

# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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## ***Welcome Home!***

Although we enjoy the unstructured, quiet days of the summer season, we also look forward to welcoming our Winter Texan Family as they return to us from their northern homes, and to getting back into all the fun and activities that will soon begin.

One of the very first items on the calendar for the new season is the reconvening of the Fun Activities Association Board. Almost before they have had a chance to get settled after their arrival at Natures, they will meet on October 8<sup>th</sup> to get the 2011/2012 season rolling. These people work extremely hard and put in many hours of work scheduling a great variety of functions and events so that we all have a choice of activities available for our entertainment and enjoyment. We, the owners, would like the Board to know that we appreciate all their efforts and hard work.

Many of the events that are scheduled need hosts or leaders, and I would encourage our Natures Family to step forward and help out. Natures has a HUGE volunteering spirit, and we constantly see that many people step forward to help hosts or people organizing an activity. This means that hosts or organizers are not abandoned at the helm, and because of the many helping hands, it is not a daunting task. Hosting an event is also a wonderful way for new members of our Natures Family to meet people and truly become an important part of the family! So when hosts are needed, be brave and step up to the plate! You'll be glad that you did.

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

What a wonderful summer we have had! The long, lazy days will soon be replaced by lots of fun and activities as our Winter Texan Family returns home. I can hardly wait to see everyone again.



Although the summer is quiet, I've been having a very busy time catching pesky mice so that you don't have to deal with them. Here are other things that have been happening at Natures:

- Doc & Yvette have had a Texas room added to their house. It looks really nice!
- It's so dry the hummingbirds love the feeders that residents have put out for them. Often more than 20 birds can be seen hovering and feeding. I promise not to hurt them.



*Three Hummingbirds at a Feeder*

- Frank has also been in hospital. He's recuperating back at home now and I can't wait to see his smiling face out and about again. Get well soon Frank!
- Look who is in the office! It doesn't look like Frank at all! Thanks for helping out Richard!
- Even in the summer the work never stops at Natures. Bill has been diligently keeping both pools and the hot tub sparkling clean and has also hand scrubbed the tile walls of each one getting ready for the Winter Texans who are on their way.
- Natures has another work golf cart! I wonder if they will let me ride in it?
- Steve & Paula had a workshop built so that Steve will be able to continue his woodworking hobby when they return to Natures.
- Some tenters visited Natures again. They had some very nice things to say about us. Thanks guys!



*Tenters Enjoying Some Shade*

- Terry (AT&T) had successful back surgery. She is doing so well that she can be seen doing laps around the park.

- I saw Jerry K helping Al with mowing the grass!
- Bill R is in hospital for back surgery. I hope that he will have a full and quick recovery. I miss him and hope he will be home soon.

That's all from me. Have a purrrfectly safe trip south.



### ***Hurricane Irene***

Although Natures breathed a sigh of relief when Hurricane Irene's predicted path was well away from us, we were very concerned about some of our Family who had homes in her path.

- Craig & Paula had a lot of yard clean up to do after Irene passed, but there was no damage to their home.
- Ken & Janet were very concerned because they have huge trees around their home. Although there was lots of wind and rain, all the trees survived and they suffered no damage to their home either.

Our hearts go out to the thousands of people who felt the brunt of Irene. After Hurricane Dolly visited Natures in 2008 we have great empathy for others caught in the path of a hurricane.

### ***Natures Flowers and Orchard***

In July 2007 when Natures Resort changed hands, one of the first things that the new owners did was to add plants to the pool area. Shortly after that flower pots were placed in front of the office, and a Welcome Home sign and flower garden was created at the top of the main driveway. Later the orchard was added so that everyone staying at Natures

would be able to enjoy the fresh fruit for which South Texas is famous. All of these were Sandy's ideas and inspirations, and now that she is no longer with us, these additions have great sentimental value.

Over the years our wonderful volunteers have taken on the job of watering and caring for the plants around the pools, on the east side of the clubhouse, in front of the clubhouse and around the Welcome Home sign. Thank you so much for all of your help! We do appreciate it.

For various reasons these people need a break so we are looking for volunteers who would enjoy caring for and watering one of these areas. We are NOT asking for a lifelong commitment! YOU can tell us how long you would like to do it . a month, a couple of months, the whole winter, or just till you get tired of doing it!! We would be most appreciative if you would give it some thought, and if you are interested, please speak with Misty, Frank or Richard.

### ***STOP! PLEASE, PLEASE STOP!***



With the expansion complete, Natures Resort no longer has only a lollipop road. (A main road with a circle, or rectangle, at the top) Now there are three roads leading to and from the gate with intersections where they meet the rectangle. We also have an east/west road that intersects the main entrance road and the north/south road on the west.

Towards the end of last season, as the new roads came into use, we had a couple of boops+ moments as two vehicles met each other at an intersection. As we do not want an

boops+ moment to turn into an accident, we have put up some STOP signs.

The owners do not like stopping at stop signs any more than you do, but we felt that this was an absolute necessity for the safety of us all. Much thought was given to where these signs should be placed with the following goals in mind:

- Safety
- As few Stop signs as possible
- A uninterrupted route for bikers

The criteria above have been met, and there are now six stop signs around Natures. Although the roads at Natures are private driveways, and the stop signs cannot be legally enforced by traffic police, we expect everyone to be responsible, and to respect and obey the signs that are there for the safety of all of us. These stop signs apply to ALL vehicles . including golf carts and bikes.

If you do not want to deal with stop signs there is a route around the park without stop signs . but remember, THE SPEED LIMIT IS **FIVE MILES AN HOUR**, so it might take you a while to circumvent the park!

**BE SAFE!**

**PLEASE OBEY THE STOP SIGNS!**

### ***A Message from Sepp & Gerda***

*"So Long" to the many friends that we have meet here at Natures over the years. We do not want to say "Good Bye" because we hope to return in the future. Our plans are to tour Washington, Oregon and California this fall. We will leave our travel unit in Las Vegas over the winter. When we return to the States we will travel to and tour Alaska.*

We wish Sepp & Gerda safe travels, and look forward to seeing them when they eventually return.