

# CORA

42nd EDITION  
AUGUST, 2012



*Promoting Outdoor Recreation*

## CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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[www.cora-tn.org](http://www.cora-tn.org)

## EARLY BIRDS Create Accessible Hunting Experiences

Article taken from TENNESSEE COUNCIL on developmental disabilities  
By Tracey Farr

Up early this morning with thoughts of the East Tennessee woods and wild turkeys, it seems only fitting for me to share my experience at yesterday's (Saturday, April 28, 2012) Wheelin' Sportsman/Wounded Warrior Hunt in Campbell County from this pre-dawn perspective. Many of these folks were up and out of the house before 3 a.m. so they could participate in an accessible wild turkey hunt hosted for its 8th year by the National Wild Turkey Federation, an organization whose mission is to conserve the wild habitats for the often elusive wild birds, hunt these birds for sport and share their experiences with others. An initiative called the Wheelin' Sportsmen aims to provide outdoor opportunities for people with ALL abilities.

A true collaboration—almost as rare as the turkeys themselves—this event was bolstered with enthusiastic support from several other organizations, such as the Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the Pine Mountain Longbeards, Tennessee's chapter of the International Dutch Oven Society and businesses and families from all over the State. Watching these groups come together create accessible hunting experiences was so much fun and was made even more rewarding after speaking with some of the sportsmen with disabilities who were enjoying the day.

Jason Seaton from Sevier County found out about the hunt from Mitchell Amann of the National Resource Conservation Service, a

friend who met him through their work together to turn Mr. Seaton's farm into a natural habitat. Mr. Seaton was exhausted from the day and we talked about how far up into the woods they went. Using Polaris Rangers, they traversed up a mountain that Mr. Seaton said looked like there was no way they'd be able to!

A bumpy ride to say the least, they saw and heard several wild turkeys but could not get them close enough to take a shot. If they could have gotten a bird, Mr. Seaton would have used an AccessAcc mechanism that he and Mr. Amann have developed that allows him to fire the gun using a breathing apparatus, similar to sip and puff technology. Clearly, exhausted from such an intense ride and long, early morning, Mr. Seaton was in great spirits after his first time with this group and his mom said this is the best event of this kind they have attended.

I never saw Dale Bayless without a smile on his face. This was his first time turkey hunting and I think he's hooked! Mr. Bayless heard a lot of birds in the distance, but was happy as can be without getting to shoot at one.

"Harvesting a turkey is not the total goal, just the icing on the cake," stated event organizer, CORA President, Terry Lewis as he invited me to come from the East Tennessee Technology Access Center (ETTAC) to share in the experience and fellowship, which included a great meal of barbecue, grilled hamburgers and hotdogs with all of the trimmings. Speaking of cake, the Tennessee Dutch Oven Society was busy all  
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300 Orlando Avenue—Suite 200  
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IN YOUR PRAYERS AS  
HE BATTLES HEALTH  
ISSUES & RAY WILSON  
& BOB BURDEN IN  
YOUR PRAYERS AS THEY  
LOST THEIR WIVES***

## **ARCHERY CLUB AIMS AT 2ND COMPETITION**

**By Mike Trentham—Special to The Oak Ridger**

The recent Pine Mountain Longbeards Archery Tournament was so successful, the local chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation will hold a second one in September.

Twenty-eight competitors took aim at 30 3-D targets at the Ball Farm Event Center in LaFollette to support families with food

baskets this Christmas.

The course, designed to give archers a "real-to-life" target, held a wide range of shots up close and far away, and in its second year, a crossbow category was added.

Winners included in the pro division,

Eric Tackett (292) and second place, Bruce Shelton (271); sportsman division, first place, Michael Adkins (262) and second place, Brad Bell (242); amateur division, first place, Sonya Wilson (198) and second place, Conner Neal (147); and crossbow division, first place, Heather Hamblin (230).

Chad Nelson won the smoke shoot and Truman Wilson Jr. won the money shoot.

Last year, the Pine Mountain Longbeards gave out 60 food baskets and want to give out more this year. All the entry fees directly benefit purchases of food. Club members Durand Carmany, Jason Shetterly and Anthony Lucas were instrumental in organizing the tournament along with many chapter volunteers.

Due to the overwhelming request for more events, another tournament will be held Sept. 15. The event will be at the same location at 9 a.m.

If you are interested in participating in the September tournament, email mtrentham1@live.com to join the list.

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www.cora-tn.org

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# GREAT OUTDOORS UNIVERSITY VISITS HICKORY CREEK

Terry and Jane Lewis hosted Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Great Outdoors University (GOU) for their first East Tennessee extended field trip from Friday, June 29, thru Sunday, July 1st. Terry was able to locate some Knoxville inner-city kids through Doug Mentor with the Knoxville Chamber of Commerce for the extended trip. Some of the activities that they partook in were, hiking of trails, exploring in the creek (wading the waters, catching fish and crawfish (they even cooked and ate the crawfish), newts, wolf spiders, etc) cooking over a campfire, camping in a cabin, pitching tents, riding in a Polaris Ranger over the trails, eating homemade ice cream, star gazing and learning all about elk and observing the elk from the Hatfield Knob Viewing Tower. Jo Stout and Terry Lewis gave a little information presentation about the elk and other wildlife to the group.

Great Outdoors University (GOU) is a youth conservation education and outdoor experience program of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF) whose mission is to connect kids with the great outdoors in meaningful, life-changing and lasting ways. In Nashville, GOU participants are children from Davidson County and inner-city Nashville who range in age from 6 to 20 and would otherwise not likely have the opportunity to learn about and experience the natural world.

## Program Components

Great Outdoor University accomplishes its mission through conservation education, day field trips, day camps, and overnight weekend trips, offered throughout the year. GOU day field trips include hiking, birding, caving, fishing, stream strolls, and river exploration within a two hour's drive of the inner-city. GOU weekend trips are overnight experiences held in the spring, summer, and fall. These two-day, two-night events include courses such as wildlife programs, outdoor survival skills, ropes

courses, fishing, pack hiking with llamas, stargazing, and campfires.

## Participants & Partners

GOU participants come from partnering organizations that include outdoor education in their mission to serve underprivileged children, youth and families. GOU provides coordination, scheduling, naturalists, transportation, meals, beverages, gear, and equipment for trips. GOU Nashville currently has partnerships with Oasis Center, the Scoutreach program of the Middle TN Council Boy Scouts of America, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Middle TN, Metro Park Community Centers, Youth Villages of Middle TN, Girl Scouts of Middle TN, and Preston Taylor Ministries.

## Adult Leadership

Adult leadership for GOU comes from a variety of sources. In addition to trip coordination by TWF staff, GOU contracts with professional naturalists, environmental educators, and outdoor specialists to teach and lead trips. GOU Nashville instructors are sourced from Tennessee State Parks, Metro Parks, Cheekwood Botanical Gardens, Team Green, fishing organizations, and local sportsmen and sportswomen groups. Additionally, volunteers accompany most trips to serve as men-

tors, and participating partner staff and parents serve as chaperones.

## Outcomes

Great Outdoors University is working to give children, youth and families opportunities to play in and learn about the great outdoors in ways that positively impact their total health. Our work is guided by recent research which shows the negative results of today's children's detachment from nature and lack of outdoor play. Each trip is intended to enhance the physical, intellectual, emotional and spiritual well-being of participants.

GOU is more than just taking kids out in the woods or to the lake for a day. We seek to go deeper, to help develop a connection to, and an understanding of, the natural world that will last far into the future, thereby creating healthy, informed and engaged citizens who value and enjoy the great outdoors.

## Contact Information

To learn more about GOU Nashville, to make a donation, or to get involved with the program, please visit [www.tnwf.org](http://www.tnwf.org) or contact: Sonya Wood Mahler, Manager of Great Outdoors University, at [swoodmahler@tnwf.org](mailto:swoodmahler@tnwf.org) or 615-353-1133.



## NEW LAW AIMED AT CONTROLLING EXPANSION OF INVASIVE WILD HOGS

Jay Sheridan—[jsheridan@tnwf.org](mailto:jsheridan@tnwf.org)

*Tennessee Wildlife Federation and MOU Partners Push Stronger Penalties*

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—A new law strengthening the penalties for illegal translocation of wild-appearing swine goes into effect July 1, thanks to an effort supported by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF) and the state wildlife resources agency, along with statewide agriculture and public health interests.

Under the provisions of the new law, a person who illegally transports or releases wild hogs (i.e., wild appearing swine) into the wild without documented approval from the state Department of Agriculture can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor, fined as much as \$2,500 and sentenced to up to 11 months and 29 days in jail **for each wild-appearing swine** illegally translocated.

State Re. Ron Lollar (R-Bartlett) and Sen Steve Southerland (R-Morristown) sponsored the legislation. Earlier this year, TWF and TWRA jointed into a Memorandum of Understanding with the state Farm Bureau Federation, Soybean Producers, Pork Producers and departments of health and agriculture to work towards the eradication of wild hogs where practical, and to control populations elsewhere.

“Something needed to be done to address the proliferation, which is reaching epidemic proportions in parts of the state,” said Rep. Lollar, who served as chair of the House Conservation and Environment Committee. “This new law is another tool to protect farmers and

landowners from the destruction the pigs cause, and hopefully it gets the attention of anyone who is considering the illegal transportation and release of this invasive species.”

Last year, TWRA announced new measures to combat the growing hog problem, removing the non-native wild pigs from big-game status and marking them for eradication through aggressive trapping, and working with landowners to facilitate their removal by virtually any means necessary.

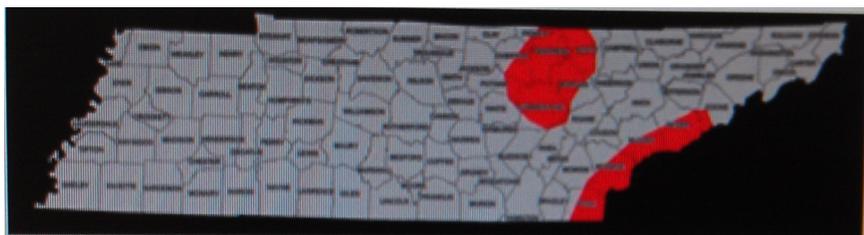
“These pigs can wipe out agricultural crops and wildlife habitat with amazing efficiency,” said Mike Butler, CEO of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation. “The evidence shows that wild hog populations are popping up in non-contiguous areas, which suggests that they are being transported and released illegally. This new law is a much stronger deterrent.”

Wild hogs are prolific reproducers, with a sow capable of bearing a litter of 12-15 piglets every 115 days. They do massive damage to the land

through feeding and wallowing; they are also omnivorous, and will eat just about anything they can find. Studies have clearly shown that the hogs eat turkey eggs and poults, and even the occasional fawn or other unsuspecting mammal. Other ground-nesting birds, amphibians and reptiles can suffer population decreases, and the pigs serve as a reservoir for diseases that can affect both livestock and humans.

Wild hogs also root up acres of land, which requires significant time and money to repair. In the U.S., damage caused by wild hogs is conservatively estimated at \$1.5 billion annually.

Founded in 1946, the not-for-profit Tennessee Wildlife Federation’s mission is to champion the conservation, sound management and enjoyment of Tennessee’s wildlife and natural resources for current and future generations, through stewardship, advocacy and education. For more information, visit [www.tnwf.org](http://www.tnwf.org).



Wild hog population map, 1999. Courtesy of TWRA.



Wild hog population map, 2011. Courtesy of TWRA.

# CORA MEETING MINUTES

## CORA Meeting Minutes of March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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

Invocation was led by Mike Trentham.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Glenn Massengill, Harry Burden and Bill Bruce were absent excused. Pete Shelton was absent.

The February 2012 minutes were read and approved as read by the Board.

Treasurer Ray Wilson stated the general financial report was not available for the month of February. The newsletter financial report was read and approved as read.

### Publicity

The LaFollette Press ran a full page article concerning the successful Christmas box program for the needy spearheaded by TEC.

The local NWTF banquet slated for 3-10-12 is sold out.

A motion was introduced and passed for CORA to underwrite in the amount of \$50 a wooden rocker to be auctioned at the local NWTF banquet.

### Activities

No report.

### Newsletter

The 41<sup>st</sup> edition of the CORA newsletter is out.

### Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

No report.

### Roads and Trails

The land-slide close to the head of Nick's Creek near the old Asbury deep mine is being worked and the road is back open.

### Memberships

No report.

### Old Business

**Legislative Update.** It appears likely that TWRA will be sunset on 6-30-12. However, other legislation will likely pass that will restore TWRA on 6-30-12. The so-called sunrise legislation, restoring TWRA, contains some positive changes.

**Handicapped Hunt.** The hunt is scheduled for the weekend of 4-28-12. This year has an emphasis on participants from TN. The military may furnish military equipment for display again this year.

### New Business

**ATV Issue.** Aetna Mountain near Chattanooga, a small WMA, is emerging as the latest private development vs. public access challenge. TWRA is seeking public comment. Decisions made here could impact other WMAs.

**Spring Controlled Burn.** A spring burn is in the works. Details are developing and more information will be shared at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:  
Mike McAfee  
CORA Secretary

## CORA Meeting Minutes of April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

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

Invocation was led by Mike Trentham.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Harry Burden, Robert Burden, Ray Wilson, and Bill Bruce were absent excused.

The March 2012 minutes were read and approved as read by the Board.

The general and newsletter financial reports were read by Glen Massengill

and approved by the Board as read.

### Publicity

The local NWTF banquet held on 3-10-12 was a success. The banquet was the largest in TN and raised approximately \$45K.

### Activities

No report.

### Newsletter

No report.

### Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

The CORA advertising account for State Farm is in an indeterminate state.

### Roads and Trails

No report.

### Memberships

Mike Trentham will help Bill Stanley with getting new CORA membership cards printed.

### Old Business

**Legislative Update.** The so-called sunrise and sunset legislation concerning TWRA and the TWRA Commission is still in play. Other legislation under consideration includes commercial fishing enforcement regulation and a bill requiring TWRA to report damage by wildlife on a yearly basis.

**ATV Issue.** TWRA sought public comment on the Aetna Mountain WMA near Chattanooga. TWRA is now analyzing comments. Decisions made here could impact other WMAs.

**Spring Controlled Burn.** A spring burn is now unlikely due to continuing rains and early green-up. A fall burn is under consideration.

**Handicapped Hunt.** The hunt is scheduled for the weekend of 4-28-12. Handicapped individuals applying for the hunt is at an all-time high. Terry Lewis urged volunteer participation in the event. Vator Davis, a handicapped hunter who participated for 7 years and

**Cont'd Page 6**

# CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

touched many lives, passed away. He will be missed by all.

## New Business

None

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:  
Mike McAfee  
CORA Secretary

## CORA Meeting Minutes of May 1st, 2012

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

Invocation was led by Mike Trentham.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Glenn Massengill, Bill Bruce, Mitzi Ivey, Bob Williams, and Bill Stanley were absent excused. Harry Burden and Robert Burden were absent.

The April 2012 minutes were read and approved as read by the Board.

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

## Publicity

No report.

## Activities

No report.

## Newsletter

Terry Lewis reported the next issue of the CORA newsletter is projected to be out in July.

## Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

No report.

## Roads and Trails

No report.

## Memberships

No report.

## Old Business

**Legislative Update.** Legislation has passed evoking new vetting requirements and other standards for future TWRA Commissioners. The deer farming bill is dead for now. New legislation limiting liability for controlled burns, if standards are followed, passed.

**Handicapped Hunt.** The 8<sup>th</sup> annual hunt was characterized by those in attendance as the best to date. All the handicapped hunters had a great time and were appreciative for the opportunity to be in the outdoors and participate in the hunt. Approximately 130 participants attended the fish fry on Friday night. 150 participants attended the Saturday hunt where a total of 27 handicapped hunters bagged 3 birds. NWTF National President Sam Mars flew in via helicopter to attend the hunt. This was truly a collaborative effort with TWRA. Many from the agency attended. A special thank you in the form of an official CORA resolution was passed by the board recognizing the Over Mountain Cast Iron Association and the Middle TN Dutch Oven Society for their dutch oven cooking which was great and enjoyed by all. About \$7K was raised at the handicapped hunt this year which will be used for other community outreach efforts such as Jake's Day and Turkey Care.

## New Business

**Reimbursement.** CORA will reimburse Terry Lewis for payments of \$25 to the TN Secretary of State for yearly corporate filing and \$99.05 for CORA web site ISP charges.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:  
Mike McAfee  
CORA Secretary

## CORA Meeting Minutes of June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012

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

Invocation was led by Mike Trentham.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Ray Wilson, Bill Bruce, Robert Burden, Mitzi Ivey, and Ron Lawhorn were absent excused.

The May, 2012 minutes were read and approved as read by the Board.

The newsletter financial report was read by Glen Massengill and approved by the Board as read. The general financial report was not available.

## Publicity

No report.

## Activities

No report.

## Newsletter

Terry Lewis reported the next issue of the CORA newsletter is still projected to be out in July. Articles are encouraged and welcomed.

## Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

No report.

## Roads and Trails

No report.

## Memberships

No report, but July, 2012 is the month for yearly CORA membership renewals.

## Old Business

**Legislative Update.** Terry Lewis reviewed highlights of TWRA Commission legislation passed this year; reported the deer farming bill is dead for this year; and reported that legislation passed making the transport of wild hogs without authorization a Class A Misdemeanor.

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# CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

**Handicapped Hunt.** Terry Lewis passed around sample thank you cards to be presented to selected participants and sponsors.

## New Business

**CORA Pig Roast and Cast Iron Cookers.** Terry Lewis will ask Ray Wilson about securing Shelter number 5 at Cove Lake for the annual Pig Roast. Once secured, the Cast Iron Cookers, who will cook desserts this year, will be notified.

**July Annual CORA Election.** A motion was made and passed to postpone the July annual CORA election until the August meeting, due to the next CORA meeting falling on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, one day before a holiday.

**Hunters for the Hungry.** Terry Lewis reported a total of 26 deer were processed last season comprising 5,000 meals. The Campbell County processed number percentage in comparison to the total deer harvested in the county exceeded the state by county average. Terry Lewis suggested CORA consider contributing \$2K to Hunters for the Hungry next deer season. He also suggested many options are available for fundraising such as a CORA sponsored ATV ride on Royal Blue.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:  
Mike McAfee  
CORA Secretary

## CORA Meeting Minutes of July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

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

Invocation was led by Bob Williams.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Ray Wilson, Bill Bruce, and Robert Burden were absent excused. Harry Burden, Ray Ivey, Mitzi Ivey, Pete Shelton, and Mike Trentham were absent.

The June, 2012 minutes were read and approved as read by the Board.

The general and newsletter financial reports were read by Bill Stanley and approved by the Board as read.

## Publicity

No report.

## Activities

No report.

## Newsletter

Terry Lewis reported the next issue of the CORA newsletter is projected to be out in August. Articles are encouraged and welcomed.

## Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

No report.

## Roads and Trails

No report.

## Memberships

No report, but it's time for CORA membership renewals. Membership cards should be ready for the August, 2012 CORA Meeting.

## Old Business

**CORA Pig Roast and Cast Iron Cookers.** Terry Lewis reported that Ray Wilson secured Shelter # 5 at Cove Lake for the annual Pig Roast, now slated for October 27, 2012. Terry will notify the Cast Iron Cookers, who will cook desserts this year, of the firm date.

**Annual CORA Election.** The annual CORA election will be held at the August meeting. Ray Wilson recently expressed his desire to step down as CORA Treasurer and is interested in remaining on the Board. Terry Lewis will check on the progress of Bill Bruce's recuperation before the next meeting. Terry Lewis raised the question of how we should plan for future leadership and involve more young people in CORA.

**Hunters for the Hungry.** Terry Lewis

raised the issue again, how do we raise \$2K for HFTH for this coming deer season? The question was also raised about involving the local church community in HFTH. Glen Massengill will bring up the topic with his church.

## New Business

**Ray Wilson Loss.** Terry Lewis informed the Board that Ray recently lost his wife. The Board moved to send Ray a sympathy card and a plant. Mitzi Ivey will handle the details of the card and plant.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:  
Mike McAfee  
CORA Secretary

## PINE MOUNTAIN LONGBEARDS CHAPTER OF THE NWTF

WILL BE HOSTING THEIR  
2ND ANNUAL JAKE'S DAY  
AT THE BALL EVENT CENTER  
ON AUGUST 18, 2012 AT  
8:00. IF YOU KNOW OF A  
CHILD UNDER AGE 17 THAT  
IS NOT SIGNED UP FOR THIS  
EVENT, AND WOULD BE  
INTERESTED, PLEASE  
CONTACT JAMIE BALL AS  
SOON AS POSSIBLE AT 423-  
871-1900. COST IS \$10.00 FOR  
A JAKE'S MEMBERSHIP, IF  
YOU ARE ALREADY A  
MEMBER, EVENT IS FREE,  
BUT DONATIONS  
WELCOME..

# Winners Announced for 2012 Elk Hunt During TWRC Committee Meetings

NASHVILLE --- Four persons have won the right to participate in Tennessee's fourth-ever managed elk hunt to be held in October at North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. The winners were announced Thursday (June 14) during the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Commission Wildlife Management Committee meeting at the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Region II Ray Bell Building.

The four winners, all Tennessee residents, were selected in a computer drawing from 5,799 applicants for the elk hunt scheduled Oct. 15-19 at the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area.

The participants for this year's hunt will be Tony William Fink of Crossville, Brian M. Rochelle of Franklin, William D. Marbury of Stanton, and Corbin M. Moore of Rockwood. The winners were announced by Gray Anderson, TWRA Wildlife and Forestry Division Assistant Chief.

The fifth participant will be the recipient of a permit that is donated to a Non-Governmental Organization, which this year is the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation. That permit will be auctioned on eBay. The auction period will run July 19-29. Fund-raising proceeds are designated for the TWRA Elk Program.

The TWRC voted to establish a young sportsman elk hunt following the conclusion of the regular elk hunt, which will be held Oct. 20-21 with one young sportsman to be selected. The winner from the drawing will be announced in conjunction with the Second Annual Land and Wildlife Expo in August.

**2012 Tennessee Youth Elk Hunt**  
North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area  
October 20-21

The winner of the first-ever Tennessee Youth Elk Tag...

Will be announced at the 2012 Land and Wildlife Expo/QDMA National Convention  
August 9-11.

Details to follow...

--TWRA--

**2012 Tennessee Elk Hunt**  
North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area  
October 15-19

Winners of the four drawn elk permits:

- Tony William Fink  
Crossville, TN
- Brian M. Rochelle  
Franklin, TN
- William D. Marbury  
Stanton, TN
- Corbin M. Moore  
Rockwood, TN

Congratulations to this year's elk draw winners!

# NWTF 2012 WOUNDED WARRIOR HUNT

By Mike Trentham

As in the past, the Wounded Warrior/Wheelin' Sportsmen Handicap Hunt was a success. Three turkeys were taken this year, but that part is just the cherry on top of the cake. What the hunt is really about is fellowship and providing an opportunity for those that are handicapped to get out into nature and have a great experience on a hunt. Some 26 hunters, guides and volunteers arrived around 3:45 A.M. Saturday morning on April 28<sup>th</sup> to get signed in. At this time the hunters were paired up with their guides and were told which farm they would be hunting, Terry Lewis's farm or Ron Cunningham's farm.

As the hunters and guides were signing in, a group of TWRA representatives were already busy cooking breakfast using Dutch ovens. This group travels all around the area cooking for various events and let me tell you, they can cook. I had never seen Dutch oven cooking before and the food that comes out of those black pots is a taste of pure heaven. Breakfast was served and everyone was talking how good the food was. The ladies from the Pine Mountain Longbeards NWTF Chapter provided breakfast food items as well and it all was good.

After breakfast, Terry Lewis called a meeting prior to the hunt to get all the ground rules established as to who would be doing the shooting and what birds were eligible to be taken. After a few minutes of laying out the ground rules, everyone was off. From my perspective, it looked like the start of a NASCAR race at Bristol. Everyone was piling into the side-by-side OHV's and taking off to their blinds. I think here is a good place to reflect on some of the background work that goes into this hunt.

Days earlier, volunteers have gathered to help get the portable blinds set up at the locations where everyone will have an ample opportunity to harvest a turkey the day of the hunt. Thirteen blinds on the Lewis

farm and thirteen on the Cunningham farm. A lot of behind the scenes work goes on prior to the day of the hunt. A large 30ft x 50ft tent is erected to provide a shelter to eat under and this is really some hard work to get set up. Then there are tables, chairs, temporary lighting and then the food. Oh yeah, food. The ladies in the Pine Mountain Longbeard's Chapter can really cook. You just have to have been there to experience the food. Between the ladies cooking and the TWRA Dutch oven cookers, we had a feast for breakfast that morning. If you went away hungry, it was your fault.

Now back to the hunt. As the imaginary flag drops, everyone blasts off into the early morning darkness headed for their assigned blind that they will be hunting from. I tagged along on an ATV to take pictures of some of the hunters as they were getting set up in their blinds. Folks, when you have thirteen hunters, their guides and some camera crew to take out into the woods to hunt and you have a small window of time, you do not let the grass grow beneath your ATV tires. You put those mechanical wonders into high gear and make tracks. Fortunately, the ATV I was using had power steering and a HUGE engine. Flying down the trails at five o'clock in the pitch black morning with only a headlight to go by can really get your blood pumping.

All the hunters are taken to their pre-designated blinds with their guide and some even had a cameraman go with them. Everyone got to their blinds safely and on time even though there could be mechanical problems and there seems to always be one or two problems along the way. But, due to pre-planning for such things, all went well. As the drivers returned to the camp, the early morning trips were starting to take a toll on everyone. More coffee was required to stay awake, but more than that, just the thoughts of hearing a shotgun being discharged had everyone alert in camp. As I

sat there in camp with others, we waited anxiously on a turkey to start gobbling in the early morning. Hey, did you hear that, I overheard someone say. Yep, there was a gobble in the morning mist. Now everyone was even more alert just waiting and hoping that someone would be bring back a Longbeard.

As the morning went on, we kept hearing gobbles and suddenly, BOOM, the discharge of a shotgun. I hope they got him I overheard someone say. That would be nice if everyone could get a turkey. Yes it would, but we all know how it goes. The hunt was again another success with everything that took place. Three Longbeards were harvested, but more than that, everyone had a great time. From the fish fry on Friday night, the early morning breakfast prepared by the TWRA Dutch Oven cookers right up to the hunt, everyone had a great time. Sam Mars who is the President of the National Wild Turkey Federation paid us a visit when he flew in on a helicopter. This was an unexpected treat for everyone. The Tennessee Air National Guard from McGhee Tyson provided a Humvee for everyone to look at for the day.

This is my third year of helping with the Wounded Warrior Hunt and each year I say that this year's hunt was the best ever and I mean that. I would have to say that what really makes the hunt special for me is seeing the smiles on the hunter's faces as they show up to participate. Rekindling old friendships, making new ones and just having a good time being around other people that enjoy the outdoors is what it is about. But most of all, it is giving back. Giving back something to the Soldiers that have given much for us. Giving to the handicapped that come to hunt that would normally not have an opportunity to go hunting without our help. Yes sir, I get a big smile on my face as well when I see all these folks enjoying themselves over the weekend.

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# HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY NEW RECORD OF NEARLY 63 TONS

The Tennessee Wildlife Federation's Hunters for the Hungry (HFTH) program is reporting another record year, with total venison donations up 13 percent over last season's record. Tennessee deer hunters donated nearly 63 tons of lean, high protein venison that provided more than half a million meals to their hungry neighbors through local food pantries.

Program support was also up significantly, with grants from the Wal-Mart Foundation and the Plough Foundation funding additional processing quotas and placing new chest freezers at key distribution points.'

"The white tailed deer is a healthy, renewable resource that has to be managed, and this program gives hunters a way to donate venison to be prepared by professional butchers and distributed to food banks and soup kitchens across the state," says Matt Simcox, the Federation's statewide Hunters for the Hungry coordinator. "Tennessee hunting and fishing licenses expire at the end of February, and we hope people will take advantage of the opportunity to give a dollar to Hunters for the Hungry when renewing those licenses. One dollar can provide four meals to hungry Tennesseans."

Based upon available funding, participating processors are allotted a quota for the number of deer that HFTH will subsidize. Grants and local fund-raisers raise funds

that pay for processing, beyond the established quotas, hunters pay a reduced processing fee to donate a deer. A \$25,000 grant from Wal-Mart Foundation supported the program statewide, and a \$20,000 grant from the Memphis-based Plough Foundation focused on supplying the Mid-South Food Bank with much needed protein.

Hunters can donate whole deer, or give a portion of their own processed meat when picking it up from a participating processor. TWF has placed 27 chest freezers at various collection and distribution points to provide more storage space for donations during the season.

Our deer herd is around a million today, and they must be managed to prevent negative wildlife interactions, like deer-car collisions and destruction of property," Simcox said. "This program represents a means by which to address a critical social need in a very effective manner. It just makes sense all the way around."

Valley Meats and Chamberlains are the local processors for the deer to be donated to for the Hunters For The Hungry program for the Campbell County area.

To read more you can go to:  
[www.tnwf.org](http://www.tnwf.org)

**C.O.R.A.**  
**Meeting**  
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**House**  
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**Regular meetings**  
**Are 1st Tuesday**  
**Of each month**  
**OPEN TO THE**  
**PUBLIC**

*See You There!*

**CORA**  
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**OCT 27 AT NOON**  
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## Presidents Letter Cont'd from page 1

morning preparing fresh cobblers and other delights (coconut macaroon, pineapple upside down cake and Mississippi mud pie are just a few of the ones I tried) to serve as desserts for the crowd.

With beautiful East Tennessee weather and so many great organizations participating in this cause, this day really was a sweet treat for me. And as you can see here with Caden Middlebrook, who got a bird, it's also nice to get some of that icing on his cake!

For more information about this annual event, contact Terry or Jane Lewis at 865-414-0057 or e-mail [terry@t-lewis.com](mailto:terry@t-lewis.com)

Tracey Farr is development coordinator with the East Tennessee Technology Access Center 865-219-0130



## RMEF BANQUET

The Royal Blue Chapter of RMEF (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation) will be hosting their annual fund raising banquet on

Saturday, October 13, 2012

at the Ball Event Center in  
LaFollette, TN.

Doors will open at 5:00 pm.

More information will be announced as time gets closer to the event.

For more information, you may call Bill Stanley at 865-414-5550.

Come join us for an evening of dinner, live auction, silent auction, fun and games.

We are in the Elk Capital  
of Tennessee