Outdoor Buddies Asks for Your Support!

Year-end is almost here and many of us are considering making tax-deductible donations to our favorite charitable organizations. Please consider making a donation to Outdoor Buddies to help offset expenses for our programs. Your contribution will help allow us continue and expand services to those in need of assistance in order to enjoy the great Colorado outdoors.

A good way to make a tax-deductible donation to Outdoor Buddies is through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation’s (WMVCF) annual Spirit Campaign. That way, the Foundation will match a portion of your donation.

Make a Donation to Outdoor Buddies via the WMVCF Spirit Campaign

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation 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. 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).

Donations to Outdoor Buddies are tax-deductible.

To make a donation to Outdoor Buddies by check through the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation please print Page 7 of this newsletter and use the donor form. You can also make your Outdoor Buddies donation using a credit card via the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation website at: https://www.wmvcf.org/donations/

Thank you for considering making a donation to Outdoor Buddies.

Pronghorn Hunts Continuing in Northern Colorado

More stories to come!

So far this fall Outdoor Buddies volunteers have conducted more than 50 one-on-one pronghorn hunts in northern Colorado. Hunts will continue through December. Outdoor Buddies sponsored hunts for disabled persons and youth continue to be very successful. Our goal is to promote participation and education in the use of the outdoors for recreational activities and teach participants firearm safety in the field.

Successful: with an abundance of animals and the dedication, experience, and skill of Outdoor Buddies helper/guides the disabled and youth hunters are achieving a success rate of over 90%. WOW!

The Nissen family from Butler, Missouri enjoyed a pronghorn hunt, family style!
Eagle Scout Project is Completed

Bryce Sugden is a senior at Frontier Academy in Greeley. He plans to attend college at Iowa State or Kansas State in the fall of 2019 to study general engineering.

Bryce attended an Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors meeting in August 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.”

Since 1912, the Eagle Scout rank has represented a milestone of accomplishment—perhaps without equal—that is recognized across the country and even the world. Those who have earned the Eagle Scout rank count it among their most treasured achievements. “Eagle Scout” is not just an award; it is a state of being. Those who earned it as youth continue to earn it every day as adults. That is why an Eagle Scout IS an Eagle Scout—not was.

The project has now been completed and shown below is a copy of signage that is placed at the site of the project.

Congratulation, Bryce!
Outdoor Buddies is honored to have been involved with you and your project.

Deer Hunting Adventure with Outdoor Buddies in Westcliffe

By Mike Cini
Castle Rock, Colorado

I recently had the opportunity to take part in a buck deer hunt in Westcliffe sponsored by Outdoor Buddies and managed by Dwaine Robey.

It was a great time and Dwaine went the extra mile to assure that I had a good experience. If only the bucks would have done the same. There were no bucks to be had on the properties where we had permission to hunt.

Dwaine called in resources that he knew to assist us in locating a buck to fill my tag. Unfortunately, the bucks had gotten word that I was in town looking for them and they decided to leave the area.

However, there were so many does available that we had to change our approach. Dwaine knew a rancher who had vouchers that could be used to take a doe out of his area due to the high number of does on his property. That rancher, Jim Oldendorf, was kind enough to let me use one of his vouchers to purchase a license for a doe.

It did not take long after that to put down a nice fat doe and provide me with some great meat for the freezer.

I can’t say enough about Outdoor Buddies and what they do for people like me, having lost my left leg in Vietnam, and others giving us the opportunity to take part in these outdoor adventures.

The town of Westcliffe supports Outdoor Buddies in every aspect. Ranchers go out of their way to help and make the adventure a success. Dwaine is a great representative for the organization.

I want to thank the organization for the opportunity that they gave me and if Westcliffe still has problems with the number of does I would be more than happy to go back and help them thin the herd.

Again, thank you for giving me the opportunity to be part of a GREAT organization.
Durango Doe Hunt
By Henry Jameson
Thornton, Colorado

I want to express my gratitude to Outdoor Buddies and more specifically, Brad Harper and Cole Davis for the opportunity to go on a doe deer hunt with them near Durango, Colorado. I went down for this hunt literally as a last minute effort to put some extra meat on my family's table. I received an e-mail about this opportunity on the 24th of October and left for Durango on the 26th of October. I was down there to hunt Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

I met with Brad and Cole for dinner Thursday night and they are two of the best people that I have ever had the chance to meet, that alone made the trip worthwhile. We had dinner and talked about all sorts of stuff, like I was sitting down with old friends and the thing that stuck out most to me initially, beside that they would not let me buy them dinner for taking their time to do this for me, was Brad asking to say Grace before we dug into our BBQ. That was awesome to me as knowing that they were proud to do that in public, for me as a person of faith. Huge!! We discussed how to best go about the hunt, all the detail stuff and more just getting to know each other.

I met up with Brad early Friday morning to go out. Cole had to work that day, but had scheduled to be able to go out and help on Saturday and Sunday. Honestly I don’t think he expected that anyone would be able to come down on such short notice as the disabled buddy who was previously scheduled for the hunt had to cancel due to health issues. I pray that they got those resolved and want him to know he was in our thoughts, and I imagine he was upset that we were going out without him as he was as excited as I was to go.

A BIG THANKS to the landowner as well. It was an awesome property to get the opportunity to hunt!

We got to the property and Brad was amazingly helpful to me getting me set up in the blind he and Cole had put in place for this hunt. We were there early, an hour before sun up, and we got to go and know each other a little bit more. Small world; Brad, my wife and I all lived in the same small town of Woodland Park. Brad said how disappointed Cole was that he could not come out and he was going to try to be with us for the evening hunt.

As it slowly got a little lighter we could see some silhouettes in the meadows and repositioned to have a better line on them. We joked about Cole not being there if we saw a good doe should we take it or wait for him. It was kind of amazing to me that both Brad and Cole were so excited to help a disabled hunter get an animal, and it wasn’t like some act that I could see it in their facial expressions and could hear it in the fluctuations in their voices. GREAT guys, for youngsters! They are a lot younger than I am, but I felt as comfortable with them as anyone my age and the enthusiasm that they have is crazy contagious. They are not young single guys that just have a passion for hunting, both have wives, both have young children and both have young growing families yet they took their weekend, time off to help me instead of being home with their wives and children; a true act of generosity.

As the sun came up there were about six deer out in the meadow and Brad and I were glassing them and Brad was checking ranges for a shot. Once we had enough light to ensure we were not looking at a small buck Brad had pointed to the one that he thought was amongst the biggest of them and gave me the range.

As she moved around and I waited for her to turn to a better angle I wondered and asked Brad, its early should we just check them out and wait for Cole?

Brad said “NO, SHOOT HER!!”

So, I did! Her head dropped and Brad said I hit her, but she did not go down right away. I reloaded and took another shot as she moved to the wood line even though I was shaking like I was naked in a snow storm.

The funniest thing though was not only did the other deer not scatter after the first shot; after the second shot it was as if you had rung a dinner bell and there were about 30 animals in that meadow! We waited about 45 minutes to an hour to head out to find her and when we did we walked to about where she was and no blood, no deer. As we were looking I was honestly getting worried and felt a little sick that I did not get as good of a shot as I thought and I just hurt her and she was suffering in the woods. Then I heard Brad hoop and I looked over as he shook his fist in triumph, “there she is” and I was immediately relieved.

Henry Jameson (right) enjoyed a wonderful hunt with his guide, Brad Harper!

She was a beautiful doe and we both thanked her for her life to feed my family and I was like a kid in a candy store with and ear to ear grin!

Cole had arraigned for someone they knew to process my doe and a BIG THANKS to him as well as he moved her to the front of the line so I could get the meat home safely. Brad and I took her to him and he took her and gave me a great deal and even had his wife bring the meat into town to the church Sunday morning all cut, wrapped, frozen and ready to go! That was another above and beyond that Cole and Brad afforded to me.

Another really cool thing was being invited to attend church services with them and their families Sunday morning at Grace Church. I was greeted there as if I had been attending service there for some time and if I am ever in Durango again I know where Sunday morning will be spent!! Thank you to all at Grace that made me feel welcomed.

This weekend was one of the best experiences I have had with Outdoor Buddies. I am always happily surprised by my time with this organization and the people that give of their lives to make ours better! Brad said to me that “it is not just about hunting, it is about building relationships” I hope that I will continue to build one with them both and their families! Thank you, Thank You, THANK YOU!!!
Fun Deer Hunt near Westcliffe
By Tony Lunday
Willard, Utah

My hunt started out one evening when Larry Sanford called me and told me I was selected as the alternate for a deer hunt. The disabled hunter who was originally selected for the hunt had not responded to numerous phone and email messages. I called Dan Brown and got the hunt information I needed to apply for a hunting license through the drawing with Colorado Parks and Wildlife. Time was short as this was just one week prior to the deadline for applying through the drawing. I applied for a license and waited to see if I was successful in drawing the tag.

I was able to successfully draw the tag. Now I just had to wait for the hunt. My license was good for the season of November 3rd through November 11th. Dwaine Robey would coordinate my hunt.

When the time for the hunt finally arrived I ended up only being able to hunt the final two days. I had some personal business in Carbondale, Illinois for the first part of the hunting season and could not get to Westcliffe until late on November 9th. After an 18 hour drive I arrived in Westcliffe at midnight and quickly went to bed so I could be up to meet Dwaine at 6am. Dwaine and Patrick Nichols, an Outdoor Buddies volunteer helper/guide, arrived as scheduled and the hunt was on.

We hunted and saw lots of deer but no shooters. After a few hours we decided to go back to town for breakfast at a local café. While we were at breakfast Dwaine was on the phone texting locals who were trying to help and rooting for me to have a successful hunt.

We left the café and saw more deer, but no good bucks. We decided to take a short break and go out again at 1:30 for the evening hunt. We went back out and were driving down the road watching for deer and Patrick hollered “back up, there are some deer!”

There was an access gate into the property where we had permission to hunt so we went on the property and got positioned to try to spot the deer. There were three does and a buck behind some pinon bushes about 150 yards away. We watched for a few minutes hoping that the buck would come out from behind the bushes. Finally two of the does came out and then the buck followed, stopped in the clearing.

I took one shot and the big buck went down!

Patrick and Tony pose with Tony’s nice buck!

I had an amazing day of hunting.
Thank you to Outdoor Buddies, the land owners, and everyone who helped to make this possible. Thank you all for a successful hunt and a lifelong memory.

Back Hunting Again
By John Maguire
Boulder, Colorado

My name is John Maguire. I’m 30 years old and I live in Boulder, Colorado where I work as an Aerospace Engineer. My true passion in life was motocross, but I was also an avid big game hunter. On the 28th of January 2017, while training in Santa Barbara, California, I overshot a motocross jump and landed off track. I broke my T11 vertebrae on landing.

As soon as I hit the ground I knew there was a good chance I’d never walk again. In an instant it hit me, all the different things I’d never get to participate in again. Never did I think I would get to hunt again.

While doing my rehabilitation at Craig Hospital in Englewood, CO I became introduced to the Outdoor Buddies program. I learned that there were actually people out there willing to donate their time and energy into helping people in my condition get back into hunting. After discharge I applied for every hunt I could through the organization.

On 14 March 2018 I got an email from Outdoor Buddies telling me that I had been selected to participate in a deer hunt near Westcliffe between 3 and 11 November. This kicked off one of the longer countdowns I’ve had to wait. And also a google search into where the heck is Westcliffe.

It would also be my first time meeting and hunting with any of the Outdoor Buddies organizers. I was a little nervous, but also literally counting down days.

Eventually November rolled around and I called Dwaine Robey and asked him for some details regarding the hunt. In particular I wanted to know how many days his hunts were usually conducted over. He told me they usually planned for three day mule deer hunts in order to get on a good animal. This would be the first multiday hunt I would try to participate in since my injury, and the first time I would be traveling solo and staying at a hotel by myself.

I hadn’t really thought about this ahead of time, but although this was everything I wanted, a trip like this would actually be pretty hard for me. A lot of the comforts I rely on at home are taken away when I travel and this time I wouldn’t have my fiancé to help me. It may not make sense exactly why a trip solo would be so tough, but from a wheelchair travel is just plain intimidating and frankly causes a lot of anxiety. With that all being said I booked three nights at the Westcliffe Inn and decided I was going to make it happen.

The plan was to meet Dwaine at my hotel at 6am. I got up at 4am, made some coffee and began getting ready for the day. Around five I was dressed in orange and mentally psyched to go and texted Dwaine to see if he’d stop by earlier.

The entire hotel block surrounding me appeared to be hunters. As I made trips to and from the car, all around me were people dressed in blaze orange. I talked briefly with some of my neighbors, also going after mule deer. Even with complete strangers there is a sense of camaraderie among hunters.

Dwaine and another volunteer, Patrick Nichols, showed up right on time and I transferred into the front seat of Dwaine’s pickup. Well, I sort of transferred and sort of had Patrick throw me in from the side. Patrick stowed by rifle and hopped in the back, and off we went.

For those who are also into shooting, I use a fairly tactical 6.5 Creedmoor built into an AR10 style platform with a Vortex Razor Gen II scope.
Most of the components are by JP Enterprise and I practice shooting at distance often. I hand load a 143gn ELD-X in front of 42.3gn of H4350 powder in a Starline Brass Case, getting roughly 2738 fps at the muzzle. I always get a lot of weird looks when I bring my rifle in and out of hotels or vehicles because by no means does it resemble a hunting rifle. Yeah, I also build furniture.

Here is my rifle on top of a solid walnut sofa table that I built.

Before I get into the actual hunting parts I need to stop and talk a bit about Dwaine and Patrick.

Dwaine is one of the nicest guys you will meet and if you ever have the opportunity to participate on a hunt with him you had best make it happen. Instantly, it was like we had known each other for years. He is everything you want in a hunting guide; patient, kind, knowledgeable and caring. This guy puts so much time into helping people like me have a positive moment in life that it is almost hard to comprehend.

Patrick was also an absolute joy to be around. He comes from a military background and it was fun to chat different cartridges and tactical aspects of shooting. He also is the type of guy who will help you with whatever you need, whenever you need it.

Both of these guys took a lot of stress and anxiety away and really let me just focus on the hunt without wondering if there’d be some obstacle or barrier to participation.

We headed out onto a private ranch and began looking for a good deer. Dwaine asked me what range I was confident shooting at and I told him that anything inside of 500 yards was good.

Within a couple hours of beginning our hunt I spotted a herd of 20-40 mule deer on the side of the mountain. Instantly all eyes were glued to our binoculars, examining the herd. I figured with a group this size, there had to be a decent buck in there somewhere. I ranged them at 850 yards with my Leicas and we continued to watch.

Between us and the herd was a set of two-track with a rise halfway in between. Dwaine did an awesome job of getting us closer to the herd, staying behind that rise in the pickup truck so that the deer did not spook.

When we stopped this second time I ranged them again and this time they were at 475. Perfect. As we glassed the herd we could see that there were a total of three bucks. Two of these were smaller bucks, but the third looked like he might show some good promise. He stood grazing with his head down though and all we could see was a large body and the tips of his antlers. I asked Patrick to hand me my rifle so I could take a look at the deer under higher magnification. Again, I was able to see the tips of antlers, but not with enough fidelity to count them or get an idea of the size of the deer’s rack. The three of us watched and waited for at least 20 minutes as this deer grazed sideways along the hillside.

Finally the deer stood up and it was clear that this was in fact a shooter. Since he had taken quite a few steps I grabbed my Leicas again and re-ranged him. Still at 475. I took the range information straight out of the Leicas and dialed 8 MOA into my elevation turret. I adjusted the parallax for 500 and turned on the illuminated reticle. I pulled back on the charging handle and put a round into battery.

As I got back behind the scope the deer had stepped behind a bush and now one of the younger bucks was standing in front of the shooter. The entire herd did not appear to be spooked at all so I held patiently, waiting for both the younger buck to clear and for the larger buck to move past the bush. Finally he did and I let a round fly.

The shot hit the deer right in the sweet spot if not just a touch too high. He immediately fell backwards and collapsed dead on the ground.

I was ecstatic!

Not just had I got a trophy buck on day 1 of a hunt I’d been looking forward to for eight months, but I had managed to stay calm and collected for over 20 minutes watching this monster and waiting for the right shot.

We drove up the rest of the two-track to the deer and got out.
We took pictures all around and then Patrick did the brunt of the work cleaning the buck. We got him loaded into the back of Dwaine’s pickup and headed to the local bunk house to show off our animal. After some chatting and another transfer/toss into the pickup it was time for breakfast. Cold temps meant we were in no real rush with the deer meat. Another transfer/toss and we headed to Dwaine’s house to do the rest of the processing.

Back at Dwaine’s house we worked to skin and cape the deer. He was an amazing animal with thick fur, a great set of antlers and lots of fat. I do all my own processing so it wasn’t long until we had him quartered and loaded into my cooler.

After all the excitement, stress and anxiety leading up to this hunt, scoring this deer was just an incredible release. Weeks later I am still texting photos of this deer to friends and catching myself recollecting on an amazing day.

What was planned to be a 3 day hunt had turned into a six hour hunt.

Although it was almost over too soon, it was just an amazing experience that I know I will never forget. It was also a little bit messy. Luckily I had a rental car!

I dropped the deer off at the taxidermist to have it made into a shoulder mount for my wall. Now have another long 8 months to wait.

I can’t say thank enough to Dwaine, Patrick and the Outdoor Buddies program for this experience. Life as a para is hard. It’s physically draining and emotionally brutal at times. While it may not make sense to everyone how important an opportunity to participate in a hunt like this may be, believe me when I say that it literally can change your life.

Thank you again Outdoor Buddies!
The 15th Annual Community Spirit Campaign Is Underway

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation is proud to sponsor the annual Community Spirit Campaign, a matching gift project to benefit local nonprofit organizations beginning each November. 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.

How can I donate?

Donors wishing to take advantage of matching funds for their favorite local organizations must use the donor form shown below. Make checks out to the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation (or WMVCF), and please note the nonprofit organization and the amount you wish to go to that organization on the donor form. The maximum amount that will be matched is $1,000 per family and/or business. You are welcome to spread your donation to more than one nonprofit, or just one -- it’s your call.

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

Donation to Matching Fund - Benefits All Nonprofits - Amount $ __________

Nonprofit Org  Outdoor Buddies  Amount $ __________

Nonprofit Org  __________  Amount $ __________

Nonprofit Org  __________  Amount $ __________

TOTAL Amount $ __________

Make one check for your total donation payable to:
WMVCF (or WMV Community Foundation)

(Please Print)
My Name: ____________________________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________________
City, State Zip: ________________________________________
Telephone Number: __________

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

Donation to Matching Fund - Benefits All Nonprofits - Amount $ __________

Nonprofit Org  Outdoor Buddies  Amount $ __________

Nonprofit Org  __________  Amount $ __________

Nonprofit Org  __________  Amount $ __________

TOTAL Amount $ __________

Make one check for your total donation payable to:
WMVCF (or WMV Community Foundation)

(Please Print)
My Name: ____________________________________________
Mailing Address: _______________________________________
City, State Zip: ________________________________________
Telephone Number: __________
### 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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| 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  
stevemedberry@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.                                                    | Dwaine Robey  
(303) 877-8584  
dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org |
| January 10-13  | 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 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 14th Place in Aurora. | Mark your calendar. 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  
biliegowdy2@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  
biliegowdy2@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 |