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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

Tidbits from Cally, Natures' Proud Cat!

Happy New Year to all my Natures' Family! What a busy time we had over the holiday season! Dances, food, gifts and lots of goodwill! Here are some of the highlights:



- A new tradition has begun - The Natures Resort Christmas Parade! Decorated golf carts, wagons, a wheelbarrow, decorated dogs, Big Bills riding creations and of course Santa Clause and one of his elves. Those not in the parade lined the roads cheering the participants on. The parade ended at Sandy's where there was an array of good eats and snacks. Thanks to Big Bill for suggesting the parade! Thanks also to the organizers, participants and cheering crowd, all of whom made it a fun event.
- We had another successful barbecue fund raiser. The hamburgers were cooked to perfection and tasted delicious with crispy lettuce and tomatoes. Special thanks go to the chefs who braved the inclement conditions to cook on the grill outside, and thanks also to the organizers and all of their helpers. We are looking forward to the next one.
- I thought that everyone at Natures was nice, but I have learned differently. At the Christmas gift exchange just as soon as someone opened a gift, someone else stole it. I've never seen such a thing! But people were laughing and having fun, so perhaps I just don't understand these things. After all I'm just a little cat! Jan & Tom did a great job keeping all the thieves under control!
- This was a cookie exchange with a difference! A group of ladies brought their ingredients to the clubhouse and spent a chilly morning in a warm kitchen socializing and baking cookies which they later exchanged. Laurie also made a big, steamy pot of Ham & Split Pea soup that chased any remaining chill away. The array of cookies was most impressive!
- We had another successful craft show, showcasing the diversified talent we have at Natures. Many people took advantage of the show to purchase beautiful, original Christmas gifts. The organizers did a great job of setting up and taking down after the event. Thanks go to them, their helpers and vendors for making this a successful shopping morning!
- On Christmas Eve Tom & Kat hosted the annual Cheese & Wine Social. DJ Steve added music to the event so those who felt inclined could dance. Tom introduced a "Ring the Wine Bottle" game which entertained many of us for a good part of the evening. Thanks to the hosts and their helpers for a fun Christmas Eve!
- We had an amazing Christmas Dinner hosted by Dave & Sue who added to the festivities by gracing the tables with beautiful decorations that they made. Besides the Turkey and Ham provided by Natures, the many delicious side dishes

brought by everyone present made for a scrumptious meal. Thanks to our hosts and their helpers for making this such a great event.

- Our last event of the year and first event of 2017 was the New Year's Eve Dance hosted by Ken & Terry, with music provided by Time Machine. As always, this was a very special evening as we all toasted in the New Year, and wished each other a happy and healthy 2017. Many thanks to Ken & Terry and their helpers for a job well done.

That all from me. I wish all my Natures family a happy and purrrrrfect 2017.



Condolences

It is with the deepest regret that we inform you of the unexpected passing of Marvin (Diane) Lot# 21.

Marvin was a generous and well liked man who contributed greatly to his Natures Family. For many years he cooked various breakfasts, as well as his monthly Sausage & Gravy breakfast, raising a large amount of funds for the Fun Association. He was also active in the afternoon activities enjoying rounds of cards with anyone wishing to play. Marvin will be greatly missed, but never forgotten.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to Dianne and their families.

1st Annual RGV Naturist Memorial Golf Tournament.

29 Golfers, 13 from Sandpipers and 16 from Natures Resort, took part in the 1st Annual RGV Naturist Memorial Golf Tournament in honor of those golfers who have passed on. Those honored were:

2012 Joe Miller	Sandpipers
2013 Bob Charleston	Natures
2015 Mike Vandiver	Natures

2015 Mel Brown	Natures
2016 Joey Noel	Sandpipers

The 1st place winners were:

Men: Butch Gronaas	68	Natures
Women: Joan Hess	71	Sandpipers

Best Putter: Jerry Chambers, Natures, with 29 putts

Each year the names of the first place winners will be placed on two identical plaques, one to be displayed at Sandpipers, and one at Natures. Many thanks go to Tom, Lot 309, for organizing this event and starting a great tradition.

Monte Alto

Over the holidays we adopted 8 families with a total of 26 children from infancy to 13 years of age. During the past few weeks many boxes of food were filled to overflowing, children's names were checked off the lists, and wrapped gifts appeared in the clubhouse. Our Natures Resort family was also generous with their monetary gifts, which enabled the Monte Cristo Project organizers to purchase any shortfalls of food items or children's gifts plus give each child \$5 in cash, and each mom a \$20 gift certificate.

We are grateful to the Monte Alto Social Service staff who gather the information required to ensure that our help goes to those who need it most. Although the whole process, from getting information to delivering the gifts and food flows very smoothly from start to finish, it only does so because of all the behind the scenes work being done. A very big thank you to the organizers and their helpers for the time and effort that they put into making this such a success, and to all of those who contributed in any way to the program.

This year Santa Clause (Tom, Lot 302) took time out of his busy schedule to accompany those delivering the gifts and food. He was a huge hit with all the kids as he gave out hugs and candy canes and the looks of joy and surprise on the faces of the younger children was awesome.

Days for Girls - Another worthwhile project!

This past summer, Pam, Lot 303, ran across a program called Days for Girls. She became involved and mentioned the program to some of the quilting ladies at Natures. Her enthusiasm and the basic concept sparked the interest of the quilters, and they decided that they would also like to become involved. As word has spread more of our Natures family have joined in.

Celeste Mergens, the founder of Days for Girls, discovered that in many poor countries girls had no resources to cope with their monthly periods and were thus forced to stay home from school on those days. This has far reaching consequences. Besides it negatively affecting their schooling, which, in turn, affects their earning ability in their adult life, it also leads to sexual abuse and unwanted pregnancies.

The goal of Days for Girls is to teach girls about feminine hygiene, (many thought that they had AIDS when they started their menstrual cycle), and provide each girl with a kit containing the sustainable supplies they need in order to manage their periods and stay in school. These kits are designed to last for three years, which will give the girls 180 days of schooling that they would otherwise have lost, and this in turn will play a part in breaking the cycle of poverty!

If you are interested in learning more about this program, come to Crafting in the Corner on Friday afternoon (12:30 to 2:30 in Richard's Pool Hall) and you will be able to see the kits that are being made. Each kit costs approximately \$10 to produce, and contains washable, reusable flannel menstrual pads, waterproof cotton liners, 2 pairs of panties, a wash cloth, soap, and 2 Ziploc freezer bags. (The freezer bags enable the girls to wash their supplies with very little water.)

The quilters have committed to making 125 kits this winter which will be shipped to Lusaka, Zambia, so they would welcome any help both with making the kits (there are sewing and non-sewing 'jobs') as well as monetary gifts to help defray the cost of

materials. Days for Girls is a non-profit organization, and donations are tax deductible. Receipts will be provided for donations over \$20.

For more information go to www.daysforgirls.org

January Special Events:

- 1st** New Year's Day Levee 12 noon
- 7th** Breakfast Please sign up
- 9th** Blood Drive
- 9th** Dance 7 p.m. Music by the Bushriders. Hosted by Tamara
- 12th** Turkey Soup, Grilled Cheese & Salad Fund Raiser: \$5.00 Please sign up
- 14th** Breakfast Please sign up
- 21st** Members Meeting 9 a.m.
- 21st** Dance 7 p.m. Music by Ruthi. Hosted by Beckey, Pete, Paula & Steve
- 28th** Breakfast Please sign up

Weekly Activities

- Belly Dancing:** 9:30 a.m. Thursday
- Bingo:** 6:15 p.m. Friday
- Campfire:** 5 p.m. Friday
- Crafting:** 12:30 p.m. Friday
- Country Dance Practice:** 7 p.m. Tuesday
- Darts:** 7 p.m. Saturday
- Exercise:** 8:30 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
- Hand & Foot:** 1 p.m. Monday - Friday
- Happy Hour:** 4 p.m. Wednesday
- Mexican Train:** 6:45 p.m. Wednesday
- Petanque:** 2 p.m. every day
- Pickle Ball:** 9:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. every day
- Pickle Ball Lessons:** 10:00 a.m. every day
- Texas Hold'em:** 10:00 a.m. Saturday
6:30 p.m. every day
- Water Volleyball:** 2 p.m. every day
- Wii Bowling:** 4 p.m. Monday