

# NATURES TALES

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## ***Mexico, Here We Come!***

Early in January Viva Mexico Tours came to Natures to give a talk on various trips that they run into Mexico. The result was that a large group from Natures signed up for their one day Mexican trip. On January 25th the Viva Mexico bus arrived at Natures, and in a festive spirit everyone boarded for an educational day of fun. According to Rene - Site # 207 "It was a wonderful day trip that we all enjoyed. There was plenty of food and entertainment and the company was awesome."

The trip was such a success that 21 people have signed up to go on Viva Mexico Tours' 3 day Mexican trip.

## ***Owners' Appreciation Dinner.***

When we were ordering the meat for the Appreciation Dinner, someone overheard our order and asked what kind of event we were having. We told them that it was a dinner for all the wonderful residents and guests at Natures in appreciation for the volunteering that they do in and around the park. Their response was "Wow! That must be a great park. Our owners don't do that for us. We think you are terrific."

Their comment was only half right. We probably shouldn't brag, but, yes, indeed Natures is a great park. It is better than great – it is a terrific park because we have terrific people here. YOU, our residents and our guests are all special people. YOU welcome newcomers and YOU make them feel comfortable so that they immediately become

part of our Natures family. YOU make Natures what it is – and we thank you for that.

The owners, are not special because we give an appreciation dinner. We give an appreciation dinner because YOU are special! You do so much for us and for Natures. This is simply our way of attempting to say Thank You to everyone who has helped out in some way – and that includes EVERYONE.

All the activities that took place in February could not have taken place without many hours of organization by the Fun Activities Association and the huge amount of volunteering by everyone in the park. Although the hosts take on the responsibility of ensuring that their event runs smoothly, they are not the only people involved. There are many others who help both before the event and afterwards with the cleanup.

Thank you all so much for everything that you do. We love our Natures Family and appreciate your time, talents, expertise and experience that you willingly share with everyone. Thank you for making Natures a place that we can all enjoy!

## ***February – What an incredible month!***

Because of the many activities in February, some people commented that they needed a vacation from their vacation!

Besides potlucks, soup suppers and all the other regular activities there were four dances: a Valentine Dance with music by Ronnie Furr hosted by Keith & Joan, a Sock

Hop hosted by Mike & Karen, a dance with music provided by Ruthi hosted by Richard & Tinka, and Mardi Gras hosted by David & Judy. There was also a Super Bowl party hosted by Danny & Jan, a Doggie Parade organized by Keith and Joan, a free ice cream social compliments of Tom and Rosalie, a Mexican Fiesta compliments of Chuck and Carolann, a Rio Grande River Boat Cruise organized by Jim & Judy and attended by 61 people, a three day Mexican tour organized by "Tour Directors" Bob & Jean with 21 participants, a NASCAR Daytona 500 Social organized by Randy & Cindy, an Andre Rieu DVD concert organized by Ron & Lynn, and an Appreciation Dinner compliments of the Owners. Phew!!

Just wait till you see what is coming in March!

### ***March Special Events***

Please remember to check the bulletin board for additional details and events.

- 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8:00 a.m. to 11:40 a.m. Blood Drive**  
Please sign up. It only takes a few minutes of your time and can save a life. (They have great brownies too!)
- 5<sup>th</sup>: 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Luau.** Music by 12 String Tim and Sharon.
- 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>: Fun in the Sun Weekend.** This is a fantastic time of food, fun and games. Signups and reservations are a must.
- 8<sup>th</sup>: 6:30 p.m. Birthday Party.** Join us for cake and ice cream as we celebrate the March birthdays and anniversaries.
- 11<sup>th</sup>: Get ready for the Garage Sale!** One person's trash is another person's treasure. Bring your items for sale to Site #51. Volunteers needed to price items.
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Garage Sale on Lot 51.** Preview the items for sale and make your purchase prior to it moving out to the road.

- 13<sup>th</sup>: Garage Sale on Monte Cristo Road.** All proceeds go to the Fun Activities Association. Volunteers needed.
- 14<sup>th</sup>: Fun Activities Association Meeting** for everyone in the park. Come and give your input for activities for next season. (Free coffee and donuts)
- 14<sup>th</sup> 3:00 p.m. Farewell Cookout.** Please sign up.

### **Weekly Activities.**

#### **Aerobics:**

8:00 a.m. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Clubhouse

#### **Bicycle Rides:**

9:00 a.m. Thursday. Meet at the gate.

#### **Billiards:**

6:00 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday & Sunday.

#### **Bingo:**

6:15 p.m. Sunday (except second Sunday of the month) Clubhouse

#### **Bowling:**

9:00 a.m. Friday at the Flamingo Bowling Lanes in McAllen.

#### **Campfire:**

5:00 p.m. Friday. Bring your own hotdogs, drinks etc.

#### **Craft Time:**

1:00 p.m. Friday. Clubhouse

#### **Euchre:**

6:30 p.m. Monday. Card Room

#### **Dominoes:**

6:30 p.m. Wednesday (Mexican Train) Card Room

#### **Koffee Klatch:**

9:30 a.m. Wednesday. Site 100. Bring your coffee cup.

**Men's Breakfast:**

8:00 a.m. Every other Tuesday. Sign up required. Meet at the gate.

**Petanque:**

2:00 p.m. Every day.

**Poker:**

6:30 p.m. Tuesday. Card Room

**Shuffleboard:**

10:00 a.m. Tuesday

**Soup & Salad:**

5:00 p.m. Monday. Sign up required.

**Trivial Pursuit:**

6:00 p.m. Thursday Card Room

**Volleyball:**

Check impromptu board

**Water Aerobics:**

9:30 a.m. Monday and Wednesday.

**Western Dance Lessons:**

7:00 p.m. Wednesday

***The Doggie Parade!***

One of the fun traditions at Natures is the Annual Doggie Parade. This year 15 dogs were dressed in their Sunday best while their owners, in true nudist tradition, forgot to dress at all. With Stan leading the procession, the dogs and owners did one lap around the park to show their dogs to all those who lined the parade route, comfortably seated in their beach chairs.

All dogs, including those who were unable to participate, were given a ribbon and a bag of treats, compliments of Dave & Evie – Site 83. Special awards were given to:  
 Oldest Dog: Lady of #82. (Tom & Rosalie)  
 Youngest Dog: Polly of #112 (Tom & Sharon)  
 Biggest Dog: Oscar of #PT6 (Craig & Kathlene)  
 Smallest Dog: Baby of #21 (Mel & Randy)

This was a bittersweet day for Stan and Sue who recently said goodbye to their beloved Rusty. Our hearts go out to you in your loss.

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

There has been so much going on that it is a little hard for me to keep track of everything around the park, so I asked Sunny (who has a bird's eye view) to help me. Don't worry! He is my friend so I won't eat him!

- John and Pat – Site 102 – have finished their Florida room. It looks terrific!
- It's great to see Mike – Site 80 – walking around the park looking so healthy. We celebrate your wonderful recovery.
- Dave – Site 83 – had to go home to see his regular doctor. We miss Dave and Evie, and wish him a speedy and complete recovery.
- I saw people doing funny things in the clubhouse, and was told they were playing Wii on the new big screen TV.
- Such sad news. Rusty, my four legged doggie friend on site 69 died. I miss him so much, and so do Stan and Sue.
- Wonderful news is that Connie is doing so much better. She is working very hard at rehab and we are all so proud of her. Keep up the good work Connie!
- I know who updates the activities board! It's Bruce – Site 19. Thanks Bruce!
- Richard made me nervous digging cat graves with the backhoe in the front section. I was relieved to find that they were actually holes for new trees!
- There are some new, big critters around the park. They are easy to catch because they don't move, but they are

not very good eating! Thank you Bill for sharing your sculptures with us.

- There have been people coming and going in the guest rooms for the whole month. We love these extra people and especially enjoyed having a child at the park.
- Rene & Marie's son and Misty's son came for a visit.
- Richard seems to spend a lot of time lying under the backhoe. I wonder if he is sleeping on the job?
- Big Bill was welding on the new gate. It must have hurt the gate because it jumped up and tried to chase him! I'm glad Bill didn't get hurt.
- Everyone seems to be scurrying around getting ready for Fun in the Sun Weekend. It's going to be loads of fun.

That's all for now. It's time for me to have my afternoon nap in this purrrfect sunshine!



### ***Rate Increase.***

Nobody wants a rate increase yet the fact remained that the time had come when it could no longer be avoided. A town meeting was called so that the reasons for the increase could be explained and we thank our Natures Family for taking the time to listen and for their understanding. The new rates, to take effect on April 1, 2009, will be posted on our website.

### ***A Note from Stan and Sue.***

Stan and Sue wish to thank everyone for their notes, cards, hugs and caring. Rusty was an important part of their lives, and the love and concern of their Natures Family has been a great comfort to them.