

NATURES TALES

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September/October, 2009



The Fence is Down!

Summer Socials

What do you do on a hot summer day? How about a nice cool swim, and then meet in the clubhouse for a brownie sundae, or root beer float, or make-your-own sundae and then go back in the pool for another dip! That is what we did this summer. We had so many root beer floats and sundae socials that we have lost count.

On Labor Day we gave the floats and sundaes a rest and enjoyed a wonderful feast of pulled pork, beans, coleslaw, potato salad and all the fixings which were prepared by Peg and Jim. This was followed by cake and cheese cake provided by Al and Jean

Tidbits from Speckles, our proud Natures Cat!

There has been a lot of moving going on here at Natures. I'm afraid to sit in one place too long in case I get moved too! I don't want to move! I like it here!

- The dumpster has moved! It's on the west side of the new gate out of sight when you drive in. It has its own caliche road so the trash truck can get to it.

- The recycle area has moved! It is now on the east side of the workshop!
- The ditch-witch has moved! It is now in the storage area on the east side of the gate where it is out of sight.
- The backhoe has moved! It is now hidden behind the new "Recycle Hut".
- The Ficus tree outside the office – the one that people kept backing into - has moved. It is now on the east side of the petanque courts – but it didn't make it and it is now in the "Happy Home for Trees" in the sky.
- The old gate has moved. I don't know where it went.
- The NR sign that was outside the old gate has moved! It will be placed on the outside of the west wall of the clubhouse once it has been repainted.
- All the fence between the south section and north section of the park has moved. It is just plain gone!!
- With all this moving Natures looks very different. I think it looks awesome!

- Summer is when the cactus bloom. It's a pity that most of you don't get to see the flowers!



- Frank got a very fancy new set of steps up to his RV. And I know who made them!
- Connie has had more surgery, but she is doing well. She and Richard intend to get back to Natures just as soon as they can. Yeah!
- I've overheard some phone conversations, and know that some of our Winter Texan family are on their way back. I can't wait to see them again.
- Frank is back looking tanned and rested! He had a wonderful vacation, but his RV got a boo-boo.
- Have you ever seen water shoot 20 feet into the air? I have! You'll have to ask Nick about that!!
- It seems that in the summer all everyone does is meet in the clubhouse to eat!

That's all from me folks. It's time for me to go purrrrowl around and see what else is going on in the park.



Volunteers are awesome!

This summer everyone seems to be having weather that is breaking all kinds of records; Colder than ever before, more rain than ever before, or hotter than ever before. At Natures it has been record breaking hot and dry.

In spite of these super high temperatures, our volunteers continue to be out and about almost every day doing something that is making Natures a better place for all of us. Speckles has highlighted some of the things done, but one sentence doesn't tell the whole story.

Taking down the old fence was not just tearing it down. It was taken down one board at a time, and the boards neatly stacked and stored in the storage area. The tin at the bottom of the fence was removed and also stacked in the storage area. Lastly, the posts that were cemented into the ground were pulled out, the cement removed with a sledge hammer, and the posts stacked in the storage area.

Tearing down the old recycle area was much the same as the fence, with all the materials being saved and stored. The new recycle area was built almost entirely with materials from the old fence. It is the same color as the workshop and blends in beautifully. A really awesome job done entirely by our volunteers.



Moving the dumpster entailed marking out an area where the trash truck would drive off the black top to reach the dumpster. This area was framed with landscape timbers (from the old fence) and then a 3 inch layer of caliche was spread and packed – all done by our volunteers

Have you ever felt overheated while playing petanque? Ever wished that you could just stand under a shower for a minute or two while waiting for your turn? Well, now you can! Our wonderful volunteers have put up a shower at the petanque courts for your comfort.

To have people who are willing to do this kind of work on a volunteer basis is amazing. However doing this kind of work in temperatures over 100 degrees is more than amazing – it is awesome! It takes a huge amount of energy and stamina and shows a enormous love for Natures. Once again I would like to acknowledge and thank these incredible people.

When We're Hot – We're HOT!

Here are a few interesting statistics for the months of July and August – the hottest summer in the Rio Grand Valley in recorded history:

In July 29 days were above 100 degrees with 23 of those days hitting record highs. The hottest day in July was 109. The two days that did not break 100 degrees reached a high of 99 degrees!

In August the first 29 days were all over 100 degrees. Eighteen of these days either broke or equaled record highs.

During July and August we had a total of 0.39 inches of rain.

These high temperatures and low rainfall took a toll on our grass and the plants and shrubs around Natures. Even with regular watering and tender care some succumbed to the heat.

On the bright side, the string of 51 consecutive days of temperatures over 100 degrees was broken on August 30th, and in the beginning of September we were blessed with about 3.5 inches of rain spread over 4 days. Later in the month we had a downpour with over 4 inches in only a few hours. With the ground completely sodden we lost a couple of trees, but the water soon all drained away.

The grass has now greened up again, and everything has started to sprout after being dormant for most of the summer.

With the beautiful weather that we are having now, it is time for all our friends up north to head south and enjoy the warm sunshine! So far Pam and Tony, Bruce & MarySue, Jan & Danny, Ken, and Richard & Barb are back, and we are looking forward to welcoming the rest of our Winter Texan family soon.