



# The National Cooperative Observer

The National Cooperative Observer is an online newsletter.

<https://www.weather.gov/coop/coopnewsletter>

Fall-Winter 2022

## Inside

Technological Advances in Weather Observation 1-2

John Campanius Holm Awards 3-4

Dick Hagemeyer Awards 4

Honored Institution Awards 5-8

Family Heritage Awards 9-10

Special Service Awards 10

Length of Service Awards

- 50 Year: 11
- 40 Year: 11
- 35 Year: 12-13
- 30 Year: 13
- 25 Year: 14
- 20 Year: 14-15
- 15 Year: 16-18
- 10 Year: 19-20

March, April, and May Temperature and Precipitation Outlook 21

## Nieman Family Celebrates 75 Year Family Heritage Award and Over 90 Years of Service



Hubert Nieman (Observer from June 1931 – Oct 1971)



Bob Nieman (Observer from Oct 1971 to June 2002)



Jerry Nieman (Observer from June 2002 - Current)

Lockwood Missouri Observer Jerry Nieman (far right) has been our NWS Cooperative Weather Observer for the past 20 years. Jerry stated the following about his Grandpa and Father, "My grandfather Hubert Nieman took over the stations records in June 1931 From Calvin Crow, who took the first observations in 1903 when the station was first established. It was then passed to my dad Robert (Bob) Nieman in October of 1971 after the passing of my grandfather. I took over the station after dad passed away in June 2002."

Thank you to the Nieman Family for over 90 years of volunteer service to the National Weather Service.

## Albert J. Myer and the U.S. Army Signal Corps

Today, NOAA manages a network of thousands of weather observations made hourly and daily by government agencies, volunteer observers, ships, planes, automatic weather stations, and Earth-orbiting satellites. These observations provide the information to develop the weather forecasts and warnings we count on everyday.

The roots of this weather observation network goes back to the 1800s and the innovative mind of Brigadier General Albert J. Myer. As the first Chief Signal Officer of the weather arm of the U.S. Army Signal Corps, General Myer laid the foundation that would carry the National Weather Service from its Army roots to a federal agency in the mid-1970s, poised for a rapid scientific and technological transformation.

Understanding the value of weather forecasts to a growing America, on February 9, 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant established a national weather forecasting capability. This required the Secretary of War "to provide for taking meteorological

## Albert J. Myer and the U.S. Army Signal Corps

observations at the military stations in the interior of the continent and at other points in the States and Territories...and for giving notice on the northern (Great) Lakes and on the seacoast by magnetic telegraph and marine signals, of the approach and force of storms."

Based on this guidance, on November 1, 1870, Brigadier General Albert J. Myer established a weather-warning network under the U.S. Army Signal Corps, called the Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce.

Three times daily, Army Signal Corps field stations telegraphed basic weather observations to headquarters in Washington, D.C. Once the Signal Corps made forecasts and rudimentary storm warnings, the information was distributed to observers, railroad stations, and available news media. They worked under the assumption that weather occurring at one location would move to the next area "downstream."

No other organization possessed the capability to observe and report weather systems like the Signal Corps. Members of the Signal Corps could view and report storms from different perspectives at the same time. Using the telegraph system, accurate warnings traveled faster than the storms themselves, allowing people to get out of harm's way.

Storm warnings were delivered by Myer's patented "wig-wag" flag system. Upon receiving word by telegraph that a storm was heading their way, a flag was raised to warn the public about impending severe weather. Today, Myer's red flag with a black square in the center continues to warn coastal communities of impending tropical storms and hurricanes.

What began as a regional weather-warning network to prevent the loss of life and property in the Great Lakes region rapidly grew into a national weather service. Local and national newspapers published weather bulletins, which were displayed at post offices, train stations, telegraph offices, boards of trade, and chambers of commerce. As many as twenty offices under Myer's supervision published detailed maps and charts. By 1873, 89 weather stations ringed North America.



*General Myer's division of stations for weather purposes. Rather than dividing the U.S. into ten administrative departments, as the Army did, General Myer grouped stations by common climate and geography.*

Volunteer observers soon joined lighthouse keepers and life-saving personnel in rescuing crews of stranded ships along the East coast of the United States. Connected by newly constructed Army telegraph lines, the East coast became the world's best-protected shipping lane.

Because the workload was too much for one person, Professor Cleveland Abbe was hired in January, 1871. His expertise would contribute a great deal to further the science of meteorology.

## John Campanius Holm Awards



*Photo caption (from L to R): Reinhard and Beverly Grenz, former COOP observers of Chulitna, AK., WFO Anchorage HMT Michael Kutz, Joan Medbery, COOP Observer at Amber Lake, AK, and Ray Medbery. Back row: Alaska Region Director Dr. Scott Lindsey, WFO Anchorage MIC Noelle Runyan*

Beverly and Reinhard Grenz, formerly of Chulitna, and Joan Medbery of Amber Lake are recipients of the 2020 and 2021 Holm Awards, respectively. Beverly and Reinhard began taking observations in September 1995 at the Denali Outpost Bed and Breakfast in Chulitna, AK. Having recently retired from their operations earlier this year in April, they have contributed over 26 years of observations. In addition to providing daily COOP data, Beverly and Reinhard participated in the Aviation Paid (APAID) Observing Program. Their dedication and commitment to providing regular observations day in and day out was especially critical, as their location in Chulitna lies along the flight path through Broad Pass into Denali National Park and Interior Alaska. As the internet became more widely available,

Reinhard and Beverly were the first Cooperative Weather Station in the Susitna Valley to transition to online entries through WxCoder.

Joan Medbery of Amber Lake, AK has been reporting daily observations since May 1997, and continues to volunteer reports to this day. Her COOP station also includes soil temperature data; one of only a few stations in Alaska with this information. Joan is an active member of her community and serves as a school bus dispatcher. She regularly provides road condition updates to the Susitna Borough Department of Public Works, which is a critical service for rural Susitna Valley. On September 22, 2005, Joan also began providing river observations at two Susitna River Valley tributaries (Kroto Creek and Moose Creek) near her Amber Lake homestead for the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC).



*Lindon Steadman, NWS Dodge City MIC (left), Don Button, husband and backup observer, Vivian Button, observer (right)*

Don & Vivian Button, Cooperative Weather Observers of Ulysses KS, were presented with the 2021 John Campanius Holm Award on Wednesday, January 11th, 2023 by Lindon Steadman, Meteorologist-in-Charge for the National Weather Service in Dodge City.

The award is named in honor of John Campanius Holm, a Lutheran Minister who was the first person known to have taken systematic observations in the American Colonies (1644-1645). Each year, up to 25 cooperative observers are honored with this award for outstanding public service in the provision of daily observations in support of the climate and weather programs of the National Weather Service. The citation on the award reads "For exemplary reporting of meteorological observations from Ulysses, Kansas."

Don and Vivian's highly accurate and detailed temperature and precipitation records are a valuable resource to the Nation's climate and weather programs. Their extraordinary public service for 20 years will make a lasting contribution to the communities who work to advance agriculture, transportation, and commerce." The Buttons have recorded temperature, precipitation and snowfall data since 2001, with Vivian as the primary observer and Don as the backup. Also in attendance for this presentation were Jeremy Garrison, Jesse Lee, Observing Program Leader and Mike Umscheid, Meteorologist.

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## John Campanius Holm Awards



Michael Biroscak, along with his trusty companion Lassie, was recognized for 20 years of service as a COOP observer and was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award in October 2022 by the NWS New York, NY OPL Tim Morrin. Mr. Biroscak started taking observations in Bridgeport, CT and within the last few years moved to Guilford, CT, where he currently takes temperature and precipitation observations. Ever with an eye to the sky (and an ear to the radio), Mr. Biroscak will often call the office when he hears static on his radio, a sure bet that there are thunderstorms nearby.

Tom Klanecky of Ord, Nebraska received the 2020 John Campanius Holm award for his dedication to quality observations and timely submission of reports. Congratulations, Tom!

Photo taken by Observing Program Leader Mike Reed, WFO Hastings, NE.



*Phil Poyner, Meteorologist In Charge, WFO Hastings, NE (left), and Tom Klanecky, Observer (right)*

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## 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Awards



Dennis Kahlbaum of Ann Arbor, MI was honored with the 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award for weather observations at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, which is part of the prestigious Historical Climate Network (HCN). The station began back in 1880 and Dennis took over observations in November 1974. Since then, Dennis has even started his own weather observations at his home and will be celebrating 20 years in 2023. Dennis takes great pride in providing excellent observations each day and has been a great asset to the NWS Detroit/Pontiac office. He even received the prestigious Holm Award back in 1995.

Photo taken by Sara Schultz, OPL.

## 75 Year Honored Institution Awards



*Plant operator and weather observer Dan Berg accepted the award on behalf of the station. Plant Operators at the Jamestown NY Water Treatment Plant*

The Cedar Falls Hydro Plant in western Wisconsin was presented with an Honored Institution Award for 75 years of service. Plant operator and weather observer Dan Berg accepted the award on behalf of the station.

The staff at the plant have provided daily precipitation and snow observations for the National Weather Service since August 1, 1945.

Lionel Richardson, the Station Manager of Santee Cooper's [Jefferies Generation Station](#) near Pinopolis, South Carolina, was presented with an Honored Institution Award commemorating 75 years of uninterrupted service. Additionally, our COOP Observer there, Ryan Millwood, helped us transition the station to Solar NIMBUS earlier this year. Santee Cooper Spillway near Moncks Corner began operation as a NWS COOP Site in February 1946. Pictured in the background are the spillway turbines.



*Brian Haines, NWS MIC (left), Lionel Richardson, Site Manager (middle) Dwight Koehn, NWS OPL (right)*

## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



*Mark Frazier, NWS IWX MIC (left), Greg Surowiec, observer (center), Mike McCalmont, Maintenance Supervisor (right)*

In October 2022, LaPorte Water Works in northwest Indiana was presented with an Honored Institution Award for 50 years as a Cooperative Weather observing location.

LaPorte has been an official observing site since 1894, but newspaper articles state that LaPorte weather observations actually began in March 1849, making it the city with the oldest weather records in the state. The station at the Water Works plant was commissioned in 1970, although it had also previously been the location in the 1870s and 1880s. They currently report daily temperature, precipitation, and snowfall, as well as monthly 15-minute precipitation data from an automated Fisher-Porter rain gauge. Greg Surowiec has been in charge of observations since 2021.

## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



*Jeff Waterman (left) and Lenny Gray (right),  
Water Treatment Plant Operators at the  
Jamestown NY Water Treatment Plant*

Water Treatment Plant Operators Jeff Waterman and Lenny Gray accepted the 50 Year Honored Institution Award for the Jamestown Water Treatment Plant.

Presenting the award was NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly.



*Mike Canterbury (left) and Christy Duran (right)*

Mike Canterbury and Christy Duran, observers at the Pine River Irrigation District at Vallecito Reservoir in southwest Colorado, receive the Honored Institution Award for 50 years of weather observing. Observations began at Vallecito on August 1st, 1940, and the Irrigation District took over on January 1st, 1971.



Lenoir City Utilities was recently presented the 50 year Honored Institution Award. Accepting on behalf of his staff is Tim McKelvey, Water/Wastewater Plant Supervisor.

Award presented and photo taken by Derek Eisentrout, OPL at Morristown, TN.



*Russell Bales, Wastewater Director (left), Doug Schroeder, Water Director (center), Mark Frazier, NWS IWX MIC (right)*

In October 2022, the Ottawa Wastewater Plant, in Ottawa, Ohio, was presented with the Honored Institution Award for providing 50 years of Cooperative Observer weather observations.

The station reports daily precipitation and snowfall. They also report the river stage on the Blanchard River as a back-up site for the automated USGS stream gauge. Over the past 50 years, the station has been managed by the Cleveland WSFO, the Fort Wayne, IN WSO, the OHRFC and WSFO in Wilmington, Ohio, and finally WFO Northern Indiana beginning in 1998. The station has only had around a dozen full time weather observers since its inception. Doug Schroeder was in charge of observations from 2008 through 2017, then Russell Bales took over as Wastewater Director and has since been the main point of contact.

## 25 Year Honored Institution Awards



The city of Monteagle, TN was recently presented the 25 year Honored Institution Award. The station is located at the city's water plant, where the operators all participate in keeping daily weather records. Wayland Stewart, chief operator, accepted on behalf of the staff.



*Dr. Cody Edwards (Park Superintendent), Huang Le Andrews (Customer Service Rep), Regina Ard (Administrative Assistant), Joel Dunn (OPL), Kelli Barendse (Forecaster), and Stephen Harrison (SOO).*

The staff at South Llano River State Park has been taking weather observations for the Junction, TX area since November 1996. On October 5th, Dr. Cody Edwards and his staff were presented with a 25-year Honored Institution Award.



Congratulations to the Nevada Missouri Water Treatment Plant for their 25 plus years of volunteer service to the NWS. Before the Water Treatment plant took over COOP duties, the Nevada Waste Water Treatment Plant provided the daily weather observations. Thank you Joe Tipper, Max Frakes, and the rest of the crew for your dedication to the NWS Cooperative Observer program.

The Fayetteville COOP site moved several times since its original installation on November 1, 1925. Observations began at the Fayetteville Water Plant in 1995. As of October 2022, the observers there have precisely taken 10,035 observations for the NWS! Throughout their 25-year tenure with providing observations, the observers at the Fayetteville Water Plant have observed a variety of weather conditions. The warmest day observed was 107F degrees in June 2012, and the coldest morning temperature recorded was 1F degree in January of 2014. The highest snowfall amount recorded on a single day was 8" observed in January, 2011 (and the observers have recorded over 33.5" of snowfall in the 25 years that the site has been at its current location)! Rainfall has been plentiful at the site, with the highest daily rainfall total of 4.56" recorded in September, 2021 (thanks to a landfalling tropical system). Over 25 years, the site has observed over 1,647" of rain, which roughly translates to 137 feet of rain measured!



While it is definitely a team effort to manage daily observations, David Posey has been an integral part of this process! We're grateful for David's leadership, and for his team's willingness to integrate the observations process into their daily workload. We get some of our most complete climate records from our Water Treatment Plants, and Fayetteville Water Plant is an excellent example! From the NWS Director Ken Graham, NWS Southern Region Director Mike Coyne, NWS Huntsville Meteorologist-in-Charge Todd Barron, and local Observations Program Leader at NWS Huntsville Chelly Amin, we congratulate the Fayetteville Water Plant on 25 years of excellent weather observations and look forward to 25 more!

## 25 Year Honored Institution Awards



Observations began at the Sunset Water Treatment Plant on May 1, 1995. Since that day, James Conn and the other employees at the plant have observed more than 10,000 days of weather! This includes over 1,500" of rainfall, which roughly translated to about 126 feet of rainfall! The wettest year since 1995 occurred in 2013, when 78.67" fell. The driest year was 2007, when only 33.06" fell. The highest amount of rainfall that fell on any given day at the site occurred in December, 2015, when 9.8" fell, as a large portion of Northern Alabama was affected by flash flooding from heavy rainfall.

Regarding snowfall, the snowiest year was February 2014, when 9.5" fell (9.3" of that fell in February of that year). The next year was a snowy one as well, and is responsible for the snowiest day on record at the site: 9" of snow fell on February 26, 2015. The employees at Sunset Water Plant have seen wild swings in temperatures over the past 25 years. The hottest-recorded temperature on site was 108F degrees, observed in June of 2000. A few years earlier, the site observed its coldest morning low temperature of 2F in February of 1996.

The cooperative weather observation site in Scottsboro began in April of 1891 and now resides at WWIC Radio Station, just West of downtown Scottsboro. Greg Bell began his observations at the site in October of 1990 and has been taking precise measurements for the NWS for the past 30 years! Below are some highlights of the weather that Greg has observed during that time.



The hottest temperature recorded since 1990 was 106F degrees, observed during the drought in August of 2007. Conversely, the coldest temperature recorded since then occurred twice; 1F degree was observed in January of 1994 and in February of 1996. The highest daily rainfall amount observed was 6.8", which occurred on December 23, 1990. The highest daily snowfall amount occurred during the Superstorm of 1993, when 12" was observed on March 13. In total, Greg has observed more than 1,975" of rain, which roughly translates to just over 164 feet of rain! Snowfall, in total, tallies a whopping 42.7", which is just about 3.5 feet since October of 1990. The wettest year was in 2020, when 87.10" fell - nearly double the normal rainfall for many locations in Northern Alabama. During the same drought year of 2007, when the hottest temperature was recorded, many locations saw their driest year on record. This is what happened in Scottsboro, when only 34.41" of rain was observed - just over half of the normal rainfall for any given year in the area. The snowiest month Greg observed was March 1993, when the 12" of snow fell in March of 1993. As of his 30-year anniversary in 2020, Greg was responsible for just shy of 11,000 observations!



Park Ranger Jeremy Carroll receives the 25 year Honored Institution Award on behalf of the staff at the park. Lookout Mountain is a unique site in Southern Appalachia in that it sits nearly 1,500 feet above the city of Chattanooga, TN, and provides insight into a different climate regime.

Presenting the award and taking the photo was Derek Eisentrout, OPL at Morristown, TN.



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## 75 Year Family Heritage Awards



Shirley Scoles, a COOP Observer in Mapleton, Iowa, received a 75 year Family Heritage Award in grateful recognition of her family's dedicated temperature and rainfall observations in cooperation with the National Weather Service. Presenting the award was Suzanne Fortin, MIC for the NWS Valley/Omaha office and Joni Brand, OPL for NWS Valley/Omaha.

The station dates back to over 85 years, established on November 22, 1937, where E. H. Wasmund collected weather data as an official National Weather Service observer until he passed away in 1942 unexpectedly.

From 1942 until Feb 7, 1945, several family members helped with data collection.

On Feb 7, 1945, Mae Scheer (and husband) took over the role as the National Weather Service observer until February 15, 1994. (Nearly 50 years!).

On February 15, 1994, Mae's son, Wayne Scheer became the official NWS observer, and served in this role until Jan 10, 2001.

January 10, 2001-September 14, 2011, Daryl Scheer (Wayne's brother) and wife, Connie Scheer were observers until Daryl passed away, afterwards Connie took over solely as the weather observer (exact date unknown).

On September 14, 2011, Shirley Scoles took over as the National Weather Service observer (E. H. Wasmund is her grandfather, Connie Scheer is her sister in law) and remains the current National Weather Service observer to date in Mapleton, Iowa.

You can truly say the weather is a family affair in Mapleton, Iowa!

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## 50 Year Family Heritage Awards



The Theobald-Schlaphoff family of rural Sherburn, Minnesota was presented with the Family Heritage Award for over 50 years of service. Francis Theobald took the first COOP observation at the family farm on August 1, 1966, with nearly 20,500 observations to date. Paul Schlaphoff took over measurements from his father-in-law in 1994, with assistance from his wife Irene Schlaphoff, who is Francis's daughter. When Paul passed away in 2019 after serving for 25 years, Irene took over as main observer, assisted by her brother Jim Theobald.

Some of the daily record weather events measured by the family include 12 inches of snow, 4.80 inches of rain, a high temperature of 103 degrees, and a low temperature of 30 below zero. The fact that this cooperative weather observing site has remained in the same location for 56 years, with little change in the surrounding landscape, makes this station a priceless resource for climate information. A heartfelt thank you to the Theobald-Schlaphoff Family!



The Wilson-Francisco family has been taking daily weather observations from southwest Colorado since 1971. Arthur and Esther Wilson took over weather observations for the area on the family's homestead west of Yellow Jacket, Colorado, April 1st of the same year. Arthur and Esther took observations until December of 2002, logging over 31 years of service. Arthur and Esther's son, Wade, assumed observations from his residence northeast of Yellow Jacket and took quality observations for 15 years. In the meantime, daughter Ruth and husband Mike Francisco moved into the original homestead and resumed observations beginning in February of 2017. The Wilson-Francisco family has been a mainstay in the Yellow Jacket area for many years, and taking quality daily weather observations is a big part of who they are. Thank you for your dedication to Colorado and country!

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## Special Service Awards



Harlan Harrison, a weather observer from Mexican Hat, Utah, received a Special Service Award from DAPM John Kyle. He "retired" from his services with the NWS in 2019. A WWII Navy veteran, he had been taking daily weather observations since 1967. In 2010, he was bestowed the Jefferson Award for outstanding service to the COOP program.

Thank you Harlan, for your service to the NWS and your country!

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## 50 Year Length of Service Awards



Chris Horne, GSP OPL (left), Jim Ligon, observer (center), Steve Wilkinson (right)

James Ligon of Sandy Springs, SC was presented a 50 year Length of Service Award by OPL Chris Horne and MIC Steve Wilkinson, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. Jim is a retired Agricultural Engineering Professor from Clemson University. In addition to his duties of faithfully recording daily temperature and precipitation values since 1971, Jim is also the proprietor of the Rocky Retreat B&B, which operates in the Boone-Douthit House, ca. 1849, a National Register Historic Places site.

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## 40 Year Length of Service Awards



Donald Link, COOP observer at Ridgeland, Wisconsin, was presented with a 40 year Length of Service Award. He has taken daily weather observations of temperature, precipitation, and snow at his family's farm since 1982.

The Link family has served as the official weather observers in Ridgeland, Wisconsin for three generations. Mrs. Inga Link took the first cooperative weather observation on May 11, 1949, then turned over the observations to her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Mildred Link, on August 30, 1963. Her son, Donald Link and his wife Jodie took over the observations in 1982, and Donald has been the main observer for the weather station since 2010. The family has taken over 26,000 daily weather observations over the past 73 years.



Dana Harris, former Chief Operator at the Wellsville Water Plant, received a 40 year Length of Service Award. Dana recently retired from the Water Plant, however, he continues to drive a school bus for the local school district.

Presenting the award was NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly.

## 35 Year Length of Service Awards



*From left to right are Wesley Hovorka, Jeff Hutton, Lance Morgan, Jesse Lee, and Jon Finch. (Photo by Lindon Steadman)*

Lance Morgan, Cooperative Weather Observer in Alexander KS, was presented with a 35 year Length of Service Award by Lindon Steadman, Meteorologist-in-Charge for the National Weather Service in Dodge City.

Mr. Morgan has been the primary observer since 1987. He records precipitation and snowfall data. His wife Gloria is the backup observer and is also listed on the award. In attendance for the presentation were Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Hutton and Meteorologists Wesley Hovorka, Jon Finch, and Observing Program Leader Jesse Lee, all from Dodge City. The Alexander station was started in 1940 by H.O. Newcomer. Mr. Morgan took over the observation duties after Reuben Schlegel in 1987 and is the longest serving observer for Alexander.



Wendell Jackson, Master Electrician at the Alkegen Paper Mill in Beaver Falls NY, received a 35 year Length of Service Award. The Coop station at Beaver Falls is vital to regulation on the Beaver and Black Rivers in the North Country of New York.

Presenting the award was NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly.

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## 35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



Gerald Morczek of Highmarket received the 35 year Length of Service Award from the NWS Buffalo.

Although Gerald is no longer the primary Observer at Highmarket, he continues to play an active role at the Highmarket Coop Station. He will take the observations for the site as needed if the primary Observer is unable to.



Dan Schadd receives his 30 year Length of Service Award. Dan retired from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service after serving many years at the Ouray NWR in eastern Utah. Thank you, Dan!

## 25 and 20 Year Length of Service Awards



NWS Buffalo Meteorologist Liz Jurkowski (left) and Mark Smith, Coop Observer for Webster NY (right). Photo by NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly.

Mark Smith of Webster NY received the 25 year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was NWS Buffalo Meteorologist Liz Jurkowski. Mark has been taking very detailed weather observations at his house for the past 44 years! Mark is a talented photographer taking beautiful pictures of ice formations along Lake Ontario during the cold season.

Photo by NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly



Pam Wetzel, Cooperative Weather Observer in rural Edwards County south of Offerle, KS, was presented with a 25 year Length of Service Award by Jesse Lee, Observing Program Leader for the National Weather Service in Dodge City.

Pam has been the primary observer since 2012. She records precipitation and snowfall data. Pam was the backup observer to Jack Kersting from 1997 until 2012. The station south of Offerle was started in 1973 by Mr. Kersting.



Brent Roberts, Chief Operator at the Wellsville Water Plant, received a 25 year Length of Service Award from NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly.



COOP focal point Jeff Boyer celebrated 20 years of partnership and service together with NWS Indianapolis, with Jeff overseeing the weather observations and the 703-acre Davis-Purdue Agricultural Center as Superintendent in east central Indiana. Thank you for your lengthy public service, Jeff!

## 20 Year Length of Service Awards



Steve Hagan wears many hats within the community of Denver, Indiana, not least of which is as a Cooperative Observer who has been reporting river levels on the Eel River for the past 20 years - that is not as simple as it sounds! Steve must stand on the Meridian Road bridge, which can itself be dangerous with cars and trucks zooming by, and then uses binoculars to read the staff on the old railroad bridge 200 feet to the east. This is especially important when the Miami County EMA director calls him to alert for potential flooding. Prior to the staff gage being installed, the river level was determined by how many bricks high the water was in comparison to the under side of the bridge. Steve's other municipal duties include serving as the Fire Chief and the unofficial town historian, who is always willing to answer questions about the town of Denver. Additionally, he works part time at the local Payson Grocery Store and is a certified Storm Spotter. When not serving the town of Denver, Steve can be found spending time with his family or attending his grandkids' ball games.



Jim Hook, volunteer weather observer at Recapture Lodge in Bluff, Utah, received his 20 year Length of Service Award from the NWS. Congratulations, Jim!



*John Gordon, NWS MIC (left), William D. Calvert, observer (right)*

William D. Calvert, Cooperative Weather Observer in Scottsville, KY, was presented with a 20 year Length of Service Award by John Gordon, MIC for Louisville, KY during the KenTenn conference. Mr. Calvert has been the primary Observer since December of 2002, providing temperature, precipitation, snow measurements, relative humidity, and even sky condition remarks for each daily observation. He also provides monthly Hourly Precipitation Data from a Fischer Porter (FPR-E). The Scottsville station was started in 1946 and was run by Mr. Noble Allen for over 40 years. Mr. Calvert has been a reliable and motivated observer and continues to be a great resource for the observation program.

## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



*Mary Dawson, observer, pictured in front of a painting of Russell Cave (located in the Visitors Center on-site)*

Mary began taking observations at Russell Cave National Monument in Bridgeport, AL back in May of 2005, and she celebrated her last day at the site on the day of the awards ceremony on Friday, November 4, 2022. While taking a promotion within the National Park Service, Mary will still live nearby the site but has already trained the newer staff members on the ins and outs of taking the daily weather observations for NWS Huntsville! Since 2005, Mary has observed more than 1,006" of rain, which translates to about 84 feet of rain, had it fallen all at once! The wettest year since 2005 occurred last year in 2021, when 81.46" fell. Conversely, the driest year on record occurred just 2 years later in 2007, when only 30.03" fell. The rainiest day at Russell Cave since 2005 occurred on April 13, 2020, when 6.3" was observed. With respect to snowfall, Mary has measured more than 18" of snow since '05, with the snowiest month occurring in February 2015, when 8.5" fell! From the NWS Director Ken Graham, NWS Southern Region Director Mike Coyne, NWS Huntsville Meteorologist-in-Charge Todd Barron, and local Observations Program Leader at NWS Huntsville Chelly Amin, we congratulate you, Mary, on 15 years of weather observations. Thank you for your dedication!

Robert began taking precipitation observations as a CoCoRaHS observer in December of 2007 and was officially converted to an Official Cooperative Weather Observer for NWS Huntsville in December of 2021 (when MMTS equipment/temperature data was added to the site). Because he was a CoCoRaHS observer, his gage was 'official' and we were able to back-date his observations/service to count as official time as an NWS Coop Observer! Since 2007, Robert has measured over 680" of rain, which translates to over 57 feet! The wettest day at the site occurred on September 5, 2011 when 5.05" fell as the remnants of Tropical Storm Lee moved across the area. The wettest year overall occurred in 2011 as well, when 69.08" fell. Conversely, the driest year on record occurred in 2007, when only 28.89" fell during an extensive and devastating drought. With regards to snow, February 2015 was the snowiest month, with 8.7" for the month/Winter season that year. During that month, the snowiest day at the site occurred, when 8" of snow was measured on February 25, 2015. Since 2007, Robert has recorded over 32" of snow, which would amount to about 3 feet of snow if it had fallen all at once. Congratulations, Robert, on 15 years of weather observations!





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## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Bill Gallenbeck, volunteer weather observer at Taylor Park, received his 15 year Length of Service Award from the NWS. Just downstream from the Taylor Reservoir Dam is some of the best trout fishing in the country.



From left to right, Mr. and Mrs. Cross of Ash Grove Missouri were presented the 15 year Length of Service award from OPL Tom Olsen from the NWS Springfield Missouri office. The Cross family is very much loved by their community. Thank you for your volunteer service and timeliness of your daily weather observations.



Feldun-Purdue Agricultural Center employee Sam Perry Jr. celebrated 10 years of service in the NWS COOP. When not at the Bedford, Indiana area center taking weather observations or tending to the cows and pastureland, Sam enjoys family life on his farm, raising sheep and cattle, hunting and fishing when time allows, and coaching his children's basketball teams.

Thank you, Sam, for your public service benefitting those near and far!

## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Guy Verhoff, Cooperative Observer for Pandora, Ohio, received his 15 year Length of Service Award on September 1, 2022. Guy likes to joke that becoming a Cooperative Observer should have been part of his marriage vows, since he took over observing from his father-in-law in 2007. Guy does the brunt of the work, though his brother-in-law also helps. In the photo, he is proudly standing by the rain gauge that the station has had since 1949. Guy boasts that they haven't missed an observation in over 70 years. They have also maintained the same MMTS sensor since 1981.

Guy keeps three snow boards and sometimes walks the neighborhood measuring snow depth in the midst of snow drifts. He also keeps paper records for Ohio that go back to the early 1900s, and the local newspapers rely on him for their weather observations and record reports. In his spare time, Guy works 60 hours a week as a maintenance man for a manufacturing plant and also operates an Amateur Radio station out of a used ambulance that his wife bought for him.



Craig Miller of Brevard, NC, was presented a 15 year Length of Service Award by OPL Chris Horne. Brevard is located in the upper French Broad Valley of the North Carolina Mountains, and weather records for this station extend back to 1902!



Sandi Woods, the Ava Missouri NWS Cooperative Weather Observer, was presented with her 15 year Length of Service Award from Doug Cramer, a Senior Forecaster at the Springfield Missouri NWS forecast office.

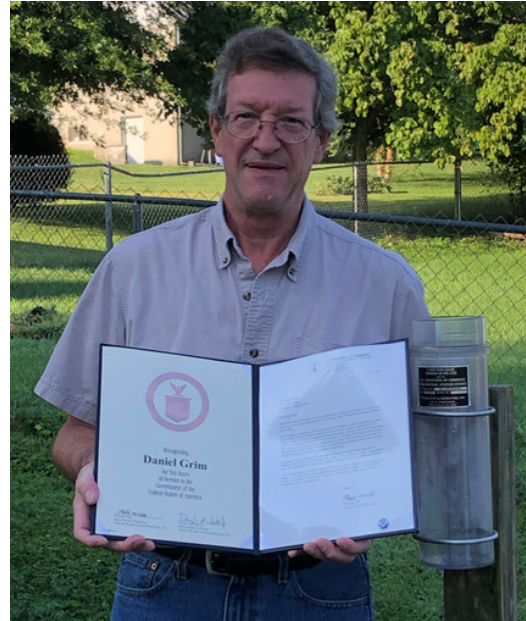
Thank you, Sandi, for your volunteer spirit and your dedication to the task of taking daily weather readings in the Ava Missouri area. That is over 5,500 daily observations over that time!

## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



*Mark Webber (left) and Brian Slattery receive their Length of Service Awards.*

Mark Webber and Brian Slattery received Length of Service awards from the NWS. Mark has achieved 10 years while Brian is at 25. Not shown is Charlie Bailey, who has reached 30 years of service! Thanks to Mark, Brian, Charlie, and everyone else at the Aspen water treatment plant for your dedication in taking daily weather observations.



Daniel Grim accepted his 10 Year Length-of-Service Award at the Cooperative Observer Station in Lexington, VA.

Presenting the award was SSH Nick Fillo from WFO Blacksburg, VA.



Lewis Carter of McDaniels, KY was presented with his 10 year Length of Service Award by Cliff Goff, OPL for Louisville, KY. Also in attendance was Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Michael Kochasic, as well as the Breckinridge County Emergency Management Director and Breckinridge County Magistrate.

Mr. Carter has been a Cooperative Observer for McDaniels since February of 2012. He consistently and reliably records daily precipitation and temperature data, often times calling in interim reports during active weather events.



*John Lapp Jr. receives the 10 year Length of Service Award. His dog Argos can be seen to the right.*

John Lapp Jr. of Silver Springs is presented with the 10 year Length of Service Award by NWS Buffalo OPL Dan Kelly. In addition to his duties as a Coop Observer, John also reports evapotranspiration data and Condition Monitoring observations to CoCoRaHS. These observations were instrumental in the forecast development and eventual removal of drought conditions over Wyoming County NY this past summer.

## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Rob Douglas, the NWS Cooperative Weather Observer near Winona, MO was presented the 10 year Length of Service Award from Springfield Missouri OPL Tom Olsen (not pictured). Rob has been providing the NWS with daily temperature and precipitation readings since Sep 1st, 2010. Thank you, Rob, for your dedication!



Cooperative Weather Observer Jeff Delaney of Larned, Kansas was presented with a 10 year length of service award on Thursday, January 12th by Jesse Lee, Observing Program Leader, from the National Weather Service in Dodge City. Jeff has been the primary observer since 2012, recording temperature, precipitation and snowfall data.

The Larned station has been in existence since 1860 and was started up by the U.S. Army. There have been a few breaks in observations during the early years. The longest serving observer was Clifford Manry from 1955 to 1983. Jeff took over the observation duties from Bart Baxter.



*Brad Shelton with recent photos from the farm (left); historical photo showing stone pillars from the Dark Hollow Quarry, now no longer in operation, destined for Pennsylvania (right)*

Brad Shelton, cooperative weather observation focal point at the 800 plus-acre Feldun-Purdue Agricultural Center in the Bedford, Indiana area, celebrated his 10 year Length of Service Award.

The Feldun-Purdue Agricultural Center is the oldest outlying Purdue research station. Continuous weather records at this site date back to 1918 and non-continuous records back to 1893. An interesting factoid about the farm: It contains a large portion of the now dormant Dark Hollow Quarry that provided stone for the Biltmore Mansion in Asheville, North Carolina; the pillars for the Pennsylvania Government Center; and the New Orleans Cotton Exchange building.

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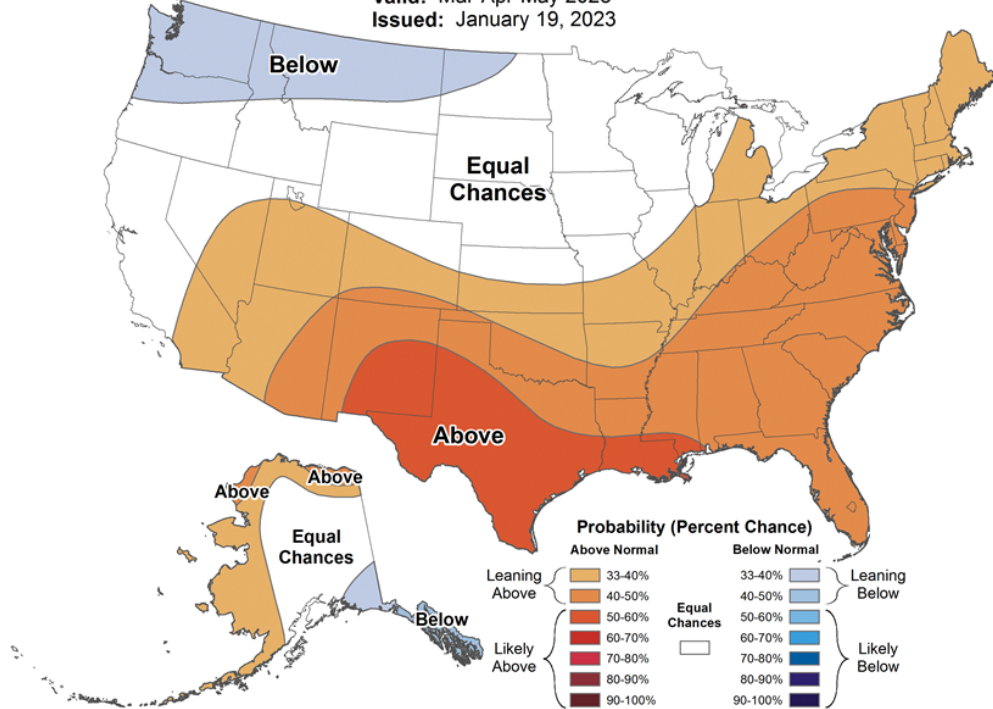
# March, April, and May Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center



## Seasonal Temperature Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2023  
Issued: January 19, 2023



## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook



Valid: Mar-Apr-May 2023  
Issued: January 19, 2023

