

# CORA

## CAMPBELL OUTDOOR RECREATION ASSOCIATION



Left to right: Coy Crutchfield, Glennis Monday, Mark J. Tidwell, Bill Stanley, Terry Lewis, Jason Vanover, Jamie Wright, Ronald Lambert, and Ron Lawhorn.

### CORA President's Letter



**Terry Lewis**

#### Tale of the Trails

I have a very unique perspective and understanding of the OHV trail issues. You see, I have been traveling and dealing with these trails since 1977, when motorcycles, 4x4 trucks and buggies were the vehicles of choice. In the early days there was not any

trail maintenance. There was not the level of traffic, or the massive machines, to erode the landscape.

Back in those days, a couple of buddies and I would ride dirt bikes every Saturday and might never see another person on the trails. We would ride 75 miles in one day's ride as a normal outing. We covered a lot of ground, with 800 miles of trails. The riding was endless and getting lost was always a concern. In 1993, when TWRA acquired the 49,000 acres of the Royal Blue tract, the condition of the trails, or the need for trail maintenance, was not a concern, because there was not the tremendous use we see (Page 7)

### INSIDE

#### Page 1

CORA PRESIDENT'S LETTER

#### Pages 2-3

CORA PICNIC  
CORA MEETINGS  
SUMMARIES

#### Pages 4-5

CORA MEETINGS  
SUMMARY  
Cont'd

#### Pages 6-7

CORA PRESIDENT'S  
LETTER Cont'd  
RETIREMENT

#### Pages 8-9

BUSINESS AND  
PROFESSIONAL  
DIRECTORY CORA BOOK  
AVAILABLE

#### Pages 10-11

Generational  
Perspective

#### Page 12

VIEWPOINT AND HUMOR



# CORA PICNIC OCTOBER 25<sup>TH</sup> AT COVE LAKE STATE PARK





# CORA MEETING SUMMARIES

## CORA

### Monthly Meeting Highlights

(Full meeting minutes are available on the CORA website: [cora-tn.org](http://cora-tn.org))

**January 2025:** Meeting business centered around the December Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission meeting in Memphis. Unanswered questions remain, pertaining to license/fee revisions. The period of validity for current license/permit holders, when new permits take effect, when to purchase new permits (especially for non-residents), need clarification. Some in the audience felt more local stakeholders should have attended the meeting.

E.L. Morton and Ron Lambert both spoke about economic studies of the area. Morton spoke to a more county-based study, while Lambert spoke about a broader grant with regional impact(s) extending from the North Cumberland all the way to the Breaks Interstate Park.

Chairman Stanley suggested a follow-on letter be written to TFWC Commissioners and TWRA Director Maxedon, thanking them for considering CORA's OHV fee revision proposal. Stanley also discussed the CORA history book

update project. Jocelyn Woods Griffo will be incorporating the last few years of CORA history into a new edition.



**Joe Elkins, TWRA Cast Iron Cookers**

**February 2025:** Glennis Monday noted upcoming litter clean up events at Ed Carter Unit and Flat Hollow Marina.

President Lewis reported a total of 5,087 pounds of venison, enough for 20,348 meals had been donated to Hunters for the Hungry. TWRA personnel Keith Thomas (NC Manager) and Darrel England (Manager) spoke to problems with collars placed on elk calves. Most of these devices will be removed. The majority of feedback from the OHV fee revision is negative. Recent bear hunts were discussed with harvest statistics to follow when

available. Paddle craft and “blue ways” were discussed. The acquisition of the “Goliath Tract” was announced with it becoming part of the Highcliff Unit. Otey Mills will continue to be managed as a limited access refuge. The OHV trail mapping system in finally “live” and downloadable in a number of formats.

**March 2025:** TWRA Manager Darrell England gave an update on an elk poaching case at Red Ash. CORA was thanked for its part in the reward offered in the case. The bear harvest figures for Scott, Campbell and Claiborne Counties totaled 43 bears

# CORA MEETING SUMMARIES CONTINUED

during archery and 2 during gun season. Campbell County's new wildlife officer, Connor Baird, was introduced. OHV officer Stone Payne was also introduced. Wildfires on the Highcliff and Ed Carter Units were noted. Ronald Lambert gave an update on the Appalachian Regional Commission study grant. This planning stage could lead to the implementation of a multi-million-dollar grant having substantial impact to the recreational facet of the area.

**April 2025:** NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas detailed prescribed burns on the area. There was also a 2,200-acre arson fire on Fork Mountain. Two more prescribed burns are planned on Puncheon Camp and Massengale Mountain. Glennis Monday detailed two litter control events: Flat Hollow/Norris Lake with 3.43 tons of trash removed along 2.5 miles of shoreline by 20 volunteers and Tackett Creek/Ed Carter with 186 bags of garbage removed by 60 volunteers. Chairman Stanley talked about the Appalachian Regional Commission study grant and the meetings he had attended. The annual Wounded Warrior event is scheduled for April 26 th. Jason Vanover made a motion for CORA to support the event with a \$500.00 donation, which carried unanimously.

Fred Walker spoke on his advocacy for a late season flintlock rifle season for deer.

**May 2025:** Joe Elkins, TWRA WMA Coordinator reported two prescribed burns, mentioned in April's minutes, had been completed. Elkins announced the retirement of two long-serving TWRA employees, Rusty Dunn, OHV Manager, and Fred Jordan, equipment operator. During public comments, audience members talked about boat traffic concerns on Norris Lake. Fred Walker gave an update on his advocacy for a late season flintlock

muzzleloader season. President Lewis led a discussion on the proposed OHV fee restructuring, effectual dates, types of licenses and lingering public confusion surrounding the issue.

**June 2025:** President Lewis commended TWRA for outstanding work in improving the elk viewing tower road. Chairman Stanley gave an update of the Jocelyn Woods Griffo addition (last 5 years) to the CORA history book. Wake zones were once again brought up by those in the audience concerning boat traffic on Norris Lake.

## Fred Walker and Flintlock Rifle





# CORA MEETING SUMMARIES CONTINUED

Ron Lambert and Glennis Monday will help make the appropriate contacts for such issues through the Norris Lake Project Team and Blueway Project. President Lewis updated the board on legislative bills ranging from paddle sports to drones to temporary licenses for wounded warriors. The National Wild Turkey Federation event is scheduled for the Ball Farm on June 5th. Campbell Culture Coalition member Manuel Mesa addressed the board about access to some of the areas special natural features on the NCWMA to feature in photographs.

**July 2025:** Region 4 Wildlife Program Manager John Mike spoke about the recent withdrawal of license fee and permit revisions by the Agency. Guidance from TWRA Director Maxedon, on how TWRA will proceed in lieu of the budget shortfall, is still being formulated. Fred Walker donated a flintlock rifle to CORA for use as a fundraiser. A special presentation by the Tennessee Wildlife Federation was then entered into. Bill Cooksey, Partnerships Program Leader, and Horace Tipton, Director of Conservation Policy spoke about advocacy and mission implementation by the TWF. Compliments were given to CORA for their conservation-based work. A general audience/board discussion

followed with topics ranging from OHV business, alcohol ban on WMAs, to license fees. Chairman Stanley thanked everyone for their civility in discussing topics from widely varying points of view.

**August 2025:** 170 website visits and 2,452 Facebook views were reported in the last 90 days for CORA outreach sites. Trail conditions on the NCWMA were reported as “challenging”, due to rain events, lots of standing water, ruts, and periods of high OHV traffic. The yearly board election was held. The current slate of officers was retained by acclimation. James Wright was nominated and accepted as a board member. Joe Elkins, WMA Coordinator spoke about the upcoming 25th anniversary of the elk re-introduction on the NCWMA. Road construction was occurring near the Meredith Cemetery. TWRA Chief of Real Estate Tim Churchill retired. Leadership Campbell County will be taking a trip to the elk viewing tower on August 21st. The last item on the agenda was a vote for support of another look by TWRA at a license revision for OHVs.

**September 2025:** The recent trip of Campbell County Leadership to the elk viewing tower was discussed. TWRA and CORA engaged with the group and made for a memorable occasion.

Fred Walker updated the board on his advocacy for a flintlock rifle season for deer. He has a two-pronged approach: (1) getting an actual flintlock season, and (2) the historical clothing aspect of the hunt with the possibility of no hunter orange requirement, or reduced amount of hunter orange. He used Pennsylvania’s flintlock season as a baseline for safety concerns. Pennsylvania requires no hunter orange for flintlock season and has been statistically accident free for the last several years. President Lewis updated the board on his attendance at meetings where new revenue streams were discussed for TWRA. Sheila Westray discussed keeping OHV fee revisions in line with other states and prices affordable to those utilizing the NCWMA.

**October 2025:** Wildlife Manager Darrell England gave a detailed report on recent elk hunts: 4 of 9 archery tags had been filled and 8 of 9 rifle tags were filled. In light of several wounded elk being left in the field (unfound, unrecovered) this season, CORA made a motion to back the position that once a hunter “draws blood” on an elk, that in essence fills their tag and their hunt is over. CORA feels that with the finite number of elk on the NCWMA, combined with an increased



# CORA MEETING SUMMARIES CONTINUED

number of issued tags, that the resource should be considered at a premium. CORA will pass their official stance on to the powers that be at TWRA. Seth Dunn has been hired for the OHV Manager position. England will be meeting with the district attorney see to see how to proceed with an elk poaching case. President Lewis read a letter from 27 NGOs asking for a new revenue stream to be created for TWRA. Other states such as Missouri, Arkansas, Georgia, Texas and Virginia already supplement the funding of their wildlife and fisheries agencies. The letter specifically asks for a portion of existing taxes to be used and no new tax be created for such. Lewis also spoke about discussions with TWRA Director Maxedon about the OHV program on the NCWMA. The program is currently not self-funding and out of compliance. Chairman Stanley gave out the list of provisions for board members to provide at the annual CORA barbeque, October 25th , noon, Shelter #5 at Cove Lake State Park.

**November 2025:** The annual CORA barbeque, held on October 25 th was discussed. The event was deemed very successful with the highest attendance in several years. Thanks to TWRA's "Cast Iron Cookers"! And to any and all that helped make the event

pleasant and memorable! The weather was "AB" to boot..... absolutely beautiful! NCWMA Manager Keith Thomas reported that deer harvest was up 40% so far this season. Mast crop across the NCWMA is heavy this year. Thomas further reported that the OHV fee revision could be voted on by the TFWC in December and then forwarded to the legislature. Elk Program Manager Garrett Clevinger gave an update on the recently concluded elk hunts. Total season harvest was thirteen, the same as 2024. The census for the elk herd in the restoration zone is estimated at 400-425 animals. Clevinger noted that a deer with CWD was recently detected in Pulaski County, Kentucky, only 40 miles away from the Scott County, Tennessee border. Thomas also talked about large scale habitat projects in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Fred Walker revisited his flintlock rifle season proposal, saying he would be flexible as to its timing.

Longstanding board member Ron Lawhorn retired at this meeting. He was presented with a certificate of appreciation for his tenure. Lawhorn is a lifetime CORA member and will remain active.

**Year in review:** These 11 months of CORA meeting minutes

reflect such a wide gamut of conservation and wildlife management issues as to be totally amazing. Campbell Outdoor Recreation Association has been engaged from the grassroots level locally, to the highest levels of TWRA. CORA has served in partnership with so many other organizations, such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Tennessee Wildlife Federation, the National Wild Turkey Federation, Wounded Warriors, The Nature Conservancy, Campbell County Chamber of Commerce, Campbell County Leadership, and several other organizations. CORA may be small in number, but the group leaves a large footprint on the wildlife and conservation landscape so near and dear to Campbell County. In a county where roughly half its square miles are in the public domain, CORA remains your advocate to keep lands open, accessible, and well managed. Members volunteer their time, and efforts, to promote and secure the wildlands, and running waters of our area. Despite operating businesses, pursuing careers, raising families, attending churches, and dealing with life in general, CORA members are dedicated to the core principles of the organization. Thank you for your support!



# PRESIDENT'S LETTER CONTINUED

# RETIREMENT

## Tale of the Trails

today. An important part of the acquisition was the requirement that TWRA allow the continued traditional uses of the land. Camping, hiking, fishing, OHV use and horseback riding were among other traditional uses. TWRA has lived up to those acquisition promises. In the early days, any machine could travel the trails and not have to worry about the massive mud holes and deep two-track ruts. The machines had 26-inch tires and could go anywhere. Not now! You need 30" or bigger tires and a winch! On some trails that might not be enough to get you through the mud holes. The issue of the day is the lack of funding for a sufficient trail maintenance program. The Tennessee legislative body has recognized the need for a trails program. They have passed a law that demands that the trails program be self-funding, and for TWRA to not use hook and bullet money to maintain the trails program. The proposed funding program was developed by the agency to assure that the program has sufficient funding to allow for the maintenance program to be successful. While CORA certainly does not agree with everything within the proposed funding program, like the amount of

the license fees, we do understand that the demand for funding at some level is critical to the continued use of the OHV program. Let's explore the thought that if we are at logger heads over the funding proposal, and with sufficient push back, the proposed trails funding program fails to pass at some level. Well think about what happens if there is no trails program? First, the agency continues to allow the traditional use of OHVs on the land as promised. Ok then what? Without continued maintenance, the trails would quickly deteriorate to the point that anyone without 35" tires and 200+ hp will not be able to access the land. Wholesale trail closures would probably happen due to safety concerns. Now give that some thought. The results would be a massive, negative impact to the local economy. Millions-of-dollars would be lost. Thousands of users would move off to other properties like Coal Creek, Black Mountain, Hatfield-McCoy, and other locations to use their special recreational time, and money. While we don't agree with everything proposed, the loss of the OHV program is not something we can allow to happen either!



Ron Lawhorn (right), long standing CORA member, retired from the Board of Directors on November 4th, 2025. CORA President Terry Lewis (left) is seen here presenting Mr. Lawhorn with a certificate of appreciation for his service and dedication to CORA over the years. Thanks Ron!

Mr. Lawhorn said: "I am proud to have been a member of such a small group, in rural Appalachia, doing so much good. We probably wouldn't have Royal Blue or elk on the ground in Campbell County without CORA. We've won national awards. We have Hunters for the Hungry. The accomplishments of this group from little old Campbell County are almost unbelievable!"





# BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY



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# CORA BOOK AVAILABLE

## OFFICERS 2024-2025

President  
Terry Lewis  
Vice President  
Ronald Lambert  
Secretary  
Mark J. Tidwell  
Treasurer  
Coy Crutchfield

## CORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bill Stanley, Chairman of the Board  
James Wright  
Ron Lawhorn -Retired  
Sheriff Wayne Barton  
Justin Jones  
Glennis Monday  
E.L. Morton  
Tommy Overton  
Jason Vanover  
Fred Walker  
Sheila Westray  
Vacancy?

## NORTH CUMBERLAND WMA MANAGER

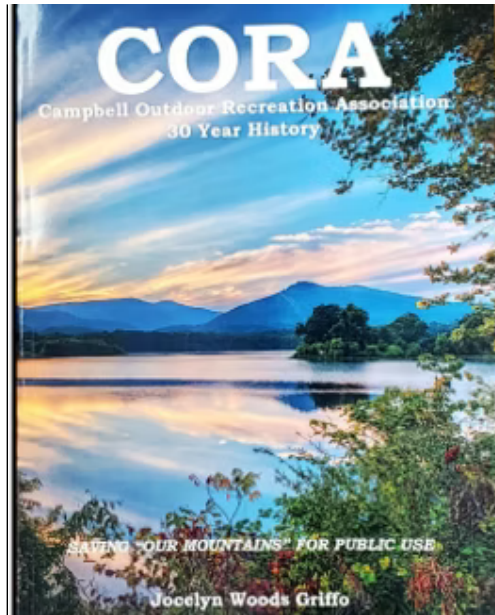
Keith Thomas

## Ed Carter/Tackett Creek Manager (Highcliff & Otey Mills Refuge Units)

Brenden Marlow

## Campbell County Wildlife Officer

Conner Baird



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CORA 30 YEAR HISTORY  
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# GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

## Generational Perspective

By: Mark J. Tidwell



The CORA barbeque this past October 25th was great fun. Shelter #5 at Cove Lake State Park

was crowded with folks attending the annual event. More were present than in the past few

years which was a good thing. The smell of all the good food, mingling with the sweet smell of

desserts being prepared by TWRA's "Cast Iron Cookers", gave off an aromatic ambience that

would be hard to beat.

Tagging along with my wife Yvonne and I was our eight-year-old, great nephew Eli. The little

feller' is not too big a fan of CORA meetings just yet. If he is staying with us, and I head out to

the courthouse at Jacksboro, on the first Tuesday of the month, he'll say "Uncle Mark, why do

you have to go to that old CORA meeting? What ya' going to do there anyways?"

Eli was not all too joyful about being loaded up in the car and taken away from his beloved playtime in Highcliff to attend "that old CORA picnic". Once

there though, he relaxed a little bit

because there was a blaze in the firepit. Now one thing Eli enjoys to the fullest is helping Uncle

Mark build and tend fires in the big open hearth at Highcliff. In only moments, Eli had made himself an assistant to CORA Vice President Ronald Lambert, keeper of the fire at the event, and was so happily helping add pieces of wood. Maybe the CORA barbeque wasn't such a bad

thing after all.

During the raffle of all the nice artifacts and outdoor gadgetry at the picnic, Eli ended up with a new fishing rod and reel complete with a bag full of tackle goodies. Right then and there, time

slowed down to everlasting tick-tocks on the child's clock of life. Nothing else in life mattered

to Eli than to get to the shoreline of Cove Lake, down below Shelter #5, and begin casting his

new reel and winding in fish that would astound everyone within sight.

Surely, we can all reach back to similar episodes of our own childhoods and remember for just a moment how real and exciting things once were. Oh, to be able to store in a bottle, such

a potion of the spices of life, and apply it liberally to our lives as we age! The passing of time sometimes dims our enthusiasm for all the little

things, which are actually huge, as we venture along a few decades of life's road.

Eli did not even want Uncle Mark to eat or talk to anyone after coming into possession of his

new, greatest-fishing-implement-ever-devised. The singular mission of him getting me to take

him fishing was simply all that mattered at that point.

I gobbled down my plate of tasty food ever so swiftly, with a fork in one hand and Eli pulling

on the other arm to get up and head to the water. Eli got to the water's edge far ahead of me.

I've worked with the little feller' quite a bit, so he can adequately operate a fishing outfit. I was

pretty proud as his bobber sailed out, hit the water and made ripples circle about.

Rather than wait for a fish to bite, with all his patience cast to the wind, Eli repeatedly

reeled in his bait and was in a white-hot-heat to cast ever further out into the water. As a

matter of fact, the little feller' made such a vigorous, athletic cast, putting the whole of his

being into the act, that he flung his entire little body out into Cove Lake. "KERSPLUNK!" He

emerged from the water enraged, spitting out the command "Heeeellllp meeeeee Uncle Mark!"

I pulled him out and boy was he

# GENERATIONAL PERSPECTIVE



## Eli Headings and his new rod

telling Cove Lake off. But he had held fast to his new rod, which remained white-knuckled in his clenched little fists. I really can't interpret what Eli said, as his words were mixed with spouts of water spurting from his mouth. I took it his unhappiness with "that old CORA" had returned in a big way. At the end of his soppy rant, he added "And I'm going to have to talk to Sheriff Barton about this!" CORA board member, and Campbell County Sheriff Wayne Barton is our neighbor in Highcliff. Eli often discusses things with the county's chief law enforcement officer.

Our stay at the annual CORA barbeque was thusly cut short by an "emergency run" to Wal-Mart for a dry outfit of clothes sized for an eight-year-old. In years to come, maybe Eli will appreciate "that old CORA" as he matures. Though he doesn't fully understand CORA's mission now, hopefully, sometime in the future, while out enjoying the public wildlands of Campbell County, he might reflect back on the time he got baptized at a CORA function. He may smile and think the organization a pretty worthwhile entity after all. If such comes true for any member of the up-and-coming generation, then CORA will have fulfilled its mission well.



**Horace Tipton, Director of Conservation Policy for TWF**



**Bill Cooksey, Partnerships Program Leader for TWF**



# VIEWPOINT AND HUMOR



A dog or a man has got to do what he has got to do to earn his keep and has got to do it right.

*Robert Ruark*

The Old Man and the Boy



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



**IN GOD WE TRUST  
PROUD TO BE AN  
AMERICAN**

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