

# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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## ***The Expansion ... We are Nearing the End!***

It has been a long journey, but, the expansion project is almost finished!

The last two septic systems have been installed, inspected and approved. After some frustration and delays the remaining two caliche roads have been completed.

The expansion area used to be level, green and beautiful. However, after digging and then filling in trenches for the septic systems, the electric lines and the water lines it was lumpy and bumpy with ridges and hollows and most of the natural vegetation was gone. What a mess! The whole area has now been graded, and although it looks rather barren, the native grass is starting to grow, and by next fall we expect it to be green and beautiful again.

A huge volunteer project was to plant 40 trees along the west fence. The Ficus trees that we planted two years ago all died in the unusual winter freeze last season, so this time we planted live oaks that are native to South Texas. About 15 people turned up to help with the planting, and the entire job was done in short order, although there were some sore muscles the following day. We do still need to plant more trees to replace the many that had to be removed to make way for the septic systems and roads.

The last remaining project is to have AEP install electric meters and turn the power on for the sites east of the main road. We are a little wiser now, and expect and accept that there will be the usual delays with this!

It is a relief to know that we are almost at the end of this long road. However, looking back we would be very remiss if we did not thank the many volunteers who put in mega hours of work to help us reach this goal. We had people helping with the electric boxes, digging trenches, working on the water lines, running conduit for electric cables, filling in ditches and planting trees. The work was not glamorous. Most of it was back breaking, hard, sweaty work, but because of our wonderful volunteers the job was done, and done well. Thank you so much for all of your help and your encouragement. It is greatly appreciated.

We would also like to thank everyone for their patience and understanding while this project has been ongoing. The original plan was that all the work would be finished by October 1<sup>st</sup> of last year – prior to the beginning of our busy season – but obviously that didn't happen. Although all the workmen have been very respectful of our lifestyle, it has not been fun having them and their noisy machinery around. Yet we received no complaints! What wonderful, understanding people we have here at Natures. Thank you for your support!

## ***The Expansion Explosion!***

In the movie "Field of Dreams" Iowa farmer Ray Kinsella hears a voice in his corn field that tells him to "build it, and they will come". That is what is happening at Natures.

A few of our "old" folks decided to move from their current sites to new, bigger sites in the front section. This opened up some of the

smaller sites which are always in demand. Still others chose to extend their stay, which was only possible because we could move them to the new sites.

As new sites became available, people who had previously been turned away because we were fully booked were happy to have one of these sites, even though they were still rather rough.

With unexpected speed, the new super-sized sites are being spoken for either as annual sites or for reservations for next season. Some "new" folks who visited Natures for the first time this season decided to take an annual super sized site so that they would be assured of a space for future seasons. Others are making reservations for next season and the only space available is in the new section.

With all the shuffling and moving it is hard to keep track of where people are, who has poured cement, who has upgraded living quarters and who has bought a new house.

- Hans & Hermein changed sites, poured cement and upgraded.
- Pete and Becky have booked an annual site, poured cement and bought a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel.
- Patty & Russ poured cement and bought a house.
- Bob & Florence enlarged their cement and bought a house

- Richard & Lee moved sites, poured cement and bought a house.
- Dave took an annual site and bought a 5<sup>th</sup> wheel.

We would like to welcome the new folks, and congratulate everyone on their new or upgraded homes.

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

I'm exhausted! It has been such a busy month with three new houses coming in, new roads being worked on, plus all the fun stuff like dances and dinners.

- I got mail!  
*Dear Speckles,*  
*On March 22 when you weren't looking, I took 95 pounds of aluminum cans from the recycle hut. A nice man paid 75 cents per pound which means that I brought back \$71.25 for the Fun Activities Association. We accumulated 95 pounds of aluminum cans in just one month!*  
*Believe it or not, the Fun Association has received about \$330.00 from recycling aluminum cans since September 1.*  
*Bruce*  
Thank you Bob M, Jack P and Bruce for your continued work with recycling!
- The Blood Mobile was back! Twenty-nine people signed in at the Blood Mobile, 24 people successfully donated a total of 29 units of life saving blood --

19 whole blood donors and 5 double red cell donors. Thank you donors!

- The talent at Natures was very evident at the craft fair. There was a good variety of crafts for people to buy.
- Pat, (of Pat & John) is in hospital and is very sick. We are all concerned and want you to know that you are both in our thoughts and prayers.
- The Fish Dinner was a huge success – a lot of fish was consumed and enjoyed by a large crowd. All the food was donated and the total income of \$275.00 went to the Fun Association. Thank you Sam and Barb!
- Our spring yard sale was a great success, with \$197.42 sold inside the park, \$417.25 sold on the second day outside the park. The total for both days was \$614.67. Thank you Petra and all the wonderful volunteers for a job well done.
- The annual tailgate party and Killer Bee hockey game was a huge success – even though the Killer Bees lost!
- The Owners Appreciation Dinner was well received. It was followed the next evening with a Black and White Dance. Richard & Connie were crowned King and Queen of the Dance, and now they are insisting that everyone bow prior to speaking with them! Hosts Rick & Tinka and co-hosts Greg & Cat did an awesome job.

- Jack & Cassandra have the distinction of being the first new AANR club of 2011. The North West Naturist Boating Club based in Bellingham, Washington. Check out [www.nwnbc.org](http://www.nwnbc.org).
- Already some of our Winter Texan Family has returned to their northern homes. Many more will be leaving in April. I am so sad to see them go.

Have a purrrfect April! For those travelling – stay safe! I'm looking forward to seeing you next season. That's all from me.



### **Condolences**

We extend our condolences to Sharon and her family on Reg's passing. Reg had many friends here at Natures and his big smile and quick sense of humor will be missed by all of us. We are looking forward to having Sharon back with us next season.

### **Pet Play Afternoon 2011**

*By Rebecca Coombs*

Despite the exceptionally warm day a "barking good time" was had by all at this year's Pet Play Afternoon.

After a morning of set-up by various volunteers, including a major cleaning of the play area by Larry with his gas-powered blower

and the sound system set-up by Bruce, the activities started off after lunch with a Mardi Gras Parade of well-costumed dogs and their owners making a lap around the resort. The friendly waves and cheerful support of the on-looking Natures Resort family made for a festive parade lap.

Once the parade route was completed the dogs were met with bowls of cool water and doggie T-bone snacks (compliments of Willis) while their humans and the parade onlookers enjoyed freshly baked cookies (compliments of Laurie).

Then, while the parade judges (Jane and Sharon) worked on tallying parade scores, the dogs took their humans through a spirited water relay course (judged by Doug and Joyce) followed by the agility course (judged by Tinka).

Between activities dogs could have their paw prints molded as a memento of the day as well as a "Royal Photo" (photographed by Cindy) in a specially made pet throne designed and built by Bill S. and upholstered by Laurie.

Although Jan and Steve were standing by for "Snoopy Says" and Robin was prepared to play "Musical Mats" with the dogs and their humans it was decided to forgo those games this year due to the increasing heat radiating off the blacktop activity area.

Jumping straight into the Awards Ceremony, after completion of the agility course, the dogs and their owners were awarded cheerful door-hanger prizes (skillfully handcrafted by Sharon and Jane) and "goodie

bags" full of presents donated by the Natures Resort Fun Association, PetSmart, and Petco.

A special award (handcrafted by the talented Natures Resort Sewing Group) was awarded to Connie for her unfailing love of our dogs here at Natures Resort and in appreciation for all the doggie treats she buys and distributes to her tail-wagging admirers.

It is probably pretty safe to say that after such a busy and fun event our four-legged family members (and maybe even a couple of the two-legged ones as well) all went home for a nap to cool off and dream of their fun afternoon.

### ***April Special Events***

- 9<sup>th</sup>** 7:00 p.m. Dance. Music by Renaissance Rockers
- 10<sup>th</sup>** 6:30 p.m. Cake and Ice Cream to celebrate all the April birthdays and anniversaries
- 24<sup>th</sup>** Easter Dinner. Additional information will be posted on the bulletin board.

### ***Weekly Activities***

As more of our Winter Texan family head north, some of the weekly activities will cease. Please check the bulletin board regularly for an updated schedule.