



Wild Turkey Hunt



Opening day (May 4) of the 2026 Spring Wild Turkey season dawned 30° F under a near full moon as Dave, an Army Veteran, and Paul our Outreach Coordinator made their way to the first hunting site. At legal hunting time 4:50 AM they began their calling sequence, but alas there were no return gobbles. With no Turkeys evident by 6:10 AM, they moved to their second site and after getting the decoys set, they began their calling sequence, with a lone gobbler responding. Although the gobbler was repeatedly calling out, he was not

moving any closer. Paul did a call sequence at a lower volume to let the Tom think the lady was going away and then went silent. The Tom's gobbles increased in volume as he was coming in not wanting to lose his opportunity. He emerged from the wood line opposite about 100 yards to the right and made his way slowly toward the decoys. Dave waited anxiously, fearing the Tom would turn around and depart the area. He shot when the Tom came in range and was some excited as this was his first mature Tom. It weighed in at 18.7 pounds and had a 10 inch beard.

Matthew came hunting the afternoon of 5 May and morning of 6 May. Unfortunately, we saw Turkeys, but they were henned up and no amount of coaxing brought them into shotgun range. Despite that, the hunts were successful as we were treated to Deer, Duck and Goose sightings.

Skyler, a First Responder, cancelled his hunt last minute due to a family emergency which left Paul on a solo hunt on Friday May 8, 2026. He arrived at his hunting blind at 4:15 AM under a half moon lit clear sky and 32°F temperature and frost on the ground. He set out his decoys and settled into the blind. About 5 minutes before legal hunting time, he heard a gobble to the rear of the blind. At 4:45 with the start of legal hunting time, he made a Fly Down Call and was rewarded with a gobble. He made a Raspy Hen Call and then went silent. The gobbles continued every few minutes and increased in volume indicating that the Tom was moving closer. Paul watched the bird approach the decoys and dropped the bird when it was about 35 yards out at 5:00 AM. He moved to another hunting blind site where no Turkeys were heard or seen.



Check Out Our Monthly Podcast
On YouTube

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Wild Turkey Hunt (Continued)	2
Wild Turkey Hunt (Continued)	3
Allagash Canoe Trip	3
Allagash Canoe Trip (Continued)	4
A Blind Story	5
A Blind Story (Continued).....	6
Fly Fishing School	7
Upcoming Black bear Hunt	7
Turkey Hunt Decoy Sets	8
Turkey Hunt Decoy Sets (Continued)	9
A Beginning, Middle and End	10
A Beginning, Middle and End (Cont)	11
Korean Style Turkey Jerky	12
Raffle Ride Along With Lenny Benoit	13
Engagement and Captivity In Korean War	14
Engagement and Captivity In Korean War	15
Engagement and Captivity In Korean War	16
Engagement and Captivity In Korean War	17
Maine Knows Howe Podcast	18
View Our Podcasts	18
Maine Knows Howe (Continued)	19
Maine Knows Howe (Sponsorship)	19
Thank You Sponsors	20
Thank You Sponsors (Continued).....	21
Inaugural ATV Patriot Ride	22
Tin Boat Fishing Derby	23
Tin Boat Fishing Derby (Continued)	24
Sportsman's Challenge	25
Sportsman's Challenge (Continued)	26
Not Registered?	27
Special Thanks	27
Upcoming 2026 Schedule of Events	27
Outreach Coordinator Notes	28
Veteran of the Year Nominations.....	28



Wild Turkey Hunt (Continued)

He moved to a third hunting blind and was treated to 2 Hens and 2 Jakes that spent about an hour in front of him. Paul passed on the very young Jakes. He saw 2



Geese, 4 Ducks, 1 Deer and 5 Turkeys. It was a great morning hunt.

Nicholas, a Navy Veteran, went Turkey hunting on May 11, 2026. In the blind by 4:20 AM, temperature 38°F, under a quarter moon and clear sky, he waited for legal hunting time to begin at 4:41 AM. A



Fly Down call elicited no gobbles. Twenty minutes later, a Raspy Hen call, likewise elicited no gobbles in response. At 5:10 AM, Nick spied a Turkey cresting at the top of the field 300 yards out. Paul confirmed that it was a bearded Turkey. On sighting the decoys, this Tom made a single gobble and then zig-zagged its way down toward the decoys. Nick took the shot at 30 yards.

Paul took Phil, an Army Veteran, Turkey hunting Wednesday May 13, 2026. They headed out at O-Dark-Thirty and got set up just before legal hunting time. Temperature was 32°F, under a crescent moon. Paul did a Fly Down Call which



elicited no response. After about 15 minutes, a gobble was heard. In response Paul did a Raspy Hen Call and went silent. There were some intermittent gobbles when Paul launched an Excited

Hen call. Almost immediately, three bearded and one Hen Turkey emerged from the wood line and ran to the Jake decoy. Phil took his shot and downed two birds with a single shot. Paul waited for



the third bearded Turkey to get clear of the inflatable Avian decoy and tagged out scoring his second Turkey of the season. Phil was tagged out with his single shot.

Andrew, a program sponsor harvested a nice Turkey on Friday May 15, 2026 at one of the blinds set up by our Outreach

Wild Turkey Hunt (Continued)

Coordinator. Although Andrew and his nephew hunted several days in multiple



locations, this was the only bird harvested.

Kevin, our Board of Directors Secretary volunteered to take out Veterans hunting Turkeys as well. Unfortunately, his hunters cancelled. That notwithstanding, Kevin was successful harvesting a Turkey.



Allagash Canoe Trip

On June 16, 2026, Caleb a Law Enforcement Officer, Michael a Marine Corps Veteran, Russel a Navy Veteran, Caleb, a Law Enforcement officer, and Ted a Marine Corps Veteran and Firefighter embarked on a trip of a lifetime to canoe the Maine Allagash Wilderness Waterway. They awoke to a clear cool day and started with a hearty breakfast at the Lodge before caravanning to the Maine North Woods through the Telos Checkpoint.



From left to right: Mike, Wyatt (Guide), David (Guide), Caleb, Russel, and Ted in Allagash at the end of the adventure.

Enroute from the put in at Indian Stream the camped at the Thoreau Campsite, The Jaws, Lost Popple and Ramsay's Ledge.

The first two days treated them with good weather and 2,000 CFM flow. On Thursday, it rained all day and the flow increased to 3,00 CFM. The day ended windy with 30-35 MPH gusts and they

Allagash Canoe Trip (Continued)

were all drenched. It is important to understand that this trip, while it is a bucket list item, is a true outdoors adventure and Mother Nature can be a hard task master.

In June when the trip is usually scheduled, the weather can vary greatly. On this author's trip in 2021, we experienced a frost on the 27th of June and had a rain storm come through at 35 miles per hour. Unknown at the time, we were under a tornado watch.

It is important that participants equip themselves with their own personal equipment that includes a proper tent,



dry bag, rain gear, layers of clothing, sturdy water shoes and a good sleeping bag.

The Allagash Wilderness Canoe Trip is a

Mike and Wyatt hauling their canoe!

true Outdoors Adventure that is challenging. One can expect to get wet, to deal with heat, cold, bugs, and rain. Some years we have experienced multiple continuous days of rain and wind that can make it extremely difficult to get dry and warm if one is not prepared with a dry bag so that a change of dry clothes is

available.

One can also be awestruck with the immensity of the wilderness, the sheer grandeur of the Maine North Woods. On a clear night after sunset, one can experience a true Dark Sky and see stars they never have seen before. The days are long and tiring, the meals somehow taste better and there is a sense of accomplishment.

One of the great things that happens on every trip is how a group comes together to become a cohesive team with a common goal. The shared experience is something they take home forever. Each trip is unique due to weather, water levels and



The team visits the Eagle Lake and West Branch Railroad remains.

the personalities of the participants. The feedback that we always get is how wonderful it was to be with a group of people focused on their common goals during the trip.

The Allagash has an amazing history that the group had the opportunity to see and learn about viewing the remains left behind from a bygone age.

A Blind Story

Previously, we had written an article about putting in a food plot (July 2025 Pine Grove Programs Newsletter). A natural evolution in that process would be to put a blind overlooking the food plot. Initially, I put in a pop-up blind made of fabric. Of course, that blind was not treated well once snow and ice accumulated and I decided to replace it with a hard-shell blind instead of building a shooting shack.



The Blind

My choice of blind was predicated on size, cost and features. Having hunted from a small hard-shell blind that was suitable for a single hunter, I wanted something that would accommodate 2 or more hunters in comfort. I wanted it of sufficient height, so that a bow hunter could use it without issue. I wanted it to be able to handle snow load, and I wanted it to be reasonable cost wise.

My research provided a lot of options, some of which were over \$1,500.00 in cost but were complete



Blind In Place

packages to include an elevated platform. Some of those high-priced units were not even hard-sided. I ultimately chose a five-sided pentagonal shaped blind that could comfortably seat two hunters.

The unit did not come with a floor, and I decided to build one out

of pressure treated 2x6 pressure treated lumber with an exterior plywood floor. I quickly realized that the 5-sided shape required some thinking to construct a suitable floor. For example, determining the mitre angle when the longest length was 75 inches and the corner-to-corner longest width was 72 inches was a bit challenging. Additionally, the joist framing had to be creative. When it was done, I was quite pleased with the outcome. The floor was stable and the blind was easily lag-screwed to the floor assembly. There are some that may opine that the floor is overbuilt and it could have been built with 2x4 lumber. While that may be true, the floor as built and designed is solid, does not creak when walked on and will last a long time.

My experience using the blind during its first Winter, was that as snow accumulated, it was difficult to have a clear view over the drifts in the food plot field. Since this was to be or more or less permanent



Blind Floor Framing

A Blind Story (Continued)

fixture on the food plot, I decided to build an elevated platform on which to mount the blind and floor assembly.

I had two options. The first was to connect the supporting legs and bracing directly to the existing floor framing. It would be the least cost option. The pentagonal shape introduced complexity that I really did not want to struggle with to ensure a stable platform. Access would be by ladder which is less accessible than my final choice.

In so far as I and my fellow hunters are not getting any younger, I decided to build a platform on which the unit could be placed with stairs rather than a ladder to provide better accessibility. The end result would be an elevated blind, that could accommodate 2 to 3 hunters in comfort. It would provide four season hunting opportunities and would be easi-



The Platform Framing

ly accessible. Cost wise, it ended up being less than the complete commercial units, but not by much. It is definitely sturdier. And perhaps more importantly, it was fun to research, design and build the blind and support structure. There is a sense of accomplishment in a job well done. The blind affords me a quiet place to sit overlooking my food plot. It affords me the opportunity to hunt or to photo-

graph wildlife, protected from the elements.

The legs were constructed of 2x6 pressure treated lumber with an 8 degree angle. The bracing consisted of 2x4 pressure treated lumber. The whole assembly was joined together using #10 3 Inch Deck Screws. The final result was an elevated blind that overlooks my food plot. The blind is comfortable, roomy, solid and designed to last many years.



While some may claim that this is grossly overbuilt, I can only say that when I climb up and set up in the blind, it is an absolute pleasure. Building this setup was fun and gave me a lot of satisfaction. I am sure that

those hunters/photographers who use it over the years will have tales to tell and will delight in how comfortable was their experience.



Fly Fishing School

On Wednesday June 3, 2026, Pine Grove Programs offered a Fly-Fishing course to Veterans and First Responders. This event involves a lot of preparation and cost to the program. Unfortunately, all the Veterans and First responders who signed up for the event failed to show. The majority of them did not even make notification so that other Veterans and First Responders could have been given the opportunity to participate.

In this instance, here are the impacts on the program staff and the Lodge. The program purchased \$400.00 of Trout to stock the pond so the participants could catch nice trout. The Lodge did not book any sportsmen for fishing trips or other outdoor adventures for the day and therefore sustained a loss of a day's income. Andrea was up at 3:00 AM making deserts for the participants before going to work. All the meal planning was for naught.

If you sign up, show up!

The program invests a lot of time, effort, and money to give you an outdoors experience for free. We do this to give you tribute for your service and to thank you for that service.

While we understand that life sometimes intrudes and emergencies do happen, we do not feel that it is asking too much for you to honor your commitment when you are afforded the opportunity to participate in one of our events. **If you sign up, show up!** If you cannot make it, give advance notice so that others can be given the opportunity to participate.

Finally, there is an article Titled "*A Beginning, Middle and End*" in this newsletter that was written before this event was to happen. Read it, and think about what the Program is doing for you to thank you for your service. We expend a lot of labor, resources and money to make your outdoors experiences possible. If you are selected, we only ask that you honor your commitment when you sign up for an event and show up.

Upcoming Black Bear Hunt

Pine Grove Programs will again conduct its Annual Black Bear Hunt August 25 to September 20, 2026. be on the lookout for the event notification and be sure to respond if you are interested in participating in this year's hunt. This is an extremely popular hunt and we usually receive more applications than there are slots available. We hold a random drawing to ensure fairness in the allocation of slots. If selected, you will need a Maine Big Game Hunting License and a Bear Permit.



Turkey Hunt Decoy Sets

If you are new to Wild Turkey Hunting, you may ask whether you should use decoys and if so, how do you deploy them? Assuming you want to use decoys, what decoys should you use? The answer of course is that it depends. Deployment of decoys for greatest advantage changes as the season progresses. You must understand your quarry and the changes that occur as the season progresses.

The Spring Turkey hunting season in Maine occurs during May which coincides with Turkey breeding season. During the early days of the season the bearded Turkeys (Jakes and Mature Toms) compete for Hens with which to



A Jake With 3 Hen Decoy Set



Jake & Hen Decoy Set

breed. Early on the male Turkeys are aggressive and fight to establish the pecking order. As the season goes on some Turkeys attain dominance and the other Turkeys will choose not to fight or become submissive. This affects how they might respond to your decoy set.

So, during the early days of the season, it is advisable to place a male decoy (Jake or Strutter) with a breeding Hen decoy. The Turkey coming into your decoy set will typically focus on the male decoy, often picking a fight with it. As it approaches the set, it will strut and put on quite a display to show its dominance. The positioning of the decoys should provide a three to four yard spread between them giving you shooting space between them and allowing the incoming Turkey to strut its stuff. I normally place my decoy set about 25 yards in front of my shooting position. Of course, that depends on what distances you get the best pattern with the shotgun you use and the Turkey shotshells you choose. Remember that the pattern expands over distance and if you

Turkey Hunt Decoy Set (Continued)

choose a longer range performing shot-shell with a tight turkey choke, the best pattern that gives you the most pellets in the target area may be further out. The



A Strutter Decoy

pattern closer in might be so tight that you increase your chance of missing your bird. That is why you should always pattern the shotgun with the ammo you choose at different distances such as 25, 40 and perhaps 60 yards. You can then choose what distance provides the most favorable killing zone and where you want to place your decoy set.

As the hunting season goes on, you may want to place a single or multiple Hen decoys out without the Jake or Strutter decoys, because the more submissive Turkeys are not willing to confront another male Turkey having been bested by other dominant Turkeys. On approach to the Jake or Strutter, they may hang up or go away rather than seek confrontation.

It is important to remember that when

we are trying to bring male Turkeys into our decoy set, we are in fact doing the reverse of what Mother Nature does. A mature Tom often gobbles and will not approach a decoy set as his gobbles are an invitation for the Hen to come to him. He is in effect saying, "Here I am ladies, come and get me." That is when your calling sequence and type of calls can make the difference to entice him to move to the decoy set. Every time you go out, and hunt Turkeys will be a learning experience. As you spend more time hunting them, you will learn how they operate, what calls they make and how they will respond to your calls and decoy sets.



A Mature Tom In Full Strut

They will often surprise you, and that enhances the challenge of hunting them.

A friend of mine offered the opinion that Turkey hunting can be just as exciting as Moose hunting because you are calling and interacting with your quarry to bring them into shooting range. Moreover, Turkey hunting is less costly and provides greater opportunity to hunt. The challenge and the Kabuki dance to bring in a Turkey or a Moose are indeed similar.

A BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END

When you are selected to participate in a Pine Grove Program event you have the opportunity to have an experience of a lifetime being whatever outdoors activity you do.

For every event, there is a **Beginning** that involves all the planning and logistics to put it together. Let us use the Upcoming Black Bear Hunt for an example. Early on the program purchases the leases to the bait sites. Next comes the acquisition of bait, barrels, cables, stands, blinds etc. to replace damaged items from the previous year. During the heat of summer, shooting lanes are cleared, stands and blinds are placed. Baits are placed starting in early August, checked and maintained throughout the month. Notification is sent out to registered program members and a random drawing held to determine who gets to participate in this year's hunt. Dates are coordinated. The Lodge staff acquires the food, plans the menus, cleans and prepares the

rooms for the hunters.

The **Middle** is the hunt itself, where you arrive at the lodge, meet your fellow Veterans/First Responders and enjoy a hearty supper. The next



Hearty Meals The Rule Of The Day

morning after breakfast you participate in



The Rifle Sight-In

a rifle sight-in and have fun doing some trap shooting. After lunch you are taken out to your respective bait site and start your hunt. Typically, you hunt for several



Shooting Clays

days, and at its conclusion you head home. If you harvest a Bear, your guide assists with dressing it out and getting the meat processed. This cycle repeats itself for the number of hunts scheduled. When the last hunters have departed, the **End** game begins. All the bait sites must be cleaned up, stands and blinds removed, repairs made and equipment stored.

While this is accomplished, the **Beginning** of the next event is already underway and the cycle repeats itself. Your

A BEGINNING, MIDDLE AND END (CONTINUED)

time in the process is relatively short, the planning, logistics and execution by the Program is continuous. It takes a lot of



A Happy Hunter



Three Selectees Ready To Hunt



Jeff Your Guide

work to give you that special experience. If you are fortunate to be selected to participate in an event, consider giving back so that other Veterans/First Responders can likewise have that wonderful outdoors experience. You can help by volun-

teering your time, sharing your skills with fellow Veterans/First Responders or making a donation to the Program.

Be on the lookout for the announcement for the Black Bear hunt and if interested respond to the announcement indication your desire to participate. Depending on the number of applications, a random drawing will be held to determine who gets to participate in this years hunt.

If selected, you will be notified of the dates of your hunt. You will need to have a valid Maine Big Game Hunting License with a Bear Permit. You will be required to provide your own rifle and suitable ammunition. You will need camouflage clothing.



Korean Style Wild Turkey Jerky

Once you have harvested your Wild Turkeys, you may ask, “How do I cook my Turkey?” I like to make a Korean style Wild Turkey Jerky. To do this I use my favorite Korean Bulgogi recipe for the marinade.

2 Pounds Thinly Sliced Turkey breast

1/ Cup Soy Sauce

1/ Cup Sugar

1/4 Cup Sherry

3 Cloves Minced Garlic

2 Tablespoons Toasted Sesame Seeds

1/ Cup Sliced Spring Onions

Teaspoon Red Pepper

1/4 Teaspoon Ginger

2 Tablespoons Sesame Oil

Place Turkey in large zip lock bag.

Mix soy sauce and sugar in large glass measuring cup; microwave for about 30 seconds to dissolve sugar. Combine rest of ingredients in bowl and add in soy/sugar mixture to make a marinade. Pour marinade over the Turkey. Seal zip lock bag. Refrigerate. Let marinated all day, turning occasionally.

Spread the thin sliced turkey on parchment paper lined baking sheets. Turn on your oven to 175° F. Place the baking sheets in the oven. At 3 hours, check the jerky to test the texture and dryness. Turn over the Turkey pieces and continue to cook until done. Typically 5 to 6 hours total time.

If you cannot find toasted Sesame Seeds or Sesame oil you can order them online from Amazon. Note: You can use this marinade for Beef, Pork and Chicken all cut into thin strips and cooked on your grill.



Ready For The Oven

When the jerky has cooled, I vacuum seal it into 8 ounce packages and store it in the freezer. A package is great treat when hunting or ice-fishing.



RAFFLE—Ride Along With Lanny Benoit
2 Day Event, 2026 Dates To Be Determined

Winner To Be Drawn at Huntstock, August 9th, 2026

Spend 2 days with a Master Buck Tracker, watching and learning all his techniques. This is not a guided hunting trip. It is strictly a chance to spend 2 days with Lanny while he is hunting.

Meals and lodging are also included at Pine Grove Lodge in Pleasant Ridge, Maine.

\$20.00 Donation Per Ticket

ALL DONATIONS SUPPORTING VETERANS, LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS, AND FIRST RESPONDERS THROUGH PINE GROVE PROGRAMS, A MAINE REGISTERED 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT.

Thank you Lanny for donating this opportunity!

Bob Howe

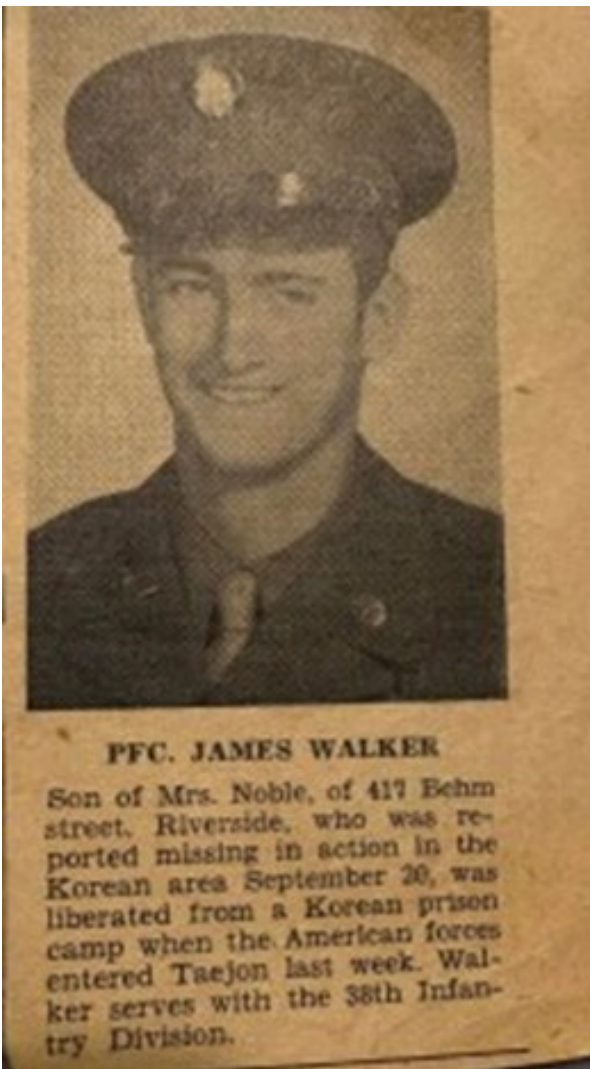


Lanny Benoit

Engagement and Captivity in the Korean War

This article was submitted by Jaime Walker, son of James M. Walker.

James M. Walker (born September 1933, Riverside, New Jersey) and Sergeant Allan H. Jamison (born May 28, 1918, Wheatland, California; a veteran of the First Special Service Force, known as the Devil's Brigade in WWII) served together in the desperate early defense of the Pusan Perimeter during the Korean War.



Walker, who enlisted underage at age 16 (by lying about his age and later receiving parental/guardian consent to remain in

service after the truth was discovered about a year later), trained at Fort Drum, New York; underwent jungle training with the 5th Regimental Combat Team in Hawaii; was rerouted through Fort Lewis, Washington; and was assigned to Charlie Company, 3rd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division ("Indianhead Division"). His enlistment was extended due to the outbreak of war on June 25, 1950, and he arrived in Korea as part of the urgent reinforcements for the Pusan Perimeter battles.

Jamison, a seasoned NCO with elite WWII commando experience in the Devil's Brigade (FSSF, 1942–1944), reenlisted in 1948 and was associated with the 10th Infantry Division in Korea. He was transferred or attached to the same operational area—likely the 23rd Infantry Regiment or a supporting element in the 2nd Infantry Division sector—providing leadership and combat expertise. The two men became friends and worked closely together for several months in the buildup and fighting, with Jamison serving as Walker's sergeant.

The Battle and Capture

In the evening of August 30, 1950, Walker was ordered to guard the rear flank with another rifleman. As they prepared to move out, Walker questioned Jamison about their limited ammunition, noting the main stockpile remained at the rear of the encampment. Jamison replied that the Captain wanted them out there immediately. Walker, the other rifleman, and Jamison moved to the rear flank, established their position, and were ordered by the Captain not to leave unless

Engagement and Captivity in the Korean War

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On August 31 (possibly beginning the evening of the 30th), fighting erupted at the front of the encampment. Walker heard gunfire but could not see what was happening. The rifleman next to him was wounded—likely by a patrol or sniper—and Walker applied first aid, holding a bandage to the man's head. A grenade (probably rifle-propelled) landed nearby; shrapnel passed through Walker's hand, through the bandage, and into the other rifleman's head, killing him instantly.

With limited ammunition, Walker made every shot count, taking careful aim at clear targets. Eventually down to two rounds, he spotted a company of North Koreans approaching (estimated 300–400 yards away) and debated whether to engage or hold fire. At that moment, he heard Jamison shouting, "Jimmy! Jimmy! Come on, we have to get out of here." Walker described this as the most relieving sound he ever heard.

As they retreated under fire, they encountered a severely wounded soldier. Walker offered to try to reach him, but Jamison—drawing on vastly more experience—insisted there was nothing they could do and emphasized the uncertainty of their own survival: "Jimmy, you don't under-

Engagement and Captivity in the Korean War

stand. I don't know if we're gonna make it out of here. We have to go." This moment always haunted Walker. They continued retreating toward a large white house with a stone wall, hoping it would provide cover. Before reaching it, Walker was pinned down by machine-gun fire; bullets landed so close they threw dirt on him. Instinctively placing his hands on his helmet, he believed the North Koreans mistook him for hit, causing them to adjust elevation and fire over him. He timed their reload cycles and, when the moment felt right, dashed over the wall.

Behind the wall, Walker joined other American and South Korean soldiers, including one remaining lieutenant. The lieutenant proposed trying to reach the mountains to hold off the enemy. With only two rounds left in his M1 Garand, the lieutenant armed only with a .45 pistol, and most others weaponless, Walker doubted the plan. Historical records confirm that only eight survivors emerged from Charlie Company in this action—Walker among them.

As North Koreans closed in with a T-34 tank that began shelling and destroyed the wall, the group realized they would be surrounded. The lieutenant ordered surrender. Walker disabled his M1 Garand rifle. Upon capture, a North Korean sergeant spoke to South Korean soldiers in Korean, then shot two of them—one to Walker's right and one to his left. Expecting the same fate, Walker stood straight, refusing to die like a coward, and looked directly at the sergeant. For reasons unknown, the sergeant called over their medic, who treated Walker's shrapnel wounds in his hand.

POW Experience

The prisoners were immediately forced into a brutal night march as North Korean forces advanced deeper into South Korea. They received only a handful of rice for sustenance and were compelled to carry severely wounded comrades who could not walk. Those too injured to keep pace were separated and shot by guards; Walker and others heard gunshots shortly afterward. Approximately 15–20 days later (around mid-September 1950), the march reversed direction and headed north toward North Korea—likely in response to the major UN counteroffensive following General MacArthur's Inchon landing on September 15 and the breakout from the Pusan Perimeter. Guards tormented the prisoners, poking them in the back with bayonets to maintain pace and beating some men. The severely wounded continued to be removed and executed.

During the first two weeks in South Korea, a South Korean woman—forced by the North Koreans to feed the prisoners—saw Walker's dire condition and secretly gave him rice water (reserved for North Korean soldiers). She gestured urgently for him to drink it quickly, risking punishment or death for her act of kindness; Walker remained forever grateful.

Around the two-week mark, Walker, Jamison, and others helped carry a severely wounded Black rifleman for about two weeks. As friendly fire increased due to the advancing UN forces, the march slowed. The Black soldier, slowing the column, was taken away; Walker believed he was shot, consistent with well-

Engagement and Captivity in the Korean War

documented North Korean executions of prisoners.

About 2½ weeks into captivity, another North Korean sergeant who spoke English intervened when a soldier tried to take Walker's boots. The sergeant told Walker to comply, explaining, "They're looking for a reason to kill everybody." He revealed he had been a POW of the Americans in WWII, had been treated fairly, and would try to do the same for Walker and the others—but warned, "I won't be around all the time. Do not give them any provocation to hurt you." Walker was left with sandals half the size of his feet for the remaining march. His first drink of water came three days after capture—rainwater tasting of creosote, collected under a railroad trestle.

Around three weeks in, while held in a wooden warehouse, a missile passed through one side and out the other without detonating; the only injury was a large piece of wood lodged in one soldier's shoulder.

Walker endured captivity for approximately 35–40 days. On the day of liberation—by a southern tank unit (likely from the 8th Army breakout)—he was severely malnourished. Approaching a tanker for food, he received a gallon can of spaghetti and meatballs. As he ate while awaiting medical treatment, a doctor scolded him harshly for consuming so much after weeks of handfuls of rice. A general (name recalled at the time but not later) intervened, calming the doctor, who then explained that sudden heavy food could make him sick. The doctor was correct—Walker vomit-

ed everything.

Jamison was liberated around September 28, 1950 (per public profile). Both survived the ordeal. Jamison continued a distinguished career (promotions to Command Sergeant Major, service in Vietnam, retirement in 1966) and passed away on April 23, 2013, in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Walker returned home after liberation and repatriation.

Their story—of a battle-hardened WWII commando sergeant supporting a young soldier through overrun, attempted escape, shared capture, and survival of a brutal forced march marked by starvation, beatings, bayonet prods, executions of the wounded, and acts of unexpected kindness—stands as a powerful testament to resilience, camaraderie, and the grim realities of early Korean War captivity. Preserved through family recollection, this account aligns with documented survivor testimonies of the Pusan Perimeter POW marches and the ad-hoc assignments common in 1950, even if precise transfer details remain undocumented due to wartime record-keeping challenges and losses.

If you have an article of interest to Veterans that you would like to submit to Pine Grove Programs for insertion in our newsletters submit them to:

paul@pinegroveprograms.org

MAINE KNOWS HOWE

January 2024 —John Olivera, Navy Veteran
February 2024 - Paul Violette, Outreach Coordinator
March 2024 —Gerry Lavigne, Wildlife Biologist
April 2024 —David Trahan, Executive Director SAM
May 2024 —Joe "Salty" Saltalamachia, Turkey Hunter
June 2024 —No Podcast
July 2024 — Mike Dugas, First Sportsman's Challenge
August 2024 —Lanny Benoit, Master Deer Tracker
September 2024 — V. Paul Reynolds, Editor *Northwoods Sorting Journal*
October 2024 —Seth Edwards, Coyote Hunter
November 2024 —Dennis Bolduc, Serious Angler
November 2024 (Short) —Tim Bolduc, Muzzleloaders
December 2024 —Tenley Scholfield, Master Maine Guide
December 2024 (Short) —Ed Musserol , Fly Tying Expert
January 2025—Al Swett, Maine Snowmobile Association
January 2025 (Short)— Lanny Benoit, Master Deer Tracker
February 2025 —Randy Flannery, Wilderness Escape Outfitters
March 2025—There was no podcast produced for March 2025 due to illness in the media production team.
April 2025—Andrea Howe and Edna Liskowacki, two Ladies behind the scenes.
May 2025— Patrick Guyette of Huntstock
June 2025— Rick Labbe Cat Hunter
July 2025— Sportsman's Challenge Panel Stories
August 2025— Swapping Stories With Randy Flannery I
September 2025 -Swapping Stories With Randy Flannery II
October 2025—Hal Blood Master Maine Guide, outfitter, author, and founder of the Big Woods Bucks hunting brand.
November 2025—Matthew Landis A Veteran Story Of Hope & Healing
December 2025—Caroll Ware World Fly Fishing Records

VIEW OUR PODCASTS

If you have not viewed our Maine Knows Howe podcasts, you can view them on [YouTube](#) , just search for Maine Knows Howe in your browser. 2024/25 Podcasts to date to include guest speakers are listed at right.



Maine Knows Howe (Continued)

January 2026—The Biology Behind Coyotes & Deer With Gerry Lavigne

February 2026—Pajamas, Pigs, Snowshoes and A Maine Guide

March 2026—Moosehead Majestic Monsters—Trophy Brookies

April 2026 - Maine Freshwater Underwater Exploration

May 2026—Lifelong Friends Telling Stories with Jeff Zimba

June 2026—Randy Cross, retired Maine Bear Biologist (Part 1)

July 2026—Randy Cross, retired Maine Bear Biologist (Part 2)

Maine Knows Howe (Sponsorship)



adventures & stories of Master Maine Guide Bob Howe & his son Wyatt. For over 40 years Bob has operated a lodge in Maine and has given away outdoor healing opportunities to veterans, first responders and law enforcement through Pine Grove Programs. Meet the real people of Maine who have given back to those who have given the most.

Would You Partner with US ?



Partnership Opportunities

What - Bi weekly podcast with over 33,000 views in the first year ! Take a look for yourself.

www.youtube.com/@MaineKnowsHowe

\$500/Month:

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By partnering with Maine Knows Howe, you're not only gaining exposure to an engaged audience but also supporting a cause that empowers our nation's heroes through outdoor recreation. Your sponsorship helps us continue to grow and share these meaningful stories.

Showcase your brand to a loyal audience of outdoor enthusiasts and community supporters.

Gain visibility across YouTube, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, and at events in the Maine outdoor scene.

Email: maineknowshowe@gmail.com

Phone: 207-557-9022

Website: pinegroveprograms.org

MAINE KNOWS HOWE

THANK YOU SPONSORS

At each of our events, be they fund raisers or outdoors experiences for our Veterans and First Responders, there are swag giveaways, prizes or cash donations that were donated by sponsors. We would be remiss if we did not thank these sponsors for all that they do that adds to the success of our events. Many of these sponsors are local businesses and we ask you to avail yourselves of their products and or services.



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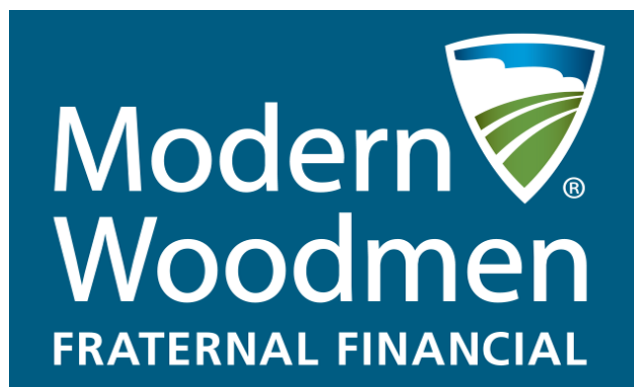
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A special thanks goes to the Lobstermen Jeffrey Kenney, Josiah Kenney, Ed Munsey, Alex Munsey, Gary Hawkes, and Kaleb Hawkes



THANK YOU SPONSORS (CONTINUED)



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Inaugural ATV Patriot Ride



The inaugural Pine Grove Program Veterans and First Responders Patriot ATV Ride was a huge success on June 10, 2026. Thirty-two machines participated in an eighty-two mile ride. It was all made possible through the support of Jimmy's Shop N Save - Bingham, ME, Riverside Breakfast and BBQ, 201 Power Sports, North Country Rivers, Griswold's Country Store and Diner, Foss Enterprises, Franklin Savings



Bank, Poland Spring Natural Spring Water, Somerset County Sheriff's Office, Bob Howe, Andrea Howe, Jeff Liskowacki Sr., Edna Knight Liskowacki, Scott Robertson, Kevin Antonovitch, and the many landowners who allow ATV access to their roads and trails, and so many other individuals who helped with the ride, bought raffle tickets, and rode with us on the dusty trail! The views and camaraderie of a shared experience were spectacular!



Tin Boat Fishing Derby

Fishing is high on our list in our combat support group, especially Lake Trout fishing in the spring when those lunkers are feeding right on the surface. Yes, I am talking about the third annual Lake Champlain Tin Boat Fishing Derby, a great idea spawned by a nice fella named Bob Howe from Bingham, Maine. Bob and his family own a lodge there and run Pine Grove Programs taking Veterans and First Responders out on all sorts of activities.



After an especially cold New England winter, the thought of Lake Trout fishing was on our minds. And sure enough, about March the boys began

asking “Have you heard from Bob yet and do you know when we are going fishing this year?”

I believe it was early April when Bob texted me asking how many of the boys wanted to fish this year, so I started asking everyone. By the end of April, I told Bob I had eight fishermen for sure, and two more possibilities. The past two years eight Veterans went fishing in four boats. This year we had three boats so only six Veterans were going to fish. Kyle stated that he would take the remaining two Veterans in the next week or two. The date was set Monday, May 11 at 8 am. All

six guys arrived on time to find the boat captains dockside and ready to push off.

Two of our captains drove over from Maine, Wyatt Howe and Jeff Liskowacki and the third captain, Kyle Scanlon is Vermont based. It couldn't have been a nicer day to fish cool, but not cold, clear and little wind, with a pretty clear sky and sunny. So, no rain gear, long johns, gloves, and a tuk were needed as in past years. Captain Kyle took out George Silver (Vietnam) and Pat Boyden (Vietnam). Pat is our Chaplin for our combat group. Worthy of note, on June 19, George will be 89 years old, and he is still going strong. He served as a Green Beret medic. George is legally blind. Captain Jeff took out Jack Bitter (Vietnam) and Marcus Murphy (Vietnam). Captain Wyatt took out Gary Blanchard (Vietnam



and VT National Guard) and Lynn Shepard (Vietnam and VT National Guard).

I'm guessing that the captains might have gone out earlier because the boys were not out long on the water when the lake trout began to hit the lures in several

Tin Boat Fishing Derby (Continued)



I must mention that Don Carr, who fished with us in 2024, passed away on April 22, 2025, after a gallant fight. Don is missed by his buddies! A big thank you to Bob and Andrea, the boat captains, Jeff, Wyatt, and Kyle, and all the other folks who contributed considerably to the Pine Grove Programs.

cases at the same time the action was fast and furious. This year for the first time all six Veterans caught fish, and in most cases, they caught multiple fish. Most of the Trout were released back into the lake; however, a couple of the boys were going to try their hand at cooking up some meals with their fish.

As the boats returned to the dock, I could tell by the expression on their faces that all six fishermen had just had the time of their life catching Lake Trout! It is a great morning on the water when a Veteran is not thinking about any past trauma in his life, only fishing and this is exactly why Pine Grove Programs does what they do!



Sportsman's Challenge

Pine Grove Programs hosted its Third Annual Sportsman's Challenge at JW Parks Golf Course on Saturday June 27, 2026. The results of the Challenge:

1st Place Maine Sportsman:

Jaxson Foster

2nd Place Maine Sportsman:

Jerod Foster

1st Place Kids Class Maine Sportsman: Easton Foster

2nd Place: Isaiah Adams

3rd place: Desmond Littrell

1st Place Womens Class Maine Sportsman:

Edna Liskowacki

Apple Pie Bakeoff:

1st Place: Edna Liskowacki

2nd Place: Evelyn Beane

Baked Bean Cookoff:

1st Place: Bruce "Geezer" Beane

2nd Place: Patt's Pitt BBQ

3rd Place: Kevin Antonovich



The weather was sunny and warm, a perfect day for visitors and challenge participants. It was a great day for all the kids who entered the challenge.

The challenge events included Archery, Rifle Shooting, Spin and Fly Casting, Axe and Knife Throwing, Slingshot, and Ice Fishing Trap Setting. Exhibits and

demonstrations included Fly Tying, Taxidermy, Fur and Leather Crafts, European Game Mounts, Campfire Cooking. Guest speakers included Larry Benoit, Master Deer Tracker, Tim Buldoc and Randy Flannery.



Award Winning Bobcat Mount

Sportsman's Challenge (Continued)



Our thanks to the Pittsfield Police Department for hosting the Kid's Fishing Derby again this year.



Our thanks to Mike Dugas and the J. W. Parks Golf Course staff for all their support that make this annual event possible.



SPECIAL THANKS

Not Registered?

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

www.pinegroveprograms.org/become-a-member/

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



Jimmy's Shop N Save - Bingham, ME, Riverside Breakfast and BBQ, 201 Power Sports, North Country Rivers, Griswold's Country Store and Diner, Foss Enterprises, Franklin Savings Bank, Poland Spring Natural Spring Water, and the Somerset County Sheriff's Office for making our Pine Grove Programs ATV Patriot Ride a huge success.

Upcoming 2026 Schedule of Events

Wildlife Safaris —Various TBD

Kayak Fishing - Various TBD

Lobster Bake on the Lake — July 18, 2026 **

Blueberry Picking—August 2026 TBD

Black Bear Hunt—August 25—Sept 20, 2026

Apple Picking—September 2026 TBD

Annual Golf Tournament — October 11, 2026 **

Upland Game Bird Hunt—October 20, 2026*

Whitetail Deer Hunt—November 2026 TBD

Muzzle Loader Deer Hunt—December 2026 TBD

Coyote Night Hunt - December 16, 2026 to March 2027*

Dates To Be Determined (TBD)

** Fund Raising Event

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.

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

OUTREACH COORDINATOR NOTES

In addition to being the Outreach Coordinator for the Program, I am the editor and author of much of the content of this newsletter. In addition to articles that are about the Program events, I also try to provide articles that may be of interest to you about hunting, shooting, fishing etc. Unfortunately, I can only draw upon my experiences. If you would like to submit an article for inclusion in the newsletter, or have a topic that you would like me to research and write about, please contact me at paul@pinegroveprograms.org.

If you are a participant in an event, do not hesitate to send me a story about your experience. You are after all what this program is all about.

Note New Mailing Address



Pine Grove Programs
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www.pinegroveprograms.org

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