



Pine Grove Programs

"Serving Vets & First Responders"

JANUARY 2022

This is the first of a quarterly newsletter that Pine Grove Programs plans to send to those of you who have registered with the program to keep you informed of what has been happening with the program. In this issue we will reflect on the events of 2021.

To say the least, 2021 was a difficult year for the program due to ever changing pandemic restrictions that limited event operations and resulted in outright cancellations of some events. That notwithstanding, the program held many successful events.

The annual Ice Fishing Derby was held later than usual due to a mild winter that formed safe ice late on Wyman Lake. On the actual day, attendees braved frigid conditions. The derby is one of the program's major fund raisers and was highly successful.

The Annual Tribute to Service Fishing Derby was cancelled due to Pandemic concerns, but we are in the planning stage for its revival in 2022.

The Annual Golf Scramble at J. W. Parks Golf Course, another major fund raiser was also a great success.

Modern Woodman again provided \$2,500.00 in a dollar for dollar match fund raising event held in October that was a success due to generous contributions of program patrons. Our sincere thanks to the participants in these events and to all the spontaneous contribution made by individuals throughout the year.



Outreach Coordination - In our efforts to reach more veterans, three new volunteers have joined the program as Outreach Coordinators for Massachusetts (Karla Caldera), New Hampshire (Doug Delaney) and Vermont (Joseph LaPerle). Our thanks to them for expanding our program reach outside of Maine

Board of Directors

Tim Corbett—President

Simon West—Treasurer

Vacant—Secretary

Andrew Collar

Charlie Taylor

Randy Flannery

Paul Violette—Outreach Coordinator

All Board of Directors members are non-paid volunteers. We are looking for a volunteer to fill the recently vacated Secretary position. If you are interested in volunteering for this position please contact:

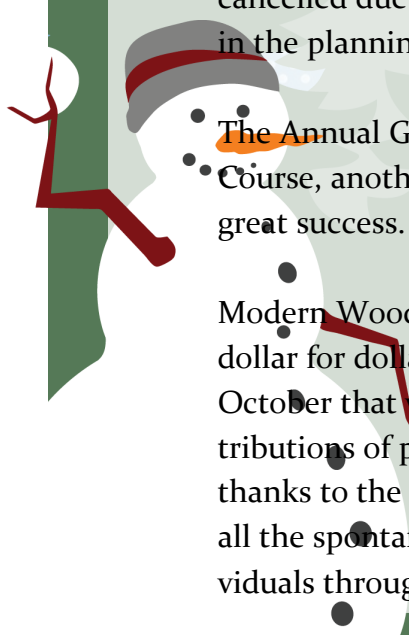
Pine Grove Programs

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Allagash Wilderness Trip

Six Veterans representing the Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps and Navy and one Law Enforcement Officer undertook the arduous ninety mile Allagash Wilderness Ca-



The Team at Michaud Farm

noe trip in June. Our thanks to David Robinson and to Charlie Taylor who volunteered to guide the trip.

The following quotes were received subsequent to the trip and they highlight the benefits of the wilderness experience

Annual Black Bear Hunt

Thirty Veterans participated in this year's Black Bear Hunt. Each was treated to a three day hunt. On the first morning a rifle sight in was conducted to ensure all weapons were on target. This was followed by some trap shooting that has proven to be popular with all participants.

While the program measures success being the outdoor experience provided by the hunt and not whether a bear is harvested, several hunters did harvest bears.

Our sincere thanks to Jeff Liskowacki for all his work in maintaining the bait sites and guiding the hunters. Enough cannot be said about the hours and effort required to make this premiere hunt a resounding success.

that the program provides:

"I had to pull over for a moment to thank all of you guys. A year ago yesterday I lost a very good friend. Being around you guys on our last night helped me through it and I'm grateful I wasn't alone with the memories. This trip, and everyone that was a part of it has made a big difference in my life. Thanks y'all!"

"I just want to say thank you for all that you and the program does for our veterans. It meant the world to me to get out with like minded people with a goal to accomplish. Since retiring from the Army, its been a difficult transition for me and this trip really helped



Whitetail Deer Hunt

Several Veterans participated in the November Whitetail deer hunt. One Veteran from Vermont was successful harvesting a deer.



Nice Bear Harvested

Upland Game Bird Hunt

The Annual Upland Game Bird Hunt was held in October and was shortened to one instead of two days. Our thanks to Strum Ruger & Company for their continuing support for this event and their generous contribution of Ruger outdoor gear to the participants.

A special thanks to the Guides who volunteered their dogs and time to make this a memorable experience.

Coyote Night & Hare Hunts

As this newsletter is being compiled, the Coyote Night Hunt and Hare Hunts are underway.

Messalonskee Lake Ice Fishing

A small group of Veterans and Law Enforcement Officers were treated to a day of Ice Fishing on Messalonskee Lake in February. Our

thanks to Tim Corbett for generously hosting the event. Tim will host an ice fishing competition between the Maine State Police and local Law Enforcement Officers in early 2022.

Keeping Your Commitment

A lot of time and resources are expended to provide the outdoor experiences that the program provides to Veterans, First responders and Goldstar Family members. While we understand that sometimes life intrudes and one may be a no show for an event, we urge everyone who commits to attend an event to make sure that they show up for the event, or provide early cancellation so that someone else can have the opportunity.

Patriot Ride

On July 31, 2021, the program held a free service event of a motorcycle ride that comprised a 150 mile loop through western Maine. Participants gathered at Crossroads Church in East Madison, headed north to Jackman stopping for a provided lunch at the Scenic lookout, then they continued on to Rockwood and Greenville, finally heading back to Pleasant Ridge Plantation and Pine Grove Lodge where they enjoyed a chicken BBQ with all the fixins!

Share Your Experience

We invite you to share your experience of program events for inclusion in future newsletters. Submit a short narrative and or photos by E-Mail to our editor at: paul@pinegroveprograms.org

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.



Ben Howe on BBQ watch for the Patriot Ride

Notes from Your Outreach Coordinator

I first participated in the Pine Grove Programs Annual Tribute to Service Fishing Derby in 2016. I subsequently was afforded the opportunity to participate in the Upland Game Bird Hunt, Bear Hunt, Coyote Night Hunt, Golf Tournaments, Ice Fishing Derbies and the Allagash Wilderness Waterway canoe Trip. While I had participated in other Veteran Group sponsored events, I found that I liked what Bob and Andrea Howe offered and how they did things so much that I volunteered to become a member of the Board of Directors. I serve today as the Outreach Coordinator and am enjoying meeting new Veterans, First responders and Goldstar Family members.

Jan 14 2022—Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) Ice Fishing Competition on Messalonskee Lake, ended up being between some veterans and LEO's due to last minute COVID related cancellations. The veterans took the trophy. All had a great time.

During my time on the Board, I became aware of how much we accomplish because of all those who volunteer their time and resources to the program. That said, we need you to volunteer to assist in future events.

Your assistance can be as simple as helping set up or tear down an event or if you have a specialized skill set, such as you are a Registered Guide and can volunteer your service.

From my personal experience, helping other Veterans, First Responders and Goldstar Family members is truly a rewarding experience. I've met so many interesting people with their own amazing experiences to share.

The Program mantra of "Vets Helping Vets" Says it all.



2022 Schedule of Upcoming Events*

- Ice Fishing Derby—Jan 22, 2022
- Coyote Night Hunt—Jan-Mar
- Hare Hunt— Feb 12—Mar 12
- Maple Syrup—Mar*
- Turkey Hunt—May*
- Fly Fishing School—May
- Lake Trolling—May
- Mushroom Foraging *
- Tribute to Service Fishing Derby—Jun*
- Allagash Canoe Trip—Jun*
- LEO Fishing Derby—Jun
- Patriot Ride—July*
- Golf Tournament—Sep*
- Black Bear Hunt—Sep*
- Bow Deer Hunt—Oct*
- Upland Game Bird Hunt—Oct*
- Deer Hunt—Nov*
- Coyote Night Hunt - Jan—Mar 23

*Actual Dates TBD—Register at www.PineGrovePrograms.org to receive updates via E-Mail.

Note: Other events may be added to the schedule TBD.