

NATURES TALES

10201 Monte Cristo Road
Edcouch, TX 78538
956-262-4014

LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

www.naturesresorttexas.com

naturesresort@gmail.com

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What does Spring mean to us?

To some Spring signifies a new beginning as plants start to sprout and trees clothe themselves in new leaves. To others it is simply the end of the cold, snow and ice. However, to us at Natures spring means something completely different. It is the end of "The Season", meaning that after a busy, social six months at Natures our Winter Texan family are starting to get itchy feet. As the northern snow melts and is replaced by the sprouting plants, one after another they pack up, say goodbye and head north to their summer homes. Although they are excited about the trip ahead and are looking forward to seeing family and friends up north, we do not enjoy saying goodbye and seeing part of our Natures family leaving.

However, as we say our goodbyes we look back on the successful season that is drawing to a close, and are overwhelmed by all the support, help and encouragement that we have, once again, been given over the past six months. The season has been a success because our Natures family made it so! So many people do so much to enhance the activities and keep Natures looking good. The board members of the Fun Activities Association do an awesome job of overseeing all the activities. They are assisted by hosts and helpers for the dances, potlucks, breakfasts, craft sales and garage sales. There are coordinators and helpers for the many activities: Fun in the Sun with all its events, petanque, pickleball, volleyball, water aerobics, aerobics, billiards, darts, cards, bible study, Wii bowling, bingo, bridge lessons, line and western dance lessons, movie nights, men's breakfast out, ladies day out, campfire, stitch & crafts, and bike rides. There are volunteers and helpers for special events like the blood mobile, health day, Datona 500 and the Superbowl. Volunteers also bake cakes for

the monthly birthday and anniversary celebration. The list is endless!



Birthday Cake Anyone?

Then there are people who do things just because they need to be done: water plants, prune and weck around fruit trees, hose down the gazebo, regularly clean around the edge of the pools, organize new books in the library and re-shelf returned books, take care of the dog run, recycle the recyclables, ensure that the defibrillator is working and the first responder box is complete, keep the Wi-Fi up and running, straighten up chairs and tables in the pool area and clubhouse, pick up the Winter Texan Times on a weekly basis, and just for fun, bake cookies or prepare a meal for anyone who wants to come and eat, write a trivia question on the board each day, and keep the candy dish in the office supplied.

Most importantly, our Natures family IS a family, and when someone is hurting there are people to comfort them, when someone has a need there are people to fill that need, or when someone just needs a hug, there are people to supply the hug. The Natures family ties are strong and because of this we all feel safe, secure and loved.

Without people helping in all these different ways we would be just like any other park, but, because of all the special people here, Natures is a special park that we can ALL

be proud of. We thank everyone for their contribution to Natures whether it be in the form of physically doing something or simply being an encouragement or help to others. Our Natures family is the backbone that keeps Natures strong. We, the owners, appreciate each and every one of you - which is why it is our great pleasure to host the Annual Owners' Appreciation Dinner and Dance each year.

We wish our Winter Texan family safe travels and a wonderful summer - and we look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Condolences

It is with deep sadness and extreme regret that we inform you that Bob C. Lot#14 passed away. Bob was, without doubt, one of the nicest, most likeable gentleman that we have had the pleasure of knowing. He will be sadly missed by everyone at Natures. We extend our deepest sympathies to Florence and Bob's family. May he rest in peace. A rose has been planted in the Memorial Garden in his name.

Tidbits from Speckles, Natures Proud Cat!

I don't like this time of year. Some of my Winter Texas family are starting to head back north, and I miss them already! However, we are still having lots of fun here, so I'll just focus on that!



It's been a busy month, and here are some of the highlights:

- Thanks go to Randy for once again arranging for MedCheck to visit Natures. This is an easy and economical way to check on your health.
- Natures giving heart was seen once again as people donated food items to be distributed in Monte Alto over spring break when needy families do not have the benefit of the supplemental school meals. Thanks to all who donated items and to the team who coordinated the event and transported all the food to Monte Alto.



Look at all that food!

- Each time that we have a craft sale we find new talent at Natures! We also had a few crafters from Sandpipers join us and included in the craft sale was a bake sale, with proceeds going to Monte Alto.
- Once again the Blood Mobile came to Natures. 20 eligible donors gave 22 units of life saving blood. There were 18 donors who gave whole blood and 2 donors who gave double red cells which counts as two units. Thank you to all who donated blood. We anticipate having blood donations next season on the first Monday of November, January, and March.

- The Diamonds and Duct Tape Dance was a great hit. The dance was opened with King Richard and Queen Connie taking to the dance floor first. Prince Devin accompanied them this year. Chip & Daisy won 1st place and Jim (Judy) won 2nd place for the best costumes.
- Health day was a great success. A dermatologist and an audiologist each gave a very interesting and informative talk, and both did screenings for those interested. Thanks to Bruce for organizing this.
- St Patrick's day was celebrated with a dance, and Ken, otherwise known as "The Man" presenting all the ladies with a beautiful green carnation. Thanks Ken! It is such a nice touch!

Road amounted to \$245.55 making a total of \$488.90 which will go into the Fun Activities Association funds. Many thanks to Petra and her helpers for organizing the yard sale, and to everyone who donated goods to be sold.

- A busload of people went out to dinner and then to the Vipers game. Lorie was recognized as "Fan of the Evening! This is the second time that this award has been given to someone from the Natures group!



Viper Fans!

- Wonderful smells wafted out of the clubhouse at the last potluck. I really wish someone would toss a little tidbit out to me!
- We love it when someone buys a new home. It means that a few weeks later we'll be invited to an open house to see the inside. Congratulations to Ken & Barbie on their beautiful new home!

That's all from me!



Fun at the St. Patrick's Day Dance



- The March Yard Sale was another success. Inside sales amounted to \$243.35, and sales on Monte Cristo