

# BEACH BUZZ

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"Keeping Our Beaches Bare"

## Sun, Surf & Seminars *Miami Beach Nude Tour Event a Success*

Haulover's clothing-optional beach – a nude yacht cruise in the Columbus Day regatta – the attractions of Miami Beach's world-famous South Beach – plus an opportunity for naturists to gather to discuss important topics of interest: clearly a winning combination for the participants in the first in the series of B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation's naturist educational tours, that took place October 11-14, 2002. Although a large contingent was present from the nudist club mecca of Pasco County near Tampa, participants in this event came from as far away as Texas, New England, New York and California, representing a wide sampling of nudist resorts, clubs and beach groups.

The penthouse and rooftop deck of the Dezerland Hotel in Miami Beach offered a spectacular view of the ocean and the Miami skyline for clothing-optional activities: daily breakfast, workshops, socializing, and late-night lounging under the stars. A chartered vehicle was available for day trips to Haulover Beach, only 5 minutes away, and for nighttime excursions to nearby tourist attractions. A catered lunch in the buff at Haulover featuring Cuban cuisine was a highlight Sunday, as was the optional 12 hour Columbus Day Regatta nude cruise aboard the 65' sailing yacht *Mystic Wind* on Saturday. Magnificent South Florida weather contributed to making the weekend a delightful recreational outing for all involved. Participants also had the opportunity to view North Shore Park in

Miami Beach, immediately adjacent to the hotel – the proposed site of South Florida's second naturist beach. B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation and South Florida Free Beaches have already begun the lobbying and educational process with Miami Beach government and tourism officials, and hope to initiate a clothing-optional section there early in 2003.



Aside from all the fun, an important purpose was to provide time for educational workshops. B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation – Beach Education Advocates for Culture, Health, Environment and Safety Foundation Institute, Inc. – is a 501 (c) (3) educational foundation dedicated to preserving beach and park lands for public use, and to promoting the development of clothing-optional use areas on those lands. The continuing loss of traditional nude beaches – the ongoing passage of legislation criminalizing skinny-dipping in many localities – the lobbying efforts of small but effectively organized anti-nudity groups: all dictate naturists and nudists must adopt a proactive stance to preserve and promote nude recreation, rather than to only fight rear-guard actions when specific threats

arise. The recent passage of anti-nudity legislation by Hernando County in Florida, with no exception for either clothing-optional beaches or nudist resorts, emphasize that all nude recreation is under threat from the radical anti-freedom lobby. We believe that the creation and preservation of safe, properly managed designated public naturist

beaches provides the best opportunity for naturism to be recognized as a legitimate recreational interest, and for increasing the number of active naturists, which will also provide a correspondingly larger consumer base for nudist resorts and other commercial nude recreation ventures.

Formed by members of South Florida Free Beaches and other free beach groups in 1999, B.E.A.C.H.E.S.

Foundation naturally points to Haulover as a model of how naturists can create and maintain a clothing-optional family naturist beach that is widely recognized and accepted today as both a recreational asset for local residents, and a major tourist draw. A key element in B.E.A.C.H.E.S.' strategy is providing the informational tools and guidance necessary for naturist groups to effectively present the case for naturist recreation to their local government officials, park administrators, chambers of commerce, business interests and community groups – the very tactic used by South Florida Free Beaches in creating the naturist beach at Haulover. Workshops at this event included discussions of Florida law, the political and social climate, SFFB's Beach Ambassador Program, and the economic benefits of



nude recreation to the tourist economy. Presenters included Shirley and Richard Mason, both prime movers in the creation of Haulover's naturist beach, and Nicky Hoffman of the Naturist Society.

Over the years South Florida Free Beaches and B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation have developed allies among both state and local government officials and civic leaders who are willing to either support us actively, or to assist us quietly behind the scenes. The result is the absence of anti-naturist legislation at the state level and in Dade County. It is our hope that these workshop tours will help to provide the tools and promote an entrepreneurial spirit in more naturist groups to work pro-actively as advocates for nude recreation in their communities, and to develop alliances with their own local officials and business leaders. Whether it's true or not that "all politics is local", organized local opposition to anti-nudity laws at the county and municipal level is the surest effective method of stopping the domino effect of local anti-nudity ordinances – just as organized local support for a clothing-optional beach is probably the only sure method of securing one. Such efforts are already under way by groups such as Tampa Area Naturists, SunCoast Naturists, and Florida Keys Naturists in Florida. If complete success has not yet come, the educational process has begun, and local officials increasingly recognize these organizations as legitimate advocacy groups; with continuing persistence, we believe success is only a matter of time.

The B.E.A.C.H.E.S. program of tours, events, seminars, and conferences is appropriately called "Save Our Beaches" and are in honor of Lee Baxandall, founder of the Naturist Society. Even though these educational tours primarily focus on at least a dozen existing and former traditional nude use beach sites throughout the Florida, the plan is to ultimately expand to clothing optional beaches in North America. Plus, there are also private nudist clubs, campgrounds and resorts that

are rich in history and folklore, which span the range in diversity and amenities. Future scheduled tours will include visits to nudist resorts such as in Pasco County (\*see back page ad for details) which has arguably the most nudist clubs per square mile in the world.

The appreciation of our beaches and nude recreation through the education of those who use these special places, are at the heart of the "Save Our Beaches" program and project. B.E.A.C.H.E.S. Foundation has designed a line-up of tour locations for 2003 that looks like tropical vacations with activities resembling eco-tourism. The experience will be pure fun with people sharing knowledge and the camaraderie of youth summer camp. All this and tax deductible too! ✨

