

# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

## ***Memorial Weekend Picnic***

What a blast! The 2013 Memorial Day picnic was attended by 59 people – The largest group ever for this event. As Natures grows, more and more people are making this their permanent home, and more of our Winter Texan family are arriving earlier and leaving later – Thus the greater attendance. Many thanks go to Ken & Barbie and Doug & Alannah who did a wonderful job of hosting the event. Also thanks to everyone for all the delicious side dishes and to those who helped with the set up and clean up.

## ***Summer Projects are Starting!***

The first of our summer projects was to sealcoat the black top roads in the 'old' section of Natures with the same sealcoat that was used on the main road last summer. Once again we had to ask our Natures Family for their patience and understanding while we work to keep Natures looking good, and once again, without exception, everyone has taken the inconvenience in their stride.

The first step was to clean the roads. This meant running a street sweeper which created a dust storm and succeeded in blowing gravel on to all the driveways. What a mess! Fortunately everyone heeded the warning to keep their windows closed, so the dust storm remained outside. The pools, however, needed a really good cleaning!

Next came the sealing of cracks and patching areas where pot holes could be starting. This process took more than two days!

The final step was to apply the sealcoat – and this was when the weather stopped cooperating! Dry, calm days are needed for sealcoating. And this was when the rain that we had been waiting for for the past three

months, came! And so did the Texas wind! Even more frustrating was the fact that each time, before they could start work on any section, they would have to blow the roads clean again, creating more dust!



*Seal Coating the Pull Throughs*

Most people moved their vehicles to the new section of the park so that they could come and go as they pleased. It looked quite strange having cars and trucks parked all over the place. Other people simply hunkered down for the duration.

As we still had a few Winter Texans here who were planning to leave during the road sealing, we had to coordinate all our efforts so that everyone would be able to get out on their scheduled departure date. At times this got a little hairy due to the fact that the weather refused to cooperate and the road sealing people did not always do exactly what they had planned to do on any given day.

Eventually the work was completed, and now the roads look almost new. We do not expect to have to do any further road work for at least a couple of years.

## ***Summer Project Number Two***

When Natures was built the Carriage House was originally designed as a storage area

for extra clubhouse tables and chairs and extra pool loungers and noodles. As Natures grew, so did the need for more storage. The Fun Activities Association needed space to store Christmas decorations as well as decorations used at dances and other functions - so they were given a piece of the Carriage House. Then they needed a space for a chest freezer for ice - so that went into the Carriage House as well. It was getting a little crowded!

With the continued growth of the park there were more tables, chairs and loungers that needed to be stored during the summer so the Carriage House was given a second story with access from the library upstairs. The intention was that the Fun Activities Association could move all their things upstairs leaving the downstairs space for the chairs and tables, etc. In no time at all the upstairs storage was filled with tubs of decorations and many Christmas trees as well as some of the larger items like roasters and coolers from the kitchen. The library also needed a space for overflow books and puzzles taking up the last remaining space upstairs.

Later the Fun Activities Association added a refrigerator and an upright freezer and these needed to go in the original downstairs Carriage House. When the Fun Activities Association requested space for storage shelves for kitchen supplies the only place for these shelves was, once again, the original Carriage House. So as we juggled everything around we realized that the tables, chairs, loungers etc were fighting a losing battle.



*It's a new Storage Area!*

In the war for storage space we have concede defeat and declared the Fun Activities Association the winner of both the original and the upstairs Carriage House, and we are

forfeiting these two storage areas in their entirety to them!

In self defense concrete has been poured on the east side of the workshop and workbench, and a new storage area has been built east of the workshop. It matches the other buildings and blends in so well that we are hopeful that the Fun Activities Association may not realize that there is a new building. In order to preserve the pool furniture from the strong summer sun, the excess chairs, tables and loungers have been stored in the new storage area. Also, the excess clubhouse tables and chairs are being stored in this area making it easier to keep the clubhouse clean and tidy during the summer months. As losers of the storage war, we declare that all this storage space is spoken for and this area will be for the exclusive use of the owners!

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



Oh, the lazy, hazy days of summer! I get to lounge around most of the day and just take things easy. But the folks here continue to have fun.

- We received a note from Bernadette. She says that Al is doing really well, and they would soon be leaving their daughter's home and going to their park in Toronto. They say "Hi" to everyone!
- This happened a while ago but it's still worth mentioning: Craig (Paula) EAGLED the 13th hole at Monte Cristo Golf Club - driver, 5-iron, 30ft putt. Way to go Craig!
- One of the last events of the season was the Boots and Beads dance with Heartland Express band. I've never seen so many boots and only Mardi Gras exceeded the beads!
- We had an Oooops! Someone drove off the edge of their concrete and over the

water lines which broke under the weight of the motor home. I'm glad that I didn't have to get all muddy fixing the broken water pipe!



*It was a muddy mess!*

- Information for the Vipers Basketball fans: The RGV Viper's won the NBA Developmental League Championship in Hidalgo, TX by beating the Santa Cruz, New Mexico Warriors 102-91. This is the second time in 4 years that the Vipers won the Championship.
- Most of our Winter Texas family has left, but we still celebrate their birthdays using them as good excuse for a get-together!
- Mary, Lot 128, had a hip replaced, and is doing extremely well. I was amazed to see her getting around so well and so quickly!
- I wonder if the cement truck gets tired of coming here? Frank & Ruthi, Steve & Jan and Rich & Margie (who bought Chuck & Charlotte's lot) all added a small section of concrete to their lots.
- Last season Big Bill moved into his new house near the gate. Myron & Kathleen will be closing on the house on Lot 51 at the end of June. We welcome them to our Natures Family.
- Rodrique & Suzette also sold their house on Lot 104. Mike & Alice are the new

owners and we are glad that they too are now part of our Natures family.

- The Mesquite tree between Lot 1 and Lot 2 died. Many thanks to Brad for going up in the bucket truck and cutting the tree down.



*Brad in the Bucket Truck.*

- Realizing that the fast growing Mesquite trees have a limited life span, a number of volunteer seedlings have been staked in the common area so that we can grow more trees to replace others that are getting old.
- Art & Terry decided that they needed more space, so they took over the lot next door. They had cement poured and a garage built for their vehicles.



*A New Garage for AT&T.*

- Any excuse is a good reason for a social event – but I think that a dumpster diving party is getting a bit extreme! A group of people gathered at the dumpsters and were tossing trash from



one dumpster into the other ..... and when they had emptied the first dumpster they dived into the second one and started tossing trash back into the first dumpster! Sounds a bit fishy to me – so perhaps there is more to this story!

- When Big Bill arrived back at Natures his truck was loaded to the gills with stuff that looked like junk – but the next day there was a new dinosaur standing in front of Bill's house!



*Are you Moving or Going to the Dump?*



*A Dinosaur is Hatched!*

- Don & Debbie are back! Welcome home! We hope you will be able to stay for a while!
- Steve & Jan have a new house arriving in the next couple of days, and Steve & Tish are also buying a house, but it will only be arriving in October.

That's all from me! It's time to get some sun, and then find a nice shady spot for a purrrfect siesta!



## **Condolences**

It is with great sadness and regret that we inform you that Rosalie C. (Previously Lot 86) passed away. Rosalie will be greatly missed by everyone at Natures. We extend our deepest sympathies to Tom and Rosalie's family.

Sadly we also inform you that Dave P passed away. Dave and Evie were previously in Dan & Laurie's Lot #83 and were great contributors to the early Fun Association by hosting breakfasts at "Dave's Roadkill Café" along with "Dave's Slaves". Dave is remembered for the great Turkey Dumpling Dinners he would make and also for helping Bob (Nancy) and Ken (Janet) with bartending at the first several Beer & Brat Fests. Dave was a friend to all and will be greatly missed. Our sympathies go out to Evie and Dave's family.

## **A New Face at Natures**

When we bought Natures we promised you that the park would always be a place that you could call 'home' and be proud of. Over the years our Natures Family has been an enormous help in keeping Natures looking good by volunteering to water plants, mow grass, trim weeds, maintain the gardens, and do various painting and maintenance jobs.

However, as we expanded, the maintenance projects have increased to the point that even with our wonderful volunteers we needed to have someone full time to do the things that were beginning to slip through the cracks.

We are very fortunate to have found J.J., a local resident who, although not a nudist, accepts us for who we are and is willing to work for us. J.J. is friendly, outgoing and an extremely hard worker, and we are happy to welcome him as a vital part of the team that works hard to keep Natures looking good.

J.J. will not be with us for a number of weeks during the summer as he is having shoulder surgery which will require physical therapy prior to him returning to work. Although he has been with us for only a short time, he will be greatly missed – especially by Big Bill and Misty who will be picking up the slack during his absence.