



Pine Grove Programs

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Pine Grove Programs
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2022 Firearms Season for Deer

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Congratulations to David Hartland for shooting his first buck in Maine. He is a long time veter-



an and a volunteer for Pine Grove Programs.

In total, the Program hosted twenty-six Veterans during the firearms season. Some hunters spent an entire week at the lodge and others were treated to shorter hunts.

While the actual deer kill was low due to the ex-

tremely warm weather during the first two weeks, the excitement, comradery and thrill of the hunt was high, judged by the tales told in the evenings in the Lodge Great Room.

For some, this was a first ever deer hunt. For other old hands, they passed on some deer looking for that once in a lifetime trophy.

Special points of interest:

- * Annual Wyman Lake Ice Fishing Derby is on January 28, 2023.
- * See spectacular Door Prize drawing for anyone who buys a \$20.00 ticket whether they fish or not.

2022 Was A Successful Year For The Program

Post Pandemic, Pine Grove Programs (PGP) had a very successful year in 2022. There were over three hundred participants to Pine Grove

Program funded events. Likewise, PGP fund raisers were highly attended to include the Annual Ice Fishing Derby, Golf Tournament,

Raffles and first ever Lobster Bake on the Lake.

Finally, our thanks to all who donated money or items to PGP.

Deer Hunting

There are deer hunters who always seem to get a deer. There are those hunters who through sheer luck of being in the right place at the right time score a deer. Then there are those hunters who for whatever reason never harvest a deer. So what is the difference?

Those hunters who routinely harvest a deer each season are generally characterized as those who spend the time scouting the habits of the deer in their area where they hunt. They locate the travel lanes, the feeding places, sources of water and bedding areas of the deer. They familiarize themselves with the cycle that the deer follow and understand that they may not travel through a given area for several days at a time. They locate their stands/blinds in likely areas and invest the time and have the

patience to wait for the best opportunity. Often you might hear them say of a particular stand or blind. "If I sit here from dawn to dusk everyday, I will get a deer." Most hunters lack that kind of patience.

As to the chance encounters of those seemingly shot with good luck, there are always those stories of the hunter who stayed in bed while the rest of the camp was out hunting. At mid-morning, the late hunter starts out down a tote road and walks into a buck not a hundred yards from the camp. It happens.

Then there are those who never seem to see a deer. That may not be their fault, but normally there are just the things they do that let the deer see them before they are aware that the deer is near.

The first error is movement, if one is moving, one is easily picked up at a distance. Noise, a hunter waking through the woods steps on branches that crack, on leaves that rustle and generally makes sounds that are different than the typical wood's noise which alert the deer that something is not quite right. Odor, the smell of that bacon cooked that morning on your clothes or other human odors and not paying attention to the wind often gives the deer advance notice of one's presence.

If one does not have the patience to sit and prefers to still hunt, success depends one taking two or three steps, standing still for a couple minutes and watching and listening carefully. Then repeat the process. Often that hunter will spy deer and get a chance to harvest a deer.

Rifle Raffle Winner



Strum Ruger Corporation, a long term supporter of Pine Grove Pro-

grams, donated a Ruger Bolt Action Rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor Caliber with a Vortex Crossfire II Scope as a raf-

fle prize for the program. The winner of this year's rifle raffle is Peter Rairdon.

MK1 Suppressor Raffle Winners



Brigade Tactical Corp of Manchester, NH graciously donated two MK1 Suppressors as raffle prizes for the Program. The MK1 308 is a 30 cal. Suppressor that comes with barrel adaptors and can be used for rifle calibers from .17 HMR to 300 Win Mag. It's stainless steel construction makes it extremely durable and able to support up to 300

Win Mag. The MK1 308 has repeatable Sub MOA Accuracy.

Jim Leavitt of was the first drawn in the Suppressor Raffle and selected the Black suppressor. By default, the Coyote Tan colored suppressor was drawn by Curt Slininger. Congratulations to both winners.

A Coyote Night Hunt Reminiscence

My shooting Shack was located on a pond remote from the Lodge. I made my way to the shack and set up while it was still light.

This particular site has bait out on the pond ice about 100 yards from the shore where the shack sits on the ice. Thus, it has no light on the bait and moonlight provides the only illumination. The visibility was spotty due to passing clouds, despite a forecast for a clear night.

It was a cold night in the single digits, with a light breeze that shook the fir branches against the shack. To the right of me, a Coyote makes a long howl. To my left, I hear answering calls from a pack working at the far end of the pond. I get the adrenaline rush and wait in anticipation for the coyotes to move onto the bait.

Alas, that was not to be my fortune this night. The lone coyote worked around the wood edge to the opposite shore behind the

bait and called again before moving on to join the pack that never did come my way. He never came into my view, staying instead within the wood line surrounding the pond.

I'll never know if the Coyote detected me in the shack and therefore avoided going to the bait. Did I make a noise when he was approaching before I heard him call? Did he catch my scent on the wind? Or was he just unaware of me?

Coyote Night Hunt Takes Preparation

Just like bear baiting, the Coyote Night Hunt requires a lot of preparatory work. Some sites have a shooting shack already in place and others require a shooting shelter to be put in.



Placing a Shack

Then there is the bait which must be acquired from local meat processing plants, local farmers and sometimes road-kill animals. Bob Howe makes the bait into frozen blocks which weigh about 250 pounds. Frozen in this man-

ner helps to keep the bait intact longer and keeps the Coyotes from dragging the bait away.

The shooting shacks are outfitted with heaters and propane tanks, chairs, rifle rests, etc. Lights are placed in trees to illuminate the baits. The baits must be placed and replenished on a recurring basis. Then when snow comes access to the shacks may require plowing.



A Pickup Truck Load of Bait

During the Deer hunt, three Coyotes were observed chasing a buck. Our hunter shot two Coyotes and the Buck got away. Our hunters have the easiest part only to go to the shooting shack and enjoy a most challenging hunt.

Upcoming Events

Join Us for the Annual Wyman Lake Ice Fishing Derby

Pine Grove Programs kicks off the New Year with its annual Wyman Lake Ice Fishing Derby which is a major fund raiser for the Program.

LEO Ice Fishing

A Law Enforcement Ice Fishing competition will be held on Messalonskee Lake in February

Coyote Night Hunt

Slots available January through March 2023.

Snowshoe Hare Hunt

Hunt over Beagles, Watch for the E-mail announcing March 11, 2023 event..

Bread Baking Class

Learn how to maintain Sourdough starter, make and bake, Sourdough Bread. Bakers take home the bread they bake. Watch for the E-mail announcing this event.



Special Door Prize Donated for the Ice Fishing Derby

This spectacular welded burn pit will be one of the door prizes given out at the Wyman Lake Ice Fishing Derby. Even if you do not attend the derby or do not ice fish, buying a ticket for the derby enters you into the drawing for this prize. Your \$20.00 ticket could

be the winner. All ticket money received goes toward providing outdoor adventures to Active Duty Military, Veterans, Gold Star Family Members and First Responders (Law Enforcement Officers, Firemen, and Emergency Medical Technicians).



Take a Veteran Ice Fishing



If you enjoy ice fishing and would like to introduce a Veteran to ice fishing, contact us and we can match you to one or more Veterans to spend a day ice fishing with you.

At right is a picture of Jim Tobin with a nice Bass he caught while ice fishing with a group of Veterans. Jim is a US Coast Guard Veteran.

Jim and several other Veterans got together and fished multiple lakes last season and look forward to continuing their ice fishing exploits for the 2023 ice fishing season.

You never know if you volunteer to take a Veteran fishing what it may lead to. You may meet some future lifetime fishing buddies. At minimum, you will probably enjoy a good day making a difference in Veteran's life and create wonderful memories of a day gone fishing.

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