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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

2020/2021 Activities Board

At the February Members Meeting people voted for the two vacancies on the board. Pete, who was Treasurer, chose not to run for the board again. After his many years of service on the board he certainly has earned his 'retirement'. Thank you, Pete, for all your years of faithful service. Also special thanks to Jerry who willingly stepped up to fill the space for the 2019-2020 season when Steve, due to family reasons, was unable to return to Natures and to Tom who suddenly found himself bumped from Vice President to President. Serving on the board is a huge commitment of time and energy, so our thanks also go to ALL the board members who did a great job for the 2019-2020 season.

The Fun Activities Association Board is the heart and soul of what makes it fun to be at Natures.

Our congratulations go to Ali (Joe) Lot 64, and Sylvain (Sylvie) Lot 14 who were elected to the new Board. Thanks also to everyone who ran for election. We appreciate your willingness to serve on the board.

Under normal circumstances, at the March meeting the new board would be introduced to the membership, but in mid March, when Covid-19 reared its ugly head, there was nothing normal anymore. Because of social distancing the March meeting had to be cancelled.

Introducing the new board for the 2020/2021 season:

President: Tom, Lot 130
Vice President: Rainy, DM
Treasurer: Kelley, Lot 55

Secretary: Ali, Lot 64
Entertainment: Janice, Lot 118
Director at Large: Sylvain, Lot 14

A presentation had also been planned for the March meeting, to thank Pete and Jerry for their service. No meeting. No presentation! However, following the social distancing guidelines etc, in a private meeting Tom presented Pete with an engraved mug and Jerry with a hat. Thank you both. We are grateful for your work on the board.

A Retirement message from Cally, Natures Proud Cat!

What a crazy time this is. I never in my whole life thought that all these nice people at Natures would turn into bandits overnight. They were all such friendly people, and suddenly they are wearing masks so they can't be recognized. And when they talk, all I can hear is "mumble, muffle, muffle". I have to admit that they were acting mighty strangely prior to turning into bandits and hiding behind their masks. No more dances. No more partying. No more pot lucks. Only a few people in the pool at a time. They even changed the clubhouse around, taking out most of the tables and chairs, and the few that they did leave certainly are not arranged for a cozy conversation. If people do sit down, they almost have to shout at each other because the chairs are so far apart. All I can hear is:
"Muffle, mumble, muffle."
"Mumble, WHAT? muffle."



It's all too strange for me. I would love to be able to tell you what is going on in the park, but I don't have any idea. It is going to take a much younger, more energetic cat with VERY acute hearing, to be able to keep tabs on what is going on so that it can be reported to you.

I spoke to Misty about my predicament. She just shook her head and said "Yes, these are very strange times." Well, that is no answer, so I told her that I needed to retire. I'm just too old for all this nonsense. Misty said that she understood (and that she wants to retire too!) She said that she would find a replacement for me.

To cut a long story short, my replacement is called Zeus. According to her resume, she is a young mother, whose children recently left home, so she is willing to work full time. Her amazing mouser skills meant that as a single mother she was able to feed her family without any aid or assistance. She is very energetic and already knows the park well, so will be able to follow all the activities and goings on and report them to you. She also has a very friendly disposition although she can be a bit timid with people she doesn't know.

So, if you see a small grey cat, not much bigger than a kitten herself, with a shaved belly from recent surgery, please take a moment to introduce yourself to her. Once she knows you she will enjoy interaction with you, but remember, don't feed her! Her job is to write the Natures Tales column, and to catch mice. If you feed her, then you will have to put up with mice!!!

I've enjoyed working for all of you and I will miss you, but I think I'm going to enjoy my new life as a lazy house cat with a servant who will feed me and take care of me.



Editor's Note: Thanks to the many people who played a part in finding the kittens, capturing the kittens, arranging for them to be fostered

and adopted, and arranging for Zeus to be spayed. Without this group effort we could have had a 'cat explosions' here in the park!

***Tidbits from Zeus,
Natures New
Proud cats.***



Hi! My name is Zeus, and I'm Natures' new cat. This is the first time that I will be writing my own column, so I might have to get a bit of help from Cally till I know what I'm doing.

Before we get into the news part, I want to thank my new Natures Family for all that they did for me. I had a big family, and had been very busy caring for my babies, keeping them safe, and feeding them. We were a happy family and had a nice home in the wood pile where we were completely safe from any predators. However, I was worried. What was going to happen to all my children when they grew up? They all needed to have a home, but I had no idea how to help them with that. After all, I was homeless myself!

Then these nice people showed me that I could trust them, and eventually they convinced my babies that they could have a much better life if they went with them. I do miss my babies, but I've been told that they will all be given good homes where they can be safe and well cared for. I'm so happy for them! And I'm happy that I can call Natures my home now.

And now for the news:

- Cally is rather stupid! All the masks and strange behavior is because of Covid-19. Everyone knows that!! I'll be glad when we don't have to wear masks anymore because it is so hard to recognize who is behind the mask!
- People are playing musical lots again! Duane moved from Lot 22 to Lot 218, John moved from Lot 218 to 50 and

Charlie and Gina move onto Lot 22. Bev & Pam sold lot 303 to John & Candy, Bob & Tanya sold lot 82 to Russ & Carol, and Normand & Diane sold lot 224 to Gary and Nina

- Belly Dancing is back! Not only do they seem to have a lot of fun, but the small group of Belly Dancers are getting quite good at it. And it's great exercise!!
- Doug (Alannah) pressure washed the inside of the gazebo, cleaned up the fountain, and set up chairs so that it would be a safe place for up to 8 people to get together while social distancing. Thank you Doug.
- When there is little to laugh about, this resilient family finds places to make light of a dire situation. Tom and Cat were the first to put face coverings on their yard critters, and now masks can be seen of almost everyone's yard animals.



Doug & Alannah give us something to look at every day: A one word 'phrase of the day' made up of shells.



- Following all the protocols, Duane and John & Candy both had concrete poured and canopies installed. Normally when such things are going on in the park it is considered "entertainment" and there is an audience to critique the work being done. With social distancing, and staying away from workmen, etc., the only people watching the progress were Duane and John & Candy. How times have changed.



- Summer weather is kicking in, and it is hot! However, we have some very energetic people in the park who play pickle ball on a regular basis. And volley ball continues, although sometimes it is two on two!
- Ellis & Liz took advantage of their extended stay to get all their palm trees cleaned up. They are getting so tall now, especially the one in front of their house, that it took a crew of 5 and big equipment to do the job.



- I'm so happy to report that Richard is home from the hospital. He and Toni both contracted Covid-19 and landed up in hospital. Toni was released after a couple of nights, but Richard, who had much more severe symptoms was there

for two weeks. They are both in a strict two week quarantine, but we wish them well, and hope that Richard will soon gain the strength that he lost in hospital.

- For the first time in Natures' history we did not have a Memorial Day picnic, due to Covid-19. However, we still put out all the flags, as a sign of respect and gratitude for all of those who fought and died so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we have today. We thank all our Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices.

That's all from me. I hope that everyone is staying healthy and having a great summer!



ROLL OVER BEETHOVEN

Natures' Ukulele Group (NUG) has had a stellar season, culminating with the opportunity to play Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" as a part of a June tribute to Beethoven which will be published on YouTube sometime during the month of June. You may wonder: "How did this happen?" "Will they be naked?" "How can I see it?"

Our little group grew exponentially during this 2019-20 Natures' season. At our high point there were 12 of us at all skill levels, in the Crafts Room on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, strumming away. Chip (306), as our fearless leader, has each of us be responsible for bringing in new material and expects us to teach and lead as we all learn that particular piece.

Steve (Skirt Boy-116) brought in the music to "Ode to Joy" in mid-March, and in spite of our rolling eyes, we were willing to give it a try under his tutelage. Steve has been studying classical guitar on-line with a group of serious students from all over the world. As an ancillary part of that class, the students participate in a study of composers across time.

Steve, upon learning that June was to be Beethoven month, mentioned off-handedly that our uke group was working on that piece. His peers requested a video of our performance. We like to say that Steve opened his mouth and stuck all our feet in it; but we are "NUGS" and don't back down, in spite of the fact that our numbers have dwindled to five.

What you see in these photos is from the day we made the video. We had only one week to really make it as good as possible, since several more will be leaving/have left by June. We worked very hard. Ruthi (66) had high quality equipment and provided us with a beautiful setting. We worked together to make as good an arrangement as possible for our novice skill level and the wind.

The morning of the performance we gathered, and the cameras began to roll. We agreed to all wear red, because we all had red.



We tuned up; we played our hearts out. There were at least five takes. The best of these will be on YouTube sometime in June. At the end, we decided to play the way we had practiced for all this time—naked. It was, by far, the best performance. The good news is that there are out-takes, (remember we never stopped the video camera) complete with bloopers and NUG insanity. We cannot promise if anyone will ever see those, but if you are interested in seeing the completed video, contact Steve (spstools48@aol.com) for the link.

by: MaryMeg Dissinger (67)