

CORA



Promoting Outdoor Recreation

CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT Terry Lewis

OHV Changes and Challenges

CORA has long been the strongest advocate for multiple use on the North Cumberland. I can remember back in the early days around the late 70's and early 80's when there were few users who were mostly locals. Hunting was historically the major use of the area.

I became acquainted with the Royal Blue property in 1978 when I rode my dirt bike out into the vast wilderness. The property was simply wild and full of adventure for those who braved the 800 some miles of trails. Myself and a couple of buddies would ride our Honda dirt bikes every weekend and would cover some 75 miles per ride on a normal day out in the big woods. So, I can speak with some amount of historical reference on this subject of trails and the evolution of the amount of use of those trails.

In the early days the trails were not maintained at all. I rode the endless miles of trails many times over. We knew each and every mud hole. We could ride for hours and hours and would only see a couple of people on any given weekend. It felt that we practically had the place to ourselves. At the exit 144 there were no buildings, no gas stations, simply nothing at this interstate interchange. Only pine trees along the narrow gravel road leading into the Flatwoods.

When CORA acquired the property in 1987 members patrolled the trails each weekend and monitored the use closely. At each CORA meeting, the trails were a major topic of discussion. Fast forward to around 1991 when TWRA assumed control of the property, the trail system use had increased substantially. When TWRA established the first parking lot out in the flat woods, CORA members would monitor the increasing amount of vehicles parked in the lot. The discussions always went to the increasing number of out of state license plates.

Today the amount of impact to the trail system is staggering. Its over whelming. It's like a swarm of yellow jackets. OHV users are everywhere. The consistent use of the trails has caused tremendous challenges to the maintenance of these trails. Machines have grown in horsepower, which has allowed them to use taller tires, which in turn, causes larger mud holes and deeper ruts. Normal machines with normal size tires have challenges to simply use the same trails. TWRA does an adequate job of maintaining the trails with the funding that they receive from TDEC grants and user fees. However, the heavy use overshadows the ability to maintain given the frequency of the heavy rains we have been blessed with over the last few years.

Additionally, another challenge is the
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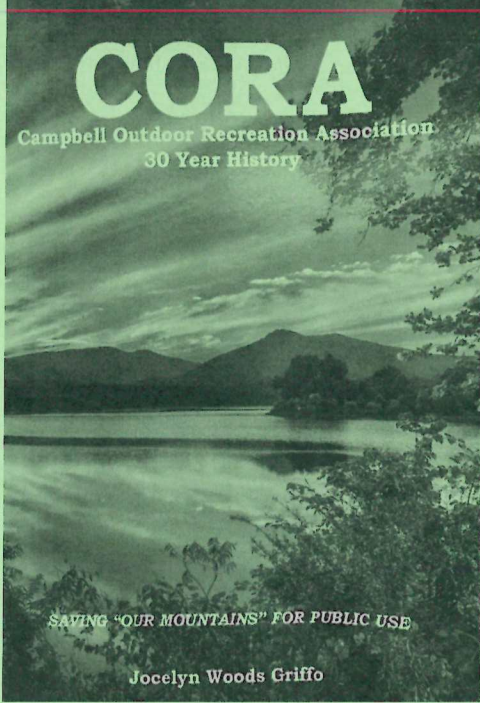
PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONT'D

level of OHV use has created is the conflict with other users who have just as much right to use the North Cumberland as any other users. Hunters were here long before OHV use, are feeling the impact of the unbelievable amount of OHV use. The conflict is all the traffic and noise level which takes away from the quiet nature of the hunter's world. Now granted hunters use their own OHV machines to get to and from their special spot in the big woods and to get their game harvest out of the woods.

TWRA has proposed some common sense changes to some parts of the North Cumberland's trail system. The proposal attempts to create a more satisfying outdoor experience for hunters on the west side of the area. Closing ends of certain trails to create a one way in and one way out or dead end trail will help to limit the pass thru traffic in these certain areas which should help to improve the hunters experience. Less traffic means less noise and disruption for the game animals and the hunters who pursue them.

Reasonable regulation is reasonable. There are plenty of trails remaining to be ridden by the OHV users. CORA has always advocated the Multiple Use concept where everyone can enjoy their special interest as long as it doesn't impact the special interest of others.

Since 1939 state fish and wildlife agencies have received over \$65.1 Billion from Sportsmen and Sportswomen



CORA HAS AVAILABLE

CORA 30 YEAR HISTORY BOOKS FOR SALE

SAVING "OUR MOUNTAINS" FOR PUBLIC USE

\$20.00 EA (Covers Postage)

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865-414-5550
OR
TERRY LEWIS
865-414-0057**

RECIPES

Apple Stack Cake

- 16 ounces dried chopped apples
- 5 cups water
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 teaspoons apple pie spice
- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 6 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- Confectioners' sugar, optional

Directions

Place apples and water in a 6-qt. stockpot; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; simmer, uncovered, 40-45 minutes or until apples are softened, stirring occasionally. Mash into a chunky sauce. Stir in brown sugar and pie spice; simmer, uncovered, 10-15 minutes longer or until liquid is absorbed and sauce is thickened. Cool completely.

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Add eggs, one at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in vanilla. In another bowl, whisk flour, baking powder and baking soda; add to creamed mixture alternately with buttermilk, beating well after each addition.

Divide dough into eight portions; shape each into a disk. Cut out eight 9-in. circles of parchment paper. With a floured rolling pin, roll out a dough disk to fit each parchment circle. Transfer to baking sheets. Bake 10-12 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool completely.

CORA Meeting Minutes

CORA Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2019

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

Terry Lewis opened the meeting

Mike Trentham led invocation.

*Terry Lewis noted that Fred Jordan (TWRA) who was involved in a serious ATV accident in September was present at the meeting, to the joy of all in attendance.

The Secretary took the Board's roll call. Those present were: Terry Lewis, Bill Stanley, Tommy Overton, Jimmy Jeffries, Greg Leach, E. L. Morton, Coy Crutchfield, Mark Tidwell, Ron Lawhorn, Andy Wallace, and Mike Trentham.

The September 2019 minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The Newsletter report was read and approved.

Publicity

The Nature Conservancy will hold a kickoff meeting at the Baker Center in Knoxville to formally announce the purchase of the Tackett Creek property. This will include a new video of the acquisition that will be broadcast on the TN Wildside show. TNC has also announced that they have acquired 150 thousand acres in Wise County VA.

During this report, E. L. Morton

nominated Robert Lambert of the TNC as a member of the CORA board. The nomination was approved by the board and Mr. Lambert welcomed to the organization.

Activities

Mike Trentham reminded the board of the upcoming CORA BBQ on October 19th; and assignments were delegated to members.

Newsletter

Terry reported that the new newsletter has been produced.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

No Report

Roads and Trails

No Report

Memberships

No Report.

Old Business

All of the Hatfield knob fields are mowed and reseeded and the viewing tower area is cleaned.

The new viewing tower engineering drawings are complete and a materials list and specification are in process of being completed.

Features include:

The areas and tower will be handicapped accessible
Development and construction are planned in two phases:

- I- tower construction
- 2-pathway and ramp construction

Terry is working with the designer for minor modifications.

The final drawings and specification will be forwarded to TWRA for approval.

TWRA Habitat Tour – several CORA members and other interested conservation organizations participated in the tour conducted by TWRA. Joe Elkins led the group on Sept 21 with area managers and project leads providing the content of the tour that featured several new and mature food plots that were funded in total or in part by conservation organizations.

Big Creek ATV Festival – CORA will share a booth with NWTF and RMEF for shirt and book sales. This will be the first event where we will begin selling the CORA history book.

New Business

A Treasurer is now needed for the Board.

Matt Simcox (TWF) presented a project for Hunters for the Hungry along with Jeb Beasley. The project is for including high school clubs to support the HFH program for prizes and recognition.

There was a motion made to adjourn, meeting adjourned.

TWRA Present:

Danny Aikens
T. J. Sexton
Joe Elkins

Upcoming events:

CORA BBQ – October 19, 2019

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NATURE CONSERVANCY PURCHASE IN CAMPBELL COUNTY

Nature Conservancy purchase means opportunity for Campbell County and Region. Last week I had the honor of attending a celebration at the University of Tennessee Howard Baker Center for Public Policy. It was a fitting site, considering Howard Baker was an advocate not only for the University, but also our region. Fittingly, many travel the highway named for him in Campbell and Scott Counties every day. This celebration was in honor of the Nature Conservancy's recent purchase of the Tackett Creek portion of the North Cumberland Wildlife Management Area. While locals know it as the Tackett Creek section, The Nature Conservancy, one of the world's largest, leading conservation agencies, calls it the Ataya tract.

Somebody bought Tackett Creek? Does that mean we can't hunt, fish, hike or ride there anymore? Those are the first two questions that come to mind for those of us who enjoy our mountains and trails. The answers to those questions are (1) Yes and (2) No. Thankfully- No.

That is the great news about this purchase. Up until now, this land was owned by a private landholder and available for the public through a lease by The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA). It was technically a Public Hunting Area (PHA) and access was allowed by purchase of a Hunting or Fishing license or a North Cumberland WMA permit. As well managed as TWRA is, coming up with the funds to buy Tackett Creek remained out of the budget and Tackett Creek remained for sale. That meant that there was always a possibility of losing public access. Then thankfully, in steps The Nature Conservancy. Now, public access is assured for the future. Having made this purchase, The Nature Conservancy committed to keep the land available for all the current uses offered today. Had another private business or group purchased the land, public access could have ended for all of us.

This is not the first time the Nature Conservancy has helped secure public access in Campbell County. They were part of the original purchase of 50,000 acres in the Royal Blue Section of the North Cumber-

land decades ago. That was the bold stroke that actually began to secure public, multi-use access for so much of these local mountain lands. The late Judge Lee Asbury led the creation of a local non-profit, The Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association (CORA), whose 30 year history is out in print this month. Thirty years ago, several long-term, large land leases between private companies and the state of Tennessee expired. As was the case with Tackett Creek/ATAYA, public access was at risk. CORA conducted a four year fund raiser and contributed \$250,000 to match state funds to assign, train, equip and support TWRA staff to begin trails maintenance, erosion control and habitat development in what became the state's largest WMA. The Nature Conservancy contributed then also. Multiple other agencies have contributed for many other efforts to improve and acquire additional land over time. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and National Wild Turkey Federation have also contributed in many ways. It has been a conservation victory for hikers, hunters, mountain bikers, bird and nature watchers, fisherman, campers, OHV trail riders, hundreds of wildlife species and water quality for our region.

Visitor numbers are growing and attracting business for the local area because of these efforts and investments. The 2018 economic impact estimates from state revenue offices say that 35% of Campbell County's \$61M annual tourism sales are produced by the North Cumberland WMA visitors. Now we can count on that resource being available for our future economic and outdoor recreation benefit.

Part of the plan to secure the entire North Cumberland for public use included revenues from timber harvests over the past 30 years. That plan came to a conclusion about two years ago, when the last timbering occurred under original plans. Forestry business remains part of the Nature Conservancy future plans to cover costs for land management and the conservation required to preserve and protect the land for our collective future.

This event was a hot topic at the October CORA Board meeting. CORA meets on the first Tuesday of the month at the Courthouse in Jacksboro at 7pm and the public is always invited. My fellow CORA Board members Mark Tidwell from The Jellico Library and Ronald Lambert from the Clinch Powell Resource Council also attended the event at UT on behalf of CORA President Terry Lewis. We met Senator Bill Frist and his wife Tracy, whom each serve The Nature Conservancy in Tennessee and worldwide. TWRA Director Ed Carter, whom was deeply involved in creating the North Cumberland, Elk Restoration and the ATAYA purchase also attended. Mr. Carter and The Frists are now proud owners of a copy of the CORA 30 year printed history. They each pledged continued support for the ATAYA purchase and the future benefits it can provide to our people, economy and even as another healthy tool to enhance health and combat dependency and addiction. The Frists, Mr. Carter and many others spoke about the powerful opportunities we can all look forward to because of this purchase and I am very excited for the good things it means for Campbell County.

On the heels of the fifth annual Big Creek ATV Festival, I encourage everyone to enjoy our abundant and beautiful forests and trails this fall. It is one special gift that, with your help, can keep on giving. Consider volunteering with CORA, The Nature Conservancy, TWRA, The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, The National Wild Turkey Federation or Campbell County Litter Control (562-2526) today!

By: E. L. Morton



CORA Meeting Minutes Cont'd from Page 8

Terry Lewis opened the meeting.

Mike Trentham led invocation.

The Secretary took the Board's roll call. Those present were: Terry Lewis, Bill Stanley, Ron Dilbeck, E. L. Morton, Ron Lawhorn, Glen Massengill, Mark Tidwell, Jimmy Jeffries, Coy Crutchfield,

The December 2019 minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The Newsletter report was read and approved.

Publicity:

EL Morton reported that the November issue of the Nature Conservancy Magazine had a great article about the Tackett Creek land purchase. The article may also be read on line.

Activities

No Report.

Newsletter

Terry reported that the next issue is under development.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising

No Report

Roads and Trails

J. Jeffers reported that the west side trails are in good shape, especially in the current wet weather.

Memberships

No Report.

Old Business

Hunters for the Hungry – T. Lew-

is reported that we have had 11 pickups of meat, equaling 4,685 pounds or 18,750 meals.

General Fund – In response to the prior meeting discussion of a road block fundraiser, Jimmy Jeffers reported that the city of LaFollette is not allowing road blocks until bridge repairs are completed to limit impacts to already congested traffic flows. He estimates that this policy will be rescinded upon repair completion, which is expected to be in May.

ATAYA/ Tackett Creek ride – Terry Lewis and EL Morton reported that the ride has not occurred due to conflicting schedules and weather. They continue to work with the Claiborne County Mayor's office on this.

RJ Corman Property Update – EL Morton reported that RJ Corman has filed for abandonment of the property. TDOT will provide feedback with the railroad authority for options for future use. It is currently unknown if the property will revert to the original owners that ceded the property for the railroad right of way, or if the property may become available for purchase or acquisition by a state agency, if so desired.

Harry Burden Resolution – A draft resolution was read and approved.

Gun Bash – Tommy Overton reported that ticket sales are ongoing with a few left.

New Business

Mike Trentham tendered his resignation from the CORA board. After serving on the board for ten years, other commitments need to take priority. His resignation was accepted with thanks for his support

and service to our organization.

Elk Tower – Terry Lewis reported that the design plans are complete. He noted thanks to Robert Campbell & Associates for donating the professional services. The total cost of the tower is estimated to be \$110,000. The firm provided the design and specification as a donation of \$10,000. The tower will be a steel and concrete construction and will hold more people than the current one. TWRA is now reviewing the design package and will render comments and/or modifications

Elk Poaching – Terry Lewis reported that the Campbell County Sheriff's Department, with assistance from TWRA apprehended a suspect, who later confessed, for poaching an elk cow in early January. Special recognition was given to Brandon Marlow, County wildlife officer for leading the effort. CORA, in association with TEC, offered a \$2000 reward for information leading to the arrest of the guilty party. Two individuals provided information leading to the arrest. TWRA has offered to provide an additional \$2000 to ensure that both informants are rewarded. Terry noted that this is important since providing the reward sends a strong signal of CORA's commitment to protecting our wildlife and resources.

Gun Blast – the Gun Blast, held in January in partnership with the Pine Mountain Longbeards chapter of NWTF. Resulted in \$4760.00 added to the CORA account. CORA offers its thanks to this chapter for allowing us to participate. A resulting motion was made and approved to repay Terry Lewis the \$4000.00 that was loaned to CORA in 2019 for publication cost.

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Grant – Ron Lambert identified a potential grant opportunity that was considered as a possible funding source to offset some of the proposed Elk Viewing Tower construction cost. A review of the grant requirements indicated that CORA did not qualify for this grant. Specific issues were that we are not a 501.c.3 organization, and that the tower site is not on or adjacent to the Cherokee National Forest. Campbell County Schools – EL Morton reported that the school system is considering installing outdoor classrooms beginning with the Elk Valley STEM School.

TWRA Notes – Danny Aikens reported that TWRA is considering conducting a grouse survey. Joe Elkins also reported that the draft plan for roads and trails is not complete.

There was a motion made to adjourn, meeting adjourned.

TWRA Present:

Danny Aikens
Fred Jordan
Joe Elkins

Upcoming events:

RMEF East Tennessee Chapter Banquet – March 7
NWTF Pine Mountain Longbeards Banquet – March 14

Submitted By:

Bill Stanley
CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of June 3, 2020

The Board meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 PM, at the Ball Farm Event Center in Jacksboro,

TN. This was the first meeting since February due to the Covid 19 shut down of public meetings.

Terry Lewis opened the meeting

Ron Lambert led invocation.

The Secretary took the Board's roll call. Those present were: Terry Lewis, Bill Stanley, Ron Lawhorn, Glen Massengill, Mark Tidwell, Coy Crutchfield, Tommy Overton, and Ron Lambert.

The Feb 2020 minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The Newsletter report was read and approved.

Publicity:
No Report.

Activities
No Report.

Newsletter
Terry reported that the next issue is under development.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising
No Report

Roads and Trails
No Report.

Memberships
No Report.

Old Business
Hunters for the Hungry – T. Lewis reported our 2019 results:
State wide – 140,000 lbs. of meat
Locally – 4685 lbs. of meat which supplied 17,000 meals for Campbell County

ATAYA/ Tackett Creek ride – R. Lambert reported that the ride is currently delayed due to COVID and is anticipated to take place in late summer. He also reported it is currently illegal to ride the Kentucky portion of the property, but that negotiations are taking place with KY officials to rectify that status.

New Business

Elk Tower – Terry Lewis reported that the design plans are complete. He held a meeting with TWRA executives and TWF on the plans and future of Hatfield Knob. The plans have been approved with the trigger being keeping the overall cost of the project under \$100,000.00, to avoid onerous procurement thresholds. The current estimate is \$96,000. The new TWRA director, Bobby Wilson, indicates that progress will be slow, as they are considering ways to allocate and transfer the funds. Chris Richardson (TWRA) is in charge of the project.

Elk Poaching – The suspect has not come to trial yet due to the delay in court proceedings.

CORA BOARD – Bill Stanley nominated Scott Cornett, from the Royal Blue Rangers Riding Club, to join the CORA Board. A motion was made, seconded, and approved.

TWRA Trails Update – Joe Elkins presented the TWRA plan for trails usage and updates for the NCWMA. This briefing has been anticipated in light of increased usage of the trails over the past years and the need for reviewing and amending the rules and access to meet the challenges

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of increased wear and tear on the trails system, increased maintenance demands, and knowing that popularity of the trails system will continue to increase. Another important and mitigating factor is increased request from the hunting community to limit ATV/UTV usage as the current increase is impacting quality hunting opportunities on the WMA due to noise.

Mr. Elkins presented the Phase I plan which focuses on the section from I-75 to Norma Road. TWRA will identify primary access points and establish hunter access designations, and allow one way access (no multiple entrances). Illegal access points will be closed.

The program objective is to improve hunting and wildlife habitat. TWRA wants to restore order to the growth of users. Users need to respect the opportunity to use the trails and understand that OHV riding is only part of the WMA mission.

Mr. Elkins entertained a number of questions from the Board and attendees. The overall response was positive, realizing that establishing thoughtful limitations to meet differing needs from multiple users is necessary. Mr. Elkins provided an electronic copy of his presentation that is available at request from the CORA Board Secretary.

The CORA Board thanked Billy Ball for loaning the use of the Ball Farm Event Center for the meeting.

There was a motion made to adjourn, meeting adjourned.

TWRA Present:

- Danny Aikens
- Fred Jordan
- Joe Elkins
- TJ Sexton
- Rusty Dunn

Upcoming events:

Submitted By:

- Bill Stanley
- CORA Secretary

CORA Meeting Minutes of July 7, 2020

The Board meeting commenced at approximately 7:00 PM, at the Campbell County Courthouse upper courtroom in Jacksboro, TN. This was the first meeting since February due to the Covid 19 shut down of public meetings.

Terry Lewis opened the meeting

E. L. Morton led invocation.

The Secretary took the Board's roll call. Those present were: Terry Lewis, Bill Stanley, Ron Lawhorn, Mark Tidwell, Tommy Overton, E. L. Morton, Greg Leach, Ron

Dilbeck, and Scott Cornette

The June 2020 minutes were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was read and approved.

The Newsletter report was read and approved.

Publicity:
No Report.

Activities
No Report.

Newsletter
Terry reported that the next issue is under development.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising
No Report

Roads and Trails
No Report.

Memberships
July is the membership renewal month.

Board Election
The July meeting is also the annual meeting for election of board and officers for the next year. A motion was made and approved to re-elect the Board members and Officers.

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CORA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
3527 West Emory Rd., Powell, TN 37849

\$10.00 Yearly or \$100.00 Lifetime
865-414-0057 www.cora-tn.org

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