

FIRST EVER LOBSTER BAKE ON THE LAKE



On Saturday August 14, 2022, Pine Grove Programs held its first Lobster Bake on the Lake fund raiser. The event was hosted by Hugh (Tim) Corbett and his wife Laura at their home on Messalonskee Lake. Our thanks go, out to the Maine Lobstering Union Local 150 (MLU) for their generous donation of lobsters that made this event possible.

Participants were treated to various appetizers and refreshments during the social hours before the main meal of lobster, potato, onion, corn on the cob and drinks. Chicken was available for anyone not wanting to eat lobster. Desert was a delicious Blueberry Buckle.

Bob Howe, founder of Pine Grove Programs addressed the group with a short talk about the program and the impacts of what we do in the lives of those who participate in program events.

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Left to Right:

Monique Albert, George Prince, Dan Albert, Lazer, Paul Violette

SAM — Operation Royal Flush

The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) held their annual Operation Royal Flush at the Seabasticook NAVHDA training field in Smithfield, ME on Saturday September 17, 2022.

George Prince and Paul Violette got the opportunity to score a Pheasant each

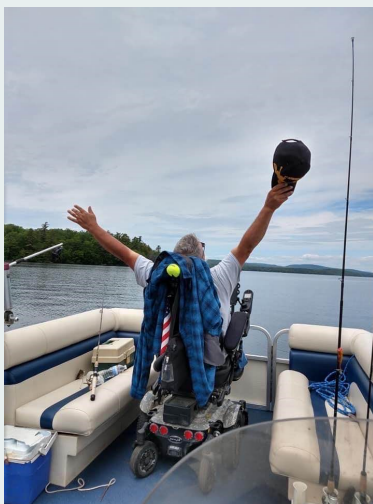
shooting over Lazer, a German Wirehair Pointer, handled by Daniel Albert.

The two wily veterans represented Pine Grove Programs at the event and had a great day. George and Paul have had the opportunity to hunt over Lazer before and just love that dog.

...thank you to all the veterans, first responders, and law enforcement officers for your service!



VETERAN FISHING TRIPS



ARMY TRANSPORTATION CORPS TURNS 80 THIS YEAR



"Nothing Happens Until Something Moves"

Interesting facts about the Transportation Corps:

The Transportation Corps was founded in its current form on 31 July 1942.

The Transportation Corps is the second largest branch of the Army.

Predecessor services date back to the American Civil War. Prior to WWI, transportation operations were the responsibility of the Quartermaster General.

The Transportation Corps became a permanent branch in 1950.

The Transportation Corps was inducted into the U.S. Army Regimental System in 1986.

PATRIOT RIDE JULY 23, 2022



On Saturday, July 23rd, PGP sponsored the 2nd Annual Patriot Ride, an organized motorcycle tour of beautiful northern Maine provided to the area's Veterans, First Responders, and Law Enforcement Officers. Our day started at Crossroads Bible Church in Madison where we were greeted by a wonderful breakfast spread of fresh homemade donuts, muffins, fruit, juice and coffee. Pastor Val provided a blessing of the bikes, and riders, and also provided all the drivers with a map of the trip inclusive of rest-stop/scenic views, gas stations, and bathroom opportunities. We all left there and headed north gathering at the Scenic Lookout in Jackman looking over beautiful Attean Ponds for lunch. Bingham General Store provided the sandwiches for everybody. Jeff and Charlie of PGP met us there with some sun shelter, chips, drinks, and cookies. While there, another motorcycle ride/group pulled in the parking area, learned about what PGP does, and some joined us for lunch and drinks. We hoped to see moose in the Jackman area, but we only saw trails and evidence of them having been



around. After a sufficient break, we left there and made our way through Greenville, Abbot, and back to Pleasant Ridge Plantation. A stop at the famous Abbot Bakery was made in hopes of an ice cream, but unfortunately like so many places, limited staff-

ing at the bakery prevented this option. We picked up other drivers along the way at stops we made. When all the drivers arrived at Pine Grove Lodge, a delicious chicken barbecue over charcoal prepared by Ben and Wyatt Howe, potato salad, vegies, rolls, and hot blueberry cobbler with vanilla ice cream were shared by all. It was such an enjoyable day and I'm thankful for all the support we had to allow us to provide this event. We are already planning the 3rd Annual Patriot Ride for 2023!

Interested in Free Tickets

Check out Vet Tix at <https://vettix.org>

Vet Tix Mission—Give Something to Those Who Gave.

Vet Tix * provides tickets to events which reduce stress, strengthen family bonds, build lifelong memories and encourage service members and veterans to stay engaged with local communities and American life. We support our troops by honoring their service and providing positive family and life experiences, during and after their years of service to our country. Vet Tix provides tickets to all branches of currently-serving Military and Veterans, including immediate family of troops KIA. Vet Tix secures tickets to sporting events, concerts, performing arts, educational and family activities across the nation.

VetTixers sign up online. We verify their service. VetTixers request tickets to events that interest them, then pay a small delivery fee to receive their free tickets.

2022 BLACK BEAR HUNT



Rifle Sight-In

Pine Grove Programs hosted 24 Veterans and First Responders from August 29 through September 24, 2022 each for a three day Black Bear Hunt over bait.

Participants arrived either on Sunday or

Wednesday night and hunted Monday through Wednesday or Thursday through Saturday.

The first day included a rifle sight in followed by some clay target shooting.

“...thank you again Bob & Andrea and friends at Pine Grove Program! “



Bears visiting a bait site caught on a game camera.



IT'S HUNTING NOT SHOOTING

This season, our hunters saw some bears but did not take the shot due to poor visibility and a desire not to make a bad shot. That notwithstanding, each hunter enjoyed their experiences, each in their own way.

Early on, the bears were not cooperative generally being caught on the game cameras after legal hunting hours. Many of these big bears got big because they go to the baits only at night.

The last week of the season provided signs that the bears were finding less feed in the woods, as activity at the baits increased dramatically. Despite their increased activity on the baits, our hunters for the most part did not encounter a bear. But that is OK. The time spent in the woods was its own reward. As Veterans and First Responders are wont to do, they quickly established commonality and developed comradery. Meeting and sharing their adventures with their fellow veterans and first responders at the lodge is so special.

BAITING BEARS NO EASY TASK

Starting in July, when most people are enjoying Summer pleasures such as fishing, kayaking, hiking, on the beach, golf, etc. our guides and volunteers prepare the Bear Bait sites for our Fall Black bear hunt. This includes clearing shooting lanes from the stand to the bait barrel and making access routes through the brush to bait barrel that will not compromise the stand. For some stands the trees must be trimmed to accommodate them. Stand location must take in account that the prevailing wind is from the Northwest, though some sites are set for a Southerly wind. The deep woods in July are buggy, muggy, and hot.

The bait sites are accessed by gravel logging roads that are best described as unfriendly to truck tires with dust that clogs various filters. It is not unusual to lose a tire to a shale puncture to a tire sidewall.

Bait may be placed up to 30 days prior to opening day of the bear bait hunting season and no later than October 31. Bait areas must be cleaned up by November 10. We bait 14 sites. Once the bait is placed, the task of monitoring and replacing bait continues on a daily basis up to the start of the season and then on till the bait sites are cleaned up. This is done through the use of trail cameras that need to be set up so now wind blown branches cause pictures to be taken.

The bait itself must be acquired. The Program purchases bait and receives some as donations. Bait includes detergent free fryolator oil, meat, donuts and other baked goods, caramel and molasses. All of which must be transported to the bait sites and carried into the woods.

Once the hunt begins, there is the problem of the hunter unwittingly compromising the bait site. For example, some hunters are curious and walk to the bait barrel to see what it is like, and in so doing inadvertently contaminate the site so a bear will not approach it. The guides who maintain the bait access the bait from points that do not go near the stand and they use sent masking to keep the site uncompromised.

Be successful Hunting Black Bears

You can help yourself by first listening to your Guide's instructions and following them. Scent control is important, do not go out in the field with soap scent, laundry detergent scent, aftershave, ect. on you.

Prior to the hunt, store you hunting clothes in a bag with pine and cedar boughs.

When on site, sit still, do not play with or talk on a cell phone. Best to turn it off. Stay in place until after the end of legal hunting time, the guide will come and get you.

If a bear approaches the bait, be patient, assess whether it is a sow with cubs, if so forgo the shot. If it is a lone bear, wait till it provides you with a good shot.

Once on the bait the bear will be focused on the bait and you will have the time to place your shot in a vital area and not have to deal with tracking a wounded bear.

While a bear may approach the bait at any time, the last half hour is most productive. Be patient, be still!

You can enter either or both of the raffles by mailing a check to

Pine Grove Programs
PO Box 738
Oakland, ME 04901

Indicate which raffle you want to enter. If no choice is indicated the default will be for the Rifle.



Good Eats After Play



Hole #5

STRUM RUGER DONATES RIFLE

Strum Ruger Corporation, a long term supporter of Pine Grove Programs, has donated a Ruger Bolt Action Rifle in 6.5 Creedmoor Caliber with a Vortex Crossfire II Scope as a raffle prize for the program.

Tickets are \$10.00 each. The drawing will be held in November 2022.

Transfer of the rifle to the winner will be made through a federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) Dealer.



14 TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

On Sunday, September 18, 2022, Pine Grove Programs held its 14th Annual Golf Scramble at J.W. Parks Golf Course in Pittsfield, ME. As one of our major fund raising events, this year's tournament was a huge success. Modern Woodmen of America is one of the largest fraternal benefit societies in the United States, with more than 750,000 members added a \$5,000.00 matching donation to the net proceeds. Our thanks to Pat Linehan the local Modern Woodmen representative for his assistance in obtaining the matching grant.

Despite the threat of rain, Mother Nature delayed the rain until after the teams finished their rounds. As a result, the intrepid team members only had to brave the rather constant and chill breeze during their play. A great day was had by all and our thanks to everyone who played.

Our thanks to all the Hole Sponsors, to those who made donations to the program, to the J.W. Parks Staff and to the Pine Grove Programs volunteers whose hard work made this fun day a great success for the program. We hope to see you again next year. Till then, hit them straight and in play!

BRIGADE TACTICAL DONATES SUPPRESSORS*

Brigade Tactical Corp of Manchester, NH has 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. Tickets are \$10.00. 2 Winners to be drawn – First gets choice of Black or Coyote Tan Suppressor.



* PGP will reimburse the winners' successful acquisition of the required federal Tax Stamp and will transfer the suppressors through a local Federal Firearms Licensed (FFL) dealer.

You can help us reach more Veterans if you are part of a group that would want a Pine Grove Program presentation at one of your meetings.

OUTREACH

I had the pleasure of speaking with a first responder after one of our Bear Hunt Sight-Ins. He relayed to me how he did not know about Pine Grove Programs and ended up being selected for a Black Bear hunt because a friend signed him up for the program.

He indicated that while at the Lodge, he was able to decompress and expressed his gratitude for what his friend did for him.

If you know a Veteran or First Responder who is not aware of the program, tell them about your experiences and have them contact me if they have questions or just want to know more about the Program. They can contact me at:

paul@pinegroveprograms.org

Or call me at 207-683-6231.

If you have a group that would like to know more about the Program, provide me a point of contact and I will reach out to them and see if we can set up a presentation or provide them information packets and videos about Pine Grove Programs.

Outreach Coordinators for
Massachusetts (Karla Caldera)

mag00032002@yahoo.com

New Hampshire (Doug Delaney)

ddelaney11@icloud.com

and Vermont (Joseph LaPerle)

Joseph.LaPerle@va.gov

OUR THANKS

For the second year in a row, Blue Triton Brands has donated a pallet of Poland Springs Water to the program for free distribution to event participants.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Sponsor Package Concepts:

Annual Corporate: \$25,000 per year
Corporate Logo displayed at all events
Corporate Logo on Shirts, Caps etc.
Sponsorship credit on radio advertisement for major events

Individual Event Sponsorship

Corporate Logo displayed events

Cost depends on event cost

- i. Golf Tournament \$5,000
- ii. Ice Fishing Derby \$250
- iii. Other events on a per cost basis

Products/Materials/Services Contribution

Smaller Donations can be made on our website at www.pinegroveprograms.org using the "DONATE" tab.

Pine Grove Programs
PO Box 738
Oakland, ME 04901

Indicate which raffle you want to enter. If no choice is indicated the default will be for the Raffle.

Phone: 207-672-9200

WWW.pinegroveprograms.org



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PLACE
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