



# The National Cooperative Observer

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Spring 2015

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## Hyslop Farms: Serving the Nation for 125 Years



Hyslop Farm

The **Oregon State University Hyslop Farm** was presented a 125 Year Honored Institution Award by NWS Portland, OR, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) **Tyree Wilde**. The award was accepted by farm staff **Scott Culver** and **Kevin Robb**. Photo by Observing Program Leader (OPL) **Gerald Macke**. Also attending the presentation was Corvallis Farm Unit Supervisor **Dan Curry**.

The Hyslop Farm started taking daily weather reports on April 1, 1889, about 6 miles northeast of Corvallis, OR. The weather station has remained largely unchanged since that date.

Daily weather observations from the site are among the most comprehensive in western Oregon. The reports include daily precipitation, air temperatures, soil temperatures at 5 depths and evaporation

data. Weather information is also provided to the University's Department of Atmospheric Sciences, which further distributes the data via the Oregon State Climatologist.

The farm is named after George R. Hyslop, the first Head of the Department of Farm Crops and a major innovator in Oregon farming during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The farm, which covers 340 acres, conducts research on crops and weed management.

Hyslop Farm has played a key role in the commercialization of cereal crops, grass seed, potatoes and hops in Oregon.

*What would a young assistant observer of today think of being ordered to take charge of a station like Savannah for 6 months after having been on station for several weeks?*

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## NWS Climate History

*The following two articles are excerpted from "An NWS History of the Signal Corps," the predecessor of the National Weather Service. D.G. Benson and Henry Calver were two of our country's weather pioneers.*

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### Personal View of D. G. Benson

My early experiences in the Signal Service were so strongly impressed upon my mind that I can readily recall as if it were yesterday the outline of the offices on both sides of G Street (Signal Service weather office in Washington, D.C.), the divisions and rooms, the faces and names of scores from General Greeley down to the recent and awkward recruit.



Some of these men are gone and others are among the leaders of today. It was the military spirit that impressed one, to which one became attached and it is this spirit of the old Signal Corps that is the backbone of the enlarged Weather Bureau service of today.

What would a young assistant observer of today think of being ordered to take charge of a station like Savannah for 6 months after having been on station for several weeks?

This assignment fell to my lot and my assistant had the extended experience of 3 weeks less than myself. This happened as a result of the epidemic of yellow fever at Jacksonville. It was in mid-summer and no relief was sent until after freezing conditions in December. In the preceding epidemic, both men stationed at Savannah before us died at the post of duty.

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## Personal View of Henry Calver

During 1870, a number of men were enlisted for the weather bureau and were placed in training at Fort Whipple (now Fort Myer). These men were instructed in meteorology, telegraphy and also in the Manual of Signals of the U. S. Army. The first man thus enlisted as Observer-Sergeant was George C. Schaeffer of Washington, D.C.

Some 40-odd observation stations were established in the principal cities of the country during the latter part of 1870, each station being in charge of an Observer-Sergeant, and the organization was sufficiently complete so that on the 1st of January 1871, regular reports of weather observations taken synchronously at 7:35 a.m., 4:35 p.m. and 11:35 p.m. (Washington time) were telegraphically reported, in code, to the Washington office.

These coded telegrams contained words indicating the readings of the barometer, air pressure, the reading of wet and dry bulb thermometers, temperature and humidity of the atmosphere, the condition of the weather—fair, cloudy, rainy, etc., the direction and velocity of the wind, and the amount of rainfall during the preceding 24 hours.

These code telegrams, received at the Signal Office, were translated and plotted on blank maps of the United States. From the data thus furnished, the signal corps staff prepared the weather reports and predictions.

I enlisted in the Signal Service on the 1st of December 1870, without taking the course of study at Fort Whipple, and immediately was assigned to duty in the Office of the Chief Signal Officer as an assistant to a lieutenant who had then taken up the study of meteorology. Later I worked as assistant to Professors Abbe and Maury.

After I had worked for some months on the weather maps, it occurred to me that, in addition to the daily reports to the press, weekly and monthly summaries of the weather would be of interest, and I submitted a proposition of this sort to General Myer. In reply to my suggestions to General Myer I received a letter as follows:

WAR DEPARTMENT  
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF SIGNAL  
OFFICER  
DIVISION OF TELEGRAMS AND  
REPORTS FOR THE BENEFIT  
OF COMMERCE

Washington, D.C., Aug. 21st, 1872

Sergt. Henry Calver,  
Observer Signal Service, U.S.A.  
Office of the Chief Signal Officer,  
Washington, D.C.

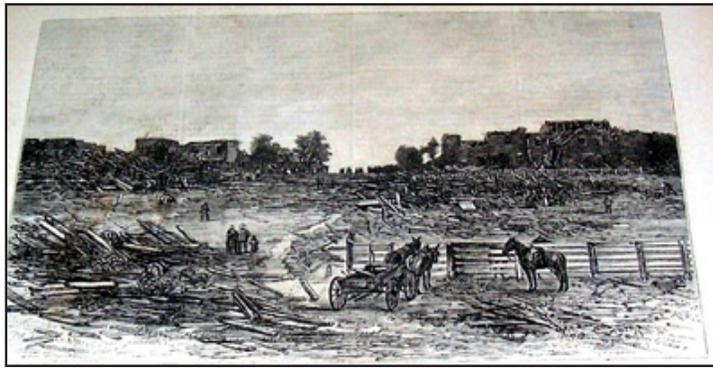


Illustration from Mount Carmel, IL, tornado in 1877.

*Sergeant:*

*I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date, and to convey to you the thanks of the Chief Signal Officer for this evidence of your zeal in the Service.*

*He approved the form of summary you suggest and desires that you will prepare one for the current week for publication in the weekly papers within easy reach of this city by mail, provided this labor will not interfere with your regular duties.*

*All papers must be submitted to the Chief Signal Officer for approval before leaving the Office.*

*Very Respectfully,  
H.W. Howgate,  
2d Lt. and Bvt. Capt. U.S.A.  
A.S.O. and Asst.*

In compliance with the order thus given I immediately began to write, under the title of "The Weekly Weather Chronicle," weekly summaries of the weather, copies of which were forwarded to the sergeants in charge of the principal observation stations to be distributed to the press, and I prepared these weekly summaries for several years, with some interruptions for tornado work.

Also about this time I assisted Professor Maury in preparing monthly summaries, and these monthly summaries are, I believe, still published by the Weather Bureau under the title of "The Monthly Weather Review," first used by Professor Maury.

In connection with the general weather reports, some attention was given to special reports on tornadoes.

In 1873, a very destructive tornado passed through portions of Iowa and Sergeant James

McIntosh was detailed to make a special investigation and report on the same, which he did, his report having been published in the *Report of the Chief Signal Officer* for that year.

On March 20, 1875, remarkable tornadoes, originating in the eastern border of Alabama, passed over the states of Georgia and South Carolina, and I was ordered to visit the scenes of these tornadoes and make an investigation and report, which I did. My illustrated report was published in the *Report of the Chief Signal Officer for 1875*.

Also in June 1877, a very destructive tornado wiped out a larger part of the town of Mount Carmel, IL, and I was directed to make a special investigation and report of this tornado, which I did. My report was published in the *Report of the Chief Signal Officer for 1877*.

This Mount Carmel tornado report was the last work that I did in the Signal Office, as about the time I had completed my report I received an appointment in the Patent Office, and in view of which I obtained my discharge from the Signal Service.

My meteorological work, above outlined, had been very interesting and I was reluctant to drop it, but the pay was insufficient and the prospect for the future rather unpromising, while the Patent Office appointment, together with a regular law course which I took while serving as Assistant Examiner, enabled me to fit myself for the profession of a patent lawyer when I resigned from the Patent Office, in which profession I have been fairly successful.

My interest in the weather reports has, however, always continued, and I read the daily weather maps with regularity when they are accessible.

*Look for more insights into early weather service history in the next National Observer.*

*These code telegrams, received at the Signal Office, were translated and plotted on blank maps of the United States. From the data thus furnished, the signal corps staff prepared the weather reports and predictions.*

## John Campanius Holm Awards



NWS Wichita, KS, staff presented the John Campanius Holm Award to **Darla Sue Loyd** for outstanding service.

For almost 30 years, Darla has maintained an exceptional record of weather observations for the Sedan area in southeast Kansas. Darla consistently provides accurate and timely observations and is dedicated to continuing for years to come.

From left are Meteorologist-in-Charge (MIC) **Suzanne Fortin**, Observer **Darla Sue Loyd** and retired OPL **Leon Wasinger**.

**Stacey G. Swift**, an Observer from North Foster, RI, received the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award for his outstanding accomplishments in the field of meteorological observations.

The award was presented at Cindy's Diner and Restaurant in North Scituate, RI, a favorite of Stacey's. Lunch was full of lovely, colorful and competing stories from husband and wife! At NWS Taunton, Stacey is known for being anything but "swift" when he calls in his weather reports. As a weather enthusiast, Stacey always adds multiple layers of detail—the story behind the story. At age 83, Stacey's zest for life still spills over in the community where he is a substitute school teacher and volunteers with the Swamp Meadow Community Theatre as an actor and singer.



**Stacey G. Swift**, center, holds his John Campanius Holm award with his wife **Marjory**. Presenting the award from left are NWS Taunton Cooperative Program Manager (CPM) **Kim Buttrick**, MIC **Robert Thompson** and Northeast River Forecast Center's Hydrologist-in-Charge **David Vallee**. Photo by Cindy's Diner staff.

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## John Campanius Holm Award



Holding his Holm Award, center, is **Douglas A. Webster**, to his right is his wife **Linda** and NWS Taunton MIC **Robert M. Thompson**. On the left are NWS Taunton CPM **Kim Buttrick**, NWS Gray OPL **Nichole Becker** and MIC **Hendricus Lulofs**. Also present was Doug's former colleague, **Michael Abair**, a meteorologist with the FAA's Air Routing Traffic Control Center.

**Douglas A. Webster**, Observer from Hudson, NH, received the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award for his outstanding observations. Doug's wife **Linda** was also present for this celebratory event. To honor Doug, all parties rendezvoused at his home for an intimate gathering. It was an afternoon of good company and good conversation over sandwiches, chips and Dunkin Donuts' coffee and treats. For Doug, weather is a passion that is not just his hobby but his full time job as well. Doug works for DTN/ The Progressive Farmer in Andover, MA, where he is a Senior Agricultural Meteorologist. In that position, Doug provides agricultural forecasts for North and South America.

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## 125 Year Honored Institution Award

The **University of Connecticut (UConn) College of Agriculture and Natural Resources** received a 125 Year Honored Institution Award for service at Storrs, CT. UCONN's Department of Plant Science Research and Education Facility takes daily temperature and precipitation. The Storrs weather station dates back to June 1888!

Accepting this award are Research Farm Manager **Steve Olsen**, left, and Horticulturalist **Greg Tormey**, right. The award was presented by NWS Taunton Meteorologist Technician (MT) **William Simpson**, center. **Steve Olsen** also received a 25 Year Length of Service Award.

This award was presented on January 7, 2015, during a Polar Vortex episode. It was 9°F when this picture was taken and that was the high temperature that day in Storrs!



## 125 and 75 Year Honored Institution Awards



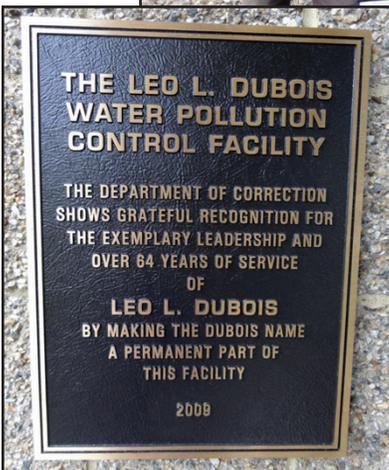
From left, WCM **Tyree Wilde** presents the Honored Institution Award to Water Bureau night shift Operator **Lee Stafford** of the **Bull Run Waterworks**. Photo by OPL **Gerald Macke**.

The **Portland, OR, Water Bureau** was presented a 125 Year Honored Institution Award by NWS Portland. The water bureau started taking daily weather reports on April 1, 1889. The **Bull Run Waterworks** receives nearly 80 inches of rain per year with which it provides the drinking water for almost one million Oregon residents. The trees have grown up and the equipment has changed a bit over the years, but the present observation location is within a quarter mile of the original site.



The **Bridgewater Water Pollution Control Facility** at the Bridgewater Correctional Complex in Massachusetts was presented with a 75 Year Honored Institution Award. Pictured is the working crew who keep the facility in top-notch shape and who take the daily weather readings. Clockwise from top left are Plant Manager **Guy Bettencourt**, Operators **Frank Crofton**, **David Poulin** and **Ken Mello** and Chief Operator **Bobby Dermody**. Bobby also received a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo and presentation by **Kimberly Buttrick**, NWS Taunton, MA

This plaque honors retired Plant Manager **Leo L. DuBois** who worked at the facility for more than 60 years from 1945 to 2009! Leo was the Observer more than 59 years! Thanks to all the working crew at Bridgewater, past and present.



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## 75 and 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



**Chad Raymond**, right, Macomb, IL, **Water Treat Plant Operator**, accepted a 75 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Davenport, IA, Lead Forecaster **Rich Kenney**.

Chad has been the primary observer since May 2011; he provides timely and accurate observations. The Macomb Plant employees have been taking observations since 1939. Photo by **Dave Holder**.

From left, **Brian Underwood**, Keeper 1, of the Honolulu Zoo, accepts a 50 Year Honored Institution Award presented by Acting MIC **Tom Evans**, NWS Honolulu, HI. The zoo's director, **Dr. Baird Fleming**, is seen in the background. As part of the ceremony, Senior Service Hydrologist **Kevin Kodama** offered a presentation to the zoo's board on how the Coop data are used, as well as the significance of the data for such a popular vacation destination as Waikiki. Photo by OPL **Mark Farnsworth**.



## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



NWS Wichita, KS, presented the Honored Institution Award for 50 years of service to the **Wichita Public Works and Utilities**. OPL **Scott Smith** presented the award to Supervisor **Dan Olmsted** of the **Cheney Pump Station facility**.



Public Works Foreman **Jeff Burch** of the **Vernonia, OR, Public Works Department** was presented a 50 Year Honored Institution Award by WCM **Tyree Wilde**, NWS Portland, OR. The site started taking daily weather reports at its present location on April 27, 1964. The town receives an average of 48 inches of rain per year. Two notable exceptions to this average were 1996 and 2007 when heavy rains caused the nearby Rock Creek to leave its banks and flood much of the town. Conditions in 1996 were further aggravated by heavy snow cover and frozen ground. The weather equipment and water treatment plant evaded the flood's path by a matter of inches. Photo taken by OPL **Gerald Macke**.

NWS Wichita, KS, presented a 50 Year Honored Institution Award to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at Wilson Lake in central Kansas. OPL **Scott Smith** presented the award to the office staff. From left are Park Ranger **Brandon Beckman**, Maintenance Worker **Curtis Keller** and Park Rangers **Matt Beckman** and **Zach Hlad**.



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## 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award

**Marvin Mair**, right, of Echo Dam, UT, receives a 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award from Salt Lake City Meteorologist **Christopher Young**. Marvin never misses an observation and takes outstanding care of the equipment. Photo by OPL **Steve Summy**.



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## 40, 35 Year Length of Service Awards



**Layton Barney**, of Hatch, UT, shows his 40 Year Length of Service Award. Layton, a dedicated gardener, took a break from his greenhouse garden for the presentation and picture. Photo and presentation by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



From left, **Stephen S. Autry** of Coleman, TX, receives a 35 Year Length of Service Award from MIC **Steve Lyons**, NWS San Angelo, TX. Photo by Administrative Support Assistant (ASA) **Jeff Jackson**.

## 35 Year Length of Service Awards



**Barbara Baca**, Observer at Wilsonville, NE, receives her 35 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Hastings, NE, Meteorologist **Joseph Guerrero**. Barbara has been taking precipitation readings since May of 1980. Since then she has measured over 800 inches of liquid precipitation and over 900 inches of snowfall.



**Dennis Barnes** of Santaquin, UT, shows his 35 Year Length of Service Award. Dennis never fails to report the weather accurately and consistently. Photo and presentation by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



**Ed Engelsen**, center, Chief Operator at the **Barnstable Water Pollution Control Division** in Hyannis, MA, received a 35 Year Length of Service Award. Ed is joined by his coworkers, Operator Foreman **Brian Fortin**, and Lab Technician **Erin McRae**. Photo by CPM **Kimberly Buttrick**, NWS Taunton, MA.



**Greg Solberg**, right, of Beaver Canyon, UT, was presented with a 35 Year Length of Service Award by Salt Lake City, UT, OPL **Steve Summy**. Greg said he is training others to continue the weather reporting duties because retirement keeps whispering in his ear.

## 30 Year Length of Service Awards



A 30 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Cynthia Leonard**, Observer at Karval, CO, 75 miles east of Colorado Springs CO. She is pictured with her kindergarten, 1st and 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes at the Karval Public School. OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO, presented the award.



**Robert “Lightning” Petersen** shows his 30 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA



**Richard H.W. Tracy** of Groveland, MA, receives a 30 Year Length of Service Award. Weather observing is Rick’s hobby but is also a crucial part of his job as a greenskeeper at Ould Newbury Golf Club in Newbury, MA. Golf course maintenance relies heavily on the right weather to provide the golfer the best greens—whether you are a golf pro or part-time enthusiast. Photo by CPM **Kimberly Buttrick**, NWS Taunton, MA.

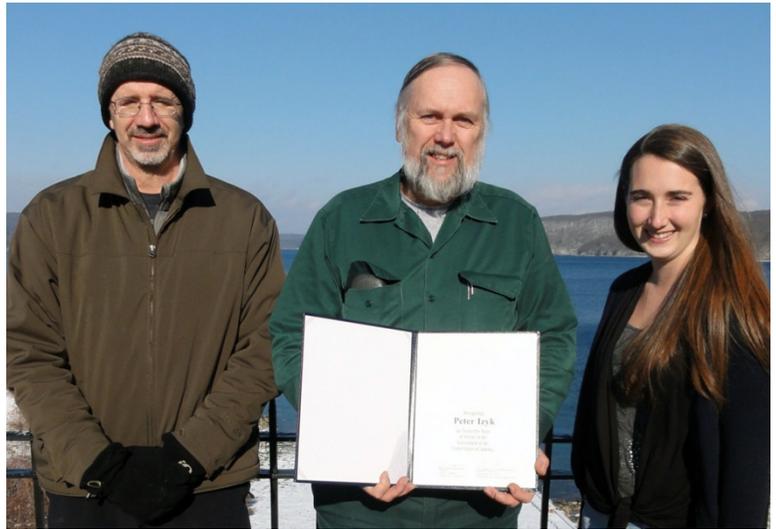


**Barbara Zuelke** from Statford, WI, receives a 30 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Scott Cultice**, NWS Green Bay, WI.

## 25, 20 Year Length of Service, Honored Institution Awards



**Kara Lyn Taylor** of Duchesne, UT, was presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award. Kara Lyn calls the NWS Salt Lake office every evening to report her observations for the Regional Temperature and Precipitation Bulletin. Photo by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



**Peter Izyk**, center, accepted a 25 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Taunton Meteorologist Technician **William Simpson**. Fellow Civil Engineer **Kim Garvey** joined the ceremony. Pete and Kim work for the **Department of Conservation and Recreation** in Massachusetts at the Quabbin Reservoir, a vast water supply for Boston and many of its neighboring towns. Photo by CPM **Kimberly Buttrick**, Taunton, MA



A 20 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Melvin Dahlberg** of Greenland, CO. Photo and presentation by OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.



**Margaret Bowman** of Coalville, UT, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award. Margaret's family has been recording the weather at their home since 1987. Photo and presentation by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.

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## 20, 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**Bryan Murdoch** of Alpine, UT, displays his 20 Year Length of Service Award. Bryan goes that extra mile by calling the NWS Salt Lake Office twice a day to ensure NWS has the correct calendar day high and low temperatures for Alpine. Photo and presentation by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



**Diane Ward** of Gilman, IA, receives her 20 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was HMT **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA.



**Lyle Welch** of Hubbell, NE, shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award presented by NWS Hasting, NE, HMT **Philip Beda**. Lyle continues more than 57 years of precipitation data from the Hubble, NE, area.



**Christie Baker**, center, park ranger at the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers** in Otter Brook Lake, NH, receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Christie was honored by representatives from NWS Taunton, MA, and NWS Gray, ME, because her reports recently transferred from Taunton to Gray. Presenting the award were NWS Taunton CPM **Kimberly Buttrick**, left, and NWS Gray OPL **Nichole Becker**. Photo by Park Ranger **Eric Chouinard**.

## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



**Windsor** and **Pamela M. Copley** of Mountain View, WY, display their 15 Year Length of Service Award. Windsor and Pam retired and moved out of state shortly after this award presentation but not before encouraging the buyers of their home to continue the weather reporting duties. Photo and presentation by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



**Kenneth Frantz**, Observer for Fleming, CO, was presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Jim Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.



**Johnny (Skip) Redford** displays his 15 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL **Scott Smith**, NWS Wichita, KS. Skip records precipitation readings for the Cambridge area in south central Kansas.



**Charlotte Spence** of San Saba, TX, receives her 15 Year Length of Service award. Photo by ASA **Jeff Jackson**, NWS San Angelo, TX.



From left, NWS San Diego, CA, OPL **Noel Isla**, presents a 15 Year Length of Service Award to Observer **Phillip Dupree** with help from Met Intern **Tina Stall**. The award was presented at the High Desert Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Hesperia, CA. Phillip is a dedicated Skywarn coordinator for San Bernardino County Fire Department and reports from his home in Hesperia. He also provides vital reports to the NWS during storms, fires, plane crashes, and more. Members of the High Desert EOC and San Bernardino County Fire Department also presented Phillip with an award for his dedicated weather support services. Photo by HMT **Mike Watkins**.

## 15, 10 Length of Service Awards



**John Taylor**, right, of Taylor, TX, accepts a 15 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by OPL **Steve Smart**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX.



**Donald Ball** of Nephi, UT, displays his 10 Year Length of Service Award. Donald took over the observing duties from his mother and does a superb job. Photo and presentation by OPL **Steve Summy**, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.



A 10 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Chris Knoetgen**, the Observer in Loveland, CO. The presentation was made by OPL **James Kalina**, NWS Boulder, CO.

**Charlotte Mercer** of Kingsbury, TX, was presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award by HMT **Cory Van Pelt**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX. No photo.



**Suzy Ross** of Augusta, IA, was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award are meteorologists **Rich Kenney**, left, and **Zach Uttech**, right, from the NWS Davenport, IA, office.



**John and Linda Moore** of Ozona, TX, receive their 10 Year Length of Service Award and pin. Photo and presentation by ASA **Jeff Jackson**, NWS San Angelo, TX.

## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



**Brad Mueller** of Greenfield, IA, displays his 10 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was HMT **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA.



**Jerard Musgrave**, Observer at Hoyt, CO, received his 10 Year Length of Service Award. Gerard is pictured here with his wife **Donna**. Presentation was made by OPL **James Kalina**, NWS Boulder CO.



Project Manager **Jason Tremblay**, at the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—Edward MacDowell Lake** in New Hampshire received a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Taunton CPM **Kimberly Buttrick**. Photo by OPL **Nichole Becker**, NWS Gray, ME.



Park Rangers **Jason Robinson** and **Cathy St. Andre** of the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers—West Thompson Lake** in Connecticut receive 10 Year Length of Service Awards. The awards were presented by CPM **Kimberly Buttrick**, NWS Taunton, MA.



WCM **Eric Boldt**, OPL **Bonnie Bartling** and MIC **Mark Jackson** presented Observer **Rick Dickert** with a 10 Year Service Award. Rick, an on-air meteorologist and traffic reporter for KTTV-Fox television in Los Angeles, has reported from Redondo Beach, CA, since he was in high school. He became an official Observer in 2005. Rick is also an NWS storm spotter and serves on the board of the L.A. American Meteorology Chapter. He is a cofounder and board member of the California Weather Association. In addition to these activities, as a certified NWS/FAA Observer, he works every Saturday at Los Angeles International Airport.

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# June, July, August Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center

