

CORA

THIRTY SIXTH EDITION
NOVEMBER, 2009



Promoting Outdoor Recreation

CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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www.cora-tn.org

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Terry Lewis

TENNESSEE THE VOLUNTEER STATE

Volunteers, what does that word really mean to you? Webster defines volunteer as, "one who serves or acts of his or her own free will". We have the Vol's football team; we have volunteer health care workers; little league coaches; Cub Scout leaders; and Boy and Girl Scout leaders. There are volunteers for the Red Cross, church and civic volunteers, and groups that volunteer for disaster relief. Then there are people who volunteer to work the voting polls, blood drives, those who help the elderly in nursing homes, and who could forget volunteer firemen. The list of volunteers is endless. For the most part we are a society of volunteers lending a helping hand; sacrificing our time, energy, and our money for causes we believe in.

CORA traces its very beginnings 23 years ago to the strong shoulders of ordinary men and women who came together for a cause they believed in. The goal; saving the large tract of land known as the Koppers property; some 50,000 acres of rugged mountain land, with roots in the logging and coal industries, historically used by the public for a variety of outdoor recreation pursuits.

Volunteers like Lee Asbury, Ray Wilson, Harry Burden, Burton (Pud) Shelton, and Frank Lagreca along with many others gave of their personal time and money to travel so many times to Nashville to work the political establishment in hopes of realizing a dream of holding on to land where all of the citizens of this great state could come to and enjoy the historical uses this land provided the local area sportsmen.

CORA's foundation was made solid by and with volunteers who serve unselfishly on its Board of Directors. Its volunteers, like Leonard Hooks, who traveled to Canada to help bring Tennessee's first elk back to these mountains. Volunteer's like Bill Bruce who makes the CORA public appreciation barbeque happen every year for the last 22 years and serves as CORA's Recreational Chairman. Men like Mike McAfee who in the face of business commitments still finds time to handle CORA's Secretary duties. And who could forget Harry Burden who after 23 years still serves as Chairman of the Board of CORA's Directors lending a steady and experienced hand to all in the CORA organization.

In the conservation world much has been accomplished by volunteers. These volunteers make up the many different conservation organizations like the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), Tennessee Wildlife Federation (TWF), National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF), Quail Unlimited (QU), Ruffed Grouse Society (RGS), Safari Club International (SCI), ornithological organizations, and many other special interest groups of hunters and fishermen.

Give some thought to all the restoration and habitat programs that volunteers have successfully completed. Think of all the food plots and habitat that has been improved by those who gave their time and money. Where would we be without all those personal sacrifices?

How much volunteerism is enough one might
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Conserving Our Wildlife & Natural
Resources Since 1946

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Aaron Thompson

2915 Baker Hwy * Huntsville, TN 37756
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It's "Elk Huntin" Time in Tennessee By Mike Trentham

Yes folk's, that's what time it is or I should say it was earlier this week (Oct. 19-23) in Campbell County at the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Five very lucky hunters were able to participate in the states first Elk hunt in nearly 150 years. Ronald Woodward (Oak Ridge, TN), Chuck Floyd (Rockford, TN), Tami Miller (Franklin, TN), Jeff Moses (Cleveland, TN) and Craig Gardner (Parrottsville, TN) were all assigned

certain sections of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management area to hunt. Each hunter was able to take a friend with them along with an assigned hunting guide. David Hale and Harold Knight of [Knight & Hale Game Calls](#) were there to film some of the hunts for their television show. I was able to talk to most of the hunters and "excitement" is putting it mildly. Each hunter felt fortunate to be able to partici-

pate in the State's first managed Elk hunt.

C.O.R.A. (Campbell Outdoor Recreational Association) has played a huge role in getting this event to where it is today. Had not C.O.R.A. stepped up to the plate back over twenty years ago, there would not be a "Royal Blue or Sundquist" WMA let alone a first ever Elk Hunt. The Elk hunt did not just happen overnight. Hours and hours of hard work by both C.O.R.A., TWRA and The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation have gone into getting everything organized to arrive at this day.

An old fashioned "Elk Camp" was set up for the occasion. Straight walled tents were available for the hunters to stay in to get that old time "hunting camp" feel. Campfires, mules, cold weather and lots of talk among the hunters were present. Yes, a lot of work went into making this a special event that lots of folks will remember around future campfires at hunting camps to come.

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www.cora-tn.org

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OFFICERS 2009-2010

President	Terry Lewis
V. President	Glenn Massengill
Secretary	Mike McAfee
Treasurer	Ray Wilson

CORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Harry Burden—Chairman	
Robert Burden	
Bill Bruce	Ray Ivey
Leonard Hooks	Mitzi Ivey
Glenn Shelton	Nick Robinson
Bob Williams	Jerry Stout
Bill Staley	Ron Lawhorn

CAMPBELL CO. TWRA OFFICERS

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Brent Harrison	(423)587-7037

NORTH CUMBERLAND WMA MANAGERS

Stan Stooksbury	(423)566-8557
Danny Akins	(423)566-8557

CORA

*wants to extend a Big
THANK YOU*

*To our Good BBQ Cooks
Leonard Hooks
and Bill Bruce*

CORA HOLDS ANNUAL BBQ

CORA BBQ

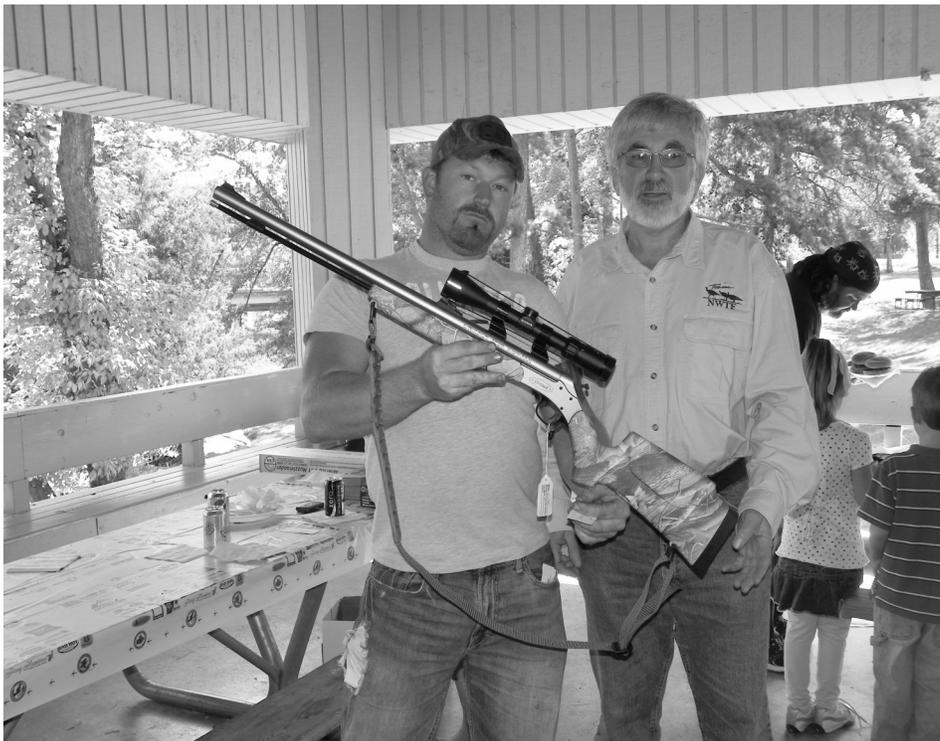
The CORA BBQ was October 3rd at Cove Lake State Park at Shelter #5. It was a big success. We had the largest crowd ever. The food and fellowship were excellent. We served over 100 meals this year. Thank you for the ladies who helped with the sides and desserts and Bill Bruce and Leonard Hooks for cooking the meat. Thank you Bill Stanley for allowing CORA the use of your BBQ grill.

Thanks to Mitzi and Ray Ivey for their efforts with the raffle. Randall Fraley was the lucky random drawing winner of the muzzleloader with scope.

Many thanks to Bill Bruce and Leonard Hooks for their outstanding efforts again this year; their 22nd consecutive year with this event. Thanks to Mike Barnes for his assistance with cooking. Thanks to Melvin Boshears and Anne Smith for their donations to the pig roast.



Leonard Hooks, Terry Lewis, Mike Barnes and Bill Bruce prepare the BBQ



Randall Fraley won the muzzleloader raffle, presented by Ray Ivey.

***CORA WANTS
TO WISH
ALL OF YOU
HAPPY HOLIDAYS!***

CORA HOSTS THE HISTORIC FIRST EVER TENNESSEE ELK HUNT

From October 16th to October 23rd CORA hosted Tennessee's historic first-ever elk hunt camp at the Hickory Creek farm of CORA President Terry Lewis. Five non-governmental organizations: Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, Safari Club International, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Foundation, and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation all came together to provide funding for this special onetime event. Approximately 250 people attended the special banquet style event held on Saturday evening October 17th, 2009. Entertainment was provided by Second Nature from Nashville. Special speakers from each NGO provided their thoughts to the large crowd of wildlife conservationists and outdoor enthusiasts who attended to celebrate Tennessee's first ever elk hunt.

The hunter's camp consisted of western style high-wall tents located in a secluded area to provide an authentic remote setting. The hunters and their guides and guests were treated to a hot breakfast each morning and lunch at noon followed by a hearty dinner meal in the evenings. Over 815 meals were served throughout the eight day event.

Tennessee's first elk hunt was held in five special 8,000 acre sections of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. Five lucky hunters were each issued a single bull elk tag and allowed 5 days in which to harvest their animal. Charles Flynn of Rockford, TN became the first hunter to legally harvest an elk in Tennessee in over 150 years when he took his bull at 7:15AM on Monday morning. Tami Miller the only woman

hunter in the group harvested her 5x6 bull on Tuesday evening. Craig Gardner of Parrottsville appears to be the hunter who will hold the first Tennessee state record for elk with a green score of 318". Gardner took his elk at 7:30AM on Monday morning. Ronald Woodard of Oak Ridge and Jeff Moses of Cleveland each harvested bull elk.

Each hunter was allowed to be accompanied by a guest and a guide along with a dedicated video crew making for somewhat of a large hunting party. David Hale and Harold Knight of "Knight and Hale Game Calls" personally guided Chuck Flynn to the first elk down. "Southeast Pack Trips" provided a team of mules and horses along with a team of men to do the extraction work for harvested elk.



Charles Flynn of Rockford, TN was the first hunter to legally harvest an elk in Tennessee in over 150 years

HISTORIC FIRST EVER TENNESSEE ELK HUNT Cont'd

This event brings the elk program full circle for CORA who was instrumental in securing the local public support for the elk restoration program back in the spring of 2000. Then in the summer of 2006 CORA went before the TWRA commission and asked that the Commission consider Tennessee's first ever elk hunt. The elk restoration program highlights another in a long list of successful partnerships between the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and CORA.

Photo at Top Right

Craig Gardner and his wife, Tonya from Parrottsville, TN with his (thought to be) new Tennessee state record bull elk with a green score of 318”.

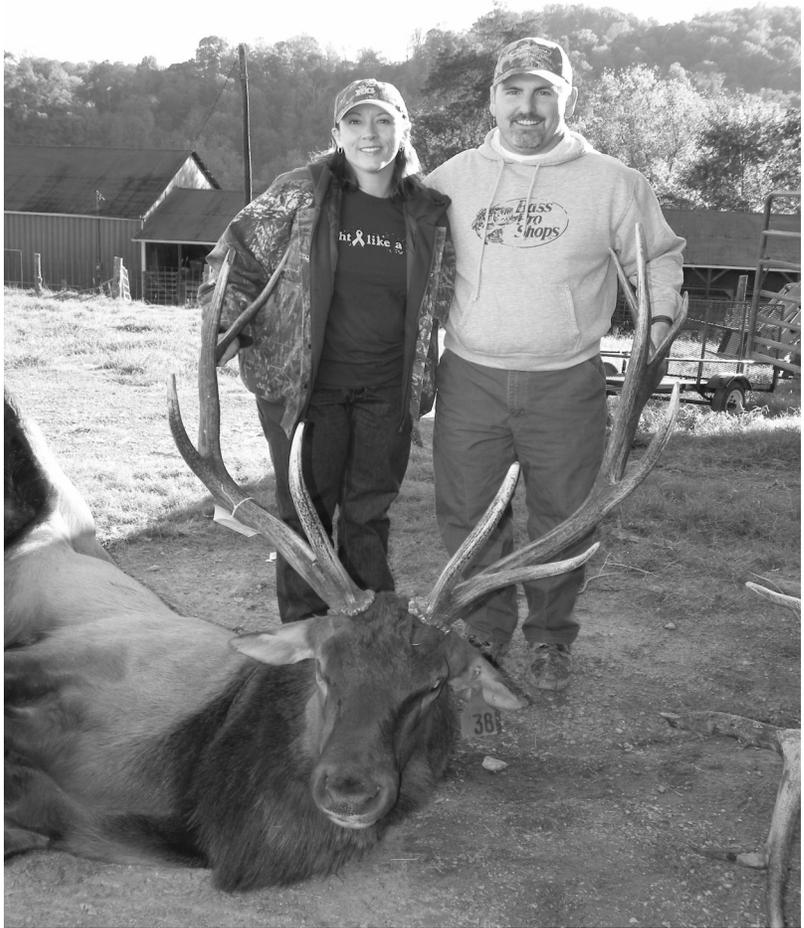


Photo at Bottom Right

Tami Miller of Franklin, TN became the first and only woman hunter to legally harvest an elk in Tennessee in over 150 years.



HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY By Tennessee Wildlife Federation

MAKE HUNGRY YOUR NEXT TARGET

More than 11% of Tennessee's children and 19% of the elderly go to bed hungry. Hunters for the Hunter is a program of the Tennessee Wildlife Federation in cooperation with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency. Through this program, hunters and meat processors fight hunger by providing properly prepared venison to food banks and soup kitchens across the state. Donated venison provides hungry families a high-protein, low-fat supplement vital to a healthy diet. Also, venison donated to soup kitchens lowers food costs and puts more meat on the table at a critical time of year. As an example, donated venison allows the Nashville Union Mission to put meat on the table—one meal in four—at a time when many of their clients need the extra protein to keep warm while sleeping on the street.



A BUCK OR A DOE IS REALLY NICE, BUT A POUND OR TWO WILL DO!

In 2003 TWF and the Hunters for the Hungry Working Group made the decision to institute the Pound or Pack method until donations reach a point to where we can provide every processor assistance. We encourage every hunter to donate a pound or pack of venison when picking up processed meat for your use.

The number of participating processors, cooperating food banks and soup kitchens have doubled this year to provide hunters more places to donate. If every hunter donated a pound, we would have 200,000 pounds of meat to feed the hungry in Tennessee and we can use every ounce.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Since the rebirth of the program in 1998, sportsmen have donated over 360,000 pounds of venison to help feed the hungry. This has helped hunger relief efforts feed nearly 1.5 MILLION meals to the hungry.

“Elk Huntin”

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As a member of C.O.R.A. and a volunteer at the Elk Camp, I can say it was an experience I won't soon forget. I was able to meet the hunters and talk with them about what they were expecting and how they felt about being an instant celebrity among the hunters of Tennessee. Jeff Moses said that his girlfriend's son was the one that had put his name in the hat for the drawing. I'll never get drawn was his comment, now look at him. He's going home with a large Elk from his hunt. Their excitement reminded me of a Christmas long ago when I got my first rifle, pure excitement at its best is what it was like.

By Tuesday evening all five hunters had taken their animal. Pictures, handshakes and of course, lots of smiles from everyone was visible. Excitement, joy, pride and as sense of accomplishment could be felt in the brisk air in Campbell County. So, all you hunters out there get geared up for the next drawing to get an Elk tag. I for one am just waiting on the day I can put my name in the hat again.

HUNTERS FOR THE HUNGRY PROCESSORS

Region 4

County	Name	Address	Phone
Anderson	Adam's Taxidermy & Processing	102 Shipe Rd., Powell, TN 37849	865-945-3553
Blount	Village Meats	1005 William Blount Dr., Maryville, TN 37801	865-984-6626
Carter	Potter Custom Meats	135 Cripple Creek Loop, Watauga, TN 37694	423-543-6956
Claiborne	Cunningham Slaughter House	334 Cunningham Rd., Tazewell, TN 37879	423-626-6666
Cocke	Mantooth's Custom Meats	266 Buffalo Rd., Bybee, TN 37713	423-623-8478
Grainger	Joyce's Taxidermy & Processing	9875 Hwy 131, Washburn, TN 37888	865-497-2203
Greene	Snapps Ferry Packing Co.	5900 Andrew Johnson Hwy E., Afton, TN 37616	423-972-5084
Hamblen	Goodman Custom Processing	384 Jacobs Rd., Morristown, TN 37813	423-587-3673
Hawkins	Todd's Custom Meats	225 Old Mill Rd., Rogersville, TN 37857	423-272-9100
Jefferson	Buck N' Bass	664 East Meeting St., Dandridge, TN 37725	865-397-6456
	Sellar's Custom Meat Cutting	3082 Falcon Road, White Pine, TN 37890	865-674-7675
Knox	Broken Wing Meat Processing	3217 Riverside Dr., Knoxville, TN 37914	865-522-6914
Monroe	Morgan Butcher Shop	2472 Hwy 411 N., Madisonville, TN 37354	423-442-2800
Washington	Hamilton Meats	P.O. Box 3746 C.R.S., Johnson City, TN 37602	423-282-4531

PLEASE DO YOUR PART TO HELP US FEED THE HUNGRY

CORA MEETING MINUTES

CORA Meeting Minutes of June 2nd, 2009

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

Invocation was led by Ray Wilson.

Due to the absence of the Secretary Mike McAfee the Board's roll call was taken by Glen Massengill; Harry Burden, Mike McAfee were absent excused; Leonard Hooks, Ray Ivey, Pete Shelton, Mitzi Ivey and Bill Stanley were absent.

Acting Secretary Glen Massengill read the May, 2009 minutes which were 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:

Mitzi Ivey was absent so no report was available

Activities

Bill Bruce reported that Mr. Richardson had been in the hospital lately and that TWRA had been in the area doing some food plot work. It appears that for the first time in many years that CORA will not be in a position to continue the food plot program on Cove Creek.

Newsletter

Terry Lewis reported that the newest addition of the newsletter (Thirty Fifth) was delivered to the board meeting for distribution.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing

Ray and Mitzi Ivey have volunteered to help Glen Massengill with the distribution of the newsletters and to help collect the invoices from the advertisers.

Memberships

Bob Burden reported that all memberships will expire on July 1st and everyone needs to renew their membership next month.

Old Business

Multi-Organizational Pilot Habitat Project for Sundquist -. Terry Lewis indicated that a meeting was scheduled for June 10 to review the Habitat Management controlled burn program to access the successfulness of the volunteer efforts. UT professors David Buhler and Billy Minser along with the Area Manager Stan Stooksbury, TWF Executive Director Mike Butler, CORA members Jerry Stout and Terry Lewis are the committee members who will be present for the onsite visit and will work to collectively determine the method going forward for next year's habitat management plan.

Elk Hunt- President Lewis discussed the plans for Tennessee's first elk hunt to be held on Oct. 19th through the 23rd, 2009. Additionally discussed was the proposal to hold an elk camp for the 5 elk hunters. It is being discussed that the original stakeholders would be allowed to host an elk camp on Friday Oct. 16th through Sunday Oct. 18th. Board members discussed the thoughts on raising funds and the cost of the program. Bill Bruce volunteered to help cook during the event. Details will be available for more discussion at the July meeting.

Louie Bluié 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 at Cove Lake State Park.

New Business

CORA will hold its annual election of officers and directors at the regular scheduled meeting to be held on July 7th, 2009. President Lewis urged all current members to attend this very important meeting to help determine CORA's leadership for the next 12 months. Board member Ray Wilson will direct the election and officiate over the voting procedures.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:

Acting Secretary Glenn Massengill
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of July7, 2009

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

Invocation was led by Harry Burden.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. All officers and directors were present. Ray Ivey and Mitzi Ivey requested their June 2009 absences be changed from absent to excused absent due to a death in the family. A pen and ink change to excused was made to the roll call sheet and June 2009 minutes.

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

Treasurer Ray Wilson presented the newsletter financial report. The financial report was approved by the Board as read.

Publicity

No report.

Activities

The annual CORA Pig Roast is slated for October 3, 2009 at Cove Lake State Park shelter #5.

Newsletter

No report.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing

Accounts mostly paid up to date. We need additional advertisers in the future.

Memberships

All memberships expired on July 1, 2009 and everyone needs to renew their membership. Several renewed their memberships at the meeting.

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CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

Old Business

Louie Bluie Event. Jerry Stout reported the June 13th at Cove Lake State Park was worthwhile for CORA exhibiting in conjunction with RMEF. Around 400 CORA and RMEF brochures were handed out. The booth was busy throughout the event. Bob Burden sold several memberships.

Multi-Organizational Pilot Habitat Project for Sundquist.

An on-site meeting was held on June 10, 2009 to review the Habitat Management controlled burn program to assess the outcomes. UT professors David Buhler and Billy Minser along with the Area Manager Stan Stooksbury, TWF Executive Director Mike Butler, CORA members Jerry Stout and Terry Lewis were present for the on-site visit. Everyone was pleased with this year's effort. The overall cost was approximately \$26K. Questions were raised for future years about streamlining the heavy manpower requirements and the availability of grant money.

Elk Camp and Elk Hunt. A lengthy discussion was held concerning this topic by Terry Lewis and Bill Stanley. Terry Lewis provided a one-page handout/flyer which contains some of the details. The handout was made part of the meeting minutes. This report will not attempt to cover all the details, but rather capture a few main points. Four elk hunters have been selected from approximately 13K applicants. TWRP will soon auction off a fifth permit on EBay with minimum bid starting at \$10K. The flyer outlining the elk camp and hunt was mailed out to the four selected hunters. Terry Lewis read part of an invited only guest list which is expected to include over 300 guests. At TWRA request, the entire event will be hosted at the Terry Lewis farm. The camp and hunt can best be described as once in a lifetime opportunity to get many types of stakeholders in one location and a true celebration of the elk program. A motion was made and passed unanimously for CORA to participate in this event. The cost of CORA's participation will be \$1K.

New Business

Election. In keeping with the Bylaws of

the Corporation, the yearly election of officers and directors was held. Board member Ray Wilson directed the election and officiated over the voting procedures. Officers and Board Members currently serving were elected for another one-year term through motions and voice votes. Bob Burden was elected to fill the vacant roads and trails committee chair position.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of August 4, 2009

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

Invocation was led by Harry Burden.

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

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

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

Publicity
No report.

Activities
No report.

Newsletter
No report.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing
No report.

Memberships

No new memberships were sold since the last meeting. Bob Burden resigned as membership chairman, citing his new position as Roads and Trails Chairman as the reason. Bill Stanley volunteered to replace Burden for a period of one year.

Roads and Trails

With minor exceptions, Bob Burden reported roads and trails are in good shape.

Old Business

CORA Pig Roast. The Pig Roast is October 3rd at Cove Lake State Park Shelter #5. Mike McAfee to email updated announcement to Mitzi Ivey. Meals are \$5 again this year. We are planning for about 75 meals. We will use Bill Stanley's cooker. Our newsletter advertisers are encouraged to attend for a free meal as a token of our appreciation. A muzzleloader will be raffled off again this year. Tickets will be \$5 each or 3 for \$10. Mitzi Ivey will handle getting the gun and having tickets printed.

Elk Camp and Elk Hunt. The fifth hunter has been identified. It is Andy Miller from Franklin, who bid \$17,700 for the chance to elk hunt. Bill Stanley is working on the meal schedule and logistics. Second Nature has been chosen for entertainment. Terry Lewis is working on invitations.

New Business

Local Advertisement. The board will purchase a half-page advertisement for \$50 in the Jacksboro Middle School football program. Mitzi Ivey will provide CORA content to the school contact.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

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CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

CORA Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2009

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

Invocation was led by Harry Burden.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Pete Shelton was absent excused.

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

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

Publicity

Mitzi Ivey reported the CORA advertisement was placed in the Jacksboro Middle School paper. Arrangements for the gun to be raffled off for the pig roast have been made. The gun is on display at the Sports Shop. Tickets for sale were distributed to CORA board members. Tickets are \$5 each or 3 for \$10. The pig roast announcement was forwarded to the LaFollette Press.

Activities

Reported under old business.

Newsletter

Next edition likely out in November. Contributing articles would be appreciated.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing

No report.

Memberships

Three new memberships were sold.

Roads and Trails

Roads and trails are in good shape.

Old Business

CORA Pig Roast. The Pig Roast is October 3rd at Cove Lake State Park Shelter #5. Meals are \$5 again this year. Kids eat free. County Commissioner Melvin Boshears donated \$200 for the pig roast. Thank you Melvin. This year we hope to exceed the attendees and 80 meals we served last year. Many before and day of event tasks and items required were discussed and responsibility accepted. This will be the 22nd year for Bill Bruce and Leonard Hooks heading up the pig roast and cooking.

Elk Camp and Elk Hunt. Terry Lewis reported on planning activities. This is truly a historic event. It is also a massive undertaking with a duration from start to finish (set-up to clean-up) of 9 days. Food (three meals a day for hunters, staff, and volunteers), shelter, entertainment, dignitary event, guides, extraction teams are just a few categories of services being provided.

To lend some context, but not intended to be a comprehensive list, the elk camp site will have 6 FEMA trailers, 7 porta potties, 5 wall tents, 1 shower tent, and a food tent.

Terry Lewis had two planning meetings with TWRA. An overall planning document has been prepared and is still a living and expanding document. Bill Stanley is in charge of food. A statement of work is being prepared for the Saturday night meal that will go out for bids. Terry Lewis asked for volunteers to sign up from the board for various tasks such as tents and chairs, parking, cooking, and manning the exhibit table. At last count, 11 had signed up. Melvin Boshears volunteered to line-up on-site EMS for the Saturday night event. State Trooper, Rick Woodward, will be invited for Saturday night. TWRA will provide tee-shirts for volunteers.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of October 6, 2009

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

Invocation was led by Harry Burden.

The Board's roll call was taken by Mike McAfee. Ray Wilson was absent excused.

The September, 2009 minutes were read and approved by the Board with a modification to correct and reflect no absences for the September meeting. The September minutes were corrected.

Treasurer Ray Wilson was absent; therefore the general and newsletter financial reports were not available.

Publicity

Reported under old business.

Activities

Reported under old business.

Newsletter

No report.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertizing

No report.

Memberships

3 new memberships and 5 renewals were sold.

Roads and Trails

No report.

Old Business

CORA Pig Roast. The Pig Roast was October 3rd at Cove Lake State Park at Shelter #5. It was a big success. We had the largest crowd ever. The food and fellowship were excellent. We collected \$425 for 85 meals. CORA also collected \$1350 from the gun raffle. Thanks to Mitzi and Ray Ivey for their

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A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT—Tennessee wildlifers stand proud

By Richard Simms-Chattanooga

It is an awe-inspiring, and somewhat humbling thing to have born witness to perhaps the greatest conservation achievement in Tennessee's history.. Or at the very least, in my history..the return of a huntable population of elk to the great state of Tennessee.

Allow me to explain. I made the decision I wanted to work in conservation in 1968, I was 14 years old. I have been "professionally" involved with Tennessee conservation efforts since my first year of college in 1972. After I graduated, and for eight years I was paid by the hunting & fishing license buyers in the great state of Tennessee to protect and enhance it's wildlife resources. For personal reasons, my career direction changed in 1984 and I left TWRA...but my heart never left the wildlife. I have been an outdoor freelance journalist since then, specifically so I could remain involved with the conservation effort.

In those many decades I have helped document the restoration of whitetail deer to parts of Tennessee never touched by a hoof before.

I have trapped and released wild turkeys that have since, at least in some places, become as prolific as starlings or crows. The same is true of Canada geese.

I have ridden across the waters of Chesapeake Bay photographing the capture of young osprey to restore the magnificent "fish eagle" to the waterways of Tennessee.

I have sat high atop cypress trees to photograph the very first wing beats of young bald eagles that helped return that incredible symbol of our nation from the brink of extinction.



I have watched the first tenuous steps of River otters, brought from Louisiana to Tennessee waters.

I have seen beavers go from a rare and almost unheard of wildlife oddity, to a nuisance.

As a youngster the sight of a great blue heron was the Holy Grail of birding. Now fishermen must take care to avoid them with their fishing lines.

We are likely to track for a record bear harvest in Tennessee this year.

The list of Tennessee wildlife success stories goes on and on. Not to belittle the momentous events that occurred before my time, but I am old enough to have been around for many of our greatest wildlife accomplishments. I am fortunate enough to have actually witnessed many of them first-hand with pen or camera in-hand, including the heart-racing, hoof-pounding and tumultuous release of elk into the mountains of the North Cumberland Plateau.

But in my humble opinion, Monday's final culmination of that effort...when Tennessee hunters legally harvested the first elk in fair-chase scenario..was the

crowning achievement of wildlife success stories in the State of Tennessee.

I spent the day in the North Cumberland WMA on an adrenalin-high that still hasn't worn off two days later. It was clear that I was not alone. The list of onlookers to the first elk killed in Tennessee read like a laundry list of Who's Who among wildlife and conservation professionals. There were only five hunters..but hundreds of people drove hundred of miles just so they could be a small part of the remarkable event.

Millions of people who don't have "wildlife" coursing through their veins wonder, "What's the big deal?" Perhaps they are interested, or amused, to read the press about Tennessee's first elk kills in modern day history. Perhaps they might even be one of the folks who visit Hatfield Knob..the elk sanctuary, designed and set aside specifically for wildlife watchers..to view elk in their natural Tennessee habitat. But still, their interest is often fleeting and will wax or wane based upon the temperature and wind chill factor.

But there are some sportsmen, biologists, wildlife officers, private conservationists and others who care most deeply. These are the ones who well understand what a giant leap we have made. They will step out on Hatfield Knob,, or anywhere else in the 145,000 acre North Cumberland WMA on a frosty October day and listen. If they listen long enough it is likely they will hear the quaking, but rising roar of a bull elk bugle. A massive 800-pound brute announcing to all the world that on this mountaintop, HE is the King of the Tennessee Beasts.

Those who listen and really know how to "hear" will smile, and perhaps like me, They will tremble a bit as a chill runs up their spine. Not because of the cold but because they understand, and have

Cont'd Page 11

A CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT Cont'd from Page 10

witnessed, the call of the wild. They will stand and remain stock still, no matter what the temperature or wind chill, and listen more.

Those are the people who understand that this day, this week, will be one of the greatest chapters ever written in a very special book of Tennessee's rich wildlife legacy.

And they will stand proud, as do these magnificent animals.

Photos By Richard Simms



PHILLIP FULMER LENDS HIS VOICE TO TWF

By Bob Hodge—freelance contributor

It's almost fall and for the first time since he was in the sixth grade Phillip Fulmer has time on his hands.

He decided that he's going to fill it the way a lot of people in East Tennessee do: Some days he will pick up his shotgun, some days a rifle and some days a fishing rod. This year he will see the leaves change up close and personal, not just driving down the interstate or from 30,000 feet in an airplane.

Tennessee hunters can expect to be seeing a lot of the former Tennessee football coach in the weeks and months ahead as he takes on the role of sportsman and spokesman for the Tennessee Wildlife Federation and the Hunters For the Hungry Program.

"When I was growing up in Winchester we had some land on the edge of town and I would love to find some time to get out just by myself with my 410," Fulmer said before taping some TV

spots for the TWF. "I didn't have a lot of time because I was always so busy with athletics, I just loved getting away and being outside."

Fulmer admits he didn't often come home with an overflowing game bag. A three spot athlete in high school, any chance to learn the finer points of hunting quail—which were once plentiful around Winchester—or rabbits or squirrels was by passed to learn the finer points of blocking and tackling.

It wasn't until he got to Wichita State as a 22 year old assistant football coach that hunting became something more than a way to kill a few hours in the fall.

"That's where I developed a passion for bird hunting," he said. "There's a lot of quail in the southeastern part of Kansas and if you go southwest you get into pheasant."

"Ever since then I've found time to bird hunt."

Fulmer ended up working with TWF after

a conversation the organization's Chad Whittenburg had with him and broadcaster Doug Mathews. Whittenburg told Mathews he was looking for a spokesman, one coach recommended the other and Fulmer didn't hesitate to lend his name to not only the Hunter's For the Hungry Program, but one of the state's oldest conservation organizations.

"I called him and he said he would be glad to do it," Whittenburg said. "He said he wanted to give something back to the state of Tennessee."

Fulmer knows what he likes in the outdoors and what he doesn't like.

A trout fisherman, he'll take the trail waters around East Tennessee over the out of the way streams and creeks of the Smokies. As a hunter he got a taste of turkey hunting this past spring with another former Vol head coach, Bill Battle, and shot two on a hunt near Demopolis, Ala. He had an invitation to go on an elk hunt out West where a big bull was all but guaranteed, but he's looking for something more challenging

So Fulmer likes to hunt, his fall is free and some investment work and television commentary have replaced trips to Gainesville and Tuscaloosa on his calendar. With the only pressure most hunters face being whether or not they make the next shot, will Fulmer realize there's more to fall than just football?

Not likely..

"The closer it gets to fall the more excited about coaching I am," he said. "If you have a passion for coaching and the opportunity presents itself at the right school with a good tradition...it will be a big decision to make. But I've talked it over with Vicky and my family and I think I will coach again."

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CORA Meeting Minutes cont'd

help with the raffle. Randall Fraley won the muzzleloader. The gun only cost CORA \$300 thanks to an excellent deal from the Sports Shop. Our only other cost was \$40 for tickets.

Many thanks to Bill Bruce and Leonard Hooks for their outstanding efforts again this year; their 22nd consecutive year with this event. Thanks to Mike Barnes for his assistance with cooking. Thanks to Melvin Boshears for his monetary donation to the pig roast. Mitzi Ivey will draft a letter of thanks to go out to Melvin Boshears, Anne Smith, and the Sports Shop.

We did experience a limited amount of people eating or taking carry-out food without paying and some overreaching the definition of what would normally be called a reasonable meal for a reasonable price. CORA will look into various ways of minimizing this behavior such as start and end times for the BBQ and possibly tickets.

Elk Camp and Elk Hunt. Terry Lewis reported on planning activities. We still need volunteers to assist, particularly during weekdays, with cooking, serving, parking, and other tasks. Mike McAfee and Mitzi Ivey volunteered to work the information booth at the Saturday event from 4:00-10:00PM.

New Business

Kiosk Information. CORA has a 2 ft. by 2 ft. space at the informational kiosk at Hatfield. Terry Lewis asked for input as to what information should be written up on CORA to be included. After some useful input was received from the Board, Lewis and McAfee

will draft the text.

The meeting adjourned.

Submitted by:
Mike McAfee
CORA Secretary

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

Fox retires after 37 years with TWRA

From Submitted Reports

NASHVILLE — Sevier County native Ron Fox has retired as assistant executive director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

His retirement was effective Sept. 30 and ends a 37-year tenure with TWRA.

Fox moved into his current position in 1986. He was responsible for the coordination of field activities, including all wildlife activities of the four TWRA regional offices and the central office programs pertaining to wildlife management, fisheries management, law enforcement and environmental services.

A native of Sevier County, he served as TWRA chief of wildlife from 1979-86 prior to becoming assistant executive director. He also was a TWRA wildlife management supervisor from 1975-79.

He joined the then Tennessee Fish and Game Commission in 1972 as a wetlands and waterfowl biologist.



Submitted

TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter presents a plaque to Ron Fox in recognition of his 37 years of service to the agency.

Fox is a double graduate of the University of Tennessee, receiving his B.S. degree in forestry and wildlife and his master's in wildlife management.

CORA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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IN GOD WE TRUST

PROUD TO BE AN
AMERICAN



**Meetings 1st Tuesday
of every month
Jacksboro Courthouse**

Presidents Letter cont'd from page 1

ask? Well, that is very much a personal question. Just how much can one person sacrifice to the betterment of others? Each of us has exactly the same amount of time each day. We have just 24 hours in a day, no more and no less. What you do with that time is the big question. Some people are just specially committed to giving to ideals they strongly believe in. Take Lee Asbury, CORA's founder and past President, who worked tirelessly for the causes he believed in, such as the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area. Lee served as CORA's President for 20 years. A man with a huge personal commitments as Criminal Court Judge, a businessman, a working farmer, and a full time father to a wonderful family. Lee found time to serve on the Board of Directors of the former Tennessee Conservation League (now the Tennessee Wildlife Federation) for over 10 years and still found time to provide the vision and guidance that resulted in the very principles that CORA lives by today. This man gave so much and as a result it's easy to see his fingerprints on so many successful conservation accomplishments that benefit the public.

Many others volunteer their time for the

good of others, like Jerry Stout who serves on CORA's Board and as the Chairman of the Royal Blue RMEF Chapter. Jerry has given over 35 years of his time to volunteer as a hunter education instructor and has impacted hundreds of our young people who learned to become hunters themselves. Ray Ivey serves on our Board and also finds time to serve as the local NWTF Chapter Chairman. Ray's wife Mitzi Ivey, a tireless volunteer, gives much to CORA by way of its Publicity Chairperson. Mitzi also serves on the Tennessee State Board of Directors for the NWTF. CORA is blessed with so many great and active volunteers.

I am very proud of the volunteer efforts of CORA's members. CORA's members give back much to the interests and betterment of the public. As Lee Asbury led by example with his volunteerism, I too give of myself and strive to lead by example. I have the great honor to serve as CORA's current President, as CORA's newsletter editor for the last 15 years, and as Lee once did, I too serve on the TCL/TWF Board of Directors. I also serve on the Royal Blue Chapter of the RMEF, on the Knoxville

Chapter of the NWTF, as the TWRA's area volunteer coordinator, and as the Hatfield Knob Wildlife Viewing Area creator and caretaker. I volunteer my time to host CORA's disabled turkey hunts and I find time to serve on the Knox County Sheriff's Merit Council. I have no more or any less time than any of you.

I challenge each of you to reflect back on your own volunteer efforts. Could you do a little more for the benefit of our outdoor recreational opportunities? I challenge each of you to reach down and like Lee Asbury find those priority areas where you can make the difference for the future generations who follow us. You can make a difference, you can make an impact.

Let's all devote more time and commit ourselves to being a better Tennessee Volunteer. In the end when God calls us home we will be remembered only by the footprints of volunteerism we left behind.