

Lobster Bake on the Lake

Hugh (Tim) Corbett, President of the Pine Grove Program Board of Directors and his lovely wife Laura graciously hosted the second annual Lobster Bake on the Lake at their home on Messalonskee Lake on July 15, 2023. The day was a huge success with forty six guests enjoying the camaraderie and good food.

Gary Crocker a Maine Humorist, kept the audience in stitches as he spun his yarns in a classic Maine accent. Our thanks to Gary for donating his time to the program. And finally, our thanks to our guests whose participation made this fundraiser a success. In addition to his humorous sketches, Gary also acted as an auctioneer with skills that made for a lively bidding war for the Pine Grove Programs



Gary Crocker Spins A Yarn

custom fire pit.

The event started with appetizers and drinks and socializing until the main



event of "Lobstah" with corn on the cob, Baked potato, Vidalia Onions and drawn butter. It doesn't get any "Bettah" than this, "Ayuh."

Fortunately, the event was blessed with good weather and no rain.



Jeff Loads The Food Bin

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Annual Veteran's Volunteer Award
- Annual Allagash Wilderness Canoe Trip

2023 BLACK BEAR HUNT

Black Bear hunting season saw our first two hunters start on August 28. They included a retired Law Enforcement Officer, and a Navy Veteran .

The second week welcomed hunting representatives of Law Enforcement, Navy, Marine Corps and Army respectively.

The third week saw only two hunters representing the Navy and Army.

The fourth week hosted four hunters representing the Army, Marine Corps and one active duty Law Enforcement Officer.

Each group started the week with a preliminary rifle sight in followed by some clay trap shooting. The trap shooting was unanimously enjoyed by all.

Weather conditions were less than ideal and made hunting difficult at best with lots of rain, late afternoon thunderstorms, and periods of high heat and humidity.

A bear was wounded but not recovered the first week. Bears were sighted the second week, but shots were not taken by virtue of low light conditions precluding a good shot.

“Whether a Bear is harvested or not, the beauty, sights, sounds, and smells of our Maine wilderness are an elixir for the soul.”

A nice trophy bear-skin rug from a previous Pine Grove Program Bear Hunt.



It can take over a year for a taxidermist to process a trophy.

2

The high heat and humidity of the third week kept bear movement to after legal hunting hours as they moved in the cooler hours after midnight only to be seen by our trail cameras.

Despite limited Bear sightings, all participants had a



great experience and enjoyed the tales told in the lodge common room after each day's hunt. It is all about the experience and

shared comradery. Whether a Bear is harvested or not, the beauty, sights, sounds, and smells of our Maine wilderness are an elixir for the soul.

YOU CAN SPONSOR A VET

As is often the case, we are unable to give of our time because, frankly, life intrudes, and we have things that we must do. If you find that you would like to do more for Veterans, Gold Star Family Members and or First responders, but just do not have the time to give, then perhaps you might consider sponsoring someone so they can participate in a Pine Grove Programs sponsored event.

One of our Veteran Bear Hunters last season remarked at the end of the hunt, that he was amazed and grateful that he had been afforded a premium Black Bear Hunt for free. He asked, "What could he do to give back to the program?" In his case, he was able to volunteer some time manning the Pine Grove Programs booth at the Fryeburg Fair.

Other participant in events have made donations after participating in an event. So if you have participated in a Pine grove Programs event in the past or plan to participate in a future event, consider what you can do to give another participant a like opportunity.

WE ARE UPDATING OUR DATABASE

We are in the process of updating our database to ensure that we get the word out to all who have registered with the program. We will send out an e-mail notification using Constant Contact software to validate your registrations. In order to ensure we get the word out, we need to be made aware of changes in addresses, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. If you know of a Veteran or First Responder who has previously registered, but who is not receiving e-mail notifications about events, have them contact our Outreach Coordinator at paul@pinegroveprograms.org.

THANK YOU

BLUE TRITON
BRANDS

POLAND SPRING
WATER



Poland Spring Water, a Blue Triton Brand, has once again generously donated a pallet (1,872 bottles) of Poland Spring Water for free distribution to participants in Pine Grove Program events. This is the third year in a row that Blue Triton and Poland Spring have donated product to the program.

Our thanks to them for their continued generous support.



IT'S CALLED FISHING NOT CATCHING

On July 8, 2023 three veterans and one retired fireman, David, George, Paul and Kevin, made their way down to Bath, ME to hook up with Jaydan, who, volunteered to take some Veterans Striped Bass fishing in the Kennebec River and in the surf off Popham Beach. The four varied in their experience level of Striper fishing. George had never been and Paul had fished many years when growing up fishing off the coast of RI.



Jaydan, Paul, George, David & Kevin

Like many outdoor adventures here in Maine, the day started at O-Dark Thirty and involved a two hour ride down to our meeting point at the Bath Regional Information Center & Train Station parking lot in Bath.

Our first fishing site was off the pier at South End Park in Bath just south of the Bath Iron Works Shipyard. The only fish caught were catfish. We fished with the tide running out. Dave and George caught the most catfish and at one point reeled in fish simultaneously scoring a double. We then convoyed down to Popham Beach and planned to catch the tide change. The gear used varied from 8 Ft salt water

Spinning rods with spinning reels to Paul's 12 Ft single graphite surf casting rod with an Ambassador 7000 reel. Notably, Paul's surf casting rod and reel combination allowed him to cast a 3 ounce lure

over 100 yards into the surf.

He and Kevin flogged the surf heavily with different lures while the others used cut bait and sliding sinker rigs.



out on the water and no fish were landed. Despite the lack of fish, a great time was had by all. Kevin and Paul enjoyed flogging the surf and joking about the difference in casts. Kevin and Jaydan both tried out Paul's surf rig and were impressed with how easy it cast such long throws. Our thanks to Jaydan for volunteering to host the trip.



A Catfish Double

While the conditions were ideal with light overcast, cool temperatures, light breeze and a calm surf, the Striped Bass were not evident. There were a least 30 fishermen spread down the beach and boats

CARTER-DULAC VFW POST 4298 GOES FISHING

On Wednesday July 19, 2023, three Veterans from the Carter-Dulac VFW Post 4298 convoyed to Messalonskee Lake for a day of fishing. Pine Grove Programs provided two boats with helmsmen.

Tim Corbett, President of the Pine Grove Program Board of Directors, took David Pearson and Jason Clukey fishing for Bass on his pontoon boat. Andy Collier, Pine Grove Programs' Board of Directors member and Media Specialist, took Paul Violette trolling for Splake and Northern Pike.

While waiting for Andy to arrive and for Dave and Jason to bring their gear to the dock, Paul fished with a Jitterbug lure off the dock. He caught three Smallmouth Bass in short order which promised good fishing for the Bass fisherman.

Andy and Paul crisscrossed an area where the fish finder showed fish and bait in colder water just above a thermocline. Although the fish and bait were located, they were not feeding. After several hours of unsuccessful targeting of those fish with different lures, they cruised to a different area of the lake and hooked a nice Northern Pike.

The other party were successful catching a number of bass, but unfortunately took no pictures. That notwithstanding, a great day was had by all. Our thanks to Tim and Andy for their generous donation of their time and use of their boats that made this another great outdoors adventure for some Veterans.



As Bob Howe has often said, “It doesn't have to be special or expensive, just take someone fishing.”

DEXTER VFW IS LOOKING FOR YOU

If you are a Veteran who has served in a war zone, you may be eligible to Join the VFW. The Carter Dulac Post 4298 in Dexter Maine is looking for new members. The VFW provides you with an opportunity to meet fellow Veterans and to provide service to the community. If you want to know more about the VFW and what it can do for you, contact Ivana Hernandez Clukey at ivanah1323@gmail.com.

AN OVERNIGHT FISHING TRIP

One of the silent auction items at the Annual Golf Tournament is a guided fishing trip donated by Andy Collar to the program. During the 2022 Golf Tournament, Paul, an Army Veteran, was the highest bidder for the fishing trip.

Traditionally, the trip is a four hour trip on the Kennebec River with Smallmouth Bass , Striped Bass, and Shad being caught. Due to the abundance of rain, throughout the Spring and Summer, water conditions precluded fishing the river on many days and it was not until late September that a good fishing date could be arranged between Andy and Paul.

Due to the late season, Andy sweetened the pot, by offering to change the venue to an overnight fishing trip to fish for Lake Trout and Landlocked Salmon on First Roach Pond and Moosehead Lake.

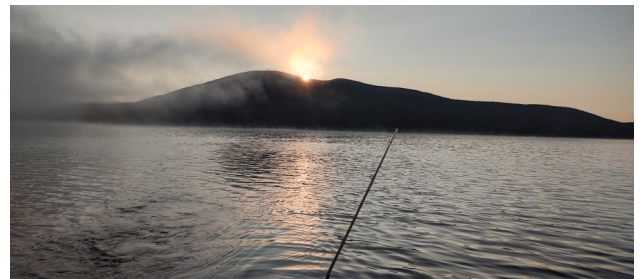


Paul and Andy conspired to make this a trip to remember. The plan was to head

out on Thursday afternoon and to fish into the evening. Paul offered to do dinner providing Teriyaki Venison, yellow squash and green beans for dinner. The next morning was to be early out fishing with a

return to breakfast mid to late morning.

On Thursday they fished until early evening. The fishing was great. The catching, not so much with only one small lake trout landed. Friday morning saw the intrepid fishermen on the lake before sunrise and they enjoyed fog lifting off the water and a nice sunrise. Alas, again no fish.



By mid morning they came ashore, made breakfast and broke camp. They headed to Lilly Bay State Park and enjoyed an afternoon of fishing on Moosehead lake. Again, the fishing was great, but the catching not

so much with only one small laker boated. Despite the lack of fish cooperation, Andy and Paul had a great time enjoying the beautiful late season fishing,



the comradery, and tales told around the campfire on Thursday night.

GOLF TOURNAMENT POSTPONED

The Annual Pine Grove Program Golf Tournament has been postponed due to the effects of Hurricane/Tropical Storm Lee. The new date for the tournament is now Sunday, October 15, 2023. The decision to postpone the tournament was made by the Golf Course management to preclude damage to the course due to the very wet conditions.

As this is a major fund raiser for the program, plan to join us for a great day of golf, door prizes, silent auction items and prize drawings. If unable to attend, consider making a donation through our web site www.pinegroveprograms.org.

PINE GROVE PROGRAMS

— 15th Annual — INVITATIONAL

October 15th, 2023 J.W. Parks Golf Course

TO RAISE FUNDS TO SUPPORT










9:00 am
Shotgun

\$100 per
player

4-man
scramble

SILENT AUCTION !

Bid to WIN one of 4 guided trips.



3 Day Guided Bear Hunt



Half day Bird Hunting with Maine Guide David Giampetruzzi



Half day fishing with Master Maine Guide Andrew Collar



Half day of Fly Fishing Instruction & Fishing with Maine Guide Wyatt Howe

DOOR PRIZES !

DEER HUNTING TRIP

3 Day Guided Deer Hunt
Meals & Lodging
Must be a player to win.



Outdoor Gear, Guided Trips, Gift Certificates & More

\$500 CASH

JOIN US

Proceeds of this event help support the Pine Grove Program mission providing FREE outdoor adventures for Active Duty/Veterans, First Responders, All LEO's, their families and Goldstar families.

Hole Sponsor \$150 - Company Name & Logo



For more information or to register, call: 207.487.5545

J.W. Parks Golf Course, 382 Hartland Ave, Pittsfield, Me 04967

Please make check payable to Pine Grove Programs

ANNUAL VETERAN'S VOLUNTEER AWARD



Bob and Andrea Howe present an award each year to the Volunteer(s) who distinguished themselves for their services to the program. Traditionally, this award is presented at the annual Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) Banquet and Auction. This year's award was presented

to Edna and Jeff Liskowacki in recognition of their twenty-five years of service to the program.

When making the presentation, Bob Howe stated that, "One day of an event, takes four days of preparation and cleanup."

Edna performs her duties much in the background to make each person's stay enjoyable. She cleans all the rooms, changes the bed clothes, ensures the bathrooms are clean and supplied and prepares and cooks the meals, and cleans up the dishes, pots and pans so that the groups have a great stay. Despite the recurring tedium and mundane, she always has a bright smile for the program guests. She does the little things that make all the difference.

Jeff does the prep work for the hunting events and guides our hunters. Let's just take the Bear Hunt for an example. In late July, during the Summer heat and humidity he places stands/blinds, sets up bait sites and clears shooting lanes. He checks and places bait continually until the end of the bait season for bear. He then cleans up all the bait sites when all is done. He schools the hunters, takes them to their bait site and brings them out at days end. If a bear is wounded, he tracks it at night to recover it. And this is just one hunt, there is Upland Game, Deer, Snowshoe Hare, Coyote Night Hunts, all requiring much effort before, during and after the seasons.

Both Edna and Jeff have additionally volunteered countless hours in support of the Program's fund raising events by helping to set up, man and tear down the program booth and to help event participants. They also are active in supporting other community events. Congratulations to Edna and Jeff for a well deserved award and our thanks for all you do to make our program a success.



A BELTED
KINGFISHER

DON'T HUNT? TRY PHOTOGRAPHY!

One of the great things about the Maine woods is the diversity of scenery, wild and plant life available for you to see. If you are not into hunting with firearms, then perhaps you might consider hunting with a camera. The images that you take become memories that you can treasure and share for the rest of your life. Don't have a camera, we can hook you up with a volunteer with gear to take a Photo Safari in the Maine wilderness.



Upcoming 2023 Schedule of Events

Code EMS Conference—October 11-13,
2023

Golf Tournament—October 15, 2023 **

Upland Game Bird Hunt—October 18-19,
2023

Deer Hunt—November *

Coyote Night Hunt - January—March
2024*

* Dates 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.



Bob & Jeff at Maine Sportsman Show

Veteran of the Year Nominations

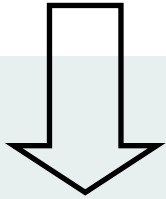
Each year Pine Grove Programs gives an award for Veteran of the Year. If you have a Veteran you want to nominate, please contact Andrea Howe.

andrea@pinegroveprograms.org

NOTES FROM THE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Jaydan (article on page 4), a young man who wanted to do something for Veterans, volunteered to host a shore based fishing trip. His generous gift of time and talent resulted in a great day of fishing for three Veterans and a retired Fireman. So often, volunteers like Jaydan, make a difference and help Pine Grove Programs reach out to more people. It does not need to be a grandiose event, a simple fishing trip, ATV ride, photography hike, kayaking, etc. to make somebody's day. If you have a hobby and want to share it with a Veteran or First Responder, let Andrea know and we can schedule something. You might be surprised how good a time you will have and may make new friends as well.

Note Mailing Address Change



Pine Grove Programs
P.O. Box 162
Harmony, ME 04942

www.pinegroveprograms.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

