

# NATURES TALES

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> Annual AANR-SW Fun in the Sun Weekend!**

After an intense amount of paperwork and planning by the Fun in the Sun Committee, and mountains of preparation in the kitchen for the meals that would be served, plus the organization by the various volunteers for each tournament, suddenly the weekend was here!

In the meantime, Frank had to do a lot of shuffling, re-arranging and some doubling up, but managed to fit in all our friends from Corpus Cristi and Rockport. We were also delighted to have friends from Sandpipers join us.

And what a weekend it was! The resort was 110% full and a holiday atmosphere prevailed. Although competition was fierce, the main aim of having fun was met. Even in the midst of the various tournaments there were jokes and laughter.

Our thanks go to everyone who took part in the tournaments and congratulations go to the winners:

### **Petanque**

First Place: Team Green Jays  
Fernande  
Rene  
Bill T  
Melanie

Two teams tied for second place:

Team Natures	Team Les "AS"
JeanPaul	Laurent
Albert	Carmen
Ann	Margot
Judy (Sandpipers)	Tony (Sandpipers)

### **Volleyball:**

Randy  
Reid  
Tony (Sandpipers)  
Jan  
Marianna (Sandpipers)

**Shuffleboard:** Jim and MaryAnn

**Horseshoes::** Jean & Bob

While everyone was outside, the kitchen was a hive of activity. Rene & Marie, and their awesome team of helpers (Pam & Rick, Carolan, Pam & John, Denise A, Bill R, Janet, Margot, Cindy, and Jim & Marianne) provided breakfast, lunch and dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday.

After the hotdog roast and Karaoke on Friday evening, all the competitions on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and the dinner and dance on Saturday, when Sunday evening rolled around we were all exhausted, and ready to retire to our homes for some R & R.

Thanks to EVERYONE who contributed to make it such a fantastic weekend. Mark your calendars for the next one so that you don't miss out on the fun. 3<sup>rd</sup> annual AANR-SW Fun in the Sun weekend is scheduled for March 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

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

I have NEVER seen the park so full, but I love all the excitement!

- Bill S. looked like a ballet dancer standing on his tippy toes on the top of a ladder changing bulbs on the giant chandelier!
- Sandy S had to buy even more chairs to cater to the big crowds attending functions in the clubhouse.
- Cement was poured and a brand new park model is coming in for Doc & Yvette - #40.

- Rene and Marie said they are so grateful for all the help they received from the volunteers.
- The luau was the biggest gathering that we have ever had at Natures. And the Huki Lau Dancers were awesome.
- Bill - #55 donated three Live Oaks which will grow into huge shade trees.
- Bill -#51 and Danny - #3 planted the Natures Orchard including trees donated by Danny & Jan - #64

That's all from me!



### ***Parlez vous Anglais! Do you speak French!***

We are so proud of our Natures French Canadian family members. Over the past season they have reached out and joined in with every activity that goes on at Natures. For those who speak English fluently, this has been easy, but for others who only speak a smattering of English it is difficult. We truly appreciate the fantastic effort that you have made to communicate in English and to become an active part of Natures. You have united Natures into one big happy family!

Exciting news is that starting next season Rene has kindly offered to teach conversational English and conversational French. Not only is this going to be fun, but it will further unite us as both English and French speaking people attempt to speak the others' language! Rene assures us that these classes will not be like school and we will not have to conjugate verbs – we will just talk, make mistakes, mispronounce, but learn to be able to converse with people in a foreign language. We are hoping that we will have many people of both language groups join these classes.

Thank you so much Rene for your willingness to teach us!

### ***Volunteers***

This season has been the most awesome one ever in the history of Natures Resort and the volunteering spirit of Natures has now become legendary.

In its earliest days people offered their help all the way from clearing the ground to putting up the fence. Since then people have helped at every stage of the resort's development. Now the park is full, and this is often when people stop helping because the feeling is that "someone else will do it". However, this simply is not the case here. We, the owners, feel so blessed by our Natures family. The volunteering spirit rides high, and we are in absolute awe of what people are doing to maintain and improve Natures.

If you have wiped down tables, stacked chairs, worked in the kitchen, stocked the freezer, chaired or served on a committee, mowed grass, washed windows, cleaned window screens, watered plants, weeded or sprayed weeds, worked in the Memorial Garden, helped a neighbor, fed the ants, fixed the fence, reported something broken, fixed something, swept, mopped, raked petanque courts, helped with the bonfire, taken part in a jam session, helped in the library, repaired a flag, made signs, cleaned up any kind of mess, helped with recycling, greeted newcomers, taught dancing, danced the Huki Lau, changed a light bulb, chaired or helped with a special event, given of your knowledge or expertise, painted, helped make, put up or take down decorations, taken care of the bulletin board or the impromptu board, organized water volleyball, organized bike rides, flipped burgers, cleaned out butt cans, organized water aerobics, helped with electric projects, built cabinets, hung doors, taken down doors, reminded someone to shower before getting into the pool, organized or taken part in karaoke, supported Fun Association activities, then YOU are one of the very special people at Natures Resort. (I KNOW I've skipped some things that I have seen people do – so I do apologize! It's hard to note everything because there has been SO MUCH!) VOLUNTEERS are the spirit of Natures, and YOU make

Natures the very special place that it has become.

The amazing part of all this is that we believe that EVERYONE in the park has done SOMETHING! Everyone has volunteered and helped in some way. You are all AWESOME! Thank you so much for your time, your work, your encouragement, your help, your expertise and your continuing volunteering spirit. We, the owners, appreciate you and love you all.

### ***Birthdays and Anniversaries!***

1 Jim H	4 Judy M
4 Robin Z	5 Anne M
7 Gordon P	10 Sharon P
11 Bill B	11 Janice K
12 Barb S	12 Doug T
15 Rick K	16 Robert M
16 Nick & Toni	20 Al & Jean
20 Pat S	23 Jack F
25 Ronald H	27 Frank S

### ***Awesome April!***

Regular April activities:

- Bicycle Ride: 9:00 a.m. each Thursday. See bulletin board for details.
- Billiards: 6:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday Thursday, Friday, Sunday – Billiard Room
- Campfire: 5:00 p.m. Saturdays – Campfire pit.
- Euchre: 6:00 p.m. Mondays – game room.
- Morning Exercise: 8:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday – clubhouse.
- Petanque: 2:00 p.m. every day – petanque courts
- Poker: 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays – game room.

- Shuffleboard: 10:00 a.m. Tuesday – shuffleboard court
- Trivial Pursuit: 6:30 p.m. Thursday – game room.

Remember to watch the Impromptu Board (located next to the noodle barrel in the pool area) for any changes and additions to the schedule. See the Bulletin Board in the clubhouse for additional details on all these activities.

### **April Special Events:**

- Sunday, April 13 – 6:30 p.m. Come celebrate our April Birthdays and Anniversaries with Cake and Ice cream!

### ***Till we meet again!***

It's that time of year when we sadly say goodbye to most of our Winter Texan family. Some have already left, others are in the process of leaving and the rest will be leaving shortly.

During your stay with us, Natures has been a hive of activity, but we have still had the opportunity to get to know the faces that were new this year, and renew our friendships with those of you who have stayed at Natures before. It has been an awesome season, and we have been delighted to have you with us. We realize that you have friends and family waiting for you up north, but you are still part of our Natures Family, and you will be missed during the summer months.

Our wish for you is for safe travel, good health and happy times while you are away from us – and that you will return to your Natures Family in the fall. As we say goodbye to you, already we are anticipating your return, and the good times we will have when you get back!

Please let Frank know if you wish to have mail forwarded to you.