

# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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## *Celebrating our Fourth Anniversary.*

The “New” Natures celebrated its 4<sup>th</sup> anniversary on July 3<sup>rd</sup> with cake and ice cream. Looking back, so much has happened since then. The number of people in the park has more than doubled and there have been many improvements. It certainly has been an extremely busy but very rewarding four years. Other improvements are:

In the pool area tables and chairs, sun shades, and plants were added and all the loungers were replaced. The temperature in the big pool was raised to 88 degrees, and the pool hours were changed from ‘noon to 6 p.m.’ to ‘open all the time’. Street lights and lights outside the showers and bathrooms were also added. Additionally the hot tub and volley ball pool were both resurfaced.

In the clubhouse the interior was insulated and finished, the bare cement floor was covered with epoxy non-slip surface, heat and lights were added, (previously the only lighting was from icicle lights on the walls), the closed kitchen was turned into a community kitchen with complimentary coffee, the dance floor was enlarged, a stage was added, blinds were put on the windows, an upstairs storage area was built for the Fun Association, craft tables were designated, more tables were added, all the plastic chairs were replaced with comfortable padded metal chairs, brighter lights were installed in the card room, and the library almost doubled in capacity.

In the guest rooms all the mattresses were replaced, new linens as well as pool towels were bought, a sink, cabinets, dishes

and tableware were added to the kitchenette, and each room was given two comfortable chairs. The balcony was re-done and an emergency exit and stairs were added.

Around the grounds lights were added to the golf cart path and along the pull throughs, the outdoor kitchen “la cuisine” was built, shade areas were created near the petanque courts, an ongoing campaign was started to control the ant population and this summer we have started another campaign against the sand burrs, lights and a fountain were added to the gazebo, a light was placed at the entrance to our main driveway, a light was added outside the west clubhouse door, Natures entrance was beautified as was the top of the driveway with our “Welcome Home” sign, the blacktop roads were sealed, a tidier recycle area was created, the burn pile was abolished, the area outside the workshop was cleaned up, a lawnmower shed was built, the tripping hazard between Lot 1 and the parking area was eliminated and the guest rooms, kitchen, card room, office, laundry, bathrooms, billiard room and weight room have been painted.

Lastly, the expansion project, which included a new front fence and new gate, has been completed (with the exception of blacktopping the roads planned for the summer of 2012)

However, the most important part of the last four years is that although Natures has grown and expanded, we are still a family and a support system to each other. The owners still agree that we have wonderful, friendly

people here, and we would like to thank all of our Natures family for their support and encouragement during this hectic journey.

***Tidbits from  
Speckles,  
Natures Proud Cat!***

Oh, the lazy days of summer! I love lying around in the hot sun. Although this is a laid back time of the year, there are still things going on here at Natures.



- Steve & Paula got a new house – but that is not all.... They are also adding a Texas room and their roof line makes it all look like one building. It is going to be really nice.
- Big news! It rained! We have had almost no rain this year and absolutely no rain this summer. The grass was brown – or not there at all. Then the rain came. One and a half inches fell in about an hour (and we lost power for about 4 hours), then we had another inch of gentle rain that lasted the whole night. The next day down came another half inch in a sudden downpour. The following week another inch and a half was deposited, and a day later another half inch. The brown grass immediately turned green, the bare spots filled in and, of course, the weeds are having a field day. However, it is wonderful to see everything green and growing again. Al and Dennis are working extremely hard to keep up with the mowing and weeds.

- Denny & Raquella have had enough of drought and sandburs. They now have a beautiful lawn that doesn't need water and will never need mowing!
- A pair of Mockingbirds took advantage of a little basket hanging near Danny & Jan's back door. They built a really scruffy looking nest and have two babies that are almost ready to fly. I promise to leave them alone!
- For days and days Denny & Raquella have been working on restoring the gate. First it was sanded, then taped, then primed and finally painted. A very tedious job, but the gate looks good again. Thanks guys!
- The big cactus on lot 83 bloomed again! Huge, delicate, white flowers that all open at the same time at night, and last for one night only. It's a good thing that Nick & Tony were paying attention or we would have missed it. This year it had more blooms than ever before.



*Night Cactus*

- If you call Natures and it sounds as though you are talking to someone under water, it is because Misty dropped the phone in the pool!
- Ron & Jill poured a concrete pad and got a new shed. After all the rain they had to wait for the ground to harden before they could move their 5<sup>th</sup> wheel.
- Larry & Loupe had a new house delivered. That makes four new houses in the expansion area.
- This can only happen in Texas ... Bill S. carried 20 ft. sections of pipe home from the store in a PT Cruiser! It made the Cruiser about 10 ft wide!
- Art & Terry are back – in a fancy corvette!

That's all from me. We're all having a purrrfectly good time here.



### ***Our Condolences***

What a sad month June has been. After a gallant struggle, Pat (Pat & John) passed away on June 17<sup>th</sup>. We all have fond memories of her walking Willie around the park, spending hours doing jigsaw puzzles and her never ending energy on the dance floor.

Rick, (Rick & Tinka) developed severe lung problems after his cancer treatments and passed away on June 25<sup>th</sup>. We will all remember Rick's positive attitude towards life, his optimism, cheerfulness and the smile that was always on his face.

We extend our sincere condolences to John and Tinka, as well as to their families. Pat and Rick had many friends here, and they are both going to be greatly missed although never forgotten by their Natures' family.

### ***It's Fun Time at Natures!***

Although our wonderful volunteers have been very busy keeping Natures looking good and getting things ready for the return of our Winter Texan Family, there is still time to get together and relax (and, of course, eat!)

Sundays have become Sundaes! Each Sunday evening we gather in the clubhouse and enjoy ice cream, sometimes with cake or brownies or on occasion bananas to make banana splits. This is not doing our waistlines any good, but it is a great excuse to get together.

The highlight of the past month was our July 4<sup>th</sup> 'old fashioned' picnic hosted by Richard & Barb. Instead of everyone lining up to eat at 3 p.m., Richard was at the grill from 3 to 5 p.m. ready to cook homemade hamburgers to your specifications whenever you were ready to eat. Salads were laid out on an ice salad bar ready whenever you were. Many people were in the pool at 3 p.m., but as soon as the smell of the first few hamburgers wafted over there was almost a mass exodus from the pool! There is nothing quite like a hamburger fresh off the grill on a warm bun! In addition to the hotdogs, hamburgers, salads, corn and relishes there were brownies, watermelon and ice cream cones. Our thanks go to Richard and Barb who organized a great feast and did an awesome job!

There were enough leftovers for a repeat performance the following day!