

CORA

TWENTY-SIXTH EDITION

MARCH, 2004



Promoting Outdoor Recreation

CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Inside

PAGE 2

President, Continued

PAGE 3

Tennessee Conservation
League

PAGE 4

CORA Minutes

PAGE 5

CORA Minutes, Continued

PAGE 6

CORA Minutes, Continued

PAGE 7

CORA Minutes, Continued

PAGE 8

CORA Minutes, Continued
CHUFA—Not Just For Turkeys
Anymore!

PAGE 9

Conservation, Continued
The R & P Report

PAGE 10

Business & Professional
Directory

PAGE 11

Business & Professional
Directory

PAGE 12

CHUFA, Continued

From The President

WE NEED TO REMEMBER

by Lee Asbury

Now that Royal Blue Wildlife Management area is up and running, the Don Sundquist outdoor recreation area is under State ownership, controlled by TWRA, and the future of good old East Tennessee mountain recreation is assured for the foreseeable future its quite natural for various groups to line up for credit.

A recent article in "Bugle", the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation magazine, about elk restoration, Royal Blue and the Sundquist area had plenty of well deserved praise for some of the main player's in the effort to acquire these lands.

The Conservation Fund's Rex Boner, truly a giant player in the acquisitions, the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency staff, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, Governor Sundquist, and many other conservation groups including CORA were favorably mentioned. All of them were in line for well deserved recognition. Cheers for the main players!

It seems to me that its about time for a less well known, but equally important, cast of characters to come in for a little long overdue recognition.

You see back in 1985 there was no Royal Blue WMA, no Governor Sundquist area and little reason to think there would ever be such.

There was a crisis when Worldwide Investments, an out of state corporation, announced its intentions to split up and lease its property (now Royal Blue WMA)

to hunting groups and/or to subdivide the property for sale to developers.

Generations of East Tennesseans had enjoyed free run of the mountains and the very real threat of losing them forever scared the hell out of us.

This crisis spawned CORA and we agreed to pay \$50,000.00 per year to Worldwide for the outdoor recreation rights on the entire area.

The first set of unsung heroes consisted of the guys who signed the note to borrow the first years rent.

The next group of unsung heroes were the 1,100 families, many of them poor people, who unflinchingly paid their yearly dues to help lease the area for the next five years, keeping it together as one tract,

Knowing that public ownership was the only permanent solution a lobbying committee willing to spend their time and pay their own expenses were the next set of unsung heroes.

I was honored to be in the group along with Ray Wilson, an avid outdoorsman with real family ties to the mountains and a genuine desire to help other people. Burton "Pood" Shelton, born and raised just above the Jennings Ford, performed valuable service by charming Tom Humphreys, a Nashville reporter, with such tales as standing in cow piles on cold mornings to warm his feet. That Humphreys wrote favorable articles on our behalf and helped get us off the ground

Please see **PRESIDENT**, page 2

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PRESIDENT, continued from page 1

naturally followed. Gary Tackett, van owner, non drinker and designated driver hauled us to and fro, attended every meeting and was a constant source of encouragement and good humor, Frank LaCreca, a transplant from Indiana, a great guy even if he was a Yankee was everywhere he needed to be to try to make things happen. I was especially impressed with his determination to attend mass wherever we were and equally impressed with his appetite. Frank went back to Indiana to live and we wish him well. He was one guy who represented us well wherever he was.

You have to have inside help to lobby Nashville or anywhere else and we were lucky to have great inside help.

Representative Jerry Cross, Senator Randy McNally and Governor McWherter were constant supporters. State Senator Annabelle Clement O'Brien, with longtime ties to Campbell and Scott Counties introduced us to all the other representatives and State senators. Tony Campbell, Tennessee Conservation League, executive secretary and Colonel Tom Parker, a/k/a the "Golden Goose" of the Wildlife Resources Commission were faithful supporters. Gary Myers, a true visionary along with the entire Wildlife Resources Agency worked tirelessly.

Special mention has to go to State Representative F. A. Moore, reputed father of the Wetlands Fund. Representative Moore graciously agreed to the private act

allowing Wetlands Funds to be used to purchase the Fast Tennessee Iron and Coal Co. property (now Royal Blue WMA).

State Senator Tommy Burks, who was murdered during an election campaign, saw the merit of what we were trying to do and was very helpful and we are grateful to him.

The Tennessee legislature ultimately adopted the needed private acts. One to allow use of Wetlands Funds to fund the purchase of the land and later a second private act to facilitate acquisition of an area we called the "doughnut hole" that was excluded from the original purchase.

I could go on and on but I'm sure you get the idea. It takes a lot of people and a lot of work to make things happen.

Who would have believed at that first public meeting when it looked like all might be lost, that by 2003 Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area and the Governor Sundquist Outdoor Recreation Area would be under State ownership and the future of outdoor recreation in our part of Tennessee would be assured for generations to come.

There is truly no limit to what well intentioned men and women, working together for the common good can accomplish. Every single individual who played any part, large or small, in these accomplishments can justly be proud.

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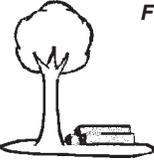
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A new millennium faces TWRA and some changes have already arrived.

What are the challenges that are not readily visible, but that will come and will help to shape the future of conservation in Tennessee? One such challenge, I believe, is the future of our Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

It is no real secret that within the next 5 to 10 years, TWRA could experience a large turnover in its upper level management. Career wildlife and fisheries professionals that have brought the agency through the past 30-years are looking forward to retirement. The question for you and me is what does this mean for most of us that are sportsmen or wildlife enthusiasts.

To me it means that the Agency will change, and whether that change is for the better or for the worse is largely up to those of us that will take the time to help shape our wildlife agency for the next fifty years.

Change is Upon Us!

Those of you who follow the agency closely know that times have changed. The age of "population restoration" has slowed, as we have successfully restored deer, turkey, bald eagles, black bear, otter, and others. Additionally, waterfowl populations improved significantly during the past 10 years, and we are just now beginning to see some positive response by quail to habitat work produced through the latest farm bill. This age saw the birth and the ascent of TWRA as a professional fish and wildlife agency.

In contrast, we are moving into a new age that can be labeled the "holistic age" of natural resource management. The science of fish and wildlife management began addressing a "holistic" concept in the mid to late 1980's, but to ensure that the science caught up to the theories has taken at least one decade. A basic premise of the "holistic" approach is that fish and wildlife managers look at fish and wildlife populations and their habitats from a broader perspective, identifying threats and challenges that include things that can directly and indirectly have a negative impact on Tennessee's natural resources.

Interestingly enough, this approach is not new.

During the beginnings of the conservation movement in the United States, the fathers of modern day conservation held close a philosophy that embraced a "holistic" type of natural resource management. In fact, in his book "A Sand County Almanac", game biologist, conservationist and bible scholar Aldo Leopold writes extensively about this philosophical approach to fish and wildlife management.

But philosophy is like an opinion, everyone can have one, and thus fish and wildlife managers sought the scientific method to confirm what needed to be done by managers to restore our fish and wildlife.

Lastly, the desires for, and users of, our outdoors have changed. Outdoor recreation has exploded with activities such as mountain biking, camping, hiking, rock climbing, ATV riding, and paddling.

Additionally, changes in the desire of hunters and anglers have been significant over the past decade with sportsmen and women calling for quality fish and game management over quantity management systems.

Three Challenges for TWRA

Given the changes in what sportsmen and women in the volunteer state are seeking, plus the explosion of several new outdoor recreation segments, I would like to focus upon three issues that TWRA must address to remain in touch with its constituents new and old.

1. *Changing Attitudes of Tennessee Hunters and Anglers*—As quickly as TWRA has been able to declare "victory" on restoring deer, turkey and improving many fisheries, the challenges and questions of fish and wildlife management have shifted. This shift has created a whole new set of questions and goals, primarily driven by those who wish to have quality hunting and fishing experiences that includes opportunities to harvest quality fish and wildlife.

Gone are the days of spending hours afield just hoping to see a deer or turkey. Here, are the days where hunters spend hours afield seeking a quality hunting experience with the chance to harvest a quality game animal. In a day when harvesting a deer is actually a simple task, the objective has changed for many to understanding the deer and becoming more involved in the management of deer

Please see CONSERVATION, page 9

CORA Minutes

MINUTES OF MAY 6, 2003

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

Invocation by Ray Wilson

The Board's Roll Call and March minutes were read and approved.

Absence: Harry Burden, Robert Burden, Don Dilbert, Leonard Hooks and Jim Shetterly

April Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson, those minutes were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the planting of some plots between the rains. Due to the weather not much had been done this month.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Reported that the next addition for the newsletter will be ready for distribution at the June 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:

New Business: This CORA meeting was attended by Campbell County Executive Jerry Cross. President Asbury discussed County Executive Cross's large helping hand in the Royal Blue purchase and thanked him for his support he has provided this organization. Clarence Ward discussed the issue in that people in the locate public are happy with the state of affairs and that not much interest from the community at the current time.

Jim Ayers provided a CORA survey for the membership to fill out. A discussion proceeded on the fact that not much of a crisis is currently happening and that we need to look into ways to involve the youth from the area. Ray Wilson discussed a hunter's safety course as a way to get some youth interested in CORA.

President Asbury asked Danny Akins if TWRA had any issues that he felt was on the horizon. Danny Officer Akins

indicated he knew of no issues currently of concern. Officer Akins indicated that he thought there was some confusion as to what is needed in the way of license in order to be legal for OHV on RBWMA. A type 93 license and a WMA area permit are currently required. Akins clarified that the permit is for the driver of the vehicle and not all of the passengers of the vehicle.

Officer Akins asked this group who among the group were planning to take a youth Turkey Hunting this weekend during the youth hunt. No one in this group indicated that they were planning to take any youth hunting on the scheduled youth hunt.

President Asbury reported he had sent a letter from CORA about the Wet Lands funds asking the state not to end the program.

County Executive Cross spoke about the public's view that the Royal Blue WMA was not being managed in a user friendly manner. The closing of roads and trails and the fact that it is not being left wild as the original bill indicated. Cross explained that the public felt the area was not being used by locals as much as originally due to the control over the area.

Asbury and Cross discussed the loss of the Wet Lands funds paying the taxes, 90,000.00 is the taxes per year paid to Campbell County from the WMA. 3% is the tax rate for the county.

Asbury asked the group not to get discouraged by the lack of interest from the public and by the potential loss of the Wet Lands funds.

Asbury asked Secretary Lewis to read the notes from the meeting held with TWRA's upper management on April 10, here at the court house. Lewis read the notes and minutes from that meeting between TWRA and CORA officers. President Asbury then discussed the outcome of the meeting and the CORA's input. He also discussed CORA's ability to get attention and response from TWRA management on our request for a private meeting with management to discuss CORA's concerns over current issues.

Being no further business President Asbury dismissed the meeting at 8:10 pm.

CORA MINUTES OF JUNE 3, 2003

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

With the absence of President Lee Asbury and Vice President Harry Burden, Secretary Terry Lewis provided leadership over the June meeting of the CORA board members.

Invocation by Ray Wilson

The Board's Roll Call and May minutes were read and approved.

Absence: Lee Asbury, Harry Burden, Ted Fields, Ray Ivey, Mike McAfee, Leonard Hooks, Jim Shetterly and Pete Shelton

May Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson, those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the planting of some plots between the rains. Bill indicated that he had 5 plots planted this year.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Terry reported that he had brought the newest addition of the newsletter for distribution.

Newsletter Distribution and

Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill: Glen accepted the newsletter and asked for help in the distribution of those newsletters.

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No Report

Review Old Business:

New Business: Secretary Lewis reminded the board members that the yearly affiliate dues to the Tennessee Conservation League were due and the board was required to vote to authorize the payment of those dues. After considering the number of board members absent from this meeting, Secretary Lewis determined that this board would set the vote aside for a full vote at the next regular meeting to be held on July 2nd.

Robert Burden reminded the board that the yearly dues to CORA members

Please see MINUTES, page 5

MINUTES, continued from page 4

expire on July 1st and all members are urged to renew their membership in a timely manner.

Don Dilbeck opened a discussion on the issue of wildlife damage to his and other farmer's livestock. Don indicated that he has lost 7 calves this year and other farmers in his area have also lost several calves in the last few months. Don asked the board to consider a written request from CORA to TWRA asking for the TWRA to set up some type of committee with in TWRA to help the landowners with problem wildlife. Don said he had called all of the TWRA commissioners and spoken to Bruce Anderson and Shane Young about the coyote issue. Don also indicated that TWRA could not provide any help with the continual livestock loss due to coyote's predation issues.

After a lengthy discussion Don provide the board with a motion to have CORA draft a written request to TWRA requesting that they set up a system to help landowners with problem wildlife issues. Don requested that those letters be sent to the Governor, Gary Myers, all State Representatives, all State Senators, all Congressmen, Secretary of Agriculture, Dwight Murphy and County Executive Jerry Cross. The motion was voted upon and passed requiring CORA to draft such a request. Secretary Lewis said he would discuss this vote with President Asbury before the next meeting.

Glen Massengill asked the group about the requirement for license on an ATV trailer, a law that was to be effective July 1st, 2003. Board members present could not provide an answer to this question.

It was noted that the gun case law had recently been repealed.

Being no further business Secretary Lewis dismissed the meeting at 8:00 pm.

CORA MINUTES OF JULY 1, 2003

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

Invocation by Ray Wilson

The Board's Roll Call and June minutes were read and approved.

June's Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson; those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:
No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the planting of some plots between the rains.

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:

New Business: Secretary Lewis reminded the board members that the yearly election of officers and board members is scheduled for tonight but will be continued to next month due to tonight's program.

The special program by TWRA on Coyote biology and hunting tactic's was presented by Gary Cook, one of TWRA's managers and who is a 22 years veteran of the agency. The program was very informative and gave many incites into the biology and habits of the coyote. A very good turn out was had and everyone enjoyed the interesting presentation. A lengthy question and answer session was had after the presentation. This meeting was attended by TWRA Commission Chairman George Akins and Region 4 Manager Bob Ripley along with many officers of the agency. Approx 60 citizens also turned out to enjoy and learn from the Wildlife specialist in coyote hunting and behavior.

Being no further business meeting dismissed the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

CORA MINUTES OF August 6, 2003

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

Invocation by Ray Wilson

The Board's Roll Call and July minutes were read and approved.

July's Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson; those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:
No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the effects of his plantings of

food plots on the Quail population. Bill reports success in that he and others have seen many small chicks around the plots.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis:
No Report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:
Discussed the need to review the receivables for the newsletter accounts and wanted together with those who are helping to distribute the newsletters to our advertisers and verify that certain advertisers are still wishing to be included within our newsletter.

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields:
No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden:
No Report

Review Old Business:

New Business:
CORA held its yearly election of Officers and Board members. Chairman Harry Burden asked if anyone wanted to step down from their position to allow someone else to be nominated for their chair. Chairman Burden determined that no one offered to step aside and asked if the current board members would serve another term and all agreed to serve again if elected.

Chairman Burden asked for a vote that current members serve again for another year and with the votes counted, all current board members will serve another term at their current positions.

Chairman Burden asked Secretary Terry Lewis to explain a proposal he had been working on to the board members.

Lewis presented a proposal for a wildlife viewing area to be developed on Hatfield Knob. Lewis proposed that CORA would be the leading organization in the development process and would be seeking other organizations to help with the construction of the Viewing Platform and Food Plots. A rather large and lengthy discussion was held by the board members and a vote for the support of this proposal was postponed until next months board meeting.

Don Dilbeck asked Secretary Lewis to write a letter to several organizations concerning the problematic wildlife issues that citizens face within the state. Currently the State of Tennessee does not have any organization to provide aid to farmers or citizens that need assistance with certain types of wildlife. Dilbeck

Please see MINUTES, page 6

MINUTES, continued from page 5

wishes that the state develop an organization that would come to the aid of the citizens in the event of problems with certain problems that wildlife may cause to personal property.

Being no further business meeting dismissed the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

CORA MINUTES OF SEPT 2, 2003

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly
The Board's Roll Call and August minutes were read and approved.

August Financial Reports were not read due to the absence of Treasurer Ray Wilson

Committee Reports:
Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:
No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: No Report

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis asked that if anyone had items that they would like to have included in the next issue of the newsletter to please contact him as soon as possible.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:
Absent No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields:
No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: Bob is currently working to sell new memberships

Review Old Business: President Asbury lead a discussion on the proposed wildlife viewing area to be located on Hatfield Knob. Lee discussed the issue of the safety zone area being to large in his opinion. A lengthy discussion was had concerning the size of the area required in the opinions of the members. Lee asked TWRA Officer Danny Akins who CORA would need to speak to concerning this issue; Mr. Akins indicated that Stan Stooksbury would be the person to whom we should direct our questions.

The conclusion was that CORA would lead the development of the Viewing area subject to a reduction in size of the safety zone. Additionally it was stated that the area should be open to hunting during times that no viewing was being done.

It was discussed that the small game hunter was not being fairly treated

because of the big game seasons and the resources being spent on the development of additional big game opportunities. Lee indicated that he would contact Bob Ripley to see if CORA could get a meeting with TWRA upper level management to discuss the Viewing area and the small game issues.

A committee was appointed by President Asbury to attend the TWRA/ CORA meeting to be arranged in the near future. Lee will contact the committee when the meeting date and time had been set.

Committee members appointed are; Lee Asbury, Terry Lewis, Bill Bruce, Leonard Hooks, Ray Wilson, Glen Massengill and Mike McAfee.

New Business:
Being no further business meeting dismissed the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

CORA MINUTES OF OCTOBER 7, 2003

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly
The Board's Roll Call and September minutes were read and approved.

Absence: Lee Asbury, Terry Lewis, Ted Fields, Glen Massengill, Galen Wiseman
September Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson

Committee Reports:
Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:
No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the upcoming date for the CORA annual Pig Roast, Mr. Asbury was to check with the Cove Lake State Park to see when the shelter would be available. It was decided that members could check the local papers for the exact date in October either the 18th or the 25th

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: Don Dilbeck asked that his request for CORA to send a letter to TWRA on the nuisance wildlife issues be withdrawn.

New Business: Mr. Kelly Garner presented 3 area maps of Royal Blue WMA as samples and said he would give these maps out to CORA board members at the next meeting. Mr. Garner indicated that he needed to make a few corrections before final printing and plans to sell them to the public for around \$6.00 each. These maps will carry area sponsor's advertising. Mr. Garner also treated the CORA board members to coffee and doughnuts.

CORA's board of directors presented two Resolutions for Member Approvals. Those resolutions dealt with increasing Small Game opportunities and second to recommend the establishment of a Wildlife Viewing Area located on Hatfield Knob in Campbell County.

A vote of the Board Members was taken and both resolutions passed.

Being no further business the meeting dismissed at 8:10 pm

CORA MINUTES OF NOV. 4, 2003

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly
The Board's Roll Call and October minutes were read and approved.

Please see MINUTES, page 7

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October Financial Reports were not read due to the absence of Treasurer Ray Wilson.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee: Thanked the sponsors who helped provide advertisement for the CORA pig roast.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the interest many CORA members had on habitat restoration. Bill indicated he had spoken to several members and that many had volunteered to help on the habitat restoration programs that Bill is currently planning for the spring planting season. President Asbury asked TWRA Officer Danny Akins about the TWRA rules and guidelines for volunteer habitat restoration programs. Officer Akins indicated that Stan Stooksbury would be the official to whom those types of inquires should be addressed.

After some discussion it was concluded that Lee should draft a position paper to TWRA on small game opportunities and the member's position on establishing equal opportunities to hunt small game.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis indicated that he was working on the next issue of the newsletter

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: President Asbury lead a discussion on the proposed license fee increase issue and some discussion about the future needs of TWRA. President Asbury then took a poll of the members in attendance to hear individual thoughts about the issue. It was concluded that everyone agreed that an increase was necessary and should be supported.

Mr. Trevor Warwick whom is a candidate for the State Legislator spoke to the board members and the audience about his position concerning the TWRA funding issue and the need for a license fee increase. Mr. Warwick endorsed the increase and the movement to change the law concerning allowing the TWRA commission to set the license fee structure.

Terry Lewis spoke about the TCL involvement in the license fee issue and the need for all members to go on record as to the support of the changes. TCL has asked for all members to attend the website and fill out the form indicating their position on the issue.

New Business: Leonard Hooks asked a question about the closing of a road to a grave yard just north of Habersham. A discussion on the Cunningham property indicated that the issue is over a road into the property had been closed that leads to an old cemetery located within that private property. A discussion on legal action to reopen that road was lead by President Asbury and was finalized by Asbury indicating he would be contacting the Sheriff and the Road Commissioner to see if anything could be done to legally reopen that road to the cemetery.

Terry Lewis opened a discussion on helping Kelly Garner on his mapping efforts to map Royal Blue's roads and trails. The new map would need this boards help in naming the local historical sites some of which are known only to those locals old enough to remember the names and locations. This information is vital if the local historical information is to be passed on to the generations to come. If CORA does not help to provide this local flavor those names of historical places will be long forgotten and what a loss to those who lived and worked these mountains that would be. Garner intends to provide a map of the area by using a GPS system for accuracy and naming the roads and trails where by allowing others who are lost or injured can call for help and their location be identified much more closely. All road and trail names will be authorized by the area manager before publishing to insure the map meets the criteria necessary as per the TWRA guidelines.

Being no further business meeting dismissed the meeting at 8:40 p.m.

CORA MINUTES OF DEC 2, 2003

The board meeting commenced at 7:10 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Don Dilbeck

The Board's Roll Call and November minutes were read and approved.

November Financial Reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee: No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the sowing planned in Cove Creek this spring. Bill indicated that Mr. Richardson would allow some equipment to be stored at his property. Six to eight men have volunteered their time to help Bill with the habitat restoration program.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Lewis indicated that he was working on the next issue of the newsletter

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: Ray Wilson presented President Asbury with a Christmas present of a new jacket, a present from the CORA board members.

New Business: President Asbury introduced Mr. Horton from Oak Ridge, the quest speaker for this meeting. Mr. Horton spoke about the different groups that have worked together for the good of the recreational opportunities and those who share OHV interests. Horton discussed his personal efforts to clean up different areas of trash and dump sites. Mr. Horton provided pictures of some of the areas he had removed trash from.

Kelly Garner spoke of his efforts to complete the GPS mapping of the Royal Blue area. Mr. Garner told of locating some 20 cemeteries not on the available topo maps. Garner explained he would need approx. two more month's time to complete this effort. Garner is to return to CORA at a later date to ask for help in naming some of the areas and the historical sites known to some of the local membership.

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 8:15 p.m.

CORA MINUTES OF January 7, 2004

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

Invocation by Jim Shetterly

The Board's Roll Call and December minutes were read and approved.

Absence: Galen Wiseman

MINUTES, continued from page 7

December Financial Reports were read by Treasurer Ray Wilson; those reports were approved as read.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee: No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: No Report

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; At the request of CORA's President Lee Asbury, The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency held an informational conference with the CORA Board of Directors and all CORA members who were present for this special meeting. The Program was presented by the Director of TWRA's Wildlife Division Larry Marcum along with special guest speaker Dr. John Fisher who is the Director for Deer Diseases. Dr. Fisher also serves as the Chairman of Wildlife Health and Vice Chairman of the animal health for the Southern Wildlife Cooperative. Also present for the program was TWRA's Region 4 Supervisor Bob Ripley, Information Officer Allen Ricks, Officer Brent Harrison, Officer Bryan Ripley, and TWRA's Elk Program Supervisor Officer Steve Bennett.

An informational discussion about the disease "CWD" Chronic Wasting Disease and its potential impact to the Tennessee Deer herd was held. The origination of the disease is thought to have developed from the scrapies in sheep; it is similar to the mad cow disease known in Europe.

The disease has been spread mainly due to the unrestricted movement of captive herds of Elk and Deer to wildlife farmers throughout the north and western states. Of the captive Elk herds it is known in Canada that 40 different Elk herds have tested positive for CWD. Alberta has shown one case. Within the United States 25 captive herds have been tested positive. Nearly all states have begun a testing of their respective wild herds. Illinois has one positive case of CWD which recently turned up in a captive deer

herd located close to the outbreak in Wisconsin. This outbreak of CWD in the wild deer herd will result in the complete depopulation of all wild deer from an area approx 150 miles in diameter from the center of the CWD infected areas.

Tennessee has begun its own testing from the States wild deer herd. 13,011 deer have been tested from samples collected from all parts of the state. Additionally, 13 Elk from the newly released Elk herd, from the East Tennessee restoration program have been tested negative for the deadly CWD. TWRA wants to sample deer from all counties on a regular basis to allow the state to monitor the spread of the disease into the states wild herd.

Tennessee law doesn't allow the private ownership of whitetail deer and is

submitting new laws to restrict the movement of captive wild animals within the state. CWD is not known to be transmittable to humans. There is no known test for this disease that can be administered to live animals. The only known test for the CWD disease is to examine the brain tissue of dead animals.

The program was extremely interesting and valuable to anyone who is interested in the condition and welfare of the states wildlife program. If the disease were to spread into this state, the entire deer population could be decimated along with the states hunting program. CORA would like to thank TWRA for their consideration for presenting such a quality program for the CORA members.

New Business:

Meeting dismissed 8:20 pm

CHUFA- Not Just For Turkeys Anymore!

By Tim White

Chufa (*Cyperus esculentus*, var. *sativus*) is a Spanish word meaning ground almond. It is a type of nut-grass that produces a potato like tuber under ground. Most often grown for wild turkeys, these tubers are high in carbohydrates and protein and are an excellent food source for wintering waterfowl when flooded. Chufas flooded up to a depth of eight inches are readily eaten by dabbling ducks, especially mallards. Diving ducks such as ring-necks, redheads, and canvasbacks, love chufas when they are flooded to depths over one foot. Chufa commonly occurs in bottomland under stories and on exposed mudflats of seasonally flooded Catahoula Lake in Louisiana (Wills 1971). The outer contour of the lake is dominated by chufa, composing about 85 % of the vegetation. Good chufa tuber production depends on at least a three-month flood-free period during the growing season (Merrell 1975). On Catahoula Lake, chufas supplied 57 % of the diet of mallards; 67 % of the diet of pintails; and averaged 67 % of food items eaten by wigeon, green-winged teal, blue-winged teal, ring-necked ducks, canvasbacks, and lesser scaup (Wills

1970). Martin and Uhler (1939) reported that chufa ranked tenth of all waterfowl foods in the U. S. and Canada: and ranked third in the Mississippi Valley region.

Chufas grow best in moist soils but do not do well on sites that are extremely wet or flooded during the growing season (Merrell 1975). How do you grow chufas for ducks? Duck ponds which can be drained and planted during summer and flooded during winter provide excellent habitat for waterfowl. Chufas can be planted from April through July and require 90 to 100 days to mature. I recommend that all seeds be treated with some type of repellent such as Stanley Cro-Chex before planting to keep varmints like raccoons, crows and skunks from digging them up. There are other commercial brands and types of repellents on the market, which will work well. Chufas grow best in sandy loam soils but will grow even in hard clay. Chufas may be broadcast or row planted

For either method, spread fertilizer (13-13-13) at a rate of about 200 to 500 lbs/acre (depending on the fertility of your

Please see CHUFA, page 12

CONSERVATION, continued from page 3

through selective harvest that follow specific management guidelines.

Thus, TWRA is left to face the consequences of its own success, several plentiful game species and a growing desire of sportsmen to become more involved in the management of fish and wildlife as an active partner. Not surprisingly, these consequences (while a blessing at one level) are a challenge that biologists are not well trained to address. These are social challenges that carry a biological foundation.

The challenge for TCL will be to take a leadership role in the social aspects of fish and wildlife management, while helping the TWRA to address these changes in a manner that leaves the Agency stronger, more responsive and more loved than it is today.

2. Changing Constituents and the Need for Increased and Improved Management of Non-Game Species—TWRA's enabling legislation requires TWRA to manage for all wildlife for the benefit of all Tennesseans. The law does not take into account funding mechanisms, nor does it separate species into game or non-game groups.

However, over the past 30 years, non-consumptive users of wildlife have increased exponentially. Birdwatchers, nature hikers, sportsmen, and other outdoor enthusiasts are now more than ever paying attention to those species that are not hunted.

The challenge for TWRA is, and will continue to be, how can the agency improve its management of non-game fish and wildlife, and address a growing constituency of non-consumptive wildlife users who look to the agency to fulfill its legal mandate?

The Tennessee Conservation League must take a leadership role in working with the agency to find new funding sources that can allow TWRA to be more active in managing non-game species. Secondly, the League must be active as an architect in the design of expanding non-game programs that engage and accomplish for non-game what has been done for game species while simultaneously protecting and expanding the traditional roles of the agency and their work with game species and sportsmen.

3. Purpose and Funding—One of, if not the most significant challenges our TWRA will face is adequate funding and reaffirmation of its purpose. TWRA is not a recreation agency, that legal mandate belongs to the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TCA 11-1, 11-9 through 11). TWRA is a wildlife agency that exists to manage all fish and wildlife for the benefit of Tennesseans (TCA 70-1-301).

Thus, the greatest challenge TWRA faces, and that TCL and others who wish to see the Agency succeed will face, is attempts to change TWRA's purpose. Much, if not all, of TWRA's value stems directly from its purpose, and to change this purpose may result in the loss of its value and ultimately the agency's demise.

However, if the agency addresses the other two points of change, its constituents should be happy and willing to protect its purpose. If these changes are not addressed, there may not be any constituents willing to step forward.

Additionally, a critical component in TWRA being able to serve and engage its constituents, both old and new, is adequate funding for fish and wildlife programs. This currently does not exist, and must be addressed so that the agency can make necessary changes to better meet its mission.

What will our role be?

As the League stares at the challenges facing TWRA, we must determine what our role will be in shaping the future TWRA.

In 1949, TCL sponsored and won passage of legislation that created the Tennessee Game and Fish Commission. For the next 30 years, the Game and Fish Commission worked hard to establish professionalism in the management of fish and wildlife.

By the mid-70's, 30 years after the creation of Game and Fish, TCL again sponsored legislation and won passage of a bill that created TWRA as we know it today. For thirty years, the agency has again been working to restore wildlife and to meet its legal mandate.

Now it is 30 years later and change is upon us once again like an old familiar friend. The question now is will TCL step up to the plate and provide the leadership necessary to ensure that the next 30 year cycle will be as successful as the previous two have been.

I believe we will...stay tuned and let's get ready to roll up our sleeves and get to work.

From the desk of the Executive Director.

**The R & P Report
A Review and Preview of Congress Today!**

Monday, March 1, 2004

Review

Senate Prepares to Vote on Gun Bill Passage: The Senate voted 75 to 22 to invoke cloture thus limiting debate on S. 1805. The bill would block civil lawsuits against gun control and ammunition makers and dealers for third parties' misuse of their products. Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-CA) added an amendment to the bill before the cloture vote that would prohibit the sale or transfer of a handgun that did not have a child safety lock. The House passed a similar bill (H.R. 1036) last April by a vote of 285 to 140. **Visit www.nwyc.com to voice your opinion on lawsuits against gun makers and to view the definition of cloture.**

Preview

Senate: The Senate is expected to vote this week on passage of the gun makers liability bill. Last week the Senate failed to limit debate and vote on a bill that would cap medical malpractice awards in lawsuits against obstetricians and gynecologists. But GOP Senators say the issue is not dead. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) says you can look for the issue to pop up again in the next three to five weeks.

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

CHUFA, continued from page 8

soil) and disk in. Treflan either granular or liquid can be used as pre-emergent weed control...use at a moderate rate. 2-4D can be sprayed over the top if weeds become a problem later in the season (follow the herbicide label). A clean chufa plot with little weed competition will produce greater yields than a weedy plot.

Broadcast planting method: Chufas can be broadcast at a rate of about 40 lbs/acre on the prepared seedbed. Next it should be disked into a depth of about 1/2 to 2 inches. Top-dress the chufas with ammonium nitrate (100 to 200 lbs/acre) when the plants are about 6 to 12 inches in height.

Row planting method: Row plant chufas on a prepared seedbed as described above using a peanut plate (corn plates will not work). Plant in 30-38 inch rows with a spacing of about 5 inches in the row and 1/2 inches deep. Side dress with 100 to 200 lbs/acre of ammonium nitrate when the plants are 6 to 12 inches in height. Row planting produces a heavier yield than broadcast planting.

When grown for turkeys, chufas are often regenerated for years without replanting. When growing them for waterfowl, however, they must be replanted each year because whatever the ducks do not eat, will probably rot.

Last but not least try eating a chufa sometime. It tastes like a cross between an almond and coconut The old folks used to grow an acre of chufas each fall to fatten

their hogs on because they make tasty pork. They also made tasty snacks for the farm family during the winter. You can even make bread with them by grinding them into a fine flour and substituting it for half the flour in any bread recipe Chufas are not just for turkeys anymore!

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Venison Steak

Ingredients
1/2 bottle A-1 Sauce
1 T. Worstershire Sauce
Venison Steaks

Heat skillet. Slice venison into 1/4 or 1/2 inch slices. Put into skillet and thoroughly brown. Add Worstershire Sauce and A-1 Sauce. Simmer until tender. Season to taste. Add water or more steak sauce as needed.

**C.O.R.A. Meeting
Jacksboro Court House**

7:00 P.M.

**Regular meetings
are 1st Tuesday
of each month**

See You There!