



NEWSLETTER

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Outdoor Buddies
 Newsletter Publisher:
Outdoor Buddies, Inc.
 Editor: **Dwaine Robey**

Buck Antelope Hunt

By Connor Walsh



Connor Walsh

In early October, I traveled with Outdoor Buddies up to Craig, Colorado for a buck antelope hunt on the Villard Ranch. I was very grateful to have an opportunity to hunt this area and was excited about the chance to explore a part of Colorado I had never been. Backing up a little in time, I want to tell you how I came to be a part of Outdoor Buddies; my step father, Matt Zoccali, had found out about Outdoor Buddies from a work colleague a few years ago and he gave us Larry Sanford's business card. We called Larry to learn about the program and, as luck would have it, the annual Family Day at Swift Ponds was that coming weekend.

This was July of 2017. We all went out to the Swift Ponds site, had some roasted pig, shot a few clays (which I loved!), and met Larry.

Larry told us about the annual antelope hunt up on the Meadow Springs Ranch and we made plans to get that done. My younger brother, Max, and I were able to experience our first hunt later that year. It was a great experience because, not only were Max and I both successful, but we learned a great deal and I was able to build on my interest in shooting and hunting.

In 2015, after a pedestrian-vehicle accident (I was the pedestrian!); I spent 2 months at Craig Hospital (in Englewood, Colorado where I learned to do everything as a T-12 paraplegic. Included in my recovery was some time shooting air rifles. I knew right away that it was something I wanted to do more of in the future!

Back to this hunt; on October 8th, 2018 we met up with Terry Gleason, Outdoor Buddies Secretary, and drove to Craig. It was a 4-hour drive and the weather was cold and rainy. Our route taking us through the Blue River Valley, past Kremmling, and over Rabbit Ears Pass was beautiful! Terry has been hunting the area around the Villard Ranch for many years and he had a lot of stories that kept us entertained during the drive to Craig.

After settling into our hotel room that evening, we went out to a nice dinner of Mexican food and got to chat with Terry more about his time in the military, but mostly about his hunting experiences, especially on the Villard Ranch. Terry is a great man and we had a lot of fun learning and talking and figuring out what we were going to do the following day.

I had never been in that area and Terry's experience was with hunting elk, so we really were relying on the advice of the Villard family to help us out with my antelope hunt. A quick note about the Villard Ranch; the Villard family has been ranching sheep in this area for many years and has allowed hunters onto their land for different hunts. This year, they donated a buck antelope voucher to Outdoor Buddies and the Board was kind enough to choose me to use the tag.

The next morning, we met up with Mr. Albert Villard and we got out a map and he told us where we were likely to find a buck and where we would stay on his family's property!

From our hotel in Craig, we drove north out of town towards Wyoming on a few different county roads. After driving for 45 minutes, we crossed a cattle guard that Albert told us marked the beginning of their property in that area. We put on our hunter orange, got our ear and eye protection, as well as my rifle and binoculars and prepared for the next step in the hunt.

It was an overcast day, and it was cool, but there was no wind. The land was burned from a fire that had gone through the area recently and it was a little eerie. It smelled like a cool fall day and the temperature was around 36 degrees.

We drove for only two minutes and saw a buck right in front of us! He was just walking around near the burn area with another buck.

We got the vehicle into position. I have a Mobility Impaired Hunting permit with Colorado Parks and Wildlife which allows me to shoot from a vehicle. Using my Ruger American 6MM Creedmoor, I got one of the bucks into the scope. He was around 264 yards away and I tried to calm myself down for a long shot...longer than I had ever taken before.



Matt and Connor pose for a picture with Connor's buck.



Terry and Connor show off Connor's nice buck.

I was able to make the shot and soon we had the buck on a tarp, with Terry and my step dad working on field dressing him. I wanted to get my first buck mounted and with some help from Albert and a few phone calls, we landed at Bullseye Taxidermy in Craig. The owner, Mark Zimmerman, was so cool and fun and took time out of his day to teach us about caping out an animal and going through all the skill, time and effort required for taxidermy work; it is an art form and I had no idea about the amount of dedication and patience that goes into it all! All in all, Mark spent two hours with us explaining and showing us different things and ended up donating a European mount of the buck. Mark was so humble and kind; he didn't help me for fame or recognition, but he did it because he wanted to give back to the community for which I am very thankful!

I have now participated in several Outdoor Buddies events and I would have to say this was my favorite trip I have done so far. Outdoor Buddies and people like Larry Sanford and Terry Gleason and all the folks involved are amazing and I hope to do more with this great organization in the future.

I like hunting because it gives me some semblance of normalcy; it makes me feel like a normal guy again, even if it's only for a little while and enjoy being out in nature, being able to provide meat for my family, learning about the wildlife, and being humbled by power of firearms.

It's important to me and my family that we always have safe and ethical hunts, and this was a good example of us doing that!

Outdoor Buddies has introduced me to a great activity: hunting and shooting.... a thing I wasn't sure if I'd ever be able to do after my accident. I am so grateful that Outdoor Buddies helps me get out there and explore and have fun!

My Grand County Pronghorn Hunt

By Charlie Upton

Thank you Outdoor Buddies for the chance to hunt antelope at the C Lazy U Ranch near Granby. I was accompanied on this hunt by Tony Hodges who is a member of the Outdoor Buddies Big Game Hunt Committee and coordinator for my hunt.

Tony and I were greeted at the ranch by Paul Klees and Steve Penrose, the hunting manager and hunting guide for the guest ranch.

After coffee and donuts we were off for the hunt. Steve and Paul had located small groups of antelope the day before and they knew where to go.

As we moved from area to area we saw deer, moose and antelope in the beautiful fall colors.

Finally I decided to try for a doe we had seen earlier in the morning.

I was able to get my shot at 177 yards with the help of the guides and Tony giving me information of distance and wind.

One shot did the trick. Boy was I happy!



A Happy Hunter! Charlie Upton (center) poses with his helper/guides Paul Klees (left) and Steve Penrose (right).

What a great time we had hunting in unusual terrain for antelope!

Special thanks to Paul Klees and Steve Penrose at C Lazy U Ranch for all their help and allowing access to the ranch for my hunt.

Also, thanks again to Tony Hodges and Outdoor Buddies for coordinating my opportunity to do this hunt.

My First Elk Hunt

By AnnaMarie Steinert

The weekend of September 8th is one I will never forget. I was given permission from Outdoor Buddies', Dwaine Robey, for an elk hunt on Robey Ranch. I could not have asked for a more perfect experience.

The weekend started bright and early at 4:30am Saturday morning. We set up our watch in the blind across from a meadow. My guide and friend, Ron Dudley, helped me get my rifle and seat ready for the day of hunting.

We spent the morning discussing the ideal place to sight in on the elk and I practiced sighting trees, rocks and crows. Ron told me all about the different elk calls and how we will use them to attract a herd.

After a day watching critters, elk calls and spreading elk scent, magic hour started!

In fly fishing the magic hour is the time in the evening right before the sun sets and the river lights up with fish feeding on the surface. The mountainside started to light up like magic hour! We spent two hours listening and bugling to three different bull elk! It was an amazing event to hear! Saturday came to an end without seeing any elk, but we knew they were close.

Sunday morning started off about the same. We were setting up our post before daylight. Ron spread extra elk scent after bugling the night before.

Shortly after the sun rose a 6x6 bull elk walked right through the meadow!! He was a beautiful animal!! After that, Ron looked at me smiling and said 'you better be ready'!

Not more than an hour later we heard tree branches breaking outside the blind. I had my rifle ready as we waited. The lead cow stepped broadside in front of us and quietly Ron whispered 'now'!

Shortly after the moment passed, smiles, hugs, high fives and laughter echoed in the blind.

I was a nervous, anxious, and excited mess after that. Ron helped me calm my nerves and get my rifle ready to go find the elk.

I learned finding an elk is so much harder than I expected as we were seeing only single blood drops. After a short distance hike, Ron had spotted her!

Ron gave me time to gather my emotions before we walked up to admire her.



AnnaMarie poses with her elk and guide, Ron Dudley.

I couldn't believe how big she was!

You couldn't wipe the smile off my face!! We took pictures, sent text messages and made phone calls to share the news. One of the calls was to my Dad, who was vacationing in Europe, and my brother in Denver!

That's when the hard work started! Dwaine lent us his tractor and shop building to start cleaning and processing my elk.

I had no idea how much work went into cleaning and processing an animal of that size! My brother and friend Diane both gave their Sunday afternoon to help! Let me tell you.... nothing beats fresh cooked elk tenderloin from that day's hunt!

Thank you to Outdoor Buddies and Dwaine Robey for allowing me to have this once-in-a-lifetime experience!



It was nice to be able to use the tractor to haul out my elk; it saved us a lot of hard work!



Ron, AnnaMarie, and Dwaine pose with AnnaMarie's elk as the processing work is about to begin.

That weekend I heard amazing stories of adventures that Outdoor Buddies was able to provide to people who may not otherwise have had the opportunity, and I am forever grateful to have been given this opportunity!

I am already planning my next hunt, and looking into ways I can give back to this amazing organization!!

THANK YOU, OUTDOOR BUDDIES!!

Special Deer Archery Hunts at Whitney Lake in Texas

By Steve Medberry

Outdoor Buddies is partnering with the Federal Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Whitney Lake to conduct a deer archery hunt at Lake Whitney State Park this December. We are limiting the Outdoor Buddies hunters in the hunt to ten participants, on a first come, first served basis

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers closes a couple of their parks each year from October to March and they are over-populated with white tail deer that need to be culled, but any legal deer can be harvested.

Lake Whitney is a flood control reservoir on the main stem of the Brazos River in Texas. It is located on River Mile Marker 442 and controls drainage for 17,656 square miles of Texas and parts of New Mexico. The reservoir encompasses a surface area of more than 23,500 acres and 225 miles of shoreline.

Dates: December 5th-9th, 2018 (Includes travel days to/from the park). **Hunting will take place on the 6th-8th Cost: \$315 (Tag)**

Disabled veterans get their tag for free!

Bag Limit: 5 Deer (2 Bucks Max)

Accommodations: Open camping in the park, nearby hotels available if desired

Transportation: Your own transportation or traveling with Outdoor Buddies, leaving from the Denver area. **Please contact hunt coordinator (see below) if you need help with transportation**

Bows or Crossbows of any draw weight are allowed

Hunting will be out of wheelchair accessible ground blinds on feeders. If interested, please reserve your spot on the hunt as early as possible. Check-in will be on December 5th, and check-out will be on December 9th.

Outdoor Buddies Board member, Steve Medberry, will serve as hunt coordinator on this project and share the details of confirmed participants with the Outdoor Buddies Big Game Hunt Committee.

You are strongly encouraged to bring your own gear, including your own bow/crossbow. There may be a crossbow or two that can be borrowed for the hunt. Please ask me if you require any borrowed equipment. Wheelchair accessible ground blinds will be provided at the park.

Anyone interested in participating in this hunt as a disabled hunter or volunteer helper or driver should contact Steve Medberry as soon as possible.

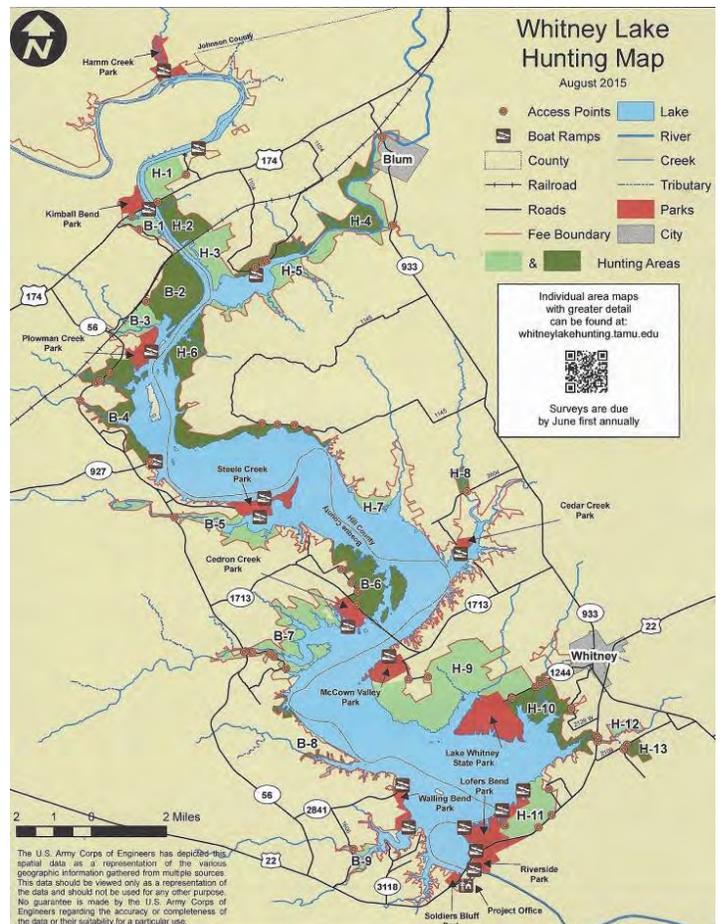
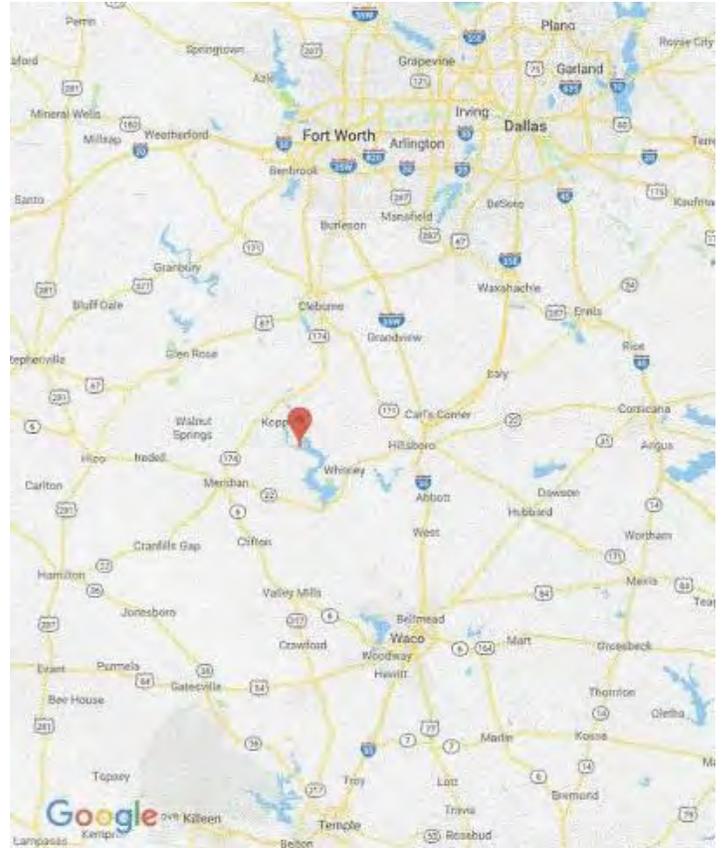
Contact Information:

Steve Medberry

(720) 255-9453

stevemedberry@gmail.com

Whitney Lake Location & Hunting Maps



Outdoor Buddies Helps with Benefit for Vets4Vets of Denver



Outdoor Buddies participated in the A Day for Heroes event held at High Country Harley-Davidson on Saturday, October 6th. High Country Harley-Davidson is located at 3761 Monarch Street in Frederick, CO.

The Outdoor Buddies booth at the event was staffed by Brad and Dwaine Robey.

High Country Harley-Davidson, in partnership with Colorado Bikers and Brother Down Gear, hosted the event.



Outdoor Buddies displayed two Actiontrack chairs at the booth.

All funds raised through this event went to Vets4Vets of Denver. Vets4Vets is a group of Veteran MCs that work together to raise money for local homeless veterans, PTSD programs and local services that benefit veterans in need. None involved take a salary, commission or service fee from any money raised, and they ensure that 100% of the money raised at this event will stay local and go to those who need it most. They will also ensure that any group or service chosen as a recipient of funds adheres to the same principles and does not take a salary or cut from any money we raise.



Dinger visited the Outdoor Buddies booth and took a drive in an Actiontrack chair.

There were some unique vehicles on display at the event.



Outdoor Buddies is managed by its Board of Directors.

Board Members are shown below:

Dwaine Robey
Executive Director
303-877-8584

Larry Sanford
President
970-218-5356

Nicholas Filler
Vice President
720-644-4842

Christopher Nowak
Treasurer
303-717-7159

Terry Gleason
Secretary
303-868-2579

Tony Hodges
Director
303-523-0583

James Lowry
Director
713-248-9001

Steve Medberry
Director
720-255-9453

Jim Piper
Director
303-932-1209

Dustin Robey
Director
303-515-9777

Frederick Solheim
Director-Warriors on
Cataract
303-818-7600

Eagle Scout Project a Success

Bryce Sugden attended an Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting and presented his proposal for his Eagle Scout project and asked Outdoor Buddies to contribute \$500.00 for his project. After hearing Bryce's presentation, the Outdoor Buddies Board voted unanimously to award \$500.00 to assist with the completion of the project. Following is a brief description of the project.

"The purpose of my Eagle Scout project is to help provide persons with disabilities access to the Poudre River to fish or just to enjoy nature. The project involves building a wheelchair accessible ramp to the bank of the river at the Poudre Learning Center in Greeley.

This project will benefit the wheelchair community, the Poudre Learning Center, and the public in general.

The total estimated cost of the project is \$2,500.00. I can get \$1,000.00 from the Poudre Learning Center and the contractor and manufacturer are both interested in donating which will take the cost down. I am asking for \$500.00 from Outdoor Buddies."

The project has now been completed and Bryce will become an Eagle Scout at the ceremony described below. Everyone is invited!



You Are Cordially Invited to Attend
THE EAGLE SCOUT CEREMONY
for
Sam Stoltz,
Bryce Sugden,
and
Collin Channell
Sunday, October 28, 2018
3:00 - 5:00 PM
Poudre Learning Center
8313 W F St., Greeley, CO
Reception Following Ceremony

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>
November 13	Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting at the Thornton Cabela's.	Board meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Non-board members are welcome; please RSVP in advance.	Dwayne Robey (303) 877-8584 dwayne.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
December 5-9	Special Archery Hunts at Whitney Lake in Texas	Outdoor Buddies is partnering with the Federal Park Ranger for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Whitney Lake to conduct a deer archery hunt at Lake Whitney State Park.	Steve Medberry (720) 255-9453 stevedmedberry@gmail.com
December 11	Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting at the Lone Tree Cabela's.	Board meeting starting at 6:30 PM. Non-board members are welcome; please RSVP in advance.	Dwayne Robey (303) 877-8584 dwayne.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
January 10-13	International Sportsmen's Expo at the Colorado Convention Center.	Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.	Dwayne Robey (303) 877-8584 dwayne.robey@outdoorbuddies.org
February 2	Outdoor Buddies Ice Fishing Outing at Tarryall Reservoir.	Outdoor Buddies volunteers will coordinate ice fishing activities from 9am to 3pm. A free lunch will be provided.	Jim Piper (303) 514-8944 geopros@q.com
March 30	Outdoor Buddies Pheasant Hunt at Drake Land Farms near Goodrich, Colorado.	All day event starting at 9:00 AM. Lunch will be served. Shooting is reserved for disabled members, except for "back-up" shooters.	Nick Filler (719) 359-3641 nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org
April 6	Outdoor Buddies 2019 Banquet at the Hyatt Regency Conference Center located at 13200 East 14 th Place in Aurora.	<u>Mark your calendar.</u> Annual fundraiser banquet at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center. Tickets available from the Outdoor Buddies website.	Nick Filler (719) 359-3641 nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org
April 27	Spring Hunter Sight- Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club 2490 County Rd 3, Erie.	Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:00 AM.	Bill Gowdy (303) 489-9411 billgowdy@msn.com
June 9 Sunday	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 27	Spring Hunter Sight- Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman's Club 2490 County Rd 3, Erie.	Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:00 AM.	Bill Gowdy (303) 489-9411 billgowdy@msn.com
August 3	Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Event at Colorado Clays Shooting Park near Brighton, Colorado.	All day fundraiser event at Colorado Clays LLC 13600 Lanewood Street Brighton, Colorado.	Larry Sanford (970) 218-5356 popslarrys@gmail.com or Nick Filler (719) 359-3641 nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org
August 24-25	Outdoor Buddies Family Outing at Tarryall Reservoir.	Outdoor Buddies volunteers will coordinate a variety of activities for members and their families and friends. Overnight camping is encouraged. More information will be provided as the event date nears.	Jim Piper (303) 514-8944 geopros@q.com