

15th Annual Golf Tournament

The 15th Annual Pine Grove Programs Golf Tournament was held on October 15, 2023 at J.W. Parks Golf Course after having been postponed due to Hurricane Lee. A major fund raiser for the program, it was a huge success. Although the day was cool and windy, turnout was exceptional. Our thanks to all the participant golfers, hole sponsors, and donors who made this event such a success.



Ray Mountain Auctions his sweater

In addition to the Golf, there were door prizes, of a custom fire pit and \$500, raffle items and several silent auction hunting and fishing trips offered. In an impromptu moment, one of the golfers, Ray Mountain, literally offered the shirt off his back (A Golf themed sweater) for auction. After some spirited bidding, he donated the proceeds to the program. Modern Woodman of America, a fraternal financial services organization, again provided a matching funds donation of \$2,500 to the program.

Results:

Low Gross

Stan Kitchin
Trevor Kitchin
Gavin Dugas
Phil Beattie

Low Net

Jim Lemieux
Stacy Edgecomb
Mike Dugas
Dawn Dugas

Raffle Drawings

Handmade Quilt-Jasmine
Custom Fire Pit-Jack Lufkin



Fire Pit Raffle

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Upland Game Bird Hunt
- Veteran Whitetail deer Hunt



Huntsman Quilt Raffle

15TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT (CONTINUED)

Fundraising Match-Modern Woodmen of America

Door Prizes

3 Day Deer Hunt at PGL-Tom Pollard
\$500 cash Team-Tom Ward, Craig Weaver,
Hunter Fitts, Andy Louder

Silent Auction Items

Fly Fishing w/Wyatt Howe, ME Guide-Harry Pollard

Fishing the Kennebec w/Andy Collar, Master ME Guide-Paul Violette

Upland Game Bird Hunt w/David Giam-petruzzi, ME Guide-Pete Glidden

3 Day Bear Hunt 2024-Tyler Maloon

Impromptu “Golf Sweater Off My Back” Auction

Pete Glidden purchased from Ray Mountain



Golfers enjoying Chili or Venison Stew at the turn.



Andrea Howe sorting the winning bids.

Please Support Our Hole Sponsors

Hole Sponsors

In Memory of David Sears, 1964-2023

A&G Shooting

Big Woods Hare Hunters of the Allegheny

Brennan Development

Central Maine Auto Group

Clark's Auto

Everett's Tire

Hight's Family of Dealerships

I Recycle

Jimmy's ShopN'Save

Logo Logic

Sebasticook Valley Federal Credit Union

True Enterprises

2023 UPLAND GAME BIRD HUNT

Pine Grove Programs conducted its annual Upland Game Bird Hunt on October 17, 2023. Eight Veterans participated in the hunt. Our thanks to the three vol-



unteer dog handlers (Bryan, David, and Russel for volunteering their time and their dogs to make this a memorable hunt.

A great time was had by all as is evidenced by the following e-mail received from Mike, one of the Veterans who participated.



“Thank you again for the wonderful time I had on the upland game bird hunt! The entire experience was great, from the hunt with Russ and his dogs to the fantastic lunch! Very much appreciated!”

As to the hunt, birds were flushed, some shots were missed and some scored, but the experience, comradery, and watching the dogs work made great memories.



Lunch was a delicious Portuguese Kale soup, hot rolls and Lemon Cookies that hit the spot after a morning in the woods. Thank you Andrea for preparing the soup the night before after your full day at work.

2023 CODE EMS CONFERENCE

Pine Grove Programs (PGP) set up a booth at the 2023 CODE EMS conference held at the Kalahari Convention Center in Pocono Manor, PA October 11-13, 2023. Over 70 First responders registered to participate in PGP events.



This event afforded the program the opportunity to reach out to more First Responders. We look forward to seeing some of the newly registered folks at future events.



VETERANS DIRECT CARE PROGRAM

If you are a Maine Veteran with at least a 70% disability and are in need of In-home care, you should check out the Veterans Direct Care (VDC) program. The program is a collaboration of the US Department of Veterans' Affairs, Togus VA Medical Center, and Maine's Agencies on Aging's Aging and Disability resource Centers.

To be eligible for VDC a Veteran must:

- Be enrolled with the VA medical Center at Togus.
- Have a VA primary care provider.
- Meet the eligibility criteria set by the VA at Togus.
- Need nursing home level services.

What Does Self-Direction Mean?

In VDC, Self –Direction means you decide what supports and services you need.

- **What** you need.
- **When** they will be provided.
- **Who** provides them.
- **Where** they are provided.
- **How** they are provided

Self-Direction means you have more voice, choice, control, flexibility, and freedom.

Self-Direction also means:

- A budget is set up for you to use to hire workers and buy supports and goods according to the plan you create.
- You are responsible for following VIP rules.
- You are the employer of your support workers. You recruit, interview, train, supervise, and evaluate these workers.

Self –Direction does not mean having to do things by yourself

- You will have a Care Advisor from Eastern Area Agency on Aging to help you create a care plan and learn to be an employer.
- A Financial Management Service will handle your employer paperwork, pay your workers, and your taxes.
- You may appoint a Representative (family or friend) to help you make decisions.
- You must let someone know when you need help with the program...so you will receive the help you need.

It is the mission of Eastern Area Agency on Aging to: provide older adults, caregivers, and adults with disabilities in Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis and Washington counties in Maine with the information and access to resources they need to be healthy, engaged, and supported in their communities.

For more information about the Veterans Direct Care Program, contact:

Eastern Area Agency on Aging
1-800-432-7812
207-941-2865

A 2023 MOOSE HUNT

When our Outreach Coordinator, Paul Violette, drew an antlerless moose permit for Wildlife management District 8, where Pine Grove Lodge is located, he immediately reached out to Bob Howe to hire him to guide his Moose hunt. While this was not a Pine Grove Programs' sponsored hunt, all the players are familiar.

The hunt started each morning with a quick breakfast at 05:00 AM. The search team used two vehicles connected by radios to be able to search more area to locate a cow moose. In one vehicle, our guides were Wyatt Howe and Jeff Liskowacki. The second vehicle was driven by Bob Howe.

On day one, Wyatt, Jeff, Paul and his daughter Meagan spotted their first moose, a bull about thirty yards from the road. Had Paul had an antlered permit, the hunt would have ended there.

The end of the first day found Paul and Meagan sitting overlooking a likely cut. Legal hunting ended at 6:07 PM. At 6:02 PM a large Moose stepped out of the wood line about 150 yards distant. While presenting a beautiful broadside shot, Paul could not clearly determine whether the animal was a cow or a bull Moose and had to pass on taking the shot.

On day two, eagle-eye Wyatt spotted a moose in heavy cover. Unfortunately, that cow did not stay around and departed the area without giving the hunters a chance for a shot. No other Moose was discovered that day. On Wednesday, Bob spotted two cows and called the other vehicle in. Unfortunately, as



Paul and Meagan worked their way to where the cows had been seen, they had left the area. Later that day, Bob again spotted a Moose and called the other vehicle in. Paul and Meagan began a search of where the Moose had last been seen and eventually heard it dash off, but were never able to see what it was.

On day four, both Paul and Meagan each spied a bull Moose. On day five, Bob had a cow moose come out of a chopping and walk down the road in front of him. He stopped the vehicle and called in the hunters. Paul and Meagan advanced down the road approaching a bend in the road screened by a clump of fir trees. They were about fifty yards behind the Moose and expected to get a shot on rounding the curve. **BOOM**, a shot rang out from just around the curve; another hunter had just shot the moose we were hunting. No Moose were seen on day six. Despite not harvesting a Moose, Paul and Meagan thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Meagan commented on how HARD it was to hunt cow Moose. She described it as hours of

A 2023 MOOSE HUNT (CONTINUED)

riding and 20 seconds of panic to get out of the vehicle, load the gun and pursue the Moose.

That notwithstanding, we had lots of laughs counting 394 Moose Stumps (dark forms seen in the woods, that could be Moose, until close scrutiny revealed them only to be dark stumps).

We had talked with Wyatt and Jeff about how fortunate we were to see as many Moose as we did, more than Moose Safari participants might see. Wyatt interjected that they did not call them Moose Safaris, but rather Wildlife Tours, as they could not guarantee seeing a Moose. During the week we observed Moose, Deer, Wild Turkeys, Grouse, Canadian Jays, a Barred Owl, Blue Heron, Snowshoe Hares, an Eagle, a Red Tailed Hawk, Red Squirrels and our guides, plenty of wildlife.



We were treated to a rainbow on our last morning.

We traversed innumerable logging roads, enjoyed spectacular mountain views,

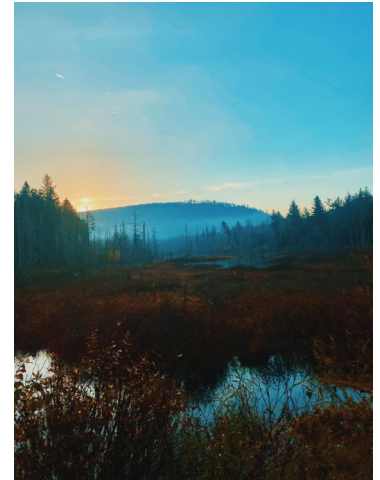
bogs, cutover areas, and woods. We saw logging operations in progress. We even went down some old grown over tote roads where no sane person would drive, though Bob Howe took us to those spots which Meagan exclaimed were a true ad-

venture. Bob stated that these roads added pin-stripes to the vehicle's finish.

Meagan refused to buff out the scratches when the day was done. Through-

out the ride when we were

with Bob, he would point out an area and tell a story about a deer or bear shot or missed by one of his guided hunters. Each stand or blind location had its story. We went to Misty Buck, where a hunter observed a Buck that disappeared when a fog



rolled in preventing him from getting a shot.

The team traveled 1,200 miles over six days of hunting. 4:30 AM wake-ups, long days of riding over bumpy and sometime seemingly unpassable roads, interjected with the Adrenaline rush of spotting a Moose, speedily exiting a vehicle, loading a single round, and hoping to get a shot. The fact is that hunting cow moose is difficult, the effort required is incredible and

A 2023 MOOSE HUNT (CONTINUED)



the experience is once in a life-time wonderful. Add to that the ability of a dad to be able to spend quality time with his daughter and to add to a family hunting tradition, it does not get better than this.



OUR THANKS TO BOB, JEFF AND WYATT

2024 RAFFLE ITEMS

There will be three new items available as raffle prizes in 2024. Once again, a custom fishing themed Fire Pit will be a raffle prize drawn during the annual Golf Tournament. Tickets will be available from the Bingham General Store or by contacting Andrea Howe at: andrea@pinegroveprograms.org. Note: Picture is of the 2023 Fire Pit



There will be two rifles Raffleed this year as well. The first will be drawn at a Sporting Day event held in conjunction with Pine Grove Program's Annual Golf Tournament which will be held in August 2024, date TBD.



The rifle is a CVA Wolf 50 Caliber Muzzleloader Rifle outfitted with a Bushnell Sharpshooter Rifle Scope (3X9 Power). The scope comes with a set of quick release scope mounts so the winner can use

it on other rifles as well. The rifle comes with genuine DURASight Dead-On scope mounts. A bonus to this drawing is the winner will also receive a guided White-tail Deer Hunt during the muzzleloader season in December 2024.

The second rifle is a custom finished Anderson Manufacturing, Hebron, KY AM-15 Multi Cal rifle in .450 Bushmaster Caliber. The rifle sports the Pine Grove Program Logo on the left side of the receiver and upper group. It features an extendable stock and a full Picatinny Style rail for mounting optics. It comes with a 5 Round Magazine.



Ticket donations will be \$5.00 per ticket or 5 Tickets for \$20.00 for all raffle items.

VETERAN WHITETAIL DEER HUNT

The program gave two semi-guided Whitetail Deer hunts to Veterans this Past November. Mike Majewski, an Army Veteran, related his hunting story: “My days of hiking while hunting are over. I like to sit and enjoy the outdoors when I hunt. I sat one day in the wind and saw nothing. On Thursday, Jeff my Pine Grove Program guide put me into a new area. I had some difficulty locating the stand because some of the markers were missing. After about an hour, I heard a deer blow, heard the buck and a doe walking. As luck would have it, they stopped behind the biggest clump of trees in front of me before they walked away without offering me a shot. I told Jeff that I wanted to go back to the stand the next day. Less than an hour in the stand and I hear crunch, crunch behind me. A doe walks out below the tree stand and I think maybe a buck will follow. I hear a noise that I have never heard before while hunting; it was a buck grunt. The buck came along following the doe tracks and grunting as he walked. He was out in front of me when I took the shot. He ran off about twenty yards and disappeared from sight. I called



“I cannot thank Pine Grove Programs enough for this opportunity, Bob, Andrea, Wyatt, Jeff and Edna do an outstanding job serving us Veterans.”

Jeff and told him I had shot at a deer and thought I made a good shot. I waited a half hour and walked out to where I thought I had shot the buck. I found no blood or hair and was discouraged. I followed the Buck’s tracks, still finding no blood. A little further on, I spied a brown form and spotted the deer. When Jeff arrived, he congratulated me stating that the deer would be over 200 pounds (dressed weight) and it would qualify for the Biggest Bucks in Maine Club. It took us a half hour to drag the deer out through the brush. I cannot thank Pine Grove Programs enough for this opportunity, Bob, Andrea, Wyatt, Jeff and Edna do an outstanding job serving us veterans.”

Bob Marchand, the other Army Veteran on this hunt was sitting about a mile away from Mike and heard the shot at 7:27 AM on that Friday. Although he did not harvest a deer this hunt, he too related what a great experience he had and how much he appreciated the program. Bob and Mike both served together in Kaiserlautern, West Germany, as Military Police in the early 1970’s. They have remained good friends through the years. Bob was super happy that Mike harvested such a beautiful buck. The buck weighed 228 pounds dressed.

A 2023 VETERAN HUNT

In April 2023, six weeks after emergency bladder surgery, I was back in the hospital deathly ill. With a white blood cell count of 56,000 and severe weight loss, I spent a week being tested for an infection when doctors discovered cancer. Four days later, they returned and told me I had inoperable terminal cancer and they were sending me home to Hospice. I had tumors on my bladder, stomach and intestines. Plus there were small tumors scattered throughout my left lung. I was told that I would likely be dead by July 4, which was sixty-nine days away. One of my tumors had doubled in size in just four days. They had never seen such fast growing tumors.

My Primary Care Physician in Skowhegan got the report electronically and immediately called the New England Cancer Center in Scarborough. I left the hospital on a Tuesday, visited the cancer center on Friday and began

“Just being in the woods was a thrill!”

treatment three days later on Monday. I have no memory of the Friday visit. My oncologist told me two months later that he thought that I might be dead before the treatments started that Monday. I was very sick.

So many thoughts were flying through my brain! Was my wife prepared to handle everything around the house without me? Would I live long enough to see my first great-grandchild? Was I going to die before my ninety-two year old dad dies? Would I ever hunt, fish or snowmobile again? I had just resumed pastoral duties at Crossroads Bible Church in Madison. Would I be gone before really getting started? What about my thirteen amazing grandchildren, my daughter and my two sons?

Amazingly, with the outpouring of love and prayer support of my church family and people all over the country, I began to improve. I was up and walking within a month. After sev-

eral rounds of chemo and immunotherapy, the tumors had shrunk considerably. I was too weak to hunt when Pine Grove Programs offered me a free bear hunt. But when archery season got underway, I spent some time with a crossbow in the woods.

Just being in the woods was a thrill. I never thought I would be able to hunt again. When firearms season arrived and with two tags in my pocket, I began stalking Mr. & Mrs. White-tail. I was actually growing weaker from toxic levels of chemo, and had neuropathy in my hands and feet. My walking range was limited and I fell many times walking the short distance from my 4-Wheeler to the neighbor's ladder stand. At times, I just lay on the ground in my weakness until I had strength to get back up. But I was hunting! After a cool afternoon in the stand, I could not remove the clip from my gun; my hands just would not work. My neighbor did it for me.

But, I kept at it. One afternoon as the sun disappeared, I caught a glimpse of a deer about one hundred yards off to my right. I could see flashes of the deer, as it made its way through a grown up cutting. I saw a good opening ahead of him and got my 7m-08 rifle ready for a shot. Though, I am right handed, I had to use my left hand and eye since he was too far to my right. As the deer walked into the opening, I grunted and it stopped. My crosshairs were locked on as I squeezed the trigger. Looking up, I saw a white tail on the ground! I got it! As I approached, I saw that it was a four point buck. Amazed and dazed, I stood there in wonder and amazement. I had never thought that this would happen again. I was able to drive my 4-Wheeler to the deer and dragged it to my car a quarter mile away. My friend Bob and the property owner Chip loaded me up and I was off to tag him. What a blessing and a whole lot of friends.

The author, Chaplain Valmore Vigue, a retired Army Colonel is a long term supporter and participant in Pine Grove Programs.

RIFLE AND
SUPPRESSOR
RAFFLE WINNERS

Mossberg Patriot Blued
Black Bolt Action Rifle
6.5 Creedmoor With a
3X9X40 Scope

Winner:

Brigade Tactical Magnum
Suppressor

Calibers: .223 up to .308
Materials: Stainless Steel,
Titanium

Winner:

David Aumick

VETERAN MOOSE HUNT

Pine Grove Programs was donated a moose permit to be used by a disabled Veteran. The Veteran successfully harvested a Cow Moose during the first week of the moose hunt. I had the chance opportunity to meet him incidental to helping a friend register his deer. He saw the Pine Grove Logo on my hat and opened the conversation. At the tagging station, he told me that he had been able to score a Maine Grand Slam harvesting a turkey, bear, moose and deer in this year. He was grateful to the program for providing him the Moose Hunting opportunity which made his Grand Slam possible.

Upcoming 2024 Schedule of Events

Annual Ice Fishing Derby February 10,
2024

Coyote Night Hunt - January– March
2024*

Vermont Sportsman Show—January 19-
22, 2024 **

Snowshoe Hare Hunt—March 2024*

Turkey Hunt—May 2024*

Fly Fishing School—May 2024*

Lake Trolling—May 2024*

Annual Tribute to Service Fishing
Derby—June 2024*

Allagash Wilderness Canoe Trip—June
2024*

Patriot Ride—July 2024*

Lobster Bake on The Lake—July 2024**

Golf Tournament—August 2024 **

Black Bear Hunt — September 2024*

Fryeburg Fair—September 2024**

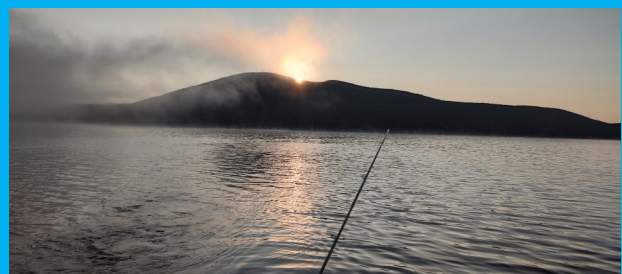
Upland Game Bird Hunt—October 2024

Deer Hunt—November 2024*

* Dates To Be Determined

** Fund Raising Event

Note: This list is not all inclusive as
events may be deleted or added and tai-
lored to specific individual or group needs
that develop during the year.



Sunrise Fishing on First Roach Pond

**Veteran of the
Year Nominations**

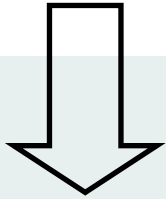
Each year Pine Grove Programs gives an award for Veteran of the Year. If you have a Veteran you want to nominate, please contact Andrea Howe.

andrea@pinegroveprograms.org

NOTES FROM THE OUTREACH COORDINATOR

2023 was quite a year for the program. I want to thank all of you who volunteered their time to assist us with various events throughout the year. Your help allowed us to get more bang for the buck and to serve more Veterans and First Responders. Our fund raising events were very successful, and I want to thank everyone who participated as well as those of you who made donations to the program. We look forward to an exciting year of events for 2024.

Note Mailing Address Change



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

www.pinegroveprograms.org

PLEASE
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