



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Winter 2023

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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2022 flew by, and after reviewing the certification class numbers plus all the additional educational activities that the HIT Program was involved with, I can totally see why. Thank you for another great year!

Class Type	Number of Classes	Certified Students
Hunter Ed	151	1,972
Bowhunter Ed	43	425
Muzzleloader Ed	16	99
Crossbow Ed	11	38
Totals:	221	2,534

HIT Program certification courses were taught in **30 different cities and villages** during 2022 and we had **410 active volunteer instructors**.

Class Type	# of Instructors Who Taught at Least 1 Class	Taught the Most Classes
Hunter Ed	173	Timothy Booth (Anchorage) taught 22 classes
Bowhunter Ed	64	Cordell Gray (Fairbanks) taught 7 classes
Muzzleloader Ed	22	Don Wirth (Eagle River) taught 3 classes
Crossbow Ed	16	Jacques Kosto, Bob Dragich, Steve Latz, & Alex Bortnick taught 2 classes
Multiple Disciplines	208	

Your **4,253** volunteer hours allowed us to access **\$610,388** in P-R Federal-Aid funds! These funds are used for HIT Program administration and to purchase class supplies, rent facilities, and pay for travel. Thank you for all of your volunteer hours.

Region	# of Classes	Students in Class
Region I (Southeast)	26	345
Region II (Anc, Kodiak, & Kenai Pen.)	78	994
Region III & V (Interior & Northwest)	42	423
Region IV (Central & Southwest)	40	514



DID YOU KNOW?

31 instructors who have been with the HIT Program for 20+ years have taught 2,070 classes and certified 31,111 students!

(Bruce Bowler & Stu Robards received their 20-year pins at the Juneau instructor meeting in November)



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There are 3 generations of hunter education in this photo. Vikki Gross taught Greg Jacob's bowhunter ed class in 2002, Greg became a volunteer instructor in 2003, and he and Vikki taught Greg's daughter Della's hunter ed class in 2022. Also, Ruth Jacobs (Greg's wife) became an instructor in 2007 and their son Jachin became an instructor in 2015.

Changes to Class Paperwork

We've updated some of the class paperwork.

- **Temp Certs** (removed unused information and reformatted text location)
- **Consent Form** (it's the same for all certification courses and includes a photo consent portion)
- **Sign-In Sheet** (it's the same for all certification courses and includes a column for the Field Day Qualifier Number and a form for instructors to use while tracking paperwork)
- **Instructor Course Report Form** (removed unused information)
- **Proficiency Shoot Card** (it's the same for bowhunter and crossbow ed and removed unused information)

HIT Program staff are working to refill paperwork kits and the Instructor Resource Website has been updated with the new forms.



Tom Kron, Ed Bosco, & Larry Boyle received their 20-year pins at the Anchorage meeting.



Vikki Gross & Howard Delo received their 20-year pins at the Mat-Su meeting.

Welcome to Our New Volunteer Instructors

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all new volunteer instructors who have joined us since the publication of our last newsletter. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

Hunter Education:

Akhiok: Speridon Simeonoff

Akiak: Cindy Strotman

Anchorage: Alan Pefley, Nathanael Coutsubos, Anna Petersen

Brevig Mission: Kevin LaBar

Fairbanks: Michael Prewitt, Timothy Bembenic

Gakona: John Isaac Richards

Kodiak: Michael Zweng

Moose Pass: Clayton Ellsworth

Nome: Alicia Carson, Keane Richards

North Pole: John Witte

Port Alsworth: Elizabeth Blair

Port Lions: David McElwain

Wasilla: Michael Poplin, Salvatore Rizzo

Bowhunter Education:

Eielson AFB: Dalton Blair

Fairbanks: Clinton Shahan

Kodiak: William Dunker

North Pole: John Witte

Salcha: Kenneth Calkins

Seward: Andrew Scrivo

Wasilla: Michael Poplin

Please encourage students, family members, and friends to fill out the instructor application if you think they would be a great addition to the HIT Program. The application is available online (www.huntereducation.alaska.gov) and printed copies have been included in all class paperwork boxes or cabinets.

In 2022 we certified the following new instructors:

- 33 Hunter Ed Instructors
- 10 Bowhunter Ed Instructors
- 7 Muzzleloader Ed Instructors
- 7 Crossbow Ed Instructors



IHEA Instructor Resource Site
<https://www.ihea-usa.org/>
<https://www.expertvoice.com/ihea/>
HIT Program Site
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov



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Volunteer Instructor Pins in 2022

Thank you to these long-time, dedicated volunteer instructors! The first five-year pins have a start date based on the year 2002, which is when hunter ed became mandatory in part of the state.



Jonathan Barton-McGrath
Charles Becker-Thorne Bay
David Bozman-Anchorage
Darren Burks-Anchorage
Justin Burrows-Fairbanks
Art Casserberg-Fairbanks
Matt Conner-Soldotna
Alison Eskelin-Dillingham
Martin Farris-Anchorage
Aaron Frenzel-Anchorage
Benjamin Griese-New Stuyahok

Scott Henderson-Valdez
Gabriel Hennemann-Wasilla
Marianne Hoosier-Fritz Creek
Jerry Jones-Koliganek
Robin Jones-New Stuyahok
Thomas Kowalske-Petersburg
Shaun Kuzakin-Juneau
Timothy Lorenzini-Tok
David Lundgren-Healy
Kevin McGaha-Anchorage
Wayne McManus-Kasilof

Sean McRae-Thorne Bay
Brynn Parr-Nome
John Pepe-Anchorage
Connie Pratt-Anchorage
Chris Scarberry-Eagle River
Rhonda Wade-Valdez
John Western-Anchorage
Bradley Wheeler-Haines
Christopher Wilkinson-Wasilla
Joseph Wittkop-Dillingham
Kurt Woodward-JBER



Alex Arduser-Cordova
Philip Asay-Anchorage
Anthony Beck-Valdez
Bronson Brito-Dillingham
John Calder-Anchorage
Jacob Hamilton-Valdez

Jeremy Havener-Galena
Paul Houser-Palmer
Letty Hughes-Nome
Robert Nunley-Galena
Steve Peterson-Soldotna
John Ringstad-Fairbanks

Ted Sandhofer-Petersburg
Lyle Shelnut-Fairbanks
Jeffrey Shoemaker-Ketchikan
Tracy Smith-Palmer
William Sobolesky-Anchorage
Steven Steffensen-Kodiak



Peter Buist-Fairbanks
Dennis Degnan-Fairbanks

Darrell Hildebrand-Fairbanks
Ruth Jacobs-Palmer

Scott Quist-Wasilla
Mike Robbins-Anchorage



Brent Akers-Petersburg
Keith Appel-Anchorage
Edward Bosco-Anchorage
Bruce Bowler-Juneau
Lawrence Boyle-Anchorage
Con Bunde-Anchorage
Kenneth Coate-Juneau
Thomas Cobaugh-Anchorage
John Crye-Kodiak
Howard Delo-Big Lake

Richard Dennis-Chistochina
Jack Frost-Anchorage
Richard Groff-Cordova
Vikki Gross-Wasilla
Thomas Hagberg-Anchorage
Ellen Hannan-Craig
Thomas Humphrey-Fairbanks
Robert Hunter-Fairbanks
Ward Jones-Dillingham
Tom Kron-Anchorage

Steven Lanford-Fairbanks
Steven Latz-Kenai
James Low-Fairbanks
Fred Moore-Seward
Andrew Pancho-Fairbanks
Randall Pitney-Fairbanks
Stuart Robards-Juneau
Frederick Voss-Anchorage
Barry Whitehill-Fairbanks
John Wyman-Fairbanks

HIT Program Steering Group

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Jeremy Lemons (SC) JERAMYLEMONS@ICLOUD.COM

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Ted Sandhofer (SE) CEDARPOND@GCI.NET

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Instructor Notes

Above & Beyond Recipients

We'd like to recognize the following instructors for going "above and beyond" this past fall. Thanks to the Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation for providing Cabela's gift certificates to help us recognize our Above & Beyond recipients. We'll continue to recognize 1-4 extraordinary volunteer instructors each quarter, so please keep an eye out for co-instructors who go "above and beyond" in the next few months and send HIT Program staff an email.



Joe Brewer (Homer)

Joe taught 1 crossbow ed, 1 bowhunter ed, and 3 hunter ed classes this past fall. He was also busy reviewing the online hunter ed course as one of the Southcentral representatives on the Steering Group.

Carl Edmiston (Anchorage)

Carl taught 1 muzzleloader ed, 1 crossbow ed, and 2 hunter ed classes this past fall. He also assisted with the Anchorage instructor training, sharing his many years of instructional experience with the new instructors, He can also usually be found at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park on Sundays acting as a volunteer RSO.

Jesse Kiehl (Juneau)

Jesse taught 4 hunter ed classes this fall, including helping with the two Floyd Dryden Middle School field days which certified 75 6th graders.



Angel Romero (Palmer)

Angel stepped in and helped with 5 hunter ed classes this past fall held at the Elks Camp, Mat-Valley Range, and Grouse Ridge. He helped certify 73 students.



Vicki Taylor (Fairbanks)

Vicki taught 4 hunter ed classes this fall, including helping with a Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) hunter ed class. She helped certify 44 students.

HIT Program Staff Contact Information

Anchorage:

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Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373

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Fairbanks:

Tom Halverson 459-7211

Juneau:

Daniel Gutierrez 465-4345



Kodiak hunter ed class