



# NATURISTE NOTES



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## What's Happened Lately?

A lot has happened lately! It has been very busy at Drakes Ridge with a lot of new visitors enjoying our many events, activities, meals, games, and just soaking in this wonderful place we have here on The Ridge. We started off with Memorial Day Weekend as a Reunion Weekend with a Meet, Greet, and Catch-up campfire. We also held our annual Memorial Service to remember our past members who are no longer with us. Herb B; Herb S; Mike H; and Myla's names were written on the Memorial Plaque and were remembered. We then had our annual business meetings, including an auction to sell off some available stock. The auction was implemented to help raise funds to help Janice with final expenses for Herb S. We wrapped up the weekend with a Trailkeepers Meeting. We teamed up and cleared some of the hiking trails, and planned for more trail maintenance.

Over the following few weekends we held some traditional events, some with a twist, and some new events. The ladies of Drakes Ridge held a WINR Charter Party. They had a large group of women nudists, new and practicing, sit down for snacks and discussions about **Women In Nude Recreation**. Many of us took our turn drawing in the Pictionary Tournament. Joe and Dencil took home the trophies, which were nice blue beach towels that said "I Love My All Over Tan". There was some trash talk started before the games, so Joe wore his towel like a superman cape the rest of the weekend. Percussion instruments were picked out and we sat around the drum circle and made some cool beats. The annual Fishing Derby turned into Drake's Kitchen this year. Two teams competed to see who could catch some fish, fry it over the fire, and present the best 3 course meal to a team of judges. The judges ate very well that afternoon with some beautifully presented fresh fish dinners. The corn hole tournament was moved into the clubhouse again, due to rain. But all had a great time tossing the bags. Kelsey's 5<sup>th</sup> Walk to End Epilepsy was well attended. We added music to the walk, and gave out new wristbands engraved with "I Support Kelsey's Walk at Drakes Ridge Rustic Nudist Retreat. The wristbands also have adult drake on them, and are Drakes Ridge green and yellow. Thank you to all who donated to raise over \$200 for The Indiana Epilepsy Foundation. Michael P. brought his telescope and set it up for us to view the moon, Venus, and the stars for the Stargazing and Owl Calling. We did hear an owl once, but we still need to work on getting him to talk back and forth with us.

The volleyball court has seen a lot more play with all the new members and guests lately. We have been squeezing games in whenever we can. Thomas won the Ducks and Drakes contest and the Stone the Duck contest. Scotty paid for his weekend by winning the annual Duck Race, and the club raised some money for the building fund. Then there were fireworks to honor Independence Day. We all grabbed our towels or chairs and pulled up a seat around the lake and watched the fireworks shoot off the dock. Then Drakes Ridge Vacation Week started with Young Adult Weekend and a Wii Bowling Tournament, which was won by Bob. We enjoyed free hotdogs and hamburgers off the grill for lunch and dinner before and after the bowling. Then we watched a few of us smash eggs on their head for Egg Russian Roulette. Eight contestants all made a big mess trying not to get raw egg on their face. Five members stayed all week for Vacation Week, and we had many members and guests visit us during the week. We mostly worked on the camp, but did eat a lot, and played some volleyball.

Once again we attempted to break our group skinning dipping record. After talking two new nudists into jumping in with us, we finally broke our eight year standing record with 41 skinny dippers in the pool at once. We took pictures and played water beach ball while waiting for our new guests. There was a display of old, club, and founding family pictures, on display at the Arts, Crafts, and Collectables show and Sale, along with some antiques. Then it was that time of year to pack up and head to the AANR-Midwest Convention. We had ten conventioners, more than we have had in a few years, and were mentioned at the awards ceremony because of it. Drakes Ridge hosted a booth at the Feast Lane, where we gave out free treats, a free spin on the wheel for prizes, and spread the news about Drakes Ridge. We ate, listened to music, played, and made new nudists friends. We are now anxious about planning the trip to next year's convention. While we were away at convention Drakes Ridge was still busy. Quite a few stayed up late playing games in the clubhouse and then enjoyed Michael's homemade ice cream on Sunday.

The last weekend in July we started our annual Learning Retreat with the first of two Learning Retreat weekends. The first weekend we learned the wonderful art of Rock Painting from Shaun. We painted quite a few cool rocks. We played volleyball instead of the slated Ping Pong Tournament, since there is a renewed interest in volleyball lately. We had five attendees at Spiritual Hour, including an associate pastor traveling from Kansas, who read us some Psalms. We also listened to some contemporary worship music and had some casual discussion. We then painted Drakes Ridge Tote Bags with Sharon.



## **What's Happening Next?**

**August 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>- Learning Retreat Weekend #2**

**Hula Class and Contest**

**Luau Pitch In Dinner and Party**

**Spiritual Hour with Rudy**

**August 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>- Card Players Weekend**

**Euchre Tournament**

**Poker Walk**

**Shaved Ice Treats**

## **August 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>- Dinner Theater Weekend**

**WINR Event- Women and Canvas**

**Black Tie and Pearls Gourmet Dinner**

**Escape the Room- Team Challenge**

**Strawberry Festival**

**Nature Hike**

## **August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>- Sports and Water Weekend**

**Regatta**

**Butt Photo ID Contest**

**Southern/Home Cooking Pitch-in**

**Volleyball Invitational**

It is so exciting to have so many visitors enjoying Drakes Ridge this summer, and we have so many more events on the way. Including some events added to the late summer and fall calendar. We have been adding events to the calendar as the summer unfolds, just to keep you on your toes. The WINR Event and a Lip Sync Contest has been added to the calendar, along with a Wine Tasting in the fall. The most recent revision to our event calendar will be emailed, and will be posted on the website, so please stay tuned, and come out and spend some time at The Ridge.

**You Deserve a Thank You!**



All of our efforts to clean up Drakes Ridge over the last off season have really paid off with some great compliments, and possibly, increased attendance. We have had a tremendous amount of help to make a record breaking summer. Sheila has helped with camp clean up, purchasing the pool liner, picking up supplies, and renting out her cabin. Norm has spent a lot of time on the hiking trails keeping them mowed. Kelly has been making more signs, helping with other paint projects, and cooking some good eats. John is always ready to lend a helping hand with clean up, event set up, and making sure guests have what they need. Debbie has been leading the WINR meetings, helping with event decoration, making scrumptious dishes, and is always bringing something we need. Sherrie has been fixing up her cabin, stained the swing set, helped with camp clean up, spent a lot of time in the kitchen, and helps a lot with event decorations.

Dencil has been talking to anybody, anywhere, who will listen, about nudism and Drakes Ridge. He is always ready to give new visitors a tour. He has also helped with check-in, answering the phone, helped install the new grill, cooked our free hot dogs and hamburgers, did a lot of the finish work, including all the electric, in the new Oak Room, and did landscaping in tool town. Bob has been keeping the grounds and restrooms tidy, power washed the swing set, painted the basketball goal, mowed the trails, worked a lot on the camp clean up list, done cabin housekeeping, painted, cleaned, and set up The Oak Room, and took care of the camp facilities while we played at convention. Kirk has been spending hours and days painting his cabin. He could use some help, but it is coming along quite nicely, and the new color is fabulous. He also fixed the clubhouse screen door and keeps the poison ivy at bay for us. Jeff has manned the check in desk quite a few days. Rudy also learned the check in procedures. Jaci has provided the escape room games and has gotten the Luau decorations sorted out and ready. Bob did some landscaping at his cabin. Randy helped Sherrie get the Luau lights strung.

Karin has been very busy at camp. She helps with meal prep, cleans a lot, and has helped with cabin housekeeping. Nina worked very hard on weeding out the gardens around the clubhouse. Carl and Nina moved into their new cabin, settled right in, and sold their old cabin. Larry was our auctioneer at the stock sale. Donetta donated a nice wall hanging. Cathy and Wade donated a ton of food that we gave out from the hot dog cart. Sharon has been in the office checking in and answering the phone every weekend this summer. She is always cranking out graphic work, updating membership cards and certificates, and has been organizing files. She also makes the event calendar updates and has posted events on our online calendar. Dirk and Debbie have made extra contributions, are improving their new permanent site, and love to be involved. Dirk is always helping out, with projects, like rescreening, and helps keep the pool clean. Shaun brought us all the fixins for breakfast on the fourth, bought all the needed supplies for rock painting and other crafts, and hosted his rock painting class. Michael P. has contributed to many events, including stargazing, the ice cream social, and spiritual hour. Clinton cleaned up the fire ring at the back campground. Joe and Sherry have already been making their new place their own. Sherry has helped with clean up around camp and Joe helped get the keys out of a locked car.

Larry, Donetta, Randy, Sherrie, John, Debbie, Kirk, Mike, Dencil, and Bennett all went to convention and represented Drakes Ridge well. All helped with attending our booth, Larry and Donetta provided the wheel to spin, the canopy, and the \$20 prize, Dencil, Sherrie, Debbie and Donetta made treats to give away, and Randy played the Barker for the spin the wheel contest. Debbie, Sherri, and Donetta attended a WINR get together. Bennett played volleyball three days in a row. Randy also made sure we got to hear Freebird at the concert.

Having our members contribute so much, by free will, is what helps make Drakes Ridge such a special place. Thank you for everything mentioned here and all the help not mentioned here. It is what makes spending time at Drakes Ridge an experience, and a truly unique experience. Also, a big thank you to everyone who has dropped cash in the building fund can.

## Special Stories



### *Why Drakes Ridge Rocks!*

Johnathan and Fran took a trip recently in their new RV to another AANR Nudist Park. This is an excerpt from an email they sent after their trip. It turned into a nice list of just some of the things that make Drakes Ridge rock.

The South Carolina club has some lovely features. It has an outdoor in ground swimming pool and hot tub, as well as a nice clubhouse with an indoor swimming pool and hot tub. There is a lovely creek at the back of the property in which you can canoe or go tubing. The folks there were friendly (though not as friendly as our folks at Drakes Ridge.) We will visit again. Just wanted to let you know what I noticed on our trip.

To summarize, Drakes Ridge rocks because:

- \* Free wifi!
- \* Coffee!!
- \* Survival food! And the fabulous pitch-ins!!!!
- \* Friendly, courteous office staff and management!
- \* Kids under age 18 are welcome!
- \* And of course, the wonderful, friendly members!!!

(Hmmm... a place where there's food, coffee, and wifi... sounds like why some adult children won't move out of their parents' basements... ha ha ha!)

We hope to see you soon.

Best,  
Fran

*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](mailto:info@drakesridge.com).*

## Membership and Attendance Report

We are setting new attendance records this summer and have added seven new members this summer. As an example we had about 100 visits by members and guests over the long fourth of July week. We also had 41 people in the pool at once during our Record Breaking Skinny Dip, which was one more than we ever had. In one busy, long, weekend this summer, we rented out 12 cabin nights, another record. The membership is always fluctuating, but steady, and we may finally be able to say we have over 80 members. We have not had over 80 members in a few years. Say hello to Dirk and Debbie, Joe and Sherry, Roy, Michael P; and Mike H; all are new members this summer.

## Grounds and Facilities Report



We have completed so many tasks on our clean and repair list it is hard to believe we still have more to do. It may be hard to draw the line between repairs and improvements, with some projects, but that distinction is what helps up prioritize our grounds and facilities projects. We still have a couple major clean and repair projects to do before we can get to making the improvements we have all been clamoring for, but we are so close. We did add a park style charcoal grill (all charcoaling necessities are stocked in the clubhouse), a small improvement that has come in handy. We have mostly been busy with summer's activities lately, but we did repair the swing set, added a new tool shed/rental cabin, cleaned up more of tool town, dug out the fire pits, and cleared a new large RV site. We leveled and re-supported Sherries' and Kirk's cabins. Listed below are our next priorities, although a pool heater may find its way to the top of the list.

### Grounds and Facilities To Do List

- Finish tool shed/Oak Room and move in.
- Remove last two old structures from tool town.
- Finish rebuilding pump house roof, clean inside, and paint.
- Clean up and sites.
- Cut down and cut up trees.
- Excavate and gravel.
- Remodel bathrooms.
- Rebuild clubhouse.



## Office Report

We have a lot of project opportunities in the office for you to play a bigger role in making Drakes Ridge work, on a daily basis and into the future. We would like to write a procedure manual for check-in, inquiries and reservations. Our email address list needs constant updating, and there is always free marketing opportunities to pursue. Files need organized and budgets need formulated.

### Office To Do List

- Update website.
- Promote, promote, promote.
- Membership Directory
- Real Estate Guide
- Email address updates.
- Streamline customer service.



## Contributor Reports

## (Formerly Board Report)

Nancy will be hosting a Beginning Knitting Class, and Bennett will host a Camera Phone Photo Safari at the Learning Retreat. Debbie will be hosting another WINR event. Rudy and Jaci will be hosting a Lip Sync Contest. Joe and Sherry have designed an addition to their newly acquired cabin. Kirk will be continuing upgrades to his cabin until it is up to the new Drakes Ridge standard for rental cabins. It may be a year or two project but quicker with help from his Drakes Ridge friends. Rudy will be conducting worship service at the Spiritual Hour on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Is there anything you are planning to do for Drakes Ridge that we can list here? Please go to [drakesridge.com/donate](http://drakesridge.com/donate) to help the building fund for Drakes Ridge. All your building funds contributions are very much appreciated.

### President's Report



I am jumping up and down with excitement about all that's happening around Drakes Ridge lately, well mostly jumping up and down in my head, but it has been very exciting. All the ground work I have laid in the last few years is finally paying off. We are now growing our attendance and membership, and I knew we had to do that in order to do anything we want, or need, here at Drakes Ridge, but that was just the first goal. The next goal I have plotted may be more complicated, but now more within reach. I have made a target for the next goal, the goal being able to host large events. The target is to host a fall regional board meeting for AANR-Midwest. I have realized the facilities we need to host the meeting are the same facilities we need to host large events. The next goal after the board meeting would be to host an AANR-Midwest Convention, which

would be more within reach after hosting the regional board meeting. After we fulfill the goal of hosting a convention, I anticipate Drakes Ridge being fully developed into a franchise model for a family nudist retreat. I think it should only be so big, in order to keep the friendly, family, atmosphere, that we all fall in love with. I do believe it should be self sustaining though, and I also want to share it with the rest of the world. It may be tricky to find the sweet spot between too big and not big enough, but I think we'll know when we are there. I think it will be so wonderful to invite 200 or so friends over for the weekend to enjoy the rustic paradise we are building. It's all in the master plan, the master plan is unfolding, and the more engaged members and visitors we have, the faster we will get there. Then we'll go somewhere two to four hours drive away and build the next retreat in the Drakes family of retreats. It could be Drakes Canyon Rustic Nudist Retreat. It could be in your neck of the woods.



## Weather and Nature Report

### *From the Desk of the SAPICO (Self-Appointed Poison Ivy Control Officer)*

Greetings to all “Ridgers”! Let me introduce myself! My name is Kirk, but you may also hear me being called “Weedhopper” by the Master himself, Kung Fu Carpenter (AKA Bennett). As you can see by my title, I have appointed myself as the Poison Ivy Control Officer of Da Ridge (AKA Drakes Ridge). My motto is “The only thing a visitor to Da Ridge should take away when they leave is good memories...and not an itchy rash.” Hence, I have embarked on an offensive against this scourge against our bared skins with the goal of ensuring you don’t have to explain to nosy family/friends where you got that large patch of nasty looking bumps and what you were doing on that mysterious trip you took recently.

I encourage you all to come to me or KFC (Kung Fu Carpenter/Bennett) with any reports of the presence of this intolerable pest and I will sally forth to the danger spot with sprayer in hand. Note to those concerned about the spray: I am at present using a commercial poison especially formulated to kill P.I., but there is a home remedy we are going to experiment with that contains only benign household products (canning salt, apple cider vinegar, Dawn dishwashing liquid and water). There will be a report on the results so stay tuned! The remedy recipe is included at the bottom of this missive for your use on other weeds and such.

The best way to protect yourself is to learn the enemy (or wear a rubber suit around)! I have included some URLs of websites that will help you to avoid taking that rash back from our little corner of Paradise: guides for visual identification using unique traits, maps showing where in the lower 48 you can find the enemy (and its cousins, Poison Oak and Poison Sumac), products to prevent an outbreak after exposure or moderate the effects of the rash, and other useful information, including myth-busting some of those things Mom used to tell us about poison ivy.

By far the most important website is the first on the list. Also the second link has Indiana-specific information. One good take-away from this document: Da Ridge is very likely free of poison oak and sumac, but someone will always come up with an anecdote to disprove what I’ve just said, so one should also familiarize oneself with those other two nasties.

Here’s the list of URLs (CTRL + <click> on link or cut and paste in your browser search)

<https://www.poison-ivy.org/>

<http://www.indianapoison.org/uploads/documents/plant-guide.pdf> (see page 11 for info on poison ivy and it’s relatives)

<https://www.poison-ivy.org/identify-poison-ivy-poison-oak>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Identify-Poison-Ivy>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Identify-Poison-Oak>

<https://www.wikihow.com/Identify-Poison-Sumac>

<https://www.uofmhealth.org/node/664182>

<https://www.prismhealthadvocates.com/truths-myths-poison-ivy-poison-oak-poison-sumac/>

And for those who love chemistry and want to know how the “active” ingredient in p.i; urushiol\*, works: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urushiol>.



\*pronounced “uh-ROO-shi-al”

The natural herbicide recipe I mentioned is as follows:

1 gallon of apple cider vinegar

1 gallon of water

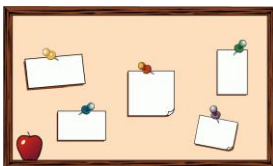
1 cup of canning salt

1/4 cup of dawn dish washing detergent (the blue-colored stuff)

Instructions: Mix the water, canning salt and dish washing detergent first; mix well. Then add the apple cider vinegar and shake well. Apply in sunny conditions that will allow the product to stay on the leaves for 4 hours.

## Real Estate Report

We have recently added two, and are now up to 24 permanent site holders, and room for more, right now. We added an RV site and now have six available RV sites, and numerous available cabin sites. Bob’s cabin is still for sale at site 12. There is one club owned cabin for sale, lease, or rent. We also need to add a couple of tent sites. We will be working on improving the RV sites and another rental cabin soon.



## Bulletin Board

Please donate to the building fund, in the office or at [drakesridge.com/donate](http://drakesridge.com/donate). Funds will be going to completing the tool shed/sleeping room, the tree fund, and the gravel fund. The more donations we get, the faster we can get things done. Thank you in advance for all your contributions.



## Upcoming Local Community Events



Visit the Community Art Center at the corner of Main & Ferry Streets in downtown Vevay. The First Friday of every month features a new art exhibit, meet the artists, and displays of the work of other artists and artisans. Other activities around town include live music, dining out, and just visiting our wonderful and unusual shops. Come out to enjoy and visit with friends and meet new people. Hours are from 6 to 9 p.m.

The annual **Swiss Wine Festival** will again be held in Vevay, August 23<sup>rd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. There will be three music stages, including a free Travis Tritt show, petting zoo, super hero meet and greets, wine tasting, grape stomp, parade, contests, beer garden, corn hole, food booths, arts and crafts booths, 5K, midway rides, juggling and tiger shows, and river boat cruises.