

Joshua Creek Ranch

Shooting Tales



Habitat Report
Youth Outdoor Adventure Program
20th Anniversary Specials
What's Cookin'
Lodge at River's Edge...A Winter Wonderland
Whitetail and Axis Deer Hunting
Tell Us Your Story



Habitat Report

You've heard somewhere before that the opportunity created by a crisis should never be wasted. Well, the crisis for JCR has been the record drought and high temperatures of Summer, 2009. Reports abound comparing the current drought to that of the 1950's, saying 2009 is at least as bad and possibly worse. And the record for the number of days exceeding 100 degrees in south central Texas was surpassed this summer. Some records are fun to break but not these.

The improved grasses throughout the ranch pastures have suffered, but remain amazingly resilient compared to native grasses on surrounding ranches. A couple of inches of rain in September has been enough to restore pasture cover to good condition for upland bird hunting.

Ranch manager, David Edwards, has spent endless hours planting cover crops in the fields at JCR, not once, but twice, in an effort to establish good field conditions. Again, the September rains should put enough growth on those crops to ensure that field hunting will be available this season.

So wherein lies the opportunity created by the drought? Like other drought years in the past, the Joshua Creek dried up and created the chance to get into the creek with heavy equipment and remove flood debris and silt. This process always improves the fishing when the creek is flowing again and restocked with trout, bass, and bluegills. The deeper water that results from the clean-up allows the creek's spring water to remain colder for a longer period of time, resulting in trout survival throughout May and into June.

The absence of field crops all summer created a predictable concentration of deer at feeders, resulting in excellent Axis deer harvests throughout June, July, and August. See some photos on the back cover of the trophy axis bucks shot by hunters this past summer.

There've been literally no "down days" this summer due to rain, so plenty of work has been accomplished around the ranch. You'll see pastures improved by additional clearing of cedar, some road improvements, and new trees planted in the Main Lodge lawn.

The whole JCR crew is anxious for the hunting season to begin so we can get back to the fun business of giving you the best quail and upland bird hunting opportunity in Texas! We're betting you're ready for the same.



Youth Outdoor Adventure Program - "YOAP" 2009

The four weeks of YOAP in June and July, 2009 saw over 90 boys and girls take to the outdoors for fun-filled days and evenings in this sporting paradise. A routine of shooting and archery sports in the mornings left the hot afternoons free for fishing, water sports, hunter education and demos from a trapper, game warden, wildlife biologist, and local sheriff's deputies. An evening at a nearby exotic game ranch and a visit to a local taxidermy workshop rounded out the curriculum. Many of the kids hunted for axis deer, as well.

Lots of YOAPers returned from prior summers, and the 15 year-old's who've been coming every summer since they were 8 or 9 years old lobbied successfully for an age extension to allow them another summer or two of fun at JCR. A new week will be offered in 2010 just for ages 15-17.

See the side panel for dates and registration information for the five sessions of YOAP scheduled for 2010. It's not too soon to sign up. If the pattern holds true to years past, sessions will likely have a waiting list by late spring 2010.



Joshua Creek Ranch

Youth Outdoor Adventure Program 2010

\$995

Session I (Ages 13 - 15)	June 6th - 12th
Session II (Ages 15 - 17)	June 20th - 26th
Session III (Ages 8-12)	July 11th - 17th
Session IV (Ages 13 - 15)	July 25th - 31st
Session V (Ages 8 - 12)	August 8th - 14th

Skill Building Activities Include:

- Shotgun/Rifle Shooting
- Archery
- Fly Fishing
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Basic Outdoor Survival Skills
- Hunter Education Certification (ages 9+)
- Track & Trap Identification
- Hunting for Axis Deer (optional add-on!)
- Boy Scout Merit Badges
- And much more!

detailed application. Enclosed is the \$495 deposit to hold a place for

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------|--------------------------|
| Session I | <input type="checkbox"/> | Session IV | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Session II | <input type="checkbox"/> | Session V | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Session III | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

Please Contact us at:

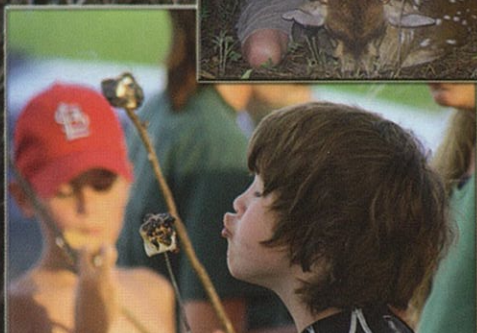
(830) 537-5090

info@joshuacreek.com

(830) 537-4766 (Fax)

PO Box 1946 - Boerne, TX 78006

www.joshuacreek.com



Joshua Creek

20th Anniversary Wingshooting

It's true, "Time flies when you're having fun!" We know, because we're opening Joshua Creek Ranch's 20th hunting season this October, 2009. How can that be? It seems like such a short time ago that we were just conceiving the notion of Joshua Creek Ranch as a Hill Country Sporting Paradise. The concept was fun, the building process has been rewarding, but the best part has been all the many friends we've made over these years. With our thanks for your business and friendship, we offer you these 20th Anniversary Specials throughout the month of October. And be sure to watch the JCR website for additional specials to be offered throughout the remainder of the season.

Our best 20th Anniversary gift is that you'll come out to the ranch often and enjoy yourself!

Joe & Ann Kercheville

#1 Sept 1st - 30th DOVE, DINNER & FREE WOBBLE TRAP

Get to the Ranch in time for a late afternoon unguided dove hunt, dinner, and FREE wobble trap before or after your hunt
Wobble Trap requires steel shot & closes at 10 p.m.
Offer includes up to 50 free targets per shooter

\$45
Members

\$75 Non-Members

#2 Sept 1st - 30th CLAYS, DOVE & DINNER

Warm up with a round of 50 targets on the sporting clays course or the triple wobble trap; then head to the dove fields for unguided hunting; return to the lodge in time for dinner

\$70
Members

\$110 Non-Members

#4 Oct 1st - 31st HALF DAY HUNT & LUNCH

Morning or Afternoon mixed-bag or quail hunt and lunch
Minimum 2 Shooters

~~\$575~~

\$365
Members

\$425 Non-Members

#5 Oct 1st - 31st HALF DAY HUNT & DINNER

Afternoon mixed-bag or quail hunt and dinner
Minimum 2 Shooters

~~\$610~~

\$390
Members

\$450 Non-Members

#6 Oct 1st - 31st SPORTING CLAYS, UPLAND BIRD HUNT, LODGING & MEALS

Minimum 2 Shooters

- * Day 1 - Afternoon round of Sporting Clays (100 targets),
Gourmet Dinner & Lodging.
- * Day 2 - Breakfast, Upland Bird Hunt & Lunch

~~\$759~~

\$499
Members

\$569 Non-Members

Ranch Specials 2009



#7 MORNING OR AFTERNOON DRIVEN PHEASANT SHOOT & LUNCH

- *Warm up at the simulated driven pheasant triple wobble trap
- *2 Driven Pheasant sites followed by walk-up hunting for pheasant that got past the guns on the drives
- *Minimum 4 guns
- *(25 Pheasant/gun)**

~~\$780~~

\$499
Members

\$569 Non-Members

~OR~ CONTINENTAL SHOOT WITH LUNCH

Minimum 10 guns
(20 Pheasant/gun)**

~~\$595~~

\$365
Members

\$425 Non-Members

#8 AFTERNOON DRIVEN PHEASANT SHOOT WITH DINNER

- *Warm up at the simulated driven pheasant triple wobble trap
- *2 Driven Pheasant Sites followed by walk-up hunting for pheasant that got past the guns on the drives
- *Minimum 4 guns
- *(25 Pheasant/gun)**

~~\$815~~

\$525
Members

\$585 Non-Members

~OR~ CONTINENTAL SHOOT WITH DINNER

Minimum 10 guns
(20 Pheasant/gun)**

~~\$630~~

\$390
Members

\$450 Non-Members

**Additional pheasant presented at \$17 each

#9 2 UPLAND BIRD HUNTS WITH ONE NIGHT LODGING & MEALS

- *Minimum 2 Shooters
- *Day 1 - Lunch, Afternoon Upland Bird Hunt, Gourmet Dinner & Lodging.
- *Day 2 - Breakfast, Morning Upland Bird Hunt & Lunch

~~\$1265~~

\$820
Members

\$935 Non-Members

#10 3 UPLAND BIRD HUNTS WITH 2 NIGHTS LODGING & MEALS

- * Minimum 2 Shooters
- *Day 1 - Gourmet Dinner & Lodging
- *Day 2 - Breakfast, Morning Upland Bird Hunt, Lunch Afternoon Mixed-Bag Hunt, Gourmet Dinner & Lodging
- *Day 3 - Breakfast, Morning Quail Hunt & Lunch

~~\$1885~~

\$1245
Members

\$1425 Non-Members

Note: Prices are 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 guided by professionals with well-trained pointing & flushing dogs. Members' prepaid birds may not be applied.

What's Cookin'?

It may be better to ask "Where's it cookin'?" JCR just happens to have several GREAT cooks this season under the extraordinary leadership of Kay Read. They've come up with a plan that gives lodging guests at the Stone Haus, Porch Haus, or Covey Haus the opportunity to have a chef at their accommodation to prepare and serve dinner. Those three houses are equipped with fully furnished kitchens, so if you'd like to treat yourselves to a private gourmet dinner served in the comfort of your own "haus," that can now be arranged. Advance reservations are required for a private chef and can be made through the JCR office; the chef fee is \$100 for the first four guests and \$25 for each person in excess of four.

If you've not partaken of an evening meal at JCR since autumn 2008, then you're really missing out on a sumptuous dining experience. First, you'll feast with your eyes when you see the beautifully presented wild game entrees, then you'll tantalize your tastebuds with each delicious bite of perfectly prepared pheasant, quail or axis venison.

If you're close enough to drive to the ranch for dinner, just call for a reservation and come out for an unforgettable feast.

Chukar Chimichurri

Carefully remove the breast and thigh meat from 4 chuckars. Mix up mojito marinade as follows.

Mix: 1/4 cup chopped garlic
 1/2 cup chopped onion
 2 cups orange juice
 1/2 cup lime juice

Heat 1/2 cup olive oil in pan until hot. Carefully slide the juice mix into hot oil and cook until onions are soft.

Then add: 4 tsp salt
 1 tbs black pepper
 2 tsp cumin
 2 tsp oregano
 1 tbs chopped cilantro

Pour all into a blender and pulse until smooth. Let cool and cover chukar meat with it. Marinate in refrigerator 4-18 hours.

Grill marinated chukar over medium heat until done (about 3 minutes on each side, being careful not to over cook); top with chimichurri sauce.

Chimichurri Sauce

1 cup olive oil
3 tbs chopped garlic
2 tbs chopped onion
2 cups chopped Italian parsley
1 cup chopped cilantro
1 cup chopped red bell pepper
3 tbs chopped pepperocini
1 tbs cider vinegar

Finely chop all ingredients
Add oil and vinegar. Salt
and pepper to taste.



Lodge at River's Edge...A Winter Wonderland



A winter or early spring visit to Lodge at River's Edge on the Frying Pan River in Colorado will have you thinking you're living out one of those beautiful Christmas card scenes.... You know, the ones where the snow-laden trees and lawns sparkle in the sunlight by day and moonlight by night. A virtual wonderland is what you'll experience when you walk the one block from the Lodge into the charming mountain town of Basalt, CO that sits at the convergence of the Frying Pan and Roaring Fork Rivers. Shops and galleries there will intrigue you and cozy restaurants will satisfy your appetite for diverse gourmet cuisine.

If you're game for some action, winter sports abound in the area. The four world-class downhill ski areas of Aspen and Snowmass are just 20 minutes away; several cross-country ski trails can be found nearby; snowmobiling can be arranged in beautiful back-country areas. And would you believe the fly fishing in the tail waters of the Frying Pan River are spectacular in the winter? In fact, winter offers the best fishing opportunities for the monster trout lurking hungrily in the flats below the Ruedi dam just 15 minutes from Lodge at River's Edge. Taylor Creek Fly Shop in downtown Basalt can arrange a guide to take you out for this phenomenal experience that will make you forget all about the cold temperature! Contact them at taylorcreek@ssv.net or (970) 927-4374. See them on the web at www.taylorcreek.com.

The newly remodeled Lodge and the charming historic log cabin are so cozy and comfortable you may not want to leave. Turn on some pleasant music, snuggle up near the fireplace in the lodge or wood stove in the cabin, and enjoy the beautiful Frying Pan River rushing by just outside your big glass door. It's so relaxing and delightful you may want to stay home for dinner and cook up a little something in your fully appointed kitchen.

The Lodge has plenty of room to accommodate family and friends; 5 bedrooms and 5½ bathrooms; sleeps up to 12 people. The cabin includes one bedroom and a loft and sleeps up to 5 people.

For more information or reservations, go www.lodgeatriversedgeCO.com or call (970) 927-4991.



Whitetail and Axis Deer Hunting



The concentration of deer at Joshua Creek Ranch has intensified during the drought conditions of 2009. Mother Nature's menu is sparse so the protein and corn feeders are popularly frequented by even the wariest of deer in the area. But the axis deer that have been harvested this summer have been fat and healthy; and the whitetail deer that ranch guides have been observing appear to be likewise well fed. Ranch manager, David Edwards, has been relentless in his efforts to get crops established in the fields, not only to provide cover for the birds, but to feed the ravenous deer, as well. September and October rainfall will make all the difference for these creatures. What this means for you deer hunters is that the chances of seeing deer at the 20+ feeders around the ranch are excellent. Many Axis bucks will remain in hard-horn through October. After that axis hunting will be limited to avoid shooting antlerless bucks and pregnant does. Whitetail hunting is available with MLDP's (Managed Land Deer Permits) from October through February. That means you hunt using JCR's permits, not your hunting license tags. Guides have reported seeing some whitetail bucks we can be proud of, evidence of the protein feed program followed for the last four years. Whether hunting for your freezer or your trophy wall, you'll be pleased with the deer you'll see at Joshua Creek. It's worth noting, too, that you'll be hunting in the comfort of six more double-man blinds that have been added around the ranch over the summer.



Tell Us Your Story!

Over the years we've heard a lot of fantastic stories from members and guests about their experiences at Joshua Creek Ranch. Some are funny, some heart warming, some exciting, some awesome....and all of them are memorable to the characters in the story. Our only regret is that we failed to record your stories so that they could be shared and reread time after time.

If you have a story about an experience at JCR that you think others would enjoy reading, write it down and send it to us. Send photos, too, if you have some. If we print your story in the JCR newsletter, *Shooting Tales*, or put it on the JCR website, you'll receive a gift certificate for JCR services or merchandise. And, just think, you'll have been published!