



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Fall 2016

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

Inside This Issue

Coordinator's Corner...	1
New Steering Group Members	2
New Instructors	3
"Where to Go From Here"	3
Instructor of the Year Award Nominations	4
Instructor Meeting Dates.....	4
Staff Contact Info	4

DID YOU KNOW?

Hunter education began formally in Kentucky in 1946 as part of their statewide youth camp program.

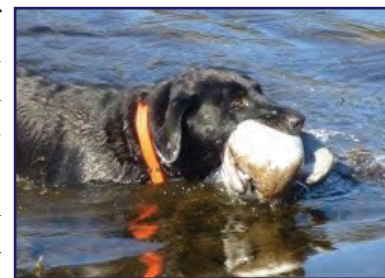
New York was the first state to initiate mandatory hunter education training in 1949.

If you are a bowhunter education instructor, I'm sure that you've looked over the updated policy manual and lesson plans that we mailed to you in September. This has been a long, thought out process, all with the intent of providing the very best educational product to our students. The primary reason for introducing a new online field day lesson plan was to ensure that online bowhunter education field days will be more consistent throughout the state. Every community had some great topics that were covered in their courses, but they weren't necessarily taught anywhere else. The new lesson plans include these topics and will hopefully provide all bowhunter education instructors with additional information to share with their students. A huge thanks to volunteer instructors Fred Voss (Anchorage), Len Malmquist (Soldotna), Lyle Shelnut (Fairbanks), Mike Robbins (Anchorage), Rich Graham (Wasilla), and Tom Kron (Anchorage) for their assistance with this update. These instructors instruct a majority of the bowhunter education courses in their communities and brought a wealth of knowledge and experience to the table. As the new online field day lesson plan grows on you, please feel free to provide any feedback or edits you may suggest for the future. Every few years we'll reprint and are always open to any improvement to our educational resources.



As another amazing fall comes to an end, I'm hoping that you and your family have been in the field experiencing what this great state has to offer. It's nice to get that moose, caribou, or deer for the freezer, yet we should all be reminded that the true measures of success are those special moments we spend with family and friends in the field. I got the chance to harvest an antlerless moose and a variety of bird species this fall, and have enjoyed not only the delicious meat, but the countless memories from the hunts that will be with me for years. As instructors are coming in from the field, it's always so much fun to hear

everyone's success stories or amusing anecdotes. The annual instructor meetings are a great way to meet with other instructors and share your hunting stories too. These meetings are also a wonderful opportunity to provide feedback to HIT Program staff and help plan the 2017 schedule. The Fairbanks meeting has already occurred, but meetings in Juneau, Anchorage, Palmer, and Soldotna are all scheduled in the upcoming months. Please take the time to attend these meetings if you're available. As we approach the holidays, the HIT staff wishes you and your family a wonderful holiday season!





Hunter Information & Training Program News

Fall 2016

Welcome to New Steering Group Members

The HIT Program's Steering Group has proven to be a great advisory resource in advancing HIT Program goals and objectives. These members have consistently served both the volunteer instructors from around the state and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Lyle Shelnut (Interior)

Fairbanks

lylenutscars@yahoo.com



Lyle has been a volunteer with the HIT Program since 2012. He teaches hunter, bowhunter, and muzzleloader education courses and is one of the go-to instructors in Fairbanks. He was the 2014 HIT Program Outstanding Educator of the Year. This past year he was a member of the Bowhunter Education Review Committee and helped to update the online bowhunter education course and lesson plan. Lyle's enthusiasm for hunting, the shooting sports, teaching firearm education, and the HIT Program will be beneficial while representing Interior volunteer instructors.

Andy Finke (Rural Alaska)

Kodiak

bdaf@ptialaska.net



Andy grew up in Minnesota and started hunting at an early age. He moved to Kodiak in 1988 and has enjoyed many hunting and fishing adventures. Since he does not have kids of his own, he really wants to help others learn about safely enjoying the outdoors that he loves. He is certified to teach hunter, bowhunter, and muzzleloader education and has

been a volunteer with the HIT Program since 2006. He was the 2012 HIT Program Rural Instructor of the Year. His knowledge of setting up classes, instructing classes, and being the "local HIT volunteer representative" will be beneficial while representing Rural volunteer instructors.

The HIT Steering Group will conduct their annual meeting on January 27th-28th, 2017.

Please contact your HIT Program Steering Group representative with any ideas, suggestions, concerns, or feedback you might have about the HIT Program.

New Instructor Hats

Did you teach at least two classes this year?

If so, then you will be receiving a new instructor hat. We've received countless requests from instructors to add a new hat to the instructor uniform. HIT staff will be handing the hats out at annual instructor meetings or mailing them to instructors in outlying communities. Just one more way to demonstrate the importance of wearing hunter orange to students!



Thank You!

Rick Sterling of Fairbanks and Steve Shiell of Valdez played an instrumental role on the HIT Steering Group for the past two years.

They helped review the hunter education policy manual, updated the hunter education written test, and reviewed the updated online bowhunter education instructor lesson plan. The years of teaching experience, expertise, and enthusiasm that they brought to the Steering Group greatly assisted the HIT Program.

IHEA Instructor Resource Site
www.ihea.com



Alaska HIT Program Site
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov





Welcome to Our New Instructors

Hunter Education:

Bowhunter Education:

Wrangell: Winston Davies

[illegible][illegible]

Lyle Shelnut (Interior) lylenutscars@yahoo.com
Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) bdaf@ptialaska.net
Paul Houser (Southcentral) houserfam9@yahoo.com
Martha Peck (Southcentral) martha.a.peck@gmail.com
Bruce Bowler (Southeast) cozylog@alaska.net

Hunter Information & Training Program News



Fall 2016

Instructor Notes

2016 Instructor of the Year Awards-NOMINATIONS NEEDED

Every year the HIT Program recognizes volunteer instructors that have made a significant contribution to the program. We want to recognize those instructors that have gone above and beyond to advance the cause of safe and ethical hunting.

Awards are given out for the following categories:

- Hunter Education
- Bowhunter Education
- Muzzleloader Education
- Rural Instructor
- Lifetime Achievement
- Outstanding Educator of the Year
- Apprentice

The nomination form has been updated and is now available in a fillable PDF. A copy of the nomination form has been emailed to each instructor and an electronic copy is available online at www.huntereducation.alaska.gov (located on the Volunteer Instructors page).

Please take the time to nominate one of your co-instructors that has given extraordinary service to the HIT Program. Feel free to contact any of the HIT staff for teaching statistics and contact information. Try to gather information about your nominee from their co-instructors, significant others, and friends. You don't have to limit yourself to the space provided after each question on the nomination form—more is better! Additional pages may be attached.

Nominations must be postmarked by January 15, 2017.



Somerset Jones, 2015 Hunter Ed Instructor of the Year, sighting in his rifle on a hunt in Texas sponsored by Focus Group

Annual Instructor Meetings

Mark your calendars!

- Tuesday, December 6th at Rabbit Creek Shooting Park (Anchorage)
- Wednesday, December 7th at Snowshoe Gun Club (Soldotna)
- Thursday, December 8th at Mat-Valley Range (Palmer)

HIT Staff

Contact Information

Anchorage

Gina Smith 267-2196

Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373

Marc Much 267-2241

Gail Volt 267-2187

Fax: 267-2323

Fairbanks

Bob Hunter 459-7375

Tom Halverson 459-7211

Fax: 459-7332

Juneau

Jeff Jemison 586-4101

Fax: 586-4107



Glennallen instructors Heidi Hatcher and Lauren D'Ascanio worked together to get Lauren's first caribou!

Alaska Volunteer Hunter
Education Instructor
Association (AVHEIA)
Jim Low 378-5897
akjimlow@mac.com