



# Hunter Information & Training Program News

Winter 2018

## Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

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### DID YOU KNOW?

The average age of our 504 Alaskan volunteer instructors is 49 years.

Age Group	Number of Instructors
80's	2
70's	29
60's	103
50's	120
40's	110
30's	104
20's	28
teens	8

Good thing age is only a number :)

Impressive! They say a picture is worth a thousand words...however tables with numbers can also tell quite the tale. The 2017 statewide stats are below. Thank you, thank you, thank you for the thousands of hours volunteered, the knowledge you shared with students, and the enthusiasm about our hunter heritage that was passed along. These numbers definitely demonstrate how lucky the HIT Program is to have volunteers like all of you!

Class Type	Number of Classes	Certified Students	Volunteer Instructor Hours
Hunter Ed	149	2,259	4,347.75
Bowhunter Ed	63	631	1,022.25
Muzzleloader Ed	23	120	327.5
Crossbow Ed	5	50	40
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>240</b>	<b>3,060</b>	<b>5,737.50</b>

HIT Program certification courses were taught in **33 different cities and villages** during 2017 and we had **504 active volunteer instructors**.

Class Type	# of Instructors Who Taught at Least 1 Class	Taught the Most Classes
Hunter Ed	225	Paul Houser (Palmer) taught 13 classes
Bowhunter Ed	96	Mike Robbins (Anchorage) taught 11 classes
Muzzleloader Ed	32	Carl Edmiston (Anchorage) taught 4 classes
Multiple Disciplines	284	Jonathan Lanier (Fairbanks) taught 17 classes

**Your volunteer hours allowed us to access \$628,881.45 in Federal-Aid funds!**

Region	# of Classes	Certified Students
Region I (Southeast)	35	431
Region II (Anchorage, Kodiak, & Kenai Peninsula)	104	1,452
Region III (Interior)	46	595
Region IV (Central & Southwest)	52	734
Region V (Northwest)	3	9

## 2017 HIT Instructor of the Year Awards

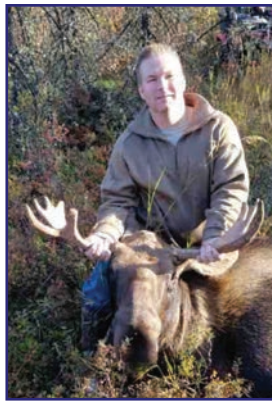
The Steering Group chose the following volunteers from the nominations submitted by co-instructors:



**Ed Bosco of Anchorage**

### **Hunter Education Instructor of the Year-Ed Bosco**

Ed Bosco has been a hunter ed instructor since 2009 and is also a bowhunter ed, muzzleloader ed, and crossbow ed instructor. In 2017 Ed taught 7 hunter ed classes, 8 bowhunter ed classes, and 1 muzzleloader ed class. He leads by example and can always be counted on to help teach a class if an additional instructor is needed. In his career as a volunteer instructor he has helped to certify over 1,800 students. He's also helped with a number of other HIT Programs including Youth Rimfire League, Potter Marsh Day, and he volunteers as a Range Safety Officer at the Rabbit Creek Shooting Park. Recently Ed became a certified Canadian Firearms instructor so he can teach the Canadian Firearms Safety course and the Canadian Restricted Firearms Safety course to help people travel from Alaska through Canada with firearms. Ed donates the proceeds from these classes to the HIT Program to help cover costs for annual instructor meetings.



**Jonathan Lanier of  
Eielson AFB**

### **Outstanding Educator of the Year-Jonathan Lanier**

Jonathan Lanier is a perfect example of why we started this award a couple years ago to recognize an instructor who went above and beyond in multiple certification course disciplines. Jonathan became certified as a hunter ed, bowhunter ed, and crossbow ed instructor in 2017. He then proceeded to teach 8 hunter ed classes, 7 bowhunter ed classes, and assisted with 2 muzzleloader ed classes. He stepped up whenever a class was short on instructors and is recognized by the other Fairbanks instructors as an integral part of their teaching team in just the short time he's been a part of the program. He is very vocal about wanting to be an active instructor and has definitely demonstrated this desire in the past year since becoming a part of the HIT Program. Jonathan can always be counted on to arrive early for class set-up and stay late to make sure everything is cleaned up and the paperwork is complete. He also promoted certification classes through his military connections.



**Bob Marshall of Palmer**

### **Muzzleloader Education Instructor of the Year-Bob Marshall**

Bob Marshall has been a muzzleloader ed instructor since 2011 and is also a hunter ed, bowhunter ed, and crossbow ed instructor. He's helped to certify 750 students and always keeps HIT Program staff informed if equipment needs to be repaired or replaced at the various facilities in the Mat-Su Valley. In 2017 Bob made himself available as an instructor on multiple occasions at the last minute when classes needed additional instructors. Bob is respected by the instructors with whom he teaches alongside and his positive attitude is infectious for both instructors and students. Other instructors have noted that Bob does a great job helping out youth and new shooters during the classes.

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## Volunteer Instructor Pins in 2017

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. 2017 is the first year we've handed out 15-year pins. Thank you to these dedicated volunteer instructors!

### 5-years

Jacob Abbott-Juneau  
Lamont Albertson-Anchorage  
Alex Arduser-Cordova  
Phil Asay-Anchorage  
Anthony Beck-Valdez  
Angelo Brito-Dillingham  
Bronson Brito-Dillingham  
John Calder-Anchorage  
Jake Hamilton-Valdez  
Myra Harris-Galena  
Jeremy Havener-Galena  
Todd Heininger-Sitka  
Brian Hensley-Nome  
Justin Horton-Soldotna  
Paul Houser-Palmer  
Letty Hughes-Nome  
Janet Johnson-Kodiak  
John Mark-Quinhagak  
Robert Nunley-Galena  
Steve Peterson-Soldotna  
John Ringstad-Fairbanks  
Ron Robertson-Wasilla  
Josh Rose-Fairbanks  
Ted Sandhofer-Petersburg  
Lyle Shelnut-Fairbanks  
Jeff Shoemaker-Ketchikan  
Bill Sobolesky-Anchorage  
Steve Steffensen-Kodiak  
Caprice Stoner-Anchorage  
Mark West-Anchorage

### 10-years

Pete Buist-Fairbanks  
Dennis Degnan-Fairbanks  
Stephan Dewan-Anchorage  
David Edwards-Eielson AFB  
Rhame Grubbs-Fairbanks  
Darrell Hildebrand-Fairbanks  
Ruth Jacobs-Palmer  
Dan Jeffery-Palmer  
Brad Jorgensen-Eagle River  
Jack Lorrigan-Palmer  
Chad Parsons-Clear  
Scott Quist-King Salmon  
Tom Reale-Anchorage  
Mike Robbins-Anchorage  
Bill Sant-Anchorage

### 15-years

Steve Adams-Fairbanks  
Brent Akers-Petersburg  
Keith Appel-Anchorage  
Neil Barten-Dillingham  
Jerry Bendzak-Cordova  
Scott Bennett-North Pole  
Ed Bosco-Anchorage  
Bruce Bowler-Juneau  
Judith Bowler-Juneau  
Larry Boyle-Anchorage  
Art Braendel-Eagle River  
Con Bunde-Anchorage  
Tom Cobaugh-Anchorage  
John Crye-Kodiak  
Howard Delo-Big Lake  
Richard Dennis-Gakona

Clair Eversmeyer-Juneau  
Jack Frost-Anchorage  
Tony Gorn-Nome  
Richard Groff-Cordova  
Vikki Gross-Wasilla  
Tom Hagberg-Anchor Pt  
Ellen Hannan-Craig  
David Hoffman-Delta Jct  
Jeff Horne-Anchorage  
Tom Humphrey-Fairbanks  
Chris Johnson-Soldotna  
Thomas Johnson-Wasilla  
Ward Jones-Dillingham  
Tom Kron-Anchorage  
Tom Krueger-Soldotna  
Georg Kulhanek-Palmer  
Steve Lanford-Fairbanks  
Steve Latz-Kenai  
Larry Lewis-Kasilof  
Jim Low-Fairbanks  
Doug McCloskey-Wrangell  
Fred Moore-Seward  
Andy Pancho-Fairbanks  
Randy Pitney-Fairbanks  
Boyd Porter-Ketchikan  
Stuart Robards-Juneau  
Tom Siekaniec-Eagle River  
John Stevens-Thorne Bay  
Todd Vanliere-Homer  
Fred Voss-Anchorage  
Barry Whitehill-Fairbanks  
John Wyman-Fairbanks

### 500 hours

Dennis Degnan-Fairbanks  
Greg Jacobs-Palmer  
Somerset Jones-Chugiak  
Mike Robbins-Anchorage  
Lyle Shelnut-Fairbanks

### 1,000 hours

Bruce Bowler-Juneau  
Carl Edmiston-Anchorage



In 2017 we certified the following new volunteer instructors:

- 71 Hunter Ed. Instructors
- 21 Bowhunter Ed. Instructors
- 13 Muzzleloader Ed. Instructors
- 50 Crossbow Ed. Instructors

### HIT Steering Group

Lyle Shelnut (Interior) [lylenutscars@yahoo.com](mailto:lylenutscars@yahoo.com)  
Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) [bdaf@ptialaska.net](mailto:bdaf@ptialaska.net)  
Stacey Bradley (Southcentral) [staceybradleyak@yahoo.com](mailto:staceybradleyak@yahoo.com)  
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James Plosay (Southeast) [jrplosay@gci.net](mailto:jrplosay@gci.net)



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## Instructor Notes

### Stephen Sowell

**Division of Wildlife Conservation R3 Coordinator  
& HIT Program Southeast Regional Coordinator**



The HIT Program and the Division of Wildlife Conservation would like to welcome Stephen Sowell as the new Recruitment, Retention, and Reactivation (R3) Coordinator. As many of you are aware, fish and game agencies across the country have been organizing efforts to improve and enhance fishing, hunting, and shooting sports enthusiast numbers and evaluate the related programs that support these efforts. While the division already has hunter education, wildlife education, and related outreach efforts on the ground, Stephen's new position will be ADF&G's first concerted effort to work on R3.

Stephen will also be filling the role of Southeast HIT Program Coordinator. The HIT Program has been very lucky to have Jeff Jemison act as the Southeast Coordinator the past few years, but with an increase in range users and programs, he'll be focusing more on his position as the Juneau Indoor Range Manager. Jeff will still help out the HIT Program throughout the year, but the administrative duties and interactions with volunteers and students will move mainly to Stephen.

Stephen currently lives in Juneau and will be based in the Douglas regional office working in this brand new statewide position. Stephen grew up in western Washington spending lots of time outdoors with family hiking, fishing, and hunting. He has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration and Marketing and worked for five years as a Store Manager for Safeway in Juneau. He later spent a season operating a lodge in Hoonah that conducted whale watching and eco-tours and most recently worked for the Alaska Department of Labor as the Statewide Foreign Labor Coordinator. His favorite activities include fly fishing for salmon and steelhead, beach combing, and hunting for Sitka black-tailed deer.

To contact Stephen regarding certification courses or other HIT-related programs:

(907) 465-4345

Stephen.sowell@alaska.gov

Please join us in congratulating Stephen on becoming part of the HIT Program team.



**To learn more about Recruitment, Retention, & Reactivation of hunters and shooting sports enthusiasts visit: <http://www.cahss.org/what-is-r3/>**

### HIT Staff

#### Contact Information

##### Anchorage

Gina Smith 267-2196

Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373

Tracy Smith 267-2534

Marc Much 267-2241

Cindy Palmatier 267-2187

Fax: 267-2323

##### Fairbanks

Bob Hunter 459-7375

Tom Halverson 459-7211

Fax: 459-7332

##### Juneau

Stephen Sowell 465-4345

Jeff Jemison 586-4101

Fax: 586-4107



Bruce & Judith Bowler receiving their 15-year pins from their grandson at the annual Juneau instructor meeting.

**Alaska Volunteer Hunter  
Education Instructor  
Association (AVHEIA)**

Jim Low 378-5897

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