

CORA



CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Promoting Outdoor Recreation



CORA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Terry Lewis– CORA President



20th Anniversary of CORA's Wounded Warrior Turkey Hunt.

I thought I would share with you all this month about the inner workings of putting on the Wounded Warrior Disabled Turkey Hunt. Let me share the many different organizations that partner with CORA to make the event

successful. The Pine Mountain Chapter of the NWTF, Royal Blue Chapter of the RMEF, TWRA, Campbell County Sheriff's Office, Campbell County Road Superintendent, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, and others. Several weeks in advance, donations are collected from local individual's and businesses to fund this special annual event.

We have certainly learned a lot about putting on events over the last 20 years. It all started back in 2004 with our first hunt event. We had 11 disabled participants some of which were wheelchair bound. Those 11 hunters harvested 7 turkeys in a one-day hunt. Of course, it rained

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NEWS FROM THE NORTH CUMBERLAND

Keith Thomas - Area Manager

It has been an eventful year thus far on the Wildlife Management Area (WMA). We spend most of the colder months trapping hogs, conducting maintenance on all our equipment, and planning for the upcoming year. There have also been a few new additions to our staff. The new Elk Coordinator position was filled by Dr. Garrett Clevinger, who previously held the position of Statewide Deer Coordinator for the Agency. He has a strong background with cervids, and I feel he will be a great addition to the WMA and do great things to improve our elk herd. Another strong addition to the WMA and Region 4 is Jeffrey Collins-Key who will serve as one of our Forestry Managers. Jeffrey transferred to the Agency from the Tennessee Division of Forestry and has several years of experience in his field and a great working knowledge of how silviculture can play a vital role in wildlife management.

Wrapping up the 23'-24' deer season, a total of 336 deer were harvested on the WMA, which is slightly down from the 371 harvested the previous year. These fluctuations in harvest are normal and as a staff we feel our deer herd is doing well. We are still receiving positive feedback from hunters regarding the antler restriction on the Ed Carter Unit. Statistics show that during this past deer season 49 antler deer were harvested from that unit and 94% of those antlered deer were 7 or 8 points or greater.



The 2024 turkey season started off strong and we are well on pace to match or exceed last years harvest. As a staff we are seeing and hearing lots of turkeys and have had several positive interactions with both resident and non-resident hunters. The North Cumberland WMA has become a popular turkey hunting destination over the last several years, and we feel our population here is stable. We have focused a lot of our management on creating early successional habitat which can provide much needed nesting and brooding habitat, as well as escape cover from predators.

The last thing I want to mention is the new alcohol regulation that was placed statewide on all Wildlife Management Areas. Effective April 15, 2024, the use and possession of alcohol is prohibited on all WMAs. The primary objective of this regulation is ultimately safety, as well as making our WMAs more family friendly. We have received numerous questions about the regulation as it applies here on the North Cumberland WMA. Most questions are related to the two exceptions of the regulation which are maintained and designated

campgrounds, as well as public waterways bordering or contained in a WMA. Neither of these exceptions apply to the North Cumberland WMA. This means once a user crosses the jurisdictional boundary of the WMA, they can be subject to the regulation. After a month of the regulation being in place, we have issued several citations, however most users encountered in the field are abiding by the regulation and support the new law. Memorial Day is right around the corner, and usually that means the riding will start to pick up and move into the busy season. With that being said, I would like to remind all riders that any passenger, occupant, or operator under the age of 18 is required to wear a helmet, and every vehicle is required to have at least one license and/or permit to legally ride on the Management Area. For more information about our Off-Highway Vehicle program please visit <https://www.tn.gov/twra/gis-maps/north-cumberland-ohv-riding-area.html>, or use the QR code below, or call OHV Manager Rusty Dunn @ (423)-562-2013.

Thank you and please be safe.



CORA MEETINGS SUMMARIES

CORA Meeting Minutes

Highlights

Newsletter space does not permit full minutes. Abbreviated meeting points are contained herein.

December 5, 2023:

10 deliveries had been taken for Hunters for the Hungry. 3,532 pounds of meat, enough for approximately 13,000 meals had been donated. CORA board voted to contribute \$1,000 to Hunters for the Hungry. TWRA WMA Coordinator Joe Elkins discussed two elk poaching cases: Dutch Valley and on the North Cumberland. There was discussion of the Off Highway Vehicle Revision fee, with the item being tabled currently by TWRA. A UT professor has been hired to study the human dimensions and other aspects of OHV usage on the WMA. Sheriff Wayne Barton spoke to his departments coming initiative on educating riders and marking legal routes of travel for OHV users. John Mike from TWRA discussed the trail used to access the Ed Carter Unit from Powell Valley. The trail does not involve TWRA property but does involve illegal access through state park property.

January 2, 2024:

TWRA Wildlife Officer Darrell

England gave a report on a recent spate of elk poaching incidents on the North Cumberland WMA. NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas gave an update on the new elk program manager Garrett Clevinger and new OHV Enforcement Officer Stone Payne. Thomas also spoke about the new digital trails mapping system and the possibility of an alcohol ban for WMAs statewide if passed by the legislature. Thomas reported on the deer harvest and the overwhelming public support for the antler restriction on the Ed Carter/Tackett Creek Unit. Campbell County Litter Control Officer Glennis Monday gave an overview of the OHV signage being placed around Campbell County. Two types of signs will be placed: NO OHV ALLOWED or NO OHV ALLOWED AFTER DARK.

February 6, 2024:

The OHV user survey was detailed by NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas. UT expects to complete 500 surveys. Glennis Monday provided a detailed overview of legal OHV routes in Campbell County. Mark J. Tidwell gave a report on updating the CORA website and getting it up and running. The CORA board voted to try a 3-year hosting plan. Chairman Bill Stanley spoke about observing the recent elk-capture-by-helicopter on the North Cumberland. Area Manager Thomas talked about the study and the elk herd in

general. Due to mortality and reproductive issues, the growth of the elk herd remains minimal on an annual basis. The census is around 450 elk. 19 elk tags are set for the next hunting season.

March 5, 2024:

meeting cancelled.

April 2, 2024:

North Cumberland WMA Manager Keith Thomas gave updates on elk poaching cases. One case is deemed solid and is proceeding through the court system. Evidence has surfaced in another case and the investigation is ongoing. The alcohol ban has passed statewide on WMAs with an effective start date and enforcement measures to follow. Garrett Clevinger, the new elk program coordinator introduced himself and gave some background on his work. He wants to continue on the foundation of elk management built by Brad Miller, concentrating on habitat work and better understanding population dynamics. 19 cows were recently captured, with all being pregnant. This is part of the continuing multi-faceted studies. The upcoming 20th Wounded Warrior Hunt, set for April 27th, was discussed. TWRA Director Jason Maxedon will be the keynote speaker and will guide a hunter. Ron Lambert spoke about The

CORA MEETINGS SUMMARIES Cont'd

Nature Conservancy's easement in Tennessee and Kentucky. 58,000 acres in KY will soon be managed in a similar manner to the Ed Carter/Tackett Creek's 44,000 acres. Bill Stanley gave a report on Postmark LaFollette's project to recognize five historic sites in Campbell County. They will all feature elk motif signage and kiosks.

May 7, 2024:

Sheila Westray discussed in the trails report the impassability of Trail 19. Trail 13 was also noted as being in very bad condition. Ed Carter/Tackett Creek Unit Manager Brenden Marlow discussed 4 elk poaching cases, with one being adjudicated and three remaining open. Recent enforcement efforts for the alcohol ban, taking effect in April, were highlighted on the Ed Carter Unit. Glennis Monday spoke about recent litter control efforts. He had a list of groups and volunteers to thank. Sheriff Barton discussed the continuing effort to place signage around Campbell County pertaining to OHV routes.

He noted the department had been receiving less complaints. Sheriff Barton credits this to education efforts aimed at the riding public concerning current OHV laws. The map of roads approved for use in the county is being updated to actually match the routes approved by the Tennessee legislature. The 20th annual Wounded Warrior Hunt was discussed with the event being considered an outstanding success. Six birds were taken out of 20 participating hunters. The Jellico Honor Guard was applauded for its superlative contribution to the event. The Campbell County Sheriff's Department and TWRA's Cast Iron Cookies were also recognized for their efforts. The CORA website was discussed with the board voting to enter into a hosting plan to get it up and running. Chairman Bill Stanley spoke about the upcoming CORA BBQ. It is scheduled for October 5, 2024 at Shelter 5 in Cove Lake State Park.



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Area cleanups on April 27th, 2024. Thanks to everyone involved; 80 volunteers and several organizations! Photos courtesy of Jason Vanover of the Jeep group Flex Rocks and Rollovers and Glennis Monday of Campbell County Litter Control!



CORA PRESIDENT'S LETTER Cont'd



L-R: Terry Lewis, Ron and Terry Cunningham, TWRA Director Jason Maxedon.

sideways all day and that made for a difficult but productive day. Let me share with you about all the things that must happen to make a hunt event enjoyable for both the hunters and for the guides and volunteers who make the event work. Each hunt event is limited to a max of 26 hunters and the 26 guides. There are approximately 40 to 50 volunteers that work tirelessly for weeks to ensure everything works as it should. The volunteer ladies prepare the mornings hot breakfast that begins at 4 am. Volunteers have been up all night cooking the BBQ butts along with lots of other tasty treats like bacon wrapped quail poppers and fried bologna. Earlier in the week a large 30 x 50 tent was erected with tables and with enough chairs, to seat 150 people. Large, camo, 4-man tent blinds are erected on 26 individual food plots that the hunters and their guides will hunt from all day on Saturday.

The event begins Saturday morning at 3:30 am with the hunters and guides arriving in a long

string of vehicles coming down the gravel road to the Hickory Creek Farm. The Campbell County Sheriff Wayne Barton has directed several deputies to be on hand to help with the traffic control. Three volunteers are stationed at the entrance of the farm to separate the arrival of those who will be hunting on the Hickory Creek farm and those who will be leaving to hunt the adjacent Cunningham farm a couple of miles away near Harkersham. The vehicles must be separated so those leaving are not blocked in with vehicles that will be parked all day.

Once the participants are parked, they make their way to the check-in station where they will be signed in and issued a name tag and introduced to their guide for the day. Each hunter has a guide assigned to them for the entire day. The guide will oversee his individual hunter and is responsible for placing the decoys, calling and most important, the fire-

arm. Making sure that the weapon is not loaded until they are securely set up in their blind and then again unloaded when the hunt has concluded. Safety is the most important job. The guide will help the hunter into the blind and out if nature calls during the day.

Once the hunters and guides have signed in and had their breakfast the hunt host calls everyone together and informs them of the rules for the day, the schedules and then separates the 13 hunter teams who are leaving for the Cunningham farm and those 13 teams who will be hunting the Hickory creek farm. 5 Polaris Ranger 6-seater side-by-sides with drivers, take the first of the hunt teams up on the mountain to their individual food plots and then returns to pick up the next set of hunter/guides and on to their respective blinds. This continues until the last of the hunters have been taken to their blinds.

Then the hunt and the wait begins. All the volunteers relax as the hunters are all out. So, while volunteers wait to hear any birds gobbling or any gun shots, the final preparation begins for the afternoon's activities. The middle of the morning the TWRA's "Cast Iron Cookers" begin to arrive and start to cook up their special desserts. TWRA has participated in the event for the last 10 or more years. Volunteers prepare the lunch items in preparation for the afternoon's feast.

The hunt concludes at 2:00PM when the hunters and guides are

CORA PRESIDENT'S LETTER Cont'd

RECIPE

returned to the Hickory Creek farm for the afternoon's activities. Once all hunters are back, the Jellico Honor Guard presents the flag ceremony complete with a 21-gun salute. The prayer is given by Brian Brown and lunch is served to all those who have attended. Photos and pictures are taken. TWRA director Mr. Jason Maxedon provided the keynote speech during the lunch time hour and answered several questions from the crowd about the Tennessee hunting and fishing rules and regulations. The Director also served as a guide for one of the disabled hunters along with North Cumberland WMA Manager Keith Thomas who also served as a guide. Once the lunch activities concluded, the hunters are gathered up for a turkey shoot at paper targets. The hunter with the most pellets in the target wins a brand new muzzleloader.

This hunt resulted in a harvest of 6 gobblers and 3 missed shots. Not a bad hunt for hunters that are disabled and some in wheelchairs.

At the conclusion of the afternoon's event, volunteers remove the tables and chairs, the large tent is taken down, banners and stages are removed and the clean-up begins. It has taken literally months of preparation for this one single day of excitement and adventure for these wounded warriors. It gives us great pleasure to give back to those men and women who have given so much of themselves, so that we might all be free.

Grilled Pork Chops with

Honey Garlic Glaze

A simply glaze, made of sticky-sweet honey, savory soy sauce, and fresh garlic, drenches each perfectly grilled pork chop in this recipe from Chef Ludo Lefebvre. For the most evenly cooked pork, with delicious char and grill marks, Lefebvre instructs flipping the pork frequently over high heat for the first several minutes of cooking, and then finishing the meat on lower heat.

Ingredients

- 1 1/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup soy sauce
- 8 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 6 14-ounce pork chops
- Kosher salt

Directions

Step 1 Bring honey, soy sauce, and garlic to a boil in a saucepan and reduce to simmer for 5 minutes, until the garlic is cooked. Remove from heat and whisk in black pepper. Reserve.

Step 2 Lightly season pork chops with salt.

Step 3 Heat grill to 450° and season the pork chops with salt on each side. Sear pork chops on each side, turning frequently to develop a crust on all surfaces, about 7 minutes total. Lower the heat and cook through, continuing to turn, about 15 to 20 minutes more, until they are cooked through and reach an internal temperature of 145°. Brush the pork chops with the honey garlic glaze, and serve with additional glaze



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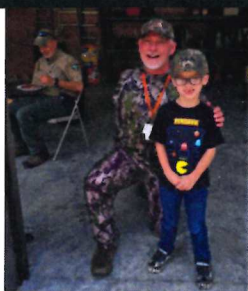


Jellico Honor Guard at 20th Annual Wounded Warrior Hunt.

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Harry Burden



TWRA Director Jason Maxedon and future sportsman Eli Headings.



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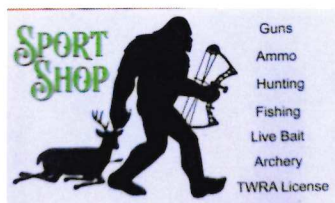
Jellico Honor Guard at the 20th Annual Wounded Warrior Hunt.



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Ed Carter Manager Brenden Marlow and Fred Jordan at CORA meeting.

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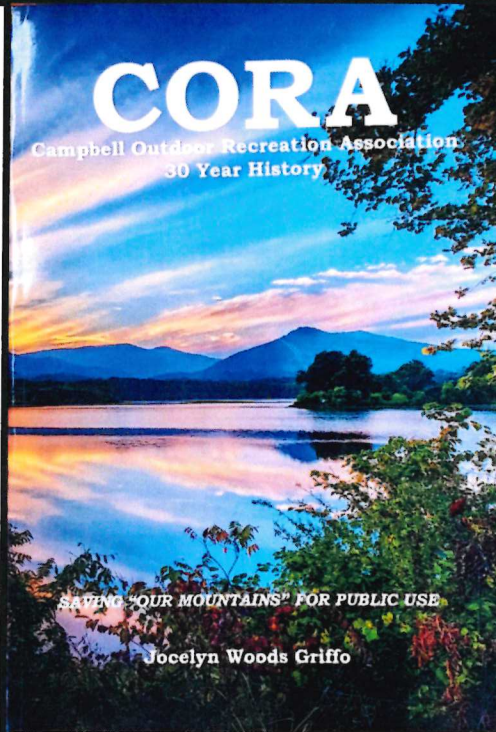
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Landscape Highlight

Mark J. Tidwell

Who doesn't love to cast their eyes upon a scenic landscape? I think one of humanity's most basic pleasures is to look upon nature's majesty! We are blessed here in our hills and hollows with some of nature's very finest handiwork. While driving at highway speeds through Campbell County, one can enjoy

spectacular views from atop Interstate 75. With the panorama of Elk Valley to the west and Stinking Creek to the East, and the crest of Pine Mountain beneath your vehicle's wheels for 16 miles, sojourners couldn't ask for better sightseeing. We have a vintage 1968 newspaper here at Jellico Public Library, where I work, that lauded the opening of this stretch of I-75 as "America's Most Scenic

Highway" from Jellico to Caryville.

Driving up Powell Valley is another treat to the eyes of humans. Paralleling Cumberland Mountain from the perspective of the farm country below is quite spectacular. One of my favorite times to drive through there is when the top of Cumberland Mountain is enshrouded in fog, with wispy tentacles of moisture spilling over the top



Fog over Powell's Valley in the early morning. Abstract

The Albert R. Crandall photographs, circa 1883-1890, contain 45 mounted images of UK faculty, the geological survey of 1885, and other photographs. Courtesy of exploreuk.uky.edu

Landscape Highlight.....Cont'd

and reaching down into the valley. I often wonder what the original inhabitants of our area thought about such things at a time when everything was still in its most natural state, before the coming of our present civilization and the altering of the landscape.

One of the most popular views one sees on social media nowadays is looking off of some of Cumberland Mountain's rocky outcroppings. A person can see for miles on a clear day, with Norris Lake in the distance. Weather photos can be dramatic with storms approaching or with jagged lightning strikes captured by fast camera lenses. We tend to take this all in from our perspective of today's modern life. But how many before us marveled at such sights without the benefit of ever knowing a cell phone would exist one day? Or how will the generations that come after us interact with such vistas in the future?

The earliest photo I have ever seen looking into Powell Valley was taken between 1883 and 1890 by a fellow named Albert Rogers Crandall. For ten years he worked with the Kentucky Geological Survey. This highly educated Harvard graduate was a veteran of the Civil War and a hardy ex-

plorer of many areas of our country throughout his lifetime. He lived from 1840 to 1926, being born in New York, and dying in Wisconsin, after a long and storied academic career.

The geological expeditions through Kentucky and penetrating into Tennessee must have been something. He seemed particularly fascinated by the area where I live, Highcliff, up on the northern end of Campbell County, bordering Whitley County, Ky. They documented "the breaks of the Clear Fork River" where it eroded down through the crest of Pine Mountain, and oddly, for a river, set a course due north, into Kentucky, to make confluence with the Cumberland River. It's quite fascinating how all the water from our area eventually enters the Mississippi drainage and flows to the Gulf of Mexico. The limestone and Pottsville sandstone cliffs of Highcliff were photographed by Crandall and his geological crew.

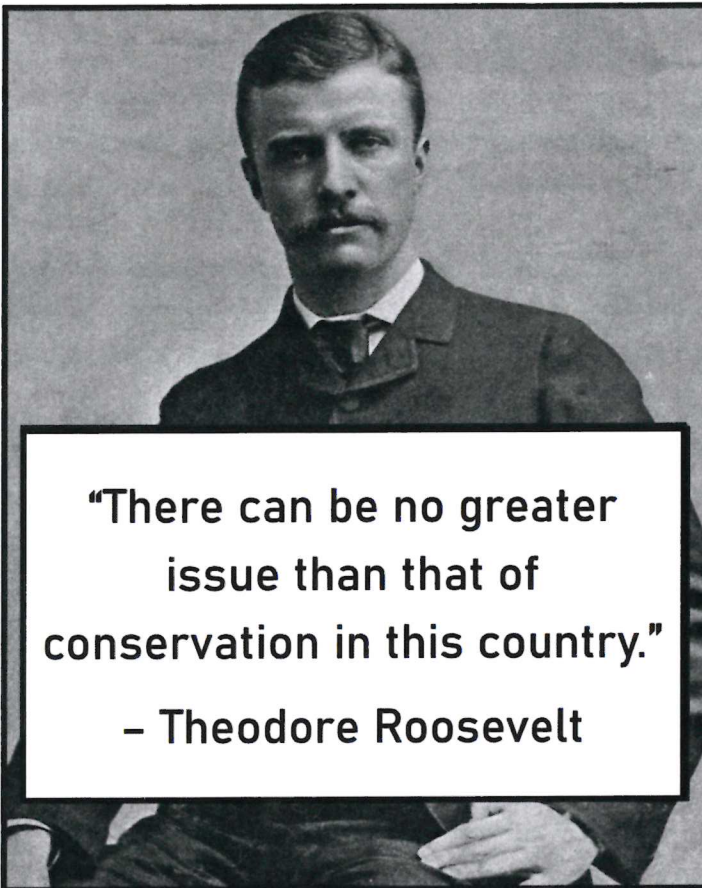
Venturing on to Cumberland Mountain, Crandall captured one really cool photo from a pinnacle overlooking Powell Valley. The fog can be seen enveloping the terrain in magical fashion. What a photograph considering the technology of the day! What an adven-

ture it must have been riding horses into that country, with a pack train of mules in tow with all the expeditions equipment, to arise after a good night's sleep in the wilderness and behold such a view!

The allure of such similar, charming, thought-provoking views brings many visitors to our area today. Such a sight is simply just good for the soul. We must be conscious though that we are not the first to view such royalty of landscape. As the present-day partakers of such views, and stewards of the land, we must all be at work in the continuity of passing it down through the generations to come.



Albert Rogers Crandall



"There can be no greater issue than that of conservation in this country."

– Theodore Roosevelt



**Meetings 1st Tuesday of
every month Jacksboro
Courthouse 7:00 pm**



**IN GOD WE TRUST
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AMERICAN**

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