

Shooting Tales

Joshua Creek Ranch Newsletter

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Vol. 14, No. 4

Fall 2006



"God bless America. Let's save some of it." Edward Abbey

Hunt and Habitat Report

The honor of your presence is requested at Joshua Creek Ranch for extraordinary wingshooting and whitetail deer hunting when the 2006-2007 Hunting Season at Joshua Creek Ranch officially begins October 1! But be sure to take a look in the newsletter at the *fantastic season kick-off specials* starting as early as September 15th. We also have dove hunting specials which are already in progress.

The fishing just got better! The clearing of the creek from back to front is almost finished, resulting in a cleaner, wider, and deeper stream bed – ideal for the Rainbow trout. Joseph's Lake (beside and below the Pro Shop) was completely dredged down to bedrock and is now a deep pool, perfect for the Guadalupe Bass and Bluegill that love the quieter waters. We appreciate your patience as we were cleaning Joshua Creek in order to restore the clear, sparkling flow of water that was its signature, pre-2002 flood. The habitat is looking excellent; we have planted red top cane, wheat, as well as milo and millet for the birds. This drought has taken its toll on everyone and everything, but we have been fortunate in that the grasses and grains that have been planted were selected for their drought-resistance and their hardiness. So far, all of the Ranch ponds are holding water, but once again, we urge you to use whatever means you have on hand to pray, and/or dance and chant for some strategic and timely rains.

2006 Summer Axis hunting has been a huge success at the Ranch! In fact, one of our Youth Outdoor Adventure participants, 12 year-old Will Fastabend from Lake Charles, Louisiana, harvested the 7th largest trophy Axis buck ever taken in the world! It was truly one for the records, 37" by 37 3/4". A picture of the buck, along with the proud hunter is in this newsletter. Axis hunting is available year-round at the Ranch, and we're certain you won't be disappointed with your Axis hunting experience. As always, we guarantee you a shot at a trophy buck. Call the office to make reservations and to find out about pricing details.

We're looking forward to our 17th year of superb wingshooting at Joshua Creek Ranch! The dogs are rested and ready to hunt. We will be offering limited quail hunting in the mornings only, by mid-September. Take advantage of this early opportunity to hunt before the official kick-off of the 2006-2007 wingshooting season. Make your reservations for early morning quail hunts now. If you've got a dog that needs a tune-up in the field, this is an excellent way to get your hunting companion (and yourself) primed and ready! We expect this to be our best wingshooting season ever! And why shouldn't it be – every season has been our best. The hunting just keeps getting better and better. Joshua Creek Ranch is truly Texas's premier wingshooting establishment! Welcome back to the Ranch for another spectacular year of wingshooting!

New Weekly Rate Offered at Lodge at River's Edge!

The Lodge at River's Edge is now available on a weekly basis for families and groups who want to escape to the rivers and mountains of the Aspen Valley Area. Located just one block from downtown Basalt, the area is a wonderland during the Fall with vivid color changes in the foliage, and in Winter with glistening snow-covered mountains. A minimum of 3 nights is required to take advantage of this special rate. From families that want to enjoy a skiing vacation to corporate groups that need an end-of-year retreat and meeting place, the accommodations of this 5-bedroom, 5 1/2-bath luxury get-away are ideally suited for your event.



The Lodge offers 2 acres with the Frying Pan River right outside your door for Gold Medal fly fishing. The deck has an inviting hot tub – just perfect for taking the frost off your toes as you relax in the soothing hot water while the snow flakes drift down around you. The beautiful, spacious interior has been remodeled and is simultaneously sumptuous and cozy, with hardwood floors, Oriental rugs, and a fireplace that invites you to sit down and curl up with a good book and your favorite cold-weather beverage. This spectacular retreat will be

exclusively yours during your stay.

The Lodge at River's Edge is a one-block walk to restaurants and shopping in the charming town of Basalt. Located only 15 minutes from the world class resort of Aspen/Snowmass, visitors can ski and snowboard on any of the four area mountains - Aspen, Highlands, Snowmass and Buttermilk. In addition to offering you luxury and privacy, the Lodge at River's Edge can arrange deep discounts on lift tickets! What more could you ask for? And please note that Joshua Creek Ranch MEMBERS are eligible for a discount!

For more information about reserving the Lodge for a family get-away, group retreat, or corporate event any time of the year, call for details at 970-927-4991 or 800-804-5520, or email the Lodge at info@lodgeatriversedgeCO.com. To visit the website, go to www.lodgeatriversedgeCO.com.

Fun Facts from the Farmer's Almanac: Full Moon Names and Their Meanings

Full moon names date back to the Native Americans of what is now the northern and eastern United States. Tribes kept track of the seasons by giving distinctive names to each recurring full moon. Their names were applied to the entire month in which each occurred and the names were indications of the particular characteristics of that month during that time of year. There were some variation in Moon names, but in general, the same ones were current throughout the Algonquin tribes from New England to Lake Superior. European settlers followed that custom and created some of their own names. Here are the full moon names for the autumn/winter months through the end of 2006:

- Full Harvest Moon – September – This is the full Moon that occurs closest to the autumn equinox. In two years out of the three, the Harvest Moon comes in September, but in some years it occurs in October (and you will get two full moons in that month, which is then known as a “Blue Moon” month – hence, “once in a blue moon. . .”). At the peak of harvest, farmers could work late into the night by the light of this Moon. Usually the full Moon rises an average of 50 minutes later each night, but for the few nights around the Harvest Moon, the Moon seems to rise at nearly the same time each night: just 24 to 30 minutes later across the U.S. and only 10 to 20 minutes later for much of Canada and Europe. Corn, pumpkins, squash, beans, and wild rice – the chief Indian staples – were ready for harvesting.*
- Full Hunter's Moon – October – With the leaves falling and the deer fattened, it is time to hunt! Since the fields have been reaped, hunters can easily see the game animals (and birds!) which have come out to glean.
- Full Frosty Moon or Full Beaver Moon – November – This was the time to set beaver traps in New England and northern states, before the swamps and waterways froze, to ensure a supply of warm winter furs. It also comes from the fact that the beavers are now actively preparing for winter.

- Full Cold Moon or Full Long Nights Moon – December – During this month of winter, cold fastens its grip, and nights are at their longest and darkest. It is also sometimes called the Moon before Yule. (But of course the Puritans didn't care for that Pagan reference). The term Long Night Moon is a doubly appropriate name because December is the month of the winter solstice, the midwinter night is the longest night of the year, and because the Moon is above the horizon for a long time. The midwinter full Moon has a high trajectory across the sky because it is opposite a low Sun.

*Note: September's full Moon is usually called the Harvest Moon, but not this year. By definition, the Harvest Moon is the full Moon closest to the autumnal equinox. This year's equinox falls on Sept. 23rd and the full Moon closest to that comes on October 7th. The 2006 Harvest Moon will have to wait until October! That final word comes from the NASA Science & Astronomical Newsletter. That means this year we will have the Full Harvest Moon and the Full Hunter's Moon in October!

We hope you'll enjoy hunting at Joshua Creek Ranch for many moons!

Preserves Extend Opportunities for Hunters

The following is a partial reprint from an article by Glenn Sapir for the National Shooting Sports Foundation. This article was published in Wingshooting USA. We thought it was a timely reminder for those who might be wondering what bird hunting preserves offer to the hunter who can no longer find a local option for wingshooting.

“Daily fee preserves in many states provide an excellent chance for bird hunters to get a jumpstart on autumn's hunting activities. Similarly, preserves may stay open well after general hunting seasons have closed, providing convenient wingshooting long after other opportunities have ended for the year.

These extended hunting opportunities usually flush in the form of pheasants, though many preserves offer chukar, and bobwhite quail. Hungarian partridge and mallard are other game sometimes provided.

Typically, the customer makes a reservation for a particular kind of hunting experience. Many preserves offer pre-set packages, such as a 10-pheasant hunt (a mix of cocks and hens) or a half-day quail, mixed bag, or waterfowl hunt with a certain bag limit.

Quality hunting preserves offer hard-flying birds and excellent habitat. Some preserves release the birds before the season begins. Good habitat will hold most of the early released birds while giving them a chance to acclimate to the wild.

Most preserves provide a guide and field-trained dogs. Customers may have a choice of flushing or pointing dogs, or may have the experience of hunting over a variety of types. Though shooting action is virtually guaranteed, hitting the birds is always in the hands of the hunter.

Preserves also allow conscientious parents or other adult mentors to introduce youngsters who are often prohibited from hunting because of laws such as minimum age restrictions, to a day in the field. Preserves not only provide a great chance to train young hunters, but also to train young hunting dogs. Dog owners anxious to give their canine companions exposure to the best of all training tools – plenty of birds – find preserves a welcome venue for training sessions.

The preserve experience varies depending on how well the dogs work, how natural the cover is, how amicable the guides are, and how fairly the hunt is priced.”

With each passing year, hunters across our country find it increasingly difficult to locate a place to hunt. What was once an endearing part of rural America – walking home from a bird hunt, shotgun cradled in one's arm – now belongs to a time and a world largely lost to most of us. Sprawling, widespread urban development, suburban blight, soaring population, and other environmental factors have combined to dramatically reduce natural habitat. The hunting preserve is a viable answer to the reduced public hunting opportunities that were once “close to home.” We are dedicated to the idea that future generations truly know what it's like to “come home from the hunt.” An ongoing commitment to placing lands in conservation easements is a large part of the mission of Joshua Creek Ranch.

Fantastic Wingshooting Specials to Kick-Off the 2006-2007 Season

These specials are available ONLY from mid-September through the end of October. Book your hunt now to take advantage of these specially priced hunts. The availability of these hunts is limited, so don't wait too long! October will here and gone before you know it!

NEW!! Continental Clays and Lunch (100 Targets) – Sept 1 - 30 \$65.00

#1 Dove, Dinner, & Free Wobble Trap -- Sept 1 - 30

Get to the Ranch in time for a late afternoon unguided dove hunt, steak dinner, and FREE Wobble Trap before or after your hunt and dinner. Wobble Trap requires steel shot and closes at 10 pm. Offer includes up to 100 free targets per shooter.

\$95 (\$45, Member)

#2 Clays, Dove, & Dinner -- Sept 1 - 30

Warm up with a round of 50 targets on the sporting clays course, then head to the dove fields, returning to the lodge in time for dinner!

\$125 (\$70, Member)

#3 Early Morning Quail Hunt -- Sept 15-30

Beat the heat with a 7:30 am start time for this early season pasture hunt. Return to the Lodge for brunch. Minimum of 2 shooters.

Special \$389/Shooter (\$349, Member) (Regular price -- \$500/shooter)

OR

Continental Pheasant Shoot & Lunch-- Sept 15-30

Minimum of 10 Shooters; 9:00 AM Start, 23 pheasant/gun*

Special \$389/Shooter (\$349, Member) (Regular price -- \$500/shooter)

OR

Driven Pheasant -- Sept 15-30 (2 drive sites, no walk-up)

Minimum of 5 guns; 9:00 AM Start, 28 pheasant/gun*

Special \$495 (Member, \$475) (Regular price -- \$695/shooter)

*Additional Pheasants Presented at \$16.00 each

#4 Morning or Afternoon Upland Bird Hunt with Lunch -- Oct 1 - 31

Minimum 2 Shooters

\$389/gun (\$349, Member) (Regular price -- \$500/shooter)

#5 Afternoon Upland Bird Hunt with Gourmet Game Dinner -- Oct 1 - 31

Minimum 2 Shooters

\$419/gun (\$379, Member) (Regular Price -- \$540/shooter)

#6 Sporting Clays, Upland Bird Hunt, Overnight Lodging (Dbl. Occupancy) & Meals -- Oct 1 - 31

Minimum 2 Shooters

Day 1: Afternoon round of Sporting Clays (100 Targets), Gourmet Game Dinner & Lodging

Day 2: Breakfast, Upland Bird Hunt & Lunch

\$540/gun (\$500, Member) (Regular Price -- \$680/shooter)

#7 Morning or Afternoon Driven Pheasant Shoot with Lunch (2 drive sites) -- Oct 1 - 31

Followed by walk-up hunting for pheasants that got past the guns on the drives

Minimum 5 Shooters on Driven Pheasant Shoot, 25/pheasant/gun*

\$575 (\$540, Member) (Regular Price -- \$695/shooter)

OR

Continental Shoot

Minimum 10 Shooters on Continental Shoot, 20/pheasant/gun*

\$420 (\$385, Member) Regular Price -- \$535/Shooter *Additional Pheasants Presented at \$16.00 each

#8 Afternoon Driven Pheasant Shoot with Gourmet Game Dinner -- Oct 1 - 31

Minimum 5 Shooters on Driven Pheasant Shoot, 25/pheasant/gun*

\$595 (\$575 Members) (Regular Price -- \$739/Shooter)

OR

Continental Shoot with Gourmet Game Dinner -- Oct 1 - 31

Minimum 10 Shooters on Continental Shoot, 20/pheasant/gun*

\$445 (\$415, Member) (Regular Price -- \$575/Shooter) *Additional Pheasant Presented at \$16.00 each

#9 Two Upland Bird Hunts with One Night Lodging (Dbl. Occupancy) & Meals -- Oct 1 - 31

Minimum 2 Shooters

Day 1: Lunch, Afternoon Upland Bird Hunt, Gourmet Game Dinner & Lodging

Day 2: Breakfast, Morning Upland Bird Hunt & Lunch

\$859 (\$789, Member) (Regular Price -- \$1125/Shooter)

#10 Three Upland Bird Hunts with Two Nights Lodging (Dbl. Occupancy) & Meals -- Oct 1 - 31

Minimum 2 Shooters

Day 1: Gourmet Game Dinner & Lodging

Day 2: Breakfast, Morning Upland Bird Hunt,

Lunch, Afternoon Upland Bird Hunt,

Gourmet Game Dinner & Lodging

Day 3: Breakfast, Morning Quail Hunt, & Lunch

\$1295 (\$1220, Member) (Regular Price -- \$1720/Shooter)

Note: Joshua Creek Ranch serves dinner for only 6 or more guests. Prices per gun exclude ammo, licenses, gratuities, & alcoholic beverages. All lodging is double occupancy. Additional charge for single room. Upland bird hunts include quail, pheasant, chukar, and Hungarian partridge. Members' prepaid birds may not be applied.

JCR Youth Outdoor Adventure Program 2006 -- A Spectacular Success!

JCR's Youth Outdoor Adventure Program 2006 was a great success for participants and staff alike. *Some exceptional size Axis bucks were taken. For many of our participants this was the first time for them to have the opportunity and the experience of hunting for trophy Axis. In addition, many of our young hunters just wanted to take some delicious Axis meat home for the family freezer – so whether it was a doe or buck, everyone was a winner! It was a particularly exciting week for William Fastabend of Lake Charles, Louisiana. Check out his photo below. It was fortuitous that Will's mother called the very day we had a cancellation in the third session of the program. There was one space available as a result of the last minute cancellation. A last minute addition led to a memory that will last a lifetime! Will shot a record size trophy Axis, 7th largest



Will Fastabend shows off his record size 37" by 37 3/4" trophy Axis buck, Youth Outdoor Program 2006

in the world! Not too shabby for a 12 year old on his first Axis hunt!

For those of you who are familiar with the JCR Youth Outdoor Adventure Program, you know that it is dedicated to developing lifelong hunters and outdoorsmen. Our program is augmented by experts and experienced professional hunting guides who instill in the participants the importance of safety, as well as a passion for hunting and fishing. Participants stay at the Ranch and learn rifle and shotgun shooting, fly fishing, and archery. These activities are the highlights of the week, but plenty of afternoon time is spent in Joshua

Creek and the Guadalupe River learning water safety, as well as having fun in tubes and kayaks. Hunter Education Certification is earned by participants 12 years and older, and safety is the focal point.

Please make note of the dates for the four sessions scheduled for 2007. Mark these dates on your calendar and don't forget to reserve a space for your child. The program begins at 2:30 pm on the Sunday of arrival and ends the following Saturday at 9:00 am with an Awards breakfast followed by a shooting demonstration at the Wobble Trap. We invite you to enroll your child (or children) in this exciting and educational summer youth adventure program! A \$495 deposit holds a space for your child.

Session I – June 10th – June 16th – Ages 12 to 15

Session II – June 24th – June 30th -- Ages 12 to 15

Session III – July 8th – July 14th – Ages 8 to 12

Session IV – July 23rd – July 28th – Ages 12 to 15

\$995.00**

*Parental permission is necessary for your child to participate in an Axis hunt. **Price includes loaner guns and ammo, fly rods and flies, instructor fees, lodging and meals.