



NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

Just a few of the things we take for granted....

We go to our library to return a book and take out another one. When we walk into the library it is tidy, the shelves are in order, and the book that we returned the previous week has been put away. How easy it is to forget that someone consistently takes the time to keep it tidy and organized. Without being asked, Willis, Lot #33, has been maintaining the library for years.

One Sunday each month we gather in the clubhouse for cake and ice cream and everyone who has a birthday or anniversary in that month is recognized. Once a month we also receive a list of all the birthdays and anniversaries. Do you know who keeps track of all these special dates? Robin, Lot #54, has taken care of this for the last couple of years.

During the winter season, each Saturday we receive an email with the weekly schedule of events. How convenient this is for us. We just open our email, and there it is! Steve, Lot 37, is the person who ensures that we received this each week. Another convenience is the electronic activities board in the clubhouse. Steve, Lot #300, upgraded us from a hand written bulletin board to an electronic bulletin board, which he keeps up to date.

Three Saturdays and one Sunday each month we have a yummy breakfast in the clubhouse. We see the people cooking and helping in the kitchen, and we remember to thank them each week, but it's easy to forget that someone needs to coordinate these breakfasts to make sure that they actually take place each week, and that there are sufficient

supplies in the kitchen. Rainy, Lot #36, has been the coordinator behind the scenes.

Talking of convenience, do you have any idea whose brain child it was to create our Natures Activities Google Group? Cassandra, Lot #57, started this many years ago. After a slow start it really took off when Hurricane Dolly ripped through the park and people started posting photos of the damage. Now we all use it constantly as a means of communicating with our Natures' family and we would be lost without it. Recently Jay, Lot #305, took over management the group to ensure that only current people at Natures have access to it.

Something that we always hope no one will need to use is the defibrillator on the side of the lockers near the bathrooms in the clubhouse. Dave & Judy bought this for Natures, and for many years Judy has made sure that the paddles are replaced when necessary and has it tested to ensure that it remains in good working condition.

Above the defibrillator is a first aid box, and on top of the lockers is a first responder tote. Rebecca makes sure that the first aid box is always properly stocked and that none of the contents have expired. Every time that we have a medical emergency and the first responder tote is used Rebecca makes sure that everything is clean and ready for use for the next emergency.

Every morning there is coffee in the clubhouse. Our housekeepers get the pot of coffee ready to go each day, but Pool Richard is the one who ensures that it is plugged into the timer each evening so that we can enjoy a hot cup of coffee at 6:00 a.m. each morning.

We have a VERY full schedule of activities during our busy winter season. How easy it is to go from one activity to another and not give any thought to how all this comes about. Our Fun Activities Association Board spends many, many hours working on organizing these activities, making sure that there is a coordinator for each event, that the events each have their own time slot, and the various facilities are not double booked.

We go to the dances and just presume that we will have enjoyable music, whether by an in house DJ or outside entertainers. When Steve, Lot #300, or Bill, Lot #205, DJ a dance for us, they spend many hours putting a play list together to give a good variety of music. Although we do have some of the same outside entertainers we also have some new ones each year. Finding new entertainers for our enjoyment takes an enormous amount of time and energy. Patty, Lot #212, has done an amazing job for the past two years researching entertainers and going to different venues to listen to them to ensure that we have a good variety of music.

How grateful we are to each and every person (including those not mentioned above) who has worked behind the scenes to make Natures a better place for all of us. Imagine our life here with a jumble of books, no organized schedules of activities, breakfasts that may or may not happen, out of date or unstocked first aid box or first responder tote, dances which might clash with other activities, and may or may not have decent music, and no early morning coffee. What a mess!

We appreciate our unsung heroes and we are grateful for all that you do for us. Thank you so much! Natures Resort is blessed to have such a fantastic family!

Condolences

It is with a sad heart that we inform you that Nick (Toni), Lot 33, passed away in April. Nick & Toni were amongst the first people to make Natures their home, moving here immediately after the big pool was opened.

Nick always had a smile on his face, was never too busy to chat with people, and had the knack of making new comers feel comfortable. He will be deeply missed by all of his Natures family. We extend our heartfelt condolences to Toni and her family.

Rest in peace Nick. We miss you!

The first summer project.

As we have grown, the need for more storage space has increased too. In addition to our (Natures Resort's) need, the Fun Association's shed for garage sale items was in dire need of help. The floor was replaced early in the season, but then the doors became more and more difficult to slide open and closed, and the icing on the cake was when the roof started to leak in many places. It was definitely time for the garage sale storage shed to go away and for a new storage area to be built.

We cleared an area where the leaky shed was and poured a large cement slab. This required taking the fence down along Monte Cristo road so that the cement truck could access the area, then putting it back up again when that job was complete.

Next we ordered a carport with sides and when the kit arrived we had to take down the fence again so that walls could be installed on all four sides. Prior to bolting the base frame down we had a team of volunteers with caulk guns place a thick bead of caulk under the frame to make it waterproof.



Our team of Volunteers waterproofing the base of the new Storage Shed

As soon as the north wall was complete we put the fence back up again! We are becoming experts and taking down and putting up fences!



Putting up the Walls

The next step was to cut two holes in the walls, frame them and install two doors, one which will open into an area for garage sale storage and the other into the Natures Resort storage area.



Framing and installing doors.

A rather unique wall was built dividing the shed into two areas. Other than the frame which was constructed with new wood, the wall was constructed with the old fence boards that came off the original front fence which dated back to about 2001. Perhaps it is not the prettiest wall, but it is functional, has history and the price was right! It also allows us to use the new 'in' word. We *repurposed* the fence boards!

The final stage for the Natures area in the storage shed was to build shelves along the walls. Denny is a master at repurposing and

did a superb job pressure washing the old fence boards and building good looking and sturdy shelves. Many thanks Denny for all of your hard work! It is greatly appreciated.

Tidbits from Cally, Natures Proud Cat!

Ah, the lazy days of summer! Relaxing in the sun during the day and hunting at night. What a great life!



- April was a sad month as we waved goodbye to many of our Winter Texan family when they headed back to their northern homes or summer travel. We miss you!
- We have another new house! Congratulations to Ron & Patsy on their new home.



- Most of the organized activities have come to an end, but Dean has continued to build the Friday fire so that we can socialize and cook our hotdogs. Thank you Dean!
- Once again the cement truck was here. Fern & Rene, Lot 70 poured some additional cement.

That's all from me. It's a purrrfect life here at Natures!

