



Hunter Information & Training Program News

Spring 2019

Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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On April 1, 2014 I started as the HIT Program Coordinator and I'm amazed at how fast the past five years have flown by. I've gotten to meet so many amazing people throughout the state, both instructors and students. With so much enthusiasm for teaching the certification courses, and the willingness of people to share their hunting experience with others, it's easy to see why there is such longevity in HIT Program volunteers and staff. A few highlights that stand out to me include coordinating the Rabbit Creek Youth Shotgun League, hosting the 2019 IHEA-USA Conference, and setting up the documentation of volunteer hours to be used as in-kind match so we can take full advantage of our hunter education P-R funds. If all continues to proceed as planned, I look forward to what we'll be able to accomplish together over the next five years!



In May we held our annual in-person staff meeting in Fairbanks. With staff spread out in Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage we typically only communicate by phone or email. It's so much easier to brainstorm and dig into topics when everyone is in the same room. Bob and Tom were gracious hosts, showing us around the various ranges and locations where certification classes are held.

We were able to attend the Spring BBQ for instructors, which was great for staff and instructors to finally put faces with names/emails.

We've recently had a turnover in staff, with both Marc Much and Stephen Sowell leaving the department this spring. Marc was the Southcentral Coordinator for the past five years and he accepted a contract job with the BLM in Anchorage. Stephen was the Southeast and R3 Coordinator for the past year and he accepted a job as the R3 Coordinator for Delta Waterfowl out of North Dakota. We wish them both the best of luck and thank them for all their contributions during their time with the HIT Program. We are in the process of rehiring both of these positions, and if you or someone you know might be interested, please have them contact me directly.

As spring turns into summer and everyone heads outside to enjoy the sun and warmer weather, please take the time to communicate with HIT Program staff about your availability to help instruct at a certification class or public event. We've seen a large increase in calls and emails from folks working on completing the online portion of a class or wanting more information about certification classes. We expect participation in classes this summer to increase as it typically does, and we couldn't offer all of the class opportunities without your continued support.

DID YOU KNOW?

The IHEA-USA Journal that you received quarterly along with this newsletter will no longer be published in printed form. The lack of advertising support combined with the costs of printing have forced the termination of the Journal. IHEA-USA is looking at alternative ways to replace the overall form and function of the journal.



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Volunteer Timesheet Update

Thank you for filling out and submitting the Volunteer Timesheets with the rest of your class paperwork. To give you an idea of how many hours have been volunteered so far in FY19 (July 2018-June 2019), and the amount this is worth as in-kind match for access to P-R funds:

5,114 volunteer hours x \$41.50/hr = \$212,231 in-kind match x 3 = **\$636,693 Federal Aid P-R funds**

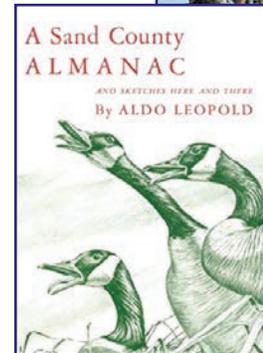
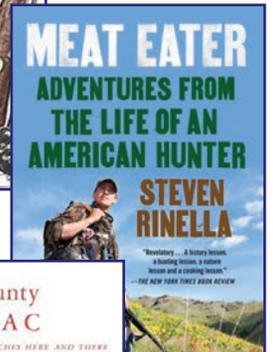
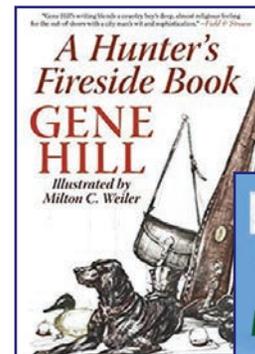
A couple of common errors we've noticed:

- **Instructors need to sign each line in the table where they've entered a date and hours in the table (ie-Taught 1 day=1 signature, Taught 2 days=2 signatures).**
- **Don't forget to total all of your volunteer hours.**
- **If you are a Lead Instructor for a class, please sign the rest of your co-instructor's timesheets on the bottom line provided. Do not sign your own timesheet at the bottom, the HIT Program Coordinator will sign there.**

Summer Reading List

While we all like to be active and take advantage of Alaska's short summer, often a little downtime sitting by a campfire or on the front porch enjoying a good book is needed too. Here is a list of book suggestions for hunters/conservationists. Some of these are in the "Oldies but Goodies" category while others have been written more recently. Many of these authors have written multiple books to increase your reading list too.

1. A Sand County Almanac by Aldo Leopold
2. Meditations on Hunting by Jose Ortega y Gasset
3. The Old Man and the Boy by Robert Ruark
4. Hunting's Best Short Stories by Various Authors
5. Bloodties by Ted Kerasote
6. The Big Game Animals of North America by Jack O'Connor
7. One Man's Wilderness by Richard Proenneke
8. A Man Made of Elk by David Peterson
9. Meat Eater by Steven Rinella
10. If You Didn't Bring Jerky, What Did I Just Eat? by Hill Heavey
11. American Buffalo by Steven Rinella
12. Hunting Trips of a Ranchman & The Wilderness Hunter by Theodore Roosevelt
13. The Mindful Carnivore by Tovar Cerulli
14. In Defense of Hunting by James A. Swan
15. The Wilderness Warrior by Douglass Brinkley
16. American Serengeti by Dan Flores
17. A Hunter's Fireside Book: Tales of Dogs, Ducks, Birds, & Guns by Gene Hill
18. Stories of the Old Duck Hunters by Gordon MacQuarrie
19. Blood on the Leaves by LLC Hunting and Shooting Related Consultants
20. Beyond Fair Chase: The Ethic and Tradition of Hunting by Jim Posewitz



[IHEA Instructor Resource Site
www.ihea.com](http://www.ihea.com)



[Alaska HIT Program Site
www.huntereducation.alaska.gov](http://www.huntereducation.alaska.gov)



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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:

Anchorage: Gerald Andrews, Paul Fussey, David Sanderlin, Kelle Stinson, Katelyn Zonneville

Cordova: Danielle Verna

Fairbanks: Devan Leon

Glennallen: John Fillman

Haines: Elizabeth Segars

Juneau: Kevin Dugan, Marion McQueen III, Sandy O'Brien, Daniel Palicka

Ketchikan: Ross Dorendorf

North Pole: Ryan Adam, Patrick Appling, Tashina Appling, Jonathan Enlow

Nulato: William Nixon

Port Lions: Brandon Bartleson, Kathryn Wolski

Soldotna: Laura Huling, David Miller, Joseph Trefren

Sterling: John Sloss

Wasilla: Tyler Smith

Bowhunter Education:

Anchorage: Jacob Graham, Luke Metherell, John Olson Jr, Jonathan Peterson, John Toomer

Cordova: Danielle Verna

Eagle River: Timothy Thomas, Frederick Transburg

Haines: James Stickler

Nulato: William Nixon

Wasilla: Andrew Hartung, William Kubik III, Ryan Lorimer

Muzzleloader Education:

Anchorage: Clayton Gellerman, Scott Gellerman

JBER: Kurt Woodward

Wasilla: Ryan Lorimer

National Archery in the Schools Program Update



The National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) has moved into another new and exciting year! Currently, there are over 200 schools in Alaska participating in the program. Since the first of the year, 30 new NASP Basic Archery

Instructors (BAI) have been trained to conduct NASP in a total of 13 schools. Five of the 13 schools are brand new to the program! We are excited to see the program grow within our state.

The 2019 Alaska State NASP Bullseye and 3D Virtual Tournaments came to a close on February 20th, with great results. Alaska had 17 schools with a total of 302 students participate in the Bullseye tournament and 10 schools with 184 youth participate in the 3D tournament. We are proud to announce that multiple students qualified through the state tournaments to participate in the 2019 NASP National Tournament which will be held in Salt Lake City in August. We would like to extend a big thanks to all those who helped with the tournament and congratulate the students who participated! Next year we hope to increase participation in the virtual tournament to 1,000 students!

NASP gives every student, regardless of their skill level, or ability, the opportunity to compete in a sporting activity which promotes self-confidence, team work, discipline, and physical fitness. The NASP program also offers scholarships, an Academic Archer program, and more.



If you would like to bring NASP into your local school, contact Katelyn Zonneville at 907-267-2534. More information can be found online at nasp-schools.org or the Alaska Department of Fish and Game website under Education.

HIT Steering Group

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Instructor Notes



“Above & Beyond” Program

HIT Program volunteer instructors work as a team to provide the best certification classes for Alaskan residents. Our instructors are positive influences on many young/new hunters and shooters in our state, and your willingness to pass on your time, experience, and knowledge is commendable. Often individuals go the extra mile and provide services which go above and beyond our expectations.

Each year the HIT Program recognizes a few of these amazing volunteers by selecting them to receive Instructor of the Year Awards. These awards are designed to recognize volunteers who have considerably advanced the cause of safe hunting through extraordinary service in training or education. These volunteers have often been involved with the HIT Program for multiple years, donating countless hours of teaching time and reaching thousands of students with lessons on responsibility, conservation, firearms safety, and safety in the outdoors. With a roster of over 500 volunteer instructors statewide, we hear innumerable stories each month from around the state of an instructor making a difference in their community or connecting to a student through an experience where the volunteer instructor went above and beyond. **The “Above and Beyond” program sponsored by the AKWSF will recognize 1-4 extraordinary volunteer instructors each quarter who are making a difference.**

The “Above and Beyond” program will accept emailed nominations from fellow volunteer instructors, students, HIT Program staff, teachers, law enforcement, etc. The nomination will only need to include a brief explanation of what the volunteer instructor accomplished in that particular instance (1-3 paragraphs). These stories will be highlighted in the HIT Program quarterly newsletter and the instructors will receive a gift card to a local sporting goods store courtesy of AKWSF.

To nominate an instructor, email ginamaria.smith@alaska.gov. The first group of selected instructors will be highlighted in the Summer 2019 newsletter.



HIT Staff

Contact Information

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Fairbanks:

Bob Hunter 459-7375
Tom Halverson 459-7211

Juneau:

Jeff Jemison 586-4101



Four 6th grade students from the Chief Ivan Blunka School in New Stuyahok earned their hunter ed certificates in May.

**Alaska Volunteer Hunter
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