

Hunter Information & Training Program News



Winter 2020

Instructor Notes

Above & Beyond Recipients

We'd like to recognize the following instructors for going "above and beyond" during the past quarter.

Gloria Clow (Palmer)

Gloria doesn't have a strong hunting background, yet she jumped in with both feet to teach two online hunter ed field days right after becoming a hunter ed instructor this past fall. Her fellow instructors gave positive feedback for the work Gloria did. She launched out on her own to offer a hunter ed class at Mat-Su Career & Tech High School. She taught the classroom portion and conducted the field day without outside help. Thanks Gloria for rolling up your sleeves and applying all that you've learned to help your students learn about firearm safety and conservation too.

Steve Lanford & Rick Sterling (Fairbanks)

These two gentleman can always be counted on to step up and teach when additional instructors are needed. They taught the three hunter ed classes offered in November and December in Fairbanks which certified 39 students. Also, for 2019, they were in the top 10 instructors to teach the most classes.



New Hunter Orange Stocking Caps



In 2020 we will start giving out hunter orange stocking caps along with the hunter orange vests to hunter ed students. We hope to encourage more students to wear hunter orange in the field.

Feel free to take a stocking cap for yourself if you haven't already received one. Thanks to instructors Robin Jones and Ben Griese of New Stuyahok for modeling the new stocking caps for us :)

In a recent survey, by GoWild (an outdoor social media and activity tracking platform), it found that older hunters are more successful than young hunters. Hunters older than 65 are about 15% more likely to have a successful season than those younger than 25. The top barrier to hunting for married hunters is work, followed by family commitments, and then budget. Singles identify work as their number one challenge, followed by land access, and then budget constraints. The entire report can be found at www.mygowild.com/2019survey.

HIT Staff

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On a snowy day in December, 17 middle school students in Haines completed their hunter ed certifications

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Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

Numbers don't lie. The stats below for 2019 clearly demonstrate the impact the HIT Program and volunteer instructors had on thousands of hunters and their families last year. I'm looking forward to what 2020 will bring!

Class Type	Number of Classes	Certified Students
Hunter Ed	152	2,059
Bowhunter Ed	45	465
Muzzleloader Ed	18	78
Crossbow Ed	13	61
Totals:	228	2,663

HIT Program certification courses were taught in **34 different cities and villages** during 2019 and we had **487 active volunteer instructors**.

Class Type	# of Instructors Who Taught at Least 1 Class	Taught the Most Classes
Hunter Ed	210	Somerset Jones (Chugiak) taught 15 classes
Bowhunter Ed	74	Mike Robbins (Anchorage) taught 6 classes
Muzzleloader Ed	23	Bill Sobolesky (Anchorage) taught 4 classes
Crossbow Ed	24	Bill Tyra (Anchorage) taught 3 classes
Multiple Disciplines	257	Ed Bosco (Anchorage) taught 18 classes

Your volunteer hours allowed us to access \$624,797.72 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.

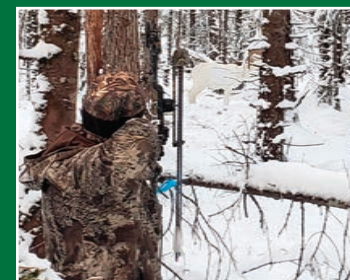
Region	# of Classes	Students in Class
Region I (Southeast)	34	393
Region II (Anc, Kodiak, & Kenai Pen.)	100	1,256
Region III & V (Interior & Northwest)	46	478
Region IV (Central & Southwest)	48	536

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DID YOU KNOW?

The first class of 2020 was an online bow ed field day held on January 4th in Cordova. There was at least a foot of snow on the ground and it was the coldest temps they had experienced yet for winter.





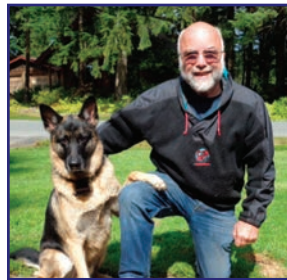
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2019 Instructor of the Year Awards

Volunteer instructors are the backbone of the HIT Program. You are connected to your communities and through your efforts reach more students. As a group, volunteer instructors possess a vast wealth of information which has proven to be invaluable in passing on the knowledge and skills of the outdoors. Through the countless hours of donated teaching time, thousands of students have been taught lessons of responsibility, conservation, firearms safety, and safety in the outdoors.

The HIT Program would like to recognize the following volunteer instructors for making a significant contribution to the HIT Program and considerably advancing the cause of safe/ethical hunting.



Lifetime Achievement Award-Bruce Bowler of Juneau

Bruce has been a hunter ed instructor since 1985 and a muzzleloader ed instructor since 2006. During his time with the HIT Program he has taught 51 classes and certified 846 students. He was awarded his 1,000 hour pin in 2017 and has been the Southeast representative on the HIT Program Steering Group twice. He is the Alaska Director of the Civilian Marksmanship Program and the NRA Education & Training Division Regional Training Counselor Liaison, as well as a Becoming an Outdoors Woman instructor and the University of Alaska SE Head Rifle Coach. Bruce's continued involvement with all things shooting-related helps not only the HIT

Program but the shooting community as a whole.

Lifetime Achievement Award-Howard Delo of Big Lake

Howard has been a hunter ed instructor since 1991 and is also a muzzleloader, bowhunter, and crossbow ed instructor as well. He has taught 49 classes and certified 541 students during his time with the HIT Program. He was the 2006 Muzzleloader Ed Instructor of the Year and has been one of the Southcentral representatives on the HIT Program Steering Group. He has submitted many proposals to the Board of Game and writes articles about the outdoor way of life for the Mat-Su Valley Frontiersman. Howard is always a strong advocate for instilling firearm safety and ethical hunting in his students, and he ensures they enjoy a laugh or two during his classes too.



Hunter Education Instructor of the Year-Tom Hagberg of Anchor Point



Tom has been a hunter ed instructor since 2002 and a muzzleloader ed instructor since 2008. He has been the backbone of the HIT Program in the Homer area organizing the classes, maintaining the firearms, recruiting new instructors, and working with the local schools. He helps run and maintain the Kachemak Gun Club and is an active member of the local Advisory Committee. In 2019 he set-up and taught 6 hunter ed classes and 1 muzzleloader ed class (all of the classes in the area!). Over the years Tom has taught 81 classes and certified 770 students. He has also been instrumental in recruiting new instructors to the program.



500 hours
Len Malmquist-Soldotna
Ernst Mueller-Juneau

In 2019 we certified the following new instructors:

- 48 Hunter Ed. Instructors
- 16 Bowhunter Ed. Instructors
- 7 Muzzleloader Ed. Instructors

IHEA Instructor Resource Site

www.ihea.com

Login: instructor Password: gohunt

Alaska HIT Program Site

www.huntereducation.alaska.gov

Login: huntered Password: heinstructor



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Outstanding Educator of the Year-Ed Bosco of Anchorage

Ed has been an instructor since 1994 and is certified to teach all four certification course disciplines. In 2019 he taught 18 classes and certified 281 students. He also helped at the RCSP Sighting-In Day and cleaned hunter ed firearms during the busy summer months. He was the go-to instructor in 2019 when additional instructors were needed to instruct. He was the 2012 Muzzleloader and 2017 Hunter Ed Instructor of the Year and has been one of the Southcentral representatives on the HIT Program Steering Group. Ed enjoys passing on

our hunting heritage to young people and is always encouraging to new hunters. His love of hunting and firearm safety are evident in every class that he teaches.

Volunteer Instructor Pins in 2019

The HIT Program awards 500 and 1,000 hour pins to instructors who have volunteered that much time for the HIT Program. Five-year pins are also awarded in increments when a volunteer instructor has remained active with the HIT Program for a five-year period. The first five-year pins have a start date based on the year 2002, which is when hunter education became mandatory in part of the state. Thank you to these dedicated volunteer instructors!



Robert Albright-Ketchikan
Thomas Anthony-Soldotna
Alex Bortnick-Anchorage
Daniel Carey-Anchorage
Kyle Ferguson-Sitka
Chad Goeden-Sitka
Christopher Hatch-Gakona

Jacques Kosto-Kenai
James Kvamme-Emmonak
Levi Lewellyn-Fairbanks
Stephen Mastre-Anchor Point
Marc Much-Anchorage
Martha Peck-Anchorage
Ryan Ragan-Eagle River

Paul Ritz-Anchorage
Timothy Shilling-Fairbanks
Matthew Stouffer-Wasilla
Scott Work-Palmer
Michael Yaniec-Eagle River



Brett Baysinger-Healy
Ed Burgan-Anchorage
David Crowley-King Salmon
Lantz Dahlke-North Pole
Merri Darland-Delta Junction
Daniel Downing-Willow

Annette Hannan-Delta Junction
Garrett Haponski-Anchorage
Somerset Jones-Chugiak
Jeffrey Lipscomb-Delta Junction
Ralf Lysdahl-Wasilla
Terry Quiring-Seward

Steven Rasmussen-Wasilla
Tia Shoemaker-Wasilla
Ginamaria Smith-Anchorage
Wayne Valcq-Healy
Riley Woodford-Juneau



Howard Bone-Anchorage
Richard Graham-Wasilla

Bart Morehouse-Anchorage
Neil Moss-Wasilla

Steven Shiell-Valdez

HIT Steering Group

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