Executive Director’s Comments ~ By Dwaine Robey

Where did the year go? It seems like only yesterday that we were planning Outdoor Buddies summer activities. Now here we are in the middle of big game hunting seasons.

While some of us are still very busy with big game hunts, it is time to work on planning for staffing the Outdoor Buddies booth at the International Sportsmen’s Exposition, preparations for the annual Outdoor Buddies Banquet, and several other activities for 2016. We still have lots of 2015 big game hunts to accomplish that will extend well into the new year, but it is time to begin working on plans for 2016 big game hunts. If all this sounds like fun to you; we can use your help!

I would like to encourage everyone to review the Upcoming Events Calendar included in this newsletter. Please let us know if you see an upcoming event that you would like to help with. Also, please let us know if you want to suggest a future Outdoor Buddies event.

Year-end is drawing near and many of us are considering making tax-deductible donations to our favorite charitable organizations. I, and I hope others, are planning to make a donation to Outdoor Buddies to help offset expenses for our programs.

A good way to make a tax-deductible donation to Outdoor Buddies is through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation’s annual Spirit Campaign. That way, the Foundation will match a portion of your donation. If you wish to do so, please print page 8 of this newsletter and use the donation form to submit your donation. Your support is greatly appreciated!

Another great way to make donations is via the ColoradoGives website. ColoradoGives.org is a year-round, online giving website featuring over 1,700 Colorado nonprofit organizations. ColoradoGives.org encourages charitable giving by providing comprehensive, objective and up-to-date information about Colorado nonprofits and an easy way to support them online. All of the charities on ColoradoGives.org are recognized by the Internal Revenue Service and the Secretary of State and are in good standing. Donations are tax deductible as charitable contributions to the full extent permitted by law. You can make your donation to Outdoor Buddies online at: https://www.coloradogives.org/outdoorbuddies/overview. You can make a one-time donation or set up a recurring donation via this website.

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 (303) 877-8884 or dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org.
Welcome all of you new members to Outdoor Buddies! And thank you for your continued support from those of you who have been with us for many years!

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope you all have plans made to be with family and friends on this special day. I encourage those of you who are blessed with families to invite someone not so fortunate to come over for some great food and fellowship!

Outdoor Buddies is coming up with more activities like upland bird hunts and some ice fishing outings if the lakes ever freeze! All of these take volunteers as well as participants so come on out in the field and have some fun!

Our Banquet committee chair this year is Gina Robinson; thank you Gina! We had a webinar last night to get the raffle items lined up plus many other tasks. If you have any good ideas or want to help with the banquet fundraiser for 2016 please contact Gina.

We are in the middle of big game hunting season for elk, deer and, yes, we still have hunts scheduled for some guys who have late season doe pronghorn licenses. Give me a call if you have any questions about hunting with Outdoor Buddies! Those of you mobility-disabled members of Outdoor Buddies who want to hunt big game in 2016 must submit an Outdoor Buddies hunt request via the Outdoor Buddies website starting in January 2016. We cannot accept 2016 big game hunt requests until after January 1, 2016!

Please keep an eye on the Upcoming Events Calendar for activities to volunteer to help with as well as participate in.

If anyone has any questions, concerns or just want to say hi! Contact me at PopsLarrys@gmail.com or call me at 970-218-5356

God Bless!
YOU Shot a Bear...Really???

The look on people’s faces when I tell them that I harvested a Black Bear is priceless.

Now that the meat is in the freezer, the skull is bleached and on the hearth, and the rug is being prepared at the taxidermist, I can reflect on my great fortune.

It distills down to spending time with good friends, making new friends, seeing new country, and learning about wildlife from expert story tellers.

Thank you, Outdoor Buddies, for providing me with this opportunity!

My stars must have aligned. The 2015 summer rains resulted in an abundance of acorns, the bear were hungry and thirsty, and a generous rancher had an abundance of bear he was willing to have Outdoor Buddies hunt.

Dwaine knew I had been trying to hunt my first bear, with no success, and he had recently assisted a successful hunter at the same location. When Dwaine called, I rushed to the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) office to obtain a leftover bear tag.

I pulled together some hunting gear, and with my husband/able hunting buddy, Ron, we headed out to meet Dwaine and Ann at the ranch.

It took 4 days, but we slowly learned about bear behavior. We saw bear every day; reddish, black and brown in color, mature and juvenile. They are faster than we realized, rarely allowing more than 30 seconds from the time they came out of cover, to slipping back behind the Gambel Oak. They have better eye sight than I realized, and likely knew we were sitting in the blind overlooking the watering holes.

They like to swim and know where to go to get a drink. We had to be on the alert, scanning between 2 water troughs constantly, from sun up to sun down. Good thing we had 2 sets of eyes! But by day 4, we were getting a bit punchy. If anything moved, we sat up and called BEAR! After 2 does, a buck and a cow elk teased us, the last call of BEAR was a big brown. It was the first one we had seen that took time to scavenge for acorns, taking a leisurely walk to the trough, and a nice swim (who knew they were so clean). Then, he started walking away through a narrow clearing at ~150 yards. Ron whistled, the bear stopped and gave me a quartering broad-side, and I took the shot. It hit. But the bear ran off into the oaks. Darn. It was getting dark, and we didn’t like the thought of searching for a wounded bear in the dark by ourselves. Armed with flashlights, Dwaine and our host helped us search for an hour that night with no luck.

At first light, 3 of us searched for a trail, and finally found a sign. Within the oaks, about 50 yards from where he was shot, lay the beautiful dark-brown boar. Yea!!

It took 2 hours, a plastic toboggan, a winch, an ATV, a truck, lots of rope, 3 people and lots of ingenuity to load the bruin and get it back to where we could take care of it.

Based upon the opinion of experts, the bear was 350 to 400 pounds, 6.5 feet long, about 7.5 to 8 years old, was mature and just starting to wear down its teeth. (The tooth that the CPW removed is used to determine a precise age by counting the rings of a cross-section; data available next Spring.) It surprisingly had a foxtail seed wound in one paw (much like my dogs are prone to).

Its skull measured 19.25 inches, nearly Boon and Crocket that starts at 20 inches. Ann appropriately named him Pumpkin Head, which stuck.

Now that you have heard the success story, I would be remiss if I didn’t share the trials and tribulations. During the first 3 days of the hunt, I made 2 clean misses, one due to underestimating the drop of a 230 yard shot, and one due to 'bear-fever.' Being a bit blue, I was coached not to give up this chance of a life time; to verify that my scope and aim were up to the task, and to get back out there. We had priceless support back in camp, without which I wouldn’t have had this success story to share.

Now, THAT is what Outdoor Buddies is all about!
Outdoor Buddies Stands with You When You Have Difficulty Standing on Your Own
By Kelly

Five years ago I lost my right leg overseas. I thought that my hunting/outdoor days were over.

But I was encouraged when I contacted Outdoor Buddies and they ensured me it was possible for me to get back to doing what I did prior to the loss of my leg.

This year I was fortunate to be selected by Outdoor Buddies for a cow elk hunt. I anxiously took Outdoor Buddies up on their offer to help me to hunt again.

In northwest Colorado I shot a nice big cow elk. It gave me the confidence to continue to try more activities.

hunt at Twentymile Mine. The scenery at the mine property is fantastic! Outdoor Buddies is very fortunate and thankful for the opportunity for our disabled members to hunt there.

Kelly made a very impressive 280 yard shot to harvest his elk.

While Kelly and I were deliberating about how to get his elk field dressed, transported to my truck, and then get it loaded into the truck some unexpected help arrived.

That’s when some other hunters arrived and volunteered to help. Billy Hampton and his son, Ryan, were hunting and stopped to help us.

Billy has been helping Outdoor Buddies hunters for the past 21 years; and his two sons, Ryan and Bryan have helped out for several years. Billy works at the mine and Ryan is a deputy sheriff.

Billy used his ATV to pull the elk to my truck and Ryan field dressed it. They really saved Kelly and me a lot of work!

The scenery at the mine property is fantastic!

Thank you, Ryan and Billy, for all your help!

Outdoor Buddies sincerely appreciates the many times that you have gone out of your way to provide assistance to mobility-disabled hunters at Twentymile Mine.

Editor’s comments:

It was my pleasure to act as Kelly’s able-buddy helper for this
Gary Chambers’
Pronghorn Hunt with
Cabela’s Volunteers
By Kristin Marie Morin

Gary Chambers had been on the hunt for hours. Even though it was the first day of the Outdoor Buddies annual pronghorn hunt, the animals already seemed skittish. Hopping boundary fences, bucks chasing their does over ledges and hill crests, using their considerable speed to stay just out of range - the pronghorns weren't giving Chambers what he needed. Just one moment of hesitation. Just one stationary shot.

By mid-afternoon, Chambers’ patience paid off. Chambers’ guides, Cabela's volunteers, glassed a lone buck bedded on the side of a hill.

As the group pushed forward and rounded a bend, they stumbled upon what the rolling hills had concealed. The rest of the herd. The buck urged the does into a run and hugged the boundary fence line. The hunter and guides gave chase in the truck. The landscape of Meadow Springs Ranch in rural Larimer County, which had proven to be a challenge all day, became their ally as the road snaked behind a small hill. With the truck hidden from sight, the herd paused. Then the truck rounded a corner and Gary Chambers was ready. Two hundred thirty eight yards, one shot and it was done. Chambers had his doe.

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) 877-8854 or: dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org.

For Gary Chambers, the smile on his face said it all!
First Elk Hunt
By Daniel Brown

It took a long time for this easterner to get to go on his first elk hunt and thanks to Outdoor Buddies it was a hunt I will never forget.

With Outdoor Buddies President Larry Sanford as our guide, five other hunters and I spent an unbelievable week hunting elk near Steamboat Springs. Only one cow elk was taken, but that was only part of the hunt.

The essence of the hunt was getting up at 3:00am each morning, finding a quick cup of coffee, a bite to hold you over until you could get settled in the field and then find the sandwich you had made for lunch.

The fun trip to the hunting location and exchanging war stories with your hunting partner added to the experience and then trying to ward off intruders to your special hunting spot made it even more memorable. Talk about interesting, I could write a book about this episode, but let’s just say it was interesting and added to the flavor of the hunt.

I feel compelled to add a side note here for all who have not had the pleasure of going on one of these hunts with Larry Sanford. You should make it a bucket list item to do so. Larry is the hardest working hunter/guide you will ever meet. He leaves no stone unturned and puts every last drop of energy into making sure that each hunter gets the most out of the hunt. He even asked owners of adjoining properties if some of his hunters could hunt on them. That is dedication and being all you can be for your hunters. No one can ask more. My thanks go to Larry for all his hard work and professionalism.

Also, thank you to everyone who has helped to make these hunts possible for Outdoor Buddies mobility-disabled members.

Hot Hunting at Twentymile Mine
By Larry Sanford

Twelve mobility-impaired Outdoor Buddies hunters from several States came to hunt elk on Peabody Energy Corporation’s Twentymile Coal Mine property near Oak Creek. Six hunters participated in each of the 2nd and 3rd combined elk seasons.

Peabody Energy Corporation is the largest private-sector coal company in the world. Its primary business consists of the mining, sale and distribution of coal, which is purchased for use in electricity generation and steelmaking. Peabody also markets, brokers and trades coal through offices in China, Australia, Germany, the United Kingdom, Indonesia, India, Singapore, and the United States. The coal produced by Peabody Energy fuels approximately 10% of the electricity generated in the United States and 2% of electricity generated throughout the world.

Outdoor Buddies is very fortunate and privileged to be able to hunt the wonderful Twentymile Mine property.

All of the hunters and helpers stayed at a condo in Steamboat Springs which was paid for with donations from many individuals at the 2014 Outdoor Buddies Banquet fundraiser. Everyone who donated towards the cost of the condos made it possible for the hunters to be able to come from near and far for this hunt! THANK YOU! The attendees who were blessed with this lodging wanted this type of gift to continue and themselves donated over $700.00 towards next year’s mobility-impaired Outdoor Buddies hunters lodging!

On to the hunt! I have been coordinating this hunt for 24 years and have never seen it so warm up there! Most of the mornings were 45 to 50 degrees by 5 am. The moisture we received was rain so the mud was deep and plentiful! We chained up our trucks on all four wheels to get up on the top for the last three days of the hunt.

Keven Marsh, from Wisconsin, connected with a nice big cow elk first thing opening morning, Way to go Kevin! This gave every one hope that they would fill their license but throughout the week the heat kept the elk split up and somewhere else.

The scenery and the hunting were wonderful and everyone had a great time out on the mine hunting, but I think that we mostly enjoyed just visiting and telling stories at the condo.

Ernie Teter, who is legally blind and lives by himself, said it best “It is great hearing friends around me all the time and there is always someone to talk to!”

One of the best highlights of the second season hunts was what Jerry Nettleton brought over to the condo.
Jerry is the lead environmental engineer for Peabody Energy.

It was a huge crockpot full of elk stew and a warm, fresh out of the oven apple crisp that Mrs. Nettleton made from scratch for all of us to enjoy! Wow! That made all of us feel so blessed to have such awesome friends! THANK YOU, Mr. and Mrs. Nettleton!

The 3rd season started out about the same. Everyone met at the mine on Friday afternoon before the hunt to fill out the paperwork required to be allowed on the mine property and hunt with Outdoor Buddies. Then we made plans for the next morning’s hunts!

We got up early the next morning, had coffee and then off to the mine.

I had talked with all of the hunters and helpers about where we wanted them to start out the hunt so that they were hunting all over the hunting area in places that I have typically seen elk in the past.

Mr. Roy, a ninety-four year old retired Navy veteran and Pearl Harbor survivor and his son Ken, rode with me in my truck. It was chained up on all four wheels so we could make it to the top of Echman Park. From that vantage point we could see everything as the mountains awoke that morning.

Kelly, who is an above the knee amputee, set up in his truck with his helper, Dwaine Robey, stationed in his truck down the hill so that they could cover more area while glassing for elk.

Mr. Roy and Ken spotted two cow elk below our position on top but Mr. Roy couldn’t get a clean shot at the big one! One good thing is that the elk were headed towards where Kelly was positioned. As we glassed for more elk we heard a shot from Kelly’s direction! Then the call, “I shot one” said Kelly! One of the guys who works at the mine helps us each year, Billy Hampton and his son Ryan stopped to help Kelly and Dwaine field dress Kelly’s elk and get it loaded in Dwaine’s truck. Good shooting Kelly!

That night at the condo we all talked about Kelly’s elk. I enjoyed listening to everyone’s ideas on how and where they wanted to hunt the next morning. Now that is hunting!

The next morning we all got up around 3:30 and started loading the trucks when Ken, Larry and Dwaine noticed empty wrappers all over the ground and Larry’s cooler on the ground as well! Ken thought it might have been the raccoon that got into his peanuts the night before until I showed him the teeth holes in the cooler. That’s right, it was a bear! He ate a lot of our snacks including all of the cookies!

The hunters were working hard, putting in time in the field waiting for their chance to fill their license.

Later that week the weather finally got cold and it snowed, but by then most of the hunters had gone home.

We all had a blast and thank Peabody Energy and Jerry Nettleton for the continued honor and privilege of being able to hunt the reclaimed land that they have mined for coal and returned to beautiful Colorado standards of beauty! THANK YOU!!!

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. Matching funds will be prorated based on the dollar total of contributions made through the campaign.

Donations may also be made directly to the Community Foundation Spirit Campaign to increase the matching funds and further stretch the community’s charitable dollars.

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 8 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).
### Upcoming Events Calendar

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event/Location</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Contacts</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 1 thru January 31</td>
<td>Deer, elk, and pronghorn hunts in various Colorado locations.</td>
<td>Previously scheduled hunts will continue throughout the big game hunting seasons.</td>
<td>Larry Sanford (970) 218-8386 <a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>November 2 thru February 14</td>
<td>Waterfowl hunts in various northern Colorado locations.</td>
<td>Waterfowl hunts will be scheduled based on requests received from mobility disabled members.</td>
<td>Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 <a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>December 9</td>
<td>Outdoor Buddies Board Meeting at Colorado Parks and Wildlife facilities located at 6060 Broadway, Denver.</td>
<td>Board Meeting starting at 6:00 PM. Visitors are welcome.</td>
<td>Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 <a href="mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org">dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14-17</td>
<td>International Sportsmen’s Expo at the Colorado Convention Center.</td>
<td>Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.</td>
<td>Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 <a href="mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org">dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org</a></td>
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<td>February 27</td>
<td>Outdoor Buddies pheasant/chukar hunt near Goodrich hosted by Drake Land Farms.</td>
<td>All day event starting at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served. Shooting is reserved for disabled members, except for “back-up” shooters.</td>
<td>Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 <a href="mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org">dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 23</td>
<td>Outdoor Buddies 2016 Banquet at the Omni Interlocken Hotel located at 500 Interlocken Blvd., Broomfield, CO.</td>
<td><strong>Mark your calendar.</strong> Annual fundraiser banquet at the Omni Interlocken Hotel. Tickets will go on sale in January.</td>
<td>Dwaine Robey (303) 877-8584 <a href="mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org">dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org</a></td>
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<td>April 30</td>
<td>Outdoor Buddies site-in at Green Mill Sportsman’s Club.</td>
<td>Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:30 AM.</td>
<td>Wally Hunt (303) 985-2293 <a href="mailto:wdhunt2141@hotmail.com">wdhunt2141@hotmail.com</a></td>
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<td>June 11</td>
<td>Outdoor Buddies Family Day at Swift Ponds. Everyone is welcome!</td>
<td>There will be free admittance, free food, and lots of fishing, shooting, games and demonstrations.</td>
<td>Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 <a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 30</td>
<td>2016 Outdoor Buddies Golf Tournament at Green Valley Ranch Golf Course.</td>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Dustin Robey (303) 845-0423 <a href="mailto:dustin@midwestfloors.com">dustin@midwestfloors.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>August 6</td>
<td>Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Event at Colorado Clays.</td>
<td>All day fundraiser event at Colorado Clays LLC 13600 Lanewood Street Brighton, Colorado.</td>
<td>Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 <a href="mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com">popslarrys@gmail.com</a> or Michael Sabbeth 720-839-7264 <a href="mailto:michaelsabbeth@ymail.com">michaelsabbeth@ymail.com</a></td>
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