

# NATURES TALES

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## ***New Owners – New Attitudes!***

By now you should all know that Bill and Sandy S and Bill and Misty have bought 50% of Natures. Together with Frank it has been an extremely busy but very rewarding month. The pool area has taken on a new look with tables and chairs and assorted plants and shrubs in 22 clay pots around the pool. The clubhouse has a different atmosphere too. The kitchen has been spruced up and is now an open, community kitchen with a bottomless pot of coffee brewing all day. Background music plays in the clubhouse, and wafts through the open windows and over the pools for all to enjoy. The long tables have been broken down into individual tables and interspersed with some round tables to make seating more congenial. There are also two designated craft tables which have been put to good use.

A returning resident was amazed at the changes and remarked that we had done so much in such a short time. She was right and she was wrong. Yes, much has been accomplished in a very short time – but we, the owners, didn't do it all! The permanent residents stepped up to the plate, and THEY have done an amazing job. Besides the work at the pool and clubhouse they have cleaned, cleaned, cleaned and scrubbed. They have trimmed branches, mowed, mowed, mowed, weed-wacked and tidied up. Everyone who was able to do, did, and others who couldn't, cheered us on.

New Owners – New Attitudes! Certainly the new owners have brought new attitudes to Natures, but it's the Natures Family's attitude that we applaud. We are overwhelmed by the response we have received. We are SO grateful for the many, many hours of grueling work that people have put in. Saying "Thank you" doesn't convey the depth of our feeling for all that you have done. Your work is noticed, applauded and appreciated. We see it, and when our returning family arrives they will see it too, and because of YOU, Natures is a better place.

## ***Learning the Ropes.***

With the purchase of Natures has come the task of learning how to run the park. In most areas it has been easy to pick up the threads. In others it has been sometimes frustrating and other times downright funny. The frustrating times are over, but the funny things linger on. Bill's first outing with the backhoe should have been caught on tape. Those who witnessed the event will tell you that it takes more than two large trash barrels to stop the big beast. However, lest you are fearful for your safety when you see him on the backhoe, he has apparently had a good talk with it, and the beast is under control now.

Misty's adventure with the gate computer was more private. For those of you who don't know how the gate works, perhaps a short explanation is in order. When you have a reservation at Natures, whether it is for a week, a month or an annual, you are given your own private code which will open the gate for you. This code is tied into your reservation, so when your week, month, or year is over, the computer automatically removes your code from the system. From the office point of view this system is wonderful, but (as I learned a few years ago) it can be a little embarrassing if one is a day late paying!!

Obviously we had to learn how this rather ingenious system worked. So there we were, Misty sitting at the computer and Sandy looking over her shoulder. Trying to remember what we had been taught, I unwittingly propped myself in Michelangelo's "The Thinker" pose, with chin on hand and elbow on desk. It was at this moment that the gate computer went berserk. Beep-beep-beep-beep. Beep-beep-beep-beep. Over and over again. And again! It sounded as though a madman was trying to get into Natures, punching numbers faster than was humanly possible.

I froze! What was I supposed to do now? Suddenly Sandy started to laugh. "You've got your elbow on the keyboard!" Yes, we've certainly had our laughs.

## ***Sad News.***

It is my sad duty to tell you that we had a funeral at Natures. After a potluck dinner we all gathered in somber silence on the north side of the club house close to the gate. Pastor Bill and Brother Al, the casket bearers, carried forth La Chair, laden with faded plastic flowers gleaned from various places around Natures. La Chair was reverently placed before us and Pastor Bill gave the eulogy, after which La Chair (the purple chair that has stood sentry outside Natures gate for the past five years) was gently lowered into the trash barrel.

After five years of service we felt that it deserved a decent burial.

### ***WAR HAS BEEN DECLARED...***

and the ants are running for their lives! The ant war started out with 'me against them'. I set off in my little artillery golf cart armed with ant spray and a little stick. Oh, I got some of them as I knocked down their cities and sprayed them. But they got me too. Those little guys got in my shoes, up my legs and up my arms, and bit me to pieces. Learning the hard way, the next day I armed myself with a BIG stick. This helped to keep the ants off me, but it was disheartening to see that they could build up their cities just as quickly as I could knock them down. But the ants had not counted on Natures Team Work. The wonderful Natures residents took up the fight and as a team we attacked them and their cities. What an army we are, and what a difference it makes. When the ants realized that we had called in the reserves, they did the same. They called in the mosquitoes! While we attacked the ants, the mosquitoes attacked us! This was not playing fair – so we didn't play fair either. We called the county and they came and sprayed the mosquitoes.

It has taken a while, but it is apparent that we ARE winning the ant war. We realize that it will never be over but the ants are getting the message that they are no longer welcome here. With the volunteering spirit of Natures residents they don't stand a chance.

Thanks everyone for your help. You are truly appreciated! Together we can say "Goodbye ants" and with the County's assistance "Goodbye mosquitoes".

We are about to start on a new war. Lookout sandburs... Here we come!

### ***Welcoming our New Managers***

Natures management team, **Ray and Win**, arrived about 10 days ago. They are a vibrant couple who enjoy people, enjoy fun, enjoy helping and are hard working and energetic. Some of you may know them as they were work campers here a couple of years ago. We anticipate that they will be a real asset to Natures and give them a warm and hearty welcome.

### ***Upcoming events***

Although this is our quiet time of the year, that doesn't stop those of us who are here from having fun.

**Fresh coffee** is brewed daily at about 6:30/7:00 a.m. This is a beautiful time of the day. Come and join us at the pool area and enjoy the cooler morning air.

Our new **Social Hour** has been well received and will continue. Watch the impromptu board for dates and times.

**Potlucks** will be held on

August 12 and 26

September 8 and 22.

Watch the impromptu board for the time and additional details or changes

### ***Birthdays and Anniversaries.***

We would like to wish all those who have birthdays and anniversaries in August and September everything of the best for their special days. Unfortunately I know that my list is incomplete, and therefore some names are going to be missed. If your special date has not been mentioned would you kindly contact the office and let us know so that we can get it right for next year!

#### ***August***

|    |             |
|----|-------------|
| 7  | Tom W       |
| 11 | Paula B     |
| 15 | Randy W     |
| 17 | Bob & Linda |
| 26 | Ann F       |

#### ***September***

|    |                                   |
|----|-----------------------------------|
| 1  | Pat A                             |
| 4  | Requella G                        |
| 5  | Dave & Judy                       |
| 8  | Art & Carol                       |
| 9  | Marge B<br>Janet C<br>Ken & Janet |
| 13 | Dennis F                          |
| 14 | Keith & Joan                      |
| 15 | Reg P<br>Suzanna C                |
| 16 | Sue E                             |
| 19 | Bob H                             |
| 20 | Donna F<br>Dave & Evie            |
| 26 | Sharlotte M<br>Reg & Sharon       |
| 27 | Toni G                            |
| 28 | Otto S                            |