

# NATURES TALES

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## ***The 'New' Natures turns One Year Old***

Natures Residents are adept at using any excuse for a party, but an important celebration was the first anniversary of the 'new' Natures Resort on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. We consider this date Natures Independence Day, and July 4<sup>th</sup> our country's Independence Day, and the two celebrations combine into one big party.

The past 12 months have gone by in a flash, starting with the quiet summer season when we, the owners, and the Natures residents worked hard to create a different, warmer atmosphere, ending with the busy winter season when we were fully booked. It was an extremely busy year for us with a lot of hard work, and many have asked us "Are you glad that you bought Natures?" You bet we are! We love Natures, but more importantly, we love all of our residents, members and guests. "Is it worth all the hard work?" Absolutely, Yes! Seeing people happy and enjoying the facilities and having a great time is what we set out to do, and we believe that we have accomplished this. However, we did not do this on our own.

The owners would like to thank everyone – residents, annual members and guests for their encouragement, support and help. YOU made the difference and YOU made it all worthwhile. Now we look forward to this coming year and all the years to come with eager anticipation.

## ***On a sad note ...***

One of our favorite annual members, Bill F – Site #6 passed away in June. He was loved by everyone at Natures, and his cheerful face will be greatly missed. Our condolences go to Marilyn and Bill's family.

## ***It's Summertime Fun!***

During the summer months, Natures takes on a very different atmosphere. The rush of winter activities comes to an abrupt halt when our Winter Texan Family leaves for their northern homes and their milder summers.

We certainly miss them, and look forward to their return, but in the meantime Natures residents enjoy a gentler and calmer atmosphere. However, lest anyone thinks this sounds boring, let me assure you that it is not so!

Those who live at Natures certainly know how to have fun. Because of the smaller number of people there are many impromptu functions as well as an abundance of scheduled events, many of which seem to include eating. Watermelon feasts, Yum-Yum cake and Ice Cream, Father's Day Breakfast, Taco Salad and Rice Dinner, Lemonade and Snacks, Cookouts, Campfires, Lasagna Dinner, Cake and Ice Cream Evenings, Churches Chicken Dinner! The fun and eating knows no limits!

## ***The Volunteering Spirit Continues...***

Our summer residents are awesome! Although, judging from all the activities, it seems that they party all day long, apparently this is not the case. They have continued to step up to the plate to keep *'their'* Natures neat, tidy and pretty. We have had a lot of rain, and the grass has greened up beautifully. It is also growing like crazy as are all the trees and other plants. Once again the Natures' Volunteering Spirit can be seen. With regular mowing, weeding and pruning by volunteers the park looks awesome.

Congratulations go to our Annual Members who did so much work on their sites to make them maintenance free during their absence. Some areas need to be tweaked a little, but for the most part your sites are great and add to the overall good look of the park.

Besides rain, we have also had a storm accompanied by strong wind. Some branches were broken off the trees, but in no time at all volunteers were out picking them up, cutting them into pieces and carting them away.

In addition to this, the war on the ants continues. This is a never ending war that was started last summer, and will probably continue to the end of time! Because of the dedication of our wonderful volunteers, all of us have benefitted. Last winter we had no problems with ants at all. Beware ants! Our volunteers will get you!

With the hot weather all the plants around the pool, our new shade trees and the trees in the orchard need to be watered on a regular basis. Volunteers can be seen dragging hoses behind them making sure that all the new plants not only survive, but thrive.

This is only part of what our volunteers are doing. Often we have no idea what they have accomplished, because they are not looking for praise. When they see a need, they just jump in and do what needs to be done. How wonderful is that?

So once again, we extend our very sincere thanks to all our volunteers. We love you all, and are so grateful for your help and support. Without you Natures would be a very different place. Not half as nice, not half as friendly and not half the place that other would wish to visit. Thank you so much for all of your hard work. You DO make a difference.

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

I LOVE our Texas summers! Lots of sunshine, purrrfect for lazing around. However, I still keep busy watching all that is going on around here with the exception of about one week when I couldn't get out and

about much because it was raining dogs and dogs.

- Al – Site #13 seems to be spending a lot of time zipping around on the ZTR. I heard him muttering “Please – no more rain!”
- There have been so many activities with food and more food (but none that comes my way!) I think it is busier here in the summer than it is in the winter.
- Another brand new park model was moved into Natures. Congratulations Carolyn and Gordon on your beautiful new home.
- It got so hot one day that there was a loud bang and two of Frank's truck windows shattered. I almost jumped right out of my fur!
- There have been a number of people coming and going in the pull-throughs and staying in the guest rooms, which adds to the fun atmosphere here.
- We enjoyed having Al and Jo-Ann's teenage grandson visiting at Natures. Teenagers in the park make us feel young again!
- There have been lots of pictures taken of the park. I think it is because we're going to get a new look to our website.

That's all from me!



PS. I was so scared during Hurricane Dolly that I ran away and hid. Misty will have to tell you about that.

### ***Beer and Wine Festival.***

October is the Annual Beer and Wine Tasting Festival. The Fun Association has requested that everyone remember to bring their favorite beer and/or wine from their home state to help make this an awesome event.