

CORA

SIXTEENTH EDITION
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CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION

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From The President

Which Will You Be?

By Lee Asbury

History teaches that since the dawn of humanity, problems have arisen when conflicting interests come in contact with each other. We have tried a good many methods of dispute resolution, such as war, violence, compromise, aggression and surrender. When conflicts do arise, my experience has been that people divide into two groups. One group is and continues to be part of the problem. The other group makes an all-out effort to be part of the solution.

We are at that point in our relations with each other and with T.W.R.A. If we continue to be fragmented among ourselves and unable to reach a substantial consensus on the important issues, our effectiveness in working with each other or with other groups and governmental agencies will be greatly diminished.

Those who can only be satisfied if they have their own way and speak only in shrill negative voices have never solved anything. Long range solutions that will stand the test of time require patience, civility, and honest desire to do what is right and fair, coupled with a fierce determination to consider all legitimate points of view.

I believe that the next year or two will be hypercritical time in the history of Royal Blue W.M.A., as well as other outdoor recreation areas in the United States.

Are there problems to be solved? Certainly.

Can these problems be solved? Certainly.

Will these problems be solved? Hopefully.

In the effort to find solutions, are YOU going to be part of the problem or part of the solution? Each individual, after careful thought, will have to answer this one individually.

In CORA, our group responsibility is clear. Royal Blue W.M.A. in a way is our baby and we have a responsibility to try to help raise it properly.

Regardless of your religious beliefs the Bible offers some sage advice that we could all use at this time.

Proverbs teaches that "a soft answer turneth away wrath."

Isaiah counseled "Come, let us reason together."

It's time for all of us to search our own minds and hearts, be kinder and gentler with each other and make our best effort to improve the quality of life for ourselves, our fellow citizens and those who will follow us.

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Could This Be You...

Ed Guljas, Indiana Wildlife Biologist (Submitted by Frank LaGreca)

Are you concerned about leaving a healthy environment for future generations? If so, what are you doing about it? Are you actively involved in some way? Do you support organizations that try to stop the degradation of our spaceship earth? If not, I hope the following, taken from a Nature Conservancy newsletter published several years ago, will get you to think a bit:

Ebenezer Scrooge received letters from The Nature Conservancy each year asking him to help save the rare plant and animal habitat in Tennessee. "Bah,

humbug," Ebenezer would say as he tossed the appeal into the waste basket. "They don't need me. What difference would my gift make?"

For all his gruffness, Ebenezer had a soft spot in his heart for a nearby marsh. He regularly observed the seasonal changes taking place—the colorful warblers in the spring, the families of geese in the summer, the hawks wheeling overhead in fall. "Such a pleasure to see," he reflected. Then he went back to work, investing and saving for the day he could retire and spend days watching over "his" marsh.

One chilly night, after crumpling his latest Conservancy appeal, he crawled into bed for a good night's sleep. Suddenly, there was a strange squawking noise in his room. Sitting up, he rubbed his eyes in disbelief. There before him was the strangest bird he'd ever seen.

"Who are you?" he said, "And what are you doing in my room?" "I am the ghost of Tennessee past," said the creature. "I'm a prairie chicken and I'm taking you on a trip to the past."

The prairie chicken lifted Ebenezer and, together, they flew to a prairie fresh with dew and tinged with the warm colors of the sunrise. Tall grasses, dotted with the blues, pinks and yellow of wild flowers swayed in the breeze. Bison grazed on the horizon and, in the distance, prairie chickens performed their elegant dance.

He was thrilled to see prairie chickens thriving again in Tennessee. "Where are we? How can I come back here again?" he said. The bird replied, "Unfortunately that won't be possible. There are no places like this left in Tennessee. The buffalo and the prairie chicken are gone forever and we can't get them back."

The bird took Ebenezer home. The next day, images of what occurred haunted him. That night his sleep was again disrupted, this time by a loud flapping sound. He woke to see a sandhill crane peering down at him. "I am the Ghost of Tennessee's future," said the bird. "Come with me on a trip to the future." They soon arrived at their destination . . . Party Palace Drive Thru-O-

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CORA: Past, Present & Into the Future

by Terry Lewis

In November 1977 the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA), entered an agreement with the Koppers Company, Incorporated, to acquire hunting rights on a 52,000 acre tract in Campbell and Scott Counties. The area was designed as the Koppers WMA and thus began a long and generally beneficial relationship between TWRA and the public who used the area. Since TWRA did not own the land and indications were that it never would, minimal expenditures were made and the area was generally left open for hunters and outdoors men. This agreement stayed in place until August 1985, when Worldwide Purchasing Incorporated, purchased all of the area. In August 1986, Worldwide canceled the agreement and due to economic demands on the company, they felt compelled to seek a minimum income for use of their land comparable to their annual real estate taxes. The money needed to lease this land, approximately \$50,000.00 (per year), appeared to be an insurmountable hurdle to keeping this land open for public use. Public use of the area was in limbo and it appeared that the area would be split up into many smaller (500 acres) tracts of private land. For a while, the prospects for land based outdoor recreation for Campbell countians and their surrounding neighbors did not look very bright.

Meanwhile local people looked at the problem and joined to form a group to be known as CORA (Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association). This group

consisted mainly of hunters and other outdoors men and had the goal of keeping the area open for hunting and other multiple use outdoor activities. CORA led by Campbell County Circuit Court Judge Lee Asbury was able to lease the area from Worldwide and kept the area open to public outdoor recreation. CORA was able to maintain its lease for five years with Worldwide. In the process CORA served as the main lobbying force to convince Tennessee State government officials to buy this property. CORA and its members were very instrumental in TWRA getting the property. Thus, through the cooperation of local sportsmen (especially CORA members) and the state of Tennessee (especially TWRA and the McWherter Administration) the area was made available for future public use.

Today, TWRA holds title to 48,181.80 acres that comprise Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area. With an accomplishment like this you might think that CORA would have been tempted to "rest on their laurels" or "fade into the sunset" but this certainly has not happened.

As word of the "new" Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area spread and as people learned about the multiple use concept in place that allowed liberal access for All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs), public use increased markedly. CORA members and leadership recognized early, that there was a need for more land managed for multiple use near Royal Blue Wildlife Management Area.

When Champion International Corporation came to Campbell County to purchase land and locate a chip mill for their paper production, they needed a mechanism to communicate with the historic users of their land. In November 1994, CORA volunteered to help the company with this need. CORA hosted many meetings with Champion International officials, TWRA management and other local leaders. CORAs proven track record between TWRA and CORA convinced Champion to make 80,000 acres of their land available as a Public Hunting Area (PHA).

In the fall of 1996, CORA approached H.M. Huber Company, owner of the Tackett Creek area (51,000 acres) located in Campbell and Claiborne Counties. Again CORA stepped up and acted as "facilitators" to get H.M. Huber, historic users of the property and TWRA around the same table to insure that this popular tract of land remained open to public hunting. This fall the Tackett Creek Public Hunting Area will be available to all sportsmen as a Public Hunting Area (PHA).

Look around you, where else in the country can you see 180,000 acres of land that has been preserved as open space for public hunting and recreation. All across the country, lands are being closed to hunters or leased out to a select few. The efforts of CORA, company officials, state officials, elected officials, TWRA and the historic users of these mountain lands can become a

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CORA Minutes

JULY 1, 1997 MEETING MINUTES

The Board meeting commenced at 7:20 p.m. at the Campbell County Court House, Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly.

Board Roll Call: Absent: Tom Conner, Jack Ethridge, Ernie Lester and Mike McAfee.

Excused Absence: Leonard Hooks June Minutes & Treasury reports for the General Fund & Newsletter, were approved as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Newsletter:

Frank LaGreca reported that he spoke to ADVERTISING & COLLECTIONS chairman, Ernie Lester, regarding his position on retaining the Newsletter position. Ernie said he would like to continue and would be at the next meeting to explain his absence and lack of response to the duties required of the position...Mr. Lester was absent from the June meeting. Therefore, by Board proclamation, it was decided to replace Mr. Lester with volunteer, Perry Vinsant, as the Newsletters' new ADVERTISING & COLLECTIONS Chairman.

Activities:

Activities co-chairman, Tom Conner, because of job related absence and inactivity, was excused from the position and it is now the total responsibility of former co-chairman, Bill Bruce. Bill we request volunteer assistance as needed.

No other Committee reports at this time.

Terry Lewis read a letter he sent to the FOOTHILLS LAND CONSERVANCY regarding our donation to the COCHRAN CREEK project. The letter outlined the position we took at the May meeting regarding the return of the donation if the purchase of the property is unsuccessful.

Terry discussed a concern of FOUR WHEELERS member Greg Griffith. He wanted to know how the available \$75,000 appropriated for the improvement of ROYAL BLUE, would be dispersed. Terry directed the question to President Lee Asbury. Lee commented that the work must first be done, then invoiced to the State.

Upon further discussion, a question was raised as to whether CORA might

want the responsibility to disperse, or perhaps take charge of seeing that the work is done and invoicing the State, since TWRA does not want this kind of responsibility.

A decision was tabled for further review.

ANNUAL ELECTION.

All present officers were re-elected to their respective positions.

BOARD MEMBERS.

All members, with the exception of Tom Conners' position, were re-elected. Tom's position cannot be filled until the proper ratio of "in and out" of County Board members is established.

An appointment will be made at the August meeting.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Frank LaGreca, Secretary.

AUGUST 5, 1997 MEETING MINUTES

The Board meeting commenced at 7:30 p.m. at the Campbell County Court House, Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly.

Board Roll Call:

Absent: Tom Conner, and Leonard Hooks.

Excused Absence: Mike McAfee.

July Minutes & Treasury reports for the General Fund & Newsletter, were approved as read.

Nominations were made and approved to fill two Board vacancies.

Nominees: Galen Wiseman and Jerry Lane. Upon approval, both addressed the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Activities:

Activities Chairman, Bill Bruce suggested that the annual hog roast be held on Saturday, October 4th. Suggestion approved. President Asbury requested that Bill be allowed to purchase all the necessities and be reimbursed. Request approved.

If available and approval granted, the Coal Town Pavilion was again selected for the festivity.

Bill mentioned that the Coon Hunters Club would be available for a treeing demonstration some time during the day of the roast.

He also added that the Club was looking for some property to build a meeting place and were we interested in a partnership.

After a brief discussion, the Board decided that Bill should pursue it further and return with more specifics, to include how much they intend to spend. If they are interested in a partnership, they would be invited to attend any one of our meetings for a more in depth discussion.

Newsletter:

Terry Lewis thanked everyone who helped put this edition together and reminded everyone that each copy of the NEWSLETTER costs 75 cents. "More importantly," said Lewis, "is our responsibility to our advertiser...getting the copies distributed."

"Perry Vinsant has taken on this responsibility and will need all the help he can get. Please volunteer a few hours of your time for one day, every 3-4 months. We really need your help," Lewis concluded.

Receivables, cash flow and the future of the NEWSLETTER was addressed and discussed.

Most agreed that it was our best vehicle for getting the word out to the public and to many others, with the need to know locally and Statewide.

Therefore, it was generally concluded that the NEWSLETTER would be funded, as needed, from the General Fund.

Motion made and passed to pay any outstanding NEWSLETTER invoices from the General Fund.

Roads and Trails:

Ted Fields reported that by his observation, improvements were being made and continuing at a pace comfortable and attainable by TWRA management with available equipment and personnel.

Membership:

Robert Burden reported that dues were coming in, but rather slowly.

No further Committee reports.

President Asbury brought up the still available \$75 thousand dollars for improvements to ROYAL BLUE. He suggested that it be put in escrow and

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have someone else, not CORA, disperse it. TWRA is supposed to be looking into it.

FISH HATCHERY MEETING

Terry Lewis reported that it was a very good meeting. A number of our members attended, including President Lee Asbury as monitor. TWRA was well represented, and approximately 120 of the interested public. According to Lewis, there were 85 questions posed to TWRA.

Roads and road closures were discussed. Only (2) out of 400 miles of roads were closed, and these were under consideration to be re-opened.

"Outlaw" roads continue to be a problem and will be closed as they are found.

"In conclusion," said Lewis, "the meeting proved informative to most of the gathering."

NEW BUSINESS

Lee Asbury announced that on August 16 at 9:00 a.m., a UT noise expert, Dr. Sam Burchfield, will be at the Perkins restaurant, off the I-75 Oneida exit. Dr. Burchfield will test a number of vehicles to ultimately determine a reasonable exhaust noise level for ROYAL BLUE. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a vehicle.

CORA Secretary Frank LaGreca, read an article taken from the TCL Newsletter, regarding a new program to advance hunter ethics in TN. After a brief discussion, it was decided that we follow the progress of the program to determine, later, whether we should be involved.

In other business, Jack Ethridge, president of WINDROCK ATV and Board member suggested, we swap each others "organization" ad in our Newsletters. Suggestion accepted.

Motion made and passed to void the \$80 owed by WINDROCK ATV.

President Asbury asked Ethridge to further investigate the 80,000 acres involved in the Coal Creek Project. This acreage is contiguous to both Champion Paper and ROYAL BLUE properties and would be a prime addition to the entire Managed Area property.

Business concluded at 8:45 p.m.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank LaGreca, Secretary.

SEPT. 2, 1997 MEETING MINUTES

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

Invocation by Jim Shetterly.

Board Roll Call:

Absent: Ted Fields, Ray Ivey, Mike McAfee, Hubert Rollins, Don Shelton, Charles Vincent and Galen Wiseman.

Excused Absence: Frank LaGreca.

August Minutes were not read as Secretary LaGreca is absent.

General Account and Newsletter Treasury Accounts were approved as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publicity:

Chairman Mike McAfee was absent.

Activities:

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce said he had most things under control for the pig roast, he was looking for volunteers to help with the cooking. He indicated the coon hunter club will bring some dogs and have a treeing demonstration.

Newsletter:

NEWSLETTER Co-Editor Chairman Terry Lewis reported on the cost spent on the NEWSLETTER to date. Discussion was had over the expenses and amounts loaned from the general account. Terry presented a detailed accounting to the group and said he would make the report available to anyone on the board who requested it for further review.

Newsletter Distribution/Advertising

Chairman Perry Vinsant discussed the collection for the newsletter. Persons who sell the accounts need to collect the fees.

Roads and Trails:

Ted Fields was absent

Membership:

Membership Drive Chairman Robert Burden had nothing to report.

New Business:

1. The coon hunters club was here to see if CORA had any interest in the joint venture for a new building to hold meetings in. Purchasing of one acre was discussed. The purchase price is \$5,000.00 and the budget for the building discussed is \$3,000.00. The lot is located in Shonie Shores area. Problems discussed were the soil has rock and won't perk properly. Water lines are at the road. Bill, Jim and Perry were to go to the coon hunters meeting on Thursday night at the Archery Club to listen to

further discussion. They are to provide the board with a report at the next meeting.

2. Roads are now being marked by TWRA open or closed, yellow color is being used to mark seasonal roads and trails.

3. Jerry Lane attended at meeting at the Windrock ATV Club and he wants to sponsor a toys for tots ride. He asked if CORA wanted to be involved. Discussion was had and the board voted to participate in the event. Sponsors will be Volunteer Riders of Knoxville, Windrock ATV Club of Oliver Springs, Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association and the Volunteer State Trail Riders Association. A course will be marked and a \$10.00 toy or cash donation will be required to ride the course. The date for the ride will be October 11, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. All donations will go to the needy children in Campbell County.

4. Permits for Champion and Huber are being printed at this time.

5. President Asbury reported on the noise testing and stated that Dr. Birchfield would attend the next CORA meeting to report on the results of the testing. Lee indicated he was pleased on the testing done and the professional approach Dr. Birchfield and his crew took to get the data necessary for the report.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Acting Secretary Terry Lewis

NOV. 4, 1997 MEETING MINUTES

The Board meeting commenced at 7:05 p.m. at the Campbell County Court House, Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly.

Board Roll Call: Absent: Don Shelton, and Charles Vincent.

Excused Absence: Frank LaGreca.

October Minutes were not read as Secretary LaGreca is absent.

General Account and Newsletter Treasury Accounts were approved as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Publicity:

Chairman Mike McAfee had no report.

Activities:

Activities Chairman Bill Bruce had no report.

Newsletter:

Newsletter Co-Editor Chairman Terry Lewis reported that he was in the

process of collecting articles for the next issue of the newsletter. As soon as those articles were found he would publish the next issue.

Newsletter Distribution/Advertising

Chairman Perry Visant had no report at this time.

Roads and Trails:

Roads and Trails Co-Chairman Ted Fields reported that he had inspected many of the roads and trails in the area. Ted reported that some of the roads and trails have been closed that were not agreed upon by CORA. He felt that TWRA should allow CORA to provide some input on the roads and trails that have not been previously discussed and/or mapped out on the CORA/TWRA approved map. A very lively discussion was had by many members and by TWRA Officers, after which, President Asbury made a motion to set up a Roads and Trails inspection team to go out on some weekend and inspect the roads and trails in question. Motion was seconded by Terry Lewis. A group shall be formed by the next meeting.

Membership:

Membership Drive Chairman Robert Burden had nothing to report.

General Business:

1. Dr. Sam Birchfield and Dr. Jim Fielden presented a report and discussion complete with a slide show and printed report to the CORA board of directors. Dr. Birchfield explained the differences between the noise levels of the different machines tested. A very lively discussion was had for about 45 minutes. Everyone was pleased with the report and efforts of Dr. Birchfield and Dr. Fielden. They offered to help with this problem in any way they could be of service to CORA and TWRA.

2. TWRA was present at the November meeting and was represented by Ron Sounders, Stan Stooksbury and Fred Jordan. TWRA participated in the discussions on Noise Limits and the Roads and Trails.

3. Terry Lewis introduced to the board Mr. Thomas Dailey who is the District Forester in charge of the Twelve counties around Campbell Co. Mr. Dailey discussed the needs and benefits of CORA forming a Volunteer Fire Fighters group. He said he would provide the

training session and would be interested in helping any way he could. Terry circulated a paper for board members to sign up for the training. The following board members signed up for the training to be scheduled at the next meeting.

1. Terry Lewis
2. Lee Asbury
3. Jim Shetterly
4. Robert Burden
5. Perry Vinsant
6. Ernest Lester
7. Ray Ivey
8. Mike McAfee
9. Galen Wiseman
10. Fred Walker
11. Jerry Lane

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.
Acting Secretary Terry Lewis

DEC. 7, 1997 MEETING MINUTES

The Board meeting commenced at 7:10 p.m. at the Campbell County Court House, Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation by Jim Shetterly.

Board Roll Call:

Absent: Bill Bruce, Leonard Hooks, Don Shelton, and Charles Vincent.

Minutes for October and November were read and approved.

Treasurers report of the General and Newsletter Accounts were approved as read.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Newsletter:

Terry Lewis requested articles for the Newsletter. Needs more material before it can be published.

Newsletter Distribution/Advertising
Chairman Perry Vinsant discussed three delinquent accounts. Lee Asbury and Terry Lewis agreed to contact them for payment.

Roads and Trails:

Ted Fields commented that the biggest part of the closed roads are now open. However, the early January /98 closings will seriously affect small game and turkey hunting. Some complaints were expressed regarding the closing of the dead-end roads...others thought it was a good idea. That the closings would give the game some quiet time and help turkey hunters.

The general opinion of the group, is that...the roads opened for hunters, should remain open.

President Asbury requested the need for a majority vote to be put in writing, regarding "when" roads should be closed. That, because of the differences of unwritten opinion and decision, he had been put in an awkward position. "We definitely need to be more specific on our complaints regarding closed roads," said Asbury.

Lee said he would be in touch with the TWRA Director to further clarify the need for both sides to comply with the agreed upon decisions.

Jerry Lane commented that he hasn't heard too much about closures as he has about the traffic on the opened roads.

In conjunction with the discussion on roads, a lively discussion ensued regarding "over-all use of the property." Use cost was again discussed but nothing specific was decided.

President Asbury reiterated Director Meyers' wished from the very beginning...that the property designated as "multiple use" and that CORA spearhead the program. "We need a cohesive effort to enable us to be the voice he intended us to be," said Asbury.

Jack Ethridge commented that TWRA should conform to the standards set forth at the original Map meeting with CORA, which identified open and closed roads. And that roads not marked or on the map, should be opened or closed by mutual agreement between TWRA and CORA. However, before any decision is made on these roads, we need to mark them and have TWRA comment," said Ethridge.

Asbury strongly advised everyone, that anyone making a comment regarding roads, should be sure to say that; it is in his opinion only, and not that of CORA.

In closing, Lee made a motion to ask TWRA to mark all open dead-end roads between August 15 and January 1, to be marked (dead-end). Motion passed.

The Volunteer Firefighter training program will schedule their training on January 13, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. at the Court House in Jacksboro.

Meeting concluded at 8:45 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Frank LaGreca, Secretary

Please see MINUTES, continued on page 1

A Lucky Season to Remember

By Terry Lewis

After 30 years of hunting whitetails, I have finally had the season I had wished for all these years. Luck or skill who knows. The definition of luck to me means preparation meeting opportunity.

The first muzzle loader hunt November 6 thru 9 resulted in one button duck and one doe. The first shot was at 135 yards from a ground stand as it grazed a green field. The small button buck dressed in at 72 lbs. The second deer was shot at 20 yards from a ground stand as it fed on acorns. Its dressed weight was 68 lbs. Both deer are typical sized 1½ yr old Tennessee deer.

Then on November 20-22, I hunted private family property in the trophy lands of southern Illinois. The morning of the 20th, I awoke to the sound of light rain. The wind was about 10 mi. per hour and it was a grey beginning. In full rain gear I sat in the ladder stand 75 yards inside a five acre wooded thicket surrounded by open fields. As the pink light turned into grey daylight, I could see a bright orange spot sitting about 125 yards away, on the property line. As the morning wore on and 9:00 a.m. turned into 10:00 a.m. my orange neighbor shot a large doe 100 yds. out in the thicket, on land he did not have permission to hunt upon. As I watched him walk out into the thicket, I figured my hunt was about to be over with him shooting and now walking out into the thick grass where I was hoping the deer were holding up. As I watched him, it griped me that he was going to trash my efforts for a chance at a deer. So, when he reached about 100 yards into our property, out of the tree I came and beelined it over to him. As he saw me coming, he struggled to drag the big doe over to the fence and onto the next property. Nevertheless, I was on him quickly and proceeded to ask him just why he was breaking the law by hunting and shooting a deer on private property. He was a little set back by my attitude, but I was not a happy hunter. He made some small apologies but I was not going to let him go easily. I informed him that if he so much as looked over the line I was going to call the game warden and

the sheriff. He now was not a happy hunter either. Small victory for me.

As the rain continued I gave up and went on to the house to eat a bite of lunch and take a small nap until 1:30. It was still raining, but on to the stand I went. After a couple of hours around 3:15 the rain let up and quit. I waited for



a few minutes and picked up my rattling antlers. I lightly tickled them together for about a minute and stopped to blow my grunt call a few times. I then rattled a little louder for another minute and blew a couple more notes on the grunt. I set antlers aside and got my shotgun ready. With a new excitement I watched the thicket for movement. After a few minutes, out of the corner of my eye a small movement came from downwind. Turning my head slightly and at 65 yards he stood there looking directly at me. As I very slowly turned and the gun came up to my shoulder, he was nervous and ready to leap into flight. Just as the cross hairs came into his shoulder, the gun fired and I never felt the recoil. The buck leaped to his right and running at full speed the Browning 1100 put another slug in the kill zone and down he went. I looked at my watch and just 12 long minutes had passed since I had rattled

and grunted. The big buck was sneaking in from down wind trying to find the bucks that he thought were fighting in his territory over his hot does.

He was 3 ½ years and his live weight was 209 lbs. and dressed out at 165 lbs. His rack was a large and wide 8 points. The spread is 18 ½" wide. He has been green scored at a gross 152 3/8 Boone and Crocket. What a trophy mount he is going to make.

Luck was still with me the next day as I harvested a 1 ½ yr. old doe that field dressed weight was 110 lbs. A typical sized deer for Illinois. I now had four deer this season and had another either sex muzzle loader hunt at home in Tennessee to go.

On December 11, I was putting my stand on the tree at 4 p.m. in preparation for Friday's muzzle loader hunt. After my success with the rattling antlers I now had a new confidence and a new plan. The second estrous cycle happens about this time and the bucks are now looking for the does that have not been bred during the first estrous cycle. At 6:30 a.m. the next morning I parked my Polaris and put on a fresh pair of rubber gloves, I then sprayed estrous scent on my drag sock and tied it with a string to my boot. Off to the stand I went some 300 yards away. When I reached the stand on the old logging road I picked up the drag by its string so as not to touch the drag sock, I then walked down wind holding the scented sock off the ground. At 100 yards past my stand I stopped and sprayed more fresh scent on the sock, dropped it to the ground and back up the trail to my stand I went. When I reached my stand I hung the scented sock on a nearby limb and up the oak tree I went. Sitting in my summit climber stand at 25 feet up, I was in the middle of a thicket and could see only about 60 yards or less in any direction. At 8:30 a.m. I rattled and grunted and waited, but no deer. At 9:30 I began to tickle the antlers again and after a minute or so I stopped to grunt three times and waited 30 seconds before rattling again, only louder this

Please see LUCKY on page 8

time. At about three minutes after I began the sequence, I hung the horns on a limb. I began to watch downwind. At 9:45 with confidence waning, I began to think that I would not see any deer from this stand. I began to doubt the rattling antlers strategy. Shortly thereafter, I noticed a small movement out about 60 yards directly downwind. Then a brown patch began to materialize and very slowly move forward. I could see it was a deer but I could not tell just what it was. It was moving its head slowly up and down with its nose directly on the scent trail. It was searching for the two bucks it thought was fighting over the doe it could now smell on the trail. When the buck reached a small opening in the limbs and brush, I could see the rack and I nearly fell out of the stand. There stood the largest buck I had ever seen in a hunting situation. He was moving very carefully and searching the upwind areas for the other deer he believed were close. When he moved his head, the rack somewhat hidden by the brush appeared to be too large for the buck's body size. My knees were shaking and I feared he would detect my ragged breathing. I had picked the perfect stand location as I have a smaller tree within a couple of feet of my stand and I was able to hide behind it. Slowly, up came the big Knight muzzle loader and as the Simmons scope settled on the buck at 45 yards through the 3x scope I could see the deer completely. Man what a set of head gear this deer sported. I must be sleeping and any minute I'll hear the alarm and wake up. The buck was slowly swinging his head from side to side looking upwind and standing directly on the scent trail. He had followed the scent trail perfectly. If allowed to continue on the trail I had laid out he would pass within 5 yards of the base of my tree stand. That would make for a perfect bow shot. But, before then, he might hear my breathing and/or see me shaking like a beginner. Hunting chances at bucks of this size are chances of a lifetime and are few and very far between. My blood pressure must have been 300 over 150 at this point. The buck was quartering toward me and I had a good rest for the muzzle loader on a limb sticking out from the tree next to my stand. A good thing, as I was shaking very heavily. I decided to take the shot to

the front shoulder so I calculated the angle through the lungs area and squeezed the shot off. The smoke rolled out the barrel and the buck leaped to his left and ran directly away through the timber.

In my mind I can still see the massive rack hanging over both sides of the body as he ran away downhill. Then all was very quiet, no birds, no sounds at all. Except for my gasping and shaking. I was weak in the knees. I had to sit down to regain control of myself. I played the scene over and over in my mind. I looked at my watch and it was 9:48 a.m. Just 17 minutes had passed since I had completed the rattling sequence. Twice in this one season I had rattled in huge racked bucks and collected the rewards of my efforts. Confidence is high on this new hunting strategy.

After waiting 20 minutes, which seemed to be much longer, down the tree I came. Slowly over to the spot to inspect for signs of a good hit. But no blood and no hair. Depression and desperation quickly set in as I could not believe I could have missed at this range. My Knight muzzle loader is a very accurate rifle and sighted in at 100 yards it will shoot every shot in a three-inch circle. Maybe I shot too high and did not hit the kill zone. On the radio I called my long time hunting partner, Galen Wiseman. Galen was up a tree about 200 yards away, after explaining my situation and with no blood trail, I would need his skilled help to track the buck with only ruffled leaves to lead our way. About 75 yards directly down the steep hill small drops of blood on the leaves began and at 100 yards the blood trail began to increase, at 150 yards blood was everywhere. Galen said this deer is dead on its feet and he was confident we would find it before long. Then there over a rocky bluff it laid upside down where it had fell over the 30 foot bluff. Man what a rack. After the congratulations and field dressing, we knew the hard work was just beginning. Up the bluff we had to drag the buck and then about 400 yards around the mountain to the closest place we could get the big Polaris Sportsman.

The bucks dressed weight was 128 lbs. And the body was small for the size of the rack. In the woods this gave the rack a much larger appearance than normal.



A typical 5x5 with two sticker points made it a 12 point rack. The spread is 21½ wide and longest tines are 11½" long. The main beams are 25½". This rack has been green scored and its gross Boone and Crocket score is 182 6/8. Man what a Tennessee rack. What a wonderful new hunting technique I have stumbled onto. Don't be afraid to try new things when you are hunting. You can bet the farm you'll not find me in the woods without my rattling horns, grunt call and estrous scent.

Saturday evening I shot a doe who was coming down the scent path I had laid out for any buck who might have come by. I had rattled and rattled but it just doesn't work every time. But when it works, it really works. Just look at the pictures if you don't believe it. Tennessee can and does have some huge deer and if you hunt long enough (30 years) you too may luck into one of these terrific wall hangers. Who needs a high-powered rifle when you can get four deer with a muzzle loader and two deer with a Browning shotgun? Yes luck, can give you too, a season to remember.

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THE DIFFERENCE.

DID YOU KNOW...

By Jim Casada

How Long Can A Turkey's Beard Grow?

Theoretically, a gobbler's beard could reach extraordinary lengths, for the beard grows at a rate of approximately five inches each year. That would mean that an old gobbler, one that lived to be four years of age or older, would have a massive beard of 20 inches or better. Such is obviously not the case, thanks to a variety of factors which affect beard length. In more northern climates, ice accumulating on the lower portion of the beard can cause it to break off. In the South, especially where controlled burning is employed as a wildlife management technique, gobblers can sometimes singe the tips of their beard as they chase insects in front of advancing flames. A comparative lack of melanin, a pigment which gives the beards their black color, can cause beards to be brittle and break off easily. Mostly though, beard length is constantly being worn off, so the growth which is going on never becomes noticeable.

This means that the longest beards are usually found on turkeys with unusually long legs, and certainly after the third year beard length is no index to a turkey's age. While hunters treasure "paintbrush" beards and marvel at those which are particularly long, these are more a product of genetics or special local habitat conditions than a guide to trophy status. I would staunchly maintain that any turkey fairly called and cleanly killed is a worthy trophy, but for those who want to go a step further, spur length is the closest thing to a real determinant of trophy status.

How Long Do Turkeys Live?

Obviously a variety of factors influence the life expectancy of wild turkeys. Even if a hen manages to hatch all her eggs, which is by no means predictable, a significant number of poults never make it beyond the first fortnight of life. An indication of this is provided by the fact that while the normal hen lays a clutch of 10 to 14 eggs (there are recorded instances of nests with as many as 20 eggs), a survival rate of poults reaching adult status in the range of 3.5 to 4.5 per hen is considered a good to excellent

number. For those birds which reach adulthood and manage to avoid hunters (human and otherwise), disease, natural disasters, and the like, prospects for a long life are still anything but good. The average annual death rate of mature turkeys is around 40 percent, and few indeed are the birds which die of old age. Any turkey living beyond five years in the wild can be said to be especially long-lived. There is a record of a banded hen, trapped in Florida and transported to Texas, living into at least her 12th year.

How Far Can A Turkey Fly?

There is no simple answer in terms of distance, but turkeys can fly a long way. Once they are airborne, their wide wings enable them to glide with relatively little effort. However, it was once common in the open plains areas of some Midwestern state to "hunt" turkeys on horseback by chasing them with horses and repeatedly making them fly until they were worn out and unable to take wing. In rougher, forested terrain though, I like the answer old time hunter and turkey sage Archibald Rutledge gave when asked this question. His response was: "As far as he needs to."

How Fast Can A Turkey Fly?

There is no absolute answer. However, an old hunting adage runs "you can't outdraw a turkey," and there is a lot of truth to this. A turkey can take flight and board the airway express to the next county in amazingly short order. The turkey does have an excellent wing area to weight ration, and the tremendous noise they make going to and from the roost, often hitting limbs in the process, should not mislead anyone into believing they are poor flyers. There have been wing speeds of upwards of 50 miles per hour recorded in wild turkeys.

What Makes The Best Wild Turkey Habitat?

At the dawn of the restoration era, most biologists thought that turkeys only fared well in extensive tracts of mature forest in the case of Easterns and Osceolas or vast expanses of wild country (for Merriam's and Rio Grandes). That concept has long since proven

erroneous. While there is no such thing as "the perfect turkey habitat," a mixture of mature trees for roosting, ample water, nesting territory, and plentiful food are all key parts of the habitat equation. It is also clear that monoculture, particularly that associated with clear-cutting and replanting in pines, has a negative impact on turkey numbers.

Can Hens Lay More Than One Clutch of Eggs?

Yes, although the subject has not been thoroughly studied, biologists believe that hens can lay fertile eggs for a period of several weeks after mating. Certainly this is true for domestic turkeys. There are numerous recorded instances of a hen making a new nest and laying a second clutch of eggs after her original nest was destroyed by predation. What is less certain is whether these hens bred a second time (or maybe copulated several times) or relied on semen from the original breeding.

What Makes Turkeys Gobble?

Almost anything—sudden noise, exasperation, and in the mating season, efforts to attract hens—can elicit gobbles. Over the years I have compiled a list of noises that produced so-called shock gobbles. That list is approaching one hundred and includes all the commonly known locator sounds—owl hoots, hawk screams, crow calls, the sound of pileated woodpeckers—along with many others. Some of the more unusual include a jet backing off while in a holding pattern, gobbling in response to a bobwhite quail's song, and the barking of a grey squirrel. Also, it is a mistake to associate gobbling exclusively with the spring breeding season. I have heard considerable gobbling activity in the heart of the winter during a warm spell, and once in a while mature gobblers will, when scattered, gobble instead of just yelping as they try to reassemble. Under any circumstances though, the sound goes to the heart of what the wild world is all about and reaches out to take hold of the hunter's heart.

This article was reprinted from *Turkey Hunting Strategies*

model for opening lands and reversing this nationwide trend to "post every acre."

Have we won? Are we there yet? In CORA's opinion, our test case has just started. With access to these lands goes the responsibility to use them carefully. Champion and Huber officials will be watching us. Are we complying with the rules? Are we considerate of the weather conditions and what our machines are doing to company roads before we ride? Are we careful with our warming fires? Are we considerate of other users? Do we hunt right up against or through active logging operations?

TWRA is plowing "new ground" with multiple use concept in place on Royal Blue WMA. For turkey hunters and dirt bike riders to coexist on the same property, on the same day, takes some understanding and patience. We have come a "long way" in ten years, but we are not "there" yet. The spirit of cooperation that has opened up 180,000 acres for public use will have to continue and expand if this effort succeeds. It will take the combined efforts of all these multiple users if this concept is to continue to work.

CORA, its officer, directors, members and other supporters can justly be proud of the part we have played in helping create a huge multiple use outdoor recreation area on Royal Blue WMA, Champion's Cumberland Forest and Huber Corporation's Tackett Creek area. Some of CORA's directors have made preliminary contacts with Coal Creek Mining and Manufacturing Company owner of another huge tract of mountain land and we will pursue an effort to get that area formally opened for public recreation under TWRA's supervision. This area would be a welcome addition.

As long as we and other members of the public conduct ourselves properly, respect the rights of landowners to make lawful uses of their property and help preserve and protect the land, the future of land-based outdoor recreation in our part of Tennessee looks bright.

If there are any problem areas of significance they center around conflicts between special interest groups. The guiding principle of CORA is multiple use tempered by the need to protect that

land and the plants and animals on the land. All user groups must also recognize and respect the rights and enjoyment of other user groups, and must accept and abide by whatever reasonable regulations as adopted.

As long as CORA can provide a forum where well intentioned men and women meet, discuss problems of mutual concern, seek reasonable solutions and respect that land and each other, there will be a place for us because there will always be problems to solve, as we try to respect and hang onto the better things of the past while using the technologies

COULD THIS, continued from page 2

Rama. Ebenezer declared, "I don't like it here? Take me home at once!" The crane replied, "You are at home. This is what became of your favorite marsh."

"No, it can't be! My marsh had herons and eagles and bitterns living there. What happened to them? Where did they go?" he cried in alarm.

"No one knows, Ebenezer," the crane answered. "The Nature Conservancy tried valiantly to save this marsh. They asked for the necessary funds, but many did what you did. They tossed the appeal letter away."

"But I'm only one person. One person can't really make much difference," Ebenezer protested weakly. The crane replied: "Oh, but he can. Everyone is important. With only a little more effort, your marsh could still be here."

En route home Ebenezer was silent. Delivered safely to his comfortable bed, he heard the crane depart into the crisp, dark void. He would long remember its call: "Act now, you do make a difference . . ."

How many times have we experienced regret because we never got to see, experience and enjoy what was here previously? Like Ebenezer's marsh, no one cared enough to save those places back when (we) were the future generation. In fairness to our predecessors, they though Nature had to be tamed, beaten back, even defeated in the name of progress. We know better! It is our duty to be wiser stewards than they were.

If you believe the same and would like to keep the mistakes of the past from being perpetuated, why not join one or

of the present. This challenge has been with us for a long time and we are proud of the part CORA has played.

This huge, rugged-mountain paradise is passed on the future generations and ultimately to you. It represents the blood, sweat, tears, money and total dedication of outdoor recreation lovers, who were determined to preserve it and pass it on the future generations. When it comes your time to enjoy it, please treat it with proper respect, improve it any way you can and pass it on just as we pass it on to you.

more good conservation organizations? Memberships generally include magazines or newsletters, decals, and most important, the satisfying knowledge that these organizations are working for what you believe is important. The best ones are those that are non-controversial—those that recognize the loss of a habitat and the degradation of wild places as the greatest threat to wildlife and future generations. These include: The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, The National Wildlife Federation, Oxbow, Inc., Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association (CORA) and others.

Memberships make nice gifts. Several organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited and the National Wildlife Federation, have special memberships and magazines for youngsters. What better way for them to begin thinking about responsibility and wise stewardship?

Another way to make a difference is to ask for an environmental license plate when it comes time to renew the one you have now. They cost a bit more than your ordinary one but all but about \$10.00 goes directly into the preservation of land here in Tennessee. Land that will be set aside forever for the purposes referred to above.

Get involved, it'll make you feel good all over.

CORA, its Publishers or Editors are not responsible for the accuracy of facts surrounding the articles published in this Newsletter.

Division of Forestry

By Nathan Waters, Fire Prevention Forester

The Board meeting commenced at 7:20 p.m. at the Campbell County Court House, Jacksboro, TN.

Invocation: by Lee Asbury

Board roll call:

Absent: Don Shelton and Ray Ivy.

Excused absent: Harry Burden, Robert Burden, Perry Vinsant, Ernie Lester and Jim Shetterly.

Treasurer Terry Lewis read the reports for the General and the Newsletter accounts, both were approved as read.

ACTIVITY REPORTS

Newsletter: Terry Lewis, again requested articles for the next issue of the Newsletter that is about to be published.

Delinquent accounts were discussed. Asbury agreed to contract those assigned to him. Lewis did make contact with his, and they have agreed to pay.

Jack Ethridge and Terry Lewis negotiated a swap in each other's newsletters, and this would cancel any outstanding charges.

Roads & Trails: President Asbury commented that the roads marked closed on AUGUST 15 thru JANUARY 1, ARE NOW OPEN AND MARKED GREEN.

Lee, closed the roads issue saying that he has requested a meeting with Representative, Cross and TWRA Director, Meyers, to help clarify their vision for ROYAL BLUE . . . especially, that of Director Meyers.

Asbury further commented that in his opinion, "there needs to be more 'upper' level input on the vision and future of ROYAL BLUE; it appears, that there is no communication at the levels needed," said Asbury.

Terry Lewis announced that all those who signed up for "Volunteer Fire-fighters" are to meet at the LaFollette training center Tuesday, January 13 at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted;
Frank LaGreca,
Secretary

Campbell county is one of the twelve counties located in District Two of the Department of Agriculture, Division of Forestry. Out of these twelve (the others are Anderson, Blount, Claiborne, Knox, Loudon, Monroe, Morgan, Roane, Scott, Sevier and Union), Campbell county has regularly had the largest fires and the most acres burnt. There are two main reasons for this. First, Campbell county is not highly populated in most areas, so that when a fire starts it often goes unreported until it is several acres in size. Second, a steep mountain range runs the entire northern length of the county. This is an important consideration in fire fighting, as fire preheats fuels in front of it and burns more quickly up slope, as opposed to level ground or down slope.


On a five-year average (1993-1997), Campbell county has had 1276.68 acres burn per year, had 30 fires per year and these fires have been an average of 50 acres in size. Approximately 50 percent of all fires in Campbell county have been caused by arsonists, while careless debris burners cause around 35 percent. The other major cause of fires in the county is railroads, which cause about 10 percent of all fires.

In order to combat these problems, the Division of Forestry has taken several strategic actions. In reaction to the findings that nearly half of all fires in the state are caused by arsonists, Forestry has implemented a training program so that its employees can recognize signs of arson, how to interview witnesses and have a basic understanding of how the criminal justice system prosecutes and uses evidence in arson cases. Also,

Forestry now has a trained arson investigator, who has been through the state police academy, for each District.

The state burn permit system was implemented to help reduce the number of careless debris burner fires in two ways. Number one is that if weather conditions become unsafe, the Division can halt and recall permits until conditions change. Second, when persons call for burn permits, Forestry personnel are required to give important information on how to prevent your fire from escaping (never leave a fire unattended, have helpers and tools, watch the weather, clear a line around your fire). Following these tips greatly reduces the chance of a fire escaping. Finally, the permit allows the Division to know where planned fires are burning. This reduces false alarms, which cost on average of \$60.00 per call. Permits are FREE, and all the public needs to do to obtain one is call their local Division of Forestry office.

Finally, in response to continued railroad fires, the Division of Forestry bills these companies for all suppression costs, and refers unpaid/unanswered reimbursement requests to a state attorney in Nashville. Other prevention efforts by Forestry in Campbell county include Smokey Bear programs and attending county fairs and events with fire prevention literature, when possible.



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FIRST CLASS MAIL

CORA Volunteer Forest Fire Fighters

By Terry Lewis

CORA volunteers have recently been trained as forest fire fighters to help with the task of fighting area forest fires. As federal cut backs take effect the local Division of Forestry has felt the effect of the belt tightening. Area manpower has been reduced and with that goes the Forest Service's ability to handle forest fires that threaten our mountainous areas.

CORA in an effort to help with the problems has started a program of training volunteers to bolster the Forest Service's crews. CORA hosted the first training session on January 13, 1998 at the Campbell County Court House at 7:00 P.M. The training class was attended by CORA President Lee Asbury, Treasurer Terry Lewis, Board Members Galen Wiseman, Ray Ivey and by Don Dillbeck. The instructors for the training

session were led by Tennessee Division of Forestry Supervisor Mr. Ted Dailey and by Mr. Frank McCullah, Forestry Technician for Campbell County and Forestry Instructor Charles Aiv. The classes are centered around the safety for the fire fighting volunteers and to preview the tools and clothing required to fight the fires. Instruction on building fire lines and back fires were discussed at length. Tips for fighting forest fires in steep country were an important subject.

CORA members hope to never be needed by the forest service, but if an extremely large fire or multiple fires were to break out the forest service would not have the manpower to control the fires, then CORA stands ready and trained to help our community control the damage to our beautiful mountainous areas. If you wish to volunteer for the training, or

would like additional information, please call Lee Asbury at 562-5886 or Terry Lewis at 584-1825.

C.O.R.A. Meeting

March 3, 1998

7:00 P.M.

Regular meetings

are 1st Tuesday

of each month

See You There!