

CORA

TWENTY-NINTH EDITION

FEBRUARY, 2006



CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Promoting Outdoor Recreation

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My Opinion, Continued

My Opinion On The Need For An Elk Hunt In Tennessee

By Terry Lewis, Board Member C.O.R.A. and T.W.F.

Just like rear ends, everyone has an opinion, just ask them. The following is strictly my opinion. While it is true that Tennessee's elk restoration program has slowed, many things are still being done for the good of the program.

For example, we know that the elk cows on the ground are producing a good number of healthy calves; also we know that the planting of food plots and managing habitat has a very positive effect on the herd, and that the continued monitoring of elk that stray from the containment zone is still in force.

One item that has yet to improve is the never ending conversations about bringing in more elk to finish the restoration process. The process of transportation of live elk into Tennessee has been stopped by what I consider an unnecessary paranoia of importing diseases like Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Currently, a five member panel of men has been appointed to study and recommend rules that govern just how the process of transporting captive elk should be handled. Hopefully, a method for transporting the additional elk needed to finish the restoration process will soon be established.

At the beginning of this program, the partners (CORA, TWF, TWRA, and RMEF) made three promises to the public. First,

we promised to keep elk within the elk zone. TWRA has worked exceptionally hard at making sure that this promise has been kept. Secondly, we promised the public an opportunity to view these magnificent creatures. Due to the hard work of many volunteers, this opportunity is now a reality. Lastly, we promised the public that elk would be hunted sooner rather than later. It is this last promise that I want to focus upon for the remainder of this article.

Here is a simple approach to meeting this third promise. Beginning in the fall of 2007, we establish a resident only drawing for the first legal elk hunt in Tennessee in over 165 years. Not just any old elk hunt; but, a specific type of elk hunt with only 2 permits available.

I hear the naysayers now; an elk hunt when we need more animals just doesn't make any sense. But hear me out. There are approx. 300,000 big game license holders in the state. Say approximately 20% of those hunters participated in a non refundable \$10.00 drawing for 2 bull elk permits. This drawing could produce a revenue stream of some dollar amount near \$600,000 for the elk program. The bull elk to be harvested would be only targeted animals that the wildlife agency determines as problematic animals (i.e., those animals

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Women in the Outdoors

By Kym Abernathy

The Women in the Outdoors program is the largest outdoor outreach program for women in the country, with several events held in Tennessee. In 2006 we are planning several in the East Tennessee Area. A one day event with family dinner at the John Sevier Range in Knoxville, sporting clays shoot at Heritage Meadows in Tellico Plains, a hunting seminar at Roane State Community College in Harriman and many more. The Women in the Outdoors program is an outreach program of the National Wild Turkey Federation. The NWTF is a nation wide, grassroots, non profit conservation and education organization dedicated to conserving the wild turkey and preserving the hunting tradition. Due to the

efforts of NWTF volunteers all across the country it has become the most progressive conservation group in the country.

What is a Women in the Outdoors event? I like to refer to it as childhood fun or girls camp for women. The program is open to all women ages 14 and up. The events are held all over the country and are usually held annually in each location. You do not have to be a hunter to enjoy the program, you need only possess the desire to learn new things, meet new people and love the outdoors. We offer a variety of classes which are taught by local volunteer instructors. Some examples of classes offered to participants are archery, gardening, firearm safety, horseback riding,

shotgunning, riflery, self defense, handguns, crafts, soap making, fishing, fly tying, hiking, camping, etc. We can offer almost any outdoor related seminar. Keeping the subjects fun and diverse adds to the success of the program. Most events are one day events held on Saturday, to keep it convenient, in most cases participants can choose the courses that interest them the most from a list compiled by the event committee. Some events are multi-day events and include over night accommodations. Meals and snacks are included in the event fee and all events include a silent auction and fundraising games.

We are looking for volunteers to be a part of a WITO planning committee. Folks who love the outdoors and would like to share their knowledge with others. We are always looking for volunteer instructors in a range of subjects. Planning committees can customize their event to meet the needs of their community. Any help given is help needed. This is a rewarding program where I have seen adult women catch a fish, pitch a tent, shoot a gun, ride a horse or use a compass for the first time in their lives. This program has been a great tool for single mom's to learn new skills to share with their children and an esteem builder for all women involved. If you are interested in making an event happen in your area or more information on upcoming events, please contact Kym Abernathy, 865-882-8303 or whymwito@comcast.net. We need you and we want you to get involved and get outside!! Thank you for your support.

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Save Hunting & Fishing in Tennessee

Join the Camouflage Coalition

History tells us that when outdoorsmen get involved positive things happen. You must be willing to get involved to protect our wildlife resources for future Tennesseans. As a member of the Tennessee Camouflage Coalition, you'll pay no dues or membership fees. All we ask is for you to supply your contact information. When an important issue comes up that could impact hunting and wildlife, we'll send you an action alert and ask you to contact your elected officials or other decision-makers. Please call or write the Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Executive Director Mike Butler at 615-353-1133.

Tennessee Wildlife Federation
300 Orlando Avenue Suite 200
Nashville, Tennessee 37209
www.twf.org

Why Tennessee Needs a Coalition

We are Part of A Bigger Family

There are nearly 38 million Americans who hunt and fish. That is more sportsmen than people who receive social security retirement benefits. If all sportsmen had voted in the 2000 presidential election, they would have equaled 36% of the entire vote. Moral of the story is that political candidates should never underestimate the size and importance of the American sportsmen. Sportsmen cast ballots, not just lures. A fact Al Gore learned the hard way.

The Economic Impact of Sportsmen and Women

Sportsmen and women pour \$70 billion into the U.S. economy annually—with a

whopping \$179 billion in a ripple effect. This means the "corporation" of hunters and fishermen would rank ahead of companies with household names like Home Depot and AT&T. Sportsmen support more jobs in America than the number of people employed by Wal-Mart, the nation's largest employer.

Think box office hits like Harry Potter, Spiderman, Titanic and Star Wars were block-busters? Maybe, but each year sportsmen generate over 6 times more revenue than Hollywood's top forty movies of all time! \$70 billion versus \$10.5 billion. More Americans start the day in deer stands, bass lakes and duck blinds than receive the combined circulation of the top twenty newspapers in the U.S., including USA Today, The Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and The Wall Street Journal. That is 38 million sportsmen vs. 4 million subscribers!

Think potatoes are a big commodity in Idaho? Their sportsmen generate as much revenue as Idaho spuds. And three times more money is generated by Florida sportsmen than Florida oranges!

Just the hunters, excluding anglers, support more than 500,000 jobs. That is more jobs than the combined employment of all top U.S. airlines including American, United, Delta, Northwest, Continental, US Airways, Southwest, Alaska Air, and America West. Hunters spend \$4.6 billion annually on boots and gear, equaling what Americans spend on Nike shoes and apparel. Hunters spend over \$2 billion for food on hunting trips which is more than Americans spend on Dominos pizza.

Hunters spend over \$2 billion on guns and ammo. More money is spent by hunters on ammo than Americans spend on golf balls. The \$2.4 billion in annual federal income tax generated by hunter's spending could pay the salaries of a 100,000 man army!

The American sport fishermen support more than 1 million jobs! That is more than combined employment of Exxon at 98,000, GM at 365,000 and Ford at 383,000. The \$36 billion in spending would put sport fishing at #40 on the Fortune 500—that is well above Johnson & Johnson.

Think golf is big? Five million more Americans fish than play golf! The \$3.7 billion in revenues from U.S. commercial fishing is a minnow compared to the \$36 billion generated by anglers each year.

Hunters and fishermen contribute \$54 every second, \$3240 every minute, \$194,400 every hour, \$4.7 million every day, adding up to \$1.7 billion each year for wildlife conservation. Through license sales, sportsmen pay the lion's share of all state wildlife agency budgets. The sale of duck stamps has generated funds to conserve wildlife wetlands and habitat greater in size than the state of Massachusetts.

What Does This Mean For Tennessee?

In Tennessee, there are 359,398 hunters who annually spend \$623,025,977 while supporting 11,641 jobs with combined wages of \$307,238,128. Hunters pay state excise taxes amounting to \$36,937,656.

Please see **SAVE HUNTING**, page 6

If You Build It, They Will Come

Written and photographed by Dan Hicks



The new Hatfield Mountain elk viewing tower opened this past fall some seven miles north of Lafollette, Tennessee.

With Elk as a major attraction, it was just a matter of time before an “official” viewing area was established.

There is a place in East Tennessee where they were coming before they built it—a wild elk-viewing tower that is. The elk, so far, are batting 100 percent and so is elk project volunteer Terry Lewis.

Lewis and his wife, Jane, own property that borders the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area in Campbell County where elk are present every time they visit. “This is a wonderful place to see elk, and I would like to share it with all of Tennessee,” Lewis said.

Since elk were released east of I-75 at a private release in the Ivy Dale area of the Sundquist WMA, Lewis and friends have spent hundreds of hours and hundreds of dollars developing and enhancing an old reclaimed strip coal mine on top of Hatfield Mountain.

Lewis quickly discovered that the newly released elk were using the flat scruffy fields left over from removing the top of Hatfield Mountain during years of strip mining in the area. He knew if the fields could be improved, the elk would benefit from better nutrition. After months of planning and conferring with Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency wildlife managers, Lewis was allowed to bring his tractors and a bulldozer up the mountain from his nearby property to manipulate the ground to enhance food sources for the elk. He soon noticed that every time he visited the area in the early morning or late afternoon, he saw elk.

About three years ago Lewis started a campaign to build a wildlife viewing structure on the edge of the reclaimed strip mine fields on Hatfield Mountain. He told everyone who would listen. A lot of folks agreed but never thought a viewing area would be established on the mountain. Well, several months ago TWRA managers gave the green light to build a 20-foot viewing tower on the site.

In August, over 20 Region IV wildlife officers, wildlife technicians, biologists, and a law enforcement supervisor joined with volunteers from the local chapter of the

Please see IF YOU BUILT IT, page 5

IF YOU BUILD IT, continued from page 4

Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and members of the Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association to construct a tower.

"I am excited the public can finally have a place to enjoy all of the native wildlife species found on Hatfield Mountain and especially the elk," Lewis explained. "My goal from the beginning was to create a location where folks could come to see these beautiful and majestic animals, to see what my wife Jane and I see every weekend. In order to accomplish that, I knew that I would have to create a location with a high probability of viewing opportunities. And that is just what we have created on the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area."

With help from the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the elk tower was dedicated at a RMEF banquet held recently in LaFollette. The TWF also produced signs and educational displays to help the public learn about Tennessee's elk and other wildlife on the mountain.

"Visitors, no doubt, will enjoy this fantastic wildlife viewing opportunity but they must understand how important it is to stay on the assigned walking trail and remain very quiet while approaching and using the tower," TWF Executive Director Mike Butler said. "That is part of the educational display, and I hope visitors will respect the elk and the property. Folks could enjoy watching numerous species at this location for years if the animals are not disturbed by the human invasion. But what an experience!"

Tennesseans should be proud of the cooperation between state and wildlife managers and volunteer organizations and the vision of a wildlife enthusiast named Terry Lewis.

But as Terry said, "If we build it, the people will come, the elk are already here."

At press time the TWRA was in the process of putting the final touches on a strategic plan to manage Tennessee's elk herd. Plans do include the investigation into finding sources for more elk to be reintroduced that are disease free.

Plan a trip to experience Hatfield Mountain for yourself. To get there drive north out of LaFollette on Highway 25W approximately seven miles to the top of the mountain. Turn left at the red gate located at the top of the mountain (just before the



(above) Many elk like this majestic buck have found the flat fields of the old strip mine site an attractive feeding place.



(left) A Tennessee-born calf accompanied his mother to the Hatfield Mountain grazing area.

Please see IF YOU BUILD IT, page 6

NWTF Wheelin Sportsman Turkey Hunt

The Rocky Top, Anderson Co. and Pine Mountain Chapters are hosting **Tennessee Ultimate Team Up Turkey Hunt for the Handicap Hunters**

April 22, 2006

On the farms of Terry Lewis and Ron Cunningham in Campbell County.

Last year 11 handicap hunters harvested 7 turkeys.

Join us for a great day of fun and fellowship where you can always find a SMILE and a KIND WORD.

For more information call:

Toby Steele 865-342-6902 or Mitzi Ivey 423-562-0522

IF YOU BUILT IT, continued from page 5

road starts to break over the mountain and go down the back side.) Proceed on the gravel road approximately 3.1 miles to a fork in the road. Take the right fork approximately 1.4 miles to the parking area. Directions may also be found on the TWRA Web site at www.tnwildlife.org.

Article reprinted with permission of Tennessee Wildlife.

Dan Hicks is a graduate of MTSU with degrees in Mass Communications and Criminal Justice. He joined TWRA in 1996 as the Region III Information and Education Coordinator.

(right) Three generations of elk graze in the Hatfield Mountain fields under the supervision of a big bull elk.



(left) The crew of volunteers—TWRA wildlife officers, technicians and biologists; members of the local chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; and members of the Campbell County Outdoor Recreation Association—gather for a portrait as the construction work on the tower was completed.

SAVE HUNTING, continued from page 3

There are 903,385 anglers in Tennessee who annually spend \$564,667,366 which supports 11,478 jobs with combined wages of \$292,858,357. Anglers pay the state of Tennessee \$39,442,500 in excise taxes.

Clearly, people who hunt and fish are big business in America and Tennessee. They are a constituency to be reckoned with. It is not surprising that presidential candidates like to be filmed dressed in camouflage attire. The bottom-line is hunting and fishing is woven into the fabric of the American culture and economy. The Tennessee General Assembly must continue

to support the sportsman and the sporting industry in Tennessee.

(Portions of this article provided by State Sen. Doug Jackson)



CORA Online

CORA is now online, with our own Web Site, sharing exciting news and recreation adventures in the great Tennessee outdoors.

Please visit CORA at:
www.tncora.com

Tennessee Wildlife Federation

Camouflage Coalition

– Guiding Principles and Operating Procedures –

America's hunting traditions are being pulled in multiple directions by diverse factors, including demographic change, urbanization, advocacy environmental science, mass turnover in professional staffs of state and federal wildlife agencies, the decreasing proportion of our population that hunts or fishes, anti-management philosophies and values, and the crowded, fast-paced lives of everyday Americans. In spite of great successes in restoration of wildlife over the past 100 years, the changing structure of our society makes it necessary for wildlife managers and hunter-fisher/conservationists to work together more effectively to build on the successes achieved in the past. Further, the decade of 2005-2015 is recognized as critical for wildlife as the die is being cast for its future. Against this challenging backdrop, hunter-fisher/conservationists are arrayed in literally hundreds of organizations, diluting our effectiveness.

The early successes of Boone and Crockett Club members and the citizen-sportsmen at the turn of the last century offer insight into the value of unity. At that time, wildlife was visibly depleted and their habitats – like pine forests in the Northeast – had been cut and burned. There was a common need to protect wildlife and restore lost habitat. In the 1930s, drought and low waterfowl numbers presented a rallying point for hunters and other conservationists to take action. In each case, people interested in wildlife could see some uncomplicated, visible threats they could combat directly. Formation of the Forest Reserves and their evolution into the National Forests, development of treaties to conserve migratory birds, passage of the

Pittman/Robertson Act and Dingell-Johnson Act, and other movements came to fruition because people of like-minds, with specific objectives, worked together. This history shows that unified efforts do produce gains for conservation of wildlife and their habitats.

With all this in mind, there is a need for today's wildlife leaders to unify their collective strength and apply it to common challenges and opportunities to protect wildlife, habitat, hunting, trapping, and the way of life they represent.

PURPOSE

Diverse wildlife organizations with a common interest in conserving fish, wildlife and their habitats, and in preserving hunting, fishing and trapping, are committed to identifying specific needs and working together toward fulfilling those needs. The unifying element is a shared commitment to:

- Build unity among partner organizations and increase collective effectiveness;
- Develop a vision for fish and wildlife;
- Collectively address key issues; and,
- Develop and pursue implementation of a set of recommendations for our local, state, and federally elected officials
- Sustain communications between like-minded individuals and organizations across Tennessee

PRINCIPLES

1. Develop, in a loose federation, process/structure with objectives and agenda.
2. Build trust and respect among partner organizations.

3. Be a potent force advocating conservation, hunting, fishing, trapping, and stewardship.
4. Focus on commonalities and principles, including:
 - Habitat,
 - Wildlife populations,
 - Hunting, fishing and trapping,
 - Scientific management of wildlife and habitat,
 - North American wildlife model.
5. Share information in an effective and immediate way (e.g. list serve, web site):
 - Develop an outreach strategy,
 - Develop unified messages and stay focused,
 - internal (hunter-fisher/conservation groups)
 - external (general public)
6. Work together where we agree:
 - Agree to disagree and respect differences,
 - Extol and recognize accomplishments of sister partner organizations,
 - Coordinate efforts on specific issues—some groups develop the issues, some groups implement the strategy,
7. Issue leaders emerge and coordinate communication between partner organizations.

The Tennessee Wildlife Federation would like to recognize the American Wildlife Conservation Partners and their work in providing the framework upon which the TWF Camouflage Coalition governing rules and procedures are based. To learn more about their efforts, go to www.conservationforum.org

REMEMBER—ASK FIRST BEFORE HUNTING ON PRIVATE LAND

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) would like to remind all hunters that Tennessee State Law (TCA 70-4-106) requires all hunters to have permission before hunting on private property.

TWRA urges all hunters to obtain a *2004 Tennessee Hunting and Trapping Guide* and review the information before hunting. Each year, hunters are issued citations for violations that a few minutes of reading could have prevented.

CORA Minutes

MINUTES OF JUNE 7, 2005

The board meeting commenced at 7:15 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by President Asbury

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis

The May Minutes were read and approved.

The May Financial Reports were read by Board Member Glen Massengill in the absence of Treasurer Wilson. Those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

Mike explained that the 20th Anniversary article will be ran in the August Issue of the Tennessee Wildlife magazine. Additionally Mike explained that the Tennessee Wildsides Television program had expressed an interest in producing a segment on CORA and its successes. A report on the CORA website could not be given since Greg Lingle did not attend the meeting.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed his conversation with Ron Saunders determined the No Till drill could not be used this year for the CORA wildlife sponsored food plots. A discussion was had concerning other options for planting the food plots. Bill made a motion to reimburse fuel expenses for the volunteers that use their personal equipment in the food plot project. The motion was seconded by Glen Massengill and the vote passed. President Asbury indicated that Bill could pay for the fuel and submits an invoice to Asbury for the reimbursement of the fuel cost.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis reported on his plans to produce the 20th anniversary issue of the Newsletter and should have it ready for printing in time for the July meeting.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill: No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: Lee asked the membership what its pleasure was in the form of the election. Pud Shelton made a

motion that the current officers and members be re-elected for another year and the motion was seconded by Bill Bruce. A vote was taken and passed with a unanimous vote. The CORA present directors and officers were re-elected for another year.

President Asbury thanked Mike McAfee for his fine efforts on the 20th anniversary article.

President Asbury discussed the coal mining on the Royal Blue area. TVA is planning to mine the area extensively to remove as much coal as possible. It is reported that TVA burns 36 million tons of coal per year and not one pound of coal comes from Tennessee. Lee indicated, that in his opinion, TVA should reinvest as much money as possible back into habitat restoration of the areas disturbed by the mining process. After a lengthy discussion it was determined that CORA should become a watchdog on this. Jerry Cross is to check with UT on the economic impact of the timber industry in Campbell County.

Ray Ivey stated that Steve McGee with QU plans to attend the August 2nd CORA meeting for his presentation on habitat restoration of wild quail.

New Business:

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES OF JULY 5, 2005

The board meeting commenced at 7:15 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by President Asbury

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis

The June Minutes were not read and approved as Secretary Lewis forgot to bring them to the meeting.

The June Financial Reports were read by Ray Wilson. Those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

Mike discussed the fact that Volunteer times had not run the article as of yet but had promised to do so. Secretary Lewis told about Bob Hodges plans to run an article in the Knoxville News Paper. From further discussions with Don King, it was indicated that they were interested in doing

the TV program and wanted some ideas about a show. Greg Lingle has had a death in the family and could not be here tonight.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: read from the hand written article

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis reported on his plans to produce the 20th anniversary issue of the Newsletter and should have it ready for printing in time for the July meeting.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill: No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: Bob has been renewing memberships as the current memberships expired July 31st.

Review Old Business: A discussion on the timber and mining was had. It was determined that many infractions were being made to the BMP's and rules regarding the mining industries.

Ray Wilson discussed Laural Fork Creek being timbered and told stories of loggers placing rock in the creeks that used to have good trout populations. Most of those trout populations have been destroyed

Sunquist has had someone taking stone out of the creeks.

Terry Lewis explained the Elk meetings he had been attending and about the Viewing area progress.

New Business:

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES OF AUGUST 2, 2005

The board meeting commenced at 7:15 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by President Asbury

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis

The July Minutes were read by Secretary Lewis and approved as read by the board.

Financial Reports for the general account was not read as Treasurer Ray Wilson was not present. The newsletter financial report was read by Glen Massengill, those reports were approved as read.

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Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

Mike indicated that the Volunteer Times would not be running the article on CORA due to no longer being in business. Mike indicated that Bob Hodge has said he would run the article in the Knoxville News Sentinel some time this next month.

Mike also discussed the fact that Don King with Tennessee Wildsides wants a current theme, after some discussion the Elk Viewing Area will be the current theme for which to base the TV program on.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the quail released on Cove Creek. He indicated that the crops planted were knee high and doing well.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: No Report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

Asked for help on the distribution of the newsletters. Glen also started a discussion on the removal of the Greens and Freddy's market from the advertisers of the newsletter.

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business:

New Business: Mitzi wants to start a program for women in the outdoors, she indicated that TWRA has offered to allow the use of the facility at the John Sevier range as a place to hold those programs. A program is scheduled for August 15th at the Island View Church of Christ in Oak Ridge at 6 pm.

A discussion on the pig roast was had and no date was set for the event this year. President Asbury is to check to see when a shelter can be had at the Cove Lake State Park in order to schedule this years roast.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:55 p.m.

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 6, 2005

The board meeting commenced at 7:15 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Chairman Harry Burden

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis

The August Minutes were read by Secretary Lewis and approved as read by the board.

Financial Reports for the general account and newsletter account were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson. Those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

Mike discussed the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area and its schedule. Mike also discussed the Bob Hodge Article in the sports page of the Knoxville News Sentinel. Also discussed were the Website and its progress to get it up and running with CORA information on it. Mike indicated that both he and Terry Lewis would be working on the website to make progress before the next meeting.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the CORA barbeque and its schedule for the Oct 8th date. Issues around the shelter and cooking were discussed. The festivities are scheduled to begin at 12:30 at shelter #5 located in the Cove Lake State Park. The board voted to give Bill the necessary authority to purchase materials needed to proceed with the CORA cookout.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: No Report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: A discussion was held on the acknowledgment of those individuals who had a part in the historical success that CORA had in the Royal Blue land purchase and transfer into the State ownership and control.

New Business: The RMEF Banquet schedule and the CORA 20th Anniversary program were discussed by Mike McAfee. Both President Asbury and Secretary Lewis provided information concerning the developing program. Lee discussed his discussion with Secretary Lewis on paying the entrance fee for the dignitaries personally invited by President Asbury. Lee indicated that if the board did not wish to cover the cost of the invited parties that both he and Secretary Lewis had agreed to pay the cost personally. The board voted to cover the cost of the invited guests.

The Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area and the Tennessee Wildsides Television crew filming the Elk and banquet events for a future television show to be aired on PBS was discussed and suspected issues

addressed by Terry Lewis and Mike McAfee.

Jim Ayers proposed a plan to develop an informational DVD using the Elk and CORA's 20th anniversary as the theme. A discussion followed with a positive direction. More discussion will be needed to further this opportunity.

CORA Treasurer Ray Wilson discussed the need to transfer approx. \$450.00 into the newsletter account in order to make the payment on the last newsletter publication billing.

Mitzi Ivey discussed the development of a new CORA shirt for the membership to wear at functions like the Elk Banquet, CORA cookouts, and other important functions. The shirts would allow the public to see membership unity and who are members more easily. Those who wish to purchase a CORA shirt were instructed to see Mitzi after the meeting to give her your sizes. Mitzi indicated she could get the shirts prepared before the Elk Banquet to allow the membership to wear them to the 20th anniversary program.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:05 p.m.

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 4, 2005

The board meeting commenced at 7:08 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Harry Burden

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis

The September Minutes were read and approved.

The September Financial Reports were read by Ray Wilson. Those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

Due to Mike's absence Terry Lewis read the publicity report on the highlights of the recent CORA activities.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: A discussion was held on the status of the crops planted on the Cove Creek area. Corn is up good and the Soybeans are knee high all of the other plots are doing well.

Additionally the Mattie Randolph Hollow boat ramp was discussed as the water is washing out the base under the concrete ramp. Lee indicated he would call Morristown to discuss the condition with TWRA and attempt to get an answer and a resolution on repairs before the condition

Please see MINUTES, page 10

worsened.

The annual CORA barbeque was discussed and Bill was given the authority to purchase the necessary items for the event to be held on Saturday Oct 10th at the Cove Lake state park shelter #5 at 12:00. Volunteers to help were solicited and many members pledged to help out with the annual event. Those who volunteered to help Bill and Leonard were Mitzi Ivey to get the drinks, Terry and Jane Lewis to get the potato salad and cole slaw, Hubert Rollins to get the potato chips, Jim Ayers to get the bread and buns, Leonard Hooks to get the meat, ice and other items and Bill Bruce to get the wood for the fire. It was determined that non-members who sign up would get to eat free.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis said he would be working on the next issue of the newsletter and asks for members to submit any articles to be included in the next issue. Lee was asked for his president's front-page article and Lee asked Bill Bruce to write a story about the Cove Creek wildlife food plot program.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill: Glen discussed the need for new advertisers. He indicated that approx. 335.00 were to be written off as uncollectible funds. Several advertisers were discussed and those to be removed from the next issue were identified.

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: 20 new members were added to the rolls and Jim Ayers brought up the idea of a letter being written to each new member to welcome them into the organization. It was decided that a letter should be drafted to be sent to all new members.

Review Old Business: Lee discussed that he was very satisfied with the REMF banquet and the CORA 20th anniversary dinner with some 178 in attendance. TN Wild Sides will have a TV program soon to be aired on PBS, concerning the 20th anniversary and the newest CORA success the Hatfield Wildlife Viewing Area.

New Business: Lee discussed that he was scheduled for a meeting with the Campbell Chamber of Commerce to do a story on CORA. It was discussed that a DVD might be a worthwhile idea for CORA

to check out. It was discussed and tabled for further discussion.

A discussion was held on the question of could the public visit the Hatfield viewing tower for free or would they be required to purchase a permit to be on the area. Terry was to call TWRA for a determination on the issue.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 1, 2005

The board meeting commenced at 7:12 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Ray Wilson

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis

The October Minutes were read and approved.

The October Financial Reports were read by Ray Wilson. Those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

Mike discussed the stage of the web site development and stated that we are not finished with the site and further improvements will be coming soon. Mike also discussed the Tennessee Wildsides TV program with Don King. Mr. King stated that the program should air sometime in March on PBS. Mike is trying to get the raw footage for use on the website.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill thanked everyone for their help in the barbeque event. Bill stated everything went better than expected. The board gave both Bill and Leonard a round of applause for their success on the event..

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis said he would be working on the next issue of the newsletter and asks for members to submit any articles to be included in the next issue. Lee was asked for his president's front-page article and Lee asked Bill Bruce to write a story about the Cove Creek wildlife food plot program.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill: No report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: Lee stated that

his meeting with the chamber of commerce resulted in the chamber wanting to do a documentary about outdoor recreation opportunities in Campbell County.

New Business: A discussion was held from a observation that board member Hubert Rollins made about the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing area. Hubert stated that it is too difficult to get wheelchair persons to the tower area due to the gate and distance to the tower. Lee asked Mitzi if a handicap tour could be set up. A discussion was held by the members about staging a handicap event where those handicap persons were helped to make the trip to the area by CORA members and other interested parties. Discussion was tabled till later when further information can be learned from TWRA and others about the opportunity.

Ride Royal Blue was discussed but seems no one had much information about the business.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:35 p.m.

MINUTES OF December 6, 2005

The board meeting commenced at 7:15 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Chairman Harry Burden

The Board's Roll Call was taken by Secretary Lewis

The November Minutes were read by Secretary Lewis and approved as read by the board.

Financial Reports for the general account and newsletter account were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson. Those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

Mike commented on a recent article in the LaFollette Press on the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area and that the story was good publicity for CORA. Also discussed were the CORA Website and the progress to get it up and running with CORA information on it. Mike indicated that both he and Terry Lewis would soon be working on the website and will make progress on it as soon as possible.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: No Report

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis:

Please see MINUTES, page 11

No Report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields:

No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business: A discussion was held on the Mattie Randolph boat dock in that no progress on the repairs had been made. Bill was asked to keep an eye on any activity to repair the dock and to advise the group as to when repairs begins.

New Business: A discussion on a study commissioned by the TWF concerning the coal mining in Campbell County was given by Terry Lewis Lewis also serves as a Board of Director for the Tennessee Wildlife Foundation.

A discussion on the new river water shed lawsuit that has been filed to prevent further permitting until the suit can be determined.

It was reported that TVA will soon visit a CORA board meeting when the EIS is ready to be released to the public and that a TVA representative will provide details of the plan to the board members during that open meeting.

Ray Wilson provided details about the Ashley Hollow road closure that has recently taken place. Seems that the Lafollette Utilities has installed a cable across the road while repairs are taking place in that area. Some confusion was expressed as to who actually placed the cable to close the road and further confusion was expressed as to when the road will be reopened. Ray Wilson will provide more details on the road schedule at the next meeting of the board.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:05 p.m.



CORA ACCOMPLISHMENTS - 2005

by Mike McAfee, CORA Publicity Chairman

This is the publicity report highlighting some of the more recent CORA activities and successful ventures and what they mean to CORA as an organization. The catalyst for much of the recent activity was CORA's 20th anniversary. As it turned out, at about the same time the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area was moving quickly forward, along with CORA's 20th Anniversary banquet, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation's East Tennessee Chapter banquet all started out as totally separate activities, but quickly became intertwined and inseparable, which was an excellent turn of events from a public forum and publicity standpoint. Here is a listing of recent relevant events and outcomes:

1. CORA 20th anniversary article in TWRA's *Tennessee Wildlife Magazine* - Sept./ Oct. 2005 issue.
2. CORA 20th anniversary article in *Tennessee Valley Outdoors Magazine* - Sept 2005 issue.
3. Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area article in *Tennessee Valley Outdoors Magazine* - October 2005 issue.
4. CORA 20th Anniversary article in *Tennessee Wildlife Federation's* magazine "Tennessee Out-of-Doors" Publication - Summer 2005.
5. Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area article in *Knoxville News Sentinel*. August 24th, 2005
6. TWRA's Tennessee Wild Sides Television Program produces a CORA 20th Anniversary video segment - Air date March or April 2006.
7. Partnered with RMEF to add a valuable segment (CORA 20th Anniversary) to their chapter banquet. Added approximately 50 paying participants to the elk banquet, including many dignitaries.
8. Demonstrated our continuing relevance by inviting important dignitaries and by the number that actually attended the Elk Banquet/20th anniversary celebration.
9. The 20th anniversary provided a forum for reminding everyone of the individuals that played a key roles in the purchase of Royal Blue WMA, the lynch pin for CORA and its many accomplishments that have followed.
10. The 20th anniversary, Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area, and RMEF banquet provided an opportunity to renew and strengthen current acquaintances, friends, and relationships as well as provide the opportunity to establish new acquaintances, friends, and relationships.
11. The Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area with its food plots and viewing tower once again demonstrated CORA's ability to facilitate and be a trusted player in moving the elk agenda forward and making good on a promise of a public viewing area a reality. The Hatfield Knob Viewing Area once again illustrated CORA's ability to spearhead partnerships with the TWRA, TWF, RMEF, NWTF, QU and others to accomplish worthwhile public wildlife and conservation programs.
12. Shirts were a nice touch that makes CORA stand out front-and-center and demonstrates we are proud of who we are and what we represent.
13. Last, but certainly not least, the 20th Anniversary allowed for CORA and others to recognize some of our own (specifically Lee Asbury and Terry Lewis) for their contributions to CORA and the Tennessee elk program.

Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy

INTRODUCTION

State Wildlife Grants Program

Tennessee is one of the most biodiverse states in the nation. Currently there are 315 species of fish, 77 mammals, 56 reptiles, 70 amphibians, and 340+ birds known to inhabit or migrate through Tennessee. The number of invertebrate species, many of which are endemic to Tennessee, is equally impressive with 256 land snails, 99 aquatic snails, 120+ mussels, 77 crayfish and many insects. Conserving this assemblage of biodiversity in the wake of economic growth and ever-changing landscapes requires funding at the state and federal level. Traditionally, conservation funding has been raised through hunting fees and excise taxes associated with game species. Although conservation of game species has been very successful, many nongame species are without dedicated conservation funding at the federal level and, therefore, at risk of becoming rare, threatened or endangered.

Recognition of the gap in conservation funding and the associated risks to nongame wildlife led to the introduction of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) into congress in 2000. The provisions of CARA provided \$350 million in annual funding to be dispersed among the 50 states for wildlife conservation, recreation and education programs. CARA was considered the most important wildlife conservation funding legislation to be introduced in 50 years, and although it rallied tremendous bipartisan support it was not enacted into law. Undaunted, wildlife coalitions such as Teaming With Wildlife and the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies pushed for legislation that would provide adequate, predictable funding for conservation programs. In 2001, the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Act (WCRP) and the State Wildlife Grants (SWG) programs were enacted into law. Together WCRP (\$50 million) and SWG (\$25 million) provided \$75 million dollars in conservation funding, \$841,000 of which was allocated to Tennessee. In 2002, the monies allocated for SWG increased to \$85 million,

increasing Tennessee's share to \$1,354,020. Tennessee was allocated \$999,624 and \$1,606,816 from SWG funds in 2003 and 2004, respectively, and is projected to receive approximately \$1 million from SWG in 2005.

To ensure conservation programs funded by SWG are designed for maximum benefits to nongame wildlife, Congress mandated that all states must complete a Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy (CWCS) by October 1, 2005. The CWCS will address **8 elements** required by Congress for each plan and will be reviewed every 10 years. The primary goal

of the CWCS will be to prevent wildlife from declining to the point of endangerment. This goal will be achieved by engaging a broad array of **partners** in the development process including other government agencies, conservation groups, private landowners, the public, and anyone else who has a stake in fish and wildlife management. It is the intent that the strategic plans from the states will collectively create a nationwide approach to wildlife conservation and turn the tide of species decline.

Information from TWRA website.

Public Asked For Input Into Hunting Seasons

January 24, 2006

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) is asking the public for input into the 2006-2007 hunting seasons.

The TWRA goes through a fairly lengthy season setting process each year that always begins with suggestions from the public. The next step consists of regional meetings where field level proposals from officers, area managers, and the public are meshed into regional recommendations that are taken to Nashville. There, the Nashville staff of the TWRA considers the four regional proposals. Final recommendations are taken to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission (TWRC), the governing body of TWRA, at their May Commission meeting.

The TWRA welcomes public input and will take written recommendations from all interested parties until February 10, 2006. All letters should contain the proposed change and justifications for the change. These will be reviewed by the regional staff and forwarded to the Wildlife Management Division in Nashville.

Region III - send recommendations to: Season Recommendations

TWRA

464 Industrial Blvd.

Crossville, TN 38555

Region IV - send recommendations to: Season Recommendations

TWRA

3030 Wildlife Way

Morristown, TN 37814

Information from TWRA website.

CORA Online

CORA is now online, with our own Web Site, sharing exciting news and recreation adventures in the great Tennessee outdoors.

www.tncora.com

Elk Hunting in States With Fewest Numbers of Elk

ARKANSAS

Estimated elk population: 400

Arkansas celebrates its elk like few places, especially at its annual elk festival that includes everything from a Dutch oven cook-off to a 5K Fun Run. Of the 20 hunters to get tags this fall, 18 of them had their names drawn from a squirrel cage at the eighth annual Buffalo River Elk Festival. The other tags are sold at Elk Foundation auctions. Of 20 tags, seven are for bulls, 12 for antlerless and one youth-only tag for either sex. Licenses are for one of two hunts, September 26-30 and December 5-9. Those with patience may well take home a monarch from the Ozarks. Last fall a hunter killed a new state record nontypical, measuring just over 349 Boone and Crockett points.

KANSAS

Estimated elk population: 150

With most of its 150 elk on the Fort Riley Army Base, Kansas will send 25 residents and members of the military into the rough-and-tumble country to pursue elk. Those lucky enough to draw the once-in-a-lifetime tag will hunt one of three month-long seasons, starting October 1 and running through December 31. Of the 25 tags, 10 are either-sex and 15 are antlerless (5 for each season). The tags are split pretty evenly between residents and military personnel stationed at Fort Riley. Neighboring landowners and those with permission from landowners can get an unlimited number of antlerless tags in the rare event that elk venture off the base. This becomes more likely after winter weather pushes elk around in search of food. Elk often cross over the Oklahoma border into Kansas' southwest corner, but the state quit holding a hunt there in 1995. Matt Peek, Kansas elk program coordinator, says he expects the state may begin issuing permits again in that area in the near future if elk take up permanent residence.

KENTUCKY

Estimated elk population: 5,000

For the second year in a row, Kentucky has more than doubled available elk tags. This year 100 lucky people will draw licenses to hunt elk that live mostly within a 16

county restoration zone. A hunter bagged a new state record bull last year that scored 310 3/8 Boone and Crockett points. With a long-term goal of 8,000 elk, Kentucky is "ahead of schedule," says David Yancy, a senior wildlife biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. Yancy attributes the rise in tags to two new areas, comprising 50,000 acres, now open to hunters. "The herd could have taken more than the 40 tags last year, but we didn't have anywhere to put all the people," Yancy says. It's only \$10 to apply, which can be done online. If drawn, residents pay another \$25 and non-residents pay \$300—a considerable bargain compared to most other states.

MICHIGAN

Estimated elk population: 800-900

Michigan upped its residents-only elk hunt this year from 124 to 155 tags. With 40,000 applicants, those who draw defy heavy odds. Licenses are divided between two hunts. The first, August 27-31 and September 9-12, focuses on elk outside the four-county core elk habitat.

"We're having more and more reports of elk outside the core area and we want to target those animals," says Rod Clute, big game specialist for the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. The second hunt on December 6-13 is aimed at the elk inside that area. New this year is a preference points system. The drawing will be weighted for those who have applied unsuccessfully in the past, going back to 2003. And for the second year in a row, Michigan provides the unique opportunity for a successful lottery winner to give his or her tag to a young person (14-16) or someone with an advanced illness, provided that that person applied and did not get a tag.

MINNESOTA

Estimated elk population: less than 40

With fewer than 40 elk, Minnesota may not be in an ideal position to hold a hunt. Nonetheless, the state issued five tags this year—four cow and one bull—to meet legal requirements of no more than 35 elk. This state law came as part of an accord struck to satisfy agricultural concerns about elk

restoration. But these elk, which live east of Thief Lake near Grygla, aren't the only ones in Minnesota. Animals from Manitoba regularly make forays across the border, but their temporary status currently makes them illegal to hunt. For the elk that are huntable, odds of drawing these residents-only tags are quite steep, with more than 1,100 people applying last year for five tags.

As for the state allowing the Grygla herd to grow, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources big game program coordinator Lou Cornicelli says such a decision would have to come from the legislature, where there have been some rumblings of interest. "I think at some point in time it will change," he says. "The conditions have to be right, and agriculture complaints have to go away. But I think it's a possibility, if the stars line up."

PENNSYLVANIA

Estimated elk population: 600

Elk are doing well in Pennsylvania, and last year the state made its way into Boone and Crockett all-time records when a hunter killed a nontypical bull scoring 385 in—you guessed it—Elk County.

Pennsylvania will again allot 40 tags, 10 either-sex and 30 antlerless, for a lucky few to prowl its woods for a shot at America's eastern-most huntable elk herd. New this year, those entering the drawing for a tag for a weeklong November hunt (7-12) also get a chance to win one of 10 tags available for a new early season hunt in September 2006. Hunters are only eligible for the September '06 hunt if they did not draw a tag for the November 2005 hunt. Some hunters will also have the added benefit of a bonus points system going back two years. As in many other states where elk have been restored, Pennsylvania elk are venturing out of their original restoration habitat. Therefore hunting zone boundaries are ever-changing. The Pennsylvania Game Commission's website is well-designed to help hunters understand those changes.

Article taken from *Bugle Magazine*; Sept/Oct 2005.

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POSTMASTER:

Address Correction Requested

FIRST CLASS MAIL

MY OPINION, continued from page 1

that are repeat damage offenders, or that repeatedly leave the elk restoration zone).

Now, as it has been explained to me, taking 1% of our herd (herd is estimated at 200 animals), especially if they are bulls, will not hurt herd growth or dynamics.

In contrast, I agree that a wholesale hunt with 20 or 30 permits for cows and bulls would not be in the best interest of the herd, not with just 200 animals. But 2 bulls that are targeted for harvest would not negatively impact herd dynamics. The money raised will be critical for the future of the program and its continued success.

In conclusion, the future of the program is contingent upon the growth and push of bringing more elk to Tennessee for reintroduction. Not to secure the herd's existence, but to enhance and speed its growth. We must also continue to push for more quality habitat by working with existing and new partners, including our friend and neighbors to the north in Kentucky. Lastly, we must stand vigilant over the animals we currently have by making sure illegal poaching is eliminated.

Thus, once again the paradox of hunting an animal to save it will again prove to be true. All of this is of course my personal opinion, and just like rear ends I have one too and this one is mine.

Quail Unlimited Banquet
 March 4, 2006
 Buddy's Banquet Hall Bearden
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 Contact Greg McDaniel 865-982-1656

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