

CORA

THIRTY FIFTH EDITION

JUNE, 2009



Promoting Outdoor Recreation

CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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www.cora-tn.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Terry Lewis

NORTH CUMBERLAND WILDLIFE OPENINGS PROJECT

Members of CORA and the Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Camo and Casting Coalition held meetings with TWRA and several local conservation groups at the University of Tennessee's Ag center to discuss the possibilities of working together to create additional wildlife openings on the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area (WMA). After much discussion and consideration, a habitat management plan was developed by TWRA to increase the amount of permanent openings utilizing prescribed burns on a scheduled basis. The goal of this management plan is to create 10,000 acres of new wildlife openings over a 10 year program. This is arguably the largest volunteer habitat management program ever proposed in East Tennessee,

On February 24th 46 volunteers from TWF, CORA, RMEF, NWTF and QU attended a class held at the Campbell County Forest Service offices to familiarize and educate volunteers in the process of controlled burns and fighting forest fires. The volunteers received Forest Service certifications enabling them to participate in the TWRA volunteer program. In January, TWRA and TWF surveyed and selected areas to be managed through this program.

On Saturday, March 7th a volunteer force of over 43 individuals participated in the first of many controlled burns to be held on the North Cumberland to promote new wildlife openings. TWRA provided the heavy equipment used to construct fire breaks in advance of the event. Due to some areas of the selected habitat to be

managed, a group of volunteers were provided additional IMSA (mine site training) safety training enabling them to be on an active mine site. Much of the area selected to be burned were steep mountainous slopes with abandoned mine site high walls. Safety in these areas was a major concern and was heavily addressed by the TWRA Burn Boss Stan Stooksbury.

The volunteer group was divided into 5 teams of 6 with a team leader assigned to each. Some of the volunteers were assigned to road blocks at each entry into the areas stopping all vehicle traffic from entering into these targeted areas. Selected volunteers were also assigned to a support team that provided transportation and mobility for equipment like chain saws, water tanks and fuel for drip torches.

Communications by hand held radios were critically important to the success and safety of the volunteers. Each volunteer was equipped with a radio linked to his assigned individual team. Each team leader was linked to his individual team on one channel and to the other team leaders, the Burn Boss and the support team on another channel. This method allowed for each team to work within their area assignments and to call for backup support if conditions called for additional manpower or equipment. Teams were assigned areas and a coordinated and structured fire was set along fire lines to create a beginning fire and back fires were set to control the fuel supply at the opposite side of the selected areas to allow the fires to burn themselves out.

Cont'd Back Page

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A WEEKEND IN THE LIFE OF A WILDLIFE OHV OFFICER—Greg Julian

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) established a Wildlife Officer position to concentrate on Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) enforcement on the North Cumberland WMA. This position became effective February 15, 2008.

Working in this position, as one would guess, has allowed me to find that certain days of the week and certain weekends

have more traffic than others. Over the past year traffic was busiest on Memorial Day weekend, July 4th weekend, and some of the fall foliage weekends as would be expected. There also seemed to be an increase in traffic as the days cooled and wetter weather came in the fall, allowing riders to escape the dusty conditions that prevailed during the summer.

As an example, an average weekend in June consisted of 58 OHV's checked with nine citations and two warnings being issued. Also, an average weekend in July showed 52 OHV's checked with 2 citations issued. In contrast an average October weekend resulted in 56 OHV's check and 17 citations issued.

Throughout the 2008 year various non-wildlife offenses were encountered resulting in several citations and arrests. They ranged from intoxication offenses to individuals being wanted on felony charges for manufacturing meth.

As I have learned, a day spent on the North Cumberland WMA as a Wildlife Officer can be interesting and produce contact with people from Campbell Co. and as far away as Michigan and Texas.

Greg Julian
Wildlife Officer
TWRA

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www.cora-tn.org

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C.O.R.A. extends its
sympathy to Glenn Massengill
and his family for the loss of
his wife, Brenda. You are in
our prayers!

JERRY STOUT HONORED BY ROCKY MOUNTAIN ELK FOUNDATION

Honored for volunteer work to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife and their habitat, Jerry Stout of LaFollette was one of four conservationists from the states of New Mexico, Oregon Pennsylvania and Tennessee to receive a 2009 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) Chairman's Award.

The other honorees are John Hoffman of Albuquerque, Stan Kunzman of Bend Oregon, John and Linda Geissler of Erie, Pa.

Awards were handed out at the Elk Foundation's 25th annual convention held March 5-8 in Fort Worth, Texas.

Stout helped spearhead elk restoration in Tennessee. He has worked with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency on behalf of the Elk Foundation, teaching hunter safety courses, conducting workshops and radio tracking elk. Stout is the chairman of the Royal Blue Chapter of the RMEF, an organization for which he has worked tirelessly on fundraising.

"Chairman's Awards recognize volunteers for standout contributions of time and energy toward the Elk Foundation's mission," said Andy Hoxsey, RMEF chairman of the board.

"The work of these individuals last year was a real inspiration to the 10,000 plus

of us who volunteer for the Elk Foundation."

In 2008, RMEF volunteers raised funds for 456 conservation and education projects.

Land protection projects – including a major land exchange that added 61,000 acres of elk habitat to the state forest system in Washington – impacted 99,348 acres. Habitat enhancement projects like weed treatments, forest thinning and prescribed burns touched another 161,551 acres. Combined acres totaled 260,899.

Education and hunting heritage projects helped over 200,000 students and adults learn more about conservation and America's sporting heritage.

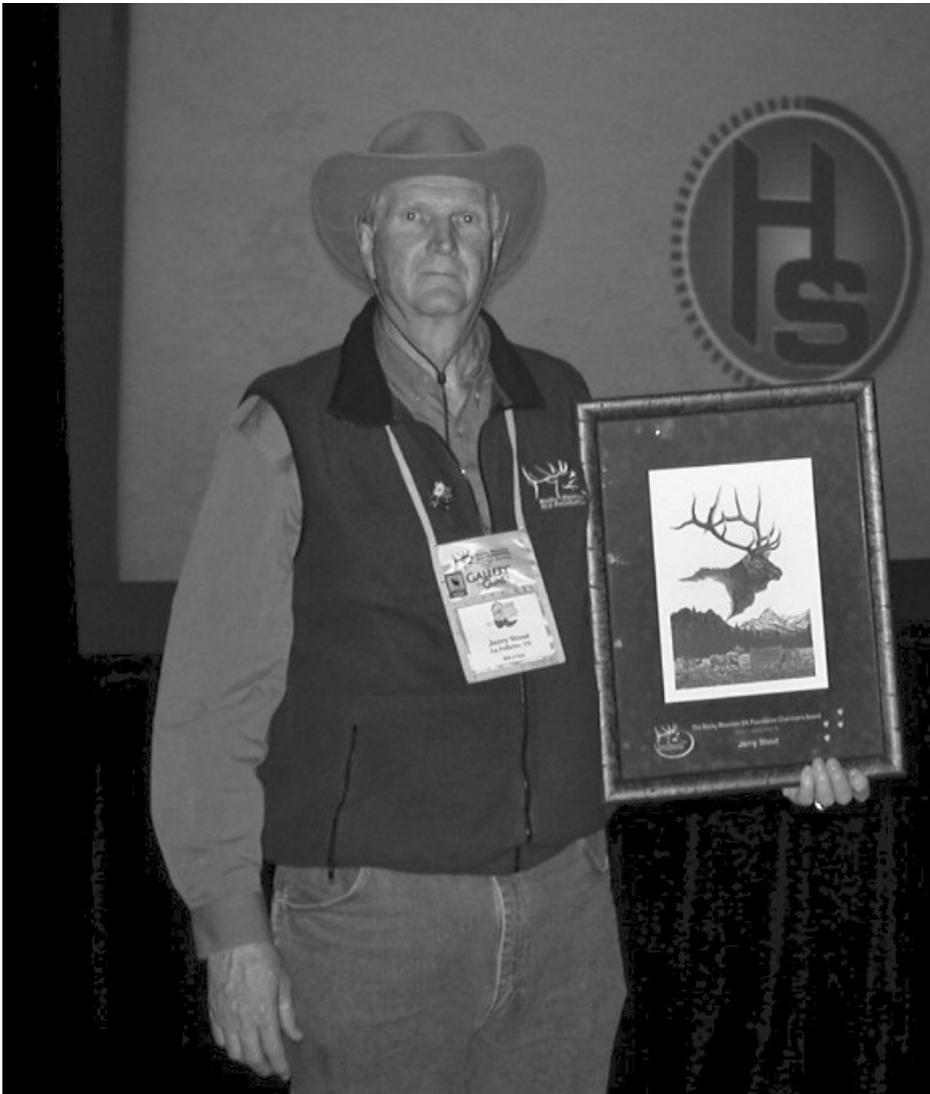
About the RMEF: Snowy peaks, dark timber basins and grassy meadows, the RMEF is leading an elk country initiative that has conserved or enhanced habitat on over 5.7 million acres land area equivalent to a swath three miles wide and stretching along the entire Continental Divide from Canada to Mexico.

The RMEF also works to open, secure and improve public access for hunting, fishing and other recreation. Get involved at www.rmef.org or 800-CALLELK.

Jerry Stout with his Chairman's Award from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation in Fort Worth, Texas at their 25th annual convention held in March. Jerry was also awarded an elk ivory ring.

Visit CORA's website

www.cora-tn.org



TALKING TURKEY

By Jerry & Jo Stout

Had Ben Franklin had his way the wild turkey would have been the National Bird instead of the Eagle. More than likely he preferred the turkey because it was a favored food of the Native Americans. When Europeans arrived the turkey was one of only two domestic birds native to the Americas. The other was the Muscovy duck. By the early 20th century, wild turkeys no longer roamed over much of their traditional range. They had been mostly wiped out by hunting and loss of habitat. The reintroduction of the wild turkey began in the 1940s with relocation to areas where populations had been decimated but favorable habitat was recovering. Now we probably have more turkeys, nation wide, than the early pioneers had. And for you turkey hunters, it doesn't mean you don't have to still work hard to bag a bird.

TURKEY FACTS

The WILD TURKEY

(*Meleagris gallopavo*) is native to North America and is the heaviest of the Galliformes. It is one of two species of turkey, the other being the Ocellated Turkey, found in Central America. Adult male Wild Turkeys have a small, featherless, reddish head that can change to blue in minutes; a red throat in males; long reddish-orange to grayish-blue legs; and a dark brown to black body. The head has fleshy growths called caruncles; in excited turkeys, a fleshy flap on the bill expands, becoming engorged with blood. Males have red wattles on the throat and neck. Each foot has four toes, and males have rear spurs on their lower legs. Turkeys have a long, dark, fan-shaped tail and glossy bronze wings. As with many other species of the Galliformes, turkeys exhibit strong sexual dimorphism (male and female characteristics). The male is substantially larger (11-24 pounds) and his feathers have areas of red, purple, green, copper, bronze, and gold iridescence. Female turkeys are considerably smaller than male (6.6-12 pounds).

Their feathers are duller overall, in shades of brown and gray. Parasites can dull coloration of both sexes; in males, coloration may signal the health of the turkey. Turkeys have 20,000 to 30,000 feathers and the wing feathers have white bars. Tail feathers have the same length in adults, different lengths in juveniles. Adult males typically have a "beard" consisting of modified feathers that stick out from the breast with the average length being 9 inches. In some populations, 10%-20% of the females have a beard, but it is usually shorter and thinner than that of the male. An average wingspan is from 49 to 57 inches. According to the National Wild Turkey Foundation the record-sized adult male wild turkey was 38 pounds. They didn't say where it was taken. Just like a bunch of turkey hunters to keep things a secret.

The Wild turkey is a surprisingly agile flyer and very cunning, they have a field of vision of about 300 degrees due to eyes mounted on opposite sides of the head. Their domestic counterpart has very few of these attributes. In flight, they can reach speeds of 50 MPH. They usually fly close to the ground for no more than a quarter of a mile. Turkeys have many vocalizations; "gobbles" "clucks" "putts" "purrs," "yelps" "cutts" "whines" "cackles" and "kee-kees" In early spring, male turkeys, also called gobblers or toms, gobble to announce their presence to females and competing males. The gobble can carry up to a mile under favorable conditions. Males also emit a low-pitched drumming sound. Hens "yelp" to let gobblers know their location. Gobblers often yelp in the manner of females, and hens can gobble, though rarely do so. Immature males, called jakes, yelp often. Wild Turkeys are omnivores (eat both plant and animal products). They may be found foraging on the ground or may climb shrubs and small trees to feed. They prefer eating hard mast such as acorns, nuts, and various trees, including hazel, chestnut,

hickory and some pines as well as various seeds, berries such as juniper and bearberry, roots and insects. Turkey are also known to occasionally consume small vertebrates like snakes, frogs, or salamanders. Poults, young turkeys, have been observed eating insects, berries, and seeds. Turkeys are also known to eat a wide variety of grasses. It has been estimated that around 80% of a turkey's diet is made up of grass. Early morning and late afternoon are the desired times for eating. Males are polygamous, so they form territories that may have as many as 5 hens within them. Male Wild Turkeys display for females by puffing out their feathers, spreading out their tails and dragging their wings. This behavior is most commonly referred to as "strutting". Their heads and necks are colored brilliantly with red, blue, and white. The color can change with the turkey's mood, with a solid white head and neck being the most excited. They also use their gobble noises and make scrapes on the ground for territorial purposes. Courtship begins during the months of March and April, which is when turkeys are still flocked together in winter areas. Males are often seen courting in pairs with both inflating their wattles and spreading tail feathers. Only the dominant male would strut and drum on the ground. The average dominant male that courted as part of a pair fathered six more eggs than males that courted alone. When mating is finished, females search for nest sites. Nests are shallow dirt depressions engulfed with woody vegetation. Hens lay a clutch of 10-14 eggs, usually one per day. The eggs are incubated for at least 28 days. The poults are precocial (active, down covered and able to move about freely) and nidifugous, (able to eat). The poults will leave the nest in about 12-24 hours after hatching. The range and numbers of the Wild Turkey had decreased at the beginning of the 20th century due to hunting and loss of habitat. Game managers estimate that

TALKING TURKEY Cont'd

The entire population of wild turkeys in the U.S. was as low as 30,000 in the early 1900's. Game officials made efforts to protect and encourage the breeding of the surviving wild population. As the wild turkey numbers rebounded, hunting was legalized in 49 U.S. states (excluding Alaska). In 1973 the total U.S. population was estimated to be 1.3 million. Current estimates place the entire wild turkey population at 7 million individuals. Obviously, Tennessee is one of the success stories of Wild Turkey reintroduction. Thanks to TWRA and the NWTF for all their input into the restoration process for the Wild Turkey.

Subspecies Wild Turkey

Eastern Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo silvestris*). Range covers the entire eastern half of the U.S. Number from 5.1 to 5.3 million **Osceola or Florida** (*M.g. Osceola*) Found only on the Florida peninsula. Number from 80,000 to 100,000 birds. This bird is named for the famous Seminole Chief Osceola.

Rio Grande (*M.g. intermedia*) Ranges through Texas to Oklahoma, Kansas, New Mexico, Colorado, Oregon and central and western California. As well as parts of a few northeastern states. They were also introduced to Hawaii in the late 1950s. Population estimates for this subspecies range for 1,022,700 to 1,025,700. This subspecies is native to the central plain states.

Merriam's (*M.g. merriami*) Ranges through the Rocky Mountains and neighboring prairies of Wyoming, Montana and South Dakota as well as much of the high mesa country of New Mexico. Populations number from 334,460 to 344,460 birds. Live in ponderosa pine and mountain regions. Named in 1900 in honor of Clinton Hart Merriam, the first chief of the U.S. Biological Survey.

Gould's (*M.g. mexicana*) Native from central to northern Mexico and the southern-most parts of Arizona and New Mexico. They are heavily protected and regulated. They exist in small numbers but are abundant in the Northwestern portions of Mexico. Gould's are the largest of the five sub-species.

Proposed Bill Would Take OHV Program from TWRA and give to TDEC— CORA Opposes SB 0280 by Stewart (HB 0365 by Matheny)

Environment and Conservation, Department of—As introduced, transfers jurisdiction of the Off-Highway Vehicle Act from wildlife resources agency to department of environment and conservation.—Amends TCA Title 11; Title 68 and Title 70.

This bill is problematic in that it:

Takes the authority away from TWRA to develop a state OHV program

Places the opportunity for a state OHV program at TDEC

Takes existing funds provided to TWRA for OHV management at Royal Blue Unit away from TWRA

Would leave TWRA with no monies to offer or to manage OHV use at Royal Blue Unit

Status: Not currently scheduled in House subcommittee on wildlife Scheduled for 3//24/09 in Senate Environment, Conservation & Tourism 04/21/09 Assigned to General Subcommittee of Environment, Conservation & Tourism Committee.

SUMMARY OF BILL: Transfers jurisdiction of the Tennessee Off-

Highway Vehicle (OHV) Act from the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) to the Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures—\$74,000/Recurring/Wildlife Resources Fund \$11,300/One-Time/Wildlife Resources Fund

Other Fiscal Impact—Shifts approximately \$365,000 in federal revenue earmarked to the state for the OHV program from TWRA to TDEC.

Assumptions:

TDEC will be able to perform the oversight activities required by the bill with federal funds shifted from TWRA.

TWRA currently maintains the Royal Blue OHV facility. This facility is located on TWRA property that will remain with TWRA upon passage of this bill.

The bill does not remove responsibility for enforcement of the program from TWRA. As a result, TWRA will require an additional \$74,700 annually to continue to provide enforcement at the Royal Blue OHV area.

The \$74,700 increase in recurring state expenditures is for the salary (\$49,800), benefits (\$16,900), and vehicle (\$8,000) cost for a manager at the Royal Blue OHV area.

One-time costs of \$11,300 associated with the bill are for maintenance of trails on the TWRA property at the Royal Blue OHV facility. Currently, such maintenance is funded through \$365,000 in federal funds to the state.

Any administrative cost to switching the program from TWRA to TDEC is estimated to be not significant.

CORA OWL EVENT FOR TURKEY HUNTERS

On Saturday, April 25, 2009, ten handicapped hunters and four youth were provided an opportunity to hunt wild turkeys through the 5th Annual Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association's (CORA) Outdoors Without Limits (OWL) Event.

The fourteen hunters met at 4:00 a.m. with guides, volunteers, and hunt coordinators for breakfast before being taken to selected hunting blinds prior to daylight. This special hunt took place on two farms located in Campbell County near the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The farms belong to Ron Cunningham and Terry and Jane Lewis.

After final preparation, hunters and guides were taken to their blinds where they would spend the morning with high hopes of harvesting a gobbler or at least hearing gobblers respond to their calls.

The morning was still dark when all hunters got into the blinds but it was not long before the stillness of the morning was broken by gobblers coming from

turkeys still on their roosts.

With hunters and guides sitting anxiously in their selected locations through the morning, it gave me a chance to talk to Dee Dee Garvin, OWL Regional Event Coordinator from South Carolina, about OWL and why it exists.

"Through OWL, we like to give back, particularly to those that are less fortunate," said Garvin. "It is a sense of satisfaction seeing these folks out having a good time."

There are estimated to be 62 million people in the U.S. living with disabilities. Survey findings show that over 7,000,000 disable people participate in wildlife associated recreation.

"The mission of OWL is to promote awareness and teamwork between disabled and non-disabled individuals through outdoor recreation," said Garvin. "The success of OWL largely relies on the efforts of chapters through the involvement of local community participation."

Garvin knows first hand how quickly a person's abilities can change. Several years ago, he was injured in a near-fatal fall from a tree stand while deer hunting. And although he recovered from the injuries suffered in the fall, he still remembers not being able to do the things he enjoyed.

After the morning's hunt, everyone gathered back up for a lunch and to swap stories of the hunt. Only one lucky hunter brought in a turkey, but many hunters had unique experiences to share. Some hunters even had a once in a lifetime experience of seeing elk feed in the food plots near their hunting blinds.

"This unique hunting opportunity could not have taken place without a lot of hard working volunteers and support from organizations like CORA, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, Royal Blue Chapter of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Pine Mountain Longbeards Chapter of NWTF, Bass Pro Shops, Beatty Chevrolet, Mothwing Camo, Ultimate Toys Motorsports, Personal Business Solutions, Ashley Wyatt Insurance Company, Lafollette Mine Supply, and many other individual sponsors," said Terry Lewis.

The success of these hunts is not measured by the harvest of turkeys but through the memories and friendships built through the event.

For more information about OWL and how to participate or start a chapter, go to www.outdoorswithoutlimits.net

Carl Bennett on the left took this bird with the help of his guide Rodney Stooksbury during CORA's Annual Disabled hunt on April 25, 2009



CORA MEETING MINUTES

CORA Meeting Minutes of February, 2009

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. Robert Burden, Glenn Massengill and Pete Shelton were absent.

The January, 2009 minutes were read and approved by the Board.

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

Publicity

No report.

Activities

No report.

Newsletter

The 34th edition is out. Ray Wilson will distribute the newsletter this time.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing

No report.

Memberships

No report.

Old Business

Multi-Organizational Pilot Habitat Project for Sundquist. Terry Lewis and Stan Stooksbury identified a 1,000 acre initial project site in the Hatfield Knob area. The site will likely be burned in February. The scope of the overall habitat project has grown to 10,000 acres over the next 10 years. Multiple burns will be conducted in planned rotation at all selected sites. The overall goal is to return the selected sites to their more natural states as of 200 years ago.

TWRA needs help with volunteers from CORA and UTK with burning. Several

CORA members volunteered. Terry Lewis will be in touch with the volunteers as they will need controlled burn and mine site training.

Steve Bennett has been assigned new collateral duties (in addition to his elk responsibilities) as the Region 4 TWRA Small Game Coordinator. That designation opens up additional manpower, equipment, and money for small game habitat work.

Elk Permits. The 5th elk permit appears to be back on track. A revised and streamlined RFP will be issued by TWRA.

Myers Resolution. The draft resolution was read and approved by the Board as read. Bill Stanley will print the resolution on high quality card or certificate stock. Terry will present the resolution to Myers sometime this month in Nashville and hopes to get a picture of the presentation. Comments were made by Board members concerning Myers, his strong connection he shared with CORA goals, and the great job he did as Director over many years. Discussion on the potential for other ways of honoring Myers and getting him back to East TN occurred, but no decisions were made. Through action of the Board Gary Myers will be given a lifetime CORA membership.

New Business

Elk Banquet. A particularly successful RMEF banquet was recently held at Pigeon Forge. Gary Myers was honored at the event with TN elk antler themed gifts. Also, RMEF will donate funding to the North Cumberland Habitat project.

Elk Containment Zone. TWRA has asked CORA to informally assess the appetite for the current containment zone in Scott County to be expanded to include the entire county.

Web Site. The new CORA web site is up and running. Many thanks to Terry Lewis and others for all their hard work on site development. Many positive remarks about the site were made by Board members. The site is a work in progress with enhancements continuing over time.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of March, 2009

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. Bill Bruce, Leonard Hooks, and Pete Shelton were absent.

The February, 2009 minutes were read and approved by the Board.

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

Publicity

Bass Pro Shop wants a reciprocating web site reference arrangement with CORA.

Activities

No report.

Newsletter

No report.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing

No report.

Memberships

One new lifetime membership sold.

Cont'd Page 8

CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

Old Business

Multi-Organizational Pilot Habitat Project for Sundquist. 46 attended required burn class on February 24 which was presented by TN Forestry personnel. CORA, RMEF, NWTF, and QU were among the organizations represented. The Hatfield controlled burn is scheduled for 9:30AM on March 7th. Meet at the viewing area parking lot. Trained volunteers should wear all cotton clothing, all leather boots, bring a metal rake and leather gloves, as well as lunch and water.

Roger Applegate, TWRA Small Game Coordinator, was scheduled to be in East TN on March 11th to tour various sites in the area for the purpose of learning more about the area and to provide some input into how small game habitat, particularly for grouse, might be improved.

Elk RFP. The RFP will be issued by TWRA in early April.

Myers Resolution. Terry Lewis was not able to connect with Myers to present him with the CORA resolution during his last trip to Nashville, but will keep trying until successful.

Web Site. The new CORA web site has attracted about 100 visitors the first month. We will soon increase and attract more traffic by adding meta files which will direct more key word searches to the CORA site. The site is a work in progress with enhancements continuing over time. We need input for how to improve the site.

New Business

Hatfield Informational Materials. CORA has a 12 inch X 44 inch slot on the 4 foot X 4 foot Informational Board at Hatfield. Mitzi Ivey will think about what CORA information should be developed to go there.

Ed Carter Biographical Information. For informational purposes a Bio which

appeared in the LaFollette Press was read.

CORA Handicapped Hunt. The 5th hunt will take place on April 25th. We should expect about 20-25 hunters. Volunteers will be required.

Elk Web Site. TWRA will launch an elk web site in April.

TWF legislative Day. Scheduled for March 17th. Terry Lewis will attend.

Louie Bluie. Jerry Stout to gather more information on the event coming up on June 13th. We will look at the possibility of CORA exhibiting in conjunction with RMEF.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of April, 2009

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 and Bill Stanley were absent excused.

The March, 2009 minutes were read and approved by the Board.

Treasurer Ray Wilson presented the newsletter financial report. The general financial report was not available. The financial report was approved by the Board as read.

Publicity

No report.

Activities

No report.

Newsletter

No report.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

No report.

Memberships

No report.

Old Business

Multi-Organizational Pilot Habitat Project for Sundquist –Controlled burn. A total of 46 volunteers participated in the controlled burn on March 7th. CORA had 13 volunteers. The effort was very successful with about 600 acres burned. Since March 7th TWRA has burned about 300 additional acres. The cost was estimated at about \$26/acre.

Myers Resolution. Terry Lewis was able to connect with Myers to present him with the CORA resolution during his last trip to Nashville. A picture of the presentation and a story will be placed on the CORA web site.

CORA Handicapped Hunt. The 5th hunt will take place on April 25th. Approximately 125 total attendees are expected. This event is a logistical challenge and volunteers are requested. One gun will be raffled and another one awarded to the winner of a stationary target shoot. We are also looking for cash donations or items for auction. A planning meeting will be held in Knoxville at Shoney's on Emory Road on April 13th at 7:30PM.

Hatfield Visitors and Signage. TWRA has erected a split rail fence near the viewing tower in an attempt to control visitor traffic. Visitors are roaming into elk food plots and bedding areas. Other action will be taken by TWRA, including additional signage and gates. CORA needs to get our informational signage developed and placed on display.

New Business

RMEF Award. CORA's very own

CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

Jerry Stout was recently honored with a 2009 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Chairman's Award for his elk and other wildlife conservation efforts. Jerry was given praise and a well-deserved round of applause by CORA members.

TN OHV Issue. Middle and west TN OHV users are once again going after funds that are being used at Royal Blue for the Pilot OHV Trails Program. The OHV4TN organization is leading the charge. The stated mission of the OHV4TN organization is to be the legislative advocate for the 880,000+ Off-Highway Vehicle users in the state of Tennessee. OHV4TN is dedicated to the creation of a diverse statewide system of sustainable OHV trails in Tennessee for current and future generations of OHV users. They have hired a lobbyist, Michelle Russell, to try to ram through legislation that would effectively give the trails program to TDEC and significantly impact Royal Blue trails efforts by diverting funds to other public or private trails projects in middle and west TN. William Baird also reported by phone earlier today that other efforts are underway to limit liability of private landowners when OHV's are in use on private land and for a new TN special license plate for which proceeds would be used for OHV programs. TWRA has asked CORA to try to broker meetings among interested parties. CORA is also generating questions to be discussed by the State's Conservation Committee. CORA's goal is to maintain the Royal Blue Pilot Project while identifying funding for trails programs other areas of the state. This is a complicated issue with many different players and agendas.

Louie Bluie Event. Jerry Stout reported planning is in progress for CORA exhibiting in conjunction with RMEF.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of May, 2009

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

Invocation was led by Ray Wilson.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Glen Massengill, Mitzi Ivey, Harry Burden, and Bob Burden were absent excused.

The April, 2009 minutes were read and approved by the Board.

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

Publicity

No report.

Activities

No report.

Newsletter

The next issue will be out in June.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing

Ray and Mitzi Ivey to temporarily distribute newsletters and collect advertizing payments.

Memberships

One lifetime membership was sold.

Old Business

Multi-Organizational Pilot Habitat Project for Sundquist –Controlled burn. This was a big undertaking for the first year, but it turned out successful. Approximately 600 acres were burned on March 7th and 275 acres were burned on April 18th. 1,000 acres will be burned each year. Beginning with the third year,

previously burned areas will be re-burned. This effort demonstrated cooperation among many organizations. The burn cost was estimated at about \$26/acre.

CORA Handicapped Hunt. The 5th annual hunt took place on April 25th and was a big success again this year. Approximately 80 attendees were there. Lots of birds were seen and 1 harvested. County Mayor Baird attended. A gun was awarded to a 9 year old who won the stationary target contest.

TN OHV Issue. Middle and west TN OHV groups are relentlessly trying to take away OHV trails dollars now in use on the Royal Blue pilot trails program. If they are successful in taking the funding it could result in the collapse of the Royal Blue program and ultimately riding of OHVs for any reason except hunting. Terry is gathering information about other public and private OHV programs to determine if a self-funding program is possible. The long term intent of CORA is to try to broker a solution that would demonstrate alternate funding options, continue the Royal Blue program, create an atmosphere where TWRA would take on OHVs statewide, and create the potential for new riding opportunities for areas in middle and west TN.

Louie Bluie Event. Jerry Stout reported planning is progressing for CORA exhibiting in conjunction with RMEF. He requested volunteers to staff the booth. The event is slated for June 13th.

New Business

Flowers for Glen Massengill's wife were approved by the board.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

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 Rob Christian, Manager
 Home: (423)562-0396
 Bill Ball, Owner
 Home: (423)562-0307

CORA HONORS RETIRING TWRA DIRECTOR WITH RESOLUTION



CORA President, Terry Lewis, presented TWRA Director Mr. Gary Myers with a CORA Resolution Plaque highlighting the directors many accomplishments at TWRA Director on March 17, 2009 in Nashville, TN

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**C.O.R.A. Meeting
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7:00 P.M.
Regular meetings
Are 1st Tuesday
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*See You There!***

CORA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

P.O. Box 66, Jacksboro, TN 37757

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

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1 YR MEMBERSHIP \$10.00 _____ LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP \$100.00 _____

CORA



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Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association

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Jacksboro Courthouse
7:00 pm**

Presidents Letter cont'd from page 1

Approximately 500 to 600 acres were successfully managed and controlled by the burning process. Areas where the fire crossed over the fire breaks were quickly controlled by the volunteers who were directed to the problem areas by radio. This method proved very effective by providing rapid response to these areas allowing volunteers to quickly extinguish fires before they became too large and out of control.

Cost of this program has been estimated at \$25 to \$26 per acre.

Volunteer Investment

43 volunteers from TWF, CORA, RMEF, NWTF, and UT students approximately 12 hours each plus 4 classroom hours, 3 UTV personnel and equipment carriers, 4 ATV's with portable electric pump water tank sprayers, 3 backpack portable water sprayers, 30 rakes and hand tools, 40 hand

held radios, approximately 24 sets of Nomex clothes, and bottled water.

TWRA Investment

7 TWRA Personnel, personnel used to set up, survey and mark fire lines and to evaluate the burn success after the event. Approximately 2 weeks of dozer work to cut fire lines, TWRA 550 John Deere Dozer, 2 UTV personnel and equipment carriers, 6 ATV's 4 with portable electric pump water tank sprayers, 3 chain saws, 14 drip torches and fuel mixture, 10 rakes and hand tools, 12 hand held radios, Nomex clothes, road block signage, bottled water, trucks and transportation.

On Saturday April 18, a volunteer force of approximately 16 individuals and 7 TWRA volunteers participated in the second of many controlled burns to be held on the North Cumberland. This burn consisted of approximately 275

acres that was not burned on the first burn in March.

CORA'S ANNUAL OFFICER & BOARD MEMBER ELECTION WILL BE HELD JULY 7, 2009

CORA will hold its annual election for officers and director members on Tuesday July 7th, 2009, at its regular scheduled meeting held in the Jacksboro Court House.

Please plan to be present to have your vote counted for your board member to represent the organization at all the regular meetings. Or if you have a personal interest in becoming a board member or officer please contact any current board member or officer before the July 7th meeting to be nominated for a position on the board of directors. CORA officers and directors are elected annual positions. Please make your vote count at this very important meeting.