

# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

## ***It's a New Year!***

This is the time of year when we look back at things that have happened over the past year, and also look forward to what we are hoping the New Year will bring.

On looking back on 2013 the first thought is that we have lost some vital members of our Natures family. Although we are sad that these friends are no longer with us, we are so grateful for the special ways in which they touched and influenced our lives. They are missed, but never forgotten.

During 2013 we were delighted to add to our Natures family. This season almost all the lots are filled, and the number of annual lot holders has increased quite dramatically.

During the spring we sealed the roads in the old section, then refurbished the south facing guest rooms during the summer, and in fall we spruced up the office. 2013 was a busy year, but we have decided that busy is a good thing!

All things considered, last year was a good year for Natures Resort. In March we ended a successful 2012/2013 season, and in October we started what is shaping up to be a fun-filled 2013/2014 season.

As we look back at 2013 we would be remiss if we did not pause to consider the reason that Natures had a good year. The reason is our Natures family! Your desire to make Natures your full time or winter home, your efforts to keep Natures looking good, your desire to coordinate, host or help out where help is needed, your caring ways, your positive attitude and desire to have fun. This has made 2013 a great year! Without our Natures family there would be no Natures! We thank all of you for your input during 2013.

As we grow older the years rush by almost too quickly. 2013 is gone and now 2014 stretches ahead of us. We are anticipating the first three months to be filled to capacity with loads of fun activities and events. Looking further ahead we have some renovations planned for the summer which include rebuilding the showers. We never know what the future is going to hold for us, but our wish for our Natures family is that 2014 will be a peaceful, stress free and healthy one. Happy New Year!

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

The weather has not been kind to us, but we sure are having fun! I've been so busy rushing from one activity to another! And more good news is that almost all of my family are here!



- Another new house came in. Randy & Cindy are the proud owners. Congratulations on your new home! Also congratulations to Ben & Wilma who bought the house on Lot 14.
- The cement truck is still wearing out the gate. Roger & Nicole, who were on Lot #58, poured a new slab on Lot #313 which they are taking as an Annual Site.
- Thanks to Lynne, Lot 53, for organizing another successful craft fair. In addition to our talented crafters, we also had three from Sandpipers. There was a wonderful variety of items for sale which both the Natures and Sandpipers' shoppers enjoyed.
- The Karaoke equipment is being put to good use. We have already had a couple of very

successful karaoke evenings and are discovering more talent at Natures!

- Canada Sue did a fantastic job organizing the spaghetti dinner, but she excelled herself with the Christmas dinner. The organization, table decorations which included a little gift for everyone, and meal were exceptional. Many thanks to Sue and all of her helpers.
- All the Christmas lights looked so pretty. Amy & Hagar organized a competition for the best lights and the awards were as follows:  
Traditional: Ken & Barbie, Lot 238  
Contemporary: Ken & Terry, Lot 232  
Clark Griswold: Mike & Janice, Lot 120  
Charlie Brown: Richard & Linda, Lot 222

*Pretty Christmas Lights*



- Two Dog Bill had a get together to show off his new digs on Lot 207. We are glad that he has a permanent spot here at Natures.
- I love Open Houses and Slab Parties where we can all get together and socialize. Pat & Tom on Lot 309 and Robert & Jannie across the road on Lot 308 combined their house warming and slab party so it almost became a Street Party!
- My Natures Family never ceases to amaze me. They all gathered in the clubhouse to exchange Christmas gifts. The evening was progressing nicely when suddenly people started stealing other people's gifts! And they were laughing about it! It seemed as though everyone was having a wonderful time, but this stealing business is just too much for one little cat to understand!

- Steve was a very professional looking and awesome DJ up on the stage. He gave us a great mix of music to dance to. Thanks Steve! We are going to have more DJ dances, so if you are interested in being the DJ, let one of the Fun Association board members know.



*Steve, the DJ!*

- We had a new event - A box social. Not too many people were willing to go out on a limb and try something different, but even with small numbers it was a HUGE success! Now that we know exactly what it entails, it should attract a much bigger crowd next year - so watch for the announcement and come enjoy a wonderful event next season!



*"Vanna White" showing the boxed dinners during the Auction!*

That's all from me. I wish all of my family a very happy and purrrrrfect New Year!



## ***Christmas is a time for Giving***

As has become tradition at Natures, once again we sponsored 8 families in Monte Alto which included 27 children aged from birth up to 8th grade.

The residents and members of Natures were very generous in purchasing and wrapping gifts for the children and donating food for their families. In addition \$855.76 was donated in cash from individuals, couples, the craft & bake sale, and bird houses made especially as a fund raiser.



*Heading out to Distribute the Gifts*

The cash was used for hams and additional food as well as some gifts for the children. Also each family received an H-E-B gift card.

We are most thankful to everyone who contributed to this very worthwhile cause and special thanks go to all those who coordinated it and helped with the sorting and distribution of the Christmas hampers. Once again WE feel blessed to know that Natures is such a caring family.

## ***Thoughts from my later arrival to Natures.***

Arriving in the early afternoon Sunday after a harrowing 27 hour straight thro drive with millions of miles of black ice and miserable roads, I was amazed at the 'new to

me' Natures Resort. Even though Misty had kept me appraised of the various new cement additions and new homes moved in, it was still outstanding and impressive.

I have not yet had the opportunity to meet all of the new folks, but that will come as time passes. Several of the 'old timers' have gone north (Is there any other direction from Natures?) for the holiday season so they have been missed as well.

Taking an evening tour to see all the Christmas light displays was impressive. All the decorations make Natures look like a classy area and not some 'down at the heels' campground in the forest. Perhaps even more impressive is that when all the decorations have been removed Natures will still be 'classy', due to the efforts that our Family makes to keep their lots in tip-top shape.

Yes, we do have one 'ratty appearing area' with the brush pile row because the recycle area is closed, but Misty and Richard are working on finding an alternative way to get rid of the brush so we can once again have a pretty resort.

It seems rather odd that so much is as I remembered and again so much has been added/changed/improved from last May till the present time. Some minor things are added or improved upon and others are more major changes that may not be as evident to the casual observer or those first timers to Natures. It will take more than a day or two for me to absorb as much as I am able.

Overall all the changes thus far observed have been positive and have been an upgrade from the status quo of days past. Many thanks to each and every one for all the improvements made. You folks are constantly improving this or that and suggesting other things that could be upgraded. Once again we are grateful for all the help.

Little Bill

## January Special Events:

- 1st** Brunch 10:00 a.m. Clubhouse
- 4th** Dr. Lin - Dermatologist 10:00 a.m.  
Dr. Gessner - Chiropractor 11:30 p.m.  
Clubhouse
- 4th** Dance 7:00 p.m. Renaissance Rockers
- 6th** Blood Drive - Please sign-up to donate  
life saving blood.
- 11th** Craft & Stuff Sale at Sandpipers 8:30  
a.m. - 10:30 a.m. There is no charge to  
go to the craft sale, but PLEASE CAR  
POOL AS PARKING IS LIMITED. If  
you wish to remain after the sale and use  
the facilities there will be a \$30.00  
charge.
- 12th** Birthday and Anniversary celebration  
6:30 p.m. in the clubhouse. Join us for  
cake and ice cream
- 13th** Welcome Home Fiesta Dance. 7:00  
p.m. Music by Ruthi
- 18th** Fun Association Members' Meeting.  
9:00 a.m. Clubhouse. If you are staying  
at Natures you are a member, and we  
encourage you to attend this meeting.  
Complimentary coffee and donut.
- 20th** Vipers Game See Ken, Lot 56, before  
January 15th to book tickets
- 23rd** Healthy Living - Healthier Eating 4 pm
- 23rd** Pot Luck following Healthy Living
- 27th** Dance 7:00 p.m.

## Weekly Activities:

Always check the Bulletin Board and  
Impromptu boards for any changes.

**Aerobics:** 8:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday,  
Thursday, Friday. Clubhouse

**Bible Study:** 10 a.m. Monday  
Card Room

**Bicycle Ride:** 9 a.m. Thursday  
Meet outside the clubhouse. See  
Bulletin Board for details.

**Bingo:** Clubhouse Friday  
6:15 p.m. - 6:45 p.m. Sales  
7:00 p.m. Bingo starts

**Breakfast:**  
8:00 a.m. 1st, 2nd and 4th Saturday  
7:45 a.m. Every other Wednesday  
Clubhouse

**Campfire:** 5:00 p.m. Friday  
Fire Pit Bring a drink and the makings  
for cooking hot dogs on the fire

**Cards:** 7:00 p.m. Every night.

**Darts:** 7:00 p.m. Saturday  
Billiard Room

**Dominoes:** 6:45 p.m. Thursday  
Card Room

**Euchre:** 7:00 p.m. Tuesday  
Card Room

**Line/Country Dancing:** Wednesday  
Clubhouse  
7:00 p.m. Line Dancing  
7:45 p.m. Partner & Group Dances  
8:15 p.m. Couples Two-Step Lessons  
8:45 p.m. Couples Country Waltz  
9:15 - 10 p.m. Music by Request

**Men's Breakfast:** 8:00 p.m. Every other  
Tuesday

**Petanque:** 2:00 p.m. Every day.

**Social Hour:** - 4 p.m. Wednesday Sandy's  
Bring your own refreshments.

**Water Aerobics:** 10:00 a.m. Monday,  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday  
Main Pool

**Water Volley Ball:** 2:00 p.m. Every day  
Volley Ball Pool