



NEWSLETTER

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Family Day at Swift Ponds Sunday June 9th

9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

You are invited to attend the 2019 Outdoor Buddies Family Day at Swift Ponds on Sunday, June 9th. Come with 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.

Colorado Youth Outdoors (CYO) owns and operates Swift Ponds its facilities and teams with Outdoor Buddies in hosting this event. CYO pro staff representatives will be helping out on some of the Family Day activities as well. Thank you CYO!

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 free range approved shotgun shells and loaner 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. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.

We will have on hand the Outdoor Buddies shuttle bus, Actiontrack chairs, and UTVs to help those who need assistance in getting to the different activities.

There will be some bucket raffle items that 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!



Here are three pictures from last year's Family Day at Swift Ponds.

Background of Swift Ponds: Louis Swift mined aggregate in Larimer County for many years with a plan for reclamation, a vision of fishing ponds replacing the pocked holes from which he pulled the rock that became the foundations of homes and roads. Now, the property he mined and then carefully reclaimed is the home of Colorado Youth Outdoors, a place for families to spend time together among trees and vegetation, to fish and shoot and learn a love and respect for the great outdoors.

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 (Ketcher Road). Turn left onto County Rd. 36, the Swift Ponds gate will be on your left.

Outdoor Buddies Newsletter
Publisher:

Outdoor Buddies, Inc.

Editor: Dwaine Robey

Even Higher! My Northern Colorado Antelope Hunt With Outdoor Buddies

By Michael Sabbeth

Editor's note:

Michael Sabbeth is a Denver-based lawyer, lecturer, consultant, writer and author of *The Good, The Bad & The Difference: How to Talk with Children About Values*. See Amazon.com <http://tinyurl.com/c5flmmu>.

He is completing his soon-to-be-published book *The Honorable Hunter: A Call to Action to Defend and Advance Hunting*. Visit his website: www.thehonorablehunter.com

Hunting requires self-discipline, humility and skills to ethically harvest an animal. Hunting is a complex endeavor that often offers little margin for error and can ennoble the participant by experiencing the infinite beauty of Nature. Sometimes, however, hunting can acquire a character, an ethos, that transcends the hunt itself and becomes a vehicle for higher purposes. My 2018 antelope hunt with Outdoor Buddies in northern Colorado was such a hunt.

Outdoor Buddies

Outdoor Buddies is a volunteer organization created in 1984 as a partnership between Craig Hospital, the world-renowned spinal cord and brain injury facility, and the then Colorado Division of Wildlife. It offers disabled people the opportunity to be active in the outdoors. I have been on their pheasant hunts and some fishing events. Dwaine Robey, the executive director, emphasized: "The point of rehabilitation is to DO something. We offer that to disabled people and we need people to help us do those 'somethings' with them." Its mission is animated by three principles: compassion, community and character.

Dwaine's involvement with Outdoor Buddies began with helping Don Young, a high school friend and hunting buddy, when he was severely injured in a Kansas oil field accident. Dwaine had learned of Outdoor Buddies by reading an article in Colorado Magazine. He contacted Don and Sam Andrews, head of therapeutic recreation at Craig Hospital, to get Don involved with Outdoor Buddies and the hospital. To help his friend, Dwaine converted the lower floor of his home to a hospital room. Dwaine routinely took Don to Craig Hospital and fixed him up with a 'sip and puff' device to fire a rifle that is activated by exerting a breath. When he determined that Don could hunt, Dwaine took him elk hunting Estes Park, Colorado. Unsuccessful in his first year, the following year Don got a cow elk. Shortly after the successful hunt he succumbed to the effects of his injuries.

Outdoor Buddies and My First Big Game Hunt

This event was my first game animal hunt in North America. I was paired with a guide aptly named Craig Hunter. We were on a private ranch just south of the Wyoming border. For many years the landowners had donated access for antelope hunting to the organization.

Darkness covered the northern Colorado plains like a shroud. Hunters and volunteers, some having arrived as early as four in the morning, navigated the rolling hills and flat terrain in pickup trucks.

SPECIAL THANKS TO 2019 BANQUET SPONSORS



Phoenix Automatic Sprinkler, Inc.

Big Bull Ranch



Stephen Red Owl



Judge Merwin M Brandon Jr.

The trucks were identifiable only by headlights that pierced the darkness like illuminating swords.

The fragrance of damp earth and vegetation, more luscious than the finest perfume, filled my nostrils.

Exhaling, my breath appeared like smoke in a chilly cigar lounge. Like an angry predator, a frigid wind slashed the plains and penetrated clothing as easy as porcupine quills. Daylight nudged up, creating a surreal hunting landscape; the snow-capped Rocky Mountains to the west, grass and brush tickling the north and south horizons and traffic on Interstate 25 to the east.

By 7:00 a. m., more than a dozen disabled hunters were strapped into highly sophisticated battery-powered machines named Action Trackstanders, self-propelled chairs on steroids, with tank-like treads and metal bars and wheels that extend front and rear to stabilize the chair and enable it to navigate hills and declines as steep as forty-five degrees. Gun mounts were affixed to the handlebars of each of these \$17,000.00 machines purchased with money from fundraisers and grants and donations from the Out Of The Box Foundation and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Coors.

Hot coffee, donuts and bagels helped distract from the cold. Larry Sanford, Outdoor Buddies president, orchestrated the two dozen hunters and twenty or so volunteers with the precision of directing Swan Lake. "If I needed anything," Larry said to me, "I'll fix you up from duct tape to marbles." I had no idea what he was talking about, yet I was comforted. I volunteered to hunt with one of the disabled men.

My opportunity to hunt was Saturday afternoon. The wind was still aggressive when Craig and I began driving on roads that crisscrossed the property like linguini on a greenish brown plate. I had a doe tag and my first possible opportunity for an animal was when four doe and two young bucks stood about three hundred yards distant down a gradual draw, directly perpendicular to a twenty-mile-an-hour wind. Craig cautioned me not to move for fear of spooking them. "Spook them!" I blurted. "They might as well be on the Long Island Expressway. I'm not taking a shot in this wind."

With a Model 557 Sporter in 6.5 x 55 Swedish loaned to me by CZ-USA resting on the truck's front hood, I focused on my breathing. Fiocchi USA had donated an ample supply of ammunition and Leupold had donated a VX-2 3-9x40 mm scope. The rifle was sighted in two inches high at one hundred yards. I was confident in my equipment and my skill.

To squeeze or not to squeeze the trigger: that was the question. All the hours at the range were invested for this one moment, when the world was reduced to a patch of brown and only one criterion imposed itself: take a shot that respects the animal. Much of hunting is like percentage baseball: the more you practice and experience, the greater the probability for success, which is axiomatic for much of life. I squeezed the trigger. The animal took three steps and fell. No pain, no wounding, no tracking, no anguish. I was relieved.

The Greatest Good: Helping Others Who Deserve Help

To write that life is unfair belabors the obvious and maybe even trivializes the recipients of life's unfairness. Outdoor Buddies levels life's playing field, if only briefly. Soul-churning comments by the disabled hunters are shared with me, the most frequent being "For these moments, I am like everyone else. I am equal."

The range of disabilities varied among the hunters. Some were able to walk or move their upper bodies but with difficulty. Others' disabilities were more severe. Descriptions of a few hunters and their hunts illustrate the ethereal virtues of Outdoor Buddies.

It is fatefully appropriate that on this hunt Conner Dowsett shot the largest pronghorn buck. A Navy diver, Conner was injured in a diving accident that rendered quadriplegic. Unable to move his hands, to hunt, he is forced to shoot a rifle fitted with a 'sip and puff' trigger system, which means the trigger is activated by him exhaling into a tube. He aims and shoots through a removable section of the front windshield of his highly customized Toyota Land Cruiser. Wheelchair bound, his mobility highly restricted, yet his soaring spirit and laughing grin would bring tears to a statue.



We maneuvered to a position 125 yards directly downwind of the animals.

We got back into Craig's pickup and slowly drove a quarter mile southwest, turned right and continued until we were 125 yards directly downwind of the animals.



Conner poses in his highly customized Toyota Land Cruiser.

Once again, Stetson attended the hunt. One of the most extraordinary human beings I've had the honor to meet, this teenager is afflicted by a rare congenital birth defect that caused deformed arms and hands and no legs. Topped with blond hair, Stetson's face is like a Raphael angel. In four years I have never heard him complain or seen him without a smile. I hunted with Stetson and his father a few years prior, and he made a 228-yard shot so stunning with the CZ 6.5 x 55 that I pondered if a divine power had aimed the rifle.

I had asked him how he felt. "Good," he said. "I'm having a lot of fun." I told him he was a remarkable young man. "Thank you," he replied without pretense. Our guide, Dave Cox, expressed how this hunt affected him. "It fills my heart with joy, watching a father and son spend precious moments and build memories of a day in the field. They are truly hunters."



Stetson, his father, Shai, and the author pose for a picture after the hunt.

Stetson has hunted successfully in each of the four years I had attended the pronghorn hunt. Notably, his love for shooting and mental toughness propelled him to qualify for the USA Paralympics in the 10-meter air rifle category.

Common threads link these hunters: grit, tenacity, a triumph of will over pain and physical adversity. They taunt their fate: "I will do this!" They refuse to be what Teddy Roosevelt described as "those cold and timid souls that taste neither victory nor defeat."

Pepper Canterbury, an agent with the Colorado Parks and Wildlife who visited the hunt, explained its multiple benefits. "It has the virtuous consequence of controlling the antelope population and it gives deserving people the opportunity to hunt. More," Pepper added, "you see a lot of smiling and laughing, which some describe as laughing through the pain."

Larry Sanford, a victim of an electrical wire accident that burned much of his body and severed his left arm, described the procedures that enable fully and or legally blind people to hunt. "It's no problem," Larry enthused. He uses, among other "as needed" creations, an iPhone-type camera system which affixes to the scope on the hunter's rifle.

Larry sees through the scope and signals the hunter where to move the rifle by touching the shooter's back shoulder in different locations. "Move it just fuzz to the left," Larry told one shooter. "What's fuzz?" the hunter inquired. "A little bit," Larry clarified.



Blind hunter, Colt Weber, was able to harvest his pronghorn with the help of helper/guides, Jenna Rodriguez and Larry Sanford.

Outdoor Buddies Youth Program

The Outdoor Buddies Youth Program provides outdoor educational and recreational opportunities to youth and their parents. Each year, Outdoor Buddies volunteers carry out approximately forty youth pronghorn hunts.



Outdoor Buddies guide, Nick Filler (standing), helped Christian McCombs (shown with his father, Justin McCombs) harvest his first pronghorn.

Dozens of volunteers breathe life into these hunts. Gerald, a volunteer, shared that he had been blown up in Vietnam, had 15 surgeries and has lungs full of asbestos with one-third capacity. Yet, he said, "This is my one week-I come here to help. I'm in all kinds of pain and I feel great!"

The generosity of many companies makes these hunts possible. Nick Filler, a manager at Cabela's, always attends Outdoor Buddies events and orchestrates donations. Reliable Big Game Processing in Fort Collins donates its services to the disabled hunters. Owner Barbara McConnell told me, with a voice drenched in passion, "When you see these hunters come in with their game, and you look in their eyes and see their faces, you know they have had an experience that is fulfilling to them. And that's worth everything. You have to be there to feel their joy."

Hotel rooms for participants are donated by Dariusz and Zosia Czyszczon, (spell that fast ten times!) proprietors of the Comfort Inn in Fort Collins. An avid hunter, Dariusz supports Outdoor Buddies because it helps disabled hunters expand their passion for the outdoors. "They get physically and mentally tired," Dariusz said. "They need a break and we are here. Many could not otherwise afford to participate. I want to give back."

The Big Picture

I try to see the big picture in all things. The antelope hunt is a fiber in a larger and grander tapestry. It is an opportunity to transcend the appearance of physical and mental limitations. It presents an opportunity for what appear to be ordinary people to do extraordinary things. The Outdoor Buddies hunts are quintessential examples of why I am, without apology, proud to hunt. The many Dwaines and Larrys are too modest, too humble, too unassuming to acknowledge their goodness. I will. They act with greatness, for they bring smiles to faces of people who deserve to smile. I urge readers to get involved by volunteering with the many wonderful groups that help folks like Larry, Stetson, Conner and others that deserve your help. You will experience the great joy of helping others and your life will be enriched. As Ira Gershwin wrote, "Who could ask for anything more?"

"America is great because she is good.

If America ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

Alexis de Tocqueville

For more information

Outdoor Buddies

<http://www.outdoorbuddies.org>

CZ-USA

www.cz-usa.com

Fiocchi USA

www.fiocchiusa.com

Leupold

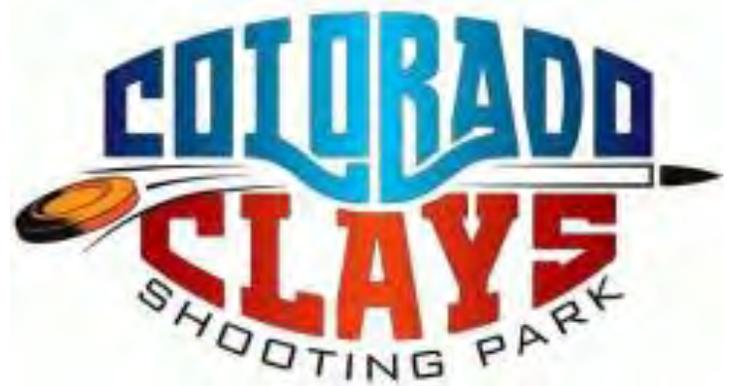
www.leupold.com

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 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

Edgar Munoz
Director
720-261-1857

Jim Piper
Director
303-932-1209

Dustin Robey
Director
303-515-9777

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

Outdoor Buddies on the Radio

Outdoor Buddies has a marketing agreement with Sportsman of Colorado Radio Show. Sportsman of Colorado is Colorado's outdoorsman radio show that airs every Saturday at 1:00-2:00 p.m. on 560AM KLZ, 100.7FM, 95.3FM, and 1220AM. Founder & Host Scott Whatley and Co-Host Kevin Flesch offer a variety of hunting and fishing experts, outfitters, guns, ammo, and archery specialists to keep hunters, anglers and outdoorsman informed of techniques, products, gear, conservation news, and the upcoming seasons.

No other Colorado radio broadcast operation provides the listening area coverage footprint of 560AM KLZ. The Sportsman Of Colorado Radio Show reaches into Wyoming, west to Craig, Colorado, south past Trinidad, Colorado, and east into Kansas! You can also listen to the show "live" from anywhere in the world at www.560TheSource.com.

Sportsman of Colorado provides radio listeners and the online community with a premier destination for the outdoorsman enthusiast. We showcase a distinctive blend of interviews, education, and practical information from wildlife experts.



Kevin Flesch
Owner and Attorney at Flesch Law – Denver
Co-Host of Sportsman Of Colorado Radio Show

Outdoor Buddies is Open to All

As you may already know, Outdoor Buddies is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization. None of the Outdoor Buddies officers or board members is a paid employee. Under those conditions, Outdoor Buddies is seeking qualified persons who are willing to serve on the Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors. The board of directors is the governing body of Outdoor Buddies. Individuals who sit on the board are responsible for overseeing the organization's activities.

The following is a general description of responsibilities associated with members of the Outdoor Buddies Board of Directors.

1. Attend regular meetings of the Board. The board meets eleven (11) times per year. Meetings are generally held in the Denver area and are usually about two and half hours in duration.
2. Be accessible for occasional personal contact between board meetings.
3. Provide leadership to committees. Each board member is expected to serve as an active member of at least one committee.
4. Participate in the development of financial resources for Outdoor Buddies by engaging in fundraising activities.
5. Prepare in advance for decision-making and policy formation at board meetings; take responsibility for self-education on the major issues before the board.
6. Responsibly review and act upon committee recommendations brought to the board for action.
7. Participate in the annual board of director's self-review process.
8. In general, utilize personal and professional skills, relationships and knowledge for the advancement of Outdoor Buddies.

All Outdoor Buddies Board meetings are open to anyone who would like to attend. Please see the Upcoming Events Calendar in this newsletter for the dates and locations of the meetings. Please feel free to contact any of the current board members shown at the left for additional information.



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 9:00am.

\$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.

<i>Date</i>	<i>Event/Location</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Contacts</i>
June through September	Outdoor Buddies fishing and camping outings at Tarryall State Wildlife Area.	Outdoor Buddies volunteers will coordinate activities at Tarryall using leased properties and Tarryall Reservoir.	Jim Piper (303) 514-8944 geopros@q.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
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