



# Newsletter December, 2019



Vol 35, No 12

Check out the latest Outdoor Buddies outdoor adventures!

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**Ice Fishing Outing at  
Tarryall  
Saturday, February 1st**



Come join us for ice fishing at Tarryall State Wildlife Area on Saturday, February 1st!

Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a great experience in the Colorado outdoors. Lunch will be provided by Outdoor Buddies volunteers and there will be an ice shelter available. Please bring your own equipment if you have it; otherwise we will have some loaner equipment available. If you are mobility impaired, we will be happy to help you have a fun and safe time on the ice. If you would like to come, please register ahead of time to let us know how many people to expect.



**Directions: From Jefferson, go 15 miles southeast on Park County Road 77 to the Outdoor Buddies bunkhouse located at 16226 Park County Road 77. (Phone 719-836-1913)**

**To register for this event please call or send a text message to Jim Piper at 303.514.8944. When you arrive, please check in at the Outdoor Buddies trailer at the second pier.**

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# Outdoor Experiences Antelope Hunting



I would like to give a big shout out to the Outdoor Buddies Organization. I have done antelope, deer, elk and pheasant hunting with them, since 2018. The first year I got some pheasants, and that was all, but I enjoyed being able to get out of the house and go hunting in the great outdoors. The 2nd year I went antelope, deer and elk hunting. I shot my antelope. I did not get a deer or an elk, but I did have fun being outdoors and being around the great people in the Outdoor Buddies organization and who volunteered their time to be a guide and help me. This is still a learning process for me to be able to go pheasant and big game hunting, since I became disabled.

I appreciate the Outdoor Buddies organization, volunteers and the sponsors for Outdoor Buddies. I have met some wonderful people in the Organization, such as Larry Sanford and wife Penelope, Daniel Brown, Dwaine Robey, Nick Filler, just to name a few, I don't remember everyone's names, but I do remember their faces. I have also met some wonderful volunteers, such as Dave (antelope guide), Steve (antelope guide), Big Bob from Texas (antelope guide), Jayne (elk guide Estes Park, CO), Nick (deer guide Westcliffe, CO) and Rob (elk guide Trapper Mine Craig, CO). It is very nice to know this Organization exists. I appreciate everything they do.

-Brenda Harrison

## Hunting With "Bessie"



This year my sister Lexi and I (Alyssa) were able to go on our second pronghorn hunt with Outdoor Buddies. Me, Lexi, and my dad, woke up early and drove the Carr, Colorado to meet up with Larry Sandford and Nick Filler.

The moment we turned onto the road that leads to the ranch, there was a group of pronghorn sitting outside the gate, which was a great sign. Before we started, we chatted with a couple of other hunters and then we were on our way. We started to drive around, and right off the bat we spotted a group of pronghorn from far out. As we drove closer the herd got harder and harder to see. We decided to get out of the truck to walk and see if we could find them. Before we left the truck, Nick got out his cow decoy, Bessie, which we all thought was hilarious.

We found the pronghorn and hid behind Bessie as we walked closer. The small group of goats went over the hill and we followed them. Lexi and Nick crawled to the top of the hill, while my dad and I stayed lower ready for the goats to run or way. Lexi shot 215 yards away and the doe ran a couple of feet and dropped! My Dad looked over the hill and saw that the pronghorn were running away from where we were set up. We both sprinted to the top of the hill where I set my rifle down and waited for a doe in the group to stop running. At 325 yards I shot at the doe and she dropped like a sack of rocks. Our hunt only lasted about an hour and 15 minutes! It was undoubtedly one of the quickest hunts we've ever had, and probably will ever have.

Lexi and I are very grateful to have had this hunting opportunity again with Outdoor Buddies, and we are very grateful. Special thanks to Nick and Larry for the help, we all had a great time.

-Alyssa

**Youth "Experience of a**

# Lifetime!"



There are many things that I have done in my life thus far and several that I look forward to accomplishing. For example, I have traveled to a Denver Nuggets game and also attended Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

For the past year, I have been really excited to acquire my big game hunting license for the first time at age 12! I was granted a doe permit for pronghorn this December on private land in northern Colorado. This was the best news ever, as every time I see my Dad come back home with a big game animal, I am so jealous that I did not get to do it myself.

Well, when I heard about the hunt, I was so pumped that I couldn't go to sleep for days. I've had my hunter safety card since I was 6 years old and hunted small game, turkey and waterfowl. This has been a dream come true to be able to do this with my Dad, but the pronghorn hunt was icing on the cake.

The pronghorn hunt took place over a December weekend.

My Dad and I were joined by friends, fellow hunters and other youth hunters. We were honored to connect with an organization called "Outdoor Buddies." This is run by our friend, Larry Sanford. This group gives youth and disabled people a chance to hunt and experience the great outdoors. We were also honored to have a dear friend, Chris Nowak guide our hunt. Chris is also on the Board for Outdoor Buddies as treasurer and an active volunteer.

When the day finally came for the hunt, we had to wake up at 5:30am to get ready to meet the rest of the crew. One of my best friends, Lowell, was to join us on Sunday. This was his first big game adventure too! So, a very special weekend was to be had by all.

Our hunt began in the truck driving around Meadows Springs Ranch looking for pronghorn to stalk. Our first stop was a high vantage point. When we got out of the

truck to view the valley below we didn't see anything. But once we got out the binoculars and spotting scope my dad and Chris were literally laughing at how many pronghorn were below. They were everywhere! It was truly amazing how camouflaged they were in their habitat. There was still some snow on the ground which made them blend in against the grassy plains.

Now the hard part. How to sneak up on 100+ pronghorn without getting busted. And to make things even more difficult I was trying to get within 100 yards with a .300 black out rifle. So we packed up and drove downwind where we could get better access to them.

We got out of the truck and using a hillside for cover we tried to stalk a little closer. The hills aren't very steep and more roly so that made it hard to get close. We got within 250 yards and we were busted.

Needless to say I was learning a lot that morning. We got busted over and over and over. I was getting tired of hiking and stalking so we headed back to the truck. On our way out we ended up getting stuck in a snowdrift, so we called Larry to pull us out. Someone Larry was guiding that morning already got one so Larry was going to drive around with us and show us more of the property and see if we could find more goats. I also had to step up my game. My dad had been encouraging me to shoot a .270 he had for me, but I was really scared because it was really loud and I thought it kicked a lot. But on the up side I could increase my distance to 250 yards if I had a good shot at one.

Towards the end of the day and many more failed stalks I finally had a great opportunity. There was a small herd of about 12 goats near some old cars that were just off a set of railroad tracks we could walk next to for cover. We got to 256 yards and I got my first shot off! Everything seemed perfect, my dad was so excited he thought I hit one. After the shot they didn't know what had happened and walked behind some cover. We gave it some time until they wandered off. We walked over to where they were standing and found the tracks but no blood. And unfortunately no pronghorn either. My first shot and my first miss. I was really sad and disappointed. But my dad and Chris were still so proud of me. I had done everything right but just didn't connect on the shot. I also learned the the .270 was awesome and didn't kick me like I thought it would. Tomorrow is a new day and I was feeling confident I would get another chance.

That night my friend Lowell showed up with his dad Luke. We told them about all the fun we had and missed opportunities. There were a ton of animals out there and we would for sure have some more chances.

The next morning as we were driving, we were already seeing pronghorn. Lowell had never shot a rifle before and I had never shot the .270 on paper. So we did a little sighting in to see how well we could shoot. Lets just say we were both deadly out to 200 yds and feeling confident about that.

Our first stalk was almost right away. We found them on the back side of a steep hill. But we ended up getting too close and no shot opportunity. Less than 40 yards and we were busted! They took off like a bolt of lightning. So back to the drawing board!

It didn't take long and we saw another small group that were not far from the road and once again we had some cover to work with and a small hill. Game on!

My dad and the others made a game plan. They hung back while we snuck up a fence line and made it to the top of the hill. I was all set up waiting for them to cross in front of us. We waited and waited but saw nothing. My dad was looking back trying to signal the guys and find out where they were. Suddenly Chris pointed with urgency the pronghorn had gotten past us without us seeing them. They came up the hill on the other side from below us at 150 yards. Quickly my dad grabbed my gun and turned me around and I was getting back on target in no time. The pronghorn weren't quite sure what was going on but they knew something was not quite right. After a couple seconds they all started to run. Everyone thought it was over, but I had kept on them the whole time and squeezed the trigger. BANG!!! Pronghorn down! I

couldn't believe it. My dad couldn't believe it. No one could believe it! My shot was perfect and the doe rolled and slid to a stop. I couldn't wait to go see it and get my hands on my first big game animal. I immediately ran over to it with my hands on my head in disbelief. Everyone else was running over and yelling for joy too. I think we will all remember this moment forever! I know I will.

Next came what most people think is the gross part. But I think it's pretty cool. I've helped my dad skin a deer before, but this one was mine and it was my responsibility to take care of it. I learned how to field dress right on the spot, not by watching or helping, but by doing. My dad showed me where to cut. How to hold my knife and where to put my hands. It was a big project but one I liked doing. We even saved the heart and it was the first thing I had for dinner, when we got home.

Now it's Lowell's turn to hunt. We still had most of the day and turned out we needed it. It was nice being a spectator and not having to go on every stalk. But it was really fun watching Lowell and his dad try to get one. In the end Lowell got it done with a doe of his own. As it turns out there were 10 tags and hunters over the weekend. Everyone filled their tag which was awesome!

I would like to thank my dad, Larry, Chris and Outdoor Buddies for the landowner tag and opportunity to come out. This is truly an experience of a lifetime and I hope I am able to do it again next year.

-AJ Rainold



## Learning Safety and Hunting Skills



For the past few years I have helped my grandpa with Outdoor Buddies events. When I turned twelve I participated in my first Outdoor Buddies antelope hunt at Meadow Springs. Larry Sanford and Dan Brown have helped me harvest an antelope each of the three years since then. They, along with my dad, uncle and grandpa have taught me safety and hunting skills and I am now a somewhat confident hunter! Those skills helped me in my recent harvest of a cow elk in the extended youth season near Craig Colorado. Colorado Parks and Wildlife offers special regulations for youth hunters, which is in my opinion a very helpful advantage that could help more youth get into the great sport of hunting.

I would encourage youth hunters to apply to participate in the Outdoor Buddies Youth Hunting Program. Help will be provided by Outdoor Buddies as well as access to Meadow Springs and potentially other areas. This is super beneficial for those that may not have someone to take them hunting or lack the equipment or opportunities. If you want to sign up go to [Outdoorbuddies.org](http://Outdoorbuddies.org) or contact a very insightful board member. A fun outdoor experience awaits you and maybe even your freezer! I also look forward to my younger brother Jack taking part in his first antelope hunt. Hopefully will be seeing you or your child at an upcoming outdoor buddies event. \* (which can be found on [Outdoorbuddies.org](http://Outdoorbuddies.org))\*

-Luke

**Please consider making a  
tax-deductible donation to  
Outdoor Buddies**

**HOW IT WORKS**

# Understanding the 2019 Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign

The Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation Spirit Campaign, which runs through December 31, has become one of the most important and widely recognized activities of the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation. Individual contributions are enhanced by matching funds to provide crucial financial support for our community's nonprofits.

The rate of the match gift from the Matching Fund varies each year and is based on our Matching Fund income and total donations. The match percentage is determined in January, after all donations have been collected. Once determined, we apply that rate to the first \$1,000 per donation, per family. If you donate more than \$1,000 to one or more nonprofits, the match amount will be equally shared among the nonprofits you have designated.

For more information about the Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation please go to: <https://www.wmvcf.org/>

Please clip the coupon in the link below and follow the instructions. Thank you for your donation!

Please distribute my donation to the following Custer County nonprofit organizations in the amounts shown (use separate sheet if necessary):

<b>Donation to Matching Fund (Benefits ALL Nonprofits)</b>	<b>Amount: \$</b>
Nonprofit Org: <b>Outdoor Buddies</b>	Amount: \$ _____
Nonprofit Org: _____	Amount: \$ _____
Nonprofit Org: _____	Amount: \$ _____
<b>Total Amount: \$</b> _____	

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

COMMUNITY SPIRIT 2019

**IMPORTANT:**  
Please make **ONE CHECK** for your total donation payable to: **WMVCF** (or **WMV Community Foundation**)

Mail your completed form and check to:  
**Wet Mountain Valley Community Foundation**  
P.O. Box 718  
Westcliffe, CO 81252

[Click Here for Coupon](#)

## Upcoming Events

**International Sportsman's Expo**

**January 9-12, 2020**

## Colorado Convention Center

Outdoor Buddies will staff a booth at the Expo.

Dwaine Robey  
(303) 877-8584  
[dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org](mailto:dwaine.robey@outdoorbuddies.org)

## 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.

**February 1**

Jim Piper  
(303) 514-8944  
[geopros@q.com](mailto:geopros@q.com)

## 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 and youth, except for "back-up" shooters.

**March 21**

Larry Sanford  
(970) 218-5356  
[popslarrys@gmail.com](mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com)

## Outdoor Buddies 2020 Banquet Hyatt Regency Conference Center 13200 East 14<sup>th</sup> Place, Aurora.

[Mark your calendar.](#)

Annual fundraiser banquet at the Hyatt Regency Aurora-Denver Conference Center.

**April 18**

Nick Filler  
(719) 359-3641  
[nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org](mailto:nicholas.filler@outdoorbuddies.org)

## 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.

**June 7**

Larry Sanford  
(970) 218-5356  
[popslarrys@gmail.com](mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com)

## 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.

**August 22-23**

Jim Piper  
(303) 514-8944  
[geopros@q.com](mailto:geopros@q.com)

## Outdoor Buddies Fishing Outing on the Cache la Poudre River west of Fort Collins.

Directions will be provided to those who register with Larry Sanford

**September 12**

Larry Sanford  
(970) 218-5356  
[popslarrys@gmail.com](mailto:popslarrys@gmail.com)

## **Outdoor Buddies is managed by its Board of Directors**

**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**

**Dustin Robey**  
**Director**  
**303-515-9777**

**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**

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

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**Event Calendar**

***<https://outdoorbuddies.org/>***

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