

Hill Country Shootout, sporting clay tourney

By **LAUREL ROBERTSON**

Hill Country dove season opens September 1. The weekend just before that, hunters can tune-up their target skills "shooting for a good cause" at the First Annual Hill Country Shootout sponsored by the Dripping Springs Knights of Columbus.

The sporting clay event will take place on Saturday, August 25 in the sportsmen's paradise of Joshua Creek Ranch near Boerne. The hunting and sports retreat fea-

tures miles of Joshua Creek and Guadalupe River bottomland bordered by limestone bluffs rising to tree-studded pastures lush with native prairie grasses.

Instead of meat for the table, competitors in the charity fundraiser can bring home a bounty of prizes and trophies, including three Benelli-made Stoeger over/under shotguns awarded to winners in the Overall, Women's and Junior scoring categories.

The winning teams will take home

Carved Stone trophies with the slogan "Only One Can Brag, the Rest are Lyin'!"

Competitors and spectators alike have a chance of winning ticket drawings for a \$1,000 Remington rifle, a quail hunt for two at the LBJ Ranch, a Masterbuilt Duel Fuel Smoker, and a solar-powered deer feeder – plus more than \$1,500 of door prizes to be given away during the event.

The Dripping Springs Knights of Columbus offers a special challenge to other KC teams for a "Braggin' Rights" trophy to go to the best KC council team of the tournament. "We take our shootin' seriously," says AJ Bergeron, chairman of the event. "Frankly, we don't believe any other Texas KC council can match us."

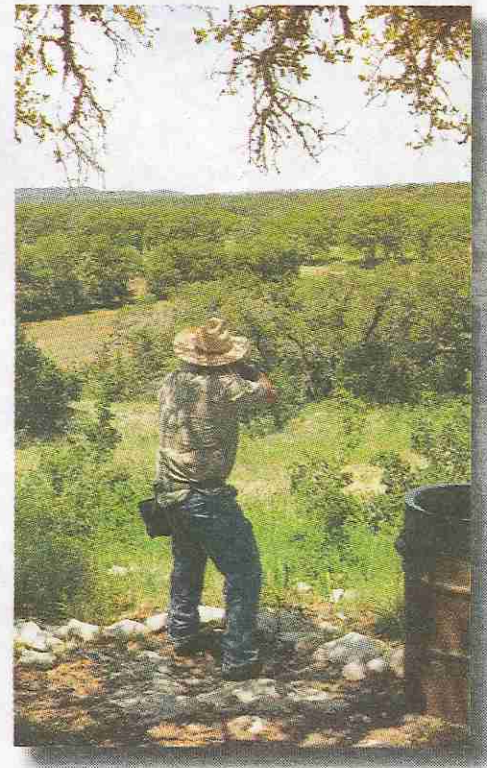
AJ is pleased to announce that the Dripping Springs Knights of Columbus received a donation that will cover registration fees for a "Wounded Warrior" team this year. He encourages interested veterans to contact the organization.

Sponsorships from businesses and individuals help make the Shootout fundraiser possible, stresses AJ.

The Knights welcome sponsorships at any level, he says, from their signature 10/12/16 and 20 Gauge levels, to a "Friends of the Hill Country Shootout" category.

Sponsors receive a prominent listing in all promotional materials, as well as in a post-event thank-you ad featured in regional publications.

Competition will be among 24 teams comprised of four shooters each (individual entrants can be matched up with teams).



Hunters can get ready for dove season at the Hill Country Shootout. Photo courtesy Dripping Springs Knights of Columbus.

Entry fees will entitle contestants to 100 clay targets and an awards lunch buffet. Participants bring their own shotgun and ammunition. Spectators are admitted free of charge; award buffet tickets are available for \$15.

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Dripping Springs Knights of Columbus sponsors the First Annual Hill Country Shootout August 25. Photo courtesy Dripping Springs Knights of Columbus.

Proceeds from the charity event will support the Dripping Springs Knights of Columbus' community projects throughout the year.

The 96 members of the local organization (Council #11695) choose projects to reflect the four tenants on which the international parent organization is based: charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism.

Among those projects are:

Building Projects for the needy: "In a world of endless need, there are roofs to fix, wheelchair ramps to build, dilapidated and unhealthy living conditions to improve," the organization states.

"The Knights of Columbus bring muscle with compassion, can-do with caring in some of the most difficult cases."

Annual Community Thanksgiving Feast: The local council hosts a community Thanksgiving meal each year in mid-November. A full spread of turkey and dress-

ing with all the trimmings are offered to all in the community.

College Scholarships: Each year the Knights of Columbus recognize several local graduating seniors who have demonstrated leadership in community service with partial college scholarships.

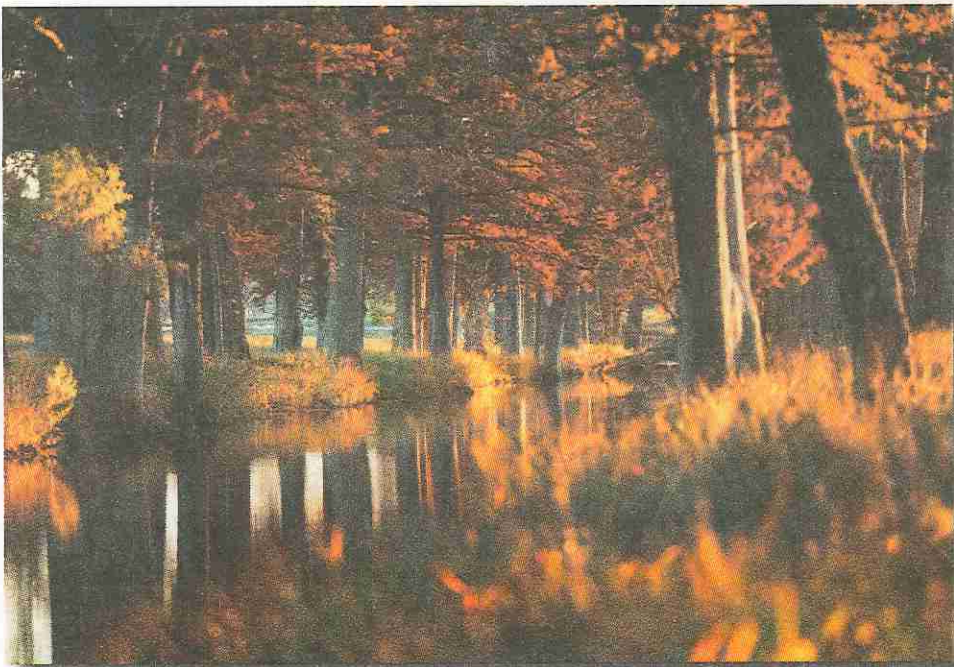


Stock photo.

Memorial Day Veterans Breakfast: Every Memorial Day, the local council hosts a breakfast for all

area veterans, as well as medical and law enforcement first-responders. This is the group's way, they say, of showing deep gratitude to those who have served, and are serving, the nation and community.

FYI • The First Annual Hill Country Shootout is Saturday, August 25 at Joshua Creek Ranch (132 Cravey Road) in Boerne. For more information on the tournament, including registration forms, visit their web site at www.HillCountryShootout.com. For sponsorship information, contact Jummy Winkler at JWinkler1960@yahoo.com. Registration deadline is August 11.



The First Annual Hill Country Shootout August 25 takes place at the beautiful Joshua Creek Ranch near Boerne. Photo courtesy Joshua Creek Ranch.

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