

NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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It's a New Year!

It's a New Year, and as incredible as it may seem, this means that we are half way through our 2014-2015 season which is rushing by like an unstoppable freight train!

The first half of the season has been jam-packed with many activities and special functions all organized by the Fun Association Board and the many, many volunteers, all of whom make the fun things possible!

As we start the second half of the season we can look forward to more amazing activities, including Fun in the Sun, to which even more events have been added. Apparently the word is out that if you want to have a fun time, come to Natures Resort! Other than a couple of short availabilities at the beginning of January and again at the end of March, all the RV lots are booked. In the past when we have had people arrive without a reservation we have been able to find a corner somewhere for them. If anyone does that this season we will have a problem as every nook and cranny is booked and the art of stacking RV's one of top of the other has not yet been perfected!

Word-of-mouth advertising and the warm, friendly and welcoming atmosphere created by you, our Natures Family, is the reason for Natures becoming such a popular place. When new folks arrive you immediately absorbed them into our family and then they want to stay longer or come back again the following season. We extend our thanks to all of you for making Natures the resort that people choose to visit.

Looking Back on 2014

The past year has been an extremely busy one, but also a very good one for Natures. We accomplished much, adding a pickle ball court, a separate Dart Room and a Pool Hall to our amenities. We also rebuilt the showers and bathrooms.

During 2014 our Natures family continued to expand and many new cement slabs were poured and others were enlarged. More people gave up their RVs in favor of a mobile, and some of those who already had mobiles expanded their houses by adding Texas rooms, craft rooms, decks and carports. These are all signs that our family members are putting down roots and settling in for the long haul!

In 2014 new activities were also added to the extensive list already in place. We had our first block party which was a blast and will be back by popular demand. In addition to morning exercise, there are now yoga classes, bridge and other card games. Pickle ball and darts, which were started the previous year, really took off and have become very popular.

As we look back on 2014 we are grateful for our Natures family and the support they have given us. Looking forward to 2015 we wish all of our Natures family good health, contentment, new friendships and untold opportunities to make happy memories. Happy New Year!

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

Thank goodness the holidays are over! I've eaten so much that my fur is stretched to the limit. I'll be joining all of those who are going on a diet starting on January 1st.



- Once again Natures has reached out in the Christmas spirit to families who needed some assistance. We sponsored 7 families with a total of 30 children making sure that every child received Christmas gifts and the families received food and toiletries. The boxes of gifts and food were quite astounding. Thank you so much for your generosity in helping these families, and thanks to the committee who spearheaded this operation.
- The group of volunteers who decorated the clubhouse for Christmas did a wonderful job. All the trees, lights and garlands gave it such a festive feeling. Now it is sad that the decorations have to come down again. Thanks to all the wonderful volunteers who helped with this project.
- There isn't a good time to run out of gas - but some times are worse than others. Like when our WiFi guy was working on the roof, and the bucket truck ran out of fuel. The north wind had come up, he was cold, and he had no way to get down! Fortunately Steve (Lot 71), Pete (Lot 228) and Don (Lot 18), came to the rescue and got the big ladder for him! We always need to take care of our WiFi guy!
- First there was a feeling of excited anticipation as Ron & Lynn, Lot 53, and Jay & Lee, Lot 305, arranged to add craft rooms to their homes. Then the excitement dwindled, the anticipation evaporated and frustration set in as they experienced the 'tomorrow' syndrome of Mexico which seeps across the border into South Texas. Although the jobs are being done well, everything is taking far longer than expected. Perhaps they will be able to enjoy their new rooms by January!
- So many people came out for the Celebration of Life for Connie. It was good to be able to share our feelings and show our support to Richard and his family. I miss Connie so much!
- John & Ronda's new house was delivered right before Christmas. Congratulations, and welcome to our Natures family.
- Helene & Luc, Lot 14 had an open house. It was a chilly day, but everyone still had fun!
- I have enjoyed walking around the park at night looking at all the Christmas lights. We have a few aspiring Griswolds who have gone all out, and have managed to light up half the park!
- Ruthi and Frank provided the music for the Welcome Home dance which was hosted by Pete & Becky. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this a fun and successful event.
- At last! Natures Resort has their very own T-shirts! We are grateful to everyone who played a part in designing, finding a vendor, taking orders, ordering and distributing the shirts.

- Christmas Dinner was a feast! We had roast beef and ham, together with a huge variety of salads, side dishes, and desserts. Dave & Sue and their helpers did a fantastic job of organizing the dinner, and everyone had a great time.
- The people at Natures are crazy! Everyone got together for a Christmas Gift Exchange. All the packages looked so pretty on the table, and one by one people came up to choose a gift. And then it got crazy. People were stealing other people's packages and everyone was laughing about it. I thought our retired police officers might restore order, but they were just as bad as everyone else. Sometimes I just don't understand my human family!
- There was ham and beef left after the Christmas dinner, so the following Monday Sue, Rainy and Fabienne served ham or beef sandwiches together with onion soup and dessert as a fund raiser for the Fun Association. Great job guys! Thanks!
- The pickleball players put in a fence at each end of the court. Great idea! Now they don't have to run so far for balls hit out of the court!

That's all from me! I wish all of my Natures Family a purrrrrfect New Year!



The history of the Levee (Moose Milk)

In the 18th century the levée in Great Britain and Ireland became a formal court reception given by the sovereign or his/her representative in the early afternoon. In the

New World colonies the levée was held by the governor acting on behalf of the monarch.

It was in Canada that the levée became associated with New Year's Day. The fur traders had the tradition of paying their respects to their government representative on New Year's Day. This custom was adopted by the governor general and lieutenant governors for their levées.

Over the years the levée has become almost solely a Canadian observance. Levées are the receptions (usually, but not necessarily, on New Year's Day) held by the governor general, the lieutenant governors of the provinces, the military and others, to mark the start of another year and to provide an opportunity for the public to pay their respects. Most levées may be attended by any citizen, including children. Attending the lieutenant governor's levée is an annual ritual for some families.

Today the levée has evolved from the earlier, more boisterous party into a more sedate and informal one. It is an occasion to exchange New Year's greetings and best wishes for the new year, to renew old acquaintances and to meet new friends. It is also an opportunity to reflect upon the events of the past year and to welcome the opportunities of the New Year.

Steve & Julie will be hosting Natures Resort's 2nd annual Levee on January 1st at 12 noon. Come join the fun!

January Special Events

- 1st:** New Year's Day Brunch 10:00 a.m. Bring a dish to share.
- 1st:** Levée (Moose Milk) 12 noon
- 5th:** Blood Drive. The Blood Mobile will be

at Natures from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please sign up to be a part of this life giving drive.

6:45 p.m. Signups end
7:00 p.m. Bingo starts

10th: Dance with Gatos Locas 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Hosts: Mel & Randy

12th: Belly Dance Lesson 6 p.m. Nicole will show us how to belly dance. This 'first time ever' event promises to be great fun!

14th: Dance with Lynn Dvorak 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Hosts: Barry & Peggy

15th: Tacos 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Hosted by Rainy and Terry. Please sign up!

17th: Fun Association Members' Meeting. If you are staying at Natures, you are a member and are encouraged to come to this meeting. Complimentary coffee and donut.

24th: Dr Lin (dermatologist) 10 a.m. Dr. Lin will give a talk on prevention and treatment of skin cancer. After the talk he will also look at any 'spots' on your skin that you might be concerned about.

24th: Dance with Renaissance Rockers 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Hosts: Sylvain & Sylvie

30th: RGV Vipers Basket ball game. Bus trip & Dinner. Purchase tickets from Ken, Lot #56.

Weekly Activities

Aerobics/Exercise: 8:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

Bible Study: 10:00 a.m. Monday

Bicycle Ride: 9:00 a.m. Thursday. See bulletin board for details of each ride.

Bingo: Friday 6:15 p.m. Signups

Campfire: 5:00 p.m. Friday

Bridge: 12:00 noon Monday

Darts: 7:00 p.m. Saturday

Euchre: 7:00 p.m. Thursday

Hand & Foot: 1:00 p.m. Thursday

Happy Hour: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday at Sandy's

Line & Country Dance Lessons: Tuesday
6:30 p.m. Beginners
7:00 p.m. Intermediate
7:45 p.m. Partner Dances
8:15 p.m. Country Western Couples

Men 's Breakfast out: 8:00 a.m. Tuesday
Meet outside the clubhouse

Mexican Train: 7:00 p.m. Wednesday

Petanque: 2:00 p.m. Every day

Pickle Ball: 9:00 a.m. Sunday thru Friday

Poker: 6:30 p.m. Monday

Shanghai Rummy: 1:00 p.m. Wednesday

Texas Hold'em:
10:00 a.m. Saturday
7:30 p.m. Every Day

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

Water Volleyball: 2:00 p.m. Every day

Wii NUDE Bowling: 3:45 p.m. Tuesday

Yoga: 8:30 a.m. Wednesday Beginners
9:30 a.m. Thursday Intermediate
7:00 a.m. Monday Advanced