

NATURES TALES

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The Old Year at Natures!

2007 was a year of change at Natures. Previous owners moved out and new owners moved in and everyone wondered what was going to happen next! Although change can be unsettling, it was the hope of all the owners that we could make subtle changes that would create a new atmosphere at Natures without changing the integrity of the resort. Looking back on the last six months we believe that this has been accomplished. Natures is a more relaxed resort, a more social place, has more activities and more participants in the activities. Generally we believe that people are more comfortable at the 'new' Natures, yet the same solid nudist morals of the park remain, keeping natures a safe, comfortable place for nudists.

It's been a learning process for all of us – the owners as well as the residents, members and guests, but it has been an interesting and fun process. Each one of the owners can tell you funny as well as frustrating experiences we have had as we have learned how to run the park. Many residents can tell hilarious stories of Misty learning to drive the backhoe, Bill being almost drowned by water leaks that turned into geysers, and Frank ripping his hair out as Misty once again managed to disrupt the phone and gate system. However, what we have experienced far above the funny, the frustrating and the hilarious is the overwhelming positive reaction of everyone staying at the park. Notes of encouragements, people pitching in to help, friendly comments, and acts of kindness... the list goes on and on. All this is what makes the new owners so glad that we went out on a limb and purchased Natures. All the owners, Frank included, are delighted to see people USING the facilities. We love to see people hanging

out at the pool, using the clubhouse, enjoying the bottomless pot of coffee, playing pool sweating in the exercise room, having fun at the petanque, shuffleboard and horseshoe courts, reading in the library and generally just having a good time.

As 2007 comes to an end, we would like to thank everyone for making our efforts worthwhile. We might be the owners, but it is you who make Natures the very special place that it is.

It's a New Year at Natures!

Looking back on 2007 and seeing all the changes that have taken place at Natures, you may wonder if there will be more changes in 2008. The answer is "Yes" and "No"! We plan to continue with various improvements, but the essence of Natures Resort will remain the same – a safe, social, friendly, congenial nudist park with the highest moral standards, filled with wonderful like-minded nudists.

December was a very busy month with all the holiday festivities as well as a host of other activities, but the fun is by no means over. We are excited about the New Year and are looking forward to new ideas, new activities, new challenges and new faces. The Natures' owners want to start the New Year by wishing all of our Natures' Family a wonderful 2008. Our wish for you and your families is peace, happiness, an abundance of good health, and a good measure of prosperity thrown in too!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Cheers for our Volunteers!

Once again the volunteering spirit of Natures comes shining through. We extend our thanks to the following:

- All who donated to the yard sale, as well as those who helped with pricing, moving items out to the front and selling.
- All who helped decorate the clubhouse for Christmas and New Year.
- All who helped Bill with the outdoor kitchen
- All who helped with, or organized or donated to our adopted Christmas family.
- All who helped with the Christmas dinner, Christmas gift exchange, cookie exchange, the brunch breakfast, the cheese & wine, the oldies sock-hop, and all the other special activities.
- All who cleaned out the wood pile and took it to the recycle center
- Jim (#51) for taking pictures for Natures Tales.
- All those who quietly helped when they saw a need.

Volunteers are special people. Although they look for neither praise nor recognition, they should be praised and recognized, because they are the people who get the job done, and they are the people who make a difference in the world.

Thus we recognize and thank our Natures volunteers. YOU are the people who make a difference at this resort.

Friendly Gatherings – By Maurice #4

Yes my friends, it really is the season for friendly gatherings. This year was the very best Christmas party we, the French Canadians, ever had on a camping ground.

On the 24th, we had a collective supper, where the French Canadians chipped in for a mixture of shrimps, assorted meats, (including moose meat) and cheeses “raclette” meal on one table and a moose and beef “fondue” on the other, where there was more than enough to go around, with enough leftovers for another great supper for the whole gang on the 25th.

The Christmas dinner was also extremely good, as it usually is at Natures Resort. We raise our hats high to the organizers and volunteers. Everyone was overwhelmed by the ambiance and the reception we got from all the residents.

‘Tis a season we will all remember for a long time.

Tidbits from Speckles!

What an exciting time of the year it has been! So much going on. I LOVE the holidays!

- Sandy (#51) and many volunteers decorated for Christmas. The clubhouse looks beautiful.
- My Natures family also decorated their sites and made the park look really festive.
- I have never seen so many cookies!! The Christmas cookie exchange was a huge success.

- What a crazy Christmas gift exchange. People stealing gifts from each other, especially that metal turtle. From all the laughter I think that everyone had a great time.
- Christmas dinner smelled really yummy, and there were over 60 people to eat it. I wanted to sneak in and see all the food, but I'm not supposed to go into the clubhouse.
- There's more shade for me in the pool area – But I'll share it with you!
- We had our first yard sale and made \$641.00 for the Fun Association.
- There is a three ring binder with all the sign-up sheets on the long table in front of the kitchen. This is very good because I was so tired of having to chase and catch the sign-up sheets that the wind blew off the bulletin board!
- Nice benches have been places around the fire pit – but I hear that we can't have any bonfires until we get some rain and the "no burn" restrictions have been lifted.
- The Kasper family donated a water fountain for the pool area. That was very nice of them.
- Bill (#51) finished the outdoor kitchen. Rodrique and Renee helped with the name & spelling **La Cuisine**. It is really cool.
- The wood pile east of the Gazebo garden is gone. I hear that fruit trees are going to be planted in this spot so that everyone can partake of the produce. What a great idea!

- The park is filling up with all the new and returning folks from up north. It's great to see so many people.

That's all from me. Have a purrrrrfect 2008!



Natures Adopts the Villapondo family.

We adopted a family from the 12 days of Christmas Series that ran in our local paper, The Monitor. They are the Maria Villapondo family from Elsa, TX, who lost their beloved father in July, 2007 leaving behind six daughters, one son, one granddaughter and one on the way. They have a great love of the Lord as each attend a local church and are very involved as a family experience.

Maria, the mother, has been supporting the family by the daily ritual of making and selling chicken and pork tamales. Her daughters all pitch in to help her. All the children are bilingual as they have attended local schools. Maria speaks Spanish only.

Through the generous donations of our family at Natures, we were able to make their Christmas special. We purchased a four foot pre-lit tree, ornaments and stocking for all ten members of their family. Each was given \$50 to spend as they wished. We took them shopping on two nights as most wanted clothes and shoes. We also bought a turkey and trimmings which were delivered Christmas eve. Also donated were two TV's, a small computer, rocking chair and used clothing. Maria was given a new coffeepot and blender, and HEB donated a \$40 food gift card.

Thanks to the ladies who wrapped presents, donated cookies and decorated the stockings.

As the saying goes: 'Tis better to give than to receive.' They were so appreciative of our generosity.

Sandpipers and Natures!

A whole new avenue of fun and entertainment has been opened by Natures and Sandpipers taking turns to host different activities. But the goodwill goes further than the owners of the two resorts. It is the people in both parks that have made this sharing such a success. Besides the reciprocal invitations to Karaoke and the hypnotist & DJ dance, individuals also opened up their homes for folks to gather prior to these events. A huge thank you to both the Sandpipers couple and the Natures couple for their hospitality. What a great way to further the goodwill between the two parks.

Sandpipers has invited Natures for a euchre, petanque and water volleyball tournament in January. This should be a fantastic day – lots of fun and a good opportunity to meet other nudists. Natures is hosting the Fun in the Sun weekend at the end of February, and we are expecting a good representation from Sandpipers. Thanks go to Sandpipers Activities Committee and Natures Fun Association for all the time and hard work that they have put in to make all this possible.

WASSUP by Cassandra

Looking back, December was filled with lots of sharing, eating, giving and funning here at Natures. It was a wonderful way to end another year.

A few of the highlights were a delicious Brunch Breakfast with record breaking attendance; the social-anointment of the beautiful NR Gazebo with a Wine & Cheese Affair; a first-ever and very successful NR Yard

Sale; a couple of exhilarating Bike Rides through Butterfly Park and across the Rio Grande; our first hosting of a very well attended social event with our Sandpiper friends; a hoppin' good time Sock-Hop Oldies Dance; a heartfelt community out-reach family adoption that brought smiles and happiness to a less-fortunate family for Christmas; a laugh-filled and fun Christmas Gift Exchange; and a delicious and plentiful Christmas Potluck Dinner. To all those who hosted and helped make these wonderful activities fun and successful... Thank you!

Now a New Year is upon us and we continue to bang the NR Fun-Drum. The New Year is arriving at Natures with a fabulous New Year's Eve Party followed by a yummy New Year's Day Brunch. The Au Naturel Games get-together at Sandpipers featuring Water-Volleyball, Petanque, and Euchre will set the energy level to get us moving in January. We have some very good players for each event on the schedule and NR cheerleaders are definitely welcome and needed. All the regular on-going weekly activities also get into full swing again with almost everybody now having finally arrived at NR. As far as food, the club favorite Monday Night Soups will start again on the 7th. Also, the Fifth Annual Spaghetti Dinner on the 10th is expected to have a record turnout, and the Breakfast gigs are promising to treat us all to a variety of early morning delights throughout the month.

There are lots of things to do here at Natures. Do as much as you want, or do as little as you want... just make it fun for everyone. The new weekly Fun Happenings calendar email update continues to be a very valuable resource for keeping everyone up to date on the many activities happening here at NR. For those who have not yet subscribed to it, a special effort to post it on the NR Bulletin Board will be starting in January.

And that is WAZZUP in January.