



NATURISTE NOTES



Drakes Ridge Rustic Nudist Retreat
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August, 2021
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Affiliated with the
American Association for Nude Recreation,
AANR-Midwest Region and The Naturist Society

What's Happened Lately?

Our August visitors participated in Greek Olympics and enjoyed Karaoke with DJ Shinedome; they learned how to draw cartoon faces to teach grandchildren, and decorated tote bags for “stuff” (since we have no pockets!) Our annual Luau Pitch-In was a success, with Loretta (Mike and Loretta) winning the Hula contest. *Congratulations, Loretta!!* Next, we had a good time with Art Therapy and the big squirt guns, then got our knives and forks to sample the entries in the Homemade Dessert Contest, which Jaci won. Finally, the popular Pictionary Tournament, on August’s last Saturday, was an unqualified success, with Karin and Sharon taking home championship honors.



What's Happening Next?

OMG! Next weekend is Labor Day weekend, our *Performing Arts and Recognition Weekend!* Badminton starts Saturday, then jump in and try out our all-new pool float, Ride-A-Bull in the Pool! Next up is the Pitch-In Dinner (Western), followed by a Labor Day Saturday tradition, the Talent-Untalent Show. This show is open to both visitors and Drakes Ridge members, showcasing a variety of talents, or “untalents”, as the case may be. Again, *ALL are welcome*; just let us know during the day, Saturday (or earlier), that you are going to do something for the show so we can organize the order of appearance. Although, we will accommodate last minute entries. Oh the real fun begins Sunday afternoon, with the Butt Photo ID Contest, Horseshoes Tournament, and Cornhole Tournament for Ladies. Our Pitch-In Dinner (Pizza & Salads) is held at 6:00, then, to acknowledge the contributions of visitors and members over the summer, is the Recognition Celebration. Finally, enjoy a Pitch-In Breakfast on Monday morning, and round out the weekend with a Nature Hike in the afternoon.

Fri., Sept. 3

- Campfire

Sat., Sept. 4

- 7-8 Morning Coffee
- Help and Planning Meeting
- Badminton Tournament
- Ride a Bull in the Pool
- Western Theme Pitch-in Dinner
- Talent-UnTalent Show

Sun., Sept. 5

- 9am Pitch-in Breakfast
- 10:30am Spiritual Hour
- Butt Photo ID Contest
- Horseshoes Tourney
- Ladies Cornhole Tourney
- Pizza and Salads Pitch-in Dinner
- Recognition Celebration

Mon., Sept. 6

- 9 am Pitch-In Breakfast
- Nature Hike

Sat., Sept. 11 & Sept. 18

- 7-8 am Morning Coffee
- 9 am Help & Planning Meeting
- 6 pm Pitch-In Dinner

Sun., Sept. 12 & Sept. 19

- 9am Pitch-in Breakfast
- 10:30 Spiritual Hour
- 2:00 Help and Planning Party

Sept. 24th and 25th - AANR-Midwest FALL CONFERENCE

Drakes Ridge won a bid to host the AANR-Midwest Executives and Board of Directors for their Fall Conference. The Conference is a board meeting that the AANR-Midwest Members are encouraged to attend, although, participation is limited. There will be meet and greets with our guests on Friday evening, Saturday morning, and Saturday afternoon, with free meals provided for all visitors in similar fashion to the way we usually do it at The Ridge.

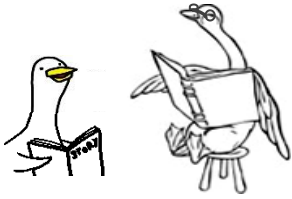
The meeting is usually wrapped up before lunch but most of the participants will be spending the night on Saturday night. Come on out and help us host and entertain our special guests. It will be a busy, fun, weekend at Drakes Ridge.

You Deserve a Thank You!



The 2021 Spring Fundraiser was another success this year and the donations are still coming in. We received \$8,563.00 so far and have spent \$5947.00. We will work on continuing improvements to the grounds with the remaining funds. Thank you to everyone of you who have contributed to the building fund. That includes a few large contributors this year but also those who gave a few extra dollars every visit.

August was hot and dry, and we had an event filled month, but many of us still found time to give a hand in making Drakes Ridge a comfier place to hang out. Debbie has been cleaning, cooking, and always working to make sure everyone is welcomed and has what they need for their visit. John is always ready to lend a hand and has been working on the fence in addition to all small things he does to help. Brad has installed the new screening at the showers and on the road. He has also been heavily involved in building the new fence. Brad has also been helping with a stock brochure and a business continuation plan. Jody has been taking minutes for the Advisory Committee Meetings. Sharon has been busy in the office, as usual, answering the phone and checking in visitors. She has also finished the fall/winter calendar, made posters for all our summer events, helped write the enews and newsletters, issued member cards, and a lot of other administrative tasks. She also taught the hula contest and hosted the tote bag workshop. Dencil has hosted Karaoke and is working with the Conference guests to make sure they have what they need for their visit. Bob has helped with grounds clean up and has put time in helping with new fence also. Karin has been cleaning the restrooms, cooking, and cleaning up after meals. Jaci hosted our Greek Olympics and co-hosted the Art Therapy with Debbie. Chevy helped clean out the office and helped purchase our new log splitter. Brian has continued providing sodas and supplies, changes the trash cans, and ordered and purchased three new picnic tables. Norm got the ball rolling by purchasing and delivering the first new picnic table. Carla has been everywhere, cleaning, organizing, housekeeping the cabins, and helping with small and large beautification projects. Sherry has been helping with check-in, managing the refrigerator, assisting with events, picking up supplies, and providing the groundskeeper with meals and desserts. Clinton was the official timekeeper for our Pictionary tournament. Kirk has continued renovations to his cabin that he lets us rent out. He also helped build the fence and brings us locally grown fresh fruit. Sherrie coordinated the August birthday party, has been stocking the prize box, and has inquired about a portapotty. Hunter made sure we were all greeted with a “good morning” one Saturday morning. Larry contributed his years of fence building experience to the new fence. Stella is always helping with the cooking and cleaning. Steve has been making signs and working on Drakes Ridge t-shirts. Working together to make Drakes Ridge better is what makes it so special. Thank you all for everything you do at The Ridge.



Special Stories

The Curious Cardinal by Sharon



Now possibly, that hot weather brings out curious cardinals! Weekend after weekend, as I enjoyed my “early” morning snack, I watched a “curious cardinal” try to eliminate an annoying cardinal he saw in my side view mirror! He would sit on the car door at the bottom of the window, fly at the mirror and peck at it, over and over, first on one side of the car then the other, maybe trying to make the other cardinal go away. Eventually, he also visited the truck parked at the cabin next door going through the same motions - to make those cardinals leave as well? That truck owner was crafty; he put plastic sacks over his side view mirrors! Mr. Cardinal no longer sees another cardinal in the mirror, so leaves the truck alone. He returned to my car for a couple more half-hearted attempts at “my cardinals”, then left... Is this the last of the “curious cardinal”???



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

Drakes Ridge has had another terrific summer! We’ve had many new visitors, and a few new members. Welcome back to past member, Carla! Welcome to new members, Pete, Danny and Stella, and Victoria!

Advisory Committee Report

We now have our Drakes Ridge Advisory Committee up and running. The goal of the committee is to advise the president in all aspects of club operations. The committee is Debbie, Karin, Bob, David, Natasha, Sherrie, Brian, Brad, Jody, and Sheila. Thank you all for volunteering your time to help Drakes Ridge. The standard meeting agenda is still be ironed out, but we have had some good discussions about how Drakes Ridge is operating. We have had two meetings already and are having meetings every second Saturday from 9:30 to 11:30. We will be renovating the office for a better meeting space, for the Fall Conference, for our Advisory Committee Meetings, and much more. We have a time set aside in our meeting agenda for community input and welcome all guests and members to listen in on our meetings and put your two cents in.

Grounds and Facilities Report



We now have plans for our fall projects. We also have a deadline with the Fall Conference coming right up. Below is list of projects we have on the list for the next 3-1/2 weeks. We want to get these things done for the conference, but they are projects that were on our list anyway. The conference is giving us a little extra motivation to get started early on our fall projects. We will have a quick Help Meeting on Saturday September 4th after coffee but then we have a full weekend of events. Starting Monday, the 6th we will have to get busy whenever we can but will have Help and Planning Parties on the two Saturday and Sundays between Labor Day and The Fall Conference. Come on out and help us get Drakes Ridge ready to show off this Fall.

Fall Project List

Renovate Office
Finish New Fence
Build Retaining Wall
Minor Electrical Projects
Trim and Paint ½ Done
Order and Install New Outhouse
Help Site Holders Clean up Personal Sites
Paint Bridge, Picnic Tables, Benches, Stage and Tent Platform
Final Beautification Projects and Readiness



New pool deck, built 2020



Office Report

The office is getting a big facelift! As part of the Conference beautification plan, the office is being painted and reorganized. I'm sure we'll be pleasantly surprised when we see the results!

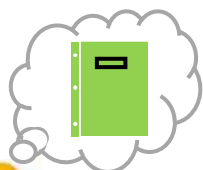
Office To Do List

Update website
Promote, promote, promote!
Streamline customer service and membership
Continue organizing member files
Build DR museum (starting with photos)
Plan events
Organize computer files
Procure DR merchandise
Keep event calendar current

Contributor Reports

We have a lot of members planning on contributing to Drakes Ridge soon. Bob D. has committed time to start posting some events on Facebook. Steve is always planning or working on something in his trophy shop for us. Dencil will be attending his first Fall Conference as an AANR-Midwest Board Member. Karin, Stella, Debbie, and Carla are planning the meals for the Fall Conference. Don is busy working away on his cabin remodel. Sharon has one more summer weekend in the office but always works on things from home through the winter. Is there something you can do to help make Drakes Ridge better?

President's Report



All good things take time, and we are starting to see some good things happening at Drakes Ridge. One of my lifelong dreams, goals, or passions, whatever you want to call it, is to host an AANR-Midwest Convention. We still have a lot of growing to do before we can reach that goal, but right now I am excited about hosting the 2021 AANR-Midwest Fall Conference. When I started managing the club in 2016, I told myself I wanted everything about Drakes Ridge to be 10 times bigger, as far as guests, members, sites, and of course revenue. I still believe that is a reasonable, yet very ambitious goal, but we will be at ground zero with hosting conferences and conventions as we host the Fall Conference. The number of visitors and members expected on site for a summer convention will be 10 times the number on

site for the fall conference. The conference will still be a good first run at hosting large events, and I can't wait to see how the Drakes Ridge family can come together and be a great host.

Weather and Nature Report

The second half of the summer was almost the opposite of the first half, with constant very hot, extra-humid air. But apparently, that brings out people to Drakes Ridge! Our pool and deck were much enjoyed, weekend after weekend. Happily, the forecast for the week that ends August and ushers in September is for more normal, summer-type weather... as Fall approaches!

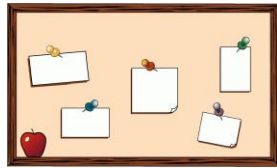


Real Estate Report

We currently are "building to suit" permanent personal sites. Permanent sites are now offered by yearly lease. We can build a wood/metal canopy and deck for your RV or we can design and build a cabin for a yearly lease. We do currently have a back log but may get caught up some over the winter season. The cabin we call the "half-done" will be available for rent or lease. We should also have a couple more rental cabins soon.

We will be finalizing our new Site Holder Guidelines this Fall. We will be asking that all sites are cleaned up and any construction finished by the start of Summer 2022. We would still like to see as much sprucing up as possible for Fall Conference as well. Our mission is to keep things as comfortably close to nature as possible, in a rustic theme, while cherishing the peace and tranquility of nature and our environment. The Drakes Ridge family has worked very hard the last few years to clean up and repair the grounds and facilities, and has added quite a few, new, nice, sites. We look forward to helping some site holders spruce up their sites this off season.

Bulletin Board



We have lost more of the Drakes Ridge family this year. Please keep the family and friends of those passed, John (and Carla), Carl (and Jane), Tony, and Mary (Sunnie's Mom), in your thoughts and prayers. They will be added to our memorial plaque.



Upcoming Local Community Events



VEVAY ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE FLEA EXTRAVAGANZA



2021 SEASON

● JULY 31 ● SEPT 4 ● OCT 2 ●

September is cancelled. See you in October
SWITZERLAND COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

7AM - 3PM (EARLYBIRDS \$6.00) - \$4.00 ADMISSION

SATURDAYS PRIOR TO THE TRI-STATE ANTIQUE MARKET

2 BIG FLEA MARKETS -

1 GREAT WEEKEND!

GENERAL AND VENDOR INFO: 812-427-3237

VEVAYEXTRAVGANZA.COM

Always be sure to **check** before coming to attend a community event, in case it has been moved, postponed or cancelled.