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Tallahassee topics

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

Hurricane Season-End Review 2022 By Israel Gonzalez

The 2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season officially ended on November 30th. In total, we saw [14 named storms](#), 8 hurricanes (2 major), and 2 tropical depressions. This activity was [near-normal](#) for the 1991-2020 climate period, but ended up being the 6th costliest season on record at an estimated \$53.65B, despite no tropical development during the entirety of August! The latter was the first such instance in a La Niña year and overall since 1997. The most intense hurricane by minimum central pressure was Fiona at 932 mb, while the strongest hurricane by peak wind speed was Ian at 155 mph (just shy of category 5). Fiona caused significant impacts to Puerto Rico (mostly flooding rain) and Nova Scotia (high winds and destructive waves). However, Ian was easily the most notable storm for many reasons: it was tied with the Florida Keys (1919) and Charley (2004) for 5th strongest landfalling hurricane and the 7th overall costliest on record (estimated >\$50B)! The over 100 fatalities also made Ian the deadliest FL hurricane since the 1935 Labor Day Hurricane. Ian raised a 10-15 ft storm surge in southwest FL and dumped tremendous amounts of rainfall, which caused the St Johns River to experience record flooding. The combination of all these impacts basically assures that Ian will eventually be retired, never to be used again as a storm name. Additional information on the season can be found from [this article](#) released just prior to its conclusion.



2022 Atlantic Hurricane Season		Season Summary
		 Numbers
NEAR-NORMAL ACTIVITY Named storms: 14 Hurricanes: 8 Major hurricanes: 2		
Strongest hurricane by max wind speed: Ian (155 mph) Most intense hurricane by min central pressure: Fiona (932 mb) Number of US landfalls: 3 (Ian twice & Nicole) Estimated US damage: \$56.65B (6th costliest on record)		
Records and other information	No activity during the entire month of August - the 1st such instance during a La Niña year and overall since 1997 Hurricane Ian records: tied for the 5th strongest US landfalling hurricane 7th costliest hurricane (estimated > \$50B) deadliest FL hurricane since 1935 Labor Day Hurricane Hurricane Nicole: 1st November US landfall since Kate (1985)	
		Issued: 12/11/2022 NWS Tallahassee

Nicole was the only tropical system that impacted us, albeit minimally. Nicole began as a subtropical storm in the western Atlantic, before strengthening to a hurricane ahead of making landfall in southeast FL on the 10th at category-1 strength. Nicole then weakened to a tropical storm as it tracked across north-central FL and straddled along the Nature Coast near Cedar Key. The main impacts were rainfall (widespread 1-2", isolated around 3", mainly in the FL Big Bend and southwest GA) and strong/gusty winds which produced multiple tropical storm force gusts and down tree/powerline reports. The highest sustained wind/gust was 47/52 mph at Horseshoe Beach, FL. Other notable tropical storm force gusts included: 48 mph at Eastpoint, FL, 45 mph at Valdosta, 43 mph at Florida A&M, and 40 mph at the Tallahassee Airport. Nicole ended up being the final named storm of the season, but became the 1st hurricane to make a US landfall in November since Kate in 1985.

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Autumn Highlights *By Israel Gonzalez*

From wet to dry...September was the tale of two months characterized by wet weather in the first 2 weeks, followed by fleeting rainfall for the remainder of the month. A multi-day heavy rain/flood event took place from the 8th-11th. The most active day of the event occurred on the 11th, when widespread 3-6" of rain fell along the coast with 7-8"+ in Bay/Walton County on the 11th. Strong to severe wind gusts were also measured across the Big Bend and portions of the Forgotten Coast. Northeast Tallahassee most notably gusted to 59 mph with a few tree down reports nearby. A cold front arrived near mid-month and provided temporarily cool weather before record/near record September heat affected the Tri-state area on the 22nd. All eyes then turned to Hurricane Ian at the end of the month, but local impacts were minimal outside of a 48-mph gust at Horseshoe Beach on the 28th.

Rain goes on vacation...October was defined by mostly dry conditions, a couple intermittent instances of stormy weather, and record minimum temperatures during a 2-day stretch mid-month. The continued dearth in rainfall worsened the already existing drought/abnormal dryness. By the mid-month, the approach a strong cold front introduced elevated fire danger to the Panhandle and southeast AL. The former prompting a Fire Weather Watch from the 16th-17th, followed by post-frontal Red Flag Warnings on the 18th. During the front's passage, a few strong storms mostly developed, one of which produced dime-sized hail at Port St Joe. The first Freeze Watch (mainly Wiregrass Region) and widespread Frost Advisory since March were issued ahead of an unseasonably chilly airmass arriving behind the front. Numerous record minimum temperatures were measured thereafter on the 19th and 20th with many locations falling within a few degrees of the freezing mark! The only impactful weather the remainder of October was an [EF-0 tornado](#) (75-mph max winds) overnight on the 25th near Bonifay, FL. Thankfully, there were no injuries or fatalities.

No rest for the weather...November was a busy month for us that offered a little bit of everything; record daily high temperatures (6th-8th), Tropical Storm Nicole (10th), the 1st widespread freeze of the season (18th), and severe weather (26th & 30th). The month began dry and unseasonably warm as numerous climate sites in the Tri-state area either tied or broke daily record highs. By the second week, we contended with Tropical Storm Nicole, which brought us some low-end impacts, mainly rain and [gusty winds](#). A strong mid-month cold front brought freezing temperatures across a good chunk of the Tri-state area, which put a [partial end to our Frost/Freeze Program](#) for southeast AL, southwest GA, and portions of the FL Panhandle. Lastly, we experienced some severe weather to close out the month, especially on the 30th when a strong squall line plowed through. The event included 3 tornadoes (2 in Colquitt County, GA), a waterspout near Panama City Beach, 4 explicitly severe gusts (60+ mph) measured, and numerous downed tree reports. The strongest confirmed tornado was an [EF-1 \(90 mph\) in Slocomb, AL](#) in Geneva County.

The 'fall' from rainfall was lacking this autumn...Tallahassee experienced near-normal mean temperatures (70.2°), but well below-normal rainfall (4.94") during the autumn months from September through November. The highest max temperature of the season was 96° on September 22nd while the lowest was 31° on October 20th. Precipitation was few and far between dating back to September 11th. The capital city went on a full 30-day streak without any measurable precipitation from that date; the longest stretch of the year. October was the driest month of autumn when only 0.22" of rain fell. The 2022 autumnal accumulation was 6.93" below normal, which is quite the reversal compared to this past summer.

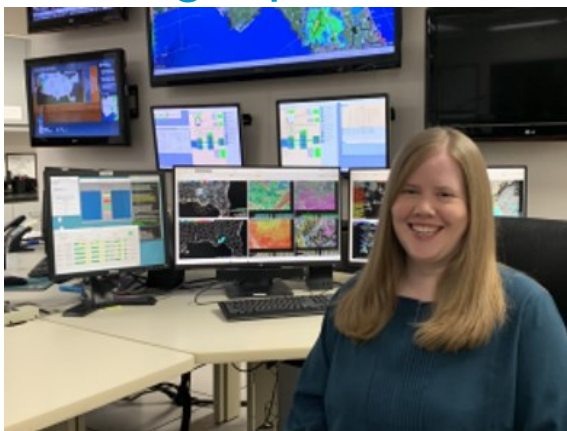
Climate Summary
Autumn 2022

Tallahassee

<p>Mean temp: 70.2° (near normal)</p> <p>Highest max temp: 96° on 9/22</p> <p>Lowest min temp: 31° on 10/20</p>	 <small>Temperature</small>
<p>Seasonal accumulation: 4.94" (6.93" < normal)</p> <p>Wettest month: November (2.47")</p> <p>Driest month: October (0.22")</p>	 <small>Precipitation</small>
<p>Notable Information</p>	<p>Wet start to September, but dry after 9/11 Record highs on 9/22</p> <p>Very dry October with record lows on 10/19 & 10/20 Record highs on 11/6 & 11/7</p> <p>Low-end rain & wind impacts from Tropical Storm Nicole (11/10) Widespread freeze (11/18) in SE AL, SW GA, parts of FL Panhandle Four confirmed tornadoes (one on 10/25 & three on 11/30)</p>

Issued: 12/11/2022

Staffing Update by Israel Gonzalez



The biggest staffing update is the departure of long-time Lead Forecaster, Jessica Fieux (*pictured left*) in early November as she accepted a Physical Scientist position in the NWS Tropical Program and will be working from the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL. Jessica joined our office as a Lead in August 2015 after previously being a Forecaster in the NWS Atlanta/Peachtree City Office dating back to 2009. Her local contributions included serving as the tropical focal point for the majority of her tenure at NWS Tallahassee where she emphasized a training focus to ensure readiness for forecasters and core partners, starting Integrated Warning

Team Workshops that bring together partners across the weather enterprise, participating in the NOAA Rotational Assignment Program as a Tropical Roadmap Manager, and serving for a year and a half as the co-Southern Region Tropical Program Manager during a vacancy at the regional level. Jessica's hard work the past 7 years during and in-between hurricane seasons have been invaluable to our core-partner relations and how we handle the rigors of tropical operations. This was especially true when the unprecedented events of Hurricane Michael (2018) unfolded. We are grateful for Jessica's service and happy for her as she embarks on the next chapter of her NWS career.

IS THERE A TOPIC YOU'D LIKE US
TO COVER? SEND US AN E-MAIL:

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Employee Spotlight: Becca Darish, Pathways Intern

We are focusing on Pathways Intern, Becca Darish (*pictured upper right*), a senior meteorology student at FSU originally from Michigan. She joined us over the summer, working part-time as she finishes her final two semesters of undergraduate studies. In addition to learning our ways of operational meteorology, Becca is working on a Canva project to benefit office operations prior to her intended Spring '23 Graduation. Upon completion, she will present the work with our Social Media Team and Management. Get to know Becca better in the Q&A section below.

1. How did you become interested in meteorology? For as long as I can remember I have always wanted to study meteorology without any real reason. I remember doing reports and projects on different meteorological phenomena as far back as elementary school. While I can't say for certain why I took an interest in it so young, I can say that my dad helped nurture that interest as I grew up. There is an unsurprising amount of crossover between meteorology and aviation and my dad was able to provide answers to most of my questions. My dad can identify any plane flying at any height and does so at the slightest sound of an engine; the story I like to tell people about how I got interested in meteorology is that while he would look up to point out planes, I would look up with him, just usually at the clouds.

2. What has your Pathways Internship been like? So far it has been amazing! Both my time as a volunteer and now a pathways intern has been the most rewarding way to supplement my academic courses. For the most part, my time as a pathways has been a whole lot of learning. Between the structure of operational meteorology and the weather being vastly different here compared to Michigan, I can genuinely say I learn something new everyday. The good news is I loved learning! Likewise seeing the workforce while still being a fulltime student provides some pretty significant motivation when it comes to school work.

3. Can you share some favorite things about being a forecaster? I enjoy the changing weather patterns and having to use several aids to best predict the outcome. I really enjoy being on the front lines of severe weather. While I can't do it as a pathway, working radar really excites me. I have already enjoyed being a part of the forecast process for severe weather through messaging in our AFDs, on social media, and in graphics. Keeping people weather aware is definitely one of my favorite things about being a forecaster.

4. What is it like to be the daughter of a commercial pilot? It's awesome! Growing up we were able to fly standby, meaning if there was an unsold seat on a United flight, we could have it for free. Generally it is a huge money saver for a family of 6, however it does make for some pretty long travel days. Aside from my dad, I may be the person in my family who uses the standby privilege the most to fly home and see my family without financial concerns while I am in college. Now, my dad and his friends often share with me interesting TAFS or cool cloud formations they see as they fly all over the world.

5. Outside of work/school, what are your hobbies? Outside of work (and outside of school) I enjoy doing just about anything outdoors. Locally I enjoy running on the many trails, walks at the park, and playing volleyball with friends despite not being very good. When I have more free time, I love taking day trips to the many parks and beaches in the area and exploring north Florida. When the weather is not as pleasant I am usually reading or checking out local coffee shops. Last but not least, I love watching FSU football, the game day atmosphere at Doak is hard to pass up on.



Autumn Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool

In September, Warning Coordination Meteorologist Mark Wool gave mid-season hurricane season outlooks to the Big Bend Health Care Coalition and Florida State University, while Meteorologist in Charge Felecia Bowser delivered a similar briefing to the Apalachee Local Emergency Planning Committee. Mark Also spoke about hurricane preparedness with a group of middle and high school students, a virtual session facilitated by stemCONNECT, a program of The Florida High Tech Corridor.

Management-Admin Team

Felecia Bowser, MIC
Mark Wool, WCM
Parks Camp, SOO
Doug Sherrick, ESA
Jennifer Nichols, ASA
Brian Coats, ITO
Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist
Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Lead Forecasters

Don Van Dyke
Blair Scholl
Andy Haner
Karleisa Rogacheski
Vacant

Forecasters

Lance Franck
Wright Dobbs
Eric Bunker
Israel Gonzalez
Kristian Oliver
Jasmine Montgomery
Molly Merrifield
Cameron Young
Joe Worster

Pathways Interns

Becca Darish
Sophie Bignault

Electronic Technicians

Aaron Basti
Vacant

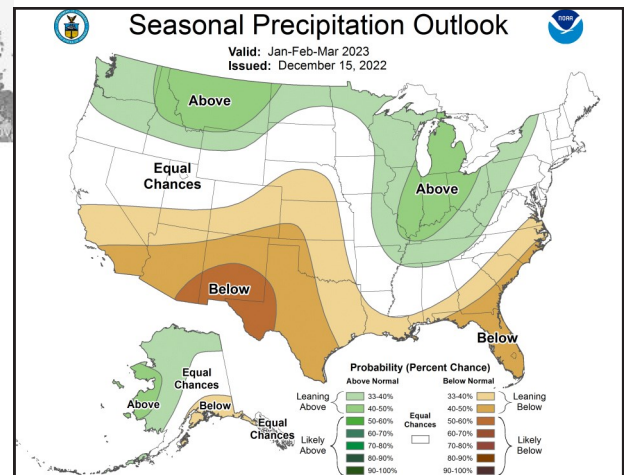
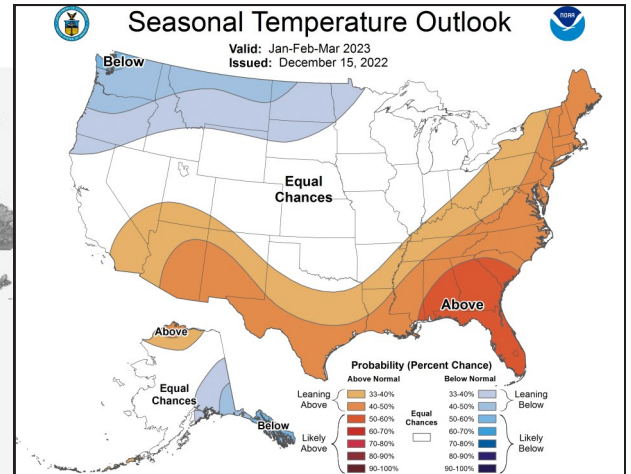
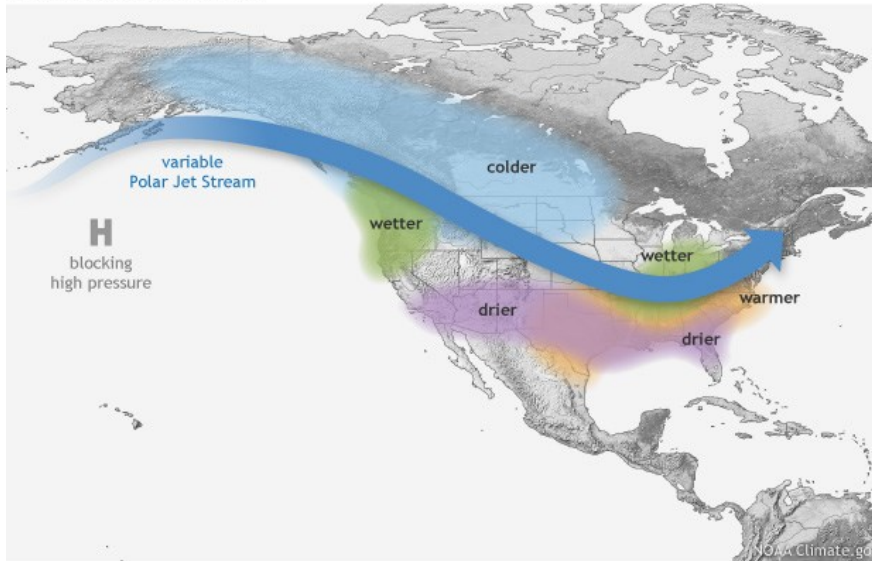
In October, lead forecaster Blair Scholl manned a booth at the Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany Family Preparedness Fair. Lead Forecaster Andy Haner conducted SKYWARN Spotter training at Cottonwood High School in Houston County, AL. Mark was a panelist at the Preparedness and Resilience Conference in Mobile, AL (*bottom-center picture*). The focus of the panel was rapidly intensifying hurricanes. Lead forecaster Karleisa Rogacheski and forecaster Jasmine Montgomery staffed a booth at the annual Tallahassee Science Festival which drew thousands of visitors.

In November, Mark taught an online basic SKYWARN Spotter training class, while Senior Service Hydrologist Kelly Godsey taught an advanced version of the class. Mark, Karleisa and Jasmine presented Wakulla County FL Emergency Management with the Weather Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence award (*bottom-left picture*). Mark and Jasmine also facilitated the first public tour of the NWS office since before the pandemic when we invited the School of Arts and Sciences Nature Club to tour the facility (*top-center picture*). Mark then tabled at a Science Night for the school at their Centre of Tallahassee location (*bottom-right picture*). Finally, Mark talked weather safety to the 5th grade class at Chattahoochee Elementary School.



State of ENSO and Climate & Drought Outlook into Early 2023, by Israel Gonzalez

WINTER LA NIÑA PATTERN



A [La Niña Advisory](#) remains in effect as those conditions continue to be observed and are projected to [continue through December](#), followed by equal chances (~33%) for either La Niña to persist or ENSO-neutral to take over from January-March 2023. Typically, La Niña favors drier and warmer than normal winters in the Southeast US (*upper left figure*), thanks to a variable jet stream that tends to remain too far north to consistently push cooler polar/Arctic air southward. As a result, the 3-month [Winter Outlook](#) (January-March) by the Climate Prediction Center has “leaning-to-likely” odds for above-normal temperatures (*upper right figure*) and below-normal precipitation (*right-central figure*) across the Tri-state area. The average winter mean temperature at Tallahassee is 54.1° with a seasonal rainfall accumulation of 12.93”.

Ongoing drought conditions likely persist into early next year. The worst drought (D2, severe) has been focused along the FL Panhandle, portions of the Big Bend, and in far southern Georgia. The D2 category suggests crops or pasture losses are likely, and water shortages become common, which can impose water restrictions. If rainfall continues to be minimal, then an upgrade to D3 (extreme) drought is plausible such that major crop/pasture losses come into play with widespread water shortages and restrictions. More information about local drought can be [found here](#). One sense of optimism is that late December through March is our climatological peak flood season. As we move toward January 2023, our region can experience heavy rainfall events that lead to flash and riverine flooding. In fact, there are a handful of local basins that show a [50% chance of reaching minor flood stage](#) at some point between now and the end of March. Looking ahead to the spring months, there is a 71% probability of ENSO-neutral conditions from February-April 2023, which do not favor any particular anomalous temperatures and precipitation. The US Seasonal Drought Outlook through March has drought persisting across much of the Tri-state area (*lower right figure*). However, a wet pattern late 1st week/early 2nd week of 2023 may prompt some short-term drought improvements.

