they will spend more time here. To do that we need to finish the clean and repair list and get to making some improvements. You can be a huge part of getting this done, please let me know how you can help.

Weather and Nature Report

We had some warm days in February and some flowers started their bloom. It has gone cold again but the flowers are staying strong so far. We also had some strong rains this winter, although the ground is fairly dry at this point. The trees are still naked but poised to bud at anytime. Spring is a great time for hiking at Drakes Ridge.

Real Estate Report

We are now up to 20 permanent site holders, including all types of sites. We have 5 available RV sites with varied improvements and more improvements in the works. Bob's cabin is up for sale, along with one club owned cabin up for rent, sale or lease. Kirk's cabin is available for rent with reservations, and may be in for some improvements this spring. The club will start construction on another cabin in the very near future and will build cabins to suit upon commission.



Bulletin Board

We lost Mike H. this past January, Mike was a long time Drakes Ridge member. He will be remembered at our Annual Memorial Service on May 27th in our Memorial Garden, which includes benches built with material donated by Mike. Also lost this past year, and being remembered, will be Herb B. and Myla.

The Unclad Camp Trail, a nudist traveler's reward program, has been launched. Get out on the road this summer to visit other nudist camps in the Midwest and get rewarded. Go to drakesridge.com/unclad-camp-trail for more information and get your Unclad Camp Trail punch card from the Drakes Ridge office.



Upcoming Local Community Events

"A Girl Named Sooner" is coming to the historic Hoosier Theater in Vevay at 2pm on Sunday March 25th. The movie was a 1975 made for TV production with big name actors of the time and of the future. Including Lee Remick, Richard Crenna, Cloris Leachman, and Michael Gross. It was set and filmed in Vevay and in the backwoods of Switzerland County, on the next ridge over. In the movie's cast are Drakes Ridge and Kern Family members, including a speaking line from one of our talented members. The cost of admission is \$3.