Outdoor Buddies 2019 Fundraiser Banquet Sells Out

Outdoor Buddies held the annual fundraiser banquet for 2019 at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center in Aurora on Saturday, April 6th. For the second year in a row, the banquet sold out in advance filling the available space with 300 attendees. The staff at the Hyatt Regency did an excellent job in facilitating the event and the food was excellent.

Scott Whatley, founder and host of Sportsman of Colorado Radio Show and the master of ceremonies for the banquet, kicked off the evening’s program with a welcome and thank you for the great support given to Outdoor Buddies.

Larry Sanford, Outdoor Buddies President led a brief flag ceremony and Pledge of Allegiance. Outdoor Buddies Chaplin, Todd Bacon, delivered the program’s opening prayer.

After the dinner break, President Sanford made a presentation describing Outdoor Buddies programs and how adaptive equipment is used to assist disabled persons in their pursuit of outdoor activities.
This set the stage for the live auction, and gave auctioneer Darrell Neu a chance to begin the action. Darrell did a fantastic job as our auctioneer with the assistance of Scott Whatley and Jeff Sweeney.

We express gratitude to the Hyatt Regency Aurora – Denver Conference Center for its assistance in hosting this great banquet.

Outdoor Buddies would also like to thank all of the individuals and companies that donated items for the raffles and auctions and all the buyers at the banquet.

The evening concluded with the raffle prize drawings.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORT OF OUR RAFFLES

Terry Gleason, Outdoor Buddies Secretary and Raffles Coordinator, stated “I want to express Outdoor Buddies appreciation to all of you who bought pre-event raffle tickets in person, by mail or with a phone call! Thanks to your support we surpassed the funds we made on the pre-event raffle in 2018. What a tremendous boost that gives to Outdoor Buddies ability to plan and execute the many activities that benefit the disabled and youth participants in our programs. I personally enjoyed meeting many of you over the phone and in person at the banquet. This convinces me that Outdoor Buddies has a bright future.”

And the lucky winners are:
Five Gun Raffle – Troy Hesman
Cow Bison Hunt – Susan Cook
Cabalas $1000 Gift Card – Camile Morrison
Kimber 6.5 Creedmoor Rifle – Tammy Thomas
Vortex Fury Laser Rangefinder Binocular – Bob Reichert

Special thanks to the many Outdoor Buddies volunteers who worked so hard to make this year's banquet such a great success.

We express our gratitude to the twelve Colorado Parks and Wildlife volunteers who did a wonderful job helping with various tasks at the banquet. Their participation is sincerely appreciated!
2019 Drake Land Farms Pheasant Shoot a Huge Success!

By Larry Sanford

Anticipation of an exciting day of pheasant hunting on the river bottoms of the South Platte River near Goodrich, Colorado was in the air!

The snow storm that was predicted to hit the night before Saturday’s hunting event at Drake Land Farms left a skiff of snow that morning and set the river bottom up for a perfect day in the field.

Outdoor Buddies invited Colorado Youth Outdoors (CYO) to partner with us for this fourth annual Outdoor Buddies pheasant hunt at Drake Land Farms. Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) awarded a grant to Outdoor Buddies to help with costs associated with holding the event. Outdoor Buddies Vice President, Nick Filler, submitted a request for the grant through CPW’s Partners in the Outdoors Program identifying CYO as a partner. The grant request was approved for $2,000.00. Thank you Colorado Parks and Wildlife!

CYO’s part in this year’s hunt was to manage and teach the youth participants about gun safety, the proper way to hunt upland game birds and share the CYO’s Participate, Appreciate, Communicate, and Dedicate (PACD) relationship building through traditional outdoor activities.

CYO invited four of their parent/youth participants who had gone through the CYO “advanced shooting” program to hunt some pheasants and to put the PACD relationship building program to work with the other youth and disabled who came to learn and hunt at the Outdoor Buddies pheasant hunt.

Everyone was made aware of CPW’s “Walk In Programs” as well as teaching the youth that Colorado is blessed with some great hunting programs in public hunting areas where they can use what they learned on this awesome partnership pheasant hunt.

Hunters, volunteers, as well as friends and family from three different states showed up to a fantastic breakfast cooked by Jeff Sweeney, also known as the Crazy Auctioneer, and provided through the grant from CPW.

Jeff cooked up tons of pancakes, bacon, and sausage served with a lot of comradery and fun for all. Everyone ended up full and ready for a day in the field!

The number of volunteers for this event was amazing! We had four different areas where the participants could have fun shooting.

The four areas started with the trap shooting area where everyone could learn to shoot as well as get the proverbial dust blown off their shotguns. The other three fields were for hunting pheasants.

Field two was for folks with disabilities who needed to use a wheelchair, Actiontrack chair, or the Outdoor Buddies Go-Getter to get into the field.

Field three was for the youth hunters and their parents/mentors.

Field four was for all of the other disabled folks as well as a few women’s hunts for beginners.

There were over 250 pheasants hunted on this great day and over 120 participants including disabled, youth, women and volunteers as well as hunting dogs and their owners.

It was a beautiful day and a great turn out for the fourth annual Outdoor Buddies Pheasant Shoot at Drake Land Farms.

There were many great stories on this day, but one that stands out was a teenager, by the name of Uriah, who is blind and his mother, Zari.

I first met Uriah at the Outdoor Buddies booth at this year’s International Sportsmen’s Exposition where Uriah, his Mom and Dad, and I had talked about coming out to enjoy the events Outdoor Buddies has throughout the year. Uriah and his grandpa came out to our Tarryall ice fishing event in February.
German shorthairs are pointing dogs so when she got the sent she stopped in the most beautiful pointing pose that pointed out where the pheasant was!

Craig moved Charlie in his trach chair into position; he readied his shotgun on the Caldwell shooting rest as the pheasant got nervous! Mike steadied his pointer just as the pheasant rose into the air! Charlie and his hunting buddies were ready when Charlie pulled the trigger and the pheasant fell to the ground! Great shot, Charlie!

There were many great hunts and shots that happened on that morning’s hunt! The volunteers and participants had worked together and made great relationships which they all talked about over lunch.

Penelope Sanford made homemade chicken and sausage Cajun Gumbo for lunch for the fourth year in a row at this pheasant hunt! Outdoor Buddies is fortunate to have Penny on our team! THANKS YOU, PENNY!

After Lunch everyone was excited to go back in the field to hunt pheasants as well as shooting more clay targets.

The Afternoon highlights were the lady’s pheasant hunts where most of the ladies who hunted were first time bird hunters. It was great to see that two of the Moms had their youth with disabilities follow them in the field to watch their Moms hunt pheasants for the first time.

The women had a lot of fun on their hunts and vowed to be back for next year’s event.

As the day was coming to a close and the pheasants were cleaned for everyone to take and share with their families we all realized what a blessed day we had! Many great memories were made by everyone who attended.

Events like this are only possible and are put on by the donations from everyone. Thank you to Scheels Sporting store for their donation and support!

Special thanks to Christopher Nowak and the other members of Drake Land Farms for their continued support of Outdoor Buddies and our mission to get folks who have been deprived of the opportunity back in the outdoors.

All in all it turned out to be a beautiful day in the field with friends, new and old, making memories of a lifetime. Thank you Outdoor Buddies!
Camping and Fishing at Tarryall State Wildlife Area
By Jim Piper

Outdoor Buddies camping at our 40 acre campground will begin soon at Tarryall State Wildlife Area. We have a wall tent, which is available for use. Make your reservations soon while there are still openings.

The Tarryall bunkhouse is located at 16226 Tarryall Road, (Park County Road 77) going south out of Jefferson. The campground is off of Forest Service Road 143, above the bunkhouse.

Group camping at this scenic campsite is available by reservation June 1st through August 31st. Camping facilities available at the site include 4 picnic tables, 2 metal ringed fire pits, and an enclosed pit toilet.

Hiking trails found nearby in the Lost Creek Wilderness area are easily accessible from the Tarryall camp.

Fishing is great in the spring, so don’t delay. Come to the lake and catch some nice ones.

You can email or call me; Jim Piper geopros@q.com, cell: 303-514-8944 for more information.

Rich Cori Memorial Sight-In
At
Green Mill Sportsman’s Club
April 27th

Green Mill Sportsman’s Club is hosting an Outdoor Buddies sight-in at their facility to honor the memory of Richard (Rich) Cori who passed away on July 28, 2015. Rich was a staunch supporter of Outdoor Buddies and served on its Board of Directors for several years.

The event will be held on Saturday, April 27th. Only 30 persons can be accommodated at this event so make your reservations soon. To reserve your spot at the sight-in please contact Bill Gowdy at 303-489-9411 or billgowdy@msn.com.

There is no charge for the event and soft drinks, water, doughnuts, etc. will be provided. There is electricity at the ranges and hot coffee will be available.

Location – Go three miles west of I-25 (Exit 232) to Bonanza, take first left at Green Mill Road (dirt road) and continue for ¾ mile to the facility.

Eligibility – Handi-Buddies (disabled persons) and Able-Buddy helpers. Youth (under age 18) who possess a hunter safety card are welcome, but must be accompanied by an adult relative or guardian. Handi-Buddies will be given an opportunity to shoot first before others.

Ranges – Rifle ranges with 25, 50, 100, and 200 yard targets are available. A pistol range is also available. Range qualified personnel will provide assistance. Targets, spotting scopes, shooting benches, and sandbags are provided.

Eye and ear protection are required! If you do not have eye and ear protection devices they will be available at the range. Sporting rifles, handguns, and black powders guns are okay. No fully automatic weapons will be allowed.
You are invited to attend the
Outdoor Buddies
Family Day at Swift Ponds

Sunday, June 9th
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

The 2019 Outdoor Buddies Family Day at Swift Ponds will be held on Sunday, June 9th. Please bring your family and friends to enjoy the day with Outdoor Buddies! Bring your sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters to make memories and build relationships.

There will be catch and release fishing, archery, BB gun shooting, and trap shooting for beginners and experienced shooters! Swift Ponds has handicap-accessible fishing docks for those on wheels.

There are five professional trap houses at Swift Ponds to shoot from! We will have range approved shotgun shells and shotguns.

There will be equipment available for each of the activities, but please feel free to bring your own fishing equipment and shotgun.

Lunch and soft drinks will be provided. Alcohol beverages are prohibited!

We will have on hand the Outdoor Buddies shuttle bus, track chairs, Bad Boy Buggy, Arctic Cat UTV, and ATV with go-getter to help those who need assistance in getting to the different activities.

There will be some bucket raffle items for which you can buy tickets for chances to win some fun items for the whole family! This is a great way to help defer the cost of this fun day, but nobody is required to buy tickets!

Come and have a fun filled day with your family and friends!

Directions to Swift Ponds:
Take Interstate 25 north to Windsor Exit 262, turn right onto Highway 392. Take Highway 392 east to County Rd. 5, turn left onto County Rd. 5. Take County Rd. 5 north to County Rd. 36 (Ketchter Road). Turn Left onto County Rd. 36, the Swift Ponds gate will be on your left.

For more information, please contact
Larry Sanford at (970) 218-5356
popslarrys@gmail.com

Register Now!

Please Join Us for the
2019 Outdoor Buddies Sporting Clays Shoot

Saturday, August 3rd

For the fifth consecutive year, Outdoor Buddies is honored to hold the annual Sporting Clays Tournament at Colorado Clays Shooting Park.

We are looking for volunteers to help out on the day of the event. Whether you have a disability or are able-bodied, we need your support to make the clay shoot a success. Volunteers will help run the stations and guide participants through the course. Please contact our volunteer coordinator at stevemedberry@gmail.com to sign up.

Conveniently located just 30 minutes northeast of Denver, only 6 miles from Denver International Airport, an easy drive from the entire Colorado “Front Range”, Colorado Clays Shooting Park offers the region’s most complete shooting range experience.

Please Come Join Us at Colorado Clays
We would love for you to join us for this fun-filled day in the outdoors.

Please go to the Outdoor Buddies website and register now! You can register using the form on page 10 of this newsletter or online at:
http://outdoorbuddies.org/claysbenefit/
Outdoor Buddies Special Hunts

Elk Hide for Bobby’s Son

By Larry Sanford

Elk hunting in the Rocky Mountains is a dream of many sportsmen but for many reasons most never make the dream of elk hunting in the mountains a reality.

One day last winter I received a phone call from Jeff Murrish, a friend from Nebraska, to tell me of a young man by the name of Bobby Fisher who had a lifelong dream of hunting a rocky mountain elk with his uncle, and father. Bobby had just been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and was given the grim reality that his cancer would take him soon!

After talking with Jeff I called Dwaine Robey, Outdoor Buddies Executive Director, who lives near Westcliffe, Colorado. Dwaine told me that two of Outdoor Buddies great supporters; Bear Basin Ranch and Sangre de Cristo Outfitters might be able to help. Bear Basin Ranch had already donated a voucher for a cow elk and granted access to the ranch for hunting the elk. And Bill and Tom Schulze, owners of Sangre de Cristo Outfitters might be able to provide additional support and hunting properties. Wow! What unbelievably generous folks! The special hunt was on!

I called Bobby to give him the news (which was surely needed at that time). We went to work to figure out all the logistics related to the young father coming to Colorado for his dream hunt. If he could have jumped in his truck and come out right then he would have, but he was being treated at Callahan Cancer Center in North Platte and had to make trips to a treatment center in Chicago every two months as well.

Bobby and his family along with his doctors had to make a hard decision to stop treatment for a week so he would be strong enough and feel good enough to go on his adventure. They all said that the hope of going on this Outdoor Buddies elk hunt adventure would be great for Bobby as well as his son, father and uncle. They were on their way to Colorado!

On the night before the hunt, Dwaine and I met Bobby and his family for the first time. We went to dinner to get to know each other and discuss the next morning’s hunt.

The next morning Dwaine and I met the Fisher family at the Westcliffe Inn where they were staying at daybreak to start Bobby’s hunt. The majestic Sangre de Cristo and Wet Mountain ranges were in full glory.

We loaded up in two trucks with Bobby and his son with Dwaine and me and Bobby’s father and uncle in their truck. Dwaine said that we will start at a place where he had received a tip from Bill Schulze that he had seen some elk recently. We drove in the early morning for about twenty five miles to a ranch and started to glass for elk. We were looking for any dark shadow we could find in the open field where elk and deer typically graze at night. As it started to get lighter Bobby sounded out “there are some elk”! Then I saw some deer and a herd of about twenty-five elk.

Now we had to figure out how to get to where Bobby could get a shot at his cow elk. The elk started to move away the lighter it got. Dwaine, who is familiar with the property, drove us up to a point where Bobby may be able to get a shot if the elk would stop, but they did not.

After seeing the elk had a different plan than what we had Dwaine said “I think I know where they are going. We may be able to get on them again if we drive a few miles around to the opposite end of the canyon.” We all said “giddy up; let’s see if we can find them again”.

Outdoor Buddies Newsletter – April 2019
Driving those miles seemed like it took forever. We arrived at a barbed wire gate, opened it and drove back onto the ranch. After getting both vehicles through the gate, we started glassing the canyon where we thought the elk might be coming. Again, Bobby spotted the elk and we saw that the elk were headed towards us down the bottom of the canyon drainage, but there was no way we would be able to get a shot from where we were sitting. Dwaine drove down along the drainage creek before the elk could see us were around while the people in the other truck stayed back to watch.

After getting to the creek, I could see that the elk were going to stay on the opposite side so I told Bobby that we had to get in position on the other side to cut them off and hopefully get ready for a shot before the elk knew we were there.

Bobby and I set out on foot. I grabbed the shooting sticks and Bobby carried his rifle. We had about 300 yards to cover over rough country. I knew that it was going to be a test for both Bobby and me to pull this off with his cancer killing drugs still in his system and my disabilities from my past accident.

Bobby and I made it through the deep walls of the creek and about half the distance we wanted to get to when we spotted the elk. They had no idea we were there and the breeze was in our face. I asked Bobby if we needed to take a short break to catch a breath, he said let’s go!

We got to a spot where we should be able to get a decent 200 yard shot. We set up the shooting sticks and had Bobby’s rifle loaded and ready.

There they are! The elk were exactly where we hoped they would come through. I looked over at Bobby, who was tired and out of breath with the excitement of getting a shot at his first elk.

While Bobby and his family field dressed the elk I heard Bobby’s son ask “Dad, can I have a piece of the elk hide?” Bobby said yes, he could have a piece.

After hearing that and while they finished up, I called a taxidermist friend, Dan French, and asked if he would tan Bobby’s elk hide. Dan said he would be happy to tan the elk hide for Bobby’s son and he would do it for free!

Bobby called me a month before he lost his battle with pancreatic cancer telling me thank you for helping make a wonderful memory for his family.

Bobby Joe Fisher passed away on November 17, 2018, at home surrounded by his family. Bobby was born October 8, 1979, in North Platte to Chuck and Angie Fisher. He graduated from North Platte High School with the class of 1998. He and his wife, Mindy, live in North Platte with their three children; Maddy, 3, Kayden, 10, and Skyler, 14.

The elk hide was not done before Bobby passed away, but his son will have that tanned elk hide to wrap up in when he is remembering his family’s outdoor adventure with Outdoor Buddies.

The cow that Bobby hit moved up behind the herd in some trees and bushes. She went about a hundred yards and lay down under a cedar tree.

Bobby made his last shot count!
OUTDOOR BUDDIES FUNDRAISER SHOOT
HOSTED BY COLORADO CLAYS SHOOTING PARK

Outdoor Buddies is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, relying on able bodied volunteers to help disabled individuals and disadvantaged youths enjoy the best of what Colorado natural resources have to offer.

Awards will be given for highest scoring teams
First time shooters are welcome and encouraged to participate!!!!

The event will be held at Colorado Clays Shooting Park

Saturday, August 3, 2019
Registration 9 am - Shoot at 10:00 am - Lunch at 1:00 pm
Practice targets available at the Trap range at 9:00 am.

$75 per shooter or $300 per team of 4

Registration fees include targets and lunch – Golf cart rentals available.
Address: 13600 Lanewood Street, Brighton, CO 80603 (303) 659-7117

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

GOLD SPONSOR: $1,500 entitles the sponsor to a team of 4 shooters, shells for four shooters, golf carts for four shooters, and signage and recognition at the Sporting Clays Event.

SILVER SPONSOR: $1,000 entitles the sponsor to a team of 4 shooters, golf carts for four shooters and signage and recognition at the Sporting Clays Event.

BRONZE SPONSOR: $750 entitles the sponsor to a team of 4 shooters and signage and recognition at the Sporting Clays Event.

To register please fill in and mail the Registration Form on the back of this page
Or go to www.outdoorbuddies.org to register online.
REGISTRATION FORM

Outdoor Buddies
Sporting Clays Event
Colorado Clays Shooting Park
13600 Lanewood Street, Brighton, CO 80603, (303) 659-7117

August 3, 2019

Make checks Payable to: Outdoor Buddies, Inc.
Please submit individual, team, and sponsorship registrations no later than July 31, 2019.

Yes, I would like to sponsor and participate:

- Gold Sponsor $1,500
- Bronze Sponsor $750
- Silver Sponsor $1,000
- Team of Four Shooters $300

#_____ Individual Shooter(s) at $75 each

LIST ALL TEAM SHOOTERS:
(Teams are made up of 4 shooters each, groups of less than 4 will be paired with other shooters.)

Team Name (if any): ____________________________________________________________

Sponsor Name (if purchasing sponsorship): _________________________________________

1st Shooter Name: __________________________ Telephone: ________________________

2nd Shooter Name: __________________________ Telephone: ________________________

3rd Shooter Name: __________________________ Telephone: ________________________

4th Shooter Name: __________________________ Telephone: ________________________

To pay via credit card enter information below.

Credit Card No: ____________________________ Expiration Date: ____________ Code: ______

AMEX MC VISA DC

Name on Card: ____________________________

Billing Address: ____________________________________________

Please Mail your registration and check to:
Outdoor Buddies, Inc.
555 Highlands Road
Westcliffe, CO 81252
**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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| April 27   | Spring Hunter Sight - Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman’s Club | Big bore and pistol ranges are reserved starting at 8:00 AM.                | Bill Gowdy  
(303) 489-9411  
billgowdy@msn.com                                                      |
| May 14     | 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                                              |
| June 9     | 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                                                        |
| June 11    | 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. | Dwaine Robey  
(303) 877-8584  
dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org                                              |
| July 9     | 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                                              |
| July 27    | Spring Hunter Sight - Rich Cori Memorial sight-in at Green Mill Sportsman’s Club | 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 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. | Dwaine Robey  
(303) 877-8584  
dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org                                              |
| September 10 | 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                                              |
| November 12 | 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. | Dwaine Robey  
(303) 877-8584  
dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org                                              |
| December 10 | 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                                              |