



NEWSLETTER

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Executive Director's Comments

By Dwaine Robey

Thank you to all who attended the 2015 Outdoor Buddies fundraiser banquet at the Westminster Westin on April 11th. The annual banquet is perhaps the most important event of the year for Outdoor Buddies. This annual fundraiser event provides a large portion of the funds needed to support Outdoor Buddies programs throughout the year.

I am very happy to say this year's banquet was the most financially successful ever experienced by Outdoor Buddies. There were many volunteers who pitched in to make this year's event so successful. The Outdoor Buddies Board members all played a part in the planning and preparations for this event.

A few of the people who contributed immensely were Kathy Shears, Terry Nelson, Gina and Gerry Robinson. Other major contributors were Todd Bacon, Dan Brown, and the Bardfield family who did a great job selling raffle tickets leading up to the banquet.

Special thanks to Larry Sanford for his presentation and to Dustin Robey for helping carry the ball throughout the evening. And a great big thank you to Dan Daru for doing such a great job as our banquet master of ceremonies for the fourth consecutive year.

Also, I think everyone enjoyed Don Martin, of Martin Auctioneering, and his two helpers who did a fantastic job with the live auction.

The luckiest attendee at the banquet must have been Todd Bacon who held the winning ticket for the gun safe and 5-gun raffle.

Now that the banquet is past, we at Outdoor Buddies are working on future events including the Family Day at Westcliffe on May 16th and the Family Day at Swift Ponds on June 13th. Another major event in the early planning stages is an Outdoor Buddies shooting event at Colorado Clays to be held on August 1st. Please watch future newsletter for more information about these activities.

Please let me know if you have ideas about improvements or if you are willing to serve on one or more of our committees or as an officer or board member. You can contact me at (719) 783-9044 or dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org.





Volunteer Spotlight: Kathy Shears

Outdoor Buddies is managed by its Board of Directors. Voting Board Members are shown below:

*Dwaine Robey,
Executive Director
303-877-8584*

*Larry Sanford,
President
970-218-5356*

*Dustin Robey,
Vice President
303-845-0423*

*Wally Hunt,
Treasurer
303-985-2293*

*Dylan Harrell,
Secretary
303-827-4610*

*Todd Bacon,
Director/Chaplain
303-916-8955*

*Rick Brady, Director
970-330-3151*

*Daniel Brown,
Director
843-816-0901*

*Rich Cori, Director
303-604-9227*

*James Lowry, Director
713-248-9001*

*Terry Nelson, Director
303-884-3266*

*Jim Piper, Director
303-932-1209*

*Gerald Robinson,
Director
303-949-4267*

*Gina Robinson,
Director
303-619-4683*

*Kathy Shears, Director
303-431-1275*

Outdoor Buddies would like to thank Kathy Shears for her tireless work and dedication to the organization. Kathy is an integral part of Outdoor Buddies, and was especially instrumental in this year's annual fundraising banquet. Kathy has served on the Board of Directors for three years and served on numerous planning committees as well.

We are incredibly grateful to Kathy for her tireless efforts in securing and managing the donations for the annual fundraising banquet. Kathy's unending smile and willingness to help new volunteers is a priceless gift to our group.

Each month we will be highlighting a special Outdoor Buddies Volunteer who enhances our organization and allows us to fulfill our mission. If you would like to nominate a volunteer, please send it to either of the editors by the 15th of the month.

**Outdoor Buddies Newsletter Publisher: Outdoor Buddies, Inc.
Co-Editors: Dwaine Robey and Christal Bardfield**

Outdoor Buddies Mission:

"Provide opportunities, through a volunteer organization, for those who have been deprived of enjoying outdoor experiences."

These opportunities are available to all, with no cost, other than personal expenses, and no discrimination due to race, color, creed, religion, sex, or family status.

All Outdoor Buddies members are encouraged to submit input for the newsletter.

Newsletter input should be submitted by the 15th of each month to be included in that month's newsletter.

*Please send newsletter input via e-mail to
Dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org*

Many Thanks

By: Kathy Shears

Another Outdoor Buddies banquet is over and I would like to extend my deep appreciation to some of the folks who really dedicated their time and energy on banquet day to make it a success. All of the following folks actually got to the hotel at noon and put in more than a full day's work. After setting up all the different areas (which is a huge job) they worked the area to help raise money for Outdoor Buddies. Among the jobs that this intrepid group took on were getting 230 promotional bags from Cabela's ready, setting up the reception area, coordinating with the Westin staff to make certain that everything was in order, particularly the audio/visual equipment, getting our computer system up and running, setting up the raffle ticket areas and silent auction tables. After all of that, these folks sold gun raffle tickets, bucket raffle tickets, roses, baskets, or worked the silent auction.

A huge thank you to:

Todd Bacon Dan Brown Ann Robey
 Rick Brady Dylan Harrell Dustin Robey
 Mike Brady Gina Robinson Dwaine Robey
 Larry Brady Gerald Robinson Wally Hunt

I need to give a special thanks to the Bardfield family. They are among our newest members and have already given so much time and energy to Outdoor Buddies that they shame the rest of us. I have never had a better crew to work with on the silent auction at the banquet. Emmersen, Jamesen, and Chris have my heartfelt thanks for all the help that they gave me, Shai for working the bucket raffle tables, and Stetson for greeting our guests. They serve as a reminder of just what family means and how important it is to "give back".

As I stated at the beginning of this article, this is a thank you to all the people who were there at noon, as I think they are deserving of special recognition.

That said there are a few additional people that I would like to thank. Austin Weishel, the sculptor who displayed the clay of the hunter and his dog that he created especially for Outdoor Buddies. (If he receives any commissions for bronzes from the folks at the banquet, he will donate 25% to Outdoor Buddies.) Ed Wolf, the "bearded wonder" who sold roses for the romantic getaway trip, James Lowry for being the photographer and his wife, Jennifer for helping in the reception area.

On the Trail of Turkey

By: Stetson Bardfield



On April 25th I got to go on my first turkey hunt ever. My family and I were invited to the home of Dwaine and Ann Robey for the hunt. I was very excited not only for the hunt, but also for the opportunity to camp with my family in the mountains.

We arrived on the 24th and set up our camp site. I was happy when I learned that Dustin Robey, the grandson of Dwaine Robey, was going to be helping me with the hunt.

Dustin talked to me about what the plan was for the morning, and also about what I needed to look for when it came time to hunt.



I learned so much from Dustin! He explained to me what made a male turkey legal to shoot. I learned about beard length and telling a hen from a tom.

The next day I woke up to my 4:30 AM alarm and I got ready. I was nervous and excited! This would be the first time that I ever used a

shotgun. I wasn't using any old shotgun either – I was using a shotgun provided by Mike Smith. You can read more about this amazing firearm in the article about it in this newsletter. Once you read about it, you'll know why it was so exciting and special to use.

Dustin was an amazing guide and friend. He set up my blind and explained again what I needed to do when I saw the turkeys come in. Then he went out in the cold and wind to do turkey calls and flush the turkeys up to where we had set up.

It wasn't very long before the gobbling started and I knew they were headed my way.

The first tom went to the wrong side of the blind and there was no way to turn around fast enough before it ran away.

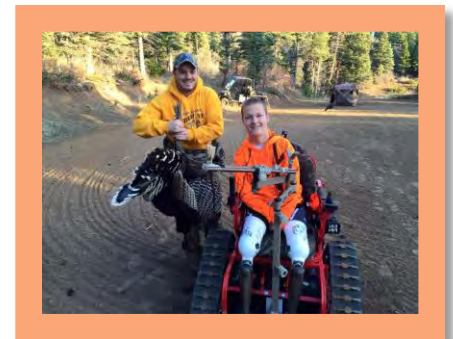
The excitement grew as I heard Dustin making more calls and getting lots of answers in return.

After mere moments I saw a flash of white in the trees and rapidly tapped my dad's hand and

motioned for him to look. He agreed it was headed our way and prepared the shotgun.

I could see it had a long beard and prepared to shoot. Just as it turned to walk away I was able to take my shot and it hit perfectly. Dustin radioed to us after hearing the shot and I excitedly told him I got it.

Dustin headed to where we were set up and congratulated me. We made our way back to



camp and my excited family. I couldn't believe it only took 40 minutes to get my turkey.

I then learned how to pluck and dress the turkey and I was thrilled to learn it had a 7 inch beard!

We all enjoyed the remainder of the day together, including a celebratory barbecue with both Robey families and Mike and Christine Smith.

I will never forget this special hunt, and the help of Dustin, Mike and Dwaine in making it happen.

It Takes a Village: A Special Gun for a Special Boy

By: Christal Bardfield

It never ceases to amaze how much kindness we have encountered since becoming involved with Outdoor Buddies.

Everyone knows that the hunts and outdoor opportunities provided by Outdoor Buddies require a great deal of coordination, and selflessness, from a variety of sources.

Each experience is a careful orchestration between land owners, volunteers, and folks who have the necessary tools to make the experience happen.

Mike Smith came into Stetson's life when he volunteered for the February elk hunt. Stetson came home telling me what a kind person Mike was, and my e-mails with him sure reinforced what Stetson had already told me. I wasn't prepared, however, for his contribution to Stetson's turkey hunt. Dwaine had

called us ahead of the hunt to let us know Mike was providing a shotgun for the hunt. I was incredibly grateful, but had no idea what a special shotgun it would be.



The evening we arrived for the hunt, Mike brought the shotgun

over and my jaw about hit the floor.

The case opened to reveal a SO4 Beretta. This particular shotgun was made in 1986 and had the Olympic medallion inlaid into the stock.

The medallion was put on the guns of that period because Beretta shotguns won Olympic medals in Monaco, Moscow, and Montreal.

The recoil reducer, which was integral to Stetson's successful use of a shotgun, was installed for competition shooting. It was a true work of art, from barrel to butt.

We are forever indebted to Mike for his continued kindness to Stetson and his willingness to lend a helping hand.

To read more about our Chukar Hunt with the Rocky Mountain Sporting Dog Club, check out this fantastic article in the Denver Post:

http://www.denverpost.com/outdoors/ci_27686294/outdoor-buddies-helps-mobility-impaired-sportsmen?source=infinite

2015 Outdoor Buddies Banquet

By: Dwaine Robey



Outdoor Buddies held its annual banquet for 2015 at The Westminster Westin on Saturday, April 11th. There was a full house again this year.

Outdoor Buddies Executive Director, Dwaine Robey, kicked off the evening's program with a welcome and thank you for the great support given to Outdoor Buddies.

After introductions and brief remarks from the officers, Outdoor Buddies Vice President, Dustin Robey, introduced Dan Daru, the master of ceremonies for the program. Dan is a well-known Denver TV personality, who is a weekday morning reporter on Fox 31's Good Day Colorado. This was Dan's fourth consecutive year as master of ceremonies at the annual Outdoor Buddies affair.

The National Colors were presented by the Junior ROTC Color Guard from Abraham Lincoln High School.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was led by youngsters Taylor and Trevor Robey and Romeo and Bella Daru

Todd Bacon, Outdoor Buddies Chaplin, delivered the invocation.

Outdoor Buddies President, Larry Sanford made a presentation demonstrating how adaptive equipment is used to assist disabled persons in their pursuit of outdoor activities.

This set the stage for the live auction, and gave auctioneer Don Martin of Martin Auctioneering a chance to begin the action.

Thanks to Marci Gregg who recorded sales during the fast-paced auction activities.

The evening concluded with the raffle prize drawings. The luckiest raffle winner was Todd Bacon, who captured the gun safe with five guns raffle prize.

The winners of some of the raffles included:

Todd Bacon Liberty gun safe with five guns

Lisa Aberegg Hi-Pointe 9mm Carbine

Becky Hall Ruger 1911 .45 caliber Piston

Jim Killey Stag Arms AR15 Rifle

Outdoor Buddies would like to thank all of the individuals and companies that donated items for the raffles and auction, and express gratitude to the Westminster Westin its assistance in hosting this great banquet. And special thanks to the Outdoor Buddies volunteers who worked so hard to make this year's banquet such a great success.

Following are a few of the pictures from the banquet.



Outdoor Buddies Community & Armed Forces Appreciation Day



On Armed Forces Day, May 16th, Outdoor Buddies will hold the fourth annual Community & Armed Forces Appreciation Day honoring Veterans, active duty military personnel, and their families.

Again this year, thanks to the generosity of ranch owners, Ralph and Donna Hood, the event will be held at A Painted View Ranch. The ranch is located three miles west of downtown Westcliffe at 3115 County Road 160. Activities will start at 10:00 am and end at 4:00 pm. This is a Family Day event and everyone is invited! There will be games, demonstrations, free food, and much more.

The Mounted Color Guard from Fort Carson, along with representatives of local American Legion Post 170, will participate in the flag ceremony. Following the flag ceremony, the members of the mounted color guard team will perform an equestrian demonstration.

Outdoor Buddies volunteers will serve a free lunch consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato chips, iced tea, lemonade, and water. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

Special guests include soldiers from the Warrior Transition Unit along with other soldiers and their families from Fort Carson and Haven Behavioral Hospital in Pueblo.

Planned activities include Huey helicopter display, combat support field hospital display, static display of anti-mine machine, Humvees w/soldiers in combat uniform, Raven drone demonstration, Action Trackstander and off-road adaptive vehicle demonstrations, pack mule demonstration with mules (by local US Forest Service), archery range and fishing game (by local Colorado Parks & Wildlife), Mission Wolf's 30 minute educational program with wolves, and much more.

Special attractions for kids include a bounce house, ducky race (using an irrigation canal that runs through the ranch); stick pony barrel racing, animal balloons, face painting, and cotton candy.

Last year's event was a big success, so a large turnout is expected. Please plan to join the fun at A Painted View Ranch on Saturday, May 16th.

For more details, contact Dwaine Robey at 783-9044 or dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org or McKenzie Huffman at 783-9100 or mckenzie@apaintedview.com.

Outdoor Buddies Upcoming Events Calendar

Date	Event/Location	Description	Contacts
June, July, and August	Group camping – private campground at Tarryall State Wildlife Area.	Reserve 40 acre campground for your church group, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Kid's Club, or other group.	Jim Piper (303) 932-1209 geopros@clanmurray.org Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 drobey@centurytel.net
May 16	Outdoor Buddies Family Day at A Painted View Ranch Near Westcliffe.	There will be free admittance, free food, and lots of games and demonstrations. Everyone is welcome!	Dwaine Robey (719) 783-9044 dwayne.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
May 20	Outdoor Buddies Board Meeting at Colorado Parks and Wildlife facilities located at 6060 Broadway in Denver.	Board Meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Visitors are welcome.	Larry Sanford (970) 663-7852 lpbusy@comcast.net
June 13	Outdoor Buddies Family Day at Swift Ponds. Everyone is welcome!	There will be free admittance, free food, and lots of fishing, shooting, games and demonstrations.	Larry Sanford (970) 663-7852 lpbusy@comcast.net
August 1	Outdoor Buddies site-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club.	Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:30 AM.	Rich Cori (303) 604-9227 r_j_cori@msn.com
August 1	Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Event at Colorado Clays.	All day fundraiser event at Colorado Clays LLC 13600 Lanewood Street Brighton, Colorado	Larry Sanford (970) 663-7852 lpbusy@comcast.net or Michael Sabbeth 720-839-7264 michaelsabbeth@ymail.com