



# The National Cooperative Observer

Fall 2005

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## 150 Years of Tradition, Commitment and Dependability to the NWS

**By Ralph Troutman, WFO Nashville**

Tradition, commitment and dependability. All of these terms could easily be applied to the Cooperative Observers who have worked for the city of Clarksville, TN. Someone associated with the city has been taking daily observations since 1854, over 150 years!

This priceless climate record is the longest in the state of Tennessee, even preceding the civil war. This record covers two-thirds of the history of the United States, 30 presidencies, precedes many major wars, the advent of radio, television, and the Internet and even the automobile.

The current observers at the Clarksville Waste Water Treatment Plant have been taking midnight observations since February 1969. They have reported temperatures ranging from 105 degrees

in 1980 to 15 below zero in 1985. During the late 1990s, Clarksville was struck by tornados several times, once even destroying much of the square in downtown Clarksville, but the observers diligently continued to provide essential observations to the National Weather Service.

Located on the banks of the Red River where it joins the Cumberland River just south of the Kentucky state line, Clarksville has been the site of several major floods. The observers now provide real time data to help NWS issue forecasts and warnings for their area.

The observations themselves have changed little over the 15 decades. The standard rain gage continues to be used to measure daily rainfall. Daily temperature extremes originally were measured with



*WWTP Clarksville, TN, observers are awarded an inspiring 150 Year Honored Institution Award. The award is accepted by Dudley Rives and the crew of the Clarksville station. Nashville, TN, MIC Larry Vannozzi, center left, presented the award.*

**In his opinion, January 1950 was the worst winter weather in his lifetime, with an average temperature for the month of 17 degrees below zero.**

glass thermometers situated in a Cotton Region Shelter; these have been replaced with an electronic Maximum-Minimum Temperature System.

The biggest change has been in the method of reporting the data. Monthly reports were originally mailed and would take quite some time to be processed and made available.

Today, observations are sent daily over phone lines or by the Internet to the NWS Nashville, TN, where meteorologists use the information to formulate today's forecast.

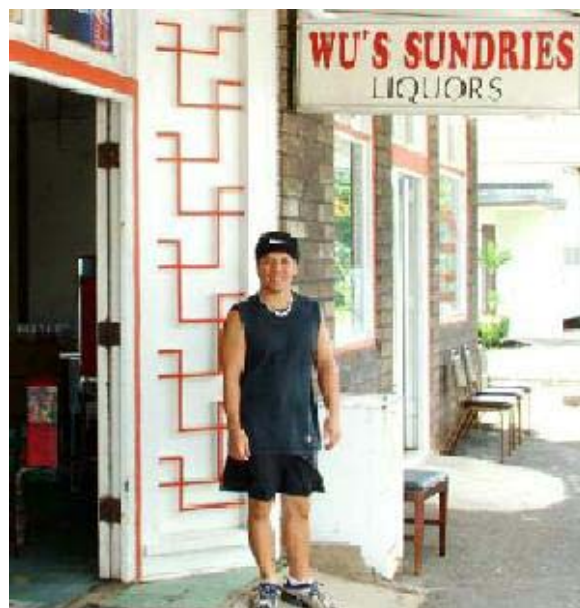
NWS Nashville enjoys a great relationship with the Clarksville staff, particularly the employees of the Waste Water Treatment Plant. The Water Treatment staff have always been happy to help provide better service to their community and are proud members of the Cooperative Observer family.

## Kapaka Farms: Spirit of Giving

The Kapaka Farms Coop site in Hau'ula, along the windward side of O'ahu, seems to bring out the Aloha Spirit in people. When the resident longtime cooperative weather observer needed assistance, a local family of three generations did what they could to assist him, and even to ensure that observations continued to be recorded.



*Coop Observer Leilani Au and her daughter Erika.*



*Rick Wu outside his shop in Hau'ula.*

Longtime observer Marion "Petti" Pettigrew was suffering from the effects of diabetes. Petti had to have his leg removed. He was then hospitalized for several months. While he was in the hospital, the Kapaka Farms observation site was put on inactive status, and the NWS staff removed the Coop equipment. When Petti returned from the hospital, he asked the Au family to help him continue his commitment to recording regular, accurate climate observations for NWS.

The Au family of Kahuku already had a hectic life. Rodney and Sharin Au of Kahuku, their daughter Leilani, and granddaughter Erika together operate a store, do carpenter work, and are always busy with family, schools, and volunteer obligations. Still, the Au family agreed to assist Petti.

Continuity is always a good thing. The NWS soon reinstalled the equipment. The members of the Au family quickly learned the trials and tribulations of being weather observers and diligently reported regular observations.

The senior AUs were concerned about Petti's ability to return to life outside of the hospital. To ease his transition, Sharin got to work fixing up Petti's house. Rodney volunteered his carpentry skills to make the house more accessible.

Adult daughter Leilani volunteered to help take care of Petti's needs whenever she could. As Petti's condition worsened, Leilani even moved into Petti's home to take care of the handicapped weather observer. When Leilani moved in, Petti was reliant on the Au's for the majority of his care.

After Petti returned home from the hospital, his eye sight began to deteriorate. It soon became evident that Petty could neither get to the rain gage, nor read the temperature digital display.

The Aus were now completely immersed in the Coop program. Leilani or Erika would take the morning readings. Using her cell phone, Erika would relay the reports on her way to school to her grandmother, Sharin. Sharin would then enter the data into the Remote Observation System Automation (ROSA) system.

The Aus volunteered for this work thinking it would be temporary and that Petty would eventually again take over the observations. Unfortunately, Petti's condition became worse, so Petti and the Au family looked for someone to take over.

Fortunately, Rick Wu of Wu's Sundries in Hau'ula stepped up to the situation. Wu owns and operates his store, and arranged to have the equipment moved to his store site. Since that time, Wu has also learned how to become a coop observer.

Our work as hydrometeorological techs presents opportunities to meet extraordinary people. The Au family's outstanding commitment to their neighbor has extended beyond their local community. Their efforts have reached climatologists worldwide. ☼

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## Name on the Form: Dohlen's Wild Winter

**By Matt Moorman, HMT  
NWS Glasgow, MT**

Coop observers provide not only accurate and up-to-date weather records, but also something more: living history. When I visit observers and listen to their tales of past weather history, I'm often scrambling for the record books. Erling Dohlen, an observer 12 miles southeast of Opheim in northeast Montana, has a vast knowledge of the weather in northeast Montana. His family has taken observations since 1930.

During a recent visit, Erling recalled the brutal winters of the late 40's and 50s. He specifically remembered livestock perishing and motorists stranded for weeks from the cold and snow. Ranchers used the same techniques we use today for sur-



*Erling Dohlen, right receives his service award from NWS Glasgow, MT staff.*

vival. In his opinion, January 1950 was the worst he could recall with the average temperature for the month of 17 degrees below zero.

His story stirred our curiosity. When I got back to the office, I searched the records. January 1950 is the coldest month on record with an average monthly temperature of -16.7 degrees. The county was declared a winter disaster area during the winter of 1949-1950 and motorists were stranded for weeks. Precipitation for the year was 19.03 inches with 49.9 inches of snow. How is that for memory?

Erling continued the conversation with memories of being stranded for three weeks in 1951 during a March storm that buried his car under 3 feet of snow. Motorists were welcomed into Montana homes, grocers and restaurant owners welcomed stranded travelers to eat and sleep in their businesses at no cost, and the motels were packed with travelers. We didn't search the records as diligently this time. After all, we already had an expert tell us the story. Admittedly, I would rather hear Erling tell the story than search records. Without a personality, records are colorless.

Now we have a personal, vivid picture of those horrific winters. The stories are a testament to the hospitality, sacrifice and citizenship of the Northern Plains. Memories will fade but the records will remain. A century from now researchers will try to visualize how bad those winters really were. They will not have the luxury of talking to Erling Dohlen. I hope in their search they realize the record speaks for itself, but the name on the form is Dohlen. ☼

**In his opinion, January 1950 was the worst winter weather in his lifetime, with an average temperature for the month of 17 degrees below zero.**

# Just What Is Indian Summer ?

**By: Bill Deedler, Weather Historian, WFO Detroit, MI**

In 1817, John Bradbury described Indian Summer, well when he wrote, “The air is perfectly quiescent and all is stillness, as if Nature, after her exertions during the Summer, were now at rest.” The term Indian Summer dates back to the 18th century. It can be defined as “any spell of warm, quiet, hazy weather occurring in October or even early November.”

Indian Summer is associated with warmer than normal temperatures accompanied by dry, hazy conditions ushered in on a south or southwesterly breeze. Several references note that a true Indian Summer cannot occur until there has been a killing frost. Since freezing temperatures generally work their way south through the fall, this would give credence to the possibility of several Indian Summers occurring in a fall, especially across the northern areas where frosts usually come early.

While almost exclusively thought of as an autumnal event, Indian Summers have been given credit for warm spells as late as January. Another topic of debate about Indian Summer has been “location, location.”

Some writers have made reference to it as native only to New England, while others have stated it happens over most of the United States, even along the Pacific coast. A typical weather map that reflects Indian Summer weather involves a large area of high pressure along or just off the East Coast. Occasionally, it will be this same high pressure that produced the frost/freeze conditions only a few nights before, as it moved out of Canada across the Plains, Midwest and Great Lakes and then finally, to the East Coast.

Much warmer temperatures, from the Deep South and Southwest are then pulled north on southerly breezes resulting from the clockwise rotation of wind around the high pressure. These conditions usually last a few days to well over a week and can occur more than once. Such a mild spell is usually broken when a strong low pressure system and attending cold front pushes across the region. This dramatic change results from a sharp shift in the upper winds or “jet stream” from the south or southwest to northwest or north.

But why is it called “Indian Summer”? A paper by Albert Matthews, written in 1902, made an exhaustive study of the historical usage of the term. The term goes back to 1778, when it was first used by St. John de Crevecoeur, a Frenchman. Crevecoeur wrote “Sometimes the rain is followed by an interval of calm and warmth which is called the Indian Summer; its characteristics are a tranquil atmosphere and general smokiness. Up to this epoch the approaches of winter are doubtful; it

arrives about the middle of November, although snows and brief freezes often occur long before that date.”

Since the writer says, “it is called the Indian Summer,” the term must already have been in use. Does the term Indian Summer really have

anything to do with Indians? One explanation is that Native Americans chose that time to hunt. The mild and hazy weather encourages the animals out, and the haziness of the air gives the hunter the advantage.

Taking this idea further, Indians at that time were known to set fires to prairie grass and underbrush to accentuate hazy, smokey conditions. But Matthews pointed out that the Indians also did this at other times of the year. Other possibilities for the origin of the term include:

- The Indian harvest season occurred at the same time
- The predominant southwest winds were regarded by Indians as a favor or “blessing” from a god
- English immigrants equated the time to “fools” summer, given the unreliability of the resulting weather
- Finally, straying from the American Indian “camp” of theories, is one by H. E. Ware, who noted that ships at that time traversing the Indian Ocean loaded up their cargo the most during the “Indian Summer,” or fair weather season. Several ships actually had an “I.S.” on their hull at the load level thought safe during the Indian Summer. ⚙



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## Thomas Jefferson Award



Charles Hanson, observer at Artichoke Lake Minnesota, receives the Thomas Jefferson Award during a ceremony held at the Ortonville Museum in Ortonville, MN. Pictured from left are Tim Kearns, DAPM; Charles Hanson; Bob Bonack, Central Region CPM; and Ken Gillespie, HMT.

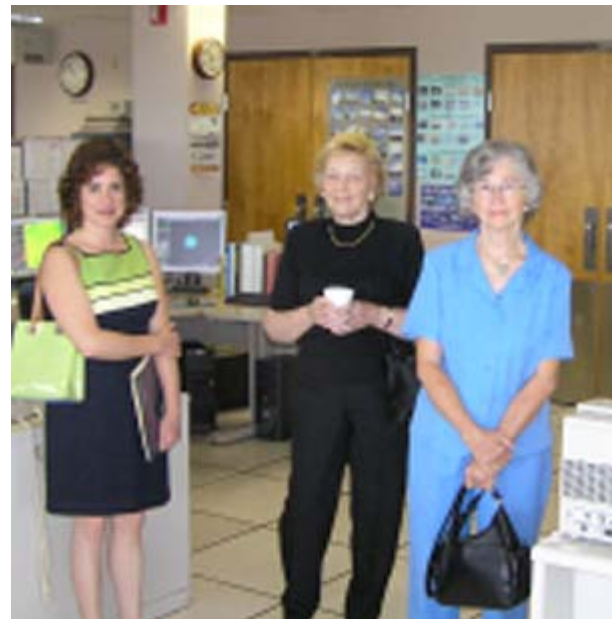
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## John Campanius Holm Award Winners

NWS State College, PA, presented the Holm award to Dorothy Manges and Emma Shaulis on June 14. Both observers are from Somerset County, PA. In addition to NWS recognition, the two observers received certificates of recognition for their outstanding public service record from their U.S. Congressmen, state representatives and from Pennsylvania Governor Rendell.

Emma began taking observations at Boswell in May 1959. At the award ceremony, she also received her 45 Year Length of Service Award and pin. Her late husband began collecting the data, but Emma soon took over. For 45 years the Shaulis family collected data for both NWS and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Shaulis Coop site is an important location for precipitation because of its proximity to the historic Johnstown flood region. Emma was questioned about how many times she changed the Fisher Porter rain gage tapes and she just smiled.

Dorothy Manges also received her 35 Year Length of Service Award in 2004. She also records information for both the NWS and Corps of Engineers. Her equipment has been at the same site since September 21, 1937. Dorothy is an outstandingly accurate observer recording excellent precipitation and snowfall data. At an elevation of 2460 feet, her location is prone to harsh winter conditions.



From left are Julia Bowser, of U.S. Senator Santorum's office; Holm Award Winners Dorothy Manges and Emma Shaulis

## John Campanius Holm Award Winners



Darlene and Tom Johnson of Osceola, NE, hold their Holm Award. Standing is NWS Hastings, NE, Assistant Cooperative Program Manager Steven J. Carmel.

Tom Johnson was recognized for 33 years of dedication to the Cooperative Weather Observer Program with the prestigious Holm Award. The award is the agency's second most prestigious. A maximum of 25 are presented annually to deserving cooperative weather observers nationwide.

As a high school sophomore, Tom assumed the responsibilities for maintaining the Osceola station in October 1971, reporting daily precipitation and temperature data to the NWS. His family helped record data during a hiatus for college and a few years spent working in Omaha. He reclaimed full-time observing duties on Oct. 1, 2003.

Michael Lewis, Meteorologist in Charge of the NWS Hastings, NE, Weather Forecast Office, presented the award at the Good Samaritan Ridgeview Height's facility in Osceola, NE, Assistant Cooperative Program Manager Steven J. Carmel of the Hastings office nominated Johnson for the award.

Paul Christensen of Kukuihaele, HI, was presented with the John Campanius Holm award for over 52 years of weather observational services. Jeffrey R. LaDouce, Regional Director of the NWS Headquarters in Honolulu, presented Paul with the honors at his 95th birthday celebration in Waimea.

Paul began taking rainfall observations in 1933 when he was hired by the Hamakua Sugar Company. He continued taking observations until his retirement in 1975. When the sugar company was terminated in 1994, he was recruited by the NWS to take weather observations at his home in Kukuihaele, where he is still a weather observer. His willingness to continue rainfall observations at his residence along with his valuable knowledge of the cooperative observer program have contributed to the continuity of rainfall data for the program.



John Campanius Holm award winner Paul Christensen, right, receives his certificate from Jeffrey R. LaDouce, NWS Pacific Region Director

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## 100 Year Institutional Length of Service Award

Ranger Kathleen O'Leary accepts an award for 100 years of commitment to providing weather data. Kathleen accepted the 100 Year Institutional Award on behalf of the Snake River Ranger Station at the South Entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The award was presented by NWS CPM Jerry Bush, NWS Riverton, WY.



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## 75 Year Institutional Length of Service Award

John Ornellas receives the 75 Year Award for the Lanai, HI, city site. John is the Residential Maintenance Scheduling Supervisor for Castle and Cooke Resorts LLC. John is one of many staff members that have helped maintain this site for such an extended time.



## 75 Year Institutional Length of Service Award



Sarah Carroll, staff member at the Michigan State University W.K. Kellogg Bird Sanctuary site accepts the 75 Year Award for Institutional cooperative weather support. The site is on the east side of Gull Lake, MI, The sanctuary is open 365 days a year for visitors. This location was first a stopover station for migrant birds during their traveling seasons between Canada and the rest of the United States. Presenting the award was George Wetzel, NWS Grand Rapids, MI.

NWS was proud to present a 75 Year Length of Service Institutional Award to the Washington State Department of Corrections, Monroe, WA. Accepting the award is Dennis Hannan, right.





## Albert J. Myer Awards: 65 Years of Service



MIC Steve Todd, NWS Portland, OR, presents the Albert J. Myer Award to Ena Kirk.

The King Family of Holley, OR, receives the General Albert J. Myer Award for 65 years of weather observations. The King family has faithfully recorded precipitation amounts and river levels in the Linn County, OR, area since January 1940, when the weather station was set up at the family's home.

John B. Holdsworth of Crystal City, TX, was presented the prestigious General Albert J. Myer Award for 65 years of outstanding public service. John also received a letter of appreciation from General (ret.) D.L. Johnson, NWS Director.

Since May 1940, John has been the first and only observer in Crystal City. He has done a spectacular job of providing legible, accurate weather data. In the 1940s the Weather Bureau needed an observer to record 3-hourly observations. John filled the need. During World War II, while he served as a weather observer in Alaska, his wife Margaret filled in for him. In 1949 the Weather Bureau closed his 2<sup>nd</sup> order station but needed a network station, which John agreed to monitor. In 1956, when a second station in Crystal City had problems, the Weather Bureau again turned to John. When rainfall reports in the Nueces River headwaters were needed in the 1950s and 1960s, John again was willing to help. In 1974, John's knowledge helped identify weaknesses and strengths of local gauging methods. His significant rainfall event reports have also provided potentially lifesaving information during severe weather outbreaks.

John also contributes weather information to a local newspaper column and a variety of agricultural interests in south Texas.



From left: MIC Joe Arellano, John Holdsworth and Mrs. Holdsworth, HMT Dennis Cook, and Southern Region Coop Program Manager Mike Asmus.  
Photo by DAPM William Runyon.

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## Albert J. Myer Awards: 65 Years of Service

Leonard Reese, of Cougar, WA, doesn't let disability slow his commitment to serving NWS. He proudly shows his 65-year Albert Myer Award presented by OPL, NWS Seattle, WA, Arthur Gaebel. Leonard continues a tradition started by his father, who started observing for the Weather Bureau in 1940. The daily and hourly precipitation data recorded at this station is published monthly and this information has added greatly to the knowledge of the climate of this area.



Leonard Reese holds up his General Albert J. Myer Award for 65 Years of family service

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## Helmut E. Landsberg Award for 60 Years of Service

From left, Pendleton, OR, MIC Mike Vescio and Western Region Director Vickie Nadolski present Norma Kennedy-Richardson and her daughter Bonnie and husband, Johnnie with the Helmut E. Landsberg Award for 60 years of continuous service. Also present was Observing Program Leader Jim Zdrojewski (not pictured). The family has taken precipitation readings from their ranch since 1945. The first observations were taken by Norma's mother, Eleanor Kennedy. Norma has been the primary observer since 1993.



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## Benjamin Franklin Award for 55 Years of Service

John Swaine from Royal Oaks, MD, proudly holds up the Benjamin Franklin Award for 55 Years of Service as NWS Coop Observer. Presenting the award is Bill Christ, Cooperative Program Manager at the NWS Office in Mt Holly, NJ.



John Payne, center, was presented the prestigious Benjamin Franklin Award for 55 years of cooperative volunteer services to NWS Paducah, KY. Presenting the award to John from left are NWS Paducah, KY, DAPM Mike Nadolski and Evansville, IN, Liaison Officer Ron Fields.

## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards

A 50 Year Honored Institution Award was presented to Radio Station WQHL in Live Oak, FL. The award was accepted by Marion Catalano, the primary observer at WQHL since 1988. Also pictured is Norm Protsman, right, the original owner of the radio station, who signed the cooperative agreement in 1955. The award was presented by Mike McAllister, DAPM, NWS Jacksonville, FL.



The Sylacauga, AL, Water Plant received the Honored Institution Award for 50 years of Service to the nation's weather records. From left are Joel Holmes, Chief Operator of the Sylacauga Water Plant and DAPM David Wilfing, NWS Birmingham, AL.

## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards

The NWS Western Region presented a 50 Year Institutional Award to Bennie B. Hodges, who takes observations at the Rye Patch Dam in Pershing County, NV. The dam is part of the area's water district.



The Oakridge Fish Hatchery staff was presented with a 50 Year Institutional Award for its dedicated service.

Pictured from left back are Jason Conlee, Gary Yeager, Mike Richards. Front row from left are Chad Proffitt, Bill Robinson, Josh Ketch, Chris Sherland, and MIC Portland, OR, Steve Todd.

Weather information in the Oakridge, Oregon area dates back to March 1914. The Oakridge Fish Hatchery staff has been a vital part of maintaining this unbroken chain of information since the equipment was moved to their location in 1955.

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## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards

The Lanai, HI, Water Company celebrated 50 years of contributing to the National Weather Service as cooperative observers. Pictured from left are Tom Tynan, Water Analyst; Roger Aydan, lead welder; and Bernie Giron, office assistant and observer.

They are holding awards for the precipitation sites of Mahana, Kanepuu, and Waiakeakua, HI



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## 50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award

Tommy Saye of Clarendon, TX, was presented with the Edward H. Stoll award for 50 years of cooperative weather observations in Clarendon. The award was presented during the biennial Severe Weather Workshop hosted by NWS Amarillo, TX, last spring. Tommy was also presented with an official Cooperative Observer windbreaker for those windy Texas panhandle days.



Tommy Saye, right receives his Edward H. Stoll award for 50 Years of Service. *Photo taken by Steven Ippolitti, Amarillo NWS Intern.*

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## 50 Year Honored Institution Awards



The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station in Beeville, TX, was recognized by the NWS Corpus Christi, TX, for 50 years of weather reporting service.

Presenting the award from left are NWS Corpus Christi HMT Steve Smart and MIC Armando L. Garza.

Since 1955, the Beeville station has provided a tremendous service to Beeville and Texas.

Our special thanks to Domingo Martinez, Research Associate, who has been the primary observer since 1981. The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station continued to measure and transmit air and soil temperature, precipitation and evaporation data.

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## 45 Year Length of Service Award

J. Newton Wallace, the semi-retired editor of the Winters Express, was recently recognized for 45 Years of Service as a volunteer weather observer. The award was presented by MIC Elizabeth Morse, NWS Sacramento, CA; DAPM George Cline; and Cooperative Program Manager Angus Barkhuff.

Wallace has maintained a meticulous record of the daily temperature and rainfall at the Winters Express building since April 1960.

Over the years, Wallace's efforts have been noteworthy for their accuracy and reliability. In 1994, Wallace received the Holm Award, given to a select few volunteer weather watchers. In 1999, he received the Thomas Jefferson Award, the highest award presented to Cooperative Weather Observers.



From left, MIC Elizabeth Morse presents the Hagermeyer award to J. "Newt" Wallace with DAPM George Cline.

## 40 Year Length of Service Awards



From left are NWS Mount Holly, NJ, DAPM Roy Miller; Cooperative Observer James McKay; and Cooperative Program Manager Jim Gross.



Jim Mitchell shows off his 40 Year Length of Service Award presented by NWS Lincoln, NE, DAPM Billy Ousley.



Wilma Joyce Senter proudly holds her 40 Year Service Award for her work at Fulton, MS. From left are Memphis MIC Jim Belles, Joyce and DAPM Zwemer Ingram.

*Photo by Chris Lockett, Student Volunteer, NWS Memphis.*



William H. Newberry, left, gets help holding up his 40 Year Length of Service Award from Grand Junction, CO, MIC Doug Crowley. William has been taking temperature and precipitation measurements from his home and store in Cimarron, CO.

*Photo by Becky Klenk, Cooperative Program Manager.*



## 40 Year Length of Service Awards



Husband Charles helps Roberta Keegan show her 40 Year Length of Service Award presented by NWS Pendleton, OR, OPL Jim Zdrojewski. The station started off at the Ashwood, OR, Post Office where Roberta was postmaster. Later it was moved to her ranch, where it is still located.



Gilbert Tews, left, earned a 40 Year Length of Service Award for acting as a river observer for the Cottonwood River in New Ulm, MN. Gilbert continues a tradition his father started in 1952. Presenting the award is NWS Minneapolis MIC Craig Edwards and Service Hydrologist Steve Buan.



Gordon L. Sorensen (center) and his wife, accepted Gordon's 40 Year Service Award and letter of appreciation from NWS Director General (ret.) D.L. Johnson. The award was presented by NWS Sioux Falls, SD, Lead Forecaster Richard Ryrholm.

## 35 Year Length of Service Awards



Joe Sommer of Chenoa, IL, receives a 35 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Lincoln, IL. The award was presented by NWS Lincoln HMT John Parr.



Observer Edwin Andres (holding plaque) was presented a 35 Year Length of Service Award for the Elbing, KS, area. Presenting the award is NWS Wichita, KS, Cooperative Program Manager Leon Wasinger. Also present were MIC Richard Elder, and Administrative Assistant Gloria Dill (not pictured).



Louise Hallberg receives her 35 Year Award from NWS San Francisco Bay Area Observing Program Leader Bob Benjamin. Louise has previously received the prestigious Holm and Jefferson awards.



Barbara Hankel shows her 35 Year Length of Service Award for observations at Minot, ND. The certificate was presented by OPL Len Peterson, of the NWS Bismarck, ND, office.

## 35 Year Length of Service Awards



Leonard Eliason, observer at Moroni, UT, was honored with a 35 Year Length of Service Award for his continued commitment to the National Weather Service.



Arlon and Lucille Otts show their 35 Year Length of Service Award presented by Don Smith, HMT, NWS Birmingham, AL.



Oneta Sowers, left, receives her 35 Year Length of Service Award from HMT Eva Mullen, NWS San Angelo, TX



John Wade shows off his 35 Year Length of Service Award presented by HMT Eva Mullen, NWS San Angelo, TX.

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## 30 Year Length of Service Awards



A 30 Year Length of Service Award was presented to Robert L. Smith (right) of Calhoun Research Station in Calhoun, LA, by Shreveport, LA, MIC Lee Harrison, and DAPM Marion Kuykendall (not pictured).



Jerry Cope and wife Jane hold up his 30 Year Service Award. *Photo by David Wilfing, DAPM, NWS Birmingham, AL.*



Layton Barney, observer at Hatch, UT, was recognized for his generous service with a 30 Year Length of Service Award



Tom Kellom of Dubois/Clark County, ID, has contributed to the NWS Cooperative Weather Observations program for 30 years. Tom (center) receives a certificate and lapel pin to commemorate the occasion.

Carl Collins (left) of Newman, IL, holds up his 30 Year Length of Service Award presented by NWS Lincoln, IL, MIT Dan Kelly. *Photo by WCM Chris Miller.*



## 25 Year Length of Service Awards



Bob Harrison, right, of Virginia, IL, receives a 25 Year Length of Service Award from Dann Kelly, NWS Lincoln, IL.



Bonnie Bergman received a 25 Year Length of Service Award from Matt Moorman, HMT/CPM, NWS Glasgow, MT. Bonnie and husband Jerald are Coop observers in Sidney, MT.



Joe Douberly shows his 25 Year Individual Award presented by Mike McAllister, DAPM, NWS Jacksonville, FL.



Ron Hvizdak, right, primary observer at Eureka Ranger Station, MT, receives a 25 Year Length of Service Award. Ron takes daily temperature and precipitation readings plus services a Fischer Porter precipitation gage. Stan Krenz presented the award. *Photo by Ray Nickless, NWS Missoula, MT.*



The Kodachrome Basin State Park in Utah was honored with a 25 Year Institutional Award for its many years of dedicated service.

## 25 Year Length of Service Awards



Stacey Patane and Peggy Harris accept a 25 Year Institutional Award on behalf of the Lahontan Dam Nevada State Park



Rick Lohmann of Zumbrota, MN, shows his 25 Year Award with help from Minneapolis Service Hydrologist Steve Buan. Rick took over this family tradition from his father in 1970.



The Mono County, NV, Sheriff's Office receives a 25 Year Institutional Award from Observing Program Leader Rudy Cruz, NWS Reno, NV.



A 25 Year Institutional Length of Service Award was presented to the Monastery of St. Gertrude, in Cottonwood, ID. Accepting the award was Sister Placida Wemhoff, who takes the daily temperature and precipitation measurements. *Photo by Stan Krenz, NWS Missoula, MT.*

Mark Badger accepts a 25 Year Institutional Award on behalf of the Naselle Salmon Fish Hatchery. Art Gaebel, OPL, NWS Seattle made the presentation.



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## 25 Year Length of Service Awards



Larry Ponder, right, is presented with his 25 Year Length of Service Award by HMT Robin (Smitty) Smith.



A 25 Year Institutional Award was presented to Mike Rogers (left) and Larry Kilcrease (right) of the Temple-Inland, Pineland, TX, by DAPM Marion Kuykendall, NWS Shreveport, LA.



A 25 Year Institutional Award was presented to Wade Wright (center) of the Louisiana Office of Forestry. Wade takes observation at Sailes Fire Tower in Minden, LA. Presenting the award are Brandi Richardson, (left) summer student, and Marion Kuykendall, DAPM, NWS Shreveport, LA.



Brad Page accepts the 25 Year Institutional Award for the Raymond Treatment Plant, at Raymond, WA. Brad has been taking observation at the treatment plant for about 10 Years.

## 20 Year Length of Service Awards



For 20 years, Richard "Heatwave" Berler has rendered faithful and conscientious service to NWS as a Cooperative Observer at Laredo, TX.



A 20 Year Length of Service Award was presented to Louise Blackwood of New Hope, AR, by DAPM Marion Kuykendall, NWS Shreveport, LA.



MIC Jim Belles, NWS Memphis, TN, presents Viola Hollowell with an award for her 20 Years of Service as the official cooperative weather observer for Madison, AR.



Ben Kocher of Ste. Marie, IL, receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Lincoln, IL, *Photo by HMT John Parr.*



Georgia Kruciak, observer at Runge, TX, shows a 20 Year Family Service Award. *Photo by HMT Joseph Baskin.*

Charles and Darlene Moline, cooperative observers at Brockway, MT, accept a 20 Year Length of Service Award. *Photo by NWS Glasgow, MT, HMT/CPM Matt Moorman.*





## 20 Year Length of Service Awards



Guy B. Nobels, observer at Yorktown, TX, shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award. *Photo by HMT Joseph Baskin, Austin, TX.*



Geraldine Pennell, observer at the Culbertson, MT, river gage, received her 20 Year Length of Service Award. *Photo by HMT/CPM Matt Moorman, NWS Glasgow, MT.*

Steve Papp and assistant, Lulu, show their 20 Year Award for serving at West Blocton, AL. *Photo by DAPM David C. Wilfing, NWS Birmingham, AL.*



Ross Rekemeyer, right, Albia, IA, receives his 20 Year Length of Service Award from HMT Steve Teachout, NWS Des Moines, IA

Jerry Wall, observer at Round Rock, TX, shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award. *Photo by HMT Pat McDonald, NWS Austin, TX.*



## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Eric Albus, Coop observer for the river gage at Bjornberg Bridge on the Milk River near Saco, MT, received a 15 Year Length of Service Award.

*Photo by Matt Moorman, HMT/CPM, NWS Glasgow, MT.*



Lynette Klimpel of Velva, ND, was presented the 15 Year Length of Service Award. The Klimpel family has been observing for this area since 1990. The award was presented by Sandra Wiche, CPM, Bismarck, ND.



Observer Peggy Bewley shows her 15 Year Length of Service Award for Thrall, KS.  
*Photo by CPM Leon Wasinger, NWS Wichita, KS.*



Roy Oliver shows his 15 Year Award for service at Woodson, TX. Presenting the award is HMT Eva Mullen, NWS San Angelo, TX.



Eugene Meyer, observer at Westby, MT, on the Montana/North Dakota border, 9 miles from Canada, holds up his 15 Year Length of Service Award. *Photo by HMT/CPM Matt Moorman, NWS Glasgow, MT.*



Richard Setterstrom, observer Butte, MT, holds up his 15 Year Award. Richard services a Fischer Porter precipitation gage.  
*Photo by OPL Stan Krenz, NWS Missoula, MT.*

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## 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Receiving their 15 Year Service Award are C. A. Turner, primary observer, his wife Ima Jean Turner, and Belva Johns, secondary observer. *Photo by DAPM David C. Wilfing, NWS Birmingham, AL.*



Mark vonWaldner, right, Atkinson County Extension Coordinator, Pearson, GA, receives his 15 Year Length of Service Award from HMT Jim Boone, NWS Jacksonville, FL.

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## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Wiley Butler shows his 10 Year Length of Service Award for support at Grand Ecore, LA. From left are NWS Shreveport, LA, DAPM Marion Kuykendall, Hydrologist Craig Ross, Wiley, and MIC Lee Harrison.



Earl and Fay Chance show their 10 Year Award for service at Clayton, AL. *Photo by HMT Don Smith, NWS Birmingham, AL.*



Dianne and Keith Hanson have been faithful observers at Britt, IA, for 10 years. They show off their equipment and award.



Ruth Flanagan gets help showing her 10 Year Length of Service from DAPM Marion Kuykendall, NWS Shreveport, LA. Ruth observes at Chalk Hill Utilities in Longview, TX.

## 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Rein Schmidt of Newton, IL, receives a 10 Year Length of Service Award. *Photo by HMT John Parr, NWS Lincoln, IL.*



A 10 Year Length of Service Award was presented to Wilma Redmon, observer at Tatum, TX, by DAPM Marion Kuykendall, NWS Shreveport, LA



Ben Martin and Darcel Wesen with Montana Aviation Research Company, are Coop observers at St. Marie, MT. They display their 10 Year Length of Service Award.

*Photo by HMT/CPM Matt Moorman, NWS Glasgow, MT.*



On a sunny day, Fred Shoals shows his 10 Year Award for service at Foreman, AR. *Photo by DAPM Marion Kuykendall, NWS Shreveport, LA.*



Rex White, Rhodes, IA, received his 10 Year Coop award. Rex is a retired farmer as well as a Coop observer.



Larry J. Vierthaler was presented a 10 Year Length of Service Award for the Zenda, KS, area. *Photo by Michael (Joe) Rosner, NWS Wichita, KS.*



Cecil and Teresa Vaughn pose for their 10 Year Length of Service Award. *Photo by DAPM Ralph Troutman, NWS Nashville, TN.*



## WXCODER Takes the Pain out of Paperwork

**By Bob Bonack**  
**NWS Central Region Regional Cooperative Program Manager**

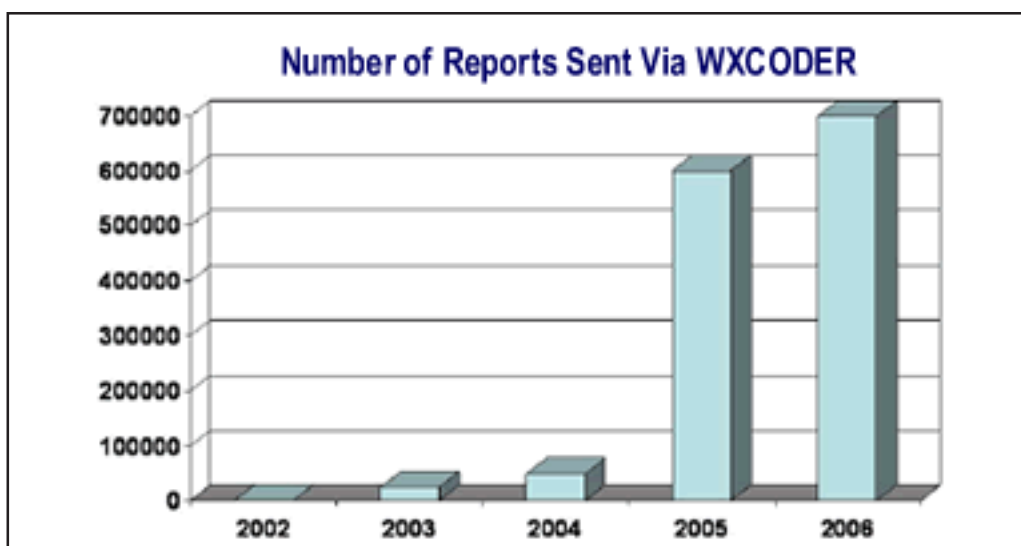
WXCODER, better known as Weather Coder in the cooperative program, is a way for Cooperative observers to transmit daily weather data over the Internet rather than mailing forms.

The program can save lots of tedious paperwork by generating the B-91 form and sending an email message to the local office.

Most observers with computers are aware of this powerful tool to get their data out immediately.

If you are not familiar with WXCODER, and would like to start sending data via the Internet, call your local office to get set up.

Weather Coder, designed in 2001 by Bob Somrek at NWS Chicago, was first tested in December 2002 with 53 transmitted observations. Its success led to national prominence with an expected 600,000 observations this year and 700,000 observations in 2006 (See chart below). ☼



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