

# NATURES TALES

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## ***Welcome Back!***

Cold weather and snow hit the northern part of the country and Canada, and the annual "Race to the South" began. During the past month hardly a day went by without one, two or three of our Winter Texan family arriving, some as much as a month early! Frank did his usual amazing juggling act fitting everyone in – even a few unexpected but welcome guests.

It has been an exciting time meeting up with friends we have not seen for a number of months, finding out how their summer went and generally catching up with everyone. Equally fun is meeting and making new friends – those who are visiting Natures for the first time.

A hearty 'Welcome' to our new friends. We are delighted that you have chosen to spend time at Natures, and we welcome you to our Natures Family. Also a very warm 'Welcome Back' to our returning Winter Texan family. It is wonderful to have you back again, and we are looking forward to enjoying another season with you.

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

I love December! So many parties, so much fun, so much food!!! If you don't let Misty see, you can always sneak me a cookie or two! It's going to be a busy month, but there have also been a lot of things that went on in November.

- Renee and Marie had a new cement pad poured and moved onto Site # 33. I was tempted, but I didn't leave a paw print! They have also built a new shed.
- Jean-Paul built a nice shade area for Petra and himself on Site #65.
- A brand new shed rolled into the park and was put onto Site #76. Check out Richard and Lee's new acquisition.
- A new shade area has been built on the north side of the petanque courts. Lots of people helped Bill – Site #51 – with the construction.
- The bartenders did an awesome job at the Fall Festival. Everyone had a great time.
- "Quick Quick One Two", "Grapevine to the left – Grapevine to the right" and "Heal Toe Cha Cha Cha" That's what you hear at the Wednesday evening dance classes given by Peg and Jim – Site #50. Everyone has fun, so if you haven't tried it – give it a whirl.
- It's just not fair! I don't have a house, but Justine, (the black & white 'Holstein' dog) on Site #10 got his very own brand new house. Christian and Anna-Lise say it is THEIR shed – but I know better! They also put up a neat gazebo so that Justine has shade. Check it out – It all looks really great!

- Have you seen little Rusty Jr. dragging big Stan – Site #69 – around the park? This is a sight to behold. Rusty Jr. must be a VERY strong dog!
- There are SO MANY energetic people briskly walking around the ‘track’ every morning. I’m impressed!
- Bob – Site #14 - has a new cement pad and a fancy paved patio. It looks nice!
- Jim & Judy – Site #11 - got a new golf cart. I wonder if they will give me a ride?
- I saw Anna-Lise – Site #10 – dancing with Elvis!
- I’m looking forward to seeing all the Christmas lights and decorations around the park!

That’s all from me. Have a purrrfect holiday season!



### ***Natures is Looking Good!***

We have received a number of compliments from outsiders about how nice Natures looks. Apparently we are “clean”, “uncluttered”, “pretty” and “the neatest park in the area”. Wow! That is really nice to hear, but we are compelled to pass these remarks on to you, our members, residents and guests.

Although our housekeepers do an extremely good job, their hard work means nothing if it is not maintained during the day by

the people using the facilities. We are grateful to all who clean up after themselves, and to those who automatically pick up a stray piece of trash when they see it. Also to those who tidy up by returning the chairs that they have been using to the place from which they came. All these things help to keep Natures looking good.

It is easy to become accustomed to the look of Natures, but next time you take a walk around the park, take note of what our residents and annual site holders have done with their sites. ALL are neat and tidy, and many are very pretty with well maintained shrubs and flowers. This is another area that truly enhances our Natures home.

For those of you who are looking for ideas for your site, come to the talk on December 7<sup>th</sup>, and you will learn about native plants that are easy to grow here and have the added bonus that they attract butterflies.

We realize that this is your home, or your home away from home, and therefore you want to make it attractive, but we still appreciate the effort that you take to keep Natures looking good. A special thank you to all you wonderful people!

### ***Nifty November!***

November has been a great month with many activities.

The Monday Night Soup Suppers started at the end of October and have become a HUGE attraction with record breaking attendance! If you haven’t been to one of the soup suppers, you don’t know what you are missing! Yummy soup (one night there was chile and baked potato instead of soup) bread, salad and dessert. This has become a great money maker for the Fun Association.

The Fall Festival was a resounding success. It was attended by approximately 80 people who enjoyed a plentiful supply of snacks as well as beer and wine from all around the USA and Canada.

The highlight for November was a fantastic Thanksgiving Dinner. Mike & Karen – Site # 73 – hosted the event and cooked all the mashed potato, dressing and gravy as well as a couple of turkeys. Dave & Evie – Site # 83, Craig & Paula – Site # 106, Dave & Judy – Site #63, and Tony & Pam – Site #67 cooked the remaining turkeys and brought them to the clubhouse for Mike to carve. Everyone arrived at the clubhouse a little before three with their side dishes and dessert which made an incredible spread.

Pam led us in a prayer for Thanksgiving, and Cindy – Site # 9 - led us in singing “Count your Blessings”.

The food was delicious, and the variety of side dishes made choosing what to have almost impossible. If anyone went home from this event hungry, it was their own fault!

On the Saturday after Thanksgiving the Thanksgiving decorations came down, and Sandy and her merry band of helpers decorated the clubhouse for Christmas.

Also on Saturday we had a dance and witnessed that Elvis is indeed alive and well – although a little older than we remembered him.

### **December Activities:**

Our winter season is now in full swing. The Fun Association Board is doing an awesome job coordinating activities and

special events and we can look forward to a number of fun months ahead.

**December 1** Clubhouse Yard Sale Proceeds go to Fun Association

**December 2** Monte Cristo Road Yard Sale Proceeds go to Fun Association

**December 3** Rain date for Yard Sale

**December 4** Hidalgo Festival of Lights.

**December 5** 10 a.m.to 3 p.m. Clubhouse Craft Fair. Crafters: Contact Maryann - Site #77 - to reserve a table. This is a great opportunity to do some of your Christmas shopping!

**December 7** 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. Clubhouse Butterfly and native Plants Presentation by Carol Goolsby of the NABA Butterfly Park.

**December 8** Cookie Exchange. See Marie – site 33 - for details.

**December 10** Dance with Ruthi 7:00 p.m. Clubhouse. Hotdogs will be on sale at 6:15 p.m.

**December 13** 5 p.m. Potluck Bring something yummy that your mother used to make.

**December 13** Birthday Party 6 p.m. Join us for cake and ice cream as we celebrate all the December birthdays and anniversaries.

**December 19** Dance 7:00 p.m. Hosted by Bruce & Mary Sue

**December 23** Gift Exchange 7 to 9 p.m.  
Hosted by Jack & Cassandra and  
their band of Christmas Elves

**December 25** Christmas Dinner 6:30 p.m.

**December 31** New Year's Eve dance with  
Ruthi

### Weekly Activities:

**Aerobics:** 8:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday,  
Wednesday and Thursday. Clubhouse

**Bike Rides:** 9:00 a.m. Thursday. See bulletin  
board for details of each ride or talk to  
Bruce – Site #19.

**Bingo:** 6:15 p.m. Friday Play starts at 7  
p.m. Clubhouse

**Bowling:** 9:15 p.m. Friday Flamingo Bowl,  
3301 N. 23rd Street, McAllen.  
Questions: See Cassandra – Site #59

**Camp Fire:** 5:00 p.m. Friday. Bring a chair,  
something to drink and food to cook  
over the fire – or just come and enjoy  
the camaraderie.

**Chat & Craft:** 1:00 p.m. Friday Clubhouse.  
Bring your own craft project or sewing or  
come and help with the lap quilts that  
are being made for local nursing homes.

**Coffee:** 9:00 a.m. Thursday Site #100.  
BYOMug and enjoy a social time with  
other nudists.

**Dance Lessons:** 6:30 p.m. (beginners)  
7:00 (everyone) Wednesday

**Dominoes:** 6:30 p.m. Wednesday. (Mexican  
train) This is a fun game that you can  
learn in 5 minutes.

**Euchre:** 7:00 p.m. Monday. Bring a partner  
and \$1.00 For card lovers, this is a  
must.

**Petanque:** 2:00 p.m. Every day. Everyone  
is welcome- even those who have never  
played before. Balls are available in the  
office.

**Soup Supper:** 6:00 p.m. Monday \$4.50  
per person. Sign up required.

**Water Aerobics:** 9:30 a.m. Monday &  
Wednesday.

**Water Volleyball:** See impromptu board on  
the south side of the clubhouse for  
dates and times.

### ***From the Mailbox....***

*I want to thank our Natures Resort  
people for taking time off their daily schedule to  
ask if I needed anything. To those who have  
brought food, driven me to appointments, even  
brightened my day with roses, a big thank you.  
Truly, I think we have the best of the best in  
our community.*

*Frank, Misty and little Bill, thank you for  
taking care of my duties in the office.*

*Last of all, thank you to my best friend,  
confidant and husband for giving me 50  
wonderful years.*

*Thanks to you all.  
Bill and Sandy*