

CORA

TWENTY-FIFTH EDITION

JUNE, 2003



CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

Promoting Outdoor Recreation

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From The President

ORV Riding! Blessing or Curse?

by Lee Asbury

Sometime in the not too distant future every agency that controls the use of public lands must face and answer this question.

CORA has, from the start, believed in and stood for what we called a "multiple use" concept. We still believe that idea is viable and are proud of the record on the Royal Blue WMA, where the evidence indicates that hunters, nature lovers, riders and others if all are willing to act reasonably, can co-exist with a minimum of friction.

The problem arises from the fact that as ORV and ATV ownership and use rises steadily there is a corresponding rise in the number of outdoor areas where riding is prohibited, severely restricted, or only allowed on roads that are good enough to accommodate passenger cars.

Strangely, at least to me, TWRA, the agency administrating Royal Blue, is more concerned and sympathetic to ORV and ATV use than some public agencies such as parks, forestry, TVA, Corps of Engineers, national forests and parks, all of which have stronger statutory mandates regarding non hunting outdoor recreation that TWRA does.

Also strangely, at least to me, is the barrage of criticism directed at TWRA's Royal Blue area where + or - 400 miles of roads and trails are open to ATV use by groups who make no protest at all to other agencies controlling hundreds of thousands of acres where riding is prohibited or severely restricted.

My personal concern regarding Royal Blue is that as more and more areas prohibit recreational riding, overuse of Royal Blue will occur.

I would pose the following questions, to users and agencies controlling public lands.

1. Is ORV and ATV recreational riding a legitimate outdoor recreation?
2. If the answer to 1 is no, then should it be permitted anywhere?
3. If the answer to 1 is yes, why shouldn't public lands across the state be open?
4. What agencies have responsibility to address these questions?
5. Should any agency be allowed to spend trails money for the exclusive use of small groups to the exclusion of the public in general?

I've often heard that people who talk to themselves may be a little off and that people who answer themselves are crazy. I'm in that category.

Speaking for myself only.

The answer to question 1 should be yes.

The answer to question 3 is: that all publicly owned lands, subject to special situations and reasonable regulations should be open to legitimate outdoor recreation uses.

The answer to question 4 is: that every agency, owing or controlling public lands

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75,000 Acres of Woodland to be Public

Royal Blue, Frozen Head to be Linked

by Morgan Simmons,
 News-Sentinel staff writer August 3, 2002

Some 75,000 acres in Anderson, Scott and Campbell counties will remain a working forest available for outdoor recreation, thanks to a joint agreement between a private timber buyer and a nonprofit land trust.

Under the agreement announced Friday, The Conservation Fund purchased the surface rights to the 75,000 acres, while Renewable Resources, Inc., a private timber investment firm based in Massachusetts, purchased the timbering

rights to the acreage, which lies in two tracts.

The property cost about \$19 million — \$9.57 million from the Conservation Fund for the surface rights, and \$9.4 million from the Renewable Resources, Inc. for the timber rights.

The Conservation Fund will be reimbursed through a joint initiative among the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, the Doris Duke Charitable Foundation, The Nature Conservancy and The Cumberland Trail conference, along with funds from three federal grants.

The Conservation Fund will transfer its

interest in the 75,000 acres to the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, possible as a new wildlife management area to be established next to the existing Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area, which totals 50,000 acres.

The agreement calls for Renewable Resources, Inc. To manage the forestland under restrictive covenants that ensure environmentally sound timber management that will protect the ecosystem and provide economic benefits to the surrounding region.

Rex Boner, vice-president and Southeast Representative of the Conservation Fund, said the Conservation Fund had worked with Renewable Resources Inc. to develop a plan to ensure the land will be managed as a sustainable forest while maintaining the natural hardwood forest cover.

"We think this opens the door for private landowners to keep the forest as a working forest while at the same time protecting the ecosystem," Boner said.

Negotiations for the deal took over 18 months and included the Nature Conservancy, the Cumberland Trail Conference, the US Fish and Wildlife Service, and TWRA.

Gov. Don Sundquist, who took a specific interest in seeing that the acquisition went through, called the purchase the "first project of its kind in the country."

"It's the public that really benefits," Sundquist said. "It's about setting aside and protecting land and harvesting timber in a reasonable way. It's about allowing

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New Elk Release Highlights Dedication

Despite drenching rains, gusting winds and frigid temperatures, some 500 to 600 people turned out to watch Tennessee's latest herd of elk arrive at their new home in the Sundquist Wildlife Management Area on February 22.

The cold, soggy morning did nothing to deter the crowd from seeing a group of 20 elk, gathered from Kentucky's Land Between the Lakes, dart from the trailers that transported them and scamper into the woods of their new habitat. A group of 10 elk from the same herd were released the evening before in an area of the WMA east of Interstate 75.

Purchase of the land for the new Sundquist WMA, also known as the Cumberland Forest, was made possible by a number of partners from both the private and public sectors. The 74,000 acre site, formerly owned by the International Paper corporation, was obtained through the collective efforts of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), the Conservation Fund, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF), the Doris Duke Foundation, the Nature Conservancy, the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC).

The multi-million dollar price tag on the property was made feasible for the state through a legislative amendment to the Wetlands Acquisition Fund, donations from the aforementioned groups and an innovative deal with Renewable Resources Inc., a private timber investment company. The company will follow legal restrictions

designed to protect the forest habitat while still enhancing the economic conditions of the region through the harvesting of timber.

Former Governor Don Sundquist spoke at the dedication of the WMA bearing his name, along with representatives from the Nature Conservancy, the NWTF, the RMEF, the TDEC, the USFWS and the TWRA.

"Today is a day for celebrating the great things that can happen when the public and private sector work together to do good," Sundquist said in his speech at the event.

The release of elk into the area represents another success in the ongoing effort of the TWRA, assisted by the RMEF, to reintroduce the species in the

state. Saturday marked the first time these animals have been set free in the Cumberland Forest. This expanse of land, divided into two tracts lying partially in Scott, Anderson and Campbell counties, will provide ample habitat for the elk as well as the multitude of other wildlife species that populate the area.

"This acquisition also protects strategically important habitat for high priority migratory songbirds such as the cerulean and golden-winged warblers and other unique non-game and game species," said Gary Meyers, TWRA executive director.

Article taken from Shoptalk, February 2003.

Tennessee Hunter Pays Price for Killing Elk

A Tennessee man will have to pay a hefty fine, and lose his hunting privileges for illegally shooting an elk.

In October, 68-year old Billy Campbell of Jonesborough, Tennessee, killed an elk that had strayed onto the Oak Ridge Wildlife Management Area. Campbell said he thought it was a whitetail deer. He turned himself into authorities.

Oak Ridge WMA Manager Jim Evans Officers said Campbell showed great remorse in an appearance in Roane County court. The judge fined him \$1,240, including a \$1,000 civil penalty. He also revoked Campbell's hunting privileges for one year.

Wildlife officers say that Campbell admitted shooting the bull elk on

October 19 while on a regularly scheduled deer hunt on the Oak Ridge Wildlife Management Area in Roane County. In fact, they say he notified officers of what he'd done. "When it happened he sent his hunting partner back to checking station to report the incident while he stayed there with the animal," Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency Information Officer Dan Hicks said. "Apparently he saw a big rack and some brown and shot."

Hicks also said this bull is not the only elk on the Oak Ridge WMA. A cow and a calf were sighted by wildlife officers the same morning Campbell killed the bull.

Article taken from Shoptalk, February, 2003.

CORA Minutes

MINUTES OF JULY 2, 2002

The board meeting commenced at 7:05 pm at the Campbell County Court House, in Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly

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

Absence: Don Dilbeck, Pete Shelton, Perry Vinsant

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

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill reported all plots are doing well and he indicated he had seen many small chicks.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: No report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Perry Vinsant:

No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: Robert would like to remind all members that their annual dues are now due and new cards are available to renew their memberships

Review Old Business: President Asbury said he had certificates for the members who had completed the volunteer forest fire training course. Those training certificates can be picked up at Lee's office after the meeting tonight.

New Business: CORA's annual election of Corporate Officers and for Board of Directors was held tonight. Retiring from service to the Board was Perry Vinsant. CORA would like to thank Perry for his many years of service and dedication while serving on the Board of Directors and also as the newsletter distribution chairman. President Asbury asked for nominations for the officers and directors. Glen Massengill was nominated to serve as replacement for the retiring Director Vinsant. Chairman Burden called for a vote on re-election of existing officers. A vote was taken with all existing directors and officers along with Mr. Massengill were elected to serve another year of service.

Other items of concern were:

President Asbury discussed the Brimstone property that is located between New River and Highway 27. This tract is approx. 100,000 acres and is currently being looked at for acquisition by the Land Conservancy group along with TWRA and other interested parties for purchasing of the recreation surface rights to this property.

Secretary Lewis thanked the CORA organization for its \$1,000.00 donation to the Tennessee Conservation League.

Board Members reviewed a large number of pictures drawn by Campbell County Students depicting outdoor scenes and outdoor life. The Campbell County High School Art Director Georgiana Green presented many wonderful drawings by students in pencil, pen and ink as well as watercolors.

The award winning students submitting their art projects were Jessie Milford and Amber Williams. These talented high school art students have been awarded Best of Show and three first place ribbons in the State of Tennessee competition.

Treasurer Ray Wilson offered a motion to donate \$250.00 from the general fund to the Campbell County Art Department. The motion was seconded and the vote taken with the motion passing. A check was given to Mrs. Green for use in the future development of these great local talents.

Meeting dismissed 7:50 pm

MINUTES OF AUGUST 6, 2002

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

Invocation by Harry Burden

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

Absence: Lee Asbury, Leonard Hooks, and Jim Shetterly

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

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill reported all plots are doing well and he

indicated he had seen any abundance of wildlife in and around the plots

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: No report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill: No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report, however Hubert Rollins commented the trail through Jenny Gap was in terrible condition apparently from big trucks and jeeps.

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: Robert would like to remind all members present that their annual dues are now pass due and new cards are available to renew their memberships

Review Old Business: Danny Akins commented on the Champion/ International Paper Property acquisition. Most of the membership had read the News Sentinel article on the property purchased by the Land Conservancy groups and other interested parties.

New Business: Tony Heath with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation informed the group about the new banquet to help raise funds for the Elk Program. The Banquet is set for Sept 14th, 2002 at the Carlock Myers Party Barn. 5:30 to 7:00 pm Social Hour; 7:00 to 8:00 pm Dinner Hour and followed by the Auction. Tickets will be available for sale at the LaFollette Sports Shop and also at Lee Asbury's office.

Ticket cost;
\$15.00 for plate dinner and Silent Auction.

\$30.00 Membership (at least 1 per family is required)

Among the Prizes are a 700 Browning Rifle that's a \$1700.00 retail value, along with many other valuable prizes.

Raffle tickets will be available for sale at the event.

Local businessmen are encouraged to donate door prizes.

Galen Wiseman asked the board if CORA is having a pig roast this year; a small discussion was had on locations available for the event.

Harry Burden asked if anyone could contact the park about having the cookout. If possible we could reserve a

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spot and set a date for the cookout.

Harry will ask Lee Asbury to find out when and where we might hold the event this year. This issue is to be discussed again during the September meeting.

TWRA officer Mr. Danny Akins explained that TWRA would begin charging for OHV user fee for riding OHV. Permit user fees are only valid only for the existing Royal Blue WMA areas. If you have a valid hunting license with a small game area permit or a sportsman license you are not required to purchase an OHV user permit.

Signage, flyers and posters to explain the rules and regulations will soon be spread through out the area to help the public to understand the new regulations. A small discussion was had by the audience and board members.

Harry Burden said "thank you" from all sportsmen, to the Royal Blue WMA area manager Stan Stooksbury for the Wildlife Award he has recently received. "Thank you Stan"

Meeting dismissed 8:05 pm

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2002

Meeting began at 7:05 pm at the Campbell County Court House Jacksboro, Tennessee.

Invocation by Chairman Harry Burden

The Board's Roll Call and August Minutes read by Treasurer Ray Wilson and approved as read.

Absence:

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

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: No report

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Approved as read.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Perry Vinsant: No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No report

Chairman Burden asked Activities Committee member Bill Bruce about the Pig Roast. Different locations and dates were discussed. It was agreed that

President Lee Asbury will attempt to schedule it with the park office on any Saturday available during October.

Visitors included Toney Heath and Tom Hatmaker from RMEF who discussed the upcoming dinner on September 14th at Carlock Meyers' barn. He highlighted the auction and drawing for the guns and other prizes.

Danny Aikens, TWRA officer passed out the user fee cards and said that on or after October 19, 2002 anyone operating a vehicle or riding a horse on the RB-WMA is required to be hunter legal. In addition to the regular hunting license one must possess a WMA permit—either a big game or small game or a \$10.00 daily fee for a Tennessee resident or a \$25.00 daily fee for a non-resident. Mr. Aikens also said that the noise level of vehicles operated on the area will be enforced.

It was also mentioned that an area permit is still required on the Tackett Creek area. Mr. Asbury is to check into this.

Mr. Asbury told the members that the TCL had raised around \$25,000.00 during their fund raiser which was kicked off by CORA's \$1,000 contribution. They attribute their success to our generous donation which prompted others to give more.

There being no further business a motion to adjourn the meeting passed at 8:25 pm.

MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2002

Meeting began at 7:00 pm at the Campbell County Court House Jacksboro, Tennessee.

Invocation

The Board's Roll Call and September Minutes read approved as read.

Absent: Shelton, Duly, Shetterly
August Treasurer's Report read and approved.

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee: No report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: No report

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: No report.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Perry Vinsant: No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: No report.

Report of pig roast committee was received and a resolution recognizing Bruce & Hooks for the world's first "crumbly pig" was unanimously passed. We may need to create a web site to handle the requests for their recipe.

It was duly moved, seconded and unanimously voted to reimburse all pig roast expenses.

Good discussion of how to have a meaningful part in the drafting of use regulations for the newly acquired land was helpful. We are assured of an opportunity to be heard and all agreed that our general theme of "multiple use" should be pursued.

Everybody knows that the only chance to influence regulations is before they are adopted. We need to stay on top of this situation.

Director Shetterly raised a very interesting question? Should we try to acquire a piece of land to be used for CORA functions and for members to use. It seemed that everybody thinks it is a good idea. All agreed to think it over and talk about it again at the December meeting. Especially location and price.

8:30 pm meeting adjourned.

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2002

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

Invocation by Harry Burden

The Board's Roll Call and Novembers Minutes were read and approved.

Absence: Don Dilbeck, Ray Ivey, Pete Shelton and Jim Shetterly

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

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee: No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: No Report

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: No Report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill: No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields: No Report

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Membership Chairman Robert Burden:
No Report

Review Old Business: TWRA's Officer Danny Akins commented on the Elk that have been shot or killed in a suspicious manner and are still under investigation.

Officer Adkins discussed the upcoming release of 40 Elk from the LBL Elk group which is located in West Tennessee. This years release is to be held on January 11, 2003. The release site is to be within the Montgomery Drainage close to Jenny Gap.

A discussion about the disease CWD and its potential impact to the Tennessee Deer herd was held. President Asbury indicated that it would be a good time to ask if TWRA could send someone to explain this problem and its impact to the deer herd. Lee indicated he would call the region 4 office and ask if they could provide someone to address this important issue for the group.

A small discussion was held on the types uses allowed for the newly purchased 74,000 acres of Champion Land. President Asbury indicated that CORA should continue to hold discussions and should relay CORA's position on the multiple use concept to

the new ownership group at the appropriate time.

President Asbury addressed the question of acquiring a small piece of property for CORA to hold its outdoor events. Secretary Lewis asked what type of facility would be acceptable for the outdoor events. A discussion was held and it was agreed that the property could be just vacant property that was easy for the public to find. The property should have good road access and large enough for the type of events we have each year.

New Business:
Meeting dismissed 8:05 pm

CORA MINUTES OF JANUARY 7, 2003

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

Invocation by Jim Shetterly

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

Absent: Galen Wiseman

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

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:
No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: No Report

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis:
No Report

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:
No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields:
No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden:
No Report

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

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Officer Steve Bennett.

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

The disease has been spread mainly due to the unrestricted movement of captive herds of Elk and Deer to wildlife farmers throughout the north and western states. Of the captive Elk herds it is known in Canada that 40 different Elk herds have tested positive for CWD. Alberta has shown one case. Within the United States 25 captive herds have been tested positive. Nearly all states have begun a testing of their respective wild herds. Illinois has one positive case of CWD recently turned up in captive deer herd located close to the outbreak in Wisconsin. This outbreak of CWD in the wild deer herd will result in the complete depopulation of all wild deer from an area approx 150 miles in diameter from the center of the CWD infected areas.

Tennessee has begun its own testing from the States wild deer herd. 1300 deer have been tested from samples collected from all parts of the state. Additionally, 13 Elk from the newly released Elk herd, from the East Tennessee restoration program have been tested negative for the deadly CWD. TWRA wants to sample deer from all counties on a regular basis to allow the state to monitor the spread of the disease into the states wild herd.

Tennessee law doesn't allow the private ownership of whitetail deer and is submitting new laws to restrict the movement of captive wild animals within the state. CWD is not known to be transmittable to humans. There is no known test for this disease that can be administered to live animals. The only known test for the CWD disease is to examine the brain tissue of dead animals.

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

quality program for the CORA members.

**New Business:
Meeting dismissed 8:20 pm**

MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 4, 2003

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

Invocation by Jim Shetterly

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

Absent: Galen Wiseman

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

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the opportunity for CORA to help TWRA with the sowing of food plots if they need anyone for those efforts.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis:

Reported that the next addition for the newsletter was ready to finalize and was awaiting the Presidents article.

Newsletter Distribution and

Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields:

No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden:

No Report

Review Old Business: A discussion on the topic of a piece of land for CORA meetings was held by President Asbury. It was discussed that TWRA might find a piece that CORA could use. Glen Massengill offered that the Lindsey Land Co. might sell a small piece if we could determine a place. Asbury indicated he will follow up on this issue.

New Business: TWRA Officer Danny Akins discussed that the Elk release had been rescheduled to February 22nd, 2003. The actual release time was still in question. Officer Akins asked CORA to help TWRA with the Traffic control and parking issues at the release site.

Officer Akins also explained that no additional Elk had been lost. TWRA still has not gotten any more information on the illegal shootings of the Elk.

Governor Sunquist will be here to dedicate the Champion Land purchase just before the actual elk release. Akins indicated that the site has been cleared and the roads are ready for the event.

The traffic will need to cross Roaches Creek and turn left 2 miles to the release site parking area.

Lewis asked the board if they would consider the purchase of orange vests to allow the public to see CORA board members helping TWRA out at these types of events. A motion was made for Terry Lewis to purchase orange vests and to have the logo CORA printed on the backs, the purchase should have \$200.00 limit.

Lewis gave a short review of the CPAC meeting he attended in Nashville. Lewis also read aloud the newest resolutions from the Farm Bureau on their newest position on wildlife policies. A small discussion was had on the D map program and on the license increase that TWRA is requesting to fund future wildlife programs.

Meeting dismissed 8:45 pm

MINUTES OF MARCH 4, 2003

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

In the absence of President Lee Asbury and Chairman Harry Burden the meeting was directed by Secretary Terry Lewis and the minutes were recorded by board member Mike McAfee

Invocation by Don Dilbeck

The Board's Roll Call and February Minutes were read and approved.

Absent: Lee Asbury, Harry Burden, Ray Wilson, Ted Fields, Jim Shetterly and Galen Wiseman

Due to the absence of Treasurer Ray Wilson Feb. Financial Reports were read by Secretary Terry Lewis

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:

No Report.

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the upcoming planting season and indicated that he was waiting for seed from TWRA.

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis:

Reported that the next addition for the newsletter was ready to finalize and should be ready for distribution at the May meeting.

Newsletter Distribution and

Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

No Report

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MINUTES, continued from page 7

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields:
No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden:
No Report

Review Old Business: The Elk release was well attended with some 400 to 500 present for this latest release of some 22 new Elk relocated from LBL. Terry Lewis thanked those CORA members who attended and provided assistance to TWRA with the traffic control issues at the release. Those who assisted were Glen Massengill, Ray Wilson, Hubert Rollins and Terry Lewis. The new orange CORA vests were worn by these individuals at the release site while directing and parking the public vehicle traffic under the direction of RBWMA Area Manager Stan Stooksbury.

Terry Lewis presented the new orange vests with the CORA identification on the back of each vest. A vest was purchased for each director. \$246.78 was expended on the total vest purchase, more than was originally approved. A motion was made by Glen Massengill and seconded by Bill Bruce to approve the total cost as a repayment for the vests. A vote was taken and the motion was passed to pay the full cost for the vests.

New Business: A broad discussion concerning coyote's and current proposed methods for control. Member Don Dilbeck indicated that in his area of the county the coyote issue has been a major issue for the farmers. Don would like for something to be done about the reduction of the varmints.

The 5th Sportsman Leadership Summit will be held in Pickwick Landing this weekend and Terry Lewis will attend this important meeting to represent the CORA organization and report his findings at the April meeting. Additionally, the TCL annual meeting will be held this weekend and attended by CORA Secretary Terry Lewis.

Bill Bruce raised the question of grouse season and the deer season conflicts. A broad discussion was held. Basically, Bill is of the opinion that the season opens too early and results that many birds are taken from ATV's. Most grouse hunters do not start to hunt the birds until after the leaves come down in the late fall. Compounding the issue is that deer season runs for such an extended period

of time that only a few weeks (part of the Jan and end of Feb) remain for grouse hunting.

A broad discussion was held concerning the ORV use on the new TWRA managed property and what kind of input CORA's representative should carry to the Sportsman Summit meeting.

NWTF banquet will be held March 8th in LaFollette. Bob Burden agreed to attend to sell CORA memberships at the banquet.

A broad discussion was held on the need to involve more youth in CORA. A discussion was made to place the topic on the agenda for the next meeting.

Being no further business Secretary Terry Lewis dismissed the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2003

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

Invocation by Don Dilbeck

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

Secretary Lewis adjusted the Minutes to include Clarence Ward's attendance helping TWRA with Traffic Control during the Elk Release in Feb. 2003

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

Committee Reports:

Publicity Chairman Mike McAfee:
No Report

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce: Bill discussed the planting for food plots and discussed the controlled burning needed. Bill said recently had sown some lespedsa

Newsletter Chairman Terry Lewis: Reported that the next addition for the newsletter was ready to finalize and should be ready for distribution at the May meeting.

Newsletter Distribution and Advertising Chairman Glen Massengill:

No Report

Roads and Trails Chairman Ted Fields:
No Report

Membership Chairman Robert Burden: Reported that he had sold 9 new CORA memberships at the local Turkey Banquet.

Review Old Business: A discussion on the grouse issue was held. The concerns were about the early season and the conflicts with the deer season along

with the illegal harvest from ATV hunters. A discussion on the letter on grouse was read by Mike McAfee on the issues and the potential solutions. Terry Lewis discussed the issue of illegal harvest from ATV's that could be limited by requiring guns to be cased while riding on ATV's. The length on grouse season was discussed and it was felt that the season is too long by many. TWRA officer Danny Akins offered that Ron Saunders will be reviewing the hunting seasons soon and if we wanted Ron to consider our proposals of changing any seasons we should make it known to him soon.

A discussion about limiting the length of deer season to allow additional time to hunt grouse was had. Lewis said that he did not think that the public would be in favor of the shorter deer hunting seasons and that the TCL had recently discussed those same ideas.

Lee discussed that he will contact the local TWRA region 4 office to set up a meeting with supervisors to discuss the issues at hand. Lee is to call members to attend that meeting when set up.

A discussion about the problems with Coyotes was held and it was decided to ask TWRA for their help with the issue.

Clarence Ward suggested some ways to get additional people into CORA and to attend the meetings. Lee indicated that the meeting would need to be more interesting if we intended to keep folks involved and interested enough to continue attendance. A committee was set up to look into ways to bring new membership into CORA. Those members are Ray Ivey Chairman, Jim Ayers and Clarence Ward.

A motion to repayment of expenses to Secretary Lewis for his trip to the TCL as CORA's representative during the TCL's annual meeting in Feb. The motion was seconded and the vote carried to repay those expenses.

A discussion on the coal mining in Campbell Co. was held and many ideas were discussed.

A discussion on the OHV issues was held, Secretary Lewis voiced that the club should be more proactive on this issue before it's too late.

New Business:

Being no further business meeting dismissed at 9:12 pm.

Public Health Concerns About CWD

There currently is no convincing evidence that the agent of chronic wasting disease (CWD) affects humans. However, public health officials recommend that human exposure to the CWD agent be avoided as they continue to evaluate any potential risk. Contrary to a story that circulated in the popular press, an investigation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) did not find a link between CWD and Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in three persons, aged 28-30 years, who consumed venison. The investigators concluded: "although the occurrence of 3 unusually young patients with CJD who consumed venison suggested a possible

relationship with CWD, our follow-up investigation found no strong evidence for a casual link. Ongoing CJD surveillance remains important for continuing to assess the risk, if any, of CWD transmission to humans."

The tendency toward a natural "species barrier" reducing human susceptibility to CWD and other prion diseases has been demonstrated by in vitro studies. However, lingering uncertainty about any potential risk that CWD may pose to humans is fostered by differing experiences with two more common animal TSEs. Although there is a long history of human exposure to scrapie through handling and consuming sheep tissues, including brain, there is no evidence that scrapie presents a risk to human health. In contrast, massive exposure of British and perhaps other European citizens to the BSE agent has resulted in approximately 130 human cases of variant CJD as of April 2002. In 2000, the World Health Organization (WHO) published the proceedings of the WHO Consultation on Public Health and Animal Transmissible Spongiform Encephalopathies: Epidemiology, Risk and Research Requirement. The consultants consisted of researchers from around the world who are experts on human and animal spongiform encephalopathies. The consultants summarized their findings

with the statement: "There currently is no evidence that Chronic Wasting Disease in Cervidae is transmitted to humans."

This situation has not changed. Despite the lack of a casual link between CWD in deer and elk and CJD in humans, the WHO Consultation made the following recommendations regarding CWD: Authorities should encourage awareness and surveillance for CWD around the world; no part or product of any animals with evidence of CWD or other TSEs should be fed to humans or any species of domestic or captive animal; work should continue to improve the understanding of CWD; and precaution should be taken to prevent introduction and spread of CWD when translocating wild or domestic cervids.

Similarly, public health and wildlife management professionals encourage hunter, meat processors, and taxidermists to take some common sense measures to prevent potential exposure to the CWD agent and to other known zoonotic pathogens. For example, the Colorado Division of Wildlife recommends the following precautions for hunters in the CWD endemic area:

- Do not shoot, handle or consume any animal that appears sick; contact the Division of Wildlife if you see or harvest an animal that appears sick.
- Wear rubber gloves when field dressing carcasses.
- Bone out the meat from your animal.
- Minimize the handling of brain and spinal tissues.
- Wash hands and instruments thoroughly after field dressing is completed.
- Avoid consuming brain, spinal cord, eyes, spleen, tonsils, and lymph nodes of harvested animals.
- Avoid consuming the meat from any animal that tests positive for the disease.
- Request that your animal be processed individually, without meat from other animals being added to meat from your animal.

Article by John Fischer taken from SCWDS BRIEFS, April 2002, Vol. 18, No. 1.

NEW FEE SYSTEM AT ROYAL BLUE

The Royal Blue Wildlife Management area, a popular riding area located in East Tennessee has set a date for implementation of a pay to ride fee. This has been talked about for several months, and at one time it was said that a fee system would be in place by August of 2002. Starting October 19th Royal Blue will officially turn into a "pay to play" area for all Off Road Vehicles. There will be two different pay scales depending on if you are a Tennessee resident or non-resident. If you are a resident and are legal to hunt in the state of Tennessee you will have to pay nothing additional. If you do not hunt, you will have to pay either a \$10 per day fee or have a yearly \$50 permit. If you are not a Tennessee resident you will either have to be legal to hunt in Tennessee (out of state hunting license) or pay \$25 per day or \$160 per year. This fee structure was set by TWRA. This area is being looked at as a pilot project to gauge how much revenue future OHV areas could expect to generate. "According to TWRA officials the permits will be available anywhere hunting and fishing licenses are sold. This includes Walmarts and other hunting and fishing supply stores."

CORA ELECTION OF OFFICERS

CORA has scheduled its annual yearly elections for July 1st, 2003. This Election is for its Board of Directors and for new Officers. All current directors are asked to attend and vote for the new officers and new directors of their choice.

CORA's President Lee Asbury would like to take this opportunity to thank those who have served as a director and for their personal commitment to this great organization. CORA currently has 4 officers and a Board of 12 Directors. If you are interested in serving in one of these positions, please attend the July 2nd meeting and let President Asbury know of your intent to volunteer to serve in the CORA organization.

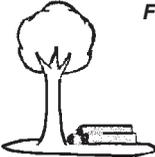
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WOODLAND, continued from page 2

recreation — all things that are important for the good life in Tennessee.”

Scott Davis, state director of the Nature Conservancy’s Tennessee chapter, said the new acquisition links Frozen Head State Park and the Natural Area and the Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area to create a 140,000 acre tract of public forest — second in size only to the Great Smokey Mountains National Park and the Cherokee National Forest.

Plans call for creating a new 35-mile segment of Cumberland Trail State Park to link existing trail sections of Frozen Head and Royal Blue. The 300-mile linear state park trail across the Cumberland Plateau is scheduled for completion in 2008.

Researchers have identified the Cumberland Mountain region as critical to protecting 80 or more rare species of plants and animals, some of which are identified as endangered or threatened by state and federal agencies.

Birders from across America travel to the area in the spring and summer to see neotropical birds, especially the cerulean and golden-winged warblers, whose

numbers have plummeted in recent years.

The Cumberland Forest also is home to 180-plus elk released by TWRA as part of its effort to bring elk back to their historical range. Biologists say keeping the

75,000 acres in an undeveloped state could enable similar reintroduction projects to occur with black bears and a number of threatened and endangered fish and mussel species.

PRESIDENT, continued from page 1

should address this question and allow use subject to particular situations and reasonable regulations.

Question 5 is: the use of general public funds to create areas for exclusive use by relatively small numbers of citizens to the exclusion of the public should be prohibited.

I understand that the preliminary discussions at high levels may have already occurred.

This question needs to be looked at from a "Big Picture" standpoint. If this article provokes some meaningful discussions and realistic assessments by all concerned it will be a step in the right direction.

Ignoring the problem is certainly no solution.

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