

CORA

THIRTY THIRD EDITION
AUGUST, 2008



Promoting Outdoor Recreation

CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Terry Lewis and TWRA

FUNDING THE FUTURE FOR TWRA

Another increase in the cost of our annual hunting and fishing license would be rather uncomfortable for most of us. However, without a license increase or some other funding program, major changes to TWRA as we know it to be could be closer than we think. The fact is that everything is costing much more these days. The recent increase in fuel cost has made a huge impact to the cost of fertilizer, seed, wages, insurance, parts and nearly everything you can think of has had its cost inflated over the last few years. TWRA is feeling the pinch with much higher operating costs matched with reduced license revenue as the numbers of hunters and fishermen who purchase license's is decreasing each year. Something must be done soon or the wildlife agency that we all know will be forced to make some major operational changes. After much review of the issue, I'm of the opinion that the changes would not be the kind of changes we would like to see happen. No one wants their license fees raised. However, forced reductions to agency staff could cut enforcement officers in our counties. Who would want to see habitat management or restocking of certain species to end. Operational costs have increased and sportsmen must come together to find another way to fund the cost of outdoor recreation or live with substantial decreases to the services we have grown accustomed to. Currently a proposal has been drafted that would allow a portion of the taxes on sporting goods purchased by Tennessee sportsmen to help provide much needed relief to the strained budgets TWRA is operating with. Even with a hefty

increase to license fees, in just a couple of years, additional fee increases would be needed to balance the budget again. Even considering the opportunity for political manipulation, I am of the opinion that the current proposal for TWRA to share in the tax revenue from sporting goods is the better answer to this long term funding issue.

FUNDING PROPOSAL: SALES TAX ON WILDLIFE-ASSOCIATED EQUIP- MENT— TWRA—October 2007

PROPOSAL

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency proposes that the state sales tax that is being paid for equipment used for hunting, fishing and wildlife-associated recreation be allocated to TWRA for use in its mission to preserve, manage and protect the fish and wildlife of Tennessee.

Using figures from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2006 *National Survey of Hunting, Fishing and Wildlife Associated Recreation*, purchases for wildlife-related equipment account for \$43 million in Tennessee sales tax per year.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency recognizes a need for stable, reliable, long-term funding in order to continue its current level of services into the future. While percentage-based revenue sources such as sales or payroll taxes follow economic trends, the price for hunting and fishing licenses is only occasionally adjusted.

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NORTH CUMBERLAND WMA 2008 LBL RELEASED ELK UPDATE

JUNE 5, 2008

The Royal Blue and Sundquist Wildlife Management Areas have been renamed to the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The area is now divided into the Royal Blue, Sundquist and Brimestone Units. Thirty-four elk from the U.S. Forest Service Land Between the Lakes, KY were released on Royal Blue Unit on

March 8, 2008. Twenty-nine of these elk were fitted with radio telemetry collars. Five calves were not collared. The elk have been monitored by TWRA personnel and RMEF volunteers since their release both from the ground and fixed-wing aircraft.

As is expected with relocating animals a few of the elk did not survive the first

Weeks after release. We lost four elk (three cows and one bull) within the first four to five weeks. Three of these animals had been limping before being released. Since that time there have been no losses.

Jerry Stout, Harvey Hammock and myself found a radio collar that was dropped from a bull. This collar was attached loosely on the bull to allow for growth and it appeared to have been caught in briars with the elk backing out of it. The terrain was very steep and it took several hours to complete the retrieval.

All of the radio collared elk were found on the last aerial flight in May. The elk are generally within a few miles of the release area. Some are staying very near the release site while others, mostly bulls, are moving around more. Harvey reported that a bad wind storm hit Massengill Mountain a few weeks ago knocking over some trees. Several elk, both residents and newly released animals stay on the mountain. This storm moved the elk off the top of the mountain for a short while. Some have returned but some others have taken up in other nearby areas.

Some of the cows have moved away from their normal areas probably seeking calving sites. No calf sighting reports have been logged but Harvey has seen many calf tracks for a few weeks in the area of the release.

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2008 LBL RELEASED ELK UPDATE Cont'd

Ear tag #23 and #24 cows have moved off by themselves and he thinks they have or will have calves. With luck we will soon get pictures from his trail cameras.

No calf sightings have been reported at the Hatfield Knob viewing area but they should start coming in soon.

The small released calf has been photographed a few times since the release. "Steve's bull" (last to leave the trailers) number 419 is hanging near the release area.

Will keep you posted,
Steve Bennett
Elk Restoration Project Leader
Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency
3030 Wildlife Way
Morristown, TN 37814
(423) 587-7037 office phone

ELK FACTS

Compiled by Jerry and Jo Stout

ELK IN HISTORY - The elk that live in North America today are the descendants of red deer from Asia that crossed the Bering Land Bridge possibly as long as 120,000 years ago. They were followed by humans some 10,000 years ago and both continued to spread across North America and adapt to a range of habitat. Elk thrived in their new environment until Europeans began settling the continent. The settlers hunted elk for meat, and also killed those animals that competed with their livestock for food or destroyed other crops. Perhaps the most devastating impact on the elk herds was the loss of habitat to agriculture, home sites and cities. The decline of elk numbers was noted as early as 1785 and by the late 1800s the remaining animals were almost wiped out as demand for elk products increased. Concerned citizens began to realize the importance of this natural resource that they were losing and took action by calling for regulated hunting seasons, state wildlife areas, na-

tional wildlife refuges, national parks and national forests. A new discipline called wildlife management was begun which included conducting research and implementing programs that aided the recovery of elk and other wildlife populations. These wildlife management programs are responsible for the recovery of many of our endangered species.

NORTH AMERICAN ELK - Some biologists use the Shawnee name, Wapiti, which means "white rump" to refer to the North American elk. Our elk are actually descendants of red deer and can be divided into six subspecies, more correctly referred to as ecotypes, because their differences are due largely to what and how much they eat.

Cervus elaphus canadensis - Eastern elk (believed to be extinct)

Cervus elaphus rooseveliti - Roosevelt elk

Cervus elaphus nannodes - Tule elk

Cervus elaphus nelsoni - Rocky Mountain elk

Cervus elaphus merriami - Merriam elk (extinct)

Cervus elaphus manitobensis - Manitoban elk

HERDS - Elk are social animals as evidenced by their gathering together in groups and cooperating for their mutual benefit. Cows, yearlings, and calves form herds of usually 25 or more animals. Old bulls tend to go it alone while young bulls (bachelors) form small groups. These groups help protect the herd from predators and also increase the efficiency of the breeding season since rutting bulls gather cows into harems during the reproduction period.

LIFE EXPECTANCY- If an elk remains healthy and avoids predation it can live from 18-22 years.

HABITAT - In the summer, Rocky Mountain elk live at high elevations in semi-open forests and mountain meadows near cover. In winter they migrate to lower sheltered valleys, meadows and

lower wood slopes where they "yard up" in large groups. Our elk here in the East are not subjected to the harsh winters found in the West. Consequently, green grass and forbs are commonly available in the winter and so starvation and its effects rarely occur. During winter, elk also eat a lot of woody browse and bark and will feast on acorns when they are available.

SIGN - When searching for elk sign, one of the most prevalent things you will find will be elk tracks. The elk is an even-hoofed mammal having a two-sided track pattern that is described as a cloven or divided heart and the hoof tapers to the front. The foretrack varies in length from 3 ½ to 4 ½ inches and the hindtrack is 3 ½ to 4 inches long. When walking, the hindtracks are slightly ahead of and partly overlap the foretracks. The stride varies from 4 ½ to 5 feet for a walking animal; a running elk can have a stride of up to 14 feet. You may also look for feeding evidence. In winter, elk will paw pits in the snow to find browse. They also eat the twigs and buds of trees and shrubs. Close examination of grasses and forbs in areas associated with hoof prints and droppings will reveal the chewed ends of the plants. Elk scat usually has two forms. One is like cattle chips, but smaller, with a maximum diameter of about 6 inches. Chips are produced when the elk are eating soft summer foods. When elk eat more solid foods, the scat is in the form of pellets that are somewhat barrel-shaped with a nipple at one end and a depression at the other. They are dark brown in color, and ¾ - 1 inch long. Over 100 pellets are expelled 20 times a day. You may also find bedding areas that, in summer, are depressions in grass especially in shaded areas. In winter, you will find depressions in the snow that will be compacted, but the snow will not be melted because of the excellent insulation qualities of elk hair in winter.

SIZE AND COLOR - Elk are large
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ELK FACTS Cont'd

animals, with conspicuous ears, and a small 5-8 inches long tail. Bulls (males) weigh 600-1089 pounds with an average of 700 pounds. Cows (females) weigh 450-650 pounds with an average of 500 pounds. Newborn calves weigh 20-45 pounds with an average of 30 pounds. A mature elk averages 4 ½ - 5 ½ feet at the shoulder with males averaging about 1 foot taller than females. The elk's length ranges from 6 ¾ to 8 feet. Bulls are approximately 25% larger than cows. Elk are dark reddish-brown on their body with chestnut-brown neck and mane in bulls. In late summer, the coat changes to its brownish-gray winter coat. There is a rump patch described as gray, pale yellowish, buffy-white, or whitish which extends above the beige tail. The rump patch on cows is lighter than that of bulls. The rump patch becomes straw-colored as the elk grows older.

ANTLERS - One of the most impressive sights for a casual observer or a seasoned hunter is the appearance of a bull elk with its magnificent set of antlers. Although impressive to look at they are also important to the elk in many ways. Antlers are used in sparring to set up dominance hierarchies in battles with other bulls during the rut. They are used to impress cows which tend to select mates with the best antlers. A bull may also use them to herd cows in his harem, mark territory and defend against predators. Each antler consists of a main beam with long, sharp-pointed prongs (points). The main beam sweeps outward, upward and backward. The points point forward. Bulls grow spikes in their second year which are about 8-15 inches long. In their third year, they grow a 4 or 5 point set of lightweight antlers. Unlike whitetail deer, when counting points on elk antlers, the points on each side are counted independently. Therefore, an elk with 4 points on each side would be described as a "four - by - four elk". Fourth and fifth year antlers tend to grow larger and heavier with 6 or more points per side. A normal set of antlers for a mature bull has 6 points per side. Elk

achieve their best antlers at about their eleventh or twelfth year, with some reaching 5 feet long and weighing 25-40 pounds. Antlers over six feet long, with 10 points per side, have been recorded. After 11 or 12 years of age, antlers decline in quality and become smaller, with some old bulls having only spikes. The size and quality of antlers are determined by several things, including age, heredity and availability of nutrition. Antlers are bony outgrowths that develop from and are cemented to two protuberances called pedicles on top of the skull. The male sex hormone, testosterone, stimulates antler growth which begins in March or April for mature bulls and in May for younger bulls. While they are growing, they are covered by a furry skin covering called velvet. The growing antlers and the velvet are supplied with oxygen and nutrients by a network of blood vessels. Growth and hardening of the antlers is completed in late July or August at which time the velvet dies, dries up and peels away. The elk speed the losing of velvet by rubbing their antlers on saplings. This "polishing" imparts different colors to the antlers depending on what type of saplings are rubbed. Without staining, antlers would be ivory in color. In February and March mature bulls will shed their antlers due to the reduced daylight of winter and diminished testosterone production. Younger bulls may retain their antlers until May. Cows with a hormone imbalance may on rare occasions produce antlers. Searching the woods and fields for dropped antlers, called "sheds" is great sport, but they are hard to find because they are soon chewed up by rodents and other critters. New antler growth begins almost immediately after the old antlers are shed.

LOCOMOTION - Elk can run long distances at 28-29 mph and short bursts up to 34-45 mph. There can be up to 14 feet between one track and the next of the same foot when an elk is running full out. Elk can leap 7-10 feet high, but they leap no higher than necessary. Elk are also excellent swimmers.

FEEDING AND DIGESTION - Elk feed most actively shortly after sunrise and before sunset. If disturbed, such as during hunting season, they will feed only at night. Elk are true ruminants and have a stomach made up of four chambers: rumen, reticulum, omasum, and abomasum. An elk feeds quickly, doing only a rough chopping up of its food. Between grazings, food, now called cud, is returned to the mouth for a more thorough chewing. Upon being swallowed again the food passes quickly through the other four chambers of the stomach where nutrients are absorbed to be used for growth and energy needs. The residual food materials are passed into the large intestine and eliminated from it as droppings or scat.

SOUNDS - Elk use a sharp barking snort that sounds like the bark of a large dog. Cows use it to warn calves and other elk of danger. All people are thrilled when they hear an elk bugle. If you listen closely you can distinguish a bull from a cow by their bugle. A bull's bugle begins with a low, stirring, clear note and rises to a loud, high pitched shrill whistle or scream and ends with a series of short grunts. Bull bugling is heard during the breeding season, especially in the evening. It is a challenge to other bulls and a call of domination to cows. It is heard at other times of the year also but not very often. Cows bugle in a lower key and with a softer tone. Cow bugling is generally heard in the spring, not during breeding season. Another sound may be described like the mewing of a cat. It is made by bulls, cows, and calves. A cow and her calf keep in contact by mewing at each other. Cows also neigh and whine to their calves. You also hear snorts and grunts from adult animals. When calves are in danger they let out a high-pitched squeal.

THE RUT - In the late summer, when the length of daylight is just right, an annual period of time exists when bull elk are capable of reproduction. The **Cont'd Next Page**

ELK FACTS Cont'd

Same conditions cause the elk cows to become receptive to the bulls. This period of time is referred to as the "rut". During the rut a bull that has lived peacefully with other bulls now begins to view them with caution and antagonism. He becomes their rival in a mating game that decides which bulls will breed with the cows. Rutting bulls are extremely active, they bugle a lot, and often engage brush, shrubs and saplings in mock battles. When the actual rut starts only the dominant bulls, the largest, strongest, and most behaviorally competent as indicated by the size of their antlers and massiveness of their bodies are the winners and will actually breed with the cows. A bull is in his prime between 5 and 12 years old. A dominant bull gathers a harem, to which he claims all breeding rights. A typical harem, depending on the size of the herd, can be any where between 3 and 60 cows. The bull must constantly tend his harem. He has to keep the cows together and also prevent other bulls from stealing his cows. Sometime the consequences of either task require the bull to be quite aggressive and occasionally can result in some serious injuries. If you are not the dominant bull because you are too young, or still growing and inexperienced or too old and worn-out, all you can do is stand on the sidelines as the game is played out.

REPRODUCTION - Breeding season is in late August to November and usually peaks in mid to late September. Some cows may breed as early as their first year, but typically they do not breed until 1 ½ – 2 ½ years old. Cows remain capable of reproduction until about 14 years of age after which fertility drops off dramatically. Estrus (the time a cow is willing to mate) lasts only a short time, maybe only 12 hours or less. If the cow is not successfully bred she may have another estrus 21 days later and the cycle may repeat several times until successful mating has occurred. Gestation lasts for 8 ½ months with calving season in late May into early June. This is great timing for the young calves because it is when new

growth vegetation is at its most nutritious and calves have the summer to grow and store up energy for the winter. The cow leaves her herd to give birth and one calf per birth is normal. Unlike the whitetail deer, twinning occurs with 1% or fewer of the calves born. Calves weigh 20-45 pounds at birth with the average weight at about 30 pounds. Calves are born with spotted coats which camouflage them from predators. In about 1-3 weeks the calf can run and jump and the cow and her calf can once again join the herd. Calves are weaned in late summer, but continue to follow their mothers until the following spring. When in with the herd, calves are grouped together and watched over by a few cows. This babysitting activity allows the other mother cows time to graze and take a break from the ever present responsibilities of rearing their young.

SUMMARY – Without a doubt, elk are one of the most majestic animals in North America. We applaud the efforts of groups like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association, the Tennessee Wildlife Foundation, the National Wild Turkey Federation and other contributing persons for their interest in conserving land and providing habitat for elk and other wildlife.

CORA Meeting Minutes of July 08 Cont'd From Page 9

Ups of the proposed plates were presented. A motion was made and passed to order 250 plates, orange background with black letters.

Road Closures. Terry Lewis was unable to reach Stan Stooksbury.

New Business

Yearly Election. In keeping with the

Bylaws of the Corporation, the yearly election was held. Harry Burden resigned as Vice President, but stated he would remain open to accepting the Chairman of the Board position. Burden's resignation was accepted via motion and vote. Burden was replaced by Glen Massengill as Vice President via motion and vote. The remaining Officers and Board Members currently serving were elected for another year via motion and vote.

Local State Representative Position.

After contact was made by Bill Stanley through a letter and phone call to all candidates; Roger Byrge, Vic King, and Marilyn Toppins attended the CORA meeting and all made brief presentations on their views concerning conservation and outdoor recreation. Chad Faulkner was a no-show. Virgil Kidwell could not attend due to his evening work schedule. The three candidates in attendance were thanked for taking time to talk with CORA.

Local Armed Forces Support. Mitzi Ivey asked for a demonstration of support from CORA for a local Campbell County military unit that will soon be deployed. The Board should consider support options and be prepared to discuss those at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA WELCOMES CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE TO JULY MEETING

Submitted by Bill Stanley

Three of the five registered candidates for State Representative presented their views on conservation to the CORA board at the monthly July meeting.

Over the past 15 years, CORA has benefited from having two responsive
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REACH'S Development Center visits the Elk

By Terry Lewis

CORA and the Royal Blue Chapter RMEF hosted an elk viewing opportunity at the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area on May 23rd, for some of the residents of the Campbell County Reaches Development Center. Reaches Development Center houses and provides care for several of the communities disabled and physically challenged individuals.

The two-hour event began at 6 p.m. with cooperative weather and cooperative elk. With help of volunteers from CORA and RMEF, 58 people from Reaches not only got to see elk, but learned about the state's elk restoration project and the work that has been done at the Hatfield Knob Viewing Area. The Reaches' residents passed around shed antlers found at Hatfield to get an even better idea what makes these animals so majestic.

Since the tower will accommodate only 20 persons at one time, ground level viewing opportunities were prepared in advance. Steve Bennett, TWRA's Elk Program Coordinator, and Stan Stooksbury, TWRA Royal Blue Manager, answered questions about the elk during the event. Campbell County Mayor, Jerry Cross and County Commissioner, Ann Smith were also on hand to learn more about the state's growing herd.

Reaches Development Center provided vehicle transportation for their residents and staff from their facility in LaFollette to the Hatfield Knob Viewing Area. The entrance gate at the parking lot was opened to allow the Reaches vans to drive up to the tower location delivering the disabled and staff to the viewing site. This event resulted in quality viewing opportunities for the disabled visitors and an increased public awareness of the

wonderful opportunity for the public to see Tennessee's first and only public viewing location. This event should also provide a renewed public awareness and appreciation of the organizations CORA, RMEF and TWRA.

Another field trip to the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area is scheduled for this September to again allow Reaches disabled and physically challenged residents to experience Tennessee's wild elk during the fall rut.

We want to thank CORA members Terry & Jane Lewis and son Charles, Jerry & Jo Stout, Bill Stanley, Ray Wilson, Glenn Massengill and Jake Mardis for their help at this event. We will need volunteers for the event in September also. Contact Terry Lewis



This picture represents only a small portion of the approximately 50 Reaches Residents that attended an elk viewing tour at Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area in May.

Reaches is planning another tour on September 18, 2008 at 6:30 PM in hopes of hearing the elk bugle.

CORA MEETING MINUTES

CORA Meeting Minutes of April 1, 2008

The Board meeting commenced at 7:00 PM, at the Campbell County Court House in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation was led by Chairman – Ray Wilson.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. All Officers and Directors were present, except for Harry Burden, Excused Absence and Bob Burden Absent.

The March, 2008 minutes were read and approved as read.

Treasurer Ray Wilson presented the general and newsletter financial reports. The reports were approved by the Board.

Publicity

Mitzi Ivey expects the LaFollette Press to write articles before and after the Handicapped Hunt. CORA volunteers should wear CORA hats and vests.

Activities

Most fields in good shape after last year's work at Cove Creek. Logging is occurring and impacting one corn field. Logs are being dragged across the field. QUOR will let us know about funding potential for this spring's work after their April 12th QU meeting. TWRA has agreed to furnish seed and fertilizer. A special seed drill is required for warm season grasses and a couple options for drills are available. Terry will talk to Stan Stooksbury on more details of what he wants accomplished this spring.

Newsletter

The newsletter is out from the printer and was distributed at the meeting.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

All is working well.

Membership

No report. Terry Lewis needs assistance with membership at the Handicapped Hunt. Bob's availability unknown. Glen Massengill will assist.

Old Business

Lifetime Memberships. We now have 10 who have signed up and we now meet the conditions for a first run of cards. Terry Lewis will have the cards ready for the next meeting.

Elk Update. The release was a big success. It was a cold day, yet a crowd of about 500 was on-hand. We had good publicity from the local media and even the Nashville Tennessean. We have lost a bull and three cows to date since the release. TWRA to talk to USDA-APHIS in D.C. next week about the potential for future releases from the Elk Island source. RMEF will not furnish any more funding for future stocking until TN has an elk hunt.

Handicapped Turkey Hunt. The hunt is April 12th. 20 handicapped hunters have signed up. We need additional help with food, one more guide, and help with memberships. Massengill to help with memberships. Ward from the audience volunteered to guide. About 125 total folks are anticipated for the event. WVLT and possibly other media will be there. Marlin Watkins will provide calling instruction. Outdoors Without Limits is the primary sponsor.

Cooker Update. Decision reached to look at retrofitting our current cooker. Lewis to get an estimate at a Knoxville-based company. No local companies providing this type of welding services are available.

New Business

New North Cumberland Name. The State has designated Royal Blue, Sundquist, and Brimstone as North Cumberland. Royal Blue, Sundquist,

and Brimstone are referred to as units. The Brimstone name may not be available. TWRA has been advised it is copyrighted.

OHV Concept. TWRA considering OHV training center at Royal Blue. Training would occur on safety and ethics. TWRA has hired an OHV officer. CORA may be able to help with a trainer. Jerry Stout volunteered.

The East side of Royal Blue emphasizes OHV riding, while game management is emphasized on the West side raising the question of whether this follows previous understandings between TWRA and CORA on land use. Terry Lewis talked to Gary Myers who assured CORA that the entire acreage will continue to be available for OHV riding.

Nashville Legislative Day. Terry Lewis attended the yearly event on March 19th.

HB2856. The Camouflage Coalition worked well and the threat to TWRA and Federal funds by Representative Sherry Jones (D-Nashville) and her diminished number of supporters has likely been thwarted.

Other Items Mentioned.

Tackett Creek becoming a PHA now unlikely. The owners moving toward private leases.

Negative impacts of clear-cutting discussed.

A Ruffed Grouse Society banquet will be held on May 3rd. They have also requested to make a presentation to CORA on small game.

TWF's Tom Scott will make a presentation on the Camouflage Coalition at the next CORA meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by: Mike McAfee

CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

CORA Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2008

The Board meeting commenced at 7:00 PM, at the Campbell County Court House in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation was led by Chairman – Harry Burden.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. All Officers and Directors were present, except for Ray Ivey and Mitzi Ivey, Excused Absence.

The April, 2008 minutes were read, two changes were made, and then approved. The two word changes have since been made to the April report.

Treasurer Ray Wilson presented the general and newsletter financial reports. The reports were approved by the Board.

Publicity

No report.

Activities

QU-OR turned down the request for habitat improvement funds for Cove Creek. We also found out the funds provided last year were actually taken from QU-OR general funds, not grant money, as we originally thought. Stan Stooksbury has agreed to provide fertilizer, seed, herbicide, and a seed drill this year. The plan is to convert all fields to warm season grasses over the next two years and call the habitat project a successful collaboration between TWRA, QU, and CORA. Mr. Richardson already has the fields slated for this year ready for planting and has agreed to plant if CORA will pay his total diesel fuel bill of \$250 for all his work. A motion was made and passed to pay the fuel costs.

Newsletter

No report.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

Everything in good shape.

Membership

Thanks to the efforts of Joe Tomkins CORA now has 11 new members.

Old Business

Lifetime Memberships. Information from the original vendor who was going to make the cards can't be located. Terry Lewis will find a new vendor by the next meeting.

Handicapped Turkey Hunt. The hunt on April 12th was a big success. About 100 people attended. Only one turkey was bagged, but a good time was had by all. Ten of CORA's board members helped out. We had good corporate participation. Between \$5-6K was raised for Outdoors Without Limits.

Cooker Update. It was determined our cooker can't be repaired. After much discussion it was determined we would use Bill Stanley's cooker for the yearly pig roast.

New Business

TWF. TWF representative Tom Scott made a presentation about what TWF does, including the Camouflage Coalition. Scott pointed out TWF works closely with the TN State Legislature and is also active in Washington, DC in the area of grants. TWF has two major projects he discussed with CORA: (1) the Constitutional Amendment To Hunt and Fish in TN and (2) License Fees.

(1) The amendment has passed the House and Senate by the required margin once and must be repeated one more time before it is presented to voters across the State.

(2) TWF and TWRA are looking for options to offset funding shortfalls including asking the TN Legislature for funding.

Other Items Mentioned.

Terry Lewis to look into cost of plastic CORA license plates that fit onto the front bumper of vehicles.

Terry Lewis to check status with Stan Stooksbury of three roads closed at Rock Springs Gap. He will also try to find out what happened to the "yellow" road category. The CORA roads and trails chairman position will be filled at the next election. Ray Wilson pointed to the possible need for a roads and trails committee made up of CORA and TWRA representatives.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of June, 2008

The Board meeting commenced at 7:00 PM, at the Campbell County Court House in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation was led by Chairman – Harry Burden.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. All Officers and Directors were present.

The May, 2008 minutes were read and approved as read.

Treasurer Ray Wilson presented the general and newsletter financial reports. The reports were approved as read by the Board.

Publicity

Various media to provide reports on the REACHES event.

Activities

Bill to give \$250 check to Mr. Richardson to cover his diesel fuel bill
Cont'd Next Page

CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

on work he is doing on the Cove Creek fields.

Newsletter

It is time to submit articles for the next issue which will likely be out in August.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

Most advertisers are paid up to date.

Membership

Two new lifetime memberships have been sold.

Old Business

Lifetime Memberships. Terry Lewis informed the group he now has the capability to make cards and displayed one of the cards for the group to see.

CORA Plastic License Plates. The proposed plates would fit on the front bumper of a vehicle. Terry Lewis reported one-color plates would cost approximately \$275 for 250 plates. Terry to check cost for two-color plates, possibly orange with black letters. A design will be put together for the next meeting for the Board to see. Ray Wilson suggested we may be able to sell the plates to CORA members.

Road Closures. Terry Lewis was unable reach Stan Stooksbury this week on the three roads closed at Rock Springs Gap. Stan is on vacation this week. Terry will report his findings at the next meeting in July. He will also try to find out what happened to the "yellow" road category.

New Business

REACHES Elk Viewing Opportunity. REACHES called CORA and asked CORA to help provide an elk viewing opportunity in May. CORA accepted and about 40 staff, directors, and residents of the Campbell County Reaches Developmental Center attended. The elk cooperated and all seemed to enjoy the outing. County Mayor Jerry Cross

and County Commissioner Ann Smith also attended. Terry read an article CORA provided to the media. Another event is planned for this fall.

OHV and Trails. Greg Julian has been hired by TWRA as a Wildlife officer working primarily on ATV enforcement. So far, roughly 25% of ATV checks result in some type of citation.

Terry Lewis reported we found out it was the Southern 4WD club that hired a lobbyist and attempted to remove the roads and trails grant money from Royal Blue. Though the first attempt failed they are reportedly regrouping for another attempt. It would be detrimental to have this money removed. The Royal Blue pilot project is meant to demonstrate capabilities for building a workable ATV roads and trails program that can and should be duplicated in other parts of the state.

July Election. Officers, Board Members, and general members were reminded the CORA yearly elections are to be held at the July meeting.

Cove Lake Gate and Ramp. Building of the ramp has been postponed for one year.

Local State Representative Position. CORA has worked closely with William Baird, who is stepping down as our State Representative. Mr. Baird has been very helpful and responsive. Bill Stanley suggested we invite all the candidates for State Representative position to the July CORA meeting to give their views on conservation. Candidates will be limited to five minute presentations. A motion was made and passed. Bill Stanley to contact the candidates.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of July, 2008

The Board meeting commenced at 7:00 PM, at the Campbell County Court House in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation was led by Chairman – Harry Burden.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Glen Massengill was absent excused. Leonard Hooks and Pete Shelton were absent.

The June, 2008 minutes were read and approved as read.

Treasurer Ray Wilson presented the general and newsletter financial reports. The reports were approved as read by the Board.

Publicity

Mitzi Ivey reported an article on the REACHES event appeared in the La-Follette Press.

Activities

Bill Bruce reported the \$250 check was delivered to Mr. Richardson to cover his diesel fuel bill on work he completed on the Cove Creek fields.

Newsletter

It is time to submit articles for the next issue which will be out in August.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

Most advertisers are paid up to date. Advertising opportunities are open for anyone interested.

Memberships

2008 Memberships expire at the end of July.

Old Business

CORA Plastic License Plates. Mock-Cont'd Page 5

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CORA WELCOMES CANDIDATES FOR STATE REPRESENTATIVE CONT'D FROM PAGE 5

State Representatives that have been active members and advocates for issues important to this organization. Jerry Cross, and his successor, William Baird, have both been supportive and responsive to CORA's needs in supporting multi-use recreation and wildlife conservation throughout Campbell County and the surrounding region. However, both Mr. Cross and Mr. Baird are now competing for the County Mayor office and we have a new field of candidates running for the office of State Representative for the 36th District, which includes Campbell and Union Counties.

The candidates for this office are:

- Vic King** – Republican, Lafollette, TN
- Roger Byrge** – Democrat, Jacksboro, TN
- Marilyn Toppins** – Democrat, Coryton, TN
- Chad Faulkner** – Republican, Luttrell, TN
- Virgil Kidwell** – Independent, Lafollette, TN

Three of the five candidates attended this meeting. Mr. Kidwell and Mr. Faulkner did not attend.

With important issues scheduled for the upcoming legislative year, CORA believed it important to invite all of the candidates to meet and present to the board and members their views and priorities regarding issues important to us. The goal of this session was to provide more information to CORA for our members to make informed decisions in the upcoming election.

Each candidate was given five minutes to present their views on conservation and outdoor issues. This was not a debate, and no candidate dialogue was allowed. Questions from the members were limited to one per candidate. The order of the speakers was randomly drawn out of a hat.

Roger Byrge, was selected first and outlined his history of hunting and fishing in the mountains of Campbell County, as well as his long term support of CORA. He expressed his respect for the outdoors and his hope of supporting CORA needs in the future if elected.

Vic King presented second, and featured his enjoyment of the mountains, his involvement in some CORA projects in the past and the influence of CORA members in his personal outdoor views and ethics. He detailed his history of sports in both Campbell and Union counties and how that knowledge throughout the district provides a good base for supporting conservation.

Marilyn Toppins, described her understanding of outdoor issues in Union County and throughout the region. She also outlined her understanding of issues coming up in the next legislative session. She emphasized that outdoor organizations must

Talk and work together for common goals.

All of the presentations were well organized, thoughtful and beneficial to the CORA board and members that were fortunate to attend this session. The information provided should help in making a better decision this upcoming election.

The CORA board appreciates the participation of each candidate that presented and thought this forum important enough to attend.

**C.O.R.A. Meeting
Jacksboro Court
House
7:00 P.M.
Regular meetings
Are 1st Tuesday
Of each month
*See You There!***

**C.O.R.A. WILL BE HOSTING
THEIR ANNUAL BAR-B-
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HOPE TO SEE YA**

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Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association

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Fax: 865-862-0797
E-mail: terry@t-lewis.com
janel@t-lewis.com

**Meetings 1st Tuesday
of every month**

Presidents Letter cont'd from page 1

The number of license buyers has gradually declined while the need for conservation and the demand for wildlife-related services have grown.

Ideally, TWRA would be funded by its broad-based constituency-everyone who has an interest in Tennessee's wildlife. Our traditional sources of revenue depend almost entirely upon hunters and fisherman.

For its entire history, TWRA has never relied on appropriations from the general tax revenues collected by the state even though many of its programs benefit all the citizens of Tennessee. TWRA's wildlife and fisheries programs have been funded almost exclusively by people with a direct (usually consumptive) interest in wildlife.

An increase in the price of hunting and fishing licenses in 2005 gave a boost to revenues, but it reduced the number of people that buy licenses. People should not be priced out of the simple enjoyment of a day outdoors. Projections beyond fiscal year 2013 would show an ending balance in negative numbers. A 7% state sales tax multiplied by expenditures in Tennessee for certain equipment items, yielding \$43 million. However, current

law designates 1.5% to education. At a 5.5% rate, this yields a total of \$34 million in undedicated taxes from wildlife related equipment sales.

TOTAL EXPENDITURES IN TENNESSEE

If *all* expenditures in Tennessee for wildlife-associated recreation (not just certain equipment items) are considered, the total is \$2,137,109,000. This includes trip-related expenditures (\$722,776,000), all equipment (\$1,132,798,000), and other expenditures (\$281,535,000). These expenditures generate sales tax, fuel tax, hotel tax and other revenue for state and local government estimated to be over \$150,000,000 per year.

Tennessee remains below the southeastern average for number of wildlife officers per county...reserves that the agency has accumulated through careful fiscal management will soon be depleted.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE

Reduce License Fees—TWRA would reduce license fees by approximately 20%. We anticipate that 25,000 more people will buy licenses and participate

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in hunting and fishing.

Acquire critical habitat—TWRA would invest \$5 million per year in land acquisition for habitat protection and outdoor recreation.

Enforcement Officers—TWRA would create 44 new enforcement positions—Wildlife Officers and Supervisors.

Fund Nongame Programs—Currently, programs for nongame and endangered wildlife are partially paid with license money. Sportsmen would no longer have to fund nongame programs.

Fish Stocking—TWRA would build a new trout hatchery at Elizabethton and upgrade all of its hatcheries for maximum production.

In a 2006 review process, the TWRA identified a number of actions that could be taken to boost fish, wildlife and their related acquisitions in Tennessee, including securing new lands for hunting, fishing and recreation. These would cost \$25 million to \$32 million annually. An economic analysis of such investments in the TWRA show the following annual impacts would be expected in return:

- \$503 million in additional retail sales
- \$749 million in total economic activity
- 7,742 jobs and
- \$33.4 million in state tax revenues

NOW YOU HAVE THE FACTS—WHAT IS YOUR OPINION?????