



# NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

## Summer Projects

Every summer we have a list of projects that we tackle while there are the fewest number of people in the park in an effort to inconvenience the least amount of people. Unfortunately this does mean that it is the same folks who are inconvenienced year after year! We thank our residents for their patience and understanding over the years.

Although this year's projects do not have the "Wow" affect that previous projects have had, they are nevertheless just as important as we strive to keep Natures looking good.

### 1. Guest Room Deck:

The first project was to check the structural integrity of the guest room balcony, and to replace the old deck.



*Our New Deck matches the Clubhouse.*

After Richard researched the various materials that we could use, it was decided to use composite boards that should not have to

be replaced for many, many years. The noise and mess was kept to a minimum, and it did not take long to get the new deck constructed. The boards match the green trim of the building, so it blends in well and looks great.

After the deck was completed, Denny worked on covering the underside of the deck again. Instead of using soffit material which was used previously, he used siding so that when it rains we should have a dryer area under the deck. Many thanks Denny for all the hard work and the great job you did!

### 2. Repairing Roads and Sealing the Main Driveway

Trying to inconvenience people as little as possible, damaged areas in the roads were patched, and the main driveway was again sealed with a strong rubber sealer which should keep this heavily used road in good repair for the next few years.



*Sealing the Driveway*

Maintaining our roads is an ongoing process. It is one of those unglamorous projects that go completely unnoticed unless you are here to witness the work. However, if

it was not done and the roads fell into disrepair, people would certainly notice potholes and Natures would lose its tidy, well cared for look!

### **3. Cementing the Entrance**

Over the years we have patched and repaired the entrance road from Monte Cristo to the gate, but with the huge amount of traffic especially all the heavy vehicles, the blacktop was just not holding up. It was decided that this area should be cemented. Because of the high volume of traffic going in and out of the gate, months ahead of time this project was scheduled to be done in May when there would be fewer people in the park.

Unfortunately, May was also the time when Mother Nature threw us a curve ball, and our carefully scheduled project now clashed with the urgent unscheduled project of getting the fence rebuilt after the Storm of May 12th. Because the cement contractor had other commitments, we had no option but to continue on as planned. Having both of these projects going on at the same time was quite a challenge, but with Richard overseeing both of them it all went amazingly well. Thank you Richard!



*Keeping the Driveway open!*

With the exception of two 15 minute periods, there was access in and out of the park at all times, although it was reduced to one lane of traffic. To those who were inconvenienced

by the two 15 minute closures, we apologize and thank you for your kind understanding and gracious acceptance of the situation.



*Navigating through Driveway Construction*

### **4. Refurbishing the North Guest Rooms**

Two years ago we refurbished the South Guest Rooms, and this summer it was time to do the same to the North Guest Rooms.

The tile ceiling was replaced with a sheet rock ceiling with additional insulation. While we were making a mess with sheetrock it seemed the right time to also do the Library ceiling! Better lighting was added to the bedrooms and bathrooms and the walls were given a fresh coat of paint.



*A New Ceiling in the Library*

The final touch was new carpets in the bedrooms and new vinyl flooring in the bathrooms plus new dining chairs in the bedrooms.

Although this will not benefit the majority of people in the park, we feel sure that our guest room guests will appreciate the improvements.



*New Carpets in the Bedrooms*

### **Condolences**

It is with deep regret that we inform you that Bob (Vicki) of Lot#68 passed away in June. Bob and Vicki have been members of Natures for many years and we have fond memories of Bob & Doug (Joyce) either walking or riding a golf cart around the park. Our deepest condolences go out to Vicki and Vicki and Bob's family. Bob will be greatly missed by all.

### **R.I.P.**

Speckles, Natures Proud Cat, developed what looked like an infection in her eye, and was treated by the vet for this infection. However, it was later discovered that it was a painful growth in and behind her eye. Not wanting Speckles to suffer, we had her put to sleep in the early part of June. Sleep peacefully Speckles.

### ***Tidbits from the Spirit of Speckles!***

The most amazing thing happened! I had a bad pain in my head and my eye, so Misty took me to the doctor. The doctor said that I would have a nice sleep, and when I woke up the pain would be gone - and that's exactly what happened! Apparently you can't see me now, but I can still see you, so I can still tell you all the things that are going on in the park!



- Some people you just can't take anywhere! A group (I won't mention names!) went to South Padre Island, and when they reached the (unofficial) nude beach just could not resist mooning the photographer! Shame on you!
- I heard a loud splash and a shout and ran to see what had happened and there was Hugo in the pool with all his clothes on!! Apparently he was washing the deck and stepped backwards right off the edge of the pool. *No shower and fully dressed in the pool!* It's a good thing that Pool Richard wasn't here! It's also a good thing that Hugo has such a great sense of humor!
- After many years of RVing around the country in the summer and staying at Natures in the winter Bruce and MarySue decided that it was time to hang up the RV and move into digs that were closer to family and without wheels. We are sad to see Bruce & MarySue leave us and they will be greatly missed. We wish them well as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

- Once again the clubhouse has been re-decorated, this time with a Waves & Summer Fun theme. Many thanks to all who donated items for the decorations and helped take the old ones down and put the new ones up!
- The "New" Natures celebrated its 8th anniversary on July 3rd. This was when Bill & Sandy and Bill & Misty joined Frank as partners. This was also when I came to Natures and became your Proud Cat and started sharing my tidbits with you! The anniversary was a good excuse to gather in the clubhouse for cake and ice cream!
- On July 11th we participated in AANR's "simultaneous skinny dipping across the country" event. Everyone gathered for brownies and ice cream in the clubhouse, and then went into the pool to have photos taken. So that Julia could also be in the pool, Hugo volunteered to take the photo that will be sent to AANR for our official count. Thanks Hugo!
- On July 4th we enjoyed a "picnic" with hamburgers and side dishes. Ken & Terri hosted the event, and Barry and Ken were the hamburger chefs who did an excellent job in spite of having to endure the high temperatures outside. Many thanks to all of those who helped to make this a successful event.
- Every Sunday evening since Memorial Day Al & Jean and hosted the Ice Cream Social, many times adding cup cakes to the menu. Thanks Al & Jean. We really do enjoy this weekly event.
- Dirk, otherwise known as 'The Cookie Man', visited us again and brought us a case of yummy cookies. These go well with our ice cream on Sunday. Thanks Cookie Man!

That's all from me. I'm going to float around and see what I can see. (I really like this new way of getting out and about!) I hope everyone is having a purrrrrrrfect summer!



### ***Introducing Hugo***

Good things can come out of bad things! The storm blew down our fence so a crew of workers came to rebuild it. During this time Albert moved on to greener pastures, so we were looking for a Maintenance Technician. In addition to other applicants for the position, we interviewed Hugo (pronounced Oogo) who was working on the fence.

Hugo not only has the knowledge and experience that will be very useful in this position, but he is also friendly, cheerful, energetic and enthusiastic. Hugo joined the Natures family in mid June and is doing a great job of keeping the pools sparkling clear and the grounds neat and tidy. It is out hope that Hugo will be with us for many, many years!



*Welcome Hugo! We are happy to have you on our team!*

When you see Hugo out and about, please take a moment to introduce yourself to him and welcome him to our family.