

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



Turkeys make themselves at home at Indian Creek Ranch. Photo by Jo Roberts

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

We had a great turnout at our annual meeting. Thanks to everyone for their contributions and preparing delicious dishes and desserts.

At the beginning of the meeting we welcomed two guest speakers. Zachary Pearson, a graduate Student for Texas A&M Kingsville, gave an update on the Montezuma Quail Research conducted on the ranch. Wesley Evans, the regional Fire Specialist with TPWD, gave a presentation on prescribed burns.

Our Road Committee with the help of Randy Wood did a great job getting our roads back into shape after the heavy rains in the spring. We had to increase our original budget to facilitate the needed repairs caused by heavy downpours and flooding. Part of the work included crowning the roads to better divert water in heavy rains. The majority of the work has been completed. We are waiting for the new surfaces to compact and settle in before we do another round of grading. With the recent heavy rains there are some areas that have become rough again, but overall the roads are in pretty good shape.

Our water system has been holding up quite well. However, given its overall age we felt the need to further evaluate the system. Randy Wood compiled a detailed inventory and assessment of the ranch wide water system. Then Randy and Jo Roberts put together a budget for anticipated replacement costs of all major aging components. We were able to budget and set aside fully funded reserves.

Throughout the last year Jo Roberts, our treasurer, overhauled the association's recordkeeping system. She organized and digitized our record book and archives. Jo also oversaw and followed up on the Vote on Article 5.05 of Master Deed Restrictions regarding the 100 acre minimum Tract Size which was passed in favor of keeping 100 acre minimum tracts. Great job! Thank you.

At the meeting we also voted to approve an Annual Dues Late Pay \$50 Admin Fee to offset expenses for sending registered mail, etc.

David Heft, our wildlife committee chairman, reported on the deer and elk census results and announced the harvest recommendation. Our whitetail population is very high, and in order to maintain a healthy, quality population we need to shoot more deer. You can find the details in his report. In his report he also addresses concerns surrounding CWD (chronic wasting disease). Please submit your harvest data to David either using the mailbox at the front of the ranch, or email David directly. Thank you, David, for all your help.

Besides publishing the Ranch Newsletter, Gwen Lanning has posted some helpful links with info on wildlife management our website.

Towards the end of the meeting we took nominations to elect the Treasurer and the President. Both Jo Roberts and I were reelected for another 2 year term. I want to thank you for your confidence and support.

Mark your Calendar:

- The deadline for submitting your 1-D-1 annual report for your wildlife exemption is January 31, 2016.

I want to thank our officers, committee chairs and volunteers for all their hard work.

All the committee work in our association is done by volunteers and everyone's contribution is greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you want to get involved and volunteer. Your contributions make our association exemplary.

Marcus

Wildlife Report

By David Heft

This report will be fairly short this month as we discussed most of the major issues at last month's annual meeting and everyone has received the minutes by now. Deer season seems to be off to a slow start this year. Over 10 inches of rain in October has greened up the ranch and produced a bumper crop of forbs. In combination with our heavy acorn crop deer movement has slowed down as the animals are not under stress to find sufficient food resources. Hopefully this will change after the first hard freezes. Everyone should have received the harvest recommendations. Please do your part to help manage the herd and take as many deer within the recommendations as you can.

TPWD has now adopted new rules regarding the movement and release of breeder deer from deer farms. The primary impact is that deer can now only be released into high fenced properties. This move puts Texas into conformity with requirements in other states. I know some

of our members have submitted samples to TPWD at the local check station at the Rocksprings High School which operates on Sundays from 0830 am until 2 pm. Please participate if you can.

I want to also remind members to record harvest in the log books in the mail boxes or to record by property and send to me at the end of the deer season. We would also like to have exotic and hog harvest records. Please do not guess at weights. Only record weights if you have put the animal on a reliable scale. The same goes for ages, if you're not sure please don't guess. I will be happy to age animals for folks if I am home.

The majority of this article is a reprint of a dietary study done by Sul Ross State University on the food habits of bobcats and foxes in the Trans-Pecos and the Edwards Plateau. I think the findings will surprise many of our members as the scientific results show the fallacy of some local beliefs.

Thanks,
Dave

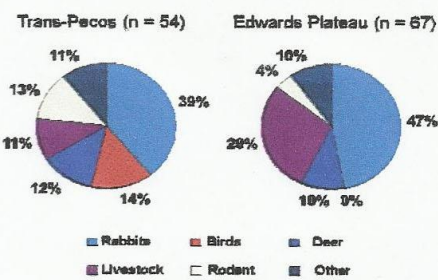
Food habits of bobcats in the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau of Texas

Charles David Altman, Jr., S. Kem Canon, and Robert J. Kinucan

Bobcats are found in all 10 ecoregions of Texas, but relatively little information exists on their ecology. Food habits of bobcats were investigated in the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas. A total of 121 bobcat stomachs containing food items (54 Trans-Pecos and 67 Edwards Plateau) was collected over a 15-month period from April 1996 to July 1997. Major food items and their frequency of occurrence in stomach contents in this study were rabbits, 45.5%; livestock, 21.5%; deer, 11.6%; rodents, 8.9%; birds, 6.6%. Livestock occurred more often in Edwards Plateau bobcat diets than in the Trans-Pecos. Birds occurred more frequently in the diets of bobcats in the Trans-Pecos than the Edwards Plateau. Rabbits and birds were found in stomach contents more during the warm seasons than during the cool seasons. Frequency of occurrence of livestock was greater in the cool season than the warm season. No differences in food items existed between male and female bobcats.

Although our study was not able to distinguish between food items gained through predation or consumption of carrion, it does provide additional insight to the diet composition of bobcats in the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas.

Funding provided by Sul Ross State University and the Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board.



Bobcats specialize in killing small prey like rodents and rabbits, but are capable of taking larger prey.

Food habits of gray fox and red fox in west Texas

W. Chris Madsen, Jr., S. Kem Canon, and Robert J. Kinucan

We evaluated the diet of gray fox in the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau regions of Texas and the diet of red fox in the Edwards Plateau. The study took place from April 1996 to July 1997 and stomach contents were analyzed for major food items; insects, rodents, plant materials, rabbits, birds, and livestock. Seventy-five gray fox (41 male and 34 female) stomachs were collected from both regions and 45 red fox (26 male and 19 female) stomachs were collected from the Edwards Plateau. Sample periods were categorized as warm season (April 16-October 15) and cool season (October 16-April 15). Gray fox stomachs throughout the study contained insects, 37.3%; rodents, 36.0%; plant items, 30.7%, rabbits, 18.7%; and birds, 13.3% by percent occurrence. Red fox stomachs contained rodents, 51.1%; rabbits, 24.4%; livestock, 15.6%, birds, 13.3%, and insects, 4.4%. Rabbits were a larger component of gray fox stomach contents in the Edwards Plateau than in the Trans-Pecos. Insects occurred more often in gray fox diets during the warm season in the Trans-Pecos region. Frequency of plant items was greatest in the Edwards Plateau during the warm season for both species. Livestock (goat and sheep) occurred in the stomach contents of red foxes in the Edwards Plateau, but did not occur in gray fox stomachs in either region. Male red foxes had higher rodent occurrence than females for the Edwards Plateau.

Gray foxes also had higher plant item stomach content than did red foxes. Analysis of stomach contents does not distinguish between prey animals and carrion and caution must be used when interpreting results. It does, though, provide insight to the general dietary composition of these fox species during the period of the study, information that may aid in management planning and the design of future studies.

Funding was provided by Sul Ross State University and the Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board.



©Louis A. Harveson

Gray fox occur in the Trans-Pecos and Edwards Plateau, whereas red fox do not occur in the Trans-Pecos. The smaller grey fox primarily eats small rodents, but the larger red fox are known to occasionally kill sheep and goats.

Reminders

- Please continue to submit your harvest data to David Heft, our wildlife committee chair. You can either use the mailbox at the front of the ranch, or email David directly.
- Please don't forget to turn off your water valves before you leave.
- Please remember that the association water is for wildlife use only and not safe for domestic use.
- 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.

Secretary's Report

By Gwen Lanning

Things remain quiet at the ranch on the water and security fronts.

Our website is:

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

We have been updating the plant and animal identification pages, but it is a slow process.

If you can help us out with pictures (or if you want to place an ad in the newsletter), please send them to me at gwenlanning@yahoo.com.

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

The significant expenses for this quarter have been the purchase of a new pump for one of the wells (\$1,400) and the road work that was performed in June and October (\$26,000). We still have \$6,000 budget to perform a final pass on the roads. To date, we have spent half our budget and unless we have issues with the water system during the last 7 weeks of the year, we anticipate remaining within budget for 2015.

Reminder to all that I will be sending out invoices for 2016 dues towards the end of December. As usual, these are due by March 7. For those who missed the annual meeting, please note that we voted and approved that a

\$50 fee will be levied against all landowners who are delinquent with their payment. This fee will be charged if I am forced to send a landowner a certified letter indicating that their water will be cut off and a lien placed on their property for non-payment.

Thank you to the two landowners who have been pro-active and already paid their dues for next year. Please note that you will still receive an invoice from me, but with a zero balance.

Regards,

Jo

Income and Expense Report - 2015 **The Owners Association at Indian Creek** **As of Nov 9, 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	\$ 7,668.40	\$ 920.32	\$ 300.00	\$ 32,957.81	\$ 32,653.17	\$ 654.22
Lien Release				\$ 31.00		\$ 31.00	\$ -	\$ (31.00)
Special Assessments	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Income	\$ 32,614.69	\$ 24,069.09	\$ 7,668.40	\$ 951.32	\$ 300.00	\$ 32,988.81	\$ 32,653.17	\$ 623.22
Expenses in 2015^{2,3}								
Road Work	\$ 11,375.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 20.57	\$ 25,843.75	\$ 25,864.32	\$ 32,000.00	\$ 6,135.68
Water System Maintenance	\$ 5,721.12	\$ 131.42	\$ 134.99	\$ 1,085.39	\$ 97.82	\$ 1,449.62	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 8,550.38
Water System Reserve ⁴	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,408.33	\$ 1,408.33	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 18,591.67
Wildlife Biologist	\$ 585.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Electric Bills	\$ 2,972.83	\$ 781.45	\$ 853.21	\$ 604.88	\$ 339.93	\$ 2,579.47	\$ 3,500.00	\$ 920.53
Annual Meeting	\$ 52.83	\$ 61.67	\$ -	\$ 113.63	\$ 200.07	\$ 375.37	\$ 500.00	\$ 124.63
Grounds Maintenance	\$ 394.93	\$ 845.72	\$ -	\$ 43.28	\$ 54.10	\$ 943.10	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 556.90
Property Taxes	\$ -	\$ 429.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 490.91	\$ 920.39	\$ 900.00	\$ (20.39)
Administrative Expenses	\$ 1,919.02	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 141.22	\$ -	\$ 141.22	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 1,858.78
Attorney Fees	\$ 500.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 495.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 870.00	\$ 400.00	\$ (470.00)
General Reserve	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Expenses	\$ 23,520.73	\$ 2,624.74	\$ 1,483.20	\$ 2,008.97	\$ 28,434.91	\$ 34,551.82	\$ 70,800.00	\$ 36,248.18
Current Balance:						\$ 52,360.50		
Emergency Reserve						\$ (17,000.00)		
Amount Still Available for Current Year (with dues received)						\$ 35,360.50		
Amount Available in Total for Current Year (with dues expected)							\$ 69,576.68	

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.

⁴ Water reserve includes replacement items for wells, i.e., bladders, pressure tanks & pressure pumps. For 2015 includes two bladders & one pressure tank.

⁵ Road budget increased from \$15,000 to \$32,000 by moving \$6,000 from general reserve and \$11,000 from emergency reserve.

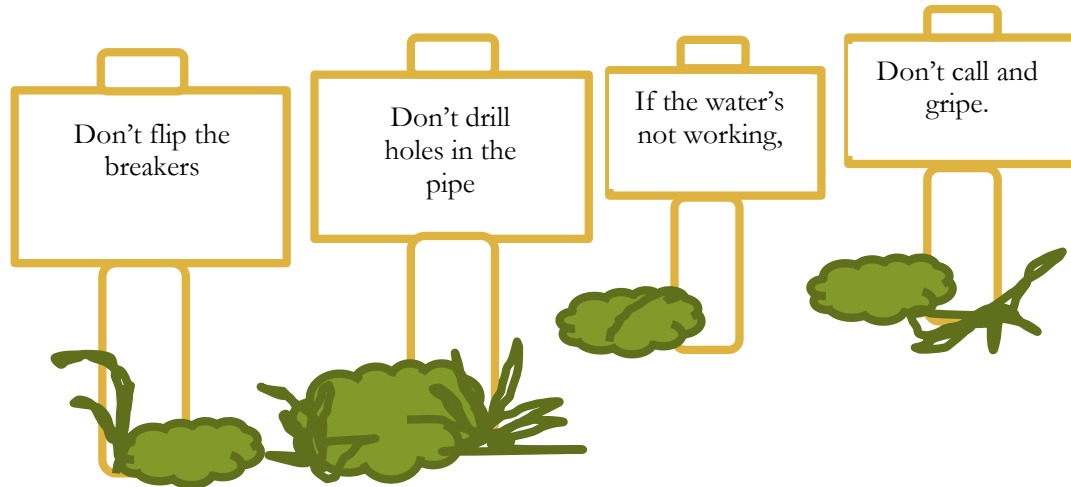


Pictures from October 24, 2015. Sent in by Tom Prebensen.

Editor's Note:

A few years ago, when the board first talked about putting up reminder signs about water valves, my husband wanted to make funny Burma Shave-type signs. We amused ourselves on our trip back home, thinking up humorous reminders about the issues that come up at every Association meeting. Here are some examples, and I hope you enjoy my artistic renderings.





So, in the same spirit of providing you more enjoyable ranch reminders, we bring you --

Elkwinkle's Corner

T'was the night before opening day and all thru the camp house
All the hunters were stirring, even my spouse.

Before daylight arrived I was out in the stand
Watching for movement, I studied the land

I saw a large shadow. A loud bugle was heard
In the dim light I could see the Indian Creek Elk herd

I spotted the bull elk, he was a magnificent beast
His rack was impressive to say the least

He had to be the best of the breed
That was grazing before me on grasses and weed

I shouldered my rifle with a tightened fist
And drew a bead as he stood in the cold morning mist

T'was the chance of a lifetime, I was already proud of it
Then realized I could not fire with no elk permit.

It's true that it's legal, but that's not how we run,
I swallowed my ego, and relaxed my gun.

So remember this poem when you are in the stand
Don't shoot at something just because it's at hand.

Bill Lanning

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.

If you have classifieds or photos to include in future newsletters, please email them to me at gwenlanning@yahoo.com . Next newsletter – Feb. 15, 2016 – or thereabouts.

CLASSIFIEDS:

Used grill. Free. Works fine. Just well used. Contact Jo Roberts (830-834-0884) to pick it up. We are in Phase I.



FOR SALE: All Seasons Protein Feeders, 1 800lbs. \$400,
1 300lbs. \$200, both for \$500
David Heft 830-683-3289

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

Photo by Jo
Roberts

