

Wyman Lake Fishing Derby—Huge Success

This year's ice-fishing derby was rescheduled from January 28 to February 25, 2023 due to unsafe ice conditions. Despite the new date competing with the High School Basketball Championships and the bitter cold with temperatures below zero at the start, turnout was good.



Our thanks to the many sponsors who provided prizes that helped ticket sales even by people who did not come out to fish. A highlight of the prizes being drawn was a custom Fire Pit fabricated and donated by Mainely Handrails, LLC. The donor Scott Robertson is shown here with Bob Howe presenting the door prize.

Bingham General Store donated the Ice Auger, Double Trouble Charters donated a fishing trip on Lake Ontario. Moosehead Trail Trading Post donated multiple prizes. Our thanks to all the local vendors that provided gift certificates.

And finally, our thanks to all the participants who braved the cold to fish during the derby. You made this derby a success.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Spring Wild Turkey Hunt Upcoming in May 2023
- Annual Tribute to Service Fishing Derby in June 2023

A VETERAN'S SNOWSHOE HARE HUNT

I hit the road headed to Pine Grove Programs from Bangor at 4 a.m. Had a great drive and came 3 feet from filling my deer tag on the way there. Myself and another veteran were the only shooters to show up, giving us a one on one guided hunt for those hares. Before leaving for the field, Andrea fed us a great breakfast of eggs, bacon, taters, coffee and more. Our guides, Bob, Tony and Wyatt took us to two locations. The first was a dry well, no rabbits. After toppling over in the snow, I realized the snow shoes I brought were inad-

equate and was given a pair made by Bob that worked much better. Our second location kept the beagles busy and, after seeing the hares crossing the road multiple times at light speed I pulled the trigger and missed. The weather was perfect, sunny and in the 40s. Bob fed us lunch on location, cooking on a grill on the back of the snow cat that took us there. At days end we were treated to steak and potatoes, pie for dessert. Thanks much to Pine Grove Programs for a great day provided to a couple of veterans.

“...this year’s trophy went to Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) fishermen.”

MODERN WOODMAN FINANCIAL

Patrick Linehan of Modern Woodman Fraternal Financial presented a matching funds check for \$5,000.00 to Pine Grove Programs for the PGP Annual Golf Tournament fund raising event that was held in October of 2022. We thank Modern Woodman and Pat Linehan for their recurring support of our Veterans and First Responders each year.

LEO VERSUS VETERAN FISHING EVENT

Unlike last year when the three wily Veterans took the trophy, this year’s trophy went to Law Enforcement Officer

(LEO) fishermen. Specifically Clay and Brantley, two children of an LEO made the winning catches this year. The event was held on Messalonskee Lake, February 8, 2023. Our thanks to Tim





When I was younger, these were easy, not so now!

SNOWSHOE HARE HUNTS

During March, Pine Grove Programs hosted Veterans and First responders on several Snowshoe Hare Hunts. The Beagles ran well and the Snowshoe Hares better for the most part. Weather varied between cold windy snowy days and clear warm sunny days. The constants throughout were good food, comradery, and tall tales at days end.

No one will forget the magic of the dogs working the woods, the adrenaline rush as the hares appeared and quickly disappeared with the Beagles in torrid pursuit. There were shots made and shots missed and each provided its own special memory. There was much humor laced with humility; hare hunting with dogs tends to make that happen.

Whether a seasoned hare hunter or a first time hare hunter, each enjoyed a special experience in the Maine woods.



SPRING TURKEY HUNT

Pine Grove Programs will offer Spring Wild Turkey hunts during the first two weeks of May. Slots will be allocated by random drawing and the number of slots will be dependent on the number of guides who volunteer to take hunters out. Be sure to register with Andrea if interested.

If selected, you need a Maine Big Game Hunting License with an added Wild Turkey Hunting Permit.

You will need full camo outer garments and your own shotgun and turkey shotshells. Dress in layers as the temperatures can vary throughout the day.

Your guide will provide decoys and calls. Expect to arrive in the afternoon at the lodge on the day prior. You may pattern your shotgun at 25 and 40 yards that afternoon if desired.

COYOTE NIGHT HUNT



“Although not easy, night coyote hunting is fun and extremely challenging..”



Paul, an Army Veteran, set up in the Clear Pond shooting shack on March 11, 2023 for a Coyote Night Hunt.

At 8:20 PM, this beautiful female Coyote came toward the bait. Paul was sitting quietly in the pitch black shack, scanning the tree line across the pond to pick up some eyes. As he scanned to the right of the bait he spied the Coyote heading at a swift trot toward the bait. When the Coyote was about one hundred yards out from the shooting shack, it suddenly stopped, looked directly toward the shooting shack and saw, heard, or smelled something it perceived as being a danger. It wheeled immediately and ran away. When it was about one hundred fifty yards out, it paused for a second and glanced back toward the shack.

Paul had tracked the Coyote as it ran and placed the crosshairs of the scope just behind the Coyote’s shoulder when it paused. He squeezed the trigger just as the Coyote started to move. The bullet hit about 4 inches behind the

aim point due to the sudden movement of the Coyote, but was a clean kill with the Coyote dropping in place.

When Paul squeezed the trigger, he saw nothing but muzzle flash and when that cleared, he could not initially tell whether the lump on the snow was the coyote or just some mounded snow. That’s just a quirk of the view in an infrared illuminated night scope.

Paul night hunted Coyotes during the last three Winters and he gained an appreciation for just how wary they are and how good are their sight, hearing and sense of smell.

He was amazed that this coyote had detected something that it perceived as a threat despite Paul sitting quietly in total darkness.

In total, Paul spent about twenty four nights in different shooting shacks over the three winters. He hunted over lit and unlit baits, heard coyotes, saw some, missed one, and got this one. Although not easy, night Coyote hunting is fun and extremely challenging.

BOBCAT TAKEN DURING COYOTE HUNT



Paul the same Army Veteran on the prior page set up in the “Missing” shooting shack on January 7, 2023 in preparation for a Coyote Night Hunt.

At 4:20 PM, this beautiful 33 pound female Bobcat came to the bait.

Paul dropped this cat at 100 yards using a Henry Long Ranger Rifle chambered in .243 Winchester. He was using Hornady Superfor-

mance Varmint .243 V-Max 75 grain ammunition. His scope was an ATN X-Sight 4K Pro (3-14x) Digital Day/Night scope in daylight mode.

This was Paul’s first Bobcat and was a large cat for an adult female which typically weigh about 24 pounds. Paul plans to have a full mount done.

“He hunted over lit and unlit baits, heard coyotes, saw some, missed one, and got this one.”

NICE NORTHERN PIKE

First Responder Min-di Ruddy shows a nice 8.4 pound Northern Pike she caught on Messalonskee Lake in early March. Our thanks to Tony Cummings for hosting the ice-fishing day.



DON'T BE A NO SHOW

Each and every event that Pine Grove Programs offers requires prior planning, organization, expenditure of resources, and often a great deal of work on the part of the staff and volunteers to set things up so that you have an experience to remember. While we realize that sometimes serious things happen that preclude you from showing up for the event for which you were scheduled, if you commit to participate, you should show up. Barring that, if something serious prevents you from attending, then give notification as soon as possible so another person can participate.

The majority of our events can accommodate only small numbers, which means that if you are lucky to be drawn for a given event, others unfortunately miss their chance. In many cases you are being offered a premium experience for free that regular sportsmen pay good money to experience.

If you are chosen to participate in one of PGP’s events, make a commitment to attend or pass on the opportunity so that another Active-Duty Military, Veteran, Gold Star Family Member, or First responder can have the opportunity. Don’t be a no show.

SENIOR LIFETIME LICENSE

If you are a senior age 65 or older you may want to consider the advantages of purchasing a Senior Lifetime License. Check out full details in the Maine DIFW Hunting and Trapping regulations available online.

MAINE RESIDENT APPLICANTS 70+ YEARS OF AGE

For a one-time fee of \$8.00, a senior lifetime license entitles the holder to all privileges they are qualified to receive including hunting, trapping, archery, and fishing. The license also includes the following permits: bear hunt, bear trap, muzzleloader, migratory waterfowl (state permit), pheasant, spring and fall turkey, coyote night hunt, cross-bow, one expanded archery antlerless and one expanded archery either-sex (may be registered with hunting license number, permit number not required). Must still apply for antlerless deer and moose permits each year. Hunters 70 and over do not need to obtain a physical permit, but can tag those species with their lifetime license. The federal migratory waterfowl permit and saltwater registry still must be purchased by the lifetime license holder.

Note: If you purchased a senior lifetime license before age 70, you do NOT have to pay the \$8.00 fee, and the permits listed in the previous paragraph are included with your lifetime license anytime during the calendar year you turn 70 years of age.

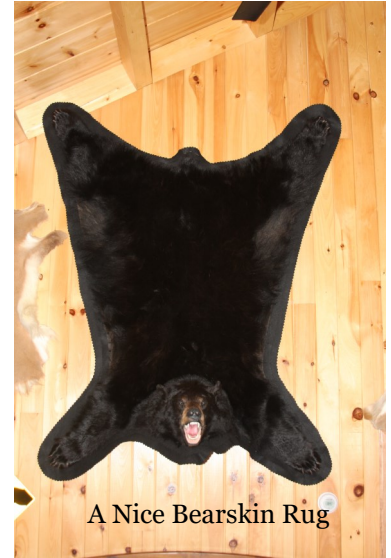
70 and older \$8.00 — Covers all authorities that you are qualified to receive, to include hunting, fishing, archery. These fees are subject to change, please check with the Department for current fees.

If a Non-Resident go to the DIFW online site to view details.

Residents	Fishing	Hunting	Archery	Trapping	Combo Any 2	Combo Any 3
65 years of age	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$80	\$110
66 years of age	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$40	\$64	\$94
67 years of age	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$30	\$48	\$78
68 years of age	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$20	\$32	\$52
69 years of age	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$26	\$26

TO MOUNT OR NOT TO MOUNT

One of the questions to be answered when one is hunting is whether to take a given species of animal and whether to have it mounted as a trophy by a taxidermist. This especially is applicable to non-food animals such as a Bobcat, Fox, etc. To shoot such a beautiful animal and not to have it mounted or tanned as a rug is to this author's mind a waste and one would be better to forgo the shot. The decision to harvest any wild animal is a personal choice that should be tempered with the decision of what is to be done with the animal after it is killed. There is a difference between hunting and shooting.



A Nice Bearskin Rug

“There is a difference between hunting and shooting.”

2023 Schedule of Events

Ice Fishing Derby—February 25, 2023 **

Coyote Night Hunt—January-March

Veteran Hare Hunt— March 11, 2023

Turkey Hunt—May 1-13, 2023

Fly Fishing School—May *

Lake Trolling—May *

Tribute to Service Fishing Derby—Jun 13, 2023

Allagash Canoe Trip—Jun 20-27, 2023

LEO Fishing Derby—June *

Lobster Feed – July 15, 2023 **

Patriot Ride—August 5, 2023

Golf Tournament—September 17, 2023 **

Black Bear Hunt—Aug28—Sept 30, 2023

Freiburg Fair – October **

Bow Deer Hunt—October *

Upland Game Bird Hunt—October 18-19, 2023

Deer Hunt—November *

Coyote Night Hunt - January–March 2024*

* Date To Be Determined

** 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.



A View From a March 2023 Hare Hunt

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

On January 11, 2023, I received a call from a Veteran whom I had taken out ice fishing the previous season and whom I taught the basics of ice fishing. He called to thank me for teaching him about ice fishing and stated that he had taken someone out the previous day who had never been ice fishing. They caught two nice Brook Trout and had a great time. It struck me that this is what the program is all about. I mentored him and he mentored someone else and so it goes in an ever widening circle.

You too can be part of this. Contact Bob Howe if you would like to take an Active Duty Military Member, Veteran, Gold Star Family Member or First Responder out for their first fishing or other outdoor experience. Who knows, you may make a lifelong friend in the process.

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

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