

NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

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What do nudists do when it is cold and miserable outside? Dress up and have a Ladies Tea Party!

We have special people at Natures!

Many times we are complimented on the amazing amount of diversified activities we have here at Natures. This is true. We have Petanque, Shuffleboard, Horseshoes, Pickle Ball, Water Volleyball and Water Aerobics. There is an exercise room for the energetic, or the less energetic can sun themselves in a lounge, relax in the hot tub or sit on a noodle in the pool. Indoors we have Yoga, Morning Exercise, Cards of various types, Dominoes, Darts, Billiards, Bible Study, Bingo, Country Dance Lessons, Belly Dance Lessons and Crafting. We also have special events: Dances, Pot Lucks, Suppers, Breakfasts, Friday Night Campfire, Karaoke and Open Mike Nights, Talent Show, Super Bowl, NASCAR and Block Parties, as well as Big Screen TV concerts and Movie Nights.

In addition to all this we have "Fun in the Sun" in February which is two weeks of consolidated, concentrated competitions, fun and food!

There are also activities that take place outside the park: Bicycle rides, motorbike

rides, Men's Breakfast Out, Ladies Day out, Basketball Outing, Fishing, and Golf. Inside the park we have Blood Drives, Blood Draws, recycling and outreach programs, and from time to time we also have safe driving and CPR classes. We have had various speakers come to Natures to talk to us about their fields of expertise in dermatology, nutrition and citrus greening.



Cheerfully Giving Blood at a Blood Drive

How is it possible to have all these activities without an paid Activities Manager? It is possible because we have special people at Natures!

Each activity needs a host or coordinator and most also need helpers - some need many helpers. If you add up all the activities, and then include all the helpers it becomes obvious that it takes many, many people to organize and run such a varied selection of things to do and enjoy. And ALL these people are volunteers!

If you think that's amazing, think about this. We have MORE volunteers who do "behind the scenes" things like keeping all the books in our library shelved, taking food to those who are sick, helping out in the gardens and orchard, taking care of the dog run, walking dogs when their owners are incapacitated, picking up Winter Texan Times and Rio Grande Valley maps, cleaning the edge of the pool, organizing the kitchen, and making runs to the recycle center. We have also had people who quietly paid for or supplied equipment that would enhance the activities or be helpful to members of Natures.

It takes the whole family to make a household run smoothly, and that's what we have here - The wonderful Natures family.

Why do we have so much fun at Natures? Because we have such special people who keep the volunteering spirit of this park alive and well. A very big THANK YOU to all our volunteers. You are greatly appreciated!

Tidbits from Speckles, Natures Proud Cat!

Busy, busy, busy! That's what I am. There are so many things going on that I have spent the last month rushing around trying to keep up with everything!



- The Blood Mobile came back and once again Natures has had a successful blood drive! Twenty four people registered to donate, and 19 eligible donors gave 20 units of life saving blood. (one was a double red cell) The next blood drive will be on March 2nd.

- New car ports are going up almost overnight! Barry & Pat, Lot 48, and Randy & Cindy, Lot 9, each got one. David, Lot 57 is having his screen porch turned into an enclosed room.
- Denis & Francine, Lot 220, put up a huge 'taj mahal' on their lot to protect their rig from the strong Texas sun. They have also converted the Christmas Stop sign to a Mexican Stop sign! I wonder what's next?
- Jack & Jane, Lot 209, have an amazing collection of tin soldiers which they set up each Christmas. If you didn't get to see them this past holiday season, make a note to check them out next season when they will be set up again.



This is just a small section of the Tin Soldier display

- Did you see the big noodle bumper on Misty's golf cart? Apparently I was not the only one who saw her drive THROUGH one of the PVC pipes in front of the office. For those who don't know, PVC pipe doesn't bend. It shatters into many pieces with a loud popping noise, alerting everyone to the fact that it has been broken. Some observer was kind enough to install a nice bumper for her! Perhaps Misty needs to sign up for Golf Cart Driving School!
- Derrel, Lot 41, has added cement to his lot, and has also built himself a nice set of steps. Looking good Derrel!

- Steve, Lot 71, Alice, Lot 39, provided a beautiful snack table, shelves, chair rails and iPod stands for the Dart Room. In appreciation a large engraved plaque has been inlaid into the table, thanking them for their generous contribution.



Thank You Steve & Alice

- January has been a dancing month. Besides New Year's Eve, we have had four bands, giving us a mixture of Rock 'n Roll and Country. Good music and good friends What more can we ask for? Many thanks to those who hosted these fun evenings.
- Dr. Lin came to Natures and gave a talk on skin cancer and melanomas which was very informative. After the talk he and some of his associates did a screening and a number of people were told that they had 'spots' that needed to be frozen. A few people were told that they had something that 'needed to be taken care of immediately'. Many thanks to Bruce for setting this up, and potentially saving some people's lives.
- The sun came out after some gloomy days and suddenly there were people everywhere!

- Mark & Janice, Lot 118, have completed the flagstone patio they were building. When you're out walking stop by to see it.
- We have all been doing a lot of eating! Many thanks to everyone who helped with all of the Saturday breakfasts, the Soup Supper, Taco Supper, Baked Potato Supper and the noon Tasters. In all cases the food was delicious and we can't wait to find out what special food events we will have in February! Profit from these events go to the Fun Association so that we can have more fun!
- The newest activity at Natures: Belly Dancing lessons! Besides being fun, it is incredibly good exercise. Many thanks to Nicole, Lot 313, for teaching us.

That's all from me. Let's all do some positive thinking for purrrrrfect weather!



Dog Run Dedication

Volunteers put in many hours, days and weeks of hard work in extremely hot weather to create a new dog run. The basic design was improved, enhanced and upgraded with generous funding from Natures' dog lovers. The end result is a beautiful park for the dogs.

Although the puppies have been enjoying the doggie park since the beginning of the season it was only in January that we had its official opening. Connie, who loved every dog at Natures, was honored with the placement of her photo at the entrance of the park so that she would be able to see all her puppies as they came to play.

A plaque was presented to Steve & Paula, Lot 71, thanking them for their generosity and hard work in the creation of the dog park which will officially be known as the Pawsmahal

February Special Events

- 1st:** 4:00 p.m. Super Bowl Party.
- 2nd:** 7:00 p.m. Dance with Tony Perez Band
- 7th:** 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Clubhouse.
Sign up required
- 9th:** 7:00 p.m. The Mario Rosales Show
- 11th:** Street Luau Party & Dance (to be confirmed based on the weather).
- 12th - 22nd:** Fun in the Sun
See schedule below
- 14th:** 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Clubhouse.
Sign up required
- 14th:** 7:00 p.m. Valentine's Dance
- 17th:** 7:00 p.m. Mardi Gras Dance
- 21st:** 9:00 a.m. Fun Association Members Meeting. If you are at Natures you are a member and are encouraged to come to this meeting. Elections for two new board members will be held at this meeting. Let your vote be counted! Complimentary coffee and Donut
- 23rd:** 7:00 p.m. Goodbye Ball with Ruthi
- 28th:** 8:00 a.m. Breakfast in the Clubhouse.
Sign up required

Fun in the Sun Schedule

- 12 Feb Petanque/Dominoes
13 Feb Petanque
14 Feb Pickle Ball
15 Feb Volleyball/Cribbage
16 Feb Golf/Billardards
17 Feb Horse shoes/Wii Bowling/Euchre
18 Feb Shuffleboard/Noodle Races/Mexican Train
19 Feb Cornhole/Mexican Train
20 Feb Ladder Golf/Raft Races/BINGO FITS
21 Feb Texas Hold'em/Darts
22 Feb Golf cart Races/Awards and Hot Dogs

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.
- Belly Dancing Lessons:** Monday 6:00 p.m.
- Bingo:** Friday 6:15 p.m. Signups
6:45 p.m. Signups end
7:00 p.m. Bingo starts
- Billiards:** 1:00 p.m. Saturday
- Bridge:** 12:00 noon Monday
- *Campfire:** 5:00 p.m. Friday
- Crafting:** 1:00 p.m. Friday Dart Room
- 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
- 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

* *Weather Permitting*