

NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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It Might Be Quiet -- But not for Long!

It's that time of year again when our Winter Texan family close up their houses, pack things away in their sheds, and ready their cars and campers for the trip to their summer homes up north. One by one we give them a hug and one by one they leave us. Saying goodbye is never easy, but we are heartened by the hope that they will all be back next season!

With only our full time residents left the park is so quiet it is almost deafening! Connie goes round and round the park looking for puppies to feed. The few that are left think it is pretty cool, as they get double and triple rounds of treats!

This quiet is not going to last though as every summer we have plans to improve the resort and make it a better place for our Natures Family. Soon there will be workmen around the park working on various projects.

A couple of years ago a new sport was introduced to Natures: Pickle Ball. The space between the two shuffleboard courts was filled in with the same material used for the courts, so that the shuffleboard courts could also be used for pickle ball. Although this worked, it was far from ideal. The new material between the two courts has far less bounce than the shuffleboard courts, which meant that when the ball hit that area it just died!

Our pickle ball players have been amazing the way they have made the best of what has not been a good situation, always patient and never complaining, in spite of what must have been very frustrating for them. We are delighted to be able to put them out of their misery, and our first project for this summer was to pour a cement slab to be used for pickle ball.



A New Pickle Ball Court being Poured!

One of the difficulties for a project like this is the need to be extremely careful where we allow the cement trucks to drive as we do not want them to fall into or wreck any of our septic systems. However, with careful planning, the trucks were able to get right up to where they were needed, and no cement had to be transported in wheel barrows.

The final step was to trim a tree so that the branches would not be in the way - and now everything is ready for when our pickle ball players return in the fall.

The next project is a big one. All the showers need to be torn down and rebuilt



Tearing Down the Walls of the Outside Shower

We will have more details and photos of this project in the next Natures Tales.

We are looking forward to having both of these projects completed so that we can move on to the last of our summer projects. We will also tell you more about this in our next Natures Tales.

Tidbits from Speckles, Natures' Proud Cat!

Most of my Winter Texan family has left so I thought that I would be able to just laze around in the beautiful summer sun, but there are still things going on in the park that I need to report on. I get no rest with all these active people!



- Our last dance of the season was a great success. George and the Texas Outlaws provided the music, and we all had a great time.



Julia with George & the Texas Outlaws

- Where does all the stuff come from? At the beginning of the season we had a huge garage sale, then we had another one just before people started leaving and there were mountains of stuff! The total for the two days was \$973.27, with

a large portion of this amount collected the first day from sales within the park!

Thanks to all of our many volunteers who donated items, helped to set up, sort, price, pack up, move all of those treasures and make the garage sale such a success. All money raised from this event will be used for more fun activities next season.



Another Successful Garage Sale!

- Hagar, Amy and Rainy faithfully made breakfast every Saturday morning until almost the end of April when it became too hot to cook. Thanks guys! Your volunteering spirit is greatly appreciated by all those who enjoyed eating your breakfasts.
- Dave (Lot 63) and Pam (Lot 61) have both put a lot of work into our orchard, and all their efforts certainly made the peach tree happy. They covered the tree with a net and successfully kept the birds out, and, although the bunnies managed to get in and attack some of the low hanging fruit, there were still enough peaches to give one to each of the sixty people who attended the Easter Dinner. As the remaining peaches ripened, they were shared around the park so that everyone could taste the fruit off the tree. Although cats don't

like peaches, I was told they are really sweet and juicy.



One little Peach Tree - So Many Peaches!

- Have you seen the three Agave (Century) plants on Tom & Sharon's lot? They each sent up a HUGE stem. Up and up they went until they were about 28 feet tall. The sad part is that after they flower the whole plant dies. I hope Tom & Sharon will plant more Agaves.

*Agave
Cactus
Getting
Ready
To
Bloom*



*Our Beautiful
Desert Rose*

- Many of my Winter Texan family only see the Desert Rose during the winter when it is not much more than bare stalks. But in the summer it is beautiful. I wish you could see it!

- Big Bill is at it again! Dean told him that he would ride anything that Big Bill could build, so he created 'a bicycle made for two' – with a difference! I wish you could see it.
- For the past three years a pair of Killdeers has made a nest and successfully raised their family here at Natures. Once again they and another pair are back and have chosen their nest sites, one of which has been marked with a flag to keep it safe as it is in a rather high traffic area. I promise that I won't hurt those cute little babies when they run around.
- We had a wonderful Easter Dinner! Terry cooked all the ham which was delicious, and Barb did a great job with decorations plus little goodie bags for all. Everyone brought a side dish, providing such an abundance of food that there was enough for an impromptu supper at 6 p.m. Thanks to Terry & Ken and Barbie & Ken for the great job they did coordinating this event.
- Everyone gathered in the clubhouse to celebrate Mother's Day with Cake and Ice Cream. Thanks go to Ellis & Barb for hosting the event.
- The cement truck was back! Besides the pickle ball court, Bernie, Lot 32 had a cement pad poured, and Hector, Lot 20, added to his pad. Also, the new dog run had a cement strip poured along the fence line, which is going to make maintenance of the fence area almost zero. Perhaps we should make the cement truck an honorary member of Natures!
- I should have realized he was up to something when Little Bill started feeding me all kinds of yummy kitty treats. Suddenly he grabbed me and stuffed me into that horrible cage to take me to the doctor for my annual checkup.

I don't like that cat carrier, and showed him by scratching him! Anyway, Doc says I'm all healthy and my shots are up to date!

That's all from me. I hope that everyone is having a purrrfect summer!



Our Sincere Condolences

It is with deep regret that we inform you that Hagar passed away after a long and courageous battle with pulmonary fibrosis. He was a strong man who fought a tough battle. May he now rest in peace. He will be missed by his Natures Resort family and by all who knew him. Our deepest condolences go out to Amy and Hagar's family and our prayers and thoughts go with them, as well.

Our Volunteers are at it Again!

The owners were approached with a request: "May we build a new dog run - something more substantial than the current run?" The owners gave the project their blessing plus added funds sufficient to purchase a good, basic fence plus the pieces and parts to bring water and electric to the dog run. Then it was up to the volunteers to accomplish the task.

Steve & Paula, Lot 71, designed the new dog run and organized the purchase of supplies. Through some very generous donations to the project the fence was upgraded, and some additional features like the pergola and benches were added.

About six faithful volunteers put in many hours of backbreaking work. First a two foot wide trench had to be shoveled out for the concrete strip that would go under the fence. Then there were many more hours required to get the fence installed prior to the cement being poured.

Pouring the cement under the fence was quite a trip! Besides keeping the cement off the fence posts, the bottom of the fence is very close to the concrete, so it was a challenge to smooth the surface. However, it is now 'a job well done'!



In Goes the Cement!

Next the entire area inside the run was rotor tilled and then leveled so that it could be hydro-seeded with a grass that will do well here. The hoped for result is that there will be no sand burrs in the new dog run.



The Puppy Palace is Complete!

Although the dog run is complete (except for some small additions that will be done in the fall), it is not yet ready to be used because the new grass needs to be given time to get itself established. It is hoped that it will be ready by the end of June.

Many thanks to Steve & Paula and everyone who has donated time, energy and funds to this project. It is going to be a fabulous area for all of our furry friends.