

NATURES TALES

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We have a New Gate!

A new gate. That does not sound like a big deal, but it certainly was not a simple project. It was a combined effort of talent, brawn and brains. Bill D. handled the first step, working out exactly where the new gate had to go, and pouring a solid foundation for it on top of hollow pipes that will house electric and phone cables. Bill S. took care of step 2, using his talent to turn pieces of metal into a gate that is both beautiful and unique. Step 3 is the brains part, installing the entry and access system for the gate as well as the mechanism that actually opens and closes the gate. Frank and Richard were the main force behind this doing research and getting quotes to ensure that we got the best possible system to meet our specific needs. It will be a little while until it is operational, but in the meantime the pictures above show you what the gate will look like.

Marvelous March!

We thought that February was a busy month, but March surpassed it! There were all the regular activities plus potlucks and twice a week Nooners Karaoke which was added to the schedule. But just in case that wasn't enough for everyone, there was the three day bus trip to Mexico, Women's Breakfast, Free Root Beer Floats compliments of Tom and Rosalie, an awesome Luau hosted by Mike & Karen, three days of fierce fun during the "Fun in the Sun" weekend, a two day yard sale raising funds for the Fun Association, birthday and anniversary ice cream celebration, St. Patrick's Dance and a Farewell Cook Out!

Many thanks to everyone who hosted an event, or helped set up or clean up for an

event. You are the ones that all this fun possible, and we appreciate all of your ideal, your time and your effort. You are the reason that Natures Resort is so special and that we can all have so much fun.

Three Day Trip to Mexico.

When the Natures group returned from their 3 day Mexican trip they had very positive comments about how the trip was run, and the wonderful sights that they saw. Apparently Viva Tours really does a wonderful job.

Although the sights, meals and accommodations were wonderful, apparently one has to actually experience the bathroom on the bus to fully comprehend the difficulties involved. Mary Sue said it best in her poem below!

THE BOOGIE TO THE BATHROOM IN THE BUS

The beat is unique, to say the least.

The rhythm is always unsteady.

The moves can't be learned or practiced,
So just stand up when you're ready.

You might lean left or lurch to the right.

You may fall flat in the aisle.

You could flop into your neighbor's lap!
If so, please do it with style.

But boogie toward the back of the bus.

That tiny rear closet's your goal.

Inside, remember: hold on tight
'Cause when the bus rocks you may roll.

This tiny moving cubby-hole
Proves again life's inequity:
Men and women don't boogie the same
In the bathroom's privacy.

In this moving bus encounter
The guys could hold on with one hand.
For the gals, both hands were busy
Allowing for impacts unplanned!

So, the men danced forth smiling
And boogied back to their place.
The women came out slowly
With bruises on head and face!

Thus, the boogie's last steps varied
All depending on gender.
The guys gave sighs of relief. The gals
Moaned in pain, rubbing spots still tender!

Tidbits from Speckles, your proud Natures Cat!

I've had such fun this season, but now it is coming to an end. I'm sad to see my Winter Texan Family starting to head back to their northern homes.

- Misty made a mistake in the March Natures Tales! The NASCAR Daytona 500 in February was hosted by Randy & Cindy, Site #9
- Norm, Site #81, is very sick. Norm and Kat are in our thoughts and prayers.
- You should have seen all the fantastic meat and fruit kebabs at the Luau! Mike and Karen and their helpers did an awesome job.
- Some people take St. Patrick's Day seriously!
- Rita broke a bone in her ankle! We hope it will heal soon.
- Christian - Site #41 and Rene – Site #207 painted the new gate with special paint that is guaranteed not to flake off.

It doesn't flake off their hands either so now they look like me – white with black speckles!

- The winners of the hula-hoop competition at the Luau were Lise – PT#7 who was absolutely awesome and Rene – Site #30.
- Randy – Site #9 might not have been the winner in Fun in the Sun Shuffleboard, but he made a couple of absolutely unbelievable shots. I think he even surprised himself.
- I heard that Jean Russell is going to move to Natures. That's fantastic news!
- I've seen some strangers in the park. I was told they were giving quotes on work to be done during the summer. I wonder what improvements we'll see in the fall?

That's all from me. For everyone travelling, have a purrfectly safe trip.



3rd Annual AANR-SW Fun in the Sun Weekend.

What a weekend it was. Cool, calm, collected Frank almost became Frazzled Frank trying to fit everyone who wanted to come for the weekend into the park. When every site was full, he 'double parked' campers so that everyone could have electric and water. He did a sterling job and no one was turned away. Way to go, Frank!

The Fun-in-the-Sun committee, their sub-committees, and all the helpers on the sub-committees were superb too. The whole weekend flowed smoothly, and looked effortless. The smooth part is correct, but the effortless part could not be more wrong. Many, many volunteers did an enormous amount of work to make this weekend a success. There were volunteers and helpers who ran each of

the competitions, volunteers and helpers who cooked two breakfasts, one lunch and one table service dinner for those who had signed up for the meals. The Fun in the Sun Committee coordinated all these volunteers and ensured that there were no hitches or glitches. We thank each and every one of you for your time and cheerful help. The weekend was a huge success because of all your work. Once again, it is YOU who make the difference and we want you to know that you are appreciated.

It's That Time of Year Again!

We have had an incredible season. In September and October our Winter Texan Family started rolling in. In November and December the floodgates opened, and they poured in. The first few days of January saw the last few stragglers arrive. During these months the daily activities grew and expanded and the special events seemed to escalate to the point that we all needed a vacation from our vacation. December, January and February were outrageously busy months where it was impossible to take part in everything! March, with the 3rd Annual AANR-SW Fun in the Sun weekend, was a month unto itself!

April arrives and this is where things start slowing down again and we are all ready for the change in pace. What we are not ready for is saying goodbye to our Winter Texan Family. But it is that time of year again, and say goodbye we must! Many of our family will be heading back to their northern homes, and we wish them all safe traveling and a healthy, happy summer. Although we look forward to the change in pace, we do miss our Winter Texan Family, and eagerly anticipate their return in the fall.

Also at this time of year our residents start planning their summer vacations, and many will be away for a couple of weeks or months. Just as we miss our Winter Texan Family, we will miss our residents too, and wish them all a wonderful, safe vacation.

Natures Resort now takes on a more tranquil atmosphere. However, tranquil doesn't mean boring! With fewer people in the park it is so easy to arrange impromptu activities, and these will continue through the summer. We commend our residents on their ingenuity and inventiveness for creating new, fun activities that keep things hopping along at a happy pace.

Another Garage Sale.

It has become tradition to have a garage sale prior to our Winter Texas family heading north. This year was no exception. As the date for the sale approached, the sale goods started appearing on Site #51. It is amazing just how much we acquire and then decide we do not need. More amazing is that so many of the things we have decided to live without, someone else just has to have. And most amazing is that a good percentage of items are sold right here in the park.

All proceeds from the sale go to the Fun Activities Association, so we are glad to tell you that once again the garage sale was a huge success.

Our in-house sales totaled \$352.65 and the sales on Monte Cristo Road were \$500.36 giving a grand total of \$853.01 for the Fun Activities Association.

As always, we had an abundance of volunteers and helpers that handled the price marking and set up, sales in the park, getting the items to Monte Cristo Road and setting them up, selling, handling the cash, and the final cleanup. With all the help it was a fun couple of days, and we thank everyone involved for their time and cheerful helping attitude. One more time: YOU make the difference!