



# Hunter Information & Training Program News

Winter 2019

## Coordinator's Corner-Ginamaria Smith

### Inside This Issue

- Coordinator's Corner 1
- Longevity Awards ..... 2
- 2018 Instructor of the Year Recipients ..... 3-4

### DID YOU KNOW?

Kirk Lingofelt was awarded the 2018 Director's Achievement Award for Wildlife Outreach. Kirk has been with the HIT Program since 1999, and his enthusiasm for teaching the public about hunting, outdoor recreation, wildlife management, and firearm safety has helped to advance ADF&G's mission statewide.



Left to Right: Asst. Director Tony Kavalok, Kirk Lingofelt, Director Eddie Grasser

For those of you who enjoy numbers and success stories, then the Winter newsletter is for you. This edition contains the 2018 stats, instructor longevity recognition, and Instructor of the Year recipients.

HIT Program certification courses were taught in **44 different cities and villages** during 2018 and we had **503 active volunteer instructors**.

Class Type	Number of Classes	Certified Students
Hunter Ed	170	2,355
Bowhunter Ed	53	531
Muzzleloader Ed	21	116
Crossbow Ed	19	112
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>263</b>	<b>3,114</b>

Your volunteer hours allowed us to access \$594,322.01 in Federal-Aid funds!

Class Type	# of Instructors Who Taught at Least 1 Class	Taught the Most Classes
Hunter Ed	233	Rick Sterling (Fairbanks) taught 16 classes
Bowhunter Ed	86	Lyle Shelnut (Fairbanks) taught 9 classes
Muzzleloader Ed	30	Carl Edmiston (Anchorage) taught 5 classes
Crossbow Ed	41	Ryan Adam (North Pole) taught 4 classes
Multiple Disciplines	294	Jonathan Lanier (Eielson EFB) taught 17 classes

In 2018, for the first time ever according to our electronic records, classes were taught in Ekwok, Koliganek, Mekoryuk, Nunapitchuk, and Old Harbor.

Region	# of Classes	Students in Class
Region I (Southeast)	34	503
Region II (Anc, Kodiak, & Kenai Pen.)	120	1,525
Region III (Interior)	54	595
Region IV (Central & Southwest)	50	678
Region V (Northwest)	5	31



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Winter 2019

## Volunteer Instructor Pins in 2018

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!



Timothy Abbott-Fairbanks  
Shane Arnold-North Pole  
Jesse Bjorkman-Nikiski  
Alexandra Brown-Anchorage  
Melba Cooke-Anchorage  
Mike Dehlbom-Soldotna  
Ken Felchle-Soldotna  
Branden Forst-Juneau  
Robert Gingue-Tok  
Justin Gumlickpuk-New Stuyahok

Johnathan Halfacre-Palmer  
Damon Hampel-Wasilla  
Dylan Hooper-Kenai  
Kateri House-Palmer  
Keith Kalke-Homer  
Ray Leggett-Skagway  
Cody Litster-Petersburg  
David Lorrington-Soldotna  
Thomas Narow-Fairbanks  
Jason Okuly-Homer

William Parker-Soldotna  
Thomas Pattie-Anchorage  
David Sanderlin-Anchorage  
Greg Shepard-Palmer  
Darren Snyder-Douglas  
Vicki Taylor-Fairbanks  
Mimi Thomas-Fairbanks  
Guy Wade-Girdwood



Andy Aderman-Dillingham  
Emily Binnian-Anchorage  
G. Steven Bobbitt-Dillingham  
Stephen Bolan-Anchorage  
Orin Carpenter-Anchorage  
Michael Cresswell-Cordova  
Saleem El-Arami-North Pole

Timothy Hall-Sitka  
Brian Horner-Anchorage  
Cody Jacobson-Palmer  
Joel Jenson-Deering  
Jesse Kiehl-Juneau  
Dean Kitson-Sterling  
Neal Lacy-Wasilla

Len Malmquist-Soldotna  
Kelly Modla-Soldotna  
Bryan Reed-Dillingham  
Heidi Wilder-Port Alsworth  
Wayne Woodgate-Valdez



Thomas Blackley-Eagle River  
Robert Britch-Anchorage  
Matthew Dobson-Juneau  
Dan Dunaway-Dillingham  
Carl Edmiston-Anchorage  
Mike Goodwin-Anchorage  
Steve Ito-Dillingham  
Gregory Jacobs-Palmer  
Peter Jiacalone-Anchorage  
Patrick Johnson-Homer

Tony Kavalok-Palmer  
Douglas Larsen-Juneau  
John Leque-Juneau  
Richard Lowell-Petersburg  
Brian Marvin-Nome  
David Mclane-Chugiak  
Brock Meredith-Juneau  
George Pearson-North Pole  
Phillip Perry-Bethel  
James Plosay-Juneau

Rebecca Schwanke-Glennallen  
Philip Shoemaker-Wasilla  
Arlen Skaflestad-Yakutat  
Richard Sterling-Fairbanks  
Jerry Strieby-Soldotna  
Glenn Taylor-Soldotna  
Chris Tomsen-Eagle River  
W. Andy Trotter-Delta Junction  
Thomas Walton-Anchorage

[IHEA Instructor Resource Site](http://www.iheda.org)  
[www.iheda.org](http://www.iheda.org)



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



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Winter 2019



**500 hours**

Paul Houser-Palmer  
Dean Kitson-Sterling  
Robert Taylor-Fairbanks

In 2018 we certified the following new instructors:

- 39 Hunter Ed. Instructors
- 33 Bowhunter Ed. Instructors
- 8 Muzzleloader Ed. Instructors
- 15 Crossbow Ed. Instructors

## 2018 HIT Program Instructor of the Year Awards

Volunteer instructors are the backbone of the HIT Program. They are connected to their communities and through their efforts reach more students. Volunteer instructors as a group 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.

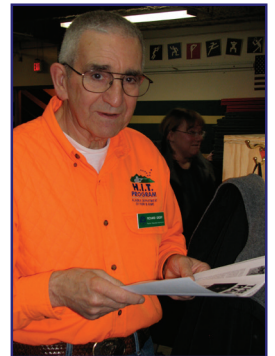
### **Lifetime Achievement-Richard Sterling of Fairbanks**



Rick has been a hunter ed instructor since 2003 and a muzzleloader ed instructor since 2011. During his time with the HIT Program, he has taught 125 classes and certified 1,832 students. In 2018, he instructed all 16 hunter ed classes offered in Fairbanks. Rick has sat on the HIT Program Steering Group, played an active role in the Youth Hunter Education Challenge (YHEC), and on the Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee (AIM-COMM). Rick can always be counted on to fill a vacant instructor slot and is recognized as a “go-to” instructor in the Fairbanks area. He has significantly assisted the HIT Program by mentoring new instructors so they’re able to step up as lead instructors themselves, and he creates a strong social bond amongst instructors which encourages continuing participation and commitment to the program.

### **Lifetime Achievement-Richard Groff of Cordova**

Dick has been a hunter ed instructor since 1998. He has instructed every instructor-led course offered in Cordova since 2003 (this is when our course database starts) and has certified at least 238 students. The Cordova community courses are completed over a matter of weeks and the instructors go more in-depth on each topic. On average, the instructors spend 20+ hours instructing each course. He has also been actively involved as a volunteer for the Cordova Trap and Gun Club. Dick was recently honored by the City of Cordova for his years of community service, and at age 83 is believed to be the oldest active firefighter in the state. He is the embodiment of the HIT Program mission and his efforts as an instructor and mentor have helped provide Alaskans with the skills and knowledge needed to be safe, responsible hunters.



### **HIT Steering Group**

Lyle Shelnut (Interior) [lilenutscars@yahoo.com](mailto:lilenutscars@yahoo.com)

Andy Finke (Rural Alaska) [bdaf@ptialaska.net](mailto:bdaf@ptialaska.net)

Stacey Bradley (Southcentral) [staceybradleyak@yahoo.com](mailto:staceybradleyak@yahoo.com)

Howard Delo (Southcentral) [hodelo@mtaonline.net](mailto:hodelo@mtaonline.net)

James Plosay (Southeast) [jrplosay@gci.net](mailto:jrplosay@gci.net)



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## Instructor Notes

### Hunter Education Instructor of the Year-Richard Graham of Wasilla



Rich has been a hunter ed instructor since 2004 and a bowhunter ed instructor since 2006. He taught 10 classes in 2018, and over the years has taught 84 classes and certified 1,579 students. Rich can always be counted on to step in when an extra instructor is needed for classes and he helps out with other HIT Program activities throughout the year. Rich acts as a great ambassador for the program at the Mat-Su Outdoorsman Show,

the Anchorage Great Alaska Sportsman's Show, Potter Marsh Discovery Day, and Outdoor Youth Days. During the 2018 IHEA-USA Conference he led conference attendees on the hunter ed field course so they could experience what our hunter ed students learn.

### Outstanding Educator of the Year-Robert Taylor of Fairbanks

Rob has been a hunter ed and bowhunter ed instructor since 2010, a muzzleloader ed instructor since 2011, and a crossbow ed instructor since 2017. Since becoming an instructor, Rob has taught 74 classes certifying 1,107 students. In 2018 Rob taught 13 classes, including helping to instruct a women's-only hunter ed class in Fairbanks for the first time. Rob was also the 2011 muzzleloader ed instructor of the year. Rob's easygoing teaching style makes him a favorite with students.



### Bowhunter Education Instructor of the Year-Ryan Adam of North Pole



Ryan is new to our instructor ranks as he became certified to instruct hunter ed, bowhunter ed, and crossbow ed in 2018. He jumped in with both feet and taught 5 bowhunter ed and 4 crossbow ed classes in his first year. His enthusiasm for the subject shows, and both instructors and students alike enjoy being in a classroom with him. He

wasn't afraid to step right in and teach alongside longtime instructors, and "isn't scared of paperwork."

### HIT Staff

#### Contact Information

#### Anchorage:

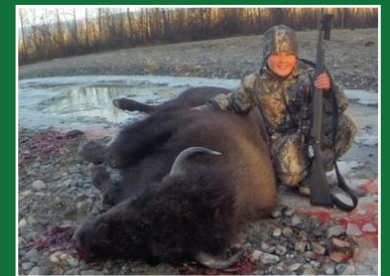
Gina Smith 267-2196  
Kirk Lingofelt 267-2373  
Katelyn Zonneville  
267-2534  
Marc Much 267-2241  
Cindy Palmatier 267-2187

#### Fairbanks:

Bob Hunter 459-7375  
Tom Halverson 459-7211

#### Juneau:

Stephen Sowell 465-4345  
Jeff Jemison 586-4101



Noah Blackwell of Anchorage (hunter ed graduate and youth shotgun league participant) successfully harvested a Delta bison in October 2018.

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