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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

Tidbits from Cally, Natures' Proud Cat!



It's hard to believe that summer is over - but what a summer we had! There were not too many of us here but we still knew how to have fun!

- For the first time ever we had a Pool Party with a DJ, dancing, games and of course, good food! Ken & Terry were the instigators, initiators, facilitators and hosts of the event, and did a great job ensuring that we all had a great time. Bill H was our DJ providing a good mix of music as well as appropriate sound effects to accompany the games. We had 24 people in attendance, which was more than half of the park's summer population. Many thanks to Ken & Terri and to DJ Bill for a wonderful, fun filled evening. People are asking if this was the First ANNUAL Pool Party or when the next pool party would be held.
- A lot of noise was coming from Lot 81, so I went to investigate. Donna & George were having a new screen room and storage area built. When it was completed they had a "Completion of Construction Party". If you were still up north and missed the party, stop by and have a look when you get back!
- I thought that the tree on Lot 222 had gotten its seasons mixed up. In the middle of summer it dropped all its leaves! Then I was told that it had died!

How sad to lose such a beautiful, big tree. We had to get the tree experts in to cut it down because there were large branches leaning over Richard & Linda's canopy. The tree people were asked to leave a 5 foot stump. I wonder why?

- It was very hot and extremely dry during the summer. Everyone's plants were looking very sad, and in spite of being watered, the grass turned brown, and there were cracks in the ground. A number of times it rained in Edinburg or Weslaco, but nothing more than a stray drop or two fell at Natures. Then finally we got our turn. During the last week of August we had a downpour that dumped 2½ inches of rain, and then over the next week or so we had a number of nice rains. Everything is green again, and Tony is having a tough time keeping up with the mowing.
- Our Summer Ice-cream Sundays have come to an end. Many thanks to Al & Jean who hosted this weekly event. Also thanks to Jean for all the baking she did as well as others who also brought baked goods from time to time.
- Ruth, Lot 233, turned 96 and we all gathered in the clubhouse to celebrate with her. Congratulations to Ruth and thanks to Terry, Lot 232, for organizing the birthday bash.
- Another building project! While she was away, Tamara, Lot 67, arranged to have a carport built. She came back briefly to check on its progress, and while at Natures she invited all for Mimosas and

snacks to celebrate the completion of the carport.

I'm still very new to all of this, but I'm told that soon the rest of my Natures Family will be returning home. I'm so excited! Have a purrrrrfectly safe trip back.

That's all from me.



Summer Projects: Part 3

We have continued with our summer projects. Tony has re-potted many of the pool plants and plants in front of the office. He has also painted the front gate which is quite a task with all of Big Bill's scroll work! The gazebo has been pressure washed and the wood treated making it look more inviting.

The biggest of the summer projects is our new Wi-Fi system. After much research it seemed that the best and fairest way to provide basic web-browsing Wi-Fi to the entire park would be to have a system that would dedicate equal bandwidth to each lot in the park. In order to achieve this, the people on each lot would have their own username and password to log on to their own private bandwidth. Although the password would be for a specific lot, that password can access the Wi-Fi from anywhere in the park. The bandwidth allocated to each lot will be sufficient to have three devices connected simultaneously to the Wi-Fi for basic web-browsing (meaning surfing the web, reading or writing emails, paying bills, banking etc.)

In order to set up this Wi-Fi system we needed additional bandwidth which required a tower to receive the point-to-point signal. The tower was built in June.

Next we ordered the equipment and once it arrived we had people going up the tower, people on the clubhouse roof and people up the Wi-Fi poles. Eventually all the equipment was in place. It was a busy few days!

The next stage should have been programming the system so that it would

operate the way we wanted it to operate, setting up the username and password program on the office computer, and training the office staff on how to use it. The last stage should have been explaining to everyone how the new system worked, giving everyone their own personal username and password, and then finally flipping the switch and to put the whole system on the air.



Putting up the Point to Point Receiver

Things don't always work out the way we want them to, and we realized that Murphy (of Murphy's Law) was lending a helping hand. The order of the last couple of stages was flipped around, and suddenly the new system was live, and no one had their user name or password – which meant that no one could get on the new system! The moment of glory was a complete shambles!

Rebecca jumped in and did an amazing job of getting people up and running. She asked Richard (Thank you Richard!) to go door to door explaining what had happened, and letting people know that they could come to the office at 8 p.m. to pick up their user name and password. In the meantime Rebecca skipped her evening meal and worked like a Trojan to get all the user names and passwords entered into the system that she knew little about! Somehow she managed to accomplish all this

in the 3 hours she had allotted herself. Way to go Rebecca! Thank you for accomplishing the impossible!

Once everyone had their user name and password a glitch was discovered. (Go away Murphy!) Each lot was only able to connect one device at a time! The next two weeks were frustrating for everyone. From time to time the system would unexpectedly be shut down as tweaking was done and the glitch was fixed. Finally, on September 29th, we held our breath as once again the switch was flipped and this time the whole system was up and running exactly the way we wanted it. Of course, in the next couple of weeks it might need additional tweaking – but it appears that our new system is working perfectly and each lot now has its own personal bandwidth protected by its own password.

How grateful we are to our Natures family for their patience and understanding while work was done setting up the new system. We know it was frustrating and inconvenient at times when you were unable to connect to the internet. We are especially grateful to those who took a moment to thank Rebecca for the many, many extra hours that she worked and the terrific job that she did to help get the system up and running. Once again we see what wonderful people we have at Natures! This co-operative attitude is the glue that unites us as a family and makes Natures special! Thank you dear Natures Family – and Happy Surfing!

Texas Tech Professors visit Natures!

Ghislaine Fremaux, Assistant Professor of Art, together with Dr. Jean Scott, gerontologist and Professor of Human Development and Family Sciences at Texas Tech developed a project examining nudism among senior citizens. They contacted us asking if we would be willing to work with them. They desired to interview and photograph people, the photos to be used to create paintings. (Ghi explained that all photographs would be shredded once she had completed her paintings.) The project would culminate in a body of artwork, traveling exhibition and scholarly text showing nudism in a positive, wholesome and respectful way.



An example of Ghi's work

Although these exhibitions will not mention Natures or create any publicity for us, we felt that it would be greatly beneficial to the nudist communities as a whole and would serve to educate people in a positive way about nudism.

After considerable contact with Ghi and Jean we agreed to work with them and invited them to spend a week at Natures. On their first day we had a 'meet and greet', which broke the ice. Although they are not nudists, they chose to wear sarongs rather than street clothes as a sign of their respect for our lifestyle. This gesture was greatly appreciated. They spent the next six days interviewing and photographing people, and by the end of the week Ghi felt so comfortable with us that she said that she would like to come back and enjoy our pools and hot tub!

It will probably take at least a year before they have completed their material for an exhibition, but they will keep us informed.

Beer & Brats Fest

The 10th Annual Beer & Brats Fest will be held on Saturday, November 12th from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. Please remember to bring your hometown, city, state or province beer or wine for our Festival goers to taste. This is one of the many great parties that we have at Natures and it's a great time to get together and get acquainted or re-acquainted with your Natures family. Brats will be provided along with chips and condiments.