



The National Cooperative Observer

The National Cooperative Observer is an online newsletter.

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

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

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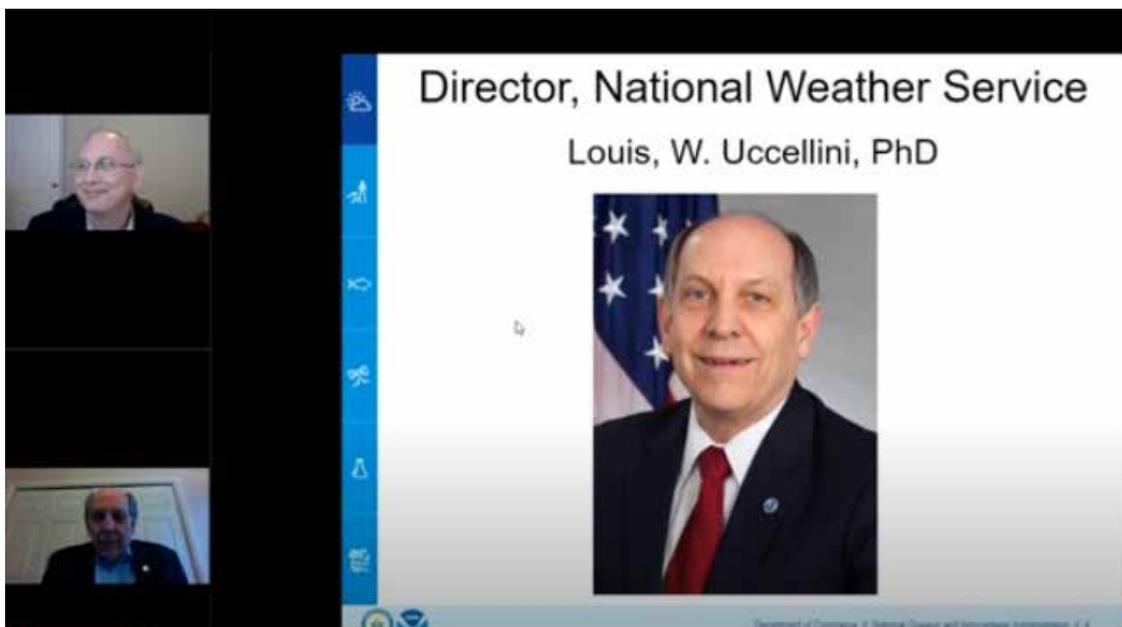
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NWS Headquarters Salutes Cooperative Weather Observers in Virtual Awards Ceremonies



The virtual environment has certainly proved challenging over the past year, but with challenge comes opportunity. While the virtual world we live in today sometimes does not provide the more personal touch of in-person events, we were able to include senior NWS leadership in our award process. Our virtual ceremonies recognizing our esteemed Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) observers included top national, regional and local weather leadership.

At the first-ever virtual awards presentation, Thomas J. Cuff, Director of the Office of Observations, offered opening remarks and introduced NWS Director Dr. Louis Uccellini, and Regional Directors:

- Dr. Jason P. Tuell, Eastern Region
- Kenneth W. Harding, Central Region
- José Garcia, Southern Region Deputy
- Dr. Grant Cooper, Western Region;

- Dr. Scott Lindsey, Alaska Region
- Raymond Tanabe, Pacific Region

Each Regional Director congratulated their volunteer COOP weather observers.

Dr. Uccellini expressed his heartfelt thanks to all the observers and related how for the last 42 years he has faithfully observed and logged daily weather from his home in Maryland. He presented a brief historical review of 19th and 20th century weather observing landmarks essential for the success of today's COOP network. Dr. Uccellini remarked, "Forecasts are for today, observations are forever."

The field managers who work with the observers were excited and grateful for this new opportunity to recognize the amazing service of their incredibly generous volunteers.

In addition to these more northern sites, however, Charleston, SC, played a critical, if less known, role in U.S. weather observing.

Amy Fritz, NWS National Cooperative Observer Program Manager, organized these events with the assistance of the NWS Chief of Staff Office, and honored a total of 45 observers in detailed. In all, 34 local Weather Forecast Offices presented awards and tributes from either their Observation Program Leaders (OPL) or Meteorologist-In-Charge (MIC).

All six Regional Directors took part in their respective regions' hour-long program. The three ceremonies on GoToWebinar were recorded on YouTube, and conducted as follows:

- [Central Region](#): January 19
- [Eastern and Southern Regions](#): January 22
- [Western, Alaska, and Pacific Regions](#):

January 25

These webinars became necessary when public health policies precluded in-person ceremonies ordinarily celebrated to recognize the nation's highest honor for observers, the Jefferson Award, and the next highest rank for observers, the Holm Award.

The ceremonies honored these 2020 awardees, as well as 15 observers from families with heritage milestones of 50 and 75 years of volunteer service, and five businesses with an unbroken service of 100 years and 125 years of service.

You are welcome to watch these ceremonies using the links below. Names of the award recipients follow the YouTube links.

Downtown Charleston, SC Weather Station Recognized as a Centennial Observing Station

By Chris Stachelski, Observing and Climate Services Program Manager, NWS Eastern Region

The Eastern United States has some of the richest history of meteorological

observations. Colonial observers in and near the major cities of the Northeast from Boston to the Washington, D.C., area along with the great landmark weather observatories of New England, played an instrumental role in routine



Map of early sites in downtown Charleston, credit NCEI through U.S Weather Bureau.

Date	Latitude		Longitude		Temperature		Barometer		Wind		Remarks
	N	S	W	E	Max	Min	Max	Min	Dir	Force	
Monday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	55	67	61	52	61	52	57	47	W 1/2 S Fair
Tuesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	54	62	54	52	61	54	57	61	W 1/2 S Fair
Wednesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	53	62	66	52	61	57	57	62	W 1/2 S Fair
Thursday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	54	62	57	54	61	55	52	62	W 1/2 S Fair
Friday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	58	66	66	55	66	61	55	62	W 1/2 S Fair
Saturday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	61	66	66	66	66	58	44	59	W 1/2 S Rain
Sunday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	62	58	42	66	60	65	61	W 1/2 S Fair
Monday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	66	58	58	58	52	59	65	62	W 1/2 S Fair
Tuesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	61	57	54	46	55	52	56	57	W 1/2 S Fair
Wednesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	61	62	58	47	60	54	54	54	W 1/2 S Fair
Thursday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	58	61	55	57	59	52	59	44	W 1/2 S Fair
Friday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	61	58	64	50	67	44	58	38	W 1/2 S Fair
Saturday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	57	58	43	58	43	57	44	W 1/2 S Fair
Sunday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	52	57	51	49	55	50	44	35	W 1/2 S Fair
Monday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	49	48	48	45	55	49	42	44	W 1/2 S Fair
Tuesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	52	60	57	60	58	49	42	46	W 1/2 S Fair
Wednesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	62	61	67	62	67	67	51	67	W 1/2 S Fair
Thursday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	66	66	65	65	62	66	68	W 1/2 S Rain
Friday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	65	65	67	61	62	64	68	66	W 1/2 S Rain
Saturday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Sunday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Monday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Tuesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Wednesday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Thursday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Friday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Saturday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
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Saturday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain
Sunday	32° 13' N	79° 20' W	64	64	64	64	64	62	64	64	W 1/2 S Rain

Original observations recorded by the Charleston Board of Health in January 1845. Credit: NCEI

recording of weather. These weather pioneers left records ranging from diaries to more organized ledgers and publications.

In addition to these more northern sites, however, Charleston, SC, played a critical, if less known, role in U.S. weather observing.

The first systematic weather observations recorded in Charleston were in March 1738 by Dr. John Lining. Lining lived at the northwest corner of Broad and King Streets and took observations 3 times a day – in the morning, at 3 PM and “at bedtime.” He read a barometer, thermometer and hygrometer and took readings of rainfall, noted cloud cover.

His observations were sponsored by the local Medical Society and continued to be kept by various doctors after Dr. Lining until 1791, after which their were several breaks. Observations resumed with breaks through the 1800s in the general downtown area until January 5, 1871. In that year, the U.S. Army Signal Service, the precursor to what would become the National Weather Service, established a permanent office with weather observing equipment at the Carolina

Bank Building at No. 1 Broad Street. The bank remained the local observing site until February 1, 1897, when they moved to the U.S. Customs House at 200 East Bay Street.

By the 1930s the growing needs of aviation sparked a move to the Charleston Municipal Airport. On December 28, 1931, the airport starting taking observations.

This location, though, was 10 miles inland and not exactly climatologically compatible with downtown Charleston, so the observations continued at the Customs House.

By the 1950s, however, what was now the U.S. Weather Bureau began to shift staff from the Customs House to the airport. In January 19, 1957 the last of the Weather Bureau staff left downtown for the airport or other locations. The Customs House location shifted to automated observations with the exception of two daily manual synoptic observations. The station remained at the Customs House through June 18, 1987, when they were moved to a passenger dock about 150 yards east of the Customs House.

Only 234 weather stations globally have been recognized by the WMO for this honor. Of these, eight stations, including Downtown Charleston, are in the United States.

U.S. Customs House showing wind equipment on roof. Credit: Library of Congress.



On October 1, 2003, the site moved a bit south along the waterfront to the pilot docks. On April 1, 2014, NWS installed new equipment at this location, which remains in place to this date.

Given the long and rich history of weather observations in downtown Charleston, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) recognized the “Downtown Charleston” weather observing site as a WMO Centennial Observing Station in November 2020.

This site is not only a long-time local climatological data site as part of the NWS’s Climate Services program, but also is a part of the Cooperative Observer Program because of its long-standing manual weather record.

The general low frequency of moves and the fact that the moves were not far from each other, combined with a low amount of missing data over the lifespan of the record make it one of the most thorough set of weather records in the southeastern United States.

Only 234 weather stations globally have been recognized by the WMO for this honor. Of these, eight stations, including Downtown Charleston, are in the United States. Downtown Charleston ranks as having the oldest start of weather records.

The NWS appreciates the dedicated Charleston staff of this vital climate site.



Area of docks showing weather station today at present location. Credit: Chris Stachelski,

Meet Two of the Youngest COOP Observers

By OPL Lisa Verzella, Salt Lake City, UT

While stories and photos abound of multi-decade service, awards and other accolades of longtime Cooperative weather patriots, seldom mentioned is the bright-eyed and bushy-tailed newbie on the block, the valued young observer. Here's a look at a two Western Region observers from this inspired and inspirational group.

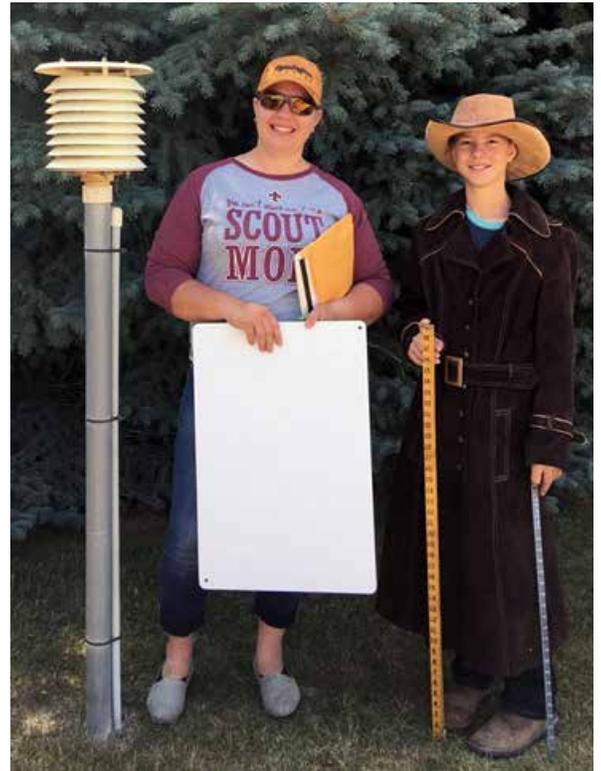
Justus Clark

The first profile highlights the youngest observer in the Salt Lake City Coop program. In 2018, shortly after earning the John Campanius Holm Award, Wellington, UT, observer **LaRaine Johnston** had to relocate and give up the station. Relatives moved into her house soon after, with the Coop equipment still intact, allowing 14-year-old **Justus Clark** a path to develop his interest in weather. He states, "I thought it was really cool to see how the weather changed each day and I was happy to get to help out."

Pursuing LaRaine's wish and NWS efforts to keep the station open in this sparsely populated ranching town, I politely implored the Clarks to take over the reins. Justus was hooked, saying, "I joined the program because they needed us. We were moving into a house that was already an established station. I wanted to be of help and I felt that it would be a great adventure and it would help me grow and become more responsible."

A quick study, Justus became the primary observer, with family members assisting him as backups. He trained his 6-year old sister and she took to it right away, adopting more and more responsibility as Justus' schedule filled up with school and band practice. She was often the one to remind Justus and his mom to go check the weather for the day.

When asked if he'd had any mentors while growing up, Justus mentioned, "I really enjoyed my science class in 5th grade with Mrs. Anderson. We had a weather station at the school and we would get to check the wind



Wellington, UT, Observer **Justus Clark** (right) with mom **Autumn Clark**. Credit: Liza Verzella.

and weather each day as a class as we went to lunch. It was a really fun experience and was the first time I really got interested in weather."

Exciting weather events further piqued his interest. He remembers a big wind storm in the Wellington area, with trees blown down and one right by his house broken in half. Another memory is of major flooding.

"The runoff was so big that there was a neighborhood in town that had many houses flooded out. I was able to go assist with the cleanup efforts during that case. I had to put on mud boots and help pump water out of people's basements and pull things out. At times there was still water in some basements up to my waist."

Justus, now 16, added a job to his busy schedule and recently had to relinquish his observer position. True to his dedication and sense of responsibility, he was willing to stay on until a nearby replacement could be found. With Wellington Mayor Paula Noyes' help, that

I wanted to be of help and I felt that it would be a great adventure and it would help me grow and become more responsible.

Jeff's interest was fostered by his dad and his 3rd grade teacher. His dad would write down each evening's forecast from the newspaper and Jeff's teacher allowed him to read it in class the next morning.

order was quickly filled and Justus passed off his duties. Hopefully he and his sister will retain their love for weather and possibly re-enter the Coop community sometime in the future!

Jeff James

The second observer, though now among the rank of seasoned adult, developed a passion for weather at age five. Recently awarded a 10 year Length of Service Award for his detailed daily reports from the populated city of Ogden, Utah, **Jeff James** was lured in by a cartoon.

While Jeff was growing up, the Ogden Standard Examiner featured a front-page daily forecast, accompanied by a weather cartoon. Jeff would read the forecast and cut out each cartoon, placing it in a scrapbook. He then became fascinated with thunderstorms; he remembers stirring up dust with a broom hoping to create one of his own! Later, he learned about how dust acts as condensation nuclei and realized his instincts were not far off from the truth.

His interest was fostered by his dad and his 3rd grade teacher. His dad would write down each evening's forecast from the newspaper and Jeff's teacher allowed him to read it in class the next morning. His teacher also encouraged him to meet a popular local television weatherperson, further inspiring his involvement in the weather community.

As Jeff moved into his early teens, one of his most significant influences came from Utah's renowned meteorologist Mark Eubank, now a local Coop observer himself.

At age 14, Jeff joined Mark's weather network. Mark notes that Jeff was very faithful in reporting observations every day, calling in reports even after the network itself disbanded.

While in high school, Jeff was so inspired to measure and report his daily observations that he built his own computerized weather kit and used it for more than a decade. His reputation got out and led him into the principal's office. But he wasn't in trouble; the principal just needed Jeff's weather sleuthing to help with an incident that happened at a nearby school!

Jeff first became involved with the NWS as a volunteer in the SKYWARN Storm Spotter Program. Over the decades he has phoned in ongoing severe weather events, providing hail size, wind damage, flash flooding, heavy rain and blizzard events.

These real-time reports have greatly assisted forecasters in creating and verifying warnings. Jeff additionally signed on as a Cooperative observer a decade ago and is



Ogden, UT, Observer **Jeff James**.
Credit: Liza Verzella.

among the most dedicated, accurate and personable folks onboard the Salt Lake City Coop roster.

The NWS is truly grateful for these and the other thousands of Coop volunteers across the nation. Introducing youth to the awareness of weather and the science of measuring and reporting observations assures the continuity of the citizen scientist role, the very heart of the Coop program. Both the young and young-at-heart will carry this valuable program well into the future.

Thomas Jefferson Awards

Honored Observer	Location	WFO
Richard Berler	Laredo, Texas	Corpus Christi, TX
Diane & Rick Knutson	Summit, South Dakota	Aberdeen, SD
Marvin Mair	Echo City, Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Charles Sanborn	Epping, New Hampshire	Portland, ME
Fred & Della Wix	Culbertson, Montana	Glasgow, MT

John Campanius Holm Awards

Honored Observer	Location	WFO
Wayne A. Burns	Millington, Michigan	Detroit, MI
Robert Dablow	Sabin, Minnesota	Eastern ND
Phillip Dupree	Hesperia, California	San Diego, CA
Beverly & Reinhard Grenz	Trapper Creek, Alaska	Anchorage, AK
Beverly & Everett Holcomb	Powder River, Wyoming	Riverton, WY
James Howells	Cedar City, Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Judy Jordan	Kilauea, Hawaii	Honolulu, HI
Tom Klanecky	Ord, Nebraska	Hastings, NE
Pat Perry	Mitchell, Oregon	Pendleton, OR
Marvin & Eudora Petersen	Concordia, Kansas	Topeka, KS
Don & Dustin Potter	Cook, Minnesota	Duluth, MN
Debi Stout	Boulder, Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Masayoshi Sumida	Perry, Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Helen Wellborn	Grant, Montana	Great Falls, MT
James F. Wirshborn	Fort Collins, Colorado	Boulder, CO

100 and (75) Year Family Heritage Award

Honored Family	Location	WFO
Ahlfs Family	Ottertail, Minnesota	Eastern ND
Cadwallader Family (75)	Mountain Park, New Mexico	El Paso, TX
Diedrich Family	Byers, Colorado	Boulder, CO
Kennedy-Richardson Family (75)	Madras, Oregon	Pendleton, OR
Martin Family	Pawnee, Oklahoma	Tulsa, OK
McCracken-Fletcher Family	Flemington, Missouri	Springfield, MO
Moudy Family (75)	Danville, Arkansas	Little Rock, AR
Pierce Family	Onida, South Dakota	Aberdeen, SD
Priester Family	Bayboro, North Carolina	Morehead City, NC
Sehorn Family	Pampa, Texas	Amarillo, TX
Stanchfield Family	Wise River, Montana	Great Falls, MT
Stevenson-Roberts Family	Altamont, Utah	Salt Lake City, UT
Theobald-Schlaphoff Family	Sherburn, Minnesota	Twin Cities, MN
Wasmund-Scheer-Scoles Family (75)	Mapleton, Iowa	Omaha, NE
Wilson Family	Ionia, Kansas	Hastings, NE

(125), 100 Year Honored Institution Awards

Honored Institutions	Location	WFO
Arkansas Valley Research Center (125)	Rocky Ford, Colorado	Pueblo, CO
Mohonk Preserve (125)	New Paltz, New York	Albany, NY
Oxford Tobacco Research Station	Oxford, North Carolina	Raleigh, NC
Portland General Electric Company	Estacada, Oregon	Portland, OR
St. Benedict's Abbey	Atchison, Kansas	Kansas City, MO
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/ Chilo Meldahl Locks & Dam	Felicity, Ohio	Wilmington, OH

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Centennial Station

Honored Institution Awarded by WMO	Location/WFO
Downtown Charleston (Established 1871)	Charleston, SC

Ruby Stufft Awards

Honored Observer	Location
Alex G. Collie	Western Region

Helmut E. Landsberg Awards

Honored Institutions	Location
Perry Anderson	Western Region
Jim Kaufman	Western Region
Charles L. Kelly	Southern Region
Patsy Eicks Rineer	Western Region
F. Robert Skilling	Eastern Region
Helen Wellborn	Western Region

Benjamin Franklin Awards

Honored Observers	Location
Arlene Cole	Eastern Region
John W. Greet	Central Region
Billie J. Heitzenrater	Central Region
Bonnie L. Jantz	Southern Region
Arnold Kotthoff	Western Region
James S. McKay	Eastern Region
Delbert Rose	Central Region
Miriam Sellars	Southern Region
William H. Speiden	Eastern Region
Timothy B. Thomas	Eastern Region
Louise H. Yates	Southern Region

Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Length of Service Award

Honored Observers	Location
Thomas Ahlfs	Central Region
David E. Ball	Central Region
Shirley Diedrich	Central Region
Renee Kotthoff	Western Region
Robert Pierce	Central Region
John Priester	Eastern Region
Darrell Sehorn	Southern Region
Eddie Lou Stanchfield	Western Region
Dean Stanchfield	Western Region

Dick Hagemeyer 45 Length of Service Awards

Honored Observers	Location
Velma Adams	Southern Region
Herbert Arnold	Central Region
Dennis Ekberg	Central Region
Ray J. French	Eastern Region
Robert Langham	Central Region
Mary Jo Lord-Wild	Alaska Region
Vernon H. Lucht	Central Region
Carolyn Melgaard	Southern Region
Denis Miller	Eastern Region
Sharon Miller	Eastern Region
Henry Morgan	Central Region
Raymond L. Prag	Western Region
Ted Rookstool	Western Region
Wayne Roop	Eastern Region
Ralph Roossinck	Central Region
Bill Schwarzkoph	Western Region
Marvin Seyer	Central Region
Keith R. Whitlatch	Central Region
Edward Williams	Southern Region
Della M. Wix	Western Region
Fred Wix	Western Region

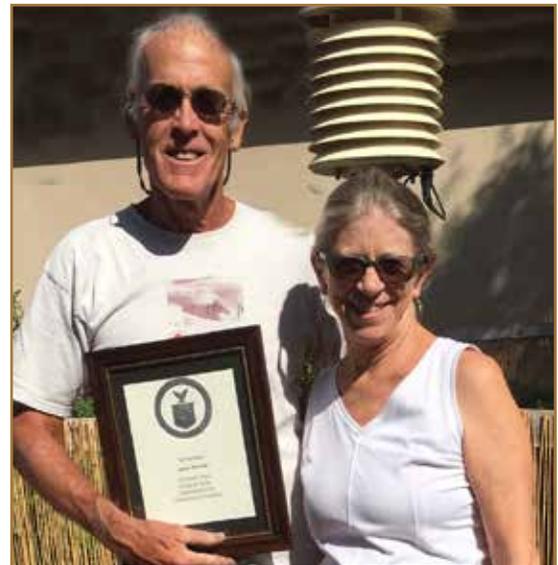
35 and 20 Year Length of Service Awards



Angle, UT, observer **Layne Blood** earned a 35 Year Length of Service Award. Layne has been consistently recording and reporting temperature, rain and snow data daily from this tiny agricultural town. The Bloods are one of three families who comprise the entire town! The Angle Coop site was established in 1981, with Layne at the helm. Pictured accepting the award is his wife, **Eileen**, photo by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**.



Silver Lake Brighton, UT, observer **Vickie Baer** was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**. Vickie has played an integral role in the Coop program by reporting measurements taken by the weather team at this high mountain site. The weather station itself is at the top of Big Cottonwood Canyon along the Wasatch Front and dates back to 1917.



Cedar City, UT, observer **Jim Howells** was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award. Jim has been consistently recording and reporting temperature, rain and snow data every day from this southern Utah city. Jim established the site in 2000. Pictured with Jim is his wife **Jeanine**. Photo and presentation by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**.

20 and 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Timpanogos Cave National Monument observer **Cami McKinney** (left) was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award by Salt Lake City MIC **Rusty Billingsley**. Cami and her weather team have been consistently observing and reporting temperature and precipitation daily at this popular mountainous recreation site.

The historical record of the Timpanogos Cave weather observations officially dates back to 1938, near its current location. One description of the station in 1951 placed it "on top of the root cellar at the rear of the [ranger] house." Photo by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**.

Cedar City, UT, observer **Shawn Glover** was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**. Shawn has been consistently observing and reporting daily temperature and precipitation, including snowfall and snow depth measurements.



Logan Radio KVNU, UT, observer **Will Wheelwright** was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**. Will has led a team of observers who have been consistently recording and reporting temperature, rain and snow data from this northern rural town. The Logan Radio Coop station was established in 1956.



15 Year Length of Service Awards



Manti, UT, observer **Rawlin Anderson** was presented with a 15 Year Award by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**. Rawlin is a backup observer for his dad, **Lee Anderson**, a 43-year Coop veteran observer. The Anderson team consistently records and reports temperature, rain and snow data from this rural Utah town. The Manti Coop site itself was established in 1893. Pictured are Rawlin, his wife, and his team of observers in training.



Wayne and Stacy Grosz, observers in Kanab, UT, were presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award. This outstanding cooperative observer team takes readings for daily temperature and precipitation, including the rare snow event, in this popular recreation area of southern Utah. They also submit valuable flash flood information which greatly assists the WFO with issuing warnings. Award presentation and photo by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**.



Scofield-Skyline Mine observer **Todd Poulsen** was presented with a 15 Year Award. The historical record of the Scofield-Skyline weather observations officially dates back to 1984, near its current location. Photo by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**.



Ephraim, UT, observer **Ron Larsen** was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award award. Ron and his team at the **Utah Division of Wildlife** take daily temperature and precipitation readings in this rural central Utah valley. Photo by Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**.

**The National
Cooperative
Observer**

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Fall/Winter
2020-21



National
Weather Service
Silver Spring, MD

**Farewell
from the
Editor!**

*After 17 years
as editor of this
wonderful report,
I am laying down
my red pen for
retirement. My
sincere thanks
for the priledge
of honoring
the wonderful
volunteers
who keep our
invaluable climate
history alive!*

*Melody Magnus
Editor*

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

