

NATURES TALES

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New Owners – New Attitudes – and now a New Look for Natures.

The tables, chairs, umbrellas and plants around the pool have become old news. So have the music, community kitchen and bottomless pot of coffee. This was step one – but what is step two?

Step two started when Al and Jean pulled in the gate with their truck loaded to the gills, pulling a trailer piled high with all kinds of interesting and intriguing things that they had hauled from up north. Driving down the highways they must have looked a little like Ma & Pa Kettle moving house!

They pulled up outside the clubhouse, and with the usual volunteering spirit of Natures, immediately there were people offering to help. With many hands making light work, in no time at all brand new loungers were removed from the truck and placed around the pool, replacing the old ones. Then the boxes in the truck and the trailer were spirited away to Bill and Sandy's house to await their arrival.

When **Bill & Sandy #51** arrived, Bill's first task was to replace the small NR signs at the top of the driveway with his own creation – a large iron entryway that proudly announces where we are. The entryway includes a large NR surrounded by scrolls as well as an illuminated street number and street light on each side of the driveway. According to the UPS carrier, we are now “on the map” as the signs and lights make us so easy to find.

Other comments have been that we now look “upscale”, “professional”, “classy” and “like those fancy gated communities”.

Bill's second project is the “Welcome Home” sign in front of the clubhouse. There is absolutely no way that I can describe it other than what one person said: “WOW!” For those of you who don't know Bill well, the best that I can say is that Bill does nothing in a small way. This is not a little sign that apologetically whispers “Welcome Home”. This is a sign that shouts “WELCOME HOME!!!” It reflects what the owners feel: A hearty welcome home to all our Natures Family. We are proud to be associated with all you wonderful people. When the fountain and flowers are in place it is going to look awesome.

Bill hasn't finished yet. Next comes the much needed sunshades at the pool. Umbrellas are fine, but with the Texas wind they are not always practical. Bill's sunshades take into account that everything is bigger and better in Texas, including the wind, which will be hard pressed to blow these structures down.

These projects account for a good portion of the items hauled in on the trailer, but by no means all of them! You said you needed lights in the clubhouse. Bill heard you, and he has lights for you. However, these are still on the trailer. Like the

entryway and the welcome home sign, these are his own designs and creations – original and unique. We are truly fortunate to have Bill's creative abilities and talents to enhance Natures. Thank you Bill!

We Can Dance Again!

Resurfacing the clubhouse floor meant moving the dance floor. Having on several occasions personally done an Electric Slide off the edge of the dance floor, it also gave us the opportunity to reassess the size of the dance floor which we felt needed to be enlarged.

Bill and Misty ran out of time for this project, but once again the volunteering spirit of Natures came to the rescue. A huge Thank You to the three musketeers, **Jim #50**, **Toni #67** and **Al #13** for stepping up to the plate, taking over this task, and doing a fantastic job of enlarging the dance floor.

Let the Dances begin – and while we're dancing, let's remember the many hours of hard work that these three volunteers did for us. Thanks Guys!

Ghosts and Goblins!

Another set of volunteers, **Sandy #51**, **Shirley #207** and **Carolyn #12** are gearing up for Halloween. We all know Shirley's wonderful decorating skills, and I'm privileged to have seen how Sandy can transform the ordinary into something fantastic, so with the two of them plus Carolyn Halloween is going to be something to remember. A very big Thank You to these three special ladies for the effort, planning, work and time that you have put into this.

Tidbits from Speckles

What a busy month this has been! Thank goodness we now have a new clock in the garden which helps me make my round on time so that I can keep you up to date with all the comings, goings and happenings here. There are so many new faces and activities!

- Everyone has been so busy grooming the grounds, keeping the ants away and spraying herbicide to get rid of the burrs.
- **Bill #51** and **Jim #50** continue working on the Welcome Home sign. Bill has placed a beautiful fountain in the front center and is bringing in dirt with the tractor to plant flowers. Jim has been painting and painting. The entire sign has been hand painted! My paws hurt just from watching him!
- **Rita #57** has been working very hard in the library. What a huge job! She has devised an easy reference filing system, repaired damaged books and reorganized everything using the additional shelves built by **Bill #51**. There is even a selection of large print books now.
- **Al and JoAnn #100** hosted Soup Night. So many people and the food smelled great. Can't tell you what it tasted like because no one is allowed to share with me, but boy did they all eat!

- **Dave #57, Al #13, and Frank #7** have been working on building the stage for the dance floor.
- The billiard room floor was refinished, thanks **Jim #50, Dennis #3** and **Frank #7**.
- Sometimes it is hard to keep track of everyone but these people have visited us for a short time. **Bill & Marilyn # 6**, and **George & Beverly #66** visited for a while. **Jessie & Cassandra** stayed in the loft rooms. I like watching them play water volleyball! **Cat & Norm** moved to site #71. **Jerry & Dee, Don & Kat, Don & Sharon, Ken & Willie, Dave & Nan,** and **Alan & Barb** stayed for an extended weekend. **Ron & Cathy** are back for a visit.
- All these people have arrived, and I think they are staying until spring. **Dennis #3, Randy & Cindy #9, John & Jackie #11, Bruce & Mary Sue #19, Bill & Sandy #51, Danny & Robin #54, Ken & Janet #56, Jack & Cassandra #59, John & Pam #61, Dave & Nancy #65, Bill #78, John & Pat #102, Richard & Connie #203,** and **Rene & Marie #207**.
- I peeked in the email and eavesdropped in the office and believe that **Stan & Sue #69, Pierre & Carmen #76, Rick & Pam #79, Craig & Paula #106** and **Al & Bernadette #102** should be in by the end of the month.
- Recycling of plastic and aluminium cans sure has been busy. So many people have brought bags to the recycling center by the gate to get crushed and flattened then hauled away. What a great way to raise monies for various activities.

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Until next month.....

