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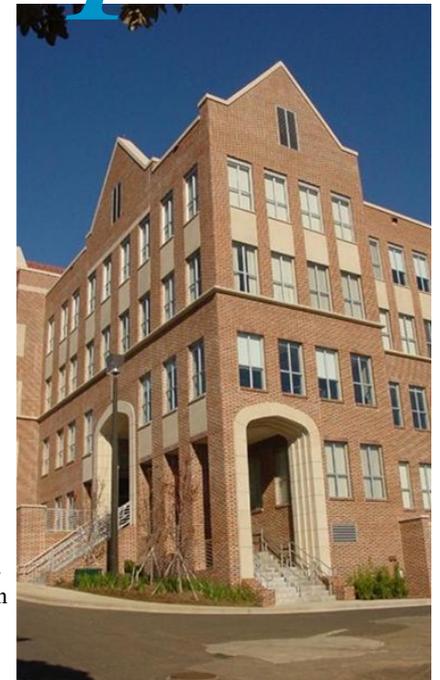


Tallahassee topics

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.

Summer Safety By Katie Nguyen



Staying Safe in the Heat

- ☼ Limit outdoor activities
- ☼ Drink plenty of water
- ☼ Wear light clothing
- ☼ Wear sunscreen
- ☼ Work outdoors early or very late in the day

  weather.gov/heat

Meteorological summer is defined as the months of June, July, and August. Climatologically, these are the warmest months of the year thanks to increased hours of sunlight. In addition to warmer temperatures, it also means increased sun exposure which can lead to sunburns, dehydration, and in extreme cases, heat exhaustion or heat stroke. It's important to wear sunscreen, stay hydrated and take indoor breaks from outside activity. Cars outside can heat up particularly quickly, which is why you should never leave children or pets unattended in a vehicle and always check the backseat before you lock your car.

If you're headed to the beach, you'll want to follow your local beach flags and swim near lifeguards whenever possible. Red flags mean that dangerous rip currents are present or likely to develop and double red flags means the waters are closed. If you get caught in a rip current, don't fight it by swimming towards the shore. Instead, swim along the coastline until you are out of the rip and then head to shore.

Sunlight heats up land faster than it heats up bodies of water. This difference in heating causes what meteorologists call a sea-breeze front, which moves inland through the day. Thunderstorms develop along and ahead of this front, which can produce dangerous lightning, damaging wind gusts, and even large hail. You should always stay indoors during thunderstorms.

Warmer ocean waters also mean tropical storms and hurricanes are more likely to develop. These storms can produce dangerous lightning, strong winds, heavy rainfall, tornadoes, and coastal flooding. Before a hurricane strikes, you can take time to make a safety plan for your family and/or business that includes a way to monitor weather and safety information, knowing if you're in an evacuation zone, where you would evacuate to if you need to, and what to do if people get separated. Make sure that everyone in the household/business knows the plan. Your family and/or business should also keep a disaster kit that includes food and water, medications, batteries, flashlights, radios, chargers, and extra cash. When a storm approaches the area, it's also a good idea to make sure your car is full of gas.

Assemble Disaster Supplies

Get your supplies before hurricane season begins. Have enough food and water for each person for at least one week. Be sure to fill your prescriptions and have medicine on hand. Radios, batteries and phone chargers on are also must haves. Gas up your vehicle and extra cash on hand.






Employee Spotlight: Wright Dobbs

*Meteorologist Intern at NWS Tallahassee
Since May 2018*

By Katie Nguyen and Wright Dobbs

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

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How did you become interested in meteorology?

My interest in meteorology came from where I grew up, the Sunshine State. I would watch the skies with anticipation every summer afternoon when I was younger for the thunderstorms Florida summers bring. In addition, dealing with tropical storms and hurricanes growing up (see 2004) left a great desire to work in our fascinating field and make a difference in people's lives.

How did you start working with the NWS?

My path towards a career with the NWS started in emergency management as I was selected for an internship with the state meteorologist of Florida at the Florida Department of Emergency Management. I got my first experience working in operational meteorology through that opportunity. The next summer I applied for a volunteer position with the NWS in Tallahassee and was selected for the opportunity. I would spend the next 2 summers working as a volunteer in the office, learning about operations and the important work meteorological support we give the public, and local, state, and federal partners. In the summer 2015, I accepted a entry level position in the NWS at the office of Billings, Montana.

What is your favorite part of your job?

My favorite part of the job is getting out of the office to interact with all of our partners. An accurate weather forecast is only part of the equation we try to solve as meteorologists. The other part of the equation is how we communicate that forecast out to the public, partners in other government agencies, those looking out for the public safety of thousands, and many others. While I love the science of our job, and the excitement weather can bring, the most rewarding part is getting out of the office and seeing how a well-communicated forecast makes a huge difference in the decisions of our partners, and the public.

What's the most challenging part of your job?

One of the more challenging parts of my job ties into what I find the most rewarding. Communication. Some would argue that the availability of weather information to the public and our partners is at all-time highs. This influx of information can present many difficulties towards making

sure useful and actionable information gets out there. We face these difficulties all the time on social media during hurricane season as unhelpful weather information goes viral. Combating misinformation (even when the intent is not malicious) is one of the biggest challenges of our job to me because it directly affects public response to real weather emergencies. It might never be a problem that is solved entirely, but every step we take towards improved weather communication is a rewarding day in my job.

Where do you see yourself in 5-10 years?

Well aside from still residing in the great state of Florida (who wants to leave this place), in five to ten years I hope to move up in the NWS and take on greater responsibilities in outreach, and the decision support services we provide to our partners. In addition, as the National Weather Service becomes deployment ready as an agency, I want to be taking the lead on these dispatches and perform these on the regular when opportunities become available. I would even consider being a part of the incident meteorologist (IMET) program in the future.

When you're not at work, what do you like to do?

A lot of things! However, I would say the biggest hobby of mine is the sport of bowling. I've been bowling since I was 9, but I didn't start to take it seriously until my junior year of high school. I joined a competitive youth travel league at that time, and then when it came time to start college at Florida State, I joined the collegiate club team. That's where my passion for the hobby exploded, as well as my abilities in the sport. My average climbed from 175 to a personal high of 218 from 2009 to 2015, and I bowled on the varsity team when we qualified for the collegiate National Championship in 2013. I currently average around 215 and have bowled three 300 games as well as a high 3-game series of 846. I bowl 2 leagues a week and typically travel to tournaments once or twice a month to put my skills to the test. It's also the sport where I met my beautiful wife, so I have much to be grateful for in this sport.

In addition to bowling, I love to surf and bodyboard (a.k.a. boogie-boarding). When I'm not bowling, you'll likely find me looking for waves along the Gulf or Atlantic coasts (when there are any). My dad grew up in Daytona Beach so you can say that is where I got my love of surfing from. I also love to play video games.

Office Changes

By Katie Nguyen

In April, our Meteorologist in Charge (MIC), Jane Hollingsworth, retired after 35 years of service. Jane started her NWS career at the National Storms Forecast Center (SELS), now known as the Storm Prediction Center (SPC), then went on to work as an intern, forecaster, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, and MIC at several Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs). She even spent several years as the national Tsunami Program Manager. You can read more about Jane in her interview in our inaugural issue [here](#). We also welcomed our new Administrative Support Assistant, Jennifer Nichols, in April. In May, intern Wright Dobbs rejoined the WFO Tallahassee team. Wright had previously volunteered at our office when he was a graduate student at FSU and spent the last few years as an intern in Billings, MT. Our newest intern, Federico Di Catarina, joined the Tallahassee team early in July. Federico was also part of the student volunteer program while in graduate school at FSU.



Celebrating Jane's retirement (left to right): Jessica Fieux, Craig Carpenter, Jeanie McDermott, Parks Camp, Mark Wool, Jane Hollingsworth, Tim Barry, Justin Pullin, Katie Nguyen, Andy Lahr, Jim Bolden, and Darcy Bolden



Climate Recap for Spring

By Tim Barry

The climate for Tallahassee during the 3-month period of March through May saw near normal temperatures with an average temperature of 67.4 degrees, 0.5 above normal. The maximum temperature recorded at the Tallahassee International Airport during spring was 97 degrees on May 12th. The lowest temperature was 27 degrees on March 15th, one of three days with sub-freezing temperatures for the month of March and spring. There were no temperature records tied or broken during spring.

Climatologically, spring is Tallahassee's driest season with April on average the driest month of the year. This spring was wetter than normal with all three months reporting above normal rainfall. May was the wettest month but only slightly wetter than March with 6.97" recorded at the airport. March received 6.85" of rain. There were two rainfall records broken this past spring. On March 19th, 4.21" was recorded breaking the previous record of 4.09" set in 1951. On May 15th, 1.41" fell at the airport breaking a century old record of 1.3" set in 1918. A non-convective peak wind gust of 44 mph from the west in the wake of a strong cold front occurred on March 20th.

Management-Admin Team

Vacant, MIC
 Mark Wool*, WCM
 Parks Camp, SOO
 Doug Sherrick, ESA
 Jennifer Nichols, ASA
 Toan Tran, ITO
 Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist

Lead Forecasters

Don Van Dyke
 Donal Harrigan
 Jessica Fioux
 Blair Scholl
 Vacant

Journeyman Forecasters

Tim Barry*
 Katie Nguyen*
 Justin Pullin
 Andy Lahr
 Vacant

HMTs

Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Interns

Claudia (Jeanie) McDermott
 Wright Dobbs
 Federico Di Catarina

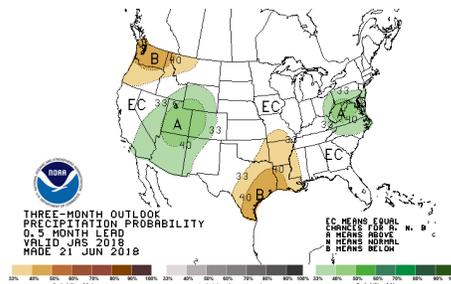
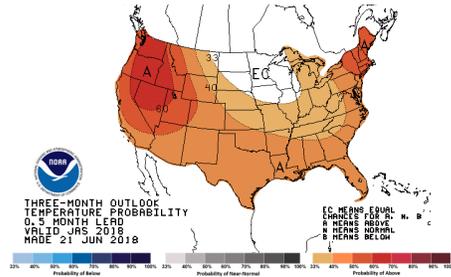
Electronic Technicians

Ron Eimiller
 Craig Carpenter

*newsletter contributors

Summer Outlook

By Tim Barry

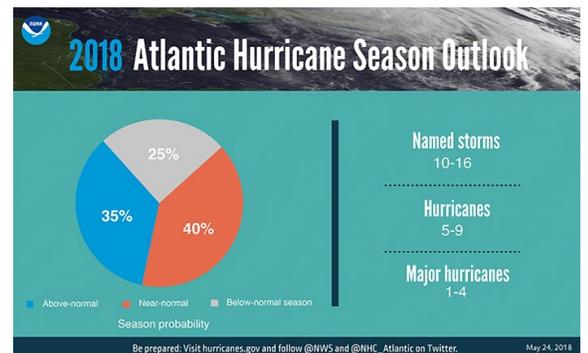


Looking ahead to summer (June through August), the Climate Prediction Center calls for an enhanced chance for experiencing above normal temperatures and above normal rainfall. The average temperature for Tallahassee during summer is 81.3 degrees and the average rainfall is 22.25 inches. On average, about 38% of Tallahassee's annual rainfall occurs during summer which is Tallahassee's convective season.

Hurricane Season Outlook

By Tim Barry

June 1st marked the first day of hurricane season which runs through the end of November. The official outlook from NOAA calls for a 35% chance of an above-normal season, 40% chance of a near-normal season, and a 25% chance of a below-normal season. NOAA forecasters predict a 70% likelihood of 10 to 16 named storms, of which 5 to 9 could become hurricanes, including 1 to 4 major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). An average hurricane season produces 12 named storms, of which 6 become hurricanes, including 3 major hurricanes. The main reason for this year's outlook is the possibility of a weak El Nino developing along with near-average sea surface temperatures across the tropical Atlantic Ocean and Caribbean Sea. As of July 11th, we've already had 3 named storms so far this year. Sub-Tropical Storm Alberto formed over the far northwest Caribbean Sea on May 25th and made landfall in the western Florida Panhandle on May 28th. Beryl became the second named storm of the year on July 5th and the first hurricane of the season the morning of July 6th. Chris became the third named storm of the season on July 8th and the second hurricane on July 10th.



Alberto	Beryl	Chris
Debby	Ernesto	Florence
Gordon	Helene	Isaac
Joyce	Kirk	Leslie
Michael	Nadine	Oscar
Patty	Rafael	Sara
Tony	Valerie	William

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Spring Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool

NWS Tallahassee continued to interact with our partners and the general public in many different ways this spring. In March, we conducted an office tour for prospective FSU students on the 2nd and 28th. Warning Coordination Meteorologist, Mark Wool, attended a quarterly meeting of Florida Region 2 emergency managers in Crawfordville, FL. Online SKYWARN Spotter training was conducted on the 29th and again on April 26th.



Also in April, Mark spoke about hurricane season preparedness at a Chattahoochee Rotary Club meeting on the 2nd and conducted SKYWARN Spotter training in Jefferson County on the 4th. Unfortunately, the NWS had to pull out of our annual booth at Springtime Tallahassee Jubilee due to potential severe weather. The weather ultimately led to the cancellation of the jubilee. Mark attended a semi-annual Division B emergency management meeting in Troy, AL on the 11th, gave a Weather 101 presentation for health care professionals at the annual Emergency Managers Association of GA Summit in Savannah, GA on the 18th, and addressed small business owners at a Ready Business Hurricane Workshop on the 26th.

The outreach tempo picked up in May, one of our busiest outreach months. On the 2nd, Science and Operations Officer, Parks Camp, manned a booth at the annual 4-H Ecology Day in Tallahassee. Mark presented on marine weather forecast services at the Apalachee Bay Yacht Club in Wakulla County, FL on the 5th and spoke to GA Area 2 emergency managers in Camilla, GA on the 9th. The following day, forecaster Andy Lahr attended a quarterly meeting of the Apalachee Local Emergency Preparedness Committee in Bristol, FL. Forecaster, Justin Pullin, conducted spotter training in Holmes County, FL on the 22nd. Service Hydrologist, Kelly Godsey, discussed hurricane preparedness at Tallahassee International Airport on the 24th. Later that day, Mark and Kelly conducted a tour group audience for our evening weather balloon launch. On the 30th, Mark, Kelly and tropical focal point, Jessica Fieux, conducted a day-long seminar on hurricane season operations for a large group of core partners including emergency managers and media (pictured). This was a timely meeting occurring on the heels of Subtropical Storm Alberto. The next day, Mark wrapped up the run-up to hurricane season with a talk on NWS tropical products and services and hurricane season preparedness at the Lowndes County GA Emergency Operations Center.

El Niño Watch

By Katie Nguyen

ENSO-neutral conditions, characterized by near average sea surface temperatures (SSTs) in the eastern and central equatorial Pacific waters, are currently in place across the equatorial Pacific. As of mid-June, SSTs in the Niño 3, 3.4, and 4 regions were around 0° to 0.2°C above normal (within the neutral range of ±0.5°C), meanwhile the Niño1+2 region saw SST anomalies around -0.5°C. Outgoing longwave radiation (OLR) anomalies in the equatorial Pacific were near normal as well, aside from a slight enhancement in convection near Indonesia, reflecting overall neutral Southern Oscillation conditions. Climate models are forecasting these ENSO-neutral conditions will continue through the remainder of the summer months and then gradually shift to warmer conditions, or El Niño conditions, possibly in the fall or winter.

