



NEWSLETTER

December 2015

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Executive Director's Comments ~ By Dwaine Robey



Here's hoping you and your family have a blessed Christmas and a fantastic new year!

As 2015 comes to an end and we look back at the past twelve months, I believe that it has been another very good year for Outdoor Buddies.

Our organization continues its consistent increase in the number of outdoor activities in which members and others can enjoy. However, in saying that, we also realize that there are many ways in which the organization needs to do better. For example, we should do a much better job of integrating new volunteers into Outdoor Buddies programs. Our Board recognizes that this is an area where we can do more. We hope to improve this in 2016 with board member, Daniel Brown, leading the effort. We welcome anyone who wants to get involved with the work that must be done to make Outdoor Buddies a very worthwhile provider of community services.

The year of 2016 promises to be another very busy year for Outdoor Buddies as plans are already in place for several major events.

Of course one of the most significant 2016 events will be the annual Outdoor Buddies banquet to be held at the Omni Interlocken Hotel in Broomfield on Saturday, April 23rd. Please mark your calendar now and plan to be there!

For bird hunters, plans are in progress for an upland bird hunt on Saturday, February 27th. We have had a few of these hunts in the past and they are always a lot of fun.

The fifth annual Outdoor Buddies Family Day at Westcliffe will be held at A Painted View Ranch on Saturday, May 14th. This event provides a day filled with family activities and is held to show appreciation to our military and military veterans and their families.

The annual Outdoor Buddies Family Day at Swift Ponds will be held on Saturday, June 11th. The Family Day at Swift Ponds is a long-standing tradition with Outdoor Buddies and is major highlight activity each year.

On Saturday, July 30th, the Outdoor Buddies Golf Tournament will be held at Green Valley Ranch Golf Course. Please invite all your golfing friends and make plans to have a fun-filled day on one of the finest golf courses in the country.

Our newest annual event, the Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Tournament at Colorado Clays will be held on Saturday, August 6th. This event was held for the first time in 2015 and was a great success. We think it will grow each year and become a very major event for Outdoor Buddies in future years. Please come out and enjoy a day with Outdoor Buddies on August 6th.

There will also be several fishing activities held during the year at various locations. We anticipate holding events at Tarryall State Wildlife Area where there are good fishing opportunities at the reservoir and where there is great camping and Outdoor Buddies has access to a bunkhouse and semi-private campground. We also plan on doing the annual fishing outing on the Poudre River west of Fort Collins again in the late summer.

Throughout the year, Outdoor Buddies volunteers will be working on plans and schedules for big game hunting. For the past few years we have averaged 130-150 one-on-one big game hunts for antelope, deer, and elk. This requires a tremendous amount of planning and coordination work by our Hunt Committee. Current members of the Hunt Committee include Larry Sanford, Dwaine Robey, Jim Piper, Dylan Harrell, Daniel Brown, Dustin Robey, Todd, Bacon, and Terry Gleason.

I would like to close with this short poem by Norman W. Brooks.

Let Every Day Be Christmas

Christmas is forever, not for just one day,
for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away,
like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box
upon a shelf.

The good you do for others is good you do
yourself.

Merry Christmas from Outdoor Buddies!

Outdoor Buddies is managed by its Board of Directors.

Voting Board Members are shown below:

Dwayne 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

Christal Bardfield
Director
719-580-6366

Daniel Brown
Director
843-816-0901

James Lowry
Vice President Elect
713-248-9001

Jim Piper
Director
303-932-1209

Gina Robinson
Treasurer Elect
303-619-4683

Outdoor Buddies Newsletter Publisher: Outdoor Buddies, Inc.

Co-Editors: Dwayne Robey and Chris 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.

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

Submit newsletter input by the 15th of each month to be included in that month’s newsletter.

**Please send newsletter input via E-mail to:
dwayne.robey@outdoorbuddies.org**

President’s Corner

By Larry Sanford

Instead of writing a column this month, I would like to share a few pictures from some of our 2015 adventures.



Conner Dowsett with his father, Allan, at Meadow Springs Ranch.



Peter Harper with his unusual Buck at Meadow Springs Ranch.



Stetson Bardfield with his elk at River Canyon Ranch.



Tim Salvi with his wife, Noelle, and helper, Mark, at Twentymile Mine hunt.

Monaghan Ranch Antelope Hunt

By Jim Piper

I was lucky enough to draw a pronghorn tag for a hunt on the Monaghan Ranch this year. Fortunately we were blessed with unusually nice weather for late September, and were there and gone before the big winds of Wyoming started to blow.



Jim Piper with his doe antelope.

The Monaghan Ranch is located a few miles north of the Colorado-Wyoming border, between Tie Siding and Laramie. The ranch is extensive in size, used primarily for grazing grass fed cattle, but it also hosts a rich variety of wildlife, which includes healthy herds of Pronghorn.

The hunt is managed and guided by Mr. Garry Woodman, who is an avid hunter with wide experience. My

helper this year was Dan Brown, an Outdoor Buddies Board Member, with an extensive military background (retired army).

Dan and I arrived at the ranch before 8:00 am, which gave us ample time to hunt in the morning hours. Before hunting began the first order of business was to shoot a round at a qualifying target, at 150 yards. This duty accomplished, we headed out to find a herd.

We encountered several groups of pronghorns, but as often is the case they kept their distance and finally Garry spotted a group that was close enough to provide me with a decent shot. I shot a doe at about 220 yards, albeit the doe was not standing perfectly broadside, and the animal was left standing. We drove a few yards closer and I hit her in the head.

After high 5's and field dressing the animal we returned to the ranch house and

Garry skinned and quartered it.

This was a high quality hunt and all of us had a great time!

Outdoor Buddies expresses our sincere gratitude to Rob DeLine, ranch owner, for granting us the opportunity to hunt on this beautiful ranch property and to Garry Woodman, wildlife manager, for all of his hard work/planning to make this happen. My thanks also to Dan Brown for his

assistance, and Outdoor Buddies for organizing participation in outings like this for the disabled.

This is not the way to hunt!



Outdoor Buddies and Too Many Deer

By Dwaine Robey

Did you know that some places have too much wildlife?

For the past few years, Outdoor Buddies has been working to help alleviate a severe overpopulation of deer in and around Beulah, Colorado. The District Wildlife Manager for that area, Gretchen Holschuh, and landowner, Art Traeber, contacted Outdoor Buddies and invited their help in reducing the deer population there. Disabled hunters use crossbows rather than high powered rifles in taking animals in close proximity to residences.

Outdoor Buddies welcomes any opportunity that provides for getting disabled persons and youth into the outdoors. Our mission is to provide opportunities for those who have been deprived of access and enjoyment of outdoor experiences. The focus is on those who are mobility impaired, with special emphasis on our military veterans, and disadvantaged youth.

Outdoor Buddies always has a waiting list of disabled persons wanting to participate in outdoor activities. Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate as many as we would like due to the limited properties where we have permission from landowners to conduct hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities with disabled members.

Participating in a recent deer hunt at Beulah were Westcliffe Marine Veteran, Brad Bradberry, and Air Force Veteran, Christopher Wolff, from Peyton. Both harvested a deer for their freezer.



Pictured above are: Brad Bradberry, Art Traeber, and Christopher Wolff.

Outdoor Buddies Plans Chukar/Pheasant Hunt

By Dwaine Robey

Outdoor Buddies has scheduled an upland bird hunt for Saturday, February 27, 2016 to be held at Drake Land Farms near Goodrich, Colorado.

Drake Land Farms is a hunting club started in 1980. The property includes 867 acres with 1.5 miles of the South Platte River. It is ideal habitat for the event we are planning.

Ducks Unlimited (DU) has a conservation easement on the property and the club is currently

involved in a joint wetland project with DU.

Outdoor Buddies is coordinating this event with Chris Nowak who is a member of the Drake Land Farms hunting club.

Jason Mulso, owner of Fremont Pheasants LLC, will provide the birds for the hunt.

This event promises to provide a lot of shooting because we are planning to plant many birds including a combination of chukars and pheasants. Jason handled a similar event for Outdoor Buddies last March and it was loads of fun

Outdoor Buddies will provide some adaptive equipment for disabled hunters who may need a little help getting around for their hunt. We will have our "Go-Getter" ATV device as well as three Action Track chairs.

This will be an all-day event starting at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served. Shooting is reserved for disabled members, except for "back-up" shooters.

At the end of the hunt harvested birds will be cleaned and divided with participants who want them.

Participants need to register in advance by contacting Dwaine Robey by telephone or email message.

To register contact Dwaine Robey at (303) 877-8584 or:

dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org.

Late Season Cow Elk Hunt at Trapper Mine

By Butch Martin

This year's hunt made me think of a famous quote from the late-great Yogi Berra; "It was like Déjà vu all over again!"

I love the West and I really love to hunt in the West. That's why when given the opportunity to come back for a second cow elk hunt, I didn't let the 19 hour drive from my home in Fishers, Indiana to Craig, Colorado discourage me a bit.

Again, being accompanied by my ever faithful "little brother" I headed west on Highway 70 with great

anticipation of another successful hunt. My first trip out to Colorado to hunt with Outdoor Buddies was in December, 2013. That year it was bitter cold, the animals had migrated down and the Trapper Mine property was covered up with elk. That year my hunt lasted a total of 45 minutes. It would have been even shorter, but I missed the first elk I shot at.

So this year as I traveled back to Craig I replayed that hunt over and over in my mind. Could I get another elk that quickly? Could I get another elk at all?!

This year the weather had been warm and the animals were not coming out of the high country like they had in years past. I had myself prepared to come home empty handed but that's okay, it's all about the experience and fellowship.

The group from Trapper Mine who facilitate the hunt are an amazing bunch of guys! It is always humbling to me when someone takes their very valuable free time and spends it helping others and they do it with such great joy and enthusiasm. We all met for dinner the night before the hunt and again for breakfast the morning of the hunt. It was great to talk to old friends and meet some new friends.

The night before the hunt the Craig area received about 2 inches of snow. I am always filled with greater confidence of a successful hunt with fresh snow! We made our way out to the Trapper Mine property after breakfast and proceeded to load up the trucks we were going to use for the hunt.

The three trucks holding the hunters followed each other through the gate and onto the mine property. A plan was devised on which direction each truck was heading.

We parted and traveled into a small valley and there they were; a herd of about 300 elk!

Rob, my driver/guide looked over at me and said "lock and load!"

As we approached the herd they started to move from our left to right and away from us a bit. I readied my 300 Winchester magnum and watched them through the scope. As I looked at

them I saw bull, spike, small cow, another spike, a big cow but she was standing in front of another cow and so on. It took an agonizing minute or more before I finally found a big cow standing broadside by herself.

I was fortunate to make a one shot kill at 250 yards. After the shot I looked over at the clock in the truck's dash and saw that we had been hunting for less than 10 minutes!



Tony Gilroy and Butch pose with Butch's cow elk.

Thanks again to the good folks from Outdoor Buddies and the great guys from Trapper Mine for having me out. I would like to give a special Thank You to my guides, Rob "I can't believe I got the truck stuck" Sovine and Steve "I need a better gut hook" Smith.

God Bless!

A New Tradition

By Dylan Harrell

As life goes on, I seem to come across many new people who fit into my life in unique and special ways. These days, many of the people I meet are through my children and their sporting events and school functions. Recently, my family has been fortunate enough to meet the Renneissen family. The common theme between our families is the children whose ages are so close together.

As our children play well together and we live minutes apart, we've gotten to know each other quite well. We share many common interests and now we share a tradition. The Renneissen's like to go to Winter Park every year to select and harvest their family

Christmas tree. It's always something that I have wanted to do, but knew that it would be nearly impossible in the snow with a wheelchair. This year, they invited us to join them, so of course we did what we could to make it work. This included securing the usage of an Action Track chair.

On November 29th we set out to Winter Park, ready to put the Action Track to work. As a hunter, who rarely goes out in the frigid conditions, I only had my camouflage gear to wear. Between that and the camouflage Action Track, I think my party was a little worried that they might lose me!

Having never really spent any time in one of these chairs, I quickly learned what would work and what wouldn't. The fresh powder proved to be challenging if it was more than a few inches deep. It wasn't so much that the tracks couldn't handle the snow, but the fact that the low clearance in the center caused me to hang up and become easily high-centered. Luckily for us, we found a highly traveled trail and were able to follow with no problems.

After about 30 minutes of searching, the kids found a tree that we were happy to cut down. After all, this was more about the experience than finding the perfect tree. All in all, it was a great day.

The weather was nice, the tree cutting was a success and the company was perfect. I hope to make



The Harrell family: Sherri, Avery, Ivy, and Dylan.

this an annual tradition after the experience we had. Now if only I could encourage the kids to keep their gloves on when playing in the snow.

How Can I Make a Donation to Outdoor Buddies via the WMVCF Spirit Campaign?

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF) conducts its annual Community Spirit Matching campaign to benefit local nonprofit organizations each November through the end of the year.

The Foundation will contribute matching funds, when donations are received by December 31st.

The maximum amount that will be matched is \$1,000 per family and/or business.

Donors wishing to take advantage of matching funds for donations made to Outdoor Buddies must use the donor form provided by the Foundation. Make checks payable to the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (or WMV Community Foundation).

To make a donation to Outdoor Buddies by check through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation please use the donor form included on page 6 of this newsletter.

Your support of Outdoor Buddies is sincerely appreciated!



Building a stronger community through giving

The **Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (WMVCF)** is dedicated to supporting the activities and financial needs of the valley’s nonprofit organizations.

WMVCF is proud to sponsor the annual Community Spirit Campaign, a matching gift project to benefit local nonprofit organizations beginning each November. The Spirit Campaign has become one of the most important and widely recognized activities of the Community Foundation. Last year the campaign distributed more than \$320,000 to Custer County nonprofits, and since its inception the campaign has provided more than \$3 million in support. The Foundation contributes matching funds, augmented by donations from other foundations and individuals. Donations are used to match private contributions made to valley and county nonprofits when received by December 31 of each year.

Donors wishing to take advantage of matching funds for donations made to Outdoor Buddies by check must use the donor form below provided by the Foundation.

Make checks payable to Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (or WMV Community Foundation).

Please Distribute My Donation to the Following Custer County Nonprofit Organizations in the Amounts Shown (Use Separate Sheet if Necessary)

Matching funds will not be applied to contributions postmarked after 12/31/15

Nonprofit Org Outdoor Buddies	Amount \$ _____
Nonprofit Org _____	Amount \$ _____
Nonprofit Org _____	Amount \$ _____
Nonprofit Org _____	Amount \$ _____
Nonprofit Org _____	Amount \$ _____
Total nonprofit	\$ _____

Donations to the Matching Fund Benefit All Qualified Nonprofit Orgs
Here's My Total Donation to the Matching fund \$ _____

(Please Print)

My Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State Zip: _____

Telephone Number: _____

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 2015

Mail your completed form and check to:
Wet Mountain Valley, Community Foundation, P.O. Box 718, Westcliffe, CO 81252
Make one check payable to: The WMV Community Foundation

Upcoming Events Calendar

Shown below are currently scheduled events. Other activities will be scheduled as appropriate.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
October 1 thru January 31	Deer, elk, and pronghorn hunts in various Colorado locations.	Previously scheduled hunts will continue throughout the big game hunting seasons.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com
November 2 thru February 14	Waterfowl hunts in various northern Colorado locations.	Waterfowl hunts will be scheduled based on requests received from mobility disabled members.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com
January 14-17	International Sportsmen's Expo at the Colorado Convention Center.	Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
February 17	Outdoor Buddies Board Meeting at the Omni Interlocken Hotel.	Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
February 27	Outdoor Buddies pheasant/chukar hunt near Goodrich hosted by Drake Land Farms.	All day event starting at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served. Shooting is reserved for disabled members, except for "back-up" shooters.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
April 23	Outdoor Buddies 2016 Banquet at the Omni Interlocken Hotel located at 500 Interlocken Blvd., Broomfield, CO.	Mark your calendar. Annual fundraiser banquet at the Omni Interlocken Hotel. Tickets will go on sale in January.	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
April 30	Outdoor Buddies site-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club.	Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:30 AM.	Wally Hunt (303) 985-2293 wdhunt2141@hotmail.com
May 14	Outdoor Buddies Family Day at A Painted View Ranch in Westcliffe.	There will be free admittance, free food, and lots of games and demonstrations. Everyone is welcome!	Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
June 11	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) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com
July 30	2016 Outdoor Buddies Golf Tournament at Green Valley Ranch Golf Course.	The format for the tournament is a scramble with a shotgun start. The entry fee includes cart, range balls, silent auction, prizes, lunch buffet, contests, and lots of fun.	Dustin Robey (303) 845-0423 dustin@midwestfloors.com
August 6	Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Event at Colorado Clays.	All day fundraiser event at Colorado Clays LLC 13600 Lanewood Street Brighton, Colorado.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com or
August 6	Outdoor Buddies site-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club.	Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:30 AM.	Wally Hunt (303) 985-2293 wdhunt2141@hotmail.com