



NATURES TALES

www.naturesresorttexas.com
naturesresort@gmail.com
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10201 Monte Cristo Road
Edcouch, TX 78538
956-262-4014

LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

The Storm of May 12, 2015

The weather experts told us to expect heavy rain which could cause flooding and wind. They were right on both counts. The rain came down in torrents, dumping three and a half inches of water during the night. Lightning flashed, thunder crashed and the wind howled, buffeting houses and campers.

But then it happened. Suddenly there was rotation in the wind, and we suspect that a funnel started to form but did not touch the ground. However, it was strong enough to cause severe damage. Fortunately it not cause the devastation of a fully formed tornado. Although the storm raged for a number of hours, the damage happened in a matter of minutes. The 4 x 4's on the front fence were snapped like toothpicks. The wind picked up almost the entire fence, shook it around like rag in an angry dog's mouth, twisted it and broke it into pieces that flew all over the park. Some pieces landed way west of us, in line with our south boundary!

Venturing out after this sudden attack, we were amazed at the damage. Sections of bent and twisted fence, chunks of 4 x 4 fence posts and shattered 2 x 4's were scattered everywhere. Many houses were damaged by the flying debris. Windows broken, holes in roofs, holes in walls, and skirting ripped off. The side fences were mostly still there, but entire pieces of tin were missing or broken, and large sections of the fence were either flat on the ground or severely leaning. Almost every tree was damaged with large limbs either hanging down or snapped completely off and

five big trees were ripped out of the ground. Natures was a sad, sad mess.



Our Front Fence is GONE!



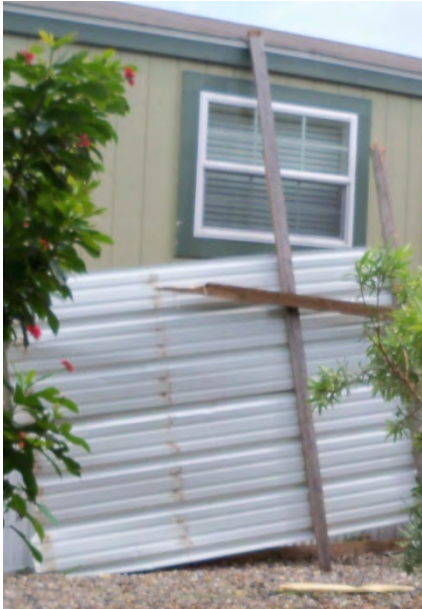
Broken Limbs and Damaged Fences

BUT, in spite of all the damage, we are so very thankful. NO ONE was hurt. The potential for personal injury is frightening so we truly give thanks that there was not even a scratch on anyone.



Pieces of Fence Scattered Everywhere

After the storm one of our residents told us that she knew, in spite of the raging wind, that we were being protected. Out of her window she could see a large cross that had not been there before.



We were protected

Once we had taken stock of the situation it was time to call the insurance company, get quotes for a new fence, fence

repair and tree removal. People who were not here also needed to be notified of damage to

their homes, and this was handled almost in its entirety by neighbors and friends. Once these things were done, only then could we start the clean-up process.

Twin Cable's tower was struck by lightning during the storm, so we were without Wifi, yet somehow word got out that clean-up had started, and volunteers showed up in great numbers. They dismantled chunks of fence, dragged the fence metal to a designated area, sorted usable pieces from pieces to be scrapped, gathered the splintered and broken pieces of fence posts and 2x4's, dragged broken tree limbs into neat piles and swept up the streets that were littered with gravel, leaves, twigs and mulch.



Through all of this we are reminded once again of what wonderful people we have here at Natures. When there is a need people

jump in and help without being asked. The storm wrecked the fence, damaged a number of houses, uprooted trees, and broke many big branches. However, it did not wreck, damage, uproot or break the incredible caring and volunteering spirit that is present at Natures.

We thank our Natures family for all their help, support, caring and encouragement. Houses can be fixed, fences re-built and trees replanted, but our family is irreplaceable. You are what is important and what we truly care about. We are so grateful that our family is safe and unharmed.



Everything Goes Faster when Richard is Supervising!

The fence is in the process of being put back together. Instead of wood 4 x 4's on the front fence, we are using steel 4 x 4's which we hope will be better able to withstand extra strong winds. As added insurance the posts are being filled with concrete using a nifty funnel that Denny created for the job!



Another Tree toppled by the Storm

The contractor we hired to cut up the uprooted trees, and cut out the damaged limbs in other trees has completed that part of our storm damage clean up.



Using Denny's Funnel to fill the Post with Cement

We cannot wait for the fence to be completed so that we can have our privacy again!



The Fence Progresses

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

We had a very scary storm with so much rain, thunder, lightning and strong winds. I just ran and hit away, so I can't tell you anything about it except that I was very scared and I hope we never have another storm like that ever again! I'll tell you about the happier things that have been going on in the park!



- We were all sad because that nasty old storm took down some of our nice trees, but Jack & Jane made us all feel better when they bought a beautiful tree to replace the one we lost on PT #1. Thank you for a beautiful gift!
- The storm also blew down Don & Deb's palm tree. They decided their lot was not the best place for it and donated it to replace the sad looking little palm along the driveway that seemed to be in the process of dying. Thanks to Deb & Don and all those who helped to move it.
- Denny & Dean spent DAYS in the hot sun drilling holes through the steel posts to help speed up the process of getting the front fence re-built. All their work probably cut 5 days off the time to get the front closed up! Thanks guys!
- On a much happier note, way before the storm, Dennis and Francine didn't let us down! Once again they decorated the stop sign in front of their lot, this time with an Easter theme.
- John & Delores did a wonderful job organizing and hosting Easter Dinner. Many thanks to them and all their

helpers from making it an enjoyable time for everyone

- Did you know that the first Saturday in May is "World Nude Gardening Day"? I didn't know until Ken asked if we had any gardening that he could do on Nude Gardening Day! Thanks Ken for cleaning out the weeds under the trees in the orchard.
- We had the biggest turnout in Natures' history for our Church's Chicken Memorial Day picnic, partly because of bad weather up north delaying people's departure, and partly because a number of people came back to check on their homes after that big, nasty storm. Many thanks to Barbie & Alannah and all their helpers for hosting, organizing, and doing the clean up. Everyone had a great time, and many cooled off in the pool afterwards.
- The birds and rabbits at Natures were not happy. Richard built a framework to put over the peach tree, then covered it with netting so all the peaches were out of their reach. Peggy had to crawl under the netting to pick the peaches for us! Not an easy task!
- It's different - and so nice! Tom and Kathy ordered a cabana which was recently delivered. Watching it being maneuvered into place with something that looked like an oversize Segway supplied us with our entertainment for the day!

That's all from me! Now I'm off to find a nice vantage point where I can sun myself and watch everything going on in the park. It's nice to see everything returning to normal after that nasty storm. Let pray for purrrrrfect weather!

