



The National Cooperative Observer

Spring 2006

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Georgia Cooperative Observer Loses House to Fire, But Saves Climate Records and Equipment

Eric Avila, Met Intern, and Nate Mayes, Cooperative Program Manager, NWS Peachtree City, GA.

On January 19, 2006, long-time Georgia Cooperative Observer L. Douglas Griffith was awakened by a fire in his home, a historic 1889 structure. Unfortunately, his attempts to extinguish the fire proved unsuccessful, however, his love and passion for his observation duties led him to grab his temperature observing equipment and all of his weather records and save them from the fire. In addition, as his house smoldered, Griffith actually called in his daily weather data to the NWS data collection system.

NWS Peachtree City, GA, reports that Griffith has been a dedicated cooperative observer outside of Dallas, GA, (Paulding County), since April 1, 1973. He was a recipient of the John Campanius Holm Award in 1992 and the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award in 2000.



L. Douglas Griffith



Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), NWS Director, (center) along with NWS Atlanta, GA, MIC, Lans Rothfusz (left) and Cooperative Program Manager, Nate Mayes, call to personally thank L. Douglas Griffith, cooperative weather observer for Dallas, GA, in Paulding County.

On Monday, January 30, 2006, NWS Director, Brig. Gen. D.L. Johnson, USAF (ret.), visited the Atlanta Forecast Office and the Southeast River Forecast Center in Peachtree City, GA. During his visit, Johnson called Griffith to thank him for his dedication and express his sympathy for the loss of his home. As a small token of thanks, Johnson awarded a NOAA Assistant Administrator/NWS Director coin to Griffith.

Griffith's true devotion to his responsibilities represents the dedication that keeps the NWS Cooperative Observation network strong.

A “Cove”rt Operation: All in an Alaskan Coop Day

By Kimberly Vaughan, OPL, WFO Juneau

Another typical Coop trip is about to begin with a stop by the office to check on weather and pick up equipment and paperwork.

So far so good, weather is cooperating and there should not be any problems getting to our sites and back today. My coworker, Brian, and I arrive at the airport at 7:30 a.m. for our 8 a.m. departure. There's no need to arrive 2 hours before check in; just walk

copilot seat, next to the pilot. Two more passengers climb into the seat behind them. The engines are fired up, we start to float out to the main part of the pond then up we go. The view is spectacular! This is my second year going on these trips but I still have a camera on, clicking away.

I get pictures of the Mendenhall Glacier, Douglas Island and Auke Bay. Once away from Juneau, the view is unlimited with mountain, sky and ocean. I have yet to have a flight in which I don't see at least one whale blowing spray.

Once in Elfin Cove, I get off while Brian continues on to Pelican. Most Coop visits do not require two NWS staff members, but like so many people in rural Alaska, Mary Jo has many jobs. In addition to being a mom, wife, and tour guide, Mary Jo is an A-Paid weather observer and Coop observer.

She's been faithfully serving NWS for 29 years. Her husband has been the NWS backup for 24 years. Jim and Mary Jo are a reliable, knowledgeable and accurate team. They start our trip by picking us up from the float plane dock in their 19 foot skiff with smiles and a helping hand.

We navigate past the main docking area where large and small fishing boats are tied up. This is also where the fueling station is. There are a few fishing lodges, the family's homes and the general store built along the steep hillsides surrounding the cove.

We tie up at the Wild's dock. It's so peaceful, it's like stepping into a postcard. OH NO, its low tide! The dock is connected to the walkway by a self adjusting ramp that gets very steep at low tide. Up the ramp we go, everyone grabbing a bag.

The visit is much like any other: check equipment, answer questions, have some tea and talk shop. After finishing with the Coop items, I move on to the A-Paid side of things. I check more equipment, ask and answer more questions.

Now the plane is due in, and we leave to pick up Brian. This time we cross to the other dock and



Mary Jo Lord-Wild and husband Jim take us to their house in the inner cove from the seaplane base in the outer cove in their skiff. Mary Jo has been an observer for 30 year and Jim for 25.

up, give the ticket agent your credit card, and don't be shy—they need to know your weight as well.

As soon as everyone has paid and the luggage is loaded into the van, the people are loaded up, too. We drive from the terminal to the float plane pond, located on the other side of the airstrip. The van stops next to a dock. Everyone piles out and grabs their luggage; there are no baggage handlers here.

This trip is usually from Juneau to Pelican to visit a Coop site. We get about 90 minutes for the stop in Pelican then fly to Elfin Cove, where we have about 2 more hours before the last flight departs. This day was going to be different. Elfin Cove had a lot of mail so we were going there first. We load up the plane. The first passenger climbs into the

I get pictures of the Mendenhall Glacier, Douglas Island and Auke Bay. Once away from Juneau, the view is unlimited with mountain, sky and ocean. I have yet to have a flight that I don't see at least one whale blowing spray.



Elfin Cove from the wind tower of the inner cove with part of the “town” on the far shore.

tie up there. We’re going to walk through town. It’s about a city block long with a museum, post office, restaurant, bar and more lodging.

The last building on the left as we head toward the float plane dock is the school. In the fenced yard is playground equipment, which of course includes a small boat, 'cause every little kid wants to grow up and be just like Mom and Dad. On a more somber note, there is also a memorial to those who were taken by the sea. The float plane lands and we meet Brian and go to lunch. The local café has fresh seafood and really good cheeseburgers.

After lunch, it’s back to work—we still have to change the wind equipment. This is where Brian and I need each other and that 100 lbs of baggage we’ve been hauling around.

The wind equipment is attached to a 40 foot tower. For this trip, we need to contact the State Troopers and inform them what we're going to be doing in case of injury. If a serious injury occurs, the Troopers would contact the Coast Guard for emergency transport.

The safety spotter becomes key because you can not only die of injuries resulting from a fall, but also from extended time dangling from the harness. The Coast Guard is dispatched out of Sitka and may take up to an hour to reach the area. Sounds scary, it’s not; we just need to be careful.

Brian and I are both qualified to climb and trust each other's ability to use the equipment and conduct a rescue if necessary. It’s my turn to climb. After suiting up in the climbing harness, up I go.

It takes a few minutes to climb to the small platform at the top. After getting all the straps adjusted, I send the rope down to Brian. He attaches the canvas bucket to it and sends it up. I detach the old wind equipment and replace it with serviced ones, first the direction and then the speed.

Before climbing down, we check the sensors inside to confirm that everything is working right, e.g., reading north, when the vane is pointing north. Getting things right the first time becomes critical on trips like this one that cost hundreds of dollars and lots of time to get out to. This is also a great time to take some pictures from the top of the tower. From this viewpoint, you can see the entire back cove out to the outer cove and into Cross Sound.



NWS Juneau Observation Program Leader (OPL) Kimberly Vaughn on the wind tower, changing the equipment.

Back down the tower I go, with just enough time to pack up the gear before getting dropped off at the float plane dock. The plane takes us back to Juneau around 5:30 p.m. We go back to the NWS Juneau office and unpack our gear. Just another typical day.

Observer Mary Jo Lord-Wild is a mom, wife, A-Paid weather observer, Coop observer and tour guide to name just a few of her jobs. She’s been faithfully serving NWS for 29 years. Her husband has been the NWS backup for 24 years.

Thomas Jefferson Award Winners

From left, MIC Steve Brueske NWS Great Falls, MT, presents NWS's highest award for cooperative observation to James Wood and Janet Zieg. NWS Western Region Director Vickie Nadolski helps hold up the award. There were only nine Jefferson Awards presented nationwide in 2005.



John Campanius Holm Award Winners



Grant Goodge, Swannanoa, NC, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award in recognition of his dedication to the Cooperative Observer Program. Grant has provided weather data for more than 20 years from his mountaintop home at 4300 feet. He often calls with significant reports of strong winds and snow at various hours of the day and night when other areas around Asheville are experiencing much milder weather.

Grant was also the Coop observer for the downtown Asheville site at the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC) for many years before retiring as a NOAA employee. He currently works for STG Incorporated which is a contractor for NCDC.

The Holm Award was presented to Grant by Dean Gulezian, Eastern Region Director, at a "NOAA in the Carolinas" partnership meeting held at NCDC. Taking

part in the ceremony were NWS Greer, SC, MIC Larry Gabric; Science and Operation Officer (SOO) Larry Lee; DAPM Terry Benthall; and Simon Lee, President and CEO of STG Inc. The event was filmed by Asheville TV station WLOS-13.

John Campanius Holm Award Winners



The NWS Shreveport Forecast Office presents a John Campanius Holm Award to Billy Andrews of Shreveport, LA. Pictured from left are NWS Shreveport MIC Armando Garza, Billy Andrews, Catherine Andrews (wife), and NWS DAPM Marion Kuykendall.

Carole Hanks shows her Holm Award for her volunteer weather observing service in Nevada. Carole began her observing career in 1978. She has taken consistent, accurate daily measurements of temperature and precipitation for the Las Vegas and Elko Weather Forecast Offices.

Carole Hanks grew up on the Blue Eagle family cattle ranch, in existence since 1895. The ranch was recently recognized by the state of Nevada with the Centennial Ranch and Farm Award. Several historic structures still exist on the ranch, including the ranch house, a blacksmith shop, windmills and a bunkhouse.



Carole Hanks was presented the Holm award this winter at the historic Nevada Hotel in Ely, NV, by Kevin Baker, MIC, WFO Elko, NV.

John Campanius Holm Award Winners

From left, NWS Spokane, WA, MIC John S. Livingston presents the John Campanius Holm award to William Hofmann. The award was presented during an open house at the WFO. William is a retired wheat farmer in Rosalia, WA. He has been taking observations for more than 35 years.



From left, Bruce Bauck (left), MIC WFO Missoula, MT, presents the Holm Award to Bill Moran, Libby SSE, MT. The award recognizes not only the high quality of Bill's weather reports but also the many personal sacrifices Bill has made over the past 24 years to maintain an accurate and complete climatological record for McGinnis Meadows.

John Campanius Holm Award Winners

Fred and Delia Wix started taking observations for the weather station in Culbertson, MT in 1975. They have provided accurate, timely data for the past 30 years. The station started 7 miles southeast of Culbertson in 1917, and was moved to Culbertson in 1948. Northeast Montana climate extremes make the flawless precipitation data collected by the Wixes invaluable to the local farming and ranching community. MIC Julie Adolphson noted that 2 years ago a record winter weather season greatly hindered the everyday lives of northeast Montanans. "The Wixes diligently recorded their precipitation and snowfall totals during the many snow storms and blizzards. Their observations contributed to the information used in the Governor's decision to have a disaster declaration for northeast Montana that winter."



From left, Julie Adolphson, MIC at NWS Glasgow, MT, presented a Holm Award to Fred and Della Wix at a luncheon. Also present was NWS Cooperative Program Manager Matt Moorman, who nominated Fred and Delia Wix.



NWS Spokane, WA, MIC John S. Livingston (left) presents the Holm Award to Gary Galbreath. Galbreath accepted the award on behalf of his family during an open house at WFO Spokane, WA. The Galbreath family has taken and recorded weather data in eastern Washington for more than 40 years.

100 Year Family Heritage Awards

Last winter NWS Pittsburgh, PA, honored Edwin R. Copeland of Hanover, OH, with a Family Heritage Award. The award is presented to observers with a legacy of 100 or more years of service within the same family. The Copelands began the tradition of Cooperative Observing in 1892 with Ed's Grandfather, George. The duties were then passed to Ed's father, Lawrence, and finally to Ed in 1956. This is the first year of this prestigious award, and the Copeland Family is one of only eight eligible families. Edwin Copeland also received a 25 Year Length of Service Award for his individual contributions. The NWS thanks Edwin and his family for their many years of service to the Cooperative Program; they serve as a shining example of true American spirit.



Pictured are Edwin Copeland and NWS Pittsburgh MIC Theresa Rossi.



Pictured from left are NWS OPL Bob Coblentz and William H. Burckholter.

NWS Pittsburgh, PA, honored William H. Burckholter and family of Philo, OH, with the Family Heritage Award for their 100 years of service to the National Weather Service.

The Burckholters began the tradition of Cooperative Observing in 1895 with William's great-grandfather, Lewis Burckholter

75 Year Institutional Length of Service Award



From left are James Burgess of EMBUD's Lodi offices and NWS Sacramento, CA, DAPM George Cline.

NWS Sacramento, CA, recognized the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) for 75 years of support to the Cooperative Weather Observer Program at EBMUD's Camp Pardee Dam. Since 1926, EBMUD has taken daily reports at their facility in the foothills of Amador County, CA. The data includes daily high and low temperatures, evaporation, and daily and hourly rainfall. EBMUD also maintains unofficial weather recording stations at Calaveras Big Trees State Park and at Comanche Reservoir.

NWS Sterling, VA, presented a 75 Year Institutional Length of Service Award to the employees of the Parkins Mills Waste Water Treatment Plant, in Winchester, VA. From left are observers Grey Grim and Harold Stepp. The award was presented by NWS Sterling OPL John Darnley.



Benjamin Franklin 55 Year Awards



From left front, WFO Louisville, KY, Orgler, Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) Larry Dattilo presents a Benjamin Franklin Award to Charles McMurtrey (observer) and his wife Arlene McMurtrey. In the back, from left, are Charles and Arlene's son Tom McMurtrey, Louisville MIC John Gordon, Metcalfe County Judge Don Butler, NWS HMT Mike Crow and Metcalfe County Treasurer Martha Richardson.

Roy H. Byars, celebrated the holiday season with thanks from NWS for his family's 55 years of service as observers at Blanco, TX. Roy holds up his Benjamin Franklin Family Award on behalf of his family.

Pictured from left are NWS San Antonio HMT Pat McDonald, NWS WCM Larry Eblen, Roy Byars, NWS MIC Joe Arellano, and Mark Lenz, NWS Service Hydrologist.



Benjamin Franklin 55 Year Award



From left are James B. Price and NWS Birmingham DAPM Dave Wilfing.

NWS Birmingham, AL, presented James B. Price of Pinson, AL, with the Benjamin Franklin Award for 55 years of service. James has provided the NWS Birmingham office with weather data for nearly 21,000 consecutive days and has never missed a day! This was the first Benjamin Franklin Award given to an Alabamian in more than 11 years. James has also been recognized by NWS Director D.L. Johnson, Alabama Congressman Spencer Bachus, and Alabama Governor Bob Riley for his dedication and accomplishments.

James has also received the Holm Award, granted each year to a maximum of 25 cooperative observers for outstanding contributions to the cooperative program.

50 Year Institutional Length of Service Award

NWS Pittsburgh, PA, honored the employees of the Coshocton Water Pollution Control Plant with a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for their dedicated efforts in support of the NWS Cooperative Observing Program.



50 Year Honored Institutional Award



Myakka River State Park, FL, Biologist, Diana Donaghy accepts the 50 Year Honored Institution Award from Tampa Bay HMT Thomas Dougherty.

The WEXPRO Gas Plant Church Buttes Unit in Wyoming was presented with a 50 Year Institutional Award. Accepting the award is Ray Cramer. The award was presented by Salt Lake City Observing Program Team Leader Steve Summy.



50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award



Alice Rickman, Grangeville, ID, was recognized for her 50 years as a Cooperative Weather Observer with the prestigious Edward H. Stoll Award. Alice's distinguished career in the cooperative weather program began on May 1, 1955.

Presenting the award from left are NWS Missoula, MT OPL Stan Krenz and MIC Bruce Bauck.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award

It was like an NWS reunion in Wakefield, NE, when Paul Burman was awarded the Dick Hagemeyer Award commemorating his 45 years of service in our Coop program.

The award was presented by MIC Steve Schurr of WFO Omaha, NE, and DAPM Donald Morin of WFO Sioux Falls, SD. On hand to help Paul celebrate were several retired NWS employees, members of the media, and a large contingent of Paul's friends.



From left are NWS Sioux Falls, SD, DAPM Don Morin; Tom Sinclair, NWS CRH, retired; George Matuella, DAPM Omaha, retired; Paul Burman; Dave Theophilus, MIC, Omaha, retired; Steve Byrd, NWS Omaha, retired; Omaha MIC Steve Schurr; Roy Osugi, NWS Omaha, retired. *Photo by OPL Terry Landsvork, WFO Omaha.*

40 and 35 Year Length of Service Awards



NWS Pittsburgh, PA, awarded Dorothy Maxwell with a 40 Year Length of Service Award for her dedicated and devoted efforts. Dorothy began taking observations in April 1965, performing with help from her late husband Kenneth.



Dee Roberts, observer at Altamont, UT, was presented with a 35 Year Length of Service Award for his contributions to the NWS. The award was presented by NWS Salt Lake City OPL Steve Summy.



Dave Ball, (left) Battle Creek, MI, accepts a 35 Year Award from Grand Rapids WCM Michael Heathfield. Dave took over the site for his brother in the 1970's, continuing the family tradition. Dave works in the Lakeview School District and is an assistant emergency manager for the City of Battle Creek. He easily migrated to new observing technology by using a spreadsheet.

35 Year Length of Service Awards



Mr. and Mrs. James Gregory, observers at Lonetree, WY, show off their 35 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Salt Lake City Observing Program Team Leader Steve Summy.



Norma Booher receives a 35 Year Length of Service Award from MIC John Livingston during an open house at WFO Spokane, WA. Norma is the cooperative observer from Smyrna, WA.



From left, MIC Bruce Bauck, NWS Missoula, MT, presents Arnold Finklin with a 35 Year Length of Service Award. Arnold has been the cooperative observer in the Rattlesnake Valley, just north of Missoula, since November 1970.



Carol Skipper and her husband Jack have taken the rainfall reports for DeSoto City, FL, for the past 35 years. Carol graciously accepts the 35 Year award from Tampa Bay HMT Tom Dougherty.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



Verlyn Baker (left) was presented his 30 year Length of Service Award at WFO Sioux Falls, SD. Verlyn has also served as a Synoptic Observer for NWS. He can “read” the sky and always keeps an eye on the clouds over Pickstown, SD, in addition to his Coop duties. The award was presented by MIC Greg Harmon. *Photo by DAPM Donald Morin.*



Jim Benovic, Montague, MI, shows his 30 Year Length of Service Award. Jim has been busy since he retired from the U.S. Postal Service 5 years ago. The location of the observing site is only a mile from Lake Michigan's cool lake breezes. Jim and his wife Marilyn recently completed renovations on their home requiring quite an upheaval of their observing equipment. Not one observation was lost, nor was quality ever compromised, during that long transition. Presenting the award were NWS Grand Rapids, MI, OPL George Wetzel and CPM Mike Kalembkiewicz.



James E. Fee (left), Ft. Bidwell, CA, receives his 30 Year Length of Service Award from OPL Rudy Cruz, WFO Reno, NV.



L. F. Goss, observer at Belmont, TX, was presented a 30 Year Length of Service Award by San Antonio HMT Joe Baskin.

30 and 25 Year Length of Service Awards



Doris E. Pinckney, the observer at Wasola, MO, holds up her 30 Year Length of Service Award. The plaque was presented by NWS HMT Larry Dooley.



Betty Wetzsteon received a 25 Year Length of Service Award for taking observations near Sula, MT. Presenting the award was Bruce Bauck, MIC, NWS Missoula, MT.



Rudy A. Villareal, observer at Lytle, TX, holds up his 25 Year Award presented by NWS San Antonio, TX, HMT Joe Baskin.



Dr. A. C. Spreng, Observer at Rolla, MO, was presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award by HMT Larry Dooley.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



Laraine Johnston, observer at Wellington, UT, shows her 25 Year Length of Service Award presented by OPL Steve Summy, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.

Photo taken by Mr. Johnston.



From left, NWS Dodge City MIC Larry Ruthi presents a 25 Year Length of Service Award to Stephen and Lois Fenster. The Fenster Family also received a 100 Year Family Heritage award. (See winter 05-06 edition.)



Janice Lecaire, observer at Northport, WA, hold-up her 25 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by DAPM Bob Bonner, NWS Spokane, WA.



NWS recognized Sheriff Mary Loveall for 25 Years of Volunteer Observing Service. Mary maintains a recording rain gauge, which keeps a record of hourly rainfall, on her family's farm near Cobb, in eastern Lake County, CA. The award was presented by CPL Angus Barkhuff, NWS Sacramento, CA.

25 Year Institutional Length of Service Awards



Russell Henes and Richard Rude present a 25 Year Institutional Award to staff at the Plant City, FL, Water Treatment Facility.



Holly Boggs, Director of Communications at the Eldon Department of Public Safety, accepts a 25 Year Institutional Award. The plaque was presented by NWS DAPM Paul A. Murphy.



Utah Power and Light was presented a 25 Year Institutional Award for their cooperative observing services at Electric Lake, UT. Accepting the award is observer Chet Sinquefield.



NWS Pittsburgh, PA, honored the employees of the Hempfield Township Municipal Authority Sewage Plant with a 25 Year Institutional Award for their support of the Cooperative Observing Program.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Tony Amos receives a NWS award for 20 Years of Service at Port Aransas, TX. Pictured from left are NWS Corpus Christi MIC Scott C. Cordero; Lee A. Fuiman, Ph.D., Director, Marine Science Institute; Tony Amos, UTMSI Research Fellow, Physical Oceanography; and HMT Steve Smart.



Mary Bowen shows off her flowers and her 20 Year Length of Service Award for observations at McArthur, AR. Photo by Jimmy Russell, OPL, NWS Little Rock, AR.



Debbie Spero accept a 20 Year Award for observations at Bethpage, TN, presented by Nashville MIC Larry Vannozi. Photo by OPL Ralph Troutman.



Observer Darla Sue Loyd was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award for her years of service at Sedan, KS. Presenting the award was CPL Leon Wasinger, NWS Wichita, KS.



Marc Keiser (right) of Shepherdsville, KY, holds up his 20 Year award presented by DAPM Larry Dattilo of NWS Louisville, KY.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



From left, Fred Clements, observer from Greenfield, TN, receives his 15 Year Length of Service Certificate from Jim Belles, MIC, WFO Memphis, TN.



Elroy M. Dieringer, (right) observer at Schulenburg, TX, accepts a 15 Year Family Award on behalf of his family. The award was presented by Joe Baskin, NWS San Antonio, TX, HMT.



Harry Hanson, Kokomo IN, receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award from Ed Terrell and Mike Shartran, of the NWS Indianapolis, IN. Pictured from left are Harry and Ed.



Edwin J. Haidusek, observer at Luling, TX, shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award presented by HMT Joe Baskin, NWS San Antonio, TX.



From left, Drew Bouvette, Electronic Technician, NWS Des Moines, IA, presents a 15 Year Award to Bill Mateer of Sheffield, IA, with Des Moines HMT Steve Teachout.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



Dolores Montes, observer at Imlay, NV, receives her 15 Year Length of Service Award from OPL Rudy Cruz, WFO Reno, NV.



Doyle Sigman, of Glenwood, AR, shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo by Jimmy Russell, OPL, NWS Little Rock, AR.



From left Tom Edwards, Covington, IN, receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Indianapolis HMT Ed Terrell. Photo by Service Hydrologist Albert Shipe.



NWS Dodge City, KS, MIC Larry Ruthi, left, presents a 15 Year Length of Service Award to Arron Von Schrlitz.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



NWS Sioux Falls, SD, DAPM Donald Morin helps Al Cerny show his 10 Year Length of Service Award. Donald accepted it on behalf of the city of Gregory, SD, where employees pool their efforts to track temperatures and precipitation in their community.

Photo by Sioux Falls HMT Don Miller.

Robert Kochis, secondary observer, and Kathy Kochis, primary observer, for Matheson, CO, were presented 10 Year Length of Service Awards by Denver HMT Carl Burroughs.



Veta Mitchell, the NWS observer at Virginia Dale, CO, shows her 10 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was Boulder DAPM Byron Louis. *Photo by HMT Carl Burroughs.*



Cliff Inboden, observer for Palestine, IL, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Central Illinois HMT John Parr.



Beverly Devine, observer at Willisburg, KY, gets her 10 Year Length of Service Award from Louisville, KY, HMT Rick Lasher.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Debra Lang accepts her 10 Year Award as observer at Georgetown, AR. *Photo by Jimmy Russell, OPL, NWS Little Rock, AR.*

From left, Daniel Gropper of Vienna, VA, shakes hands with NWS Washington/ Baltimore MIC James Lee as Daniel accepts his 10 Year Award.



George and Joanne McKay show their 10 Year Length of Service Awards.



Monte Hollingsworth (right) from Chariton, IA, shows his 10 Year Award presented by Steve Teachout, HMT, NWS Des Moines, IA. The equipment is located at the Chariton Water Treatment Plant. Monte enjoys being the focal point or point of contact for the weather in his small community.

Russell L. Summy, observer at Layton, UT, was presented a 10 Year Award by Steve Summy, OPL, WFO Salt Lake City, UT. After retiring from the Federal Government with 41 years of service, Russ took on the cooperative observing duties and has added 10 more years of service to his country.





North Star News January 30, 1827

Sent to WFO Burlington, VT by Raymond Helenek

The following text is reprinted as it ran 179 year ago in the North Star News.

Singularities of The Season

At St. Augustine, Florida, the cold was more severe about the 25th December than had ever been known by the oldies inhabitants. At Milledgeville, Georgia, the thermometer on the 1st instant fell to 8 degrees. The Savannah river was frozen over, and there was good skating on the lagoons at Augusta. Cape Fear and Roanoke rivers were frozen over on the 2d inst., a circumstance which has not occurred since 1783. The snow was deeper at Albany on the 18th inst. than at any time for the last 15 years. Several sleighs started for the South, had to return on account of the travelling.

North Star, March 22, 1831 Snow

The New Orleans Advertiser of February 9, says: "Yesterday in the middle of the day, we had pretty strong indications of snow, but the falling particles ceased to appear before night. The steamer Hudson, that came in the day previous, was covered with snow, and the space between the bales of cotton

was filled with it, of such a compact character that the passengers gave the persons on the Levee a pelting with snow balls, a rare sight in this climate! It fell in great quantities above Natchez. The steamer Uncle Sam, it is said, was lying at the Petit Gulf, taking in Cotton knee deep in snow."

North Star , April 27, 1835 Winter at the South

In Louisiana. The St. Francisville Journal says, "The injury done to the state by the severity of the frost is incalculable. The sugar cane, plants and rattons, are nearly if not entirely destroyed, and it is questionable whether the culture of the cane will not be entirely abandoned. The orange, lime and citron groves are doubtless cut down. The fig trees and all delicate shrubbery we fear are greatly injured, while our vegetable gardens are utterly laid waste—cattle are dying every where around us. Such are the effects of this frightful winter."

Destuction of Fruit Trees

In Georgia. We learn by a letter from St. Augustine, that the severe cold of last winter has made havoc with the fruit trees in the vicinity of that place. The orange trees, which were expected to yield a bountiful harvest the present year, it is said, will not yield a single orange. A large portion of them are entirely destroyed, and the remainder partially so; and the lemons & limes, not a tree is left alive. The loss is estimated at \$300,000.

NOAA's National Weather Service
The Cooperative Observer
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