

## 2024 Wyman Lake Ice Fishing Derby

The long anticipated annual Wyman Lake Ice Fishing Derby was held on February 10, 2024. As in years past, it was supported by fishermen and their families from the local area and was again a huge success. Unlike the prior two years, temperatures were in the balmy 40's. Rain held off until the weigh-in and prize drawings.

### Derby Winners:

#### Splake:

1st Place, 2 Lbs 6.7 oz-Jeremy Bessey  
2nd place 1lb 13.1 oz -Matt Duncomb

#### Brook Trout:

1st place: 1lb 2.5 oz-Zach Mayhew  
2nd place: 1lb1.5 oz-Justin Quirion

#### Salmon:

1st place 2lb 11.8 oz-Gary Cote  
2nd place 2lb 7 oz-Joel Vail

#### Yellow Perch:

Only entry 9.2 oz-Aaron Holebrook T



### DOOR PRIZE WINNERS FROM THE DERBY!

4 Person fishing trip on Lake Ontario with Double Trouble Charters-Adrienne Baker

Gas Ice Auger donated by Bingham General Store-Robert Beaulieu

Custom PGP Firepit from Mainely Handrails-Mike Moore

One Pair of Maine Guide Snowshoes w/bindings-Tyler Maloon

Electric Ice Auger donated by Moosehead Trail Trading Post-Logan Benoit



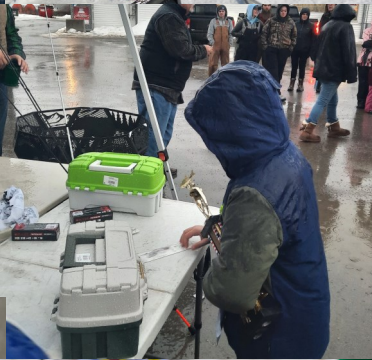
Check Out Our New  
Podcast  
On YouTube

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words ...2
- A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words (Cont) .....3
- May Brings Spring Turkey Hunt.....4
- "Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Oh My!" .....4
- Coyote Hunting Helps Deer Survival .....5
- 2024 Coyote Night Hunt .....6
- 2024 Coyote Night Hunt (Continued) .....7
- Murphy Is Out There .....8
- Murphy Is Out There (Continued) .....9
- Veterans Target Northern Pike on Messalonskee .....10
- A Veteran Ice Fishing Day .....11
- Winner .....11
- Coyote Night Hunting Primer .....11
- 2024 Raffle Items .....12
- 2024 Raffle Items (Continued).....13
- Veteran Hare Hunt .....14
- LEO Camp, Fish, Kayak Family Event....15
- Schedule of Upcoming 2024 Events.....15
- Maine Bureau of Veteran's Services ....16/17
- Veteran of the Year Nominations .....18
- Outreach Coordinator Notes .....18



A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS



A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS (CONT)



## MAY BRINGS SPRING WILD TURKEY HUNT

As in years past, Pine Grove Programs has volunteers who are willing to take Veterans and/or First Responders out for Wild Turkey Hunts. If you are interested in participating in a turkey hunt, respond to your e-mail announcing the event, or if you are not registered with the program, contact us at [info@pinegroveprograms.org](mailto:info@pinegroveprograms.org) . Depending on how much interest there is in participating in this hunt, we may hold a drawing to select participants. Hunts can be a single day or several days.

Selected participants must have a Maine Big Game Hunting License with a Turkey Hunting Permit. They must bring their own shotgun and Turkey Shotshells.

Clothing for the hunt should include full body camouflage (hat, coat and pants).

Temperatures in May can range from cold to warm, so the hunters should dress in layers. We can arrange for you to pattern your shotgun so you can see your shot coverage at 25 and 40 yards.



Our volunteers will provide turkey calls, seats, and decoys.

The 2024 Spring Turkey Hunting season runs from April 29 , to June 1, 2024.



### *“Lions, Tigers, and Bears, Oh My!”*

Well, Bobcats and Coyotes, will that do? Lincoln, a Veteran from New Hampshire is shown at left with a nice 33 pound Bobcat he shot from a pond shooting shack on Friday February 2, 2024. He had always wanted to harvest a Bobcat and this was a tremendous first for him. He intends to have a full mount done. Lincoln was one of four hunters who came to hunt Coyotes at night. These hunters came prepared with thermal scopes and night vision equipment.

Bob Howe put them into the shooting shacks early by 2:00 PM which gave them some day light hunting time before their night hunting started. Thus, they were able to observe Eagles, Crows, Bobcat, Fox and Coyotes during their hunt.

While they saw a number of Coyotes, only one was shot and unfortunately, no picture was taken. Despite all the sophisticated equipment, they experienced that the elusive Coyote is a challenge to hunt. Just because there is bait, does not mean that the Coyotes will cooperate and come in to feed. If Coyotes detect any threat, they do not come into the bait.



# COYOTE HUNTING HELPS DEER SURVIVAL

I had the opportunity to speak with Gerry Lavigne, a former Maine State Wildlife Biologist, who is an expert on both Whitetail Deer and Eastern Coyotes. We discussed how hunting and trapping of Coyotes has significant impact on maintaining the deer herd by lowering Coyote predation of deer. In fact, Gerry was the guest speaker for our **MAINE KNOWS HOWE** March podcast and talked at length about deer and coyotes in that podcast. Check it out.

Bob Howe did his own record keeping over the years on the number of deer harvested and registered in Bingham and Pleasant Ridge. When he started keeping tally, an average year yielded 70 deer harvested. After a decade of Coyote hunting in the area there were 270 deer registered this past season.

If you have a desire to learn more about Coyotes, hunting and trapping then, consider buying this book available from the Sportsman's Alliance of Maine (SAM) for a nominal cost of \$12.00.

## Coyote Hunting and Trapping Primer

*Everything you need to know to get started (almost)!*



Produced by  
The Sportsman's Alliance of Maine's  
Deer Management Network



Now in its Second Edition With Over 20 New Articles  
2016



Paul's First 2024 Coyote

1/2/2024



Paul's Second 2024 Coyote

1/25/2024



Paul's Third 2024 Coyote

2/6/2024

## 2024 COYOTE NIGHT HUNT

January 2, 2024 marked the start of my 2024 Night Coyote Hunting season. I had spoken with Bob Howe and he advised that the Coyotes were hitting the baits heavily that he had put out, especially at the “Missing Shack.” The weather forecast called for a clear night with temperatures in the low 20’s. I walked the quarter mile into the shooting shack and completed setup in daylight at 3:40 PM which allowed me a full hour before darkness set in. This was my fourth season of Coyote hunting and there were a lot of lessons learned involved in getting my first coyote in 2023. Significant in the applications of lessons learned was the evolution of my equipment. I currently use a Henry Long Ranger, lever action rifle chambered in .243 Winchester caliber. My



preferred varmint round is the Hornady Superformance V-Max in 75 grain. I use a Bog Death Grip tripod which gives me the stability to hold the rifle and optics which are too heavy to hold over a night’s hunt coming in at over eleven pounds. My optics include an ATN X-Sight 4K Pro (3-14x) Smart HD Day/Night Riflescope with an ATN IR850 Supernova IR Illuminator. Maine requires that a hunter has a Coyote Call when night hunting Coyotes and I use a small electronic FOXPRO Patriot call. Other gear that I include is a headlamp, a pair of binoculars, a pee bottle and spare fully charged batteries for the IR Illuminator.

It was full dark by 4:45 PM and I switched the scope to night mode and turned on the IR Illuminator. I ran a Male Coyote Long Howl and was rewarded with Coyote howls at a not too far distance. I waited for about fifteen minutes and played a Female Coyote Long Howl and was again rewarded with Coyote howls in response. At about 5:20 PM a Coyote came in from my right and quickly moved out of sight to my left, having zeroed in on where my call speaker was placed. Alas, the shooting holes in the shack are relatively small and do not allow much panning of the rifle for a shot at a Coyote that was that close to the shack (not more than twenty yards in front of me). My adrenaline was up and I waited patiently until I saw eyes behind the bait which was one hundred yards distant. This was about 6:10 PM. That Coyote turned right and went off into the woods as it began to circle around to detect any

## 2024 COYOTE NIGHT HUNT (CONTINUED)

threats before moving onto the bait. At 6:20 PM, the Coyote came into view and appeared to be right in front of the bait. I placed the crosshairs of the scope behind the Coyote's shoulder, squeezed off the round and saw the animal turn a full 360 degrees and leapt off to the right into the woods.

After waiting a few minutes, I went out to the area where I thought the Coyote had been when I made the shot. I was sure that I had scored a good hit. I found no blood, no hair, and because there were so many Coyote tracks, I could not locate the Coyote. After searching awhile, I called Bob Howe and told him I needed help to find a Coyote that I shot. Wyatt Howe came out and we expanded the search area with no better luck. I was resigned that I might have to come back the next day to find the Coyote in daylight.

Wyatt and I started to walk back toward the shooting shack and had gone perhaps halfway, when Wyatt pointed to a circle of blood on the snow and said, "This is where you hit the Coyote." We followed the blood trail for about three strides when Wyatt pointed out the Coyote lying under a small fir tree.

One of the problems of using night vision scopes is that there is a lack of depth perception and I had thought that the Coyote was closer to the Bait than it was when I made the shot. Thus, I had walked past the blood in the snow in my haste to search where I thought I had shot the Coyote. Another lesson learned.

The Coyote was a 34-pound male with a beautiful coat. I am having the pelt tanned and will donate it to the program to be used as a fundraising item. I am most ap-



preciative of the work that Bob and Wyatt Howe do to place the shooting shacks and maintain the bait piles so that Veterans like me can enjoy such a challenging hunt.

The program maintains four shooting shacks for Coyote night hunting. Some have lights over the bait so that an optical scope can be used and the others have no lights which require the use of a day/night scope, thermal scope or a full moon and clear sky with snow covered ground.

Hunting Coyotes over bait is not easy as they have a keen sense of smell, good eyesight and hearing. Add a natural wariness and they will not come in if they detect anything as a threat. Additionally, they travel across a large area and they may not even be near the site you hunt. That notwithstanding, hunting Coyotes at night is truly challenging and worthy of you to give it a try.

## MURPHY IS OUT THERE

On Saturday, March 16, 2024, our Outreach Coordinator took his daughter Meagan and another Army Veteran out for a Coyote night Hunt. The plan was to put Meagan in a single shooter shack on a pond and for Paul and David to hunt from the Missing Shack.

As has been said before Coyote Night Hunting is not easy as the Coyotes are wily, have great hearing, eyesight, and sense of smell. Add to that the Murphy factor of what can go wrong, will go wrong.

Dave arrived early at Paul's home as they planned to make sure that Dave's rifle was sighted in. Dave had an older version of a day/night digital hunting scope that he had mounted on his rifle for this hunt. As luck would have it, after an hour and one half, they were unable to get the scope zeroed. So, as a contingency, Paul sighted in his Winchester Model 70 in .308 Winchester caliber with 150 grain Core-lockt bullets. The rifle has a Nikon Pro Staff optical scope which was not expected to be a problem as they planned to hunt over a lighted bait.

Dave quipped that the lessons learned was that he should have brought a spare rifle and or gone to the range the day before. Was this to be a harbinger of things to come?

Dave, Meagan and Paul arrived at the Lodge by 5:30 PM and met with Wyatt Howe. Wyatt agreed to meet them at the second cutoff near the pond shooting shack and to take them in so as to save a ten minute hike into the shooting shack and to bring Paul and Dave back out

once Meagan's setup was complete.

Paul set up the shack for Meagan and discovered that the black cloth used to hide the shooter from observation was not in the backpack but had been left in Paul's Jacket that was back in the truck left at the cutoff. Paul asked Wyatt to go back and retrieve the cloth, which he



### Black Cloth In Place

did saving another 20 minutes of hiking there and back.

Wyatt took Paul and Dave back to the cutoff and headed back to the Lodge. Paul and Dave headed to the Missing Shack. Walking into the Missing Shack, Dave's knee buckled and sent him for a tumble. Fortunately, only his dignity suffered any injury. Shortly thereafter,



## MURPHY IS OUT THERE (CONTINUED)

they were settled in the shack for the night's hunt. They watched and listened as darkness fell. Alas, the LED solar powered light over the bait did not function providing but a hint of light over the bait that rendered the optical scope useless. There was hope that the motion sensing light would work if a Coyote came to the bait.

At 9:12 PM, Paul's cell phone vibrated with this text from Meagan: "Somethings wrong with the scope. I Can't see anything. Illuminator is still on. I had Coyotes on the bait and all I could see was their eyes. The glass is also fogged up."

Paul called Meagan, and he guided her through some diagnostic steps. He had her turn on the menu and check if the night vision setting was turned on. Megan said, "I cannot see the buttons." Paul said, "Turn on your headlamp so you can see."

Meagan set the night vision mode on and off to ensure it was indeed on. Paul told her to move the illuminator to see if the beam was off alignment. When she did this the illuminator came on. She had changed the battery and had not completely tightened the battery cap. She tightened the cap and said, "I have a Coyote looking at me, got to go."

A few minutes later, Meagan called and said, "I shot at the Coyote, but



**"I have a Coyote looking at me, got to go."**

don't know if I missed." Paul told her to sit tight and he would come in and get her and search for the Coyote. She did not want to take away the hunt from Dave and Paul said he would leave Dave in place and come solo. Paul opined that since she had taken the shot, the bait was compromised and the Coyotes were long gone.

When Paul arrived, Meagan said, "I viewed the video and I am sure, I missed." A search confirmed that no Coyote was to be found.

In retrospect, Meagan said that she was so frustrated by the technical mishaps, excited by the Coyotes presence, and that she was shaking so much, that she failed to make a good shot. Her dad commiserated with her stating that although he had shot five Coyotes this season to date, he had likewise missed two. Murphy is out there. He is not much on commiseration. What can go wrong, will go wrong. Oh, and Dave saw no Coyotes, but it was a fun hunt nevertheless.

## VETERANS TARGET NORTHERN PIKE ON MESSALONSKEE

Tim Corbett, President of the Pine Grove Programs Board of Directors, graciously hosted a group of Veterans at his home on Messalonskee Lake for a day of ice fishing on March 1, 2024. despite there being fifteen tip-ups being set by the Veterans in a spot that is usually productive for Northern Pike, they had only one flag and hooked no fish. Tim, fishing with his grandsons caught a single Splake. Conditions were ideal with smooth ice, sunshine, and temperatures in the high twenties and low thirties. By noon time, the wind had freshened which made the windchill very sharp.

Despite no fish, the day proved to be a learning curve to Dave and Michael. Dave was on his second ice fishing excursion and for Michael it was a first. They learned how to set up tip-ups and to target bottom feeding fish. First, they added a weight to the line and let it settle to the bottom. Then they put a spit shot on the line to mark where the bait would hang a foot or two off the bottom. They then pulled in the line, baited the hook and let the shiner down until reaching the split shot marker.

When the increasing wind drove them to pull stakes and go to shore, they were treated to lunch in Tim's camp. Hot soup, bread, a fire in the woodstove and good company made for an enjoyable lunch.



From left to right: Dave, Michael and Tim



Paul's Fourth Coyote  
2/19/2024



Paul's Fifth Coyote  
2/27/2024

## A VETERAN ICE FISHING DAY

February 22, 2024 dawned an overcast day with temperatures forecast in the high thirties as Dave and Paul, two Army Veterans embarked on a day of ice fishing on Green Lake in Ellsworth, Maine. It was 8:05 AM as they were putting in the third tip-up when a flag on the first went up. Paul dashed to the flag and demonstrated how to set the hook as he hooked a nice 16 inch Landlocked Salmon. It promised to be a good day.

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*“I knew nothing about ice fishing until I was able to walk the ice of Green Lake with Paul Violette. He provided all the equipment and knowledge for success. We couldn't have had a better day for it. I learned a lot, to include to never turn my back on the traps, a most important learning point of the day! Thanks for a great time Paul and to Pine Grove Programs. Fresh salmon for supper tonight!”*

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Alas, it was two hours before another flag went up. The clouds gave way to sunshine by mid day and the breeze freshened making them glad that they had put up the pop-up ice shelter. Dave was given the following flags, and at one point, he missed a fish that had taken out 92 turns of the reel. Paul subsequently hooked a second Salmon and had his limit for the day. At 2:30 PM they decided to pack up and while pulling in the tip-ups, Dave got one last flag, the tenth of the day, and caught his first Landlocked Salmon. For Dave, it was a learning curve day as he is new to ice fishing.

## COYOTE NIGHT HUNTING PRIMER

Our Outreach Coordinator, Paul Violette, put together a video Coyote Hunting Primer that is available for viewing on the Pine Grove Programs website MEDIA TAB. The video relates his experiences hunting Coyotes over Pine Grove Program baits using the program's shooting shacks. The video relates his evolution from being a novice Coyote Hunter to becoming a successful Coyote Hunter as evidenced by the multiple pictures in this newsletter of this season's success. In the video, he discusses equipment, tactics, what you can expect, and lessons learned during his four hunting seasons involving over 250 hours of hunting time.



*Dave With His Fish*



*Paul's Fish*

## WINNER

Bob Collins is the winner of the 6.5 Creed-moor Rifle and scope combination of the 2023 Raffle.



## 2024 RAFFLE ITEMS

There will be four new items available as raffle prizes in 2024. All tickets will cost \$5.00 each with a bonus of 5 tickets for a \$20.00 donation.



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](mailto:andrea@pinegroveprograms.org).

**Note:** Picture is of the 2023 Derby Fire Pit

There will be two rifles Raffled 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.



## 2024 RAFFLE ITEMS (CONTINUED)

The fourth raffle prize is a queen size quilt made and donated to the program by Charlotte Violette. She named the quilt, “The Berry Patch.” Charlotte said that the quilt was challenging to make because the pattern calls for a diagonal rather than horizontal array. The result is striking.



who donate their time and skills to take Veterans and First Responders out with them when they fish on ice or open water, various hunts, camping, kayaking, etc. By sharing their time and passion, these volunteers allow the program to reach even more Veterans and First Responders.

Likewise we want to thank the Pine Grove Lodge staff for all the hard work and effort they do to make every event special for program participants.

If you are reading this newsletter, you are likely aware of the program and what we try to do to give tribute to Veterans and First Responders for their service. Hopefully you have been able to participate in some of our events. If so, please consider giving back by supporting our raffles, making a donation or volunteering your time.

The drawing for this quilt will be held just in time for Christmas 2024. Tickets will sell for \$5.00 or 5 tickets for \$20.00.

In addition to our raffle items, we would be remiss not to thank all the businesses and donors who gave prizes of sporting gear, gift certificates and monetary donations in support of the program’s fund raising events. Your generosity makes our events for Veterans and first responders possible.

Likewise, our thanks to all the volunteers



## VETERAN HARE HUNT

On Wednesday, March 20, 2024, Pine Grove Programs held its annual Veteran Hare Hunt. Unfortunately, some who registered for the hunt were no shows which left Brian and John as the only two Veterans who participated in the hunt.

The dogs ran well, at one point chasing a hare for over a mile through the woods. Wyatt Howe guided the hunt. A number of rabbits were seen and one rabbit was shot.



Brian With His Snowshoe Hare



Lunch In The Woods s Always  
A Treat





Our thanks to Dale Perkins for providing access to his remote primitive campsite on Great Moose Lake.

## LEO CAMP, FISH, KAYAK FAMILY EVENT

A generous donor has given permission to the Program to use a remote primitive camp site on Great Moose Lake (Harmony, St Albans, and Athens). We are looking for a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) family to participate in a two day one overnight camping, kayaking and fishing event geared to allow the LEO and their family a time to decompress and enjoy family time in a truly wonderful outdoors environment this coming summer. If you are interested in participating in this opportunity, please contact our Outreach Coordinator, Paul Violette at [paul@pinegroveprograms.org](mailto:paul@pinegroveprograms.org) .

## Upcoming 2024 Schedule of Events

Turkey Hunt—April 29 tom May 11, 2024

Lake Champlain Trolling—May 13-16, 2024

Wyman Lake Trolling —May 21, 2024

Fly Fishing School—June 3, 024

Annual Tribute to Service Fishing Derby—June 11, 2024

Allagash Wilderness Canoe Trip—June 17 to 24, 2024

LEO Family Camp, Fish, Kayak Trips — Summer 2024

Kennebec Kayak Fishing—August 10, 2024  
Lobster Bake on The Lake—July 20, 2024\*\*

Patriot Ride—July 27, 2024

Golf Tournament—TBD August 2024 \*\*

Black Bear Hunt — September 2024\*

Fryeburg Fair—September 2024\*\*

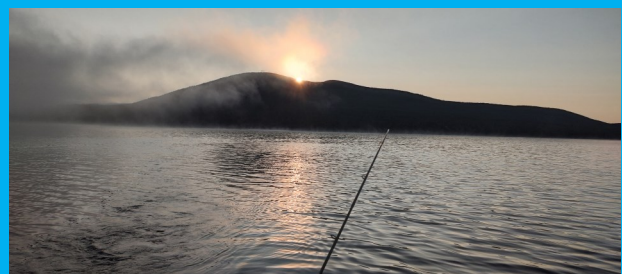
Upland Game Bird Hunt—October 2024\*

Deer Hunt—November 2024\*

\* Dates To Be Determined (TBD)

\*\* 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.



Sunrise Fishing on First Roach Pond

## Employment



**Veteran Assistance at Career Centers:**  
All of Maine's Career Centers have dedicated Veterans Employment Representatives who help veterans find jobs by assisting with resume writing, networking, and interviewing skills.

**State of Maine Veteran Hiring Preference:**  
Any veteran candidate who meets the minimum qualifications for a State job is guaranteed an interview, including veterans with an Other Than Honorable discharge. Gold Star spouses are also eligible for the hiring preference.

**Accelerated Occupational Licensing Initiative:**  
Provides fast-track civilian licensing for veterans with military expertise in Boiler, Electrical, Fuel, and Plumbing.

**Health Care Employment For Military Veterans:**  
All veterans discharged or released under conditions other than dishonorable, who completed health care related military training while in the Armed Forces, may utilize their military credentials when seeking civilian employment. Qualified veterans will receive individualized assistance when connecting one-on-one with the Department of Labor's program staff to facilitate the transition.

**FMI: Please email [mainebvs@maine.gov](mailto:mainebvs@maine.gov)**



Call 211 OR 1-866-811-5695

## Financial Assistance



**Veteran Emergency Financial Assistance:**  
VEFA was created to provide assistance for Maine Veterans who suffer an emergency and do not have sufficient savings or access to other financial assistance to resolve the emergency. Examples of assistance may include: Damage to the veterans home due to fire, flood or hurricane that is not covered by insurance; Illness of the veteran or family member that results in hardship, assistance to prevent or resolve the veteran being homeless; and any other condition that puts the veteran at risk of not having the basic necessities of food, shelter, or safety.

The Bureau may approve up to \$2,000 to a veteran who is currently a resident of Maine

**FMI: Please email [mainebvs@maine.gov](mailto:mainebvs@maine.gov)**

## Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services

### Seven Field Offices Located in:

- Caribou
- Bangor
- Machias
- Togus
- Lewiston
- South Portland
- Springvale

Phone: 207-287-7020

Central Office: [MaineBVS@maine.gov](mailto:MaineBVS@maine.gov)

Veterans' Cemetery System: [MVMCS@maine.gov](mailto:MVMCS@maine.gov)

Maine Veterans Homes: [info@mainevets.org](mailto:info@mainevets.org)

MBVS Website: [www.maine.gov/veterans](http://www.maine.gov/veterans)

## MAINE BUREAU OF VETERANS' SERVICES

# State of Maine Veterans' Benefits



B E N E F I T S I N D E X

207-287-7020  
[maine.gov/veterans](http://maine.gov/veterans)





## Tax Exemptions

### Military Pensions:

Fully exempt from income tax as of 1/1/2016.

**Property Tax:** \$50,000 for paraplegic veterans; \$6,000 for veterans who served during a recognized war period and are 62 years or older; or, receive 100% disability as a Veteran; or, became 100% disabled while serving.

**FMI:** Please visit

<https://www.maine.gov/revenue/propertytax/sidebar/exemptions.htm>

**Vehicle Registration:** 100% permanent and total, service-connected disabled veterans exempt from one registration fee, title fee, and driver license renewal fee.

**FMI:** Please email [mainebvts@maine.gov](mailto:mainebvts@maine.gov)



## Eldercare, Burial and Survivor Benefits

**Maine Veterans' Homes:** Six locations across Maine providing expert rehabilitative, skilled nursing, and long-term care for Maine's veterans, spouses and Gold Star parents. **FMI:** [info@mainevets.org](mailto:info@mainevets.org)

**Maine Veterans Memorial Cemeteries:** With two cemeteries in Augusta, one in Caribou, and one in Springvale, Maine offers beautiful, final resting places for honorably discharged veterans and their eligible dependents. **FMI:** [mvmcs@maine.gov](mailto:mvmcs@maine.gov)

**Gold Star Family Plates:** Gold Star families may receive a specially designated license plate to honor their fallen family member. Maine's program is distinct in that it not only provides Gold Star Plates to those who lost a family member to combat, but also to those whose family member died while honorably serving as an active member of the United States Armed Forces, but did not die in combat.

**FMI:** [mainebvts@maine.gov](mailto:mainebvts@maine.gov)



## Veteran Identification

### Free Copies of DD 214s:

Maine veterans may request a free copy of their DD 214 from the Bureau's archive of more than 45,000. Veterans must have this critical document to prove veteran status for everything from retail discounts to applying for state and federal benefit programs.

### Military Service Driver's License:

Honorably discharged veterans may obtain a driver's license that identifies them as a veteran. The designation allows the license-holder to prove veteran status to obtain retail and restaurant discounts, as well as free admission to most of Maine's State Parks.

### Complimentary Veteran License Plates/Special Veteran Plate:

Maine's Bureau of Motor Vehicles offers honorably discharged veterans (former POWs, Purple Heart recipients, Medal of Honor recipients, and disabled veterans) various license plates that are exempt from registration fees.

Veterans may also select a Special Veteran License Plate (at cost), that include a Commemorative Decals of their choice, reflecting the branches of service, specific awards or commendations, campaign awards for service in a hostile fire zone, among others.

**FMI:** [www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/registration/index.html](http://www.maine.gov/sos/bmv/registration/index.html)



## Education

### Veterans Dependents Educational Benefits:

100% tuition waiver at University of Maine schools, Community Colleges, and Maine Maritime Academy, for dependents of 100% permanent and total, service-connected disabled veterans who have been residents of Maine for five years.

### Postsecondary Education for Maine National Guard Members:

100% tuition waiver at University of Maine schools, Community Colleges, and Maine Maritime Academy for fully qualified, drilling members of Maine's National Guard.

**FMI:** Please email [mainebvts@maine.gov](mailto:mainebvts@maine.gov)



## Recreation

### Free Lifetime Veterans Park & Museum Pass:

Maine veteran residents who were honorably discharged may receive a free, lifetime park pass for complimentary admission to most of Maine's State Parks and Historic Sites.

### Free Active Military Personnel Day Use Park Pass:

Maine's active duty personnel may receive a free day use park pass that provides complimentary admission for the service member and his/her spouse and children to most of Maine's State Parks and Historic Sites.

### Disabled Veterans Controlled Moose Hunt:

First of its kind in the nation, the Moose Hunt offers 25 disabled veterans (15 in-state residents and 10 out-of-state residents) the opportunity to tag a moose, with nearly all guide services, equipment, lodging, food, and meat processing costs covered by sponsors.

The Hunt is a joint effort of the Bureau of Veterans' Services, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and Smoldering Lake Outfitters in Bridgewater, ME.

### Disabled Veterans Free Licenses:

Veterans with a service-connected disability of 50% or more may receive a complimentary license to fish, trap, hunt a range of wildlife (bear, migratory bird, pheasant, wild turkey, among others). The license remains valid for the life of the license holder, as long as the license holder continues to satisfy residency requirements and the license is not revoked or suspended.

### Disabled Veteran Access to State Parks:

Any veteran displaying a specially designated disabled veteran license plate or other placard (in accordance with Title 29-A, section 523, subsections 1 and 2) is allowed free admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach.

**FMI:** Please email [mainebvts@maine.gov](mailto:mainebvts@maine.gov)

**Veteran of the  
Year Nominations**

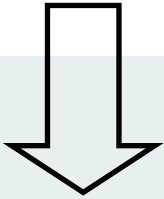
Each year Pine Grove Programs gives an award for Veteran of the Year. If you have a Veteran you want to nominate, please contact Andrea Howe.

[andrea@pinegroveprograms.org](mailto:andrea@pinegroveprograms.org)

**NOTES FROM THE OUTREACH COORDINATOR**

Join us for our new podcast "Maine Knows Howe." Maine Knows Howe is a Maine based podcast featuring the adventures & stories of Master Maine Guide Bob Howe & his son Wyatt. For over 40 years Bob has operated a lodge in Maine and has given away outdoor healing opportunities to veterans, first responders and law enforcement through Pine Grove Programs. Meet the real people of Maine who have given back to those who have given the most. Follow us, like us, and subscribe to us on iTunes, Spotify or Google Podcasts. You can also WATCH the podcast on YouTube or by searching Google for "Maine Knows Howe" Please share, share, share, and enjoy !

Note Mailing Address Change



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

[www.pinegroveprograms.org](http://www.pinegroveprograms.org)

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