



NATURES TALES

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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

What is FITS?

FITS is an acronym for Fun-in-the-Sun, a time of various competitions and games ranging from serious to fun to almost ridiculous. The first Fun in the Sun was held in the very early days of Natures probably around 2004. It spanned one hectic and busy weekend, and its purpose was to attract people to this new resort in the Rio Grande Valley.

FITS became very popular and served its purpose well. People came, people saw, people had fun and people stayed! Many short visits turned into an annual winter reservation or permanent residents at Natures. Soon all the sites were booked for January, February and March, and there was nowhere to put people for the FITS weekend, so FITS was dropped.

However, people who were originally attracted to Natures because of FITS missed the fun weekend, so it was decided that it would be re-instated, but it would be an in-house event and instead of cramming everything into one weekend, it would run at a more leisurely pace over a full week. Over the years FITS grew as more competitions and events were added, and this weekend event now extends for 14 fun-filled days.

The important part of FITS is for everyone to have FUN! Although we all like to win, winning (or not winning) is just the end result of enjoying a fun time of interaction with people who you may not have previously known and expanding

your circle of friends. Some of the events are so hilarious that one could hardly get too serious and are as much fun to watch as to participate in.

So, if you have never been at Natures during FITS you are in for a fun time. Sign up for as many of the games as you want, or mark your calendars and be a spectator! And remember: FITS is FUN!

This year FITS runs from February 4th to February 17th.

Tidbits from Cally, Natures' Proud Cat!

What a happy time we have been having with all the activities! It's busy but fun, and certainly keeps me on the run!



- Absolutely the best way to see the New Year in is with Moose Milk! Many thanks to Steve & Julie who started this tradition a number of years ago, and to everyone who helped or provided the ingredients for the Moose Milk.
- The clubhouse looks so pretty decorated with an amazing assortment of quilts. Thanks to everyone who brought a quilt to be displayed, to the ladies who

organized the quilt show, and to the energetic ladder climbers who hung the quilts. The quilts will be on display until the end of February.

- Once the quilts were hung, the quilters organized a reception in the clubhouse with warm cider and snacks, giving everyone a time to socialize while reading the stories of each of the displayed quilts.
- Joyce (Leroy's guest), who is a Certified Aroma Therapist and Reflexologist, gave a very informative and enlightening talk on natural breast health and the lymphatic system. Thank you Joyce for sharing your expertise and knowledge with us!
- The Blood Mobile came for the second blood drive of the season. Twenty six members came out which was the best turnout ever. A total of 20 units were donated. The area coordinator for United Blood Service said that in the Valley Natures has the largest turnout for a park this size. They are very grateful for our donations. A big thank you to Ken who organizes our blood drives and to everyone who came out to donate. The next blood drive will be on March 5th. Please sign up to give a unit of your life saving blood.
- Big Bill gave a video presentation on the effects that Hurricane Dolly had on Natures in 2008. It was especially interesting as we were able to see the park prior to the expansion and construction of the north section of the park. Many thanks to Bill for sharing this video with us.

(Editor's note: What we remember most about Hurricane Dolly was not the destruction and damage that it caused, but the amazing volunteers who so willingly worked every day for weeks helping with the massive clean-up effort.)

- Our breakfast chefs have done an amazing job providing us with delicious meals on Saturday mornings. This is a great social time and it adds funds to the Fun Activities Association. Many thanks to all who make this possible: The chefs, helpers, and those who support the breakfasts!
- The weather doesn't always cooperate, but when it does we enjoy the camp fire on Friday evenings. Thanks to our campfire hosts, Dave & Kay, who come out early to start the fire, and make sure that everything is tidied and put away when we leave!

I'm looking forward to February and all the fun activities, especially FITS!

That's all from me.



Weekly Schedule:

Monday:

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| 8:00 a.m. | (Golf) outside park) |
| 8:30 a.m. | Morning Exercise |
| 9:00 a.m. | Pickle Ball |
| 9:30 a.m. | Advance Exercise Class |
| 11:00 a.m. | Ruthi's Dance Class |
| 2:00 p.m. | Petanque |
| 2:00 p.m. | Water Volleyball |
| 7:00 p.m. | Country Club Dance Night |
| 7:00 p.m. | Country Club Dance |

Tuesday:

8:30 a.m. Morning Exercise
 9:00 a.m. Pickle Ball
 2:00 p.m. Petanque
 2:00 p.m. Water Volleyball
 3:45 p.m. N.U.D.E. Wii Bowling

Wednesday

8:00 a.m. Golf (outside park)
 8:30 a.m. Morning Exercise
 9:00 a.m. Pickle Ball
 9:30 a.m. Advance Exercise Class
 2:00 a.m. Petanque
 2:00 p.m. Water Volleyball
 4:00 p.m. Happy Hour at Sandy's

Thursday

8:30 a.m. Morning Exercise
 9:00 a.m. Pickle Ball
 10:00 a.m. R.C. Practice
 11:00 a.m. Veggie Joe
 2:00 p.m. Petanque
 2:00 p.m. Water Volleyball

Friday:

8:30 a.m. Morning Exercise
 9:00 a.m. Pickle Ball
 9:30 a.m. Advance Exercise Class
 1:00 p.m. Crafting in the Corner
 2:00 p.m. Petanque
 2:00 p.m. Water Volleyball
 6:15 p.m. Bingo

Saturday:

9:00 a.m. Pickle Ball
 10:00 a.m. Texas Hold'em
 2:00 p.m. Petanque
 2:00 p.m. Water Volleyball
 7:00 p.m. Darts

Sunday:

9:00 a.m. Pickle Ball
 2:00 p.m. Petanque
 2:00 p.m. Water Volleyball

Fun-in-the-Sun Schedule

4th Golf 8 a.m. @ Los Lagos golf course
5th Cornhole 9 a.m. all day
6th Pickleball 9 a.m.
7th Petanque 9 a.m. all day
8th Petanque 9 a.m. all day
9th Texas Hold'em 1 p.m.
Darts 7 p.m.
10th Horseshoes 9 a.m.
Volleyball 1 p.m.
Trivial Pursuit 7 p.m.
11th Shuffleboard 9 a.m. all day
Yatzee 7 p.m.
12th Ladder Golf 9 a.m.
Wii Bowling 1 p.m.
Hand & Foot 7 p.m.
13th R. C. Car Races 9 a.m.
16th Raft & Water Races 1 p.m.
17th Blind Golf Cart Race 10 a.m.
 followed by **Red Hots & Awards**

February Special Events.

4th Dance 7 p.m. Music by Ruthi
5th Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
7th Open Mic/Karaoke 7 p.m.
10th Birthdays & Anniversaries
 6:30 p.m.
14th Valentine's Brunch 10 a.m.
Valentine's Dance 7 p.m. Music by DJ Steve
15th Craft Fair 10 a.m. 1 p.m.
16th Members' Meeting 9 a.m.
17th Open Mic/Karaoke 7 p.m.
18th Dance 7 p.m. Music by Bottom Line
19th Men's Breakfast 8 a.m.
21st AARP Defensive Driving Course 10 a.m.
27th Street Party 2 p.m.