



Joshua Creek Ranch
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Shooting Tales

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New Beretta Guns for Fall Season
More Lodging Accommodations

Armed Forces Spend Memorial



Day Relaxing at the Ranch.....



On Memorial Day, Joshua Creek Ranch had the special privilege of hosting a group of war veterans who are at Brooke Army Medical Center recovering from combat injuries sustained while serving in foreign countries. The spirit of these young men and their families in spite of the life-long consequences they face as a result of their injuries was so inspiring. To see the sacrifices that they have made so that people around the world can have the chance to live in a free society is great cause for "American Pride".

These folk espoused the experience of a peaceful, outdoor afternoon with the greatest enthusiasm. Dads took their wives and kids canoeing and tubing; relentless fishermen had to be coaxed to leave the creek banks for dinner on the patio.

We've already marked the 2009 calendar to host another Memorial Day celebration with our vets. It's just a small way to say thank you for what they've done for us.

***** VOTE! VOTE! VOTE! *****

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY FOR VOTING NOVEMBER 4th. The stakes are higher than ever this 2008 election. Don't let the freedoms that Americans have died to protect be legislated from us by green conservationists who claim they will save the planet by unrealistic means. Hunters, fishermen and land owners are the most effective conservationists and the truest caregivers to the preservation of wildlife and its habitat.

Hunt and Habitat Report

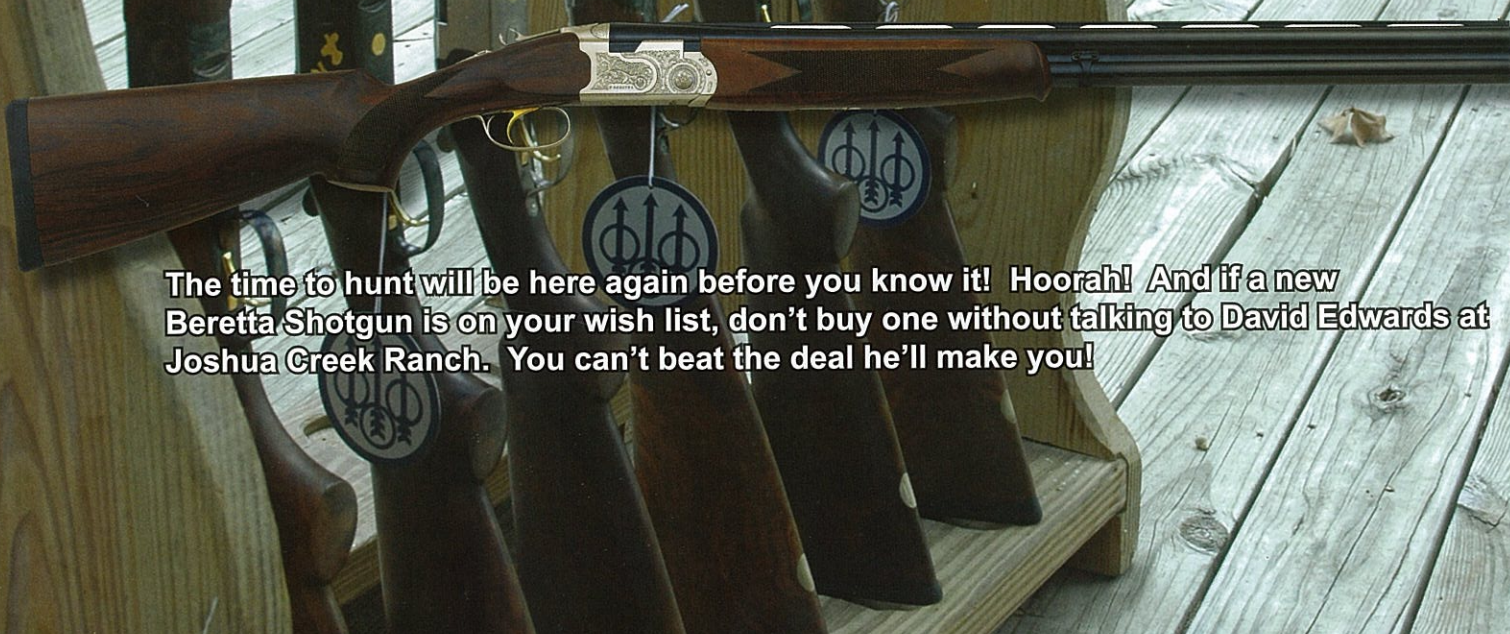
Timing is truly everything when it comes to habitat management. Kendall County authorities lifted the local burn ban for a few days in late spring and we were able to strategically burn selected pastures. Luckily the burn was followed promptly by the few rainy days we've had all year. The improved pasture grasses that have been planted over the years have responded resiliently and their drought tolerance has kept them thriving.

All this new tender young grass has made the burned areas irresistible to the Axis deer who fed all winter at the protein feeders. Daily sightings of magnificent 30"+ bucks are common and the Axis hunters are over 90% successful as of the late July writing of this newsletter.

Selected cedar clearing throughout the ranch is expanding and enhancing upland bird hunting opportunities. A little rain on the newly seeded grasses in these areas and your upland hunting habitat will be bigger and better in the coming season! And speaking of rain, it is the #1 need at the moment. It's hard to believe that January through September, 2007 was a 9-month period of record high rainfall, measuring over 70". But the rain faucet has been turned off these latest 9 months. Consequently, it's been a long time since this country has seen such severe drought conditions. The drought-tolerant grasses established in JCR's pastures are enduring amazingly well, but a series of refresher summer showers would be a welcome relief.

Plans are underway to begin the upland bird hunting season in mid-September with early morning walk-up hunts and morning or afternoon driven pheasant shoots. See the JCR website for special pricing for hunts booked in September and October.

New Guns For Sale at Pro-Shop

A Beretta shotgun is prominently displayed in the foreground, resting on a wooden deck. The shotgun has a dark wood stock and a silver receiver. In the background, several other shotguns are leaning against a wooden railing. The scene is set outdoors on a wooden deck with a railing, and trees are visible in the background.

The time to hunt will be here again before you know it! Hoorah! And if a new Beretta Shotgun is on your wish list, don't buy one without talking to David Edwards at Joshua Creek Ranch. You can't beat the deal he'll make you!

Fall Hunting Specials

September – October 2008
Spectacular Wingshooting Specials!

September 2008 marks the opening of Joshua Creek Ranch's 19th Hunting Season! Time and space are limited for these season kick-off specials, so call NOW to reserve your hunting dates. Once October 2008 is gone, so are these great specials

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 & dinner. Wobble Trap requires steel shot & closes at 10 pm. Offer includes up to 50 free targets per shooter.

~~\$45~~ ~~\$95~~

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 for unguided hunting; return to the lodge in time for dinner!

~~\$70~~ ~~\$125~~

3. LIMITED TIME OFFER Sept. 15th – 30th, Early Morning Quail Hunt

Beat the heat with a 7:30 am start time for this early season pasture hunt. Return to the lodge for a late breakfast. (Minimum 2 shooters)

OR

Continental Pheasant Shoot & Lunch
(Minimum 10 Shooters)
20 Pheasant/gun**

~~\$395~~ ~~\$455~~

~~\$595 per shooter~~

Driven Pheasant Shoot – 2 Drive Sites, No Walk-up
(Minimum 5 Shooters)
25 Pheasant/gun**

~~\$495~~ ~~\$585~~

~~\$780 per shooter~~

** Additional pheasant presented at \$17.00 each

4.* Morning or Afternoon Quail or Mixed Bag Hunt

With Lunch – Oct. 1-31
(Minimum 2 shooters)

~~\$560 per shooter~~ ~~\$390~~ ~~\$445~~

5. Afternoon Quail or Mixed Bag Hunt with Game

Dinner – Oct. 1-31
(Minimum 2 shooters)

~~\$595 per shooter~~ ~~\$420~~ ~~\$475~~

6.* Sporting Clays, Upland Bird Hunt, Lodging

(Double 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.

~~\$745 per shooter~~ ~~\$545~~ ~~\$600~~

7.* Morning or Afternoon Driven Pheasant Shoot with Lunch

(2 drive sites) followed by walk-up hunting for pheasant that got past the guns on the drives. Minimum 5 guns – Oct. 1-31
(25 pheasant/gun)**

~~\$780 per shooter~~ ~~\$575~~ ~~\$635~~

OR
Continental Shoot with Lunch, Minimum 10 guns
(20 pheasant/gun)**

~~\$595 per shooter~~ ~~\$420~~ ~~\$480~~

** Additional pheasant presented at \$20.00 each

8.* Afternoon Driven Pheasant Shoot with Dinner – Oct. 1-31

Minimum 5 guns
(25 pheasant/gun)**
OR

~~\$815 per shooter~~ ~~\$595~~ ~~\$655~~

Continental Shoot with Dinner
Minimum 10 guns
(20 pheasant/gun)**

~~\$630 per shooter~~ ~~\$440~~ ~~\$499~~

** Additional pheasant presented at \$20.00 each.

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

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

Day 2: Breakfast, Morning Upland Bird Hunt, & Lunch.

~~\$1235 per shooter~~

~~\$880~~ ~~\$999~~

10.* Three Upland Bird Hunts with Two Nights Lodging (Double 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.

~~\$1885 per shooter~~

~~\$1350~~ ~~\$1530~~



Member Price



Non-Member Price

*Add another half-day Upland Bird Hunt to your package for \$350/gun (Non-Members: \$390)

NOTE: Joshua Creek serves dinner only for 6 or more guests. Prices are per gun and exclude ammo, licenses, gratuities, and alcoholic beverages. All lodging is double occupancy. Additional charge for single room. Upland Bird Hunts include quail, pheasant, and chukar. Members' prepaid birds may not be applied. Price subject to change without notice.

Colorado Lodge at River's Edge Newly Remodeled

Three years ago in June, 2005, during a visit to the Aspen area of Colorado, the opportunity to acquire a Bed and Breakfast on the Frying Pan River in Basalt, CO literally fell into our laps. The place needed a lot of "fixing up," but we figured we could handle that; after all, Joshua Creek Ranch had been in similar condition when we bought it in 1986. What we didn't anticipate was that the very thing that attracted us most about the property, (its proximity to the Frying Pan, a gold-medal trout river), would be the complicating factor in getting the necessary approvals to make our vision for the place a reality.

Lodge at River's Edge is truly at the river's edge. Laws enacted in Colorado after its construction in the 1950's, cause the structure to be in an "environmentally sensitive zone" which has severe restrictions on what can and cannot be done in the area. It took a team of experts with plenty of imagination and some amount of political savvy to create a plan that met the essence of our vision for the place, while remaining within the restrictive regulations of the community. But the final phase of the remodel is complete, and the lodge reopened for guests in July, no longer as a B&B, but as a lodging rental property. Rent a room, a cozy cabin or the entire lodge with 5 on-suite bedrooms, coupled with a gourmet kitchen, hot tub on the deck by the river, and a two-block walk to fine restaurants, shops and galleries in downtown Basalt. How can someplace feel so secluded and be so close to downtown? You'll have to see it to believe it!

Getting there is an easy flight into Denver where we recommend renting a car for the scenic 3-4 hour drive to Basalt via either of two spectacular routes into the Rocky Mountains: either IH 70 through spectacular Loveland and Vail passes and dramatic Glenwood Canyon, or the highway to Leadville and across the continental divide through awesome Independence Pass.

Be sure to bring a jacket for those cool mountain mornings and evenings! We think you'll love this experience as much as we do.

For updated photos, rates, and availability see the website at www.lodgeatriversedgeco.com. JCR members receive discounted pricing.

Joe & Ann

Fly Fishing in Colorado...

Where Joshua Creek Ranch is fly-fishing paradise in the winter months, Basalt, CO is the ultimate fly-fishing destination in summer months. The climate and clear, rapid water are attractions that no right-minded person could pass up, whether they fish or not!

But fly-fish you will, if you have so much as a curiosity about the sport, when you connect with one of Basalt's two excellent fly shops, especially our friends at Taylor Creek Fly shop. They can introduce you to three of the nation's premier trout streams within a short drive from their store. Experience a broad spectrum of fishing from small, secluded high-country streams filled with brookies or cutthroats to the huge brawling runs of the lower Colorado River and all choices in between. Taylor Creek professionals have been guiding beginners and experts alike for the last 30 years as western Colorado's oldest and most prestigious fly-fishing store and guide service. They know all the secret honey-holes, with guides making their selection of water based on angler preference, level of experience, water conditions and current hatches. Whether you wade or float, the options are vast.



Contact Taylor Creek Fly Shop for details and bookings: 970-927-4374
taylorcreek@ssv.net or www.taylorcreek.com



Fly-Fishing Paradise

A man wearing a light blue long-sleeved shirt, olive green waders, a tan hat, and sunglasses is wading in a stream. He is holding a fishing rod in his right hand and a net in his left hand. The water is clear and flowing over rocks, creating a small waterfall in the background. The scene is bright and sunny.

Light tackle fly fishing on Joshua Creek in recent weeks has been delightful. A large spring near the ranch's entrance is pouring cool, gin-clear water into Joshua Creek, creating a perfect wade-fishing environment. The solid bottom with water depths varying from 1-5 feet makes for easy wading.

A 3 to 4-weight fly-rod with poppers promises plenty of action for Bluegills, Guadalupe and Large-Mouth Bass. A 3.5 lb. bass was caught Memorial Day by a war veteran out for a day of relaxation.

On these hot summer afternoons, there's no place I'd rather be than wade-fishing in Joshua Creek's crystal clear water under the cypress shade canopy. I even get a chill sometimes when the breeze gets a little gusty! Since we live at the ranch, I guess you couldn't call my daily afternoon fishing hour a vacation, so we just call it my "staycation".

Come give it a try. I think you'll like it.

Joe Kercheville

Check the schedule this fall for when Joshua Creek will be stocked with trout. The Temperature of the water determines when we are able to stock the creek.

Fishing Member J.J. Kennedy is the expert on which flies are attracting the fish on any given day.

What's Cookin in the Kitchen?

When a community is growing like ours here in Kendall County, Texas, one thing's for sure: good employees are in great demand. That's why we're so pleased to increase our cooking talent with the return of Kay Read, who managed JCR's kitchen for several years before moving to Oklahoma in 2002. Well, she's back & has teamed up with Jean & Carmen to enhance & expand your dining experience at JCR. A couple of their many plans for improvement include new homemade menu items using fresh herbs from the kitchen garden that Jean planted last spring, and new gamebird entrees that you'll definitely want recipes for!

All this you'll enjoy while seated at the new patio furniture, acquired recently as a result of a guest's suggestion left in one of the "Comment Boxes". You'll like this improvement, and we hope you'll share your ideas for making the ranch better. We do take your suggestions seriously!! And here's a suggestion for you...have a private dinner party at JCR this summer; game entrees are available year-round.

To better meet your dining expectations, please advise us in advance of menu & wine preferences & any dietary restrictions.

Quail with Apple Thyme Sauce

6 Quail Halves
3 Tbls. Honey
4 Sprigs Fresh Thyme
2 Apples, unpeeled and chopped
1 Cup Chicken Stock
1 Tbls. Lemon Juice

Season Quail halves with salt and pepper.
Fry in oil until brown on both sides.
Place in a small pan, add ½ cup water and cover tightly with foil. Bake in 350 degree oven for 30 minutes.

To prepare sauce, heat honey in saucepan until it boils. Add thyme and apples. Cook until coated with honey then add chicken stock and simmer for 15 minutes. Remove and discard thyme sprigs. Remove apples. To the remaining liquid, add lemon juice. Bring to a boil and reduce to desired consistency. Return apples to sauce and heat through. Top the Quail with the sauce and garnish with fresh thyme.



New Lodging Available to JCR Members

In 2004 and 2007 ranch owners, Joe and Ann Kercheville, built 2 houses on Joshua Creek Ranch for their personal family use. The sites for these houses were selected for their spectacular view of Joshua Creek Ranch and the Hill Country beyond. Come October, JCR members will have the opportunity to reserve these two houses during their stay at the ranch. Each house is beautifully furnished, complete with a fully equipped kitchen. Their proximity to each other and common patio with firepit make it the perfect scenario for a group of 3 to 6 guests to comfortably share the combined accommodations.

“We are delighted to share these beautifully appointed homes with JCR members”, says Joe, “They’re a step above the comfortable lodging we offer at our other accommodations, in fact, we’re bordering on luxury here!”

The one bedroom “Porch Haus” is cozy for a couple, 2 adults, or a small family. The porches on all sides offer spectacular sunrise & sunset views with a vast expanse of Hill Country between you and the horizon. The two-bedroom “Covey Haus” shares the same spectacular views. Interior photos of these latest accommodations available to members along with their rental rates will be posted soon on the JCR website.



Youth Outdoor Adventure Program

2008 marks the 15th year for JCR's summer youth program. It started in 1993 with a 3-day weekend event for 8-15 year-olds. That format continued for several years until the kids and their parents lobbied for a week long program with more time for more activities. The rest is history as the program grew from one session per summer to the present four sessions with a wait-list.

This summer over 85 youngsters have spent a week in The Texas Hill Country practicing shooting, flycasting, archery, and having fun with water sports and cook-outs. The program focuses on safety, responsibility, ethics, and stewardship as much as on skills. JCR considers it a real privilege to be part of the development of these future outdoor enthusiasts and advocates of the all-American right to hunt, fish, and own the equipment to participate in these traditions of our ancestors.

Reservations are already being accepted for the 2009 Youth Outdoor Adventure Program. See dates and details at www.joshuacreek.com.





Announcements

A few lockers at the JCR Lodge are available for rent to members. Conveniently store your hunting and fishing gear for quick and easy access at the annual rate of \$240.

If you have freezer-banked birds at JCR from this past season, they must be picked up by September 1st. After that, they will be disposed of to make room for the current season's birds. Don't let this delicious opportunity slip away! While you're here, get a JCR Hunter's Harvest Cookbook if you have any doubts about what to do with those birds when you get them home. Shipping can be arranged by prepaid overnight service only.

If you've been notified that your Taxidermy mount is in the JCR pro shop ready for pick up, it must be picked up and paid for by September 1st. After that, it will be offered for sale to retail customers, and you can believe we get lots of hunters wanting to buy taxidermy right off the ceiling which is where they are with all the birds we have ready to go home with their owners! Prepaid shipping can be arranged, if needed.

Kennel Corner

Man's best friend is without a doubt every wingshooter's most treasured friend. At Joshua Creek Ranch the hunting dogs get high respect because we know that your experience here is only as good as our dogs. Ranch Manager, David Edwards, is experienced and knowledgeable about all aspects of hunting dog breeding, training, breed characteristics and health management. David welcomes your inquiries about the dog(s) you have or the dog you want. In fact there's nothing he would like to talk about more than hunting dogs unless it's shotguns!

If you're looking for a dog, looking to breed your dog or hunt or board your dog, then a call to David is worth your time. He'll give you an upfront and honest answer to your questions, and help to get the most rewarding experience possible with your dog(s).

We have a special fondness for English Cockers whose enthusiastic flushing and relentless retrieving efforts make for the greatest upland bird hunting. "Lacey" the granddaughter of our first cocker "DeeDee" is bred to Winchester. This breeding produced "Java" two years ago, and he's developed the enthusiasm for hunting that makes his dam so popular with our hunting guests. Call David if you have an interest in acquiring a pup from this excellent breeding.

