

NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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Our Very Successful Fall Garage Sale

Beer & Brats Festival

Around 75 different types of wine or beer were available for taste testing at the annual Beer & Brats Festival. Many thanks to everyone who brought beer or wine from their home town. Art (AT&T) manned the grill for the brats with Steve (& Paula) doing the supply line. They turned out about 200 brats for the 75 pre-registered folks.

There was also an assortment of side dishes provided by the folk attending. As usual many helped with the cleanup at the end of the festival. Thanks for all your help!

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Tabloid Type Tales (ie misleading titles)

By Guest Writer Bill D (in Misty's absence)

Many Family Fights

A spate of dark sunglasses had broken out in a corner of Natures Resort, obviously due to spousal abuse. Come to find out it was only some eye surgeries requiring the use of darkened sun glasses. Bruce (& MarySue)

had cataract surgery and Diane (& Marvin) had a torn retina repaired. Her discomfort currently is some stitches on the eye that bother her eyelid. At this time both parties are doing exceptionally well.

Natures Needy Families

The small community of Monte Alto north of Natures is being helped by the generosity of the Natures community. With a combination of donated whole turkeys, food and cash, twenty needy families will have a complete Thanksgiving dinner courtesy of Natures Resort residents. This effort was coordinated by Bruce & MarySue. The Monte Alto community has (sort of unofficially) been adopted by Natures Resort with helping efforts for Christmas last year and Easter this year. Thanks to everyone who participated in this outreach.

Ruthi Rocks On

Ever popular Ruthi and Frank straight from sold out performances at the Mustang Club returned to Natures for another stellar performance. Attending were several couples

from Sandpipers as well. Ruthi has a new set of songs and a new mix of tunes spanning various musical types. Frank, running the electronic equipment, was even chiming in on at least one song. Approximately 130 folk were keeping the dance floor mostly filled during the evening. By request, Ruthi went into overtime and even after the music ended people were still lingering in the clubhouse not really wanting a great evening to end. Outside, the hot tub and pool were also getting a workout with people wearing out the water. For those who need more of Ruthi's entertainment she is a regular at the Mustang. Just remember to dress appropriately!

Blood Suckers Return

The periodic blood drive returned to Natures again – The first of three drives scheduled during this season. They came with their large mobile unit and collected 22 pints of life saving blood from 19 eligible donors. Many lives will be helped with this donation, perhaps even one's own life will be directly benefiting from this gift.

Getting down and dirty

A new ZTR mower and a new operator are both getting dirty keeping the grass and seed heads under control. This is making Natures appear well groomed, but at the same time with all the drought conditions and the dry soil it does raise a dust storm. Patience is requested for these operations even though it makes keeping homes and vehicles clean a very hard and trying task. Please keep complaints down as not much can be done about the dust and still keep Natures looking

sharp and neat. Currently the mower is set as high as possible to help keep dirt from flying.

Popular Bands Banned

Some truth and some fiction are present here. Ron Furr is not returning to the RGValley this winter so they will not be re-appearing at Natures. The Cruisers have raised their prices over Natures Fun Association level of funds for this group. Banned or not re-hired? Both bands will be missed by the residents.

Fired Help

It is hard to fire a volunteer but due to mostly medical reasons Natures has had several folk retire from their volunteer positions. Soup Night Mike & Karen, many years mowing specialist Al (& Jean), mowing helper Jerry K, and aerobics instructor Roberta are all retiring. For all these folks we extend enormous thanks for your tireless efforts and volunteering spirit over the past seasons.

Drowning Victims?

All people (25 during the reporters visit) appeared to be in various stages of losing their lives in the water. All were struggling! But wait! They were all moving in unison. It turned out that this fall/winter season had brought a new water aerobics coach/instructor and both males and females were tuning their muscles and getting into shape again. Many thanks to the new coach, Alannah (& Doug) for providing the workout materials as well as her time.

Fighting in Clubhouse

The fighting observed was only some slow motion reaching and stretching of the arms that also help strengthen the inner core of the body if the body position is correct. Later observations showed this activity to be part Yoga and part Pilate workout. Thanks to Janice (& Dave) for leading this activity, even though it seemed to be a lot of effort to this observer.

85 Years Old

David H. celebrated his birthday bash with about 30 guests on the 20th of November. A buffet was followed by a cake topped with a prominent number 85 in candles. The birthday chap huffed and puffed and extinguished both candles with one mighty breath. The dance following was rated a huge success by those attending.

Rowdy Talent Contest Banned

The talent contest has been banned this year in favor of a talent show. Note the difference in wording between contest and show. Perhaps the feeling is that with a talent SHOW there are no winners or losers – but rather a fun evening when we can all enjoy the varied and amazing performances of our talented Natures family.

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Tidbits from Speckles, Natures Proud Cat

It is really nice to see a lot of the old



familiar faces returning to the park. Also new faces, new units and new vehicles are all over the place. At this time last year the owners were putting in new lots and I wondered if and how they would ever manage to fill all those spaces. It takes a lot of footwork for me, but I think there are only around 10 sites still available.

- So much hustle and bustle with the arrival of a new park model. All the moving in was exciting for me and many other people to watch. It was set up on blocks and the tires taken off in no time at all. Owners Greg & Rainy said that as soon as they came in the gate they liked the atmosphere, and felt that Natures was the place for them. I'm glad they have joined our Natures family.
- I've never seen so much stuff for a garage sale! The tables in the clubhouse were loaded, and the next day what was left went outside for sale. Total for the two day sale was \$1,010. Thanks to everyone for their donations and help.
- Lots of hammering and banging going on all over the park. Bill T had work done on his porch roof, Jack and Jane are working on the new addition to their home, Steve (& Paula) is building cabinets for his newly expanded home, and Tom & Pat had a shed built.
- Lots of moving and changes also. Dave N. moved his 5th wheel around the corner to Lot 30, Hans & Hermine bought Ed & Larry's pitched roof car

port, and Ed & Larry had a flat roof car port build on to their house.

- Nick and Tony had a porch sale but it did not sell as the porch is still there.
- Alice (& Dave) is the proud owner of a new Harley Davidson trike. Way to go Alice!
- Other new additions are Bill T. and Ron & Lynn becoming golf cart owners.
- One thing I have heard is only spelled out but my name is being mentioned with the letters VET. I hope that it is some nice new treat for me. *(Please don't let Speckles know she will be going for her annual shots! Editor)*
- Bill R is gradually improving and is now in the Legacy Rehabilitation Center. All visitors would be most welcome. I miss you Bill!
- Richard (&Lee) was hustled off to the hospital recently with pneumonia. He is home again and improving daily.
- Doug (& Joyce) is back in the park after open heart surgery this fall in Arkansas. He is doing well but is quite tender at this time, so be careful with the hearty handshakes and back pounding.
- Robin (& Danny) is looking great after her surgery last year and now has her old bounce back in her step as well.
- No more soup on soup night from Mike & Karen as Karen is just not up to doing

all the work involved, but she is of good spirits and condition.

- Frank S is doing well and is back in the office full time. It is good to have his familiar face behind the counter and doing the mail as well as all the other chores he cheerfully accomplishes.

That's all from me. Have a purrfect holiday season!



25th Anniversary for Marvin and Diane

Marvin and Diane invited everyone to a wonderful anniversary bash as they celebrated their 25 years of marriage. Lynn (& Ron) and her friend Denise, who was visiting, were the main set up and decorating team. A great dinner, with ham provided by Marvin & Diane and guests bringing a covered dish, followed by a huge cake for dessert, was enjoyed by all.

After the meal and a few speeches, there was dancing to music by "Party of One" Congratulations Marvin & Diane.

Thanksgiving

Our thanks go to Brad and all his many helpers for a wonderful Thanksgiving celebration and meal. Without all the volunteers we could not have enjoyed such a scrumptious feast. A group of willing volunteers met in the clubhouse at 9 a.m. to set up and decorate, more volunteers cooked turkeys, other volunteers carved the turkeys,

everyone brought a dish to share, others helped serve the meal. And when it was all said and done yet another band of well fed volunteers did the clean up including mopping the entire floor. To all our volunteers a huge thank you for making 2011 Thanksgiving such a success!

Bill D Comes to the Rescue

Returning to Natures on November 22nd after visiting family in South Africa with almost no time to write Natures Tales, I was relieved to find that Bill had written the majority of Natures Tales for me. My thanks go to him for helping me out of a tight spot.

December Special Events

- 12/2** 4:14 p.m. Hidalgo Festival of Lights. If you want tickets for this, please see Bruce, Lot 19.
- 12/11** 6:30 p.m. Birthday and Anniversary celebration. Join us in the clubhouse for cake and ice cream.
- 12/13** 8:00 a.m. Men's Breakfast. Meet north of the clubhouse.
- 12/14** 5:00 p.m. Pot Luck. Please sign-up and bring a dish to share
- 12/17** Members Meeting. If you are at Natures you are a member and are encouraged to attend. Coffee and Donut provided.
- 12/22** 3 p.m. Christmas Gift Exchange Hosted by Steve & Jan

12/25 Christmas Dinner

12/31 New Year's Eve Dance.

For additional information on these events, please check the bulletin board in the clubhouse.

Weekly Activities

- Bicycle Ride** 9:00 a.m. Thursday
- Bingo** 6:15 p.m. Friday
- Breakfast:** 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday
Biscuits & Gravy
8:00 – 9:15 a.m.
Saturday. See bulletin board for menu
- Campfire** 5:00 p.m. Friday Bring whatever you need to cook your hotdogs over the fire.
- Line Dancing** 7:00 p.m. Wednesday
- Mexican Train Dominoes** 6:30 p.m.
Wednesday
- Michigan Rummy** 1:00 Thursday
- Old Time Radio** 4:00 p.m. Thursday
Lot 102
- Petanque** 2:00 p.m. every day
- Spanish Conversation** 3:00 – 5:00 Thursday
- Stick Rummy** 7:00 p.m. Sunday
- Stitch & Chat** 1:00 p.m. Friday
- Water Aerobics** 10:00 a.m. Monday
Wednesday and Friday
- Western Dance Lessons** 7:45 p.m.
Wednesday
- Water Volleyball** 2:00 p.m. every day, weather permitting.
- Wii Bowling** 3:45 p.m. Tuesday
- Yoga & Pilates** 10:00 a.m. Tuesday and Thursday