

Lobstah Bake on the Lake

Pine Grove Programs (PGP) held its third annual Lobstah Bake on the Lake on Saturday July 20, 2024. The event was graciously hosted by Tim Corbett, President of the PGP Board of Directors, and his lovely wife Laura at their shoreside home on Messalonskee Lake in Belgrade Maine. This event is one of the major fund raisers for the program. There were forty-eight participants who enjoyed a traditional Lobster Bake with all the fixings, to include Corn on the Cob, Onion, Baked Potato, Cole Slaw, and a dessert

choice of Blueberry Buckle or Chocolate Cake.



Those who came early were treated to seeing the bake being assembled over a hardwood fire, with lobsters laid in seaweed, along with foil wrapped onions and potatoes that were covered by canvas that was kept moist throughout the bake to keep the steam in. Participants socialized before dinner and were treated to hors d'oeuvres, beer, wine, and water. The weather was ideal, with low humidity, moderate temperatures and a slight breeze off the lake.

After dinner, there was a spirited auction of donated items that included homemade pies, handmade pottery items, gift baskets, bottles of wine, snowshoes, a heavy duty PGP Hoodie, and a custom fire pit. The highlight auction item was a two day stay at the Lodge at Moosehead Lake that included lodging, meals and a Moose Safari. Phone Number: 207-695-4400. Ed Wheaton, an Army Veteran was our auctioneer. He and another guest, Pat Linehan had a reunion as they had served together in the Army in the 1960's. We thank all the donors and bidders for their generosity. A special thanks goes to the Lobstermen Jeffrey Kenney, Josiah Kenney, Ed Munsey, Alex Munsey, Gary Hawkes and Kaleb Hawkes who donated the lobsters to the program which made



Check Out Our
Monthly Podcast
On YouTube

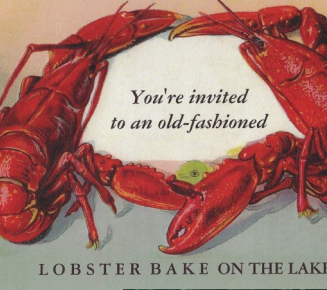
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Lobstah Bake on the Lake (Continued)

this event possible. If you want to buy lobster or other seafood take a ride out to visit their place of business at Hawkes' Lobster at 992 Cundy's Harbor Road, Harpswell, ME 04079 . Phone number: (207) 721-0472.



First Maine Sportsman's Challenge

On a beautiful sunny Saturday on August 24, 2024, Pine Grove Programs held its first ever Maine Sportsman's Challenge at J.W. Parks Golf Course in Maine. The day featured challenge events in Men's, Women's and Children's categories to determine who would win the title of Maine's Best Sportsman. The challenges include, shooting, archery, knife throwing, flint and steel fire starting, casting techniques, etc.

There was a 3D Archery Course, a Baked Bean Cookoff, a Barbeque Dinner that featured Pulled Pork, Smoked Brisket and Meatloaf with sides of baked beans, coleslaw and cornbread.

Throughout the day, there were outdoors seminars featuring topics such as Flyfishing, Bass Fishing, Trapping, Food Plot Management, Predator Control, Deer Hunting/Tracking, Wilderness Cooking, Survival Techniques and Coyote Hunting.



Lanny Benoit & Tim Bolduc Deer Hunting/Tracking

Ed "Muzzy" Muzeroll conducted a fly tying exhibition which was popular with the kids.

Sherm O'Brien provided a taxidermy display. Moosehead Trail Trading Post, NANOQ Guide Services and 2nd District

Representative candidate, Austin Theriault, also had booths.



Ed "Muzzy" Fly Tying



Our thanks to the Law Enforcement Officers of the Pittsfield Police Department for conducting a Kid's fishing event. Winners: Easton Foster, Lane Edwards, and Eva Ainsworth.

Sportsman Of the year Adult Male Winner was Barrett Sorensen and the Junior Male Winner was Jake Moore.



The Baked Bean Cookoff Winners: First place—Kevin Antonovich, Second Place—Pat Steeves and Third Place -Mary Collar.

2024 Veteran Black Bear Hunt

The Pine Grove Programs (PGP) 2024 Veteran Black Bear Hunt began on Monday, August 26, 2024. After a hearty breakfast, the hunters participated in a rifle sight-in to make sure their rifle were dead on at 100 yards. PGP conducts this sight-in which minimizes any sighting errors thus reducing the chance of a missed shot or a wounded bear. The drill boosts the confidence of the shooters and re-familiarizes them with their rifle which they may not have shot since their last hunting season. On completion of the sight-in, they did some clay target shooting,



an event that was enjoyed by all. On this first day, there were two Veterans, Val Vigue (Army National Guard) and Greg Haussmann (USMC/Army) Veterans slotted for their hunt. Dave Fountain provided assistance for Val. Paul Violette and John Olivera, PGP volunteers, conducted the sight-in and trap shooting.

Week one ended with Greg seeing a sow with two cubs for which he forewent taking a shot. A Veteran double amputee was more successful with his hunt that was provided for Pine Grove Pro-



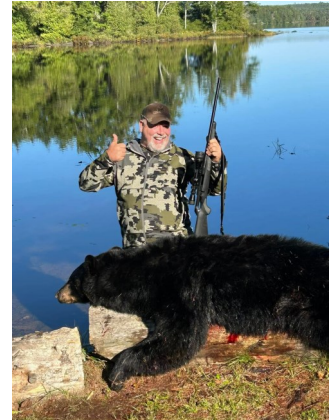
grams by Wilderness Escape Outfitters. Randy Flannery and Heath Howe guided this hunt. Justin Gaertner a US Marine Corps Veteran harvested a nice Black Bear. Justin is a double amputee who lost his legs to a bomb while serving in Afghanistan.



Week two saw Nick DuRocher, a Navy Veteran, Tyler Maloon and his son Tallin, a LEO, and Meagan Violette, an Army Veteran's daughter, out to hunt the wily Black Bear. There were bears heard snapping their jaws, but

they did not come into the baits for this group.

Meanwhile another disabled combat Veteran, Troy Chervenak, hunting as part of Pine Grove Programs at Wilderness Escape Outfitters scored a nice bear. Our thanks to Randy Flannery for providing these hunts to the program.



Week three of the hunt saw two Army Veterans, Dana Adams and Scott McNish chasing the elusive bear. Although they heard bears, none came to the baits while these hunters were in their blinds. Week four saw three firefighters, Greg Roberts, Michael and Anthony Castelli. Anthony is

also an US Air Force Veteran.

When hunting over bait, one never knows what may happen. Greg Roberts relates the following Moose encounter while hunting the elusive Black Bear.

So, I had come out of the woods and was waiting at the spot for Jeff, my guide, to come pick me up. There was nothing different than the last two nights until I heard the sound of brush moving down the trail in the direction that Jeff would come to pick me up. I could hear Jeff in the distance, so I knew he was enroute. I didn't think much of the sound until I thought for a second and remembered that I'm in the area to hunt black bears and there was moose scat less than ten feet from my blind. At that point I decided it would probably be wise to at least shine a light in the direction of the noise and confirm nothing was there. Well, to my surprise I turned on my headlamp and looked to find that it was a trophy bull moose that was standing in the trail, and it was coming in my direction. Now, being a Midwest kid, I never thought I would be in the position I was in. I had already unloaded my rifle and was standing in the open with nothing near me to find cover behind if this thing decided I was unwelcome. So, I did what any city person would do and got out my phone and started to take pictures to at least document the incident so there would be either evidence or a great story in the end. The moose continued to move my way curious but not undeterred by my light. At about the ten yard mark I decided he was too close and started moving my light back and forth over its eyes and saying hey, hey, hey to hopefully get it to

head in another direction and thankfully it worked. The moose turned back the direction it came from and I thought I was out of the woods so to speak. But, after a few minutes I decided to move slightly to my left and get a good view down the trail to make sure he had left and to my sur-



prise he was still there. At the sight of my light he started coming back in my direction. This time I moved my light quickly back and forth over his eyes and he didn't get as close and decid-

ed I wasn't something he wanted to be around, and he turned around and started to move quickly up the trail. This time he started moving away pretty quickly. I could hear Jeff's truck coming and the moose ran right in front of the truck causing Jeff to lock up the brakes and lay on the horn. You would think the moose had enough and would head off the trail and into the woods but no. He turned around and started in my direction running into me and my flashlight again. Unsure of me he finally crashed through the tree line and went up the mountain. And in true firefighter fashion I could hear the laughter in the truck from the other hunters as they pulled up. They saw the moose turn and run towards me and thought it was hilarious. If only they had known that I had been dealing with him for the past 12 minutes.

2024 Veteran Volunteer Award

On September 7, 2024, Bob and Andrea Howe presented their annual Veteran Volunteer Award at the SAM Banquet to Dave Giampetruzzi in recognition of his years long dedication to those Veterans who served past and present.



Kayak Float Fishing the Kennebec

We had to change the date for the Kayak Float Fishing Trip on the Kennebec river from Saturday August 10, 2024 to the prior Thursday due to the projected inclement weather brought to Maine from the remnants of Hurricane Debbie. While this reduced the number of participants by 50%, those who were able to go had a great time. They enjoyed a sunny day with mild temperatures and a refreshing light breeze.

The float down river took about 4 hours and covered about 5.5 miles. We were treated to plenty of Small-mouth Bass enroute. We enjoyed viewing Bald Eagles and the occasional Kingfisher along the way.

Jake Mowry, a Law Enforcement Officer, enjoyed the quiet floating as

much as the fishing. He appreciated the ability to chill out with nature and to set aside the concerns of work if only for a brief time. Our thanks to Andy Collar for hosting this event.



NEWLY REGISTERED—THE PROCESS

If you are a newly registered Veteran or First Responder to the program, this is the process of how selection for participation in events occurs. Prior to an event, the program sends out an E-mail announcing the event to those who have registered. If you are interested in participating in that event, you simply reply back to the E-mail indicating that you are interested in participating. Depending on how many slots are available and the number of replies received, the program holds a random drawing to determine who gets to participate in that event. In those cases where there are more slots available than respondents, all get selected. Once selected, you will receive notification by E-mail along

with instructions. If you are selected, but are unable to participate, it is vital that you notify the program as soon as possible, so that others may be offered the opportunity. As an example, we had only five replies to our May Turkey hunt and were able to take all five respondents. It never hurts to apply, you may get chosen.

The program also can accommodate ad hoc requests for a group or special need. For example, maybe your local chapter of the VFW would like to arrange a group event. Make a request and the program will see if it can accommodate you with an event tailored to your group's need.

Not Registered?

If you are not registered with the program, you can go online to our website and register at:

www.pinegroveprograms.org

Click on the

ABOUT TAG

and then click on the BECOME A MEMBER TAG to get to the registration form.

Once registered, you will receive all notifications. You must have a valid E-mail.

A Little Courtesy

I am fortunate that I have access to multiple farms and lake access points for hunting and fishing throughout the year. Whereas Maine has a long standing tradition of access to land if it is not posted, there is a trend statewide of more and more land becoming unavailable due to posting. I believe that a little bit of courtesy can go a long ways to help us to keep access to land and lakes. I personally visit those landowners who give me access permission every year to renew ties. I often will stop by just before a given season and let them know where I'll be hunting or fishing and whether I will be bringing program sponsored Veterans or First Responders with me. I often give them a loaf of homemade bread, by way of thanks. I send them copies of our quarterly newsletters so they are made aware of the impact their access permission has had on program participants. The end result is that I continue to have access to optimal hunting and fishing sites and get to share them with Veterans and First Responders. In closing, I ensure that anything we take in we carry out. I treat the landowner's property with respect. A little courtesy goes a long way!

MAINE KNOWS HOWE



We are looking for businesses to sponsor the production of our Maine Knows Howe podcasts. If you find the podcasts interesting and are interested in seeing them continued, please consider sponsoring a podcast. We send out notifications to every person who has registered with the program as well as notifications to those viewers who subscribe to the podcasts. This provides a great advertising opportunity for our sponsors as we send out over 1,600 notifications per podcast or Pine Grove Program event opportunities. While our registrants include people from across the nation, the vast majority come from the Northeast, and thus being local are likely to support those business who sponsor.

Our August podcast with Lanny Benoit as its guest speaker had over 14,000 views. V. Paul Reynolds was our guest speaker for our September podcast. Interest in the podcasts has increased every month. If interested in sponsorship, please contact our podcast producer at Digital Spirit Media (207-557-9022). They can produce a custom spot in the podcast to tell your story. This is a great opportunity to advertise your business while helping the Pine Grove Programs to provide free outdoor adventures to Active Duty Military, Veterans, Gold Star Family Members and First Responders to include Firemen, Emergency Medical Technicians and Law Enforcement Officers.

SPORTS- MAN'S ALLI- ANCE OF MAINE (SAM) GOLF TOUR- NAMENT

On July 15, 2024, Pine Grove Programs (PGP) fielded a four man team of Veterans in the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) golf tournament at the Augusta Country Club. The four Veterans, Dee, George, Paul and Tim represented the Army and Army National Guard with their service. They enjoyed a great day of golf and comradery. Each member of the team provided some great shots as well as some not so great shots as is the norm in scramble golf.

SAM reciprocates each year fielding a team in the PGP annual Golf Tournament held at J.W. Parks Golf Course in Pittsfield, Maine.

Moosehead Lake Fishing Trip

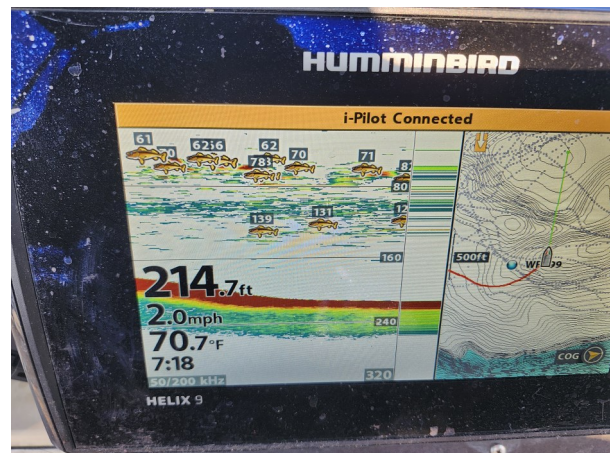
I got the opportunity to fish Moosehead Lake with Andy Collar, our Pine Grove Programs Media Specialist and member of the Board of Directors on August 1 and 2, 2024. I had bid at the prior year's Annual Golf Tournament on the silent auction for a four hour fishing trip on the Kennebec River and won the trip. When I called Andy in the Spring of 2024 to set a date for the trip, he and I had full schedules and were not able to set a date until early August. Andy asked whether I would be interested in doing a two day overnight fishing trip on Moosehead Lake instead of the kayak float fishing on the Kennebec, and I enthusiastically agreed.



Andy is a great fishing guide. He has over 40 years of experience and has refined both his fishing techniques and technical equipment such that he enjoys a high success rate in finding fish. His boat that we used on this outing is a technical marvel.

We set out from the Lily Bay boat launch and began to search for the thermocline where the water temperature ranged between 56 °F and 50°F. Andy lowered a sensor on one of the outriggers to read the temperatures at various depths. We found a layer at 43 feet where the temperature was 54°F and found the thermocline range extended generally down to about 60 feet.

We set two downriggers to depths within that range and tried different colors and types of spoons to see what the fish would hit. We also set one lure at a shallower depth in the hope that we might catch Landlocked Salmon. We watched the fish finder and changed depths of our lures to be above where we detected fish as fish look up. The strategy proved effective as we caught a Brook Trout, three Lake Trout and a nice Landlocked Salmon on the first day.



Despite a weather forecast of intermittent showers, the weather held and we had no rain to deal with and we had a nice breeze to moderate the August heat and humidity. We spent the entire day trolling and were rewarded with a Landlocked Salmon as a late in the day catch.

Moosehead Lake Fishing Trip (Continued)

We set up camp at a Lily Bay State Park campsite, enjoyed a nice supper, shared fellowship and swapped tall tales around the fire.



We had fished the first day closer to Lily Bay, but decided to fish up near Mount Kineo on the second day. We launched at 6:04 AM and enjoyed a beautiful sunrise as we motored north.

Whereas our last catch of the day prior was a Landlocked Salmon, our first on day two was a Salmon as well.



While trolling near the cliff face of Mount Kineo, we were treated to a pair of Peregrine Falcons that flew from the cliff face out to see what we were about.

We fished until mid day and decided to call it quits as it was getting very hot, humid, and there was no nice breeze like we enjoyed the day before. We



stopped at Kelly's Landing in Greenville for lunch before heading home. We had gotten off the water at the right time as showers came in that afternoon. I cannot thank Andy enough for donating the fishing trip to Pine Grove Programs as an auction item. His generosity enabled me to enjoy a fishing trip of a lifetime. When you attend a Pine Grove Programs' event, I highly recommend that you bid on the auction trips.

Kayak Fishing on Great Moose Lake

Skyler Kozloski, a Fireman from Fitchburg Massachusetts, took advantage of Pine Grove Programs offer of a Kayak Fishing Trip on Great Moose Lake. He and our Outreach Coordinator enjoyed a great day of fishing and kayaking. Skyler caught Yellow and White Perch,



while Paul caught Bass and White Perch. The largest bass caught weighed four pounds.

The day began early with a mirror flat lake that was conducive to using surface lures such as Jitterbugs. Skyler caught the first fish of the day, a Yellow Perch. Shortly after, Paul caught his big Bass fishing a Jitterbug near lily pads.

As the day warmed, a light breeze sprung up and it kept us comfortable throughout the day. While the number



of fish caught was low, the fun level was high. There is a reason why it is called fishing and not catching. Skyler stayed an additional overnight and he and Paul played golf on the next day before Skyler headed back home.



IR Illuminated Versus Thermal Scopes

With the addition of Coyote night hunting to our events, it is easy to become an avid coyote night hunter as they are truly challenging to hunt. In so far as hunting over lighted baits with optical scopes is subject to all kinds of pitfalls, one soon wants to upgrade to some more reliable night hunting technology. The conundrum becomes one of choosing an Infra Red (IR) Illuminated Scope or a Thermal Scope. I personally own two ATN Corp scopes and will thus relate my experiences with them. My first ATN scope is a ATN X-Sight 4K Pro (3-14X) Smart HD Day/Night Rifle scope with a Supernova IR Illuminator. My second scope is an ATN X-Sight 5 (3-15X) Ultra HD Smart Day/Night Rifle scope.

There are pros and cons for each type of scope be it IR Illuminated or Thermal. Perhaps the first is cost. IR Illuminated scopes cost significantly less than Thermal scopes. The ATN X-Sight 4K Pro (3-14X) currently lists for \$699.00 and the X-Sight 5 (3-15X) lists for \$795.00. The entry level ATN ThOR LTV 256 Thermal Scope lists for \$879.00. The more capable Thermal scopes go for many thousands of dollars.

Thermal scopes perform better if there is fog or heavy precipitation as the IR light reflects off the fog /precipitation and the thermal penetrates the fog/precipitation.

Thermal scopes only sense heat and this can make identification of an animal more difficult than the IR illuminated animal.

The internal batteries in both the Ther-

mal and IR Illuminated scopes last a long time between charges, but the IR Illuminators use up their batteries such that you need to change them out after 1.5 to 2 hours of use.

Depending on the IR Illuminator used, the range of the IR Illuminator may be from several hundred yards out to maybe 500 yards. The thermal scopes may let you detect animals out to several thousand yards.

Both the Thermal and IR Scopes provide a lot of functions to include. Photo, Video, Zoom, E-Compass, Wi-Fi, One Shot Zero, Custom Reticles, Ballistic Calculator, Recoil Activated Video, Multiple Profiles and Range Finder.

Whichever scope you choose, the result will be that you will have greater success being able to detect and shoot coyotes on the darkest of nights.

Here in Maine, the range for shooting a Coyote would generally be less than 200 yards. That combined with the lower cost and better target identification made my choice of IR Illuminated over Thermal a good choice for me.

What you choose is up to you. Do your research, as there are a number of different brands out there. I have friends who opted for different brands, one had so many problems, that he switched to ATN and is now a happy camper. I personally can vouch for ATN Corp having absolutely great customer service and that I am totally satisfied with their scopes. There are a lot of good choices out there that can make you a more successful Coyote Night Hunter.

THE ALLAGASH WILDERNESS TRIP

From 6-17 to 6-23, I went on a trip to northern Maine down the Allagash. This was a dream come true for me and I truly had a blast!

I left on Monday from Worcester, Mass to head for the woods of northern Maine. The trip up was on a beautiful day heading north in my car on the way.

Arriving at Pine Grove Lodge in late afternoon, I joined the crew for camaraderie, food and an overnight stay. The Howes and friends were wonderful to the crew who were gathered that day.

On Tuesday we had a 4-hour trip to Abbot, Greenville, Kakadjo. Then on to the not so Golden Road to Indian Pond on a beautiful road!

We put our canoes into Eagle Lake, and it was a pleasant day. We camped at Thoreau on the first night out and it was a beautiful place to stay!

The Allagash Wilderness Waterway Includes dams, lakes and a river. It was a beautiful sight to see! About 100 miles seemed almost forever.

The lakes of Eagle, Churchill, Umsaskis and Round Pond make up the Allagash Wilderness Waterway. moving north, as it winds along.

Our Maine Guide was wonderful! He was so helpful and informed and worked selflessly helping us all as we learned.

The days went fast along the waterway trip. Let me hit some of the high points lest from my mind they slip.



THE ALLAGASH WILDERNESS TRIP (CONTINUED)



The birds and game were beautiful
American Eagle, ducks and geese and the moose
but the American Eagles stole the show
dipping and soaring and cutting loose.

You need to learn to read the river
as it is full of rocks.

We all hit a few of them
that gave our canoes some knocks.

One had to be careful
when handling a canoe.
It does not take much shaking
to make your lips turn blue.

The rapids were kind of fun
but not so easy to ride.
On the other side of them
was often a much better slide.

All the meals were great,
five stars all the time!
The fellowship around the picnic table
could be described as sublime.

The surface of the lakes and river
was not always the same.
The waves splashed into the canoes
as the wind was too hard to tame.

A fellow knew of Allagash history.
He was a delight to hear.
The account of life in the Allagash past
was pleasant in the ear.

Camping along the waterway
was delightful, each stop an event.
I loved to see the stars at night
as I lay resting in my tent.

Looking into the heavens
beholding the night sky
I was reminded of Job chapters 36 and 37
and learned not to ask why.

THE ALLAGASH WILDERNESS TRIP (CONTINUED)

We had seven of us, one lady and six men
on the trip down the Allagash.
It was a six-day trip on the water
and all of it was a blast!

The group that went on this trip
each hailed from a different background.
We all got along swell
And a better team couldn't be found.

I brought along my father Irving's Fly Dope®
To keep the flies at bay.
I shared it with some of the others
And it sent the flies away.

Irving composed Dopey Stanzas®
As he spread the word
That he has something special
To hit the bugs with a sword.

Here is a dopey stanza
That I will try to compose.
I hope it meets his standards,
coming close to what he would have chose.

All along the Allagash
Where the flies are deep and thick
Apply some Irving's Fly Dope®
That will knock them out with a stick.

Submitted By Richard A. Russell a participant in this year's
annual Allagash Wilderness Canoe Trip.



ANNUAL ALLAGASH WILDERNESS TRIP (CONT)

Bob & Andrea, 6/27/2024
Never in over thirty years have I experienced first hand such benevolence toward someone who served in the military. Your annual allagash canoe voyage will be remembered as set apart uniquely from a lifetime of recreation. Your overflowing generosity equally matched the superlative pristine majesty of this jewel of the North Maine Woods. God bless you and your staff for your selfless service to Vets & first responders. You're both living walking Treasures of profound value! Chad

At left is a thank you note received from one of this years' participants in the Annual Allagash Wilderness Canoe Trip. It reflects common sentiments that the program receives from participants in our events.

While the program focuses on providing outdoor experiences that provide our Active Duty Military, Veterans and First Responders a great experience, we find that the experience is often therapeutic for those who participate. We never know just how deeply the events, the comradery, and the exposure to the outdoors will have on those to whom we give tribute for their service by providing these opportunities.

CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION

If you have been fortunate to be selected to participate in a program event, we hope that it was a rewarding experience for you. Unlike many programs, our fund raising efforts tend to be low key, with our emphasis being placed on ensuring that you get the best possible outdoor experience as a tribute to you for your service to our nation and or to your community. That said, the program is a Maine registered 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit that funds our events through the revenue received from our fund raising events, raffles, program sale items and donations. Donations are tax deductible, and the program provides tax donation receipts to donors. All donations are applied fully to the actual costs of events. It should be noted that all Program Board of Directors Members are non-salaried volunteers. Likewise, volunteer guides, dog handlers and vendor contributions enable the program to achieve more with less. Consider giving back!

3D Archery Event during the Sportsman's Challenge



TRIBUTE TO SERVICE

We are indeed fortunate that there are many different programs for Veterans in the state of Maine. Each has its own focus; all do good things. Pine Grove Programs is unique in that it not only supports Veterans, but also First Responders. I became a member of the Pine Grove Programs Board of Directors to fill the position of the Outreach Coordinator due to the unique focus of the program on giving tribute to service, first and foremost. I was impressed that all the members of the Board of Directors are non-salaried volunteers. I was inspired by the leadership exhibited by Bob and Andrea Howe, founders of the program. They live the philosophy of giving tribute for service, every day by their selfless actions, faith and generosity.

Upcoming 2024 Schedule of Events

Annual Golf Tournament**—October 12, 2024	2025**
Upland Game Bird Hunt—October 22 2024*	Veteran Hare Hunt—March 2025*
Deer Hunt—November 3-17 2024*	* Dates To Be Determined (TBD)
Muzzle Loading Hunt—December 2-14 2024	** Fund Raising Event
Coyote Night Hunt—January-March 2025	Note: This list is not all inclusive as events may be deleted or added and tailored to specific individual or group needs that develop during the year.
Ice Fishing Derby—January/February	

Our thanks to Blue Triton Brands for their generous donation of 25 cases of Poland Spring Water to the program!



**Veteran of the
Year Nominations**

Each year Pine Grove Programs gives an award for Veteran of the Year. If you have a Veteran you want to nominate, please contact Andrea Howe.

andrea@pinegroveprograms.org

NOTES FROM THE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

While I write a lot of the content for this newsletter each quarter, I find the inputs from participants in program events make for the best stories. If you participate in an event, I solicit your input on your experience and impressions so that we can tell your story. After participating in an event, please take a moment and send me a brief note about the event. Include your name, what military service or first responder status applies, and your story of your experience of the particular event. Include pictures if you have them. Send your input to me at peviolette@tds.net. I will provide you with a draft of the story for your review and comment before publication.

Much of what we accomplish is possible due to our business sponsors, please support them with your business.

PLEASE
PLACE
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