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LIVING LIFE NATURALLY

Tidbits from Zeus, Natures' Proud Cat

This season is like none that we have had before! In the past I have been so busy running from one activity to another, trying to keep up with all that is going on in the park. This season, because of Covid protocols, so many of the activities are not possible, so it is the slowest, quietest season I have ever known. Misty says that next season will be busy and full of activities like last season was. I can't wait for that! Here is some of what has been going on:



Dean surveying his collection of shoes!

- When the Blood Mobile came to Natures for the 3rd blood drive of the season, we had a great turnout. There were 17 donors, with three giving double reds making a total of 20 units of life saving blood collected. Many thanks to Ken for organizing all of our blood drives and to all who donated. According to the Blood Mobile crew, we outnumber almost all of the RV parks in the Valley with the amount of donors we provide.
- Dean usually walks around the park bare feet, which, in my opinion, is taking nudity to the extreme. One day he was wearing his shoes, and he kicked them off somewhere, then couldn't remember where he had left them. The word went out: "Dean has lost his shoes!" So some jokesters collected a bunch of old shoes, and left them on Dean's steps on New Year's Eve with a sign that said "Walk into 2021. You have shoes!"
- Once again the spring Garage Sale was a huge success. Mountains of items were donated, including some furniture from Nina & Gary, former members of Natures.



Volunteers picking up items donated by Nina & Gary.

The tables in the clubhouse were piled high, and shoppers were able to find many treasures to take home.

The next day the sale was moved onto Monte Cristo Rd, where the majority of the remaining items were sold. What was left was loaded into boxes and taken to Monte Alto. Many thanks to everyone who donated items, who bought items, and to Sue and all her volunteers who worked hard to make this such a successful fund raiser. The total amount given to the Fun Association was \$1,611.13.



- We had a combination yard sale/craft fair! Those who had items they wanted to sell as well as some of our amazing crafters put tables up in front of their lots, and, although it was a little chilly, it became quite a social morning as everyone walked around looking at all the items for sale.



Socializing and Shopping

I've missed my Canadian family, although it has been fun meeting all the new people that have come to Natures this season.

That's all from me!



Condolences

It is with a sad heart that I pass along the news that Myron (Katy, Lot 51) passed away in mid January. Although Myron was not involved in many of the activities at Natures, he was a well known figure, walking his dog, Dixon, around the park a couple of times a day, as well as socializing in the dog park while Dixon played with other dogs. We will miss the cheerful "Hello" that he extended to all who passed him on his walks. Our sincere condolences go to Katy and Myron's family.

The Big Freeze

Every few years the Rio Grande Valley will have a freeze, with temperatures dropping below 32 degrees for a few hours. This year was the year for the freeze, except that it was for a lot more than a few hours. It lasted for days and caused havoc because this part of the country is not geared for freezing weather.

We were diligent in taking all the necessary precautions, including making sure that all the hose bibs in the park were dripping so that none of the water pipes would freeze. However, sometimes "Murphy's Law" takes over. The first night of the freeze was colder than anticipated, and in spite of our precautions many of the hose bibs did freeze. Added to this, the power went out during the night, so, although most people in RV's had gas heat, those in mobile homes had no heat at all.

During the first day of the freeze, while most of us were staying indoors, trying to keep warm, Dan & Kelley, armed with a generator on the back of their golf cart and Kelley's hair dryer, went around the park thawing out the hose bibs, getting the water flowing again.

And so we spent the next few days, cold, dark, no water and miserable. The only little ray of sunshine was that we could take buckets of water from the swimming pool for flushing toilets!

Three days later the electricity came on again, and the following day we had water back on in the park. And the sun came out! And it was warm again! And we were so grateful!

Special thanks to Dan & Kelley for all the volunteer work that they did during the freeze fixing the broken hose bibs, and then organizing with other volunteers restoring water to the park. While we were inside complaining about how cold we were, they were outside working in the cold!

vegetation in the park as well as the surrounding areas and the farmers fields. Many of our shrubs died, other have had to be cut right back, but are slowly showing signs of life. Our palm trees turned brown and will need to have all the fronds cut off, but we are hopeful they will survive. The Memorial Garden that has been looking so pretty looks extremely barren now that all the dead growth has been removed. The miracle of the freeze is that the Desert Roses are showing signs of surviving!



*Before the Freeze ... and
After the Freeze*



A few days after things were back to normal we started seeing the devastation that the freeze had caused to so much of the



It will take a while before the park looks pretty again, but we are looking forward to replacing the dead vegetation and watching the surviving shrubs greening up again.

St Patrick's Day

With the Covid-19 restrictions being relaxed, Troy & Diane arranged for some fun St. Patrick's Day activities. The lead up to St.

Patrick's day was some visiting leprechaun gnomes being sighted conducting playful activities around the park. A bounty was offered each day for their capture and return.

On St. Patrick's Day morning Troy & Diane organized a Corn Hole tournament in the morning. The winners were:
1st Place: Deb (John) & John (Linda)
2nd Place: Keith (Carolyn) & Deb (Bob)
3rd Place: Steve (Sue) & John (Deb)

Once again Ken (Janet) had a green carnation for all the ladies in the park, a long-standing and lovely tradition.

In the evening Troy & Diane served Corned Beef and Cabbage in the clubhouse. A delicious meal that filled the bellies as the St. Patrick's Day activities continued.

After dinner O'Ginger and O'Skirtboy (Lots 33 and 116) hosted the First Annual Team Irish Trivia Contest! Team O'Ray won the first place Pot O'Green, and Team Paddy'Os came in second!



Hosting the First Annual Irish Trivia Contest

Once again, thanks to our brilliant volunteers, a good time was had by all.

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Fun Activities Association Board for the 2021/2022 Season

First a big Thank You to the 2020/2021 Board who did an amazing job in the most difficult season that we have ever had. Dealing with Covid-19 stretched everyone to their limit, and we are appreciative of everything that they did for us during the season. To Tom (Kathy) and Janice (Mark), who retired from the board, we thank you for the many hours and hard work that you put in over the years that you served on the board.

We would also like to thank those who were willing to run for the two openings on the Board. We appreciate your willingness to give of yourself in order to serve on the board.

The 2021/2022 Board is as follows:

President:	Kelley, Lot 55
Vice President:	Rainy, Day Member
Secretary:	Ali, Lot 65
Treasurer:	Steve, Lot 116
Director of	
Entertainment:	Ruthi, Lot 66
Director at Large:	Sylvain, Lot 14

Our activities (or lack thereof!) during this season were ruled by Covid-19, but now that we are getting vaccinated, we are looking forward to next season with excitement and eagerness as we expect that we will be able to open everything up to pre-Covid-19 days! The Board is already working hard on getting all the activities up and running again for the 2021/2022 season, and they are encouraging anyone who has ideas for new activities or special events to talk to them, so put on your thinking caps. It appears that the upcoming season is going to be the best and most active season in our history!