

Indian Creek Ranch

Fire Rocksprings 830-683-4111

Fire Barksdale 830-234-3473

Fire Camp Wood 830-597-6100

EMS Rocksprings 830-683-3305

EMS Camp Wood 830-597-4200

Sheriff & Highway Patrol 830-683-4104

Border Patrol 830-683-2255

Game Warden C. Wardlow 210-416-2513

Game Warden Office 210-348-7375



Ranch Contacts

President:	Marcus Wieser	(210) 771-3330, marcussatx@satx.rr.com
Vice President:	Randy Stephen	(713) 823-2785, randy@stephenstephenson.com
Treasurer:	Jo Roberts	(830) 834-0884, jo.roberts@us.pwc.com
Secretary:	Gwen Lanning	(281) 460-3620, gwenlanning@yahoo.com
Ranch Coordinator:	Randy Wood	(830) 683-4537, rw09176997@yahoo.com
Wildlife Committee Chair:	David Heft	(830) 683-3289, dsheft82@swtexas.net
Water Committee Chair:	Randy Wood	(830) 683-4537, rw09176997@yahoo.com
Road Committee Chairs:	Ron Itz	(281) 383-2783, cjitz1@gmail.com
	& Ken Wilson	
Security Committee Chairs:	Randy Wood	(830) 683-4537, rw09176997@yahoo.com
	David Heft	(830) 683-3289, dsheft82@swtexas.net
Webmaster:	Philip Nelson	(210) 863-0360, PNelson@newtek.com

Check out the updated website!

<http://www.indian-creek-ranch.org/>

President's Report

By Marcus Wieser

Please join us for our annual Spring Gathering on Saturday, May 23, 2015 (Memorial Day weekend) at the airstrip.

The grill will be started at 11:00am and the event will begin at 11:30am. Hamburgers, buns, and condiments (mayonnaise, ketchup, mustard, etc.) will be provided by the Association as well as water and soft drinks. Any potluck dishes or desserts that you would like to bring would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to put your own meats on the grill. We look forward to seeing you there.

I will not be able to make it to the Spring Gathering this time, since I am currently out of the country. Randy Stephen, our Vice President, will organize the gathering and also give an update on the state of the ranch. Please contact him, if you are able to help with the setup of the tables and chairs.

So far this year we have had over 9 inches of rain and we are expecting more. Several sections of our roads have been several feet under water and many parts have eroded. We have not had a chance to assess the condition of the roads, but maintenance as of yet, but it looks like the scope of work budgeted might not be sufficient for the upkeep of the roads.

Our water system has been holding up rather well. With the exception of some minor issues, it has been running relatively trouble free. I want to thank Randy Wood for maintaining the system. Please keep in mind to let Randy know immediately if you observe any leaks, so they can be tended to promptly to avoid secondary damages.

The Montezuma Quail study will continue for another year. Many calls and several sightings were reported.

Again, I want to remind everyone that the water provided by the association is meant to be a source of supplemental water for wildlife and is to be used exclusively for wildlife purposes. The water is non-potable and is not for any domestic purposes whatsoever. Connecting the association water to cabins is not safe and against association rules. For domestic water use property owners

shall drill a well, collect rain water or haul in potable water.

At the gathering, our treasurer, Jo Roberts, will report on the voting ballot for the proposed bylaw change restricting the subdividing of the tracts into tracts smaller than 100 acres. If you have not done so, please participate and vote, as a 90% approval is required to pass the change.

Many thanks to Gwen Lanning, our secretary, for editing our Ranch Newsletter. If you have any items you would like to list in the classifieds section in future issues, you can submit them to her.

A couple of quick reminders:

- Please don't forget to turn off your water valves before you leave.
- Please remember that the speed limit on the ranch roads is 20 MPH.
- Please do not speed on our roads, as driving too fast is unsafe and wears the roads out prematurely.
- Mark your calendar: the spring meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 23, 2015 (Memorial Day weekend).
- Please participate in the bylaw vote, as a 90% approval is required to pass the change.

I want to thank our officers, committee chairs and volunteers for all their hard work and support. All the committee work in our association is done by volunteers and everyone's involvement and hard work is greatly appreciated. Please let us know if you want to get involved or volunteer in the association.

Marcus Wieser



Photo 1 Fallow Deer by Bob Pauken

Vice-President's Report

By Randy Stephen

Good news! I don't have a lot to say this quarter. We have made several trips to the ranch this spring (trying to get some chores in before the heat arrives). The March trips were wet ones as the rains seemed to come only on the weekends I was there, but the April trips more than made up for them. Not a cloud to be found and the highs in low to mid 70's. The clear nights and lack of a moon made for some excellent star gazing! If you have not had the opportunity to make it out, let me tell you the ranch is green and the wildlife is enjoying the spring weather also.

Enough filler, for me the biggest thing going on at the ranch is "THE VOTE" remember to vote. A "yes" vote means we keep each tract at 100+ acres, a "no" vote means we lose control over tract size. As of yesterday the second big thing going on is property taxes. I got my notice and a surprise 15-20% increase in value!!

Remember to; lock the gate, spin all tumblers, drive 20mph, turn off your water, and the associations water is NON-POTABLE. See you at the Spring Gathering

Randy Stephen

Wildlife Report

By David Heft

The most important news on the wildlife front for the ranch is that we have been receiving good rainfall this spring. As of May 13, I have measured 10.9 inches here at our place on the north end of the ranch with higher amounts reported farther south on the ranch. Hopefully this will provide some good nesting conditions for our quail and good conditions for deer fawning. The rains this year should also have come early enough to benefit our turkey population.

We will continue our elk survey again this year in the month of August. Forms and instructions will be sent out separately later this summer.

We have a new game warden. Our new warden's name is Carson Wardlow. He will not be able to attend our spring meeting but will try to attend the fall meeting. His phone number in case you need him is (210) 416-2513. I am also still working on having the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's prescribed fire specialist give a presentation this fall on how they can help landowners use prescribed fire on their property. This tool is not only the most effective tool to improve wildlife habitat it also serves to reduce

fuel loading to help reduce the intensity and spread of potential wildfires.

One item I would like to mention this month is the recent development regarding D-Con products. Unfortunately this development has not been widely publicized. Because of secondary poisoning issues with a dozen over the counter products sold to the public a settlement agreement was reached between the manufacturer of these products and the Environmental Protection Agency. As of this past March these products will no longer be distributed to outlet stores. Current stocks will continue to be sold until they are used up. Secondary poisoning is caused by animals eating other animals that have eaten orally ingested poisons. Because death in the target species comes before the poison is completely metabolized it remains in the animal's body and can then be ingested by another species eating the dead animal which in turn is killed by the poison. One dose of orally ingested poison bait can end up killing multiple animals. I am aware of one potential case of secondary poisoning on the ranch which may have been caused by the use of a D-Con product by a neighbor of one of

our landowners. If you are still using these products please use only in accordance with the label instructions. My recommendation for rodent control is snap traps or to encourage native small predators around your dwelling or buildings.

Primary focus this month will be on invasive species. During the last 3 years there has been an increasing number of feral house cats being observed on the ranch over the entire length from Phase 1 to Phase 7. The Wildlife Society has published a fact sheet detailing the impacts of feral and free ranging house cats on wildlife. http://joomla.wildlife.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=845

There are an estimated 148 to 188 million cats in the U.S. Feral and free ranging cats have been the direct cause for the extinction of numerous mammal and reptile species and an estimated 33 species of birds worldwide. A published research study in 2013 estimated that cats directly kill an estimated 1.4 to 3.7 billion birds and 6.9 to 20.7 billion mammals in the U.S. every year. This is the largest source of human-induced mortality for wildlife in the nation exceeding the combined totals for hunting, trapping, automobile collisions, high rise building collisions, wind turbines, power line collisions, and environmental contamination. Although highly publicized the impact of large invasive exotic constrictor snakes in Florida is insignificant compared to the impacts of feral and free ranging cats in the state. Bottom line is, don't bring cats to the ranch unless they are kept indoors or under human control at all times. Our quail populations in particular are highly vulnerable to their impacts. The Texas legislature also added feral cats to the states animal cruelty statues in 2007 so you could be charged if you release cats into the wild.

The next invasive species are plants. Some of the more common non-native plants seen on the ranch are Malta starthistle, Bermuda grass, woolly mullein, and white horehound. These are all non-native plants introduced from Europe and Asia. They are all aggressive competitors with native vegetation. They can completely replace native plant communities and cause detrimental impacts to the wildlife that are dependent on native plant communities. With the exception of Bermuda grass the best control is individual plant removal either by hand or with some type

of hoe. Bermuda grass is best controlled by the proper use of herbicides according to label instructions. These plants usually become established in disturbed soil areas and can be particularly prevalent along roadsides and around high traffic areas. Please make an effort to control these invaders on your property. They can be just as destructive to the environment as feral hogs.

(Ed. – Here are some links with more information:

woolly mullein

http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/common-mullein.pdf

white horehound

<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=mavu>

Twelve page brochure from the USDA on managing Malta starthistle!

http://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5410119.pdf

Malta starthistle at the Texas Invasives website

http://www.texasinvasives.org/plant_database/detail.php?symbol=CEME2)



Common or Woolly Mullein

"Starr 040723-0260 Verbascum thapsus" by Forest & Kim Starr. Licensed under CC BY 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons -

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Starr_040723-0260_Verbascum_thapsus.jpg#/media/File:Starr_040723-0260_Verbascum_thapsus.jpg



White Horehound

"Marrubium vulgare 002" by H. Zell - Own work.
Licensed under CC BY-SA 3.0 via Wikimedia
Commons -

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Marrubium_vulgare_002.JPG#/media/File:Marrubium_vulgare_002.JPG



Malta Starthistle

Our most notable invasive species on the ranch,
feral hogs, appear to be increasing in numbers

Security Report

By David Heft

The primary security issue on the ranch continues to be the gate locks. We continue to find locks not locked, gates open, combinations on locks, and combinations set 1 number off. I have also found the landowner combination routinely left on the contractor lock. The majority of these problems occur during holiday and

again with the plentiful rains and vegetative growth we've had on the ranch. Please increase your hunting and trapping efforts. If you are using cage traps please add some carrion such as entrails from harvested animals to your bait. This will help to keep deer from entering the cage traps. I have been made aware of numerous reports of owners catching deer unintentionally in the traps. Knock on wood but in 15 years we have never had a deer enter a hog trap because we add carrion to our bait.

This also brings up the issue of potential javelina catches. Javelina are a native game animal that cannot be legally trapped. Any javelina caught in hog traps must be released. We do have javelina on the ranch occasionally. We had photographs of a pair on our property as recently as 2012. I was also told by one owner this past year of a small group of javelina on their property. Javelina can be legally hunted under your hunting license. The season in Edwards county is year round but the bag limit is only 2 per license year. I have been told by members of the local ranching community that in the past deliberate efforts were made to exterminate javelina from local ranches. At one time javelina were much more numerous in this part of Texas but past over hunting, habitat loss, and competition from feral hogs have greatly reduced their population. Control efforts directed at feral hogs have also most likely negatively impacted javelinas because of illegal trapping. The latest issue of the Texas Wildlife Association magazine has an excellent article on javelina which I encourage our members to read.

weekend periods and are more evident during hunting season. This points more to a landowner and guest issue rather than any one outside the association having access to combinations. Please secure the gates and locks properly. They are the first line of defense for most of our owners.

We have had reports of at least 1 break in and another incident of theft of hunting related items this past winter.

Randy has also asked me to remind folks not to short chain the locks on the gates. The chains are the length they are so people can access the locks from either side of the gates. Use the end link to lock the chain. Many times owners have had to climb over the gate to get to the lock on the other side because it was short chained. I have seen this happen frequently with realtors showing properties on the ranch so if your property is listed with a realtor let them know also.

We have also had a higher than usual number of illegals crossing through the ranch this spring. Randy thinks we have had owners call the Border Patrol on at least 10 occasions to ranch properties but no apprehensions have been made. Please remember that if you call the Border Patrol to your property you cannot authorize them to enter anyone else's property. The Border Patrol is prohibited by federal law from entering private property more than 25 miles from the border without a court issued search warrant or consent. (The ranch is approximately 50 air miles from the border) Because of property crime and harassment issues they are denied all access to my property and will be charged like any other trespasser if found on my property. Other owners may have similar restrictions. The ranch roads are not public property and like any other guests (or the appraisal district) they should be using them

only to transit to your property.

The wildlife report also has the name and contact information for our new game warden. I know I have had 2 incidents I am aware of with spotlighters on my property in the last 6 months. I have been unable to respond quick enough to get vehicle descriptions. One of these incidents was on the county road but the other was on the Phase 1 road. The perpetrator on the Phase 1 road also went through the main gate headed into the ranch so they had the combination or combinations.

The association has installed new signs reinforcing the fact that the ranch roads are not public roads. The association holds a 60 foot easement for access by landowners and their invited guests only. The roads are still private property controlled by the individual landowner. I know the signs previously installed by us on our property have dramatically reduced the incidents where I was finding fired shotgun, pistol, and rifle cartridges on the road through my property. This is also a good time to remind folks that if you install private fencing or gates they should be 30 feet back from the property line along the roads so they do not infringe on the easement. The association can remove obstacles to the easement. The roads are for the most part not centered on the legal easements so I advise you have a survey done.



Photo 2 High water on the Ranch, by David Heft

Water Report

By Randy Wood

Rain- Rain all the time. Seems like we are well over our normal level, but actually, we may be about on target. Early this AM, (5-13-15) we had a heavy rain and the draw across our place ran about 4 ft. deep. The county road crossing just before the association gates ran about 5 ft. deep and at 2:00 pm it was still about 2+ ft. deep-- deep enough that we did not cross to see what the situation was further down on the ranch. Lots of green vegetation.

The water system seems to be in good shape. Not much in the way of outages. I did repair a hole in the Phase VII line. We concluded that the hole was created by a pocket knife used as a drill. It had been spraying long enough for the pipe to show a white mineral stain.

Had a first-of-the-kind in the way of outages 2 weeks ago. Tanks were full, well was operational, but the booster pump would not turn on. After the float switch and the power system was checked, I checked the pressure switch and found a yellow jacket lodged between the switch contact points. After the dead insect was removed, the system was operational. Let me know if you see any leaks or have water supply problems.

Last, please WALK all of your lines. I cannot tell you how many water shortages have been caused over the years because of leaking lines. Summer is coming and the wildlife will need increased water quantities. However, the normal consumption is about 1/2 gallon per day for deer and 3 gallon per day for elk. Assuming axis, fallow. Sika, etc. consume about these same levels, I estimate conservatively that the large animal water intake for the Ranch is maybe 2500 gallons per day. Our storage capacity is 45,000 gallons. I also know that virtually every property has at least one 500 gallon supply tank (some may have multiple tanks). With that much water possible there should be little chance that water is short if we take care of our lines.

Finally, the Appraisal office has sent out appraisal notices and based on ours, the property value has increased from \$1300 to \$1450 per acre. Also based on some phone calls I have received, the value of improvements have increased.

Randy

Secretary's Report

By Gwen Lanning

We have been updating our ranch website, and I would encourage you to go take a look!
<http://www.indian-creek-ranch.org/>

Jo Roberts has been taking pictures of plants on the ranch, and identifying them, and then I have been researching them a little more and writing posts about them. Our aim is to help you know what you have on your property, and help you remember what differentiates one plant from another.

If you can't wait until we have written about the hundreds of plants that grow here, and want to start identifying for yourself, check out this webcast from Texas Wildlife Association:
<http://www.texas-wildlife.org/resources/webcasts/plant-id-for-the-outdoorsman>

We hope to also create a specialized nature gallery for the birds, reptiles, mammals, and insects of Indian Creek. If you have pictures to

contribute, send them to me at
gwenlanning@yahoo.com .

Jo has also uploaded most of the old newsletters, so they are available whenever you need them.

I will also upload some of newsletter articles that are of permanent interest as stand-alone posts. For example, landowner Bob Pauken's article describing how he built a water guzzler is both in this newsletter, and on the website.

In conjunction with David Heft's comments on our quail study, you may be interested in this article from the Wildlife Society, which talks about the benefit of using game birds as umbrella species for conservation efforts:
<http://wildlife.org/game-birds-good-umbrella-species-for-conservation/> .

And if you would like to know more about invasive species, this website can educate you on invasive plants and animals:

<http://www.texasinvasives.org/>

Remember, due to problems with lock security, we will no longer publish the combinations in the newsletter. I will send separate emails toward the end of the month, and then the combinations will change the first Monday of the month. You might want to program my number into your phone so you can call me if you get out to the ranch and realize you haven't brought the gate code with you. (281-460-3620)

Treasurer's Report

By Jo Roberts

I have received dues from all but 5 landowners. Please send them in immediately. If I have not received them by May 31 you will be sent a certified letter at the beginning of June stating that:

- i) The association will be forced to place a lockbox on your association water valve. A \$300 fee will be assessed and will need to be paid before the lockbox is removed.
- ii) The association will be forced to place a lien on your property. The appropriate association dues and legal fees will need to be paid prior to removal of the lien.

Good news on the vote. To date, 82 of 84 votes cast have been in favor of changing the bylaw to keep the tracts at a minimum of 100 acres. Only two more votes are required to change the bylaw so if you haven't voted, please send me your ballot. If you need the ballot resent to you, please let me or Gwen know.

Regards,
Jo

Income and Expense Report - 2015

The Owners Association at Indian Creek

As of May 6, 2015

	2014	1Q 2015	2Q 2015	3Q 2015	4Q 2015	2015 Total	Budget	Remaining
Balance brought forward from 2014:	\$ 53,923.51							
Income in 2015¹								
Annual Assessments	\$ 32,614.69	\$ 24,069.09	\$ 6,176.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,245.11	\$ 32,653.17	\$ 3,066.92
Special Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 32,614.69	\$ 24,069.09	\$ 6,176.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 30,245.11	\$ 32,653.17	\$ 3,066.92
Expenses in 2015^{2,3}								
Road Work	\$ 11,375.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Water System Maintenance	\$ 5,721.12	\$ 131.42	\$ 134.99	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 266.41	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 9,733.59
Water System Reserve ⁴	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
Wildlife Biologist	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Bills	\$ 2,972.83	\$ 781.45	\$ 305.88	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,087.33	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 2,412.67
Annual Meeting	\$ 52.83	\$ 61.67	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 61.67	\$ 500.00	\$ 438.33
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 394.93	\$ 845.72	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 845.72	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 654.28
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 429.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 429.48	\$ 900.00	\$ 470.52
Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,919.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Attorney Fees	\$ 500.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 495.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 870.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (470.00)
General Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Total Expenses	\$ 23,520.73	\$ 2,624.74	\$ 935.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,560.61	\$ 59,800.00	\$ 56,239.39
Current Balance:								
Emergency Reserve						\$ 80,608.01		
Amount Available for Current Year (with dues received)						\$ (28,000.00)		
Amount Available for Current Year (with dues expected)						\$ 52,608.01		
							\$ 58,576.68	

¹ Income is considered received when it is deposited in the ICR bank account.

² Expenses for labor, e.g., well services or road work, are accrued in the month the work was performed.

³ Expenses incurred and submitted for reimbursement by Owners, e.g., plumbing supplies, annual meeting expenses, administrative expenses, are considered incurred upon acceptance of invoices/receipts by the Treasurer.

Water Guzzler

By Bob Pauken

(This article is on our website, too. - Ed.)

The idea for construction of a guzzler came from discussions with Randy Wood, someone else talking about his at the fall meeting, and seeing the one Gilbert Carmona built on his land. I wasn't sure exactly how to go about the project so I was discussing the mechanics of it with a friend from Colorado, Rory Birdsey who is a ranch manager for Ernie Cockerl, owner of a ranch on the Taylor River there. One of the guests at the ranch last summer was Andrew Sansom, research professor at Texas State University and author of the book [Water in Texas, an Introduction](#), from the Texas Natural History Guide series. He and Rory had in-length discussions about guzzlers. Rory then went to the internet and designed what he thought would be a working guzzler. He then set about collecting recyclable cabin metal roofing materials from around the ranch. One of his sons who works in the oil fields of western Colorado gained access to discarded drilling pipe. The materials were cut in



Colorado to fit a 19 ft. long and 16 ft. wide structure to be hauled to Indian Creek ranch on a 16 ft. trailer.

The drill pipe was trimmed for welding on our property. Each piece weighed 165 lbs. Rory brought both of his sons and the husbands of both of his daughters along with him to handle the weight of the resulting monster. The two-250 gallon water tanks were washed-out and discarded oil field chemical tanks. The roofing materials were riveted and screwed into place to form an inverted roof which drained into a collection trough in the middle. A hose was then connected from the trough to drain into the closest tank and the two were connected together with PVC tubing. From the base of one of the tanks was attached a 75 foot garden hose which

ran downhill to a 50 gallon open, metal water tank with a float valve to maintain a full level.

The large structure is designed to collect rain water. However, inside of the inverted metal roof is an upright smaller structure made mostly of plastic, for collecting dew at night when the air cools-off. Metal sides were attached to the main structure to retain daytime heat, thereby enhancing nighttime condensation. A larger metal water tank for providing a source of drinking-water for the wildlife will be brought down on our next trip. Our calculations of rainwater collection based on 26.5 inches of average annual rainfall for a guzzler of this size is 418 gallons per month.

It does work as I had Randy go by and check it following the first 1.5 inches of rain and we had collected about 300 gallons of water.



Robins and doves benefiting from a water source. Note the “bird ladder” that allows the birds to access the water easily.
Picture by Bob Pauken



Five in one catch!
Picture by Bob Pauken

Miscellaneous Business

CALENDAR - Upcoming Events

Lock combination changes will be the first Monday of the month. Emails with the new combinations will be sent out a week before the change, but combinations will not be published in the newsletter.

Spring Meeting – Saturday, May 23, 2015 at the airstrip

If you have classifieds or photos to include in future newsletters, please email them to me at gwenlanning@yahoo.com . Next newsletters – Aug. 15, Nov. 15 – or thereabouts.

CLASSIFIEDS:

FOR SALE

28' x 30' hunting cabin. Must be moved. 1 bedroom, with loft, has window air/heat unit, refrigerator, stove, hot water heater. Asking \$10,000.00 or best offer. Contact Ronnie Itz at 281-380-4693.

Fill your feeders once a month for \$80.00 plus feed

Corn – 50# bags for \$7.50 each

Protein – 50# bag 20% crude for \$10.50 each

Contact Kevin Stephen (713) 203-1075

ICR Website address: <http://www.Indian-Creek-Ranch.org>