



# The National Cooperative Observer

The National Cooperative Observer is an online newsletter.  
[http://www.weather.gov/os/coop/coop\\_newsletter.htm](http://www.weather.gov/os/coop/coop_newsletter.htm)

Fall 2015

## Inside

Thomas Jefferson  
Awards: 4

John Campanius  
Holm Awards: 5

125 and 75 Year  
Honored Institution  
Awards: 3, 7

Albert J. Myer  
65 Year  
Award: 7

55 Year Benjamin  
Franklin Awards: 8

Edward R. Stoll  
50 Year Awards: 9

50 Year Honored  
Institution Awards: 10

45 Year Dick  
Hagemeyer Service  
Award: 11

25 Year Honored  
Institution Awards  
14

Length of Service  
Awards  
40 Year: 11  
35 Year: 13  
30 Year: 13  
25 Year: 13  
20 Year: 16  
15 Year: 17  
10 Year: 18

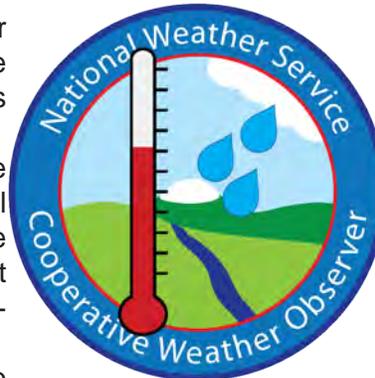
December, January,  
February Temperature  
and Precipitation  
Outlook  
20

## National Cooperative Observer Newsletter Transitioning to Web Format

Not only is the weather changing with the season, but we are also looking at changes to this newsletter.

To better recognize the outstanding work of the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer, we are looking at providing this publication in a Web-based format.

It will no longer be necessary to wait for the next great edition to see awards. Ceremonies and news will be continuously



updated on our new Web page. Also, you will not need a subscription so more viewers will be able to learn about all our Observers' dedication to this program.

At this time, this is just a heads up for the change. When we actually implement the new Website, we will send a notification out with the URL to all our subscribers.

## Weathermen of WWII: Civilians Who Died Aboard Ship Sunk by U-boat to Get Purple Hearts

By Louis Uccellini, NWS Director

On November 19, I had the honor of taking part in a ceremony to posthumously award the Purple Heart medal to four civilian U.S. Weather Bureau Observers who died while serving aboard the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter *Muskeget*.

The ship went down with all hands lost after being torpedoed by a German U-boat on September 9, 1942. Four U.S. Weather Bureau Observers died on the *Muskeget*.

- Lester S. Fodor, Observer
- Luther H. Brady, Assistant Observer
- George F. Kubach, Assistant Observer
- Edward Weber, Junior Observer

At the time of their deaths, they were collecting vital weather observations essential to safe navigation in the North Atlantic, which during World War II was the ocean highway by which troops, fuel, munitions, and supplies traveled from the United States to the European Theater.

For the past several years, NOAA has been working with the Coast Guard and a group of freelance researchers to see that these four men receive the recognition they deserve, a Purple Heart, an honor already bestowed upon the military members aboard the *Muskeget*.

These four men served during a time of war, but they were not warriors in a military sense. They were weather Observers in the Weather Bureau who placed "service above self" when the call came in the face of the

*These four men answered that call to action without hesitation, knowing full well that in doing so they might make the ultimate sacrifice.*



*Brady and Weber received the Purple Heart posthumously, more than 70 years after they died.*

expanding Battle of the North Atlantic. As they completed their studies and began their careers in the Weather Bureau in the years prior to the attack on Pearl Harbor—or in the case of Edward Weber, less than a month afterwards—they had no idea of the role they would ultimately play in protecting our nation and safeguarding our troops.

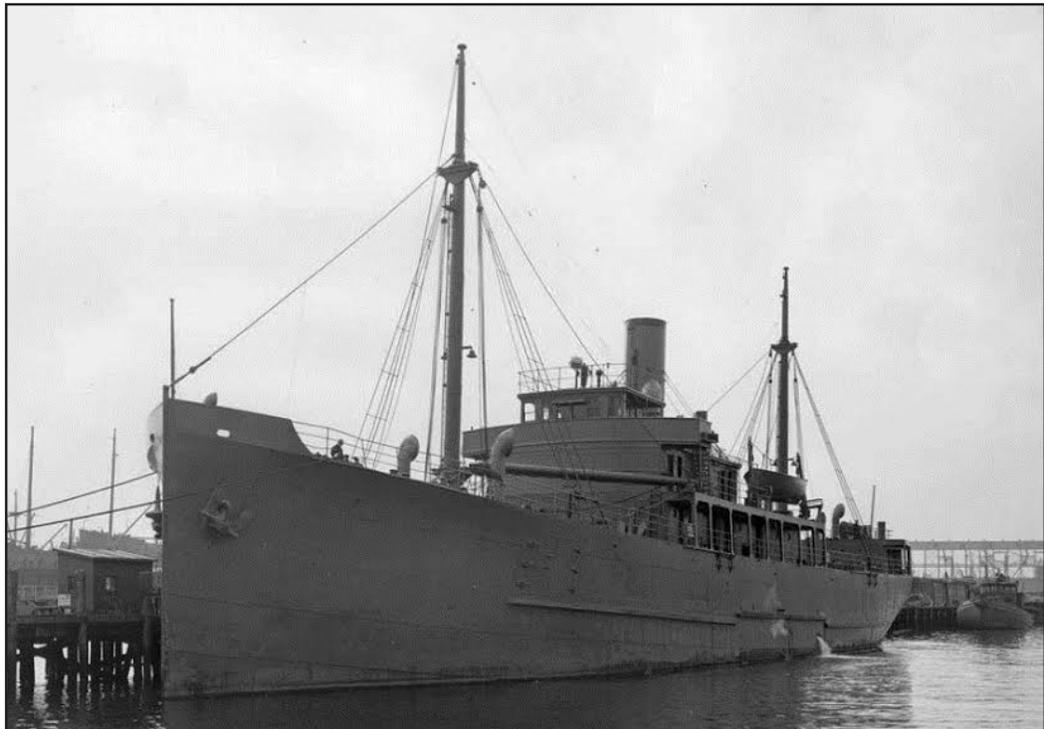
When Francis Reichelderfer, who served as chief of the Weather Bureau during World War II, invited applications from Weather Bureau employees for assignments to weather ships stationed in the Atlantic, these four men answered that call to action without hesitation,

knowing full well that in doing so they might make the ultimate sacrifice. They not only had a passion for weather, but a dedication to their mission that truly went above and beyond the call of duty.

It is this same level of dedication that links these men to their current NWS counterparts. Whether working around-the-clock during high-impact events or being deployed to support those on the front lines of critical incidents, such as wildfires, we see time and time again how the men and women of the National Weather Service share and exemplify the “service above self” character and attitude that drove these young men to volunteer for service at sea.

The ceremony today was a humbling experience, with family members of three of the four weathermen present to accept the medals on their behalf. It was also an event filled with pride—not only for the sacrifice these young men made, but for the dedicated work that each of you do every day in service to our country. It is through your dedication and selfless efforts in carrying out the mission of the Weather Service that their legacy lives on.

To learn more about these Observers, see the [Fox News article](#).



*The U.S. Weather Observation Station Ship USS Muskeget was sunk by a German sub, killing all aboard.*



Purple Heart ceremony for the weatherman who died on the *Muskeget*

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## 125 Year Honored Institution Award



NWS Tampa Bay, FL, Meteorologist **Nicole Carlisle** and Observing Program Leader (OPL) **Tom Dougherty** presented a 125 Year Honored Institution Award to **St. Leo Abbey**, in St. Leo, FL. NWS would like to thank the Benedictine Monks for their service in taking the daily weather observations since 1890, one of the longest periods of record in the nation. A special thank you goes out to the current Observers, Brothers **Felix Augustin** and **Timothy Gagnon** for their assistance in keeping up this tradition of service. Without your support, NWS would not have such a long history of records to research.

From left, Meteorologist **Nicole Carlisle**, Brothers **James Hallett** and **Timothy Gagnon**, and OPL **Tom Dougherty**. Photo by Brother **Apollo Rodriguez**.

## Thomas Jefferson Awards

Recognizing more than 47 years of dedication and excellence, NWS awarded Richmond, UT, resident **Harold Thomson** a Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding service in the Cooperative Observer Program. In the western United States, Harold won this award from among 34 eligible observers.

Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) **Dean Hazen**, NWS Pocatello, ID, presented the award during a ceremony in Richmond. Harold began recording weather and climate observations at Richmond in 1968 and he continues a family tradition of taking weather observations started in 1911.

During his tenure, Harold has recorded observations of daily precipitation and temperature data without interruption. His flawless and informative observations have been instrumental in providing NWS with critical weather information.

In addition, he provides vital storm spotter information. Harold also provides his daily observations to local newspapers and radio sources. Harold has written over 17,000 official observations, almost half of the Thomson Family's nearly 38,000 observations.



MIC **Dean Hazen**, left, NWS Pocatello, ID, presents a Jefferson Award to **Harold Thomson**. Photo by OPL Gary Wicklund.



**Willis Swint** from Jonesboro, GA, was presented with his Thomas Jefferson Award for his 56 plus years of continuous cooperative weather observing by NWS Peachtree City, GA. The city of Jonesboro also presented Willis with a proclamation making October 9 Willis Swint Day. His many children and grandchildren were in attendance for the ceremony, during which he received letters of congratulations from the governor, both state senators, and many other dignitaries. His storm reports after the flood of 1994 and the 1973 Jonesboro tornado were used extensively for the safety of life and property for both Jonesboro and Clayton County.

From left, NWS Peachtree City MIC **Keith Stellman**, **Beverly** and Honoree **Willis Swint**, and OPL **George Wetzel**. Photo by **Roger Swint**.

## Thomas Jefferson and John Campanius Holm Awards



From left, Mayor Frank Campbell of Hastings, MI; **David McIntyre**, honoree and David's wife, **Lois McIntyre**

**Daniel K. Cobb, Jr.** and OPL **Brandon Hoving**, NWS Grand Rapids, MI. The presentation was made at a surprise ceremony during the 2015 Great Lakes Operational Meteorology Workshop hosted by NWS Grand Rapids and Environment Canada. Special guests included his wife, **Lois McIntyre**, Mayor Frank Campbell of Hastings, Det. Sgt. Terry Klotz of the Michigan State Police as well as other State Police officers, and Ken Radant of WBCH Radio and other WBCH personnel.

Recognizing more than 22 years of dedication and excellence to the NWS Observer Program, NWS presented Fort Hall, ID, resident **Leland Miller** with a John Campanius Holm Award. Leland won this award from among 268 eligible Observers. OPL **Gary Wicklund**, NWS Pocatello, ID, presented the award during a ceremony at the NWS Pocatello, ID, office.

Leland began recording weather and climate observations at Fort Hall in 1963. During his tenure, he has recorded daily precipitation and temperature data without interruption. Leland's flawless and informative observations have been instrumental in providing NWS with critical weather information. In addition, Leland provides invaluable storm spotter information.



From left, OPL **Gary Wicklund**, WFO Pocatello, ID; and honoree **Leland Miller**. Photo by NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Vernon Preston**.

## John Campanius Holm Awards

NWS presented **Ingrid Brown** of Powderville, MT, with the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award. Ingrid has provided timely, accurate and dependable weather data totalling more than 11,000 observations during her 30 years of service.

**Rusty Billingsley**, NWS Western Region Deputy Director and MIC Keith Meier, NWS Billings, MT, presented the award to Ingrid during a ceremony held at the Rib and Chop House in Miles City, MT.

Ingrid began sending daily observations from her farm in 1985. Daily weather observations have been taken at this location since 1964, and there has never been a missed daily observation unless there was total equipment failure. Ingrid took over weather observing duties from her husband. Her daughter serves as the backup Observer.

Ingrid has experienced a variety of weather in her 30 year history. Her most memorable event occurred in the spring of 1997. They were calving and the temperature dropped to around -25°F with 12 to 15 foot snow drifts. Winds were so strong, combined with blowing snow, she could hardly see. They lost many calves that season. Ingrid also received a 30 Year Length of Service Award.



From left, NWS Salt Lake City, UT, MIC **Randall Graham**; honoree's daughter **Diana Hamilton**, Honoree **Dee Roberts**, daughter **Maxie Hartman**, and OPL **Steve Summy**.

**Dee Roberts**, Observer in Altamont, UT, was presented with a John Campanius Holm Award. Dee is the third and longest tenured Observer for the Altamont station. The station began as Mt. Emmons, UT, in 1923 and moved to Altamont in 1949 when the town was renamed. Altamont is a small community in the Uinta Basin of northeast Utah. Dee owned and operated the general store when he became the official Observer.

Dee said he was inside his store when the previous Observer walked in and said "Dee, come outside, you're the new weather Observer." The previous Observer had moved the Cotton Region Shelter and Standard Rain Gauge to an open area near the store. Dee read the handbooks and report form instructions and started making his reports. That was 45 years ago!

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## 75 Year Honored Institution Award

**Taylor Park Reservoir**, CO, a part of the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, was presented with a 75 Year Honored Institution Award for dedicated service. Observer and Dam Tender **Bill Gallenbeck** was not available to receive the award. **John Kyle**, Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) at NWS Grand Junction, CO, presented the award.



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## 65 Albert J. Myer Year Award

**Alex G. Collie** of MacKenzie, MT, was presented with a General Albert J. Myer Award for 65 years of outstanding service in the Coop program. Alex is the longest serving Observer EVER in the state of Montana.

The award is named for Albert J. Myer, of Eagle Pass, TX, often called the father of the U.S. meteorological services. He was appointed to establish and direct the Division of Telegrams and Reports for the Benefit of Commerce, now known as the National Weather Service.

“Volunteers like Alex are crucial to National Weather Service operations,” said Meier. “Only 16 Observers in the U.S. collecting daily weather data have ever taken observations for 65 years or more.”

Alex began reporting daily precipitation readings on his ranch

in southwest Fallon County in June 1950. The ranch was originally homesteaded in 1910 by his mother. Collie continues to work on the ranch, where Black Angus cattle graze the land. Alex's son, Alex Jr., assists with observations on occasion, but the senior Collie plans to maintain the observations as long as he can.

Alex has been honored with numerous NWS Coop awards including the Edward H. Stoll award, the John Campanius Holm Award, the Benjamin Franklin Award, and the Helmut E. Landsberg Award.



**Alex G. Collie, honoree, Rusty Billingsley**, NWS Western Region Deputy Director, and **MIC Keith Meier**, NWS Billings, MT.

## 55 Year Benjamin Franklin Awards



**Marian Gallagher** of Holly Springs, IA shows her Benjamin Franklin Award for 55 years of faithful weather observations. The prestigious award was presented by OPL Brad Adams, NWS Sioux Falls, SD.

In her spare time Marian enjoys volunteering at her local church and also has many grandchildren and great grandchildren to keep her busy. She has quite the green thumb and enjoys gardening during the spring and summer.

Observer **Clay E. Miller** receives the 55 Year Benjamin Franklin Award. The Miller family have been Cooperative Observers since 1936.

Pictured from left are his wife **Jody**, OPL **Colleen Rhea**, and Honoree **Clay Miller** in their lovely ranch home at Valentine, TX. The photo was taken by Administrative Assistant **Beverly Martin**, who attended the festivities.



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## Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Awards



NWS Wichita, KS, staff presented the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service to **Billie Heitzenrater** of Beaumont, KS.

From left are retired OPL **Leon Wasinger**, Honoree **Billie Heitzenrater**, MIC **Suzanne Fortin**, and OPL **Scott Smith**.

It was a proud, emotional moment for **Patricia “Pat” Chapa**. Staff from NWS Brownsville/Rio Grande Valley presented the NWS Family Heritage Award for more than 50 years of service in the NWS Coop program. The family has provided temperature and rainfall reports at various times since 1948, and most consistently since the 1960s. The Chapa family has a long history in north central Hidalgo County, TX. Pat is the wife of a fifth-generation descendent, Manuel Chapa. Manuel, for whom the town is named, arrived in 1865. Joe Chapa, Pat’s father-in-law, took observations for the U.S. Weather Bureau in the late 1940s and continued until 2008, when he turned over responsibility to Pat and another family friend, **Tina Villarreal**.

“We are extremely proud to have the Chapa Family achieve this moment,” said Acting MIC **Barry Goldsmith**, NWS Brownsville, TX. “Their dedication provides critical information to agricultural interests in the Rio Grande Valley, which can be used for long term planning for crop and livestock management.” Acting OPL **Erin Billings added**, “The Chapa Family’s observations have been crucial during the spring of 2015 when very heavy rainfall in the area created significant flooding nearby. These reports are important ground truth that help forecasters and others accurately determine how much more rain actually fell, and how much more would be needed to create additional flooding.”

Pat Chapa commented, “We do it to help the community. As dry land farmers at first, then ranchers later, we’ve seen first hand how rainfall and temperatures affected our region’s crop and livestock production. We are still plenty healthy and plan to keep reporting for a long time to come!”



## 50 Year Honored Institution Award



The **Miami Conservancy District** (MCD), in its mission to provide flood protection for communities in the Great Miami basin, also monitors precipitation within the basin. The MCD facility at Middletown began providing weather data to NWS in 1960.

From left are **Barry Puskas**, MCD Technical Services Manager; **Jake Hall**, MCD Middletown Caretaker/Observer; **Julie Dian-Reed**, NWS Wilmington, OH, Service Hydrologist; and **Mike Ekberg**, MCD Water Resources Monitoring and Analysis Manager.

**Kevin Heape**, Operations Project Manager, and coworker **Brad Carey**, Coop Site Focal Point/Natural Resource Specialist, and other Army Corps of Engineer personnel have been taking observations at the **W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir** in Wilkes County, NC, since 1964.

The site started taking official measurements along the Yadkin River in northwest North Carolina soon after construction was completed in the early 1960s. The dam serves three main purposes: recreation, water supply and flood control, all of which are highly impacted by temperature and precipitation patterns.



From left, **Kevin Heape**, Operations Project Manager for the **W. Kerr Scott Dam and Reservoir** in Wilkes County, NC, accepts a 50 Year Honored Institution Award from **James Morrow**, NWS Meteorologist Intern (Met Intern), Blacksburg, VA. Photo by **Freedom Littlefoot**, Site Volunteer for the Dam and Reservoir.

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## 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award



**Glenn Harner** of Xenia, OH, has been providing temperature and precipitation data for NWS Wilmington, OH, for more than 40 years. Thank you Glenn for your dedication and service! Glenn took over observations from his father **Ernest**, who also served for an NWS Observer more than 40 years.

Pictured left front are Amanda Middleton, Greene County Soil and Conservation District; Alan Anderson, County Commissioner; Honoree **Glenn Harner** and his wife, **Phyllis**; **Ashley Novak**, NWS Wilmington, OH, Meteorologist; and **Roy Harner**, Glenn's brother. *Back:* Tom Koogler, County Commissioner; Don Leeds, Greene County Soil and Conservation District; **Scott Harner**, nephew; **Kenneth Haydu**, NWS MIC; and Craig Beal, family friend. Photo by **Julie Dian-Reed**, NWS Service Hydrologist.

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## 40 Year Length of Service Awards

On right, **Frank B. Strader Jr.**, of Staffordsville, VA, shows his Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of service. The award was presented by Met Intern **Christopher Fisher**, NWS Blacksburg, VA. Frank has been taking observations in Staffordsville since December 1970. He originally reported to the Charleston, WV, office until the Blacksburg, VA, office spun up in 1994.

Frank's love of weather originated during his time in the military and continued as a farmer in Giles County, VA. Before officially taking observations for the NWS, he reported weather observations in the 1960s for American Electric Power and Bluestone Dam from a previous home in nearby Pearisburg, VA. Photo by **Peter Corrigan**, NWS Senior Service Hydrologist, Blacksburg, VA.



## 40 Year Length of Service Awards



**Nancy Pickard** of Wilmington, OH, has been providing temperature and precipitation data to NWS Wilmington, OH, for more than 40 years. Thank you Nancy for your dedication and service! Pictured from left are husband **Kent Picard**, Honoree **Nancy Pickard**, son **Kenny Pickard**, NWS MIC **Kenneth Haydu** and Meteorologist **Ashley Novak**. Photo by **Julie Dian-Reed**, NWS Service Hydrologist.

Pictured left, Honoree **Cheryl Schwarzkopf** displays her 40 Year Length of Service Award presented by MIC **Keith Meier**, NWS Billings, MT. Photo by OPL **Larry Dooley**, NWS Billings.



**Betty Treu** of Studley, KS, received a 40 Year Length of Service Award. Betty reports precipitation and snowfall data to NWS Goodland, KS. The award was presented by OPL **Brian Warren**, NWS Goodland. Photo by NWS Meteorologist **Tim Lynch**.

## 35, 30 and 25 Year Length of Service Awards



**Gordon Hensley**, right, at Ashford, NC, was presented a 35 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



**Gerald Morczek** of Highmarket, NY, shows his 30 Year Length of Service Award. Highmarket is one of the snowiest locations in the East, with an average of 208 inches of snow each year. Gerald also sends his reports in to a local radio station and the Hudson River and Black River Regulating District. In the winter, he plows snow for the town, a job he retired from officially a few years ago! Since October of 1985, Gerald has measured a total of 6,427.6 inches of snow—over a tenth of a mile! Photo by OPL **Dan Kelly**, NWS Buffalo, NY.



**John M. Brown**, left, Meteorologist at ESRL/GSD and **Matt Kelsch**, Hydrometeorologist UCAR/COMET accepted a 25 Year Honored Institution Award on behalf of the Boulder, CO, Weather Station. MIC **Nezette Rydell**, NWS Denver/Boulder, CO, made the presentation.



**Larry Weiser**, right, of Giddings, TX, accepts a 25 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **Steve Smart**, NWS Austin/San Antonio. Larry has been observing and reporting rainfall data for NWS since October 1990.

## 25 Year Honored Institution Awards;



**Lonny Craven**, right, Director of Airside Operations, Miami-Dade Aviation Department at **Homestead General Aviation Airport** accepts a 25 Year Honored Institution Award from OPL **Bob Ebaugh**. Also present were NWS Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) **David Ross**, and Information Technology Officer (ITO) **Joseph Maloney**.



On the right, **Nathan Biggs**, Golf Course Superintendent for the **High Meadows Golf & Country Club** in Roaring Gap, NC, accepts a 25 Year Honored Institution Award presented by James Morrow, NWS Met. Intern, Blacksburg, VA. Photo by Christopher Fisher, NWS Met. Intern. Weather variability plays a vital role in the everyday operations of a country club and golf course. Temperature and precipitation variations on daily and seasonal temporal scales can have a significant economic impact.



From left, **Carl Castillo**, DJ at WYTI radio in Rocky Mount, VA, and **Susan Mullins**, General Manager, accept a 25 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Met Intern **Jacob Ruckman**, Blacksburg, VA. Photo by NWS Met Intern **James Morrow**, Blacksburg VA. WYTI has been “The voice of Franklin County” since 1957, and the station prides itself on being a Coop observation point.



NWS presented a 25 Year Honored Institution Award to the **Bureau of Land Management** for taking weather observation in Kremmling, CO. OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO, presented the award to **Monte Senor**, right. Observer **Paula Belcher** who takes the majority of the observations was not able to be in the photo.

## 25 Year Honored Institution Awards;



**Rolf Olson**, Project Leader at **Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge** was presented with a 25 Year Honored Institution Award by OPL **Bob Ebaugh**, left, and HMT **David Ross**, NWS Miami, FL.



The staff at the **Veolia Water Treatment Plant** in Franklin, OH, accept a 25 Year Honored Institution Award for providing temperature and precipitation data. Pictured from left are Forecaster **Brian Haines**, NWS Wilmington, OH; and Veolia Water staff members **Justin Bair**, **Ray Coldiron**, **Chad Adkins**, **Kory Smith**, **Tom Sigmund**, and NWS Wilmington Service Hydrologist **Julie Dian-Reed**.



Park Rangers **Lana Henry** and **Jim Heaney** at **George Washington Carver National Monument** in Diamond, MO, show their 25 Year Honored Institution Award presented by Observation Focal Point (OFP) **Chris Reed** and OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO. The bust is of American botanist and inventor George Washington Carver. Carver was also a volunteer weather Observer at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama from Nov. 1899-Jan. 1932. [Learn more about Carver and his weather observations on the Tuskegee Website.](#)



**Dick Groeber** of Springfield, OH, has been providing temperature and precipitation data to NWS Wilmington, OH, for 20 years. Thank you Dick for your dedication and service. The award was presented by Meteorologist **Ashley Novak**, NWS Wilmington, OH. Photo by NWS HMT **James Gibson**.

## 20 Year Length of Service Awards



**Bill Hanchek**, of Hooker, NY, shows his 20 Year Award presented by NWS Buffalo, NY. Hooker is one of the snowiest locations east of the Rocky Mountains. His data is also used by the NWS Northeast River Forecast Center to forecast the Black River at Watertown and the Hudson River.



**Mike Meier**, from Monett, MI, accepts a 20 Year Length of Service Award for outstanding service. Photo by OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO



**Andy Olson**, of Emerson, NE, shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **Brad Adams**, NWS Sioux Falls, SD. Andy enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and is an active community volunteer. He also likes to work outdoors and has a talent for tinkering with electronics and other household items.



**Ed Richmeier**, right, of Quinter, KS, received a 20 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Brian Warren**, NWS Goodland, KS. Ed reports temperature, precipitation and snowfall data to NWS Goodland. Photo by Meteorologist **Tim Lynch**.



From left, OPL **Dave Petrovich**, NWS Marquette, MI, presents a 20 Year Length of Service Award to Observer **Herman Kinnunen**. Photo by MIC **Robin Turner**, NWS Marquette, MI.

## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**Judy Cook** of Bunker, MO, accepts a 15 Year Length of Service Award, presented by OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO. In addition to taking daily weather observations, Judy drives a school bus for the Bunker School District.



**Randy "Coop" Cooper**, of Toledo, IA, receives his 15 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award is HMT **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA.



**Steve and Maxine Deeter**, of La Sal, UT, receive their 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo by DAPM **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO.



**Gary Kurtz**, of Luverne, MN, shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award. Gary enjoys playing golf, is an avid offroad ATV rider and enjoys adventurous back country wilderness trips. Photo and presentation by OPL **Brad Adams**, NWS Sioux Falls, SD.



**Dean Reinsch**, Observer for Bruning, NE, was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Since Dean began recording precipitation, he has measured a total of 419.26 inches of rain and 371.25 inches of snow. His wettest year was 2007 with 37.61 inches; the driest, 2002 when he measured 21.48 inches. Presentation by HMT **Phil Beda**, NWS Hastings, NE.



**Barbara Wilson** at Walhalla, SC, was presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC. Barbara's family will celebrate 100 years of service to the Cooperative Observer Program in 2016!

## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



**Jim Bergantz** of Colden, NY, was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Buffalo OPL **Dan Kelly**. Jim lives in a Lake Effect Snow prone area east of Lake Erie where he has measured a total of 1,756.9 inches of snow in his 10 years as an Observer. Jim has been a tremendous help to the NWS Buffalo as a snow spotter and a CoCoRaHS Observer.



**Kristen Biskeborn** accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award for her son **Scott Biskeborn** of Chamberlain, SD. The award was presented by HMT **Tim Masters**, NWS Sioux Falls, SD. Scott is a retired Army National Guardsman. He now raises cattle and works the Biskeborn farm. He also enjoys traveling, learning new farming techniques, and studying geology.



**Oscar Cross**, of Ash Grove, MO, accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO. Oscar's business, the Hilltop Farm, is one of many organizations that use his daily weather observations.



**Ralph Ellison**, right, from Miller, MO, accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award from Service Hydrologist **Megan Terry**, NWS Springfield, MO. Photo by OPL **Thomas Olsen**.



**Clarence Fischer**, of Fedor, TX, accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Steve Smart**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. Clarence helped maintain the rainfall reports and records for Fedor for many years before becoming the official observer of record. Photo by NWS ITO **John Sullivan**.

## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



NWS Sioux Falls, SD, honored **Dean Erickson** for 10 Years of monitoring the Vermillion River at Davis, SD. The award was presented by HMT **Tim Masters**. Dean also enjoys being involved with an amateur pilot group, flies an ultralight aircraft and works part time for the volunteer fire and sheriff departments for Turner County.



**Linda Harper** of Harper, TX, accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **Steve Smart**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. Linda has been observing and reporting weather data for the National Weather Service officially since September 2005.



**Amanda and Darrel Klein** of Pavilion, NY, were presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Dan Kelly**, NWS Buffalo, NY. They have reported during some of our toughest winters when it's bitterly cold, windy, and snowing. Photo by Met Intern **Aaron Reynolds**.



**Ellen Head** and **David Krumvieda** (not pictured), Observers at Montrose, SD, were given 10 Year Awards by HMT **Tim Masters**, NWS Sioux Falls, SD. In his spare time, David enjoys fishing and attending local sporting events. Ellen leads the music department at her church and is the organist. She also runs a general store in Montrose.



**William C. Rense**, Observer, at Allenspark, CO, shows his 10 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **James Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.



**Susan Thieme** of Zenda, KS, displays her 10 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **Scott Smith**, NWS Wichita, KS.

**The National  
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# December, January, February Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center

