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Stufft Family Continued Exceptional Record of Weather Support

Last fall, a ceremony was held at the Assembly of God Church in Ainsworth, NE, to honor Lester Stufft from rural Elsmere, NE, for continuing his family's list of outstanding contributions in taking cooperative weather observations as a volunteer. Meteorologist in Charge (MIC), Brian Hirsch of the NWS office in North Platte, NE, presented Lester with the Thomas Jefferson Award, the most prestigious honor given to Cooperative Observers. This award is only given to a maximum of five Observers annually for outstanding and unusual achievements.

The Jefferson award was signed by the Secretary of Commerce, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere, and the NWS Director of the National Weather Service.

Lester has been the weather Observer for rural Elsmere since November 20, 1958, 50 years. His grandfather established the station in 1911 at his ranch outside Elsmere. Lester's mother took over observations shortly afterward and became the first female Observer to reach the plateau of 70 years of service as a weather Observer. The Ruby Stufft 70 Year Service Award was named in her honor.

In the fall of 1958, Lester started backing up his mother as the secondary Observer and continued as the backup until Ruby became too ill to continue taking observations. This is the first time that a mother and son have

both been recipients of the Thomas Jefferson award. The Stufft family is less than 3 years away from receiving the prestigious Family Heritage Award.



From left, NWS North Platte, NE, MIC Brian Hirsch; Award Winner **Lester Stufft**; Bob Bonack, Central Region Headquarters, Coop Program Manager; and Steve Carmel, NWS North Platte.

Lester also received the Edward H. Stoll award for 50 years of service as a Cooperative Observer. The Stoll award is signed by NWS Director Jack Hayes and by Central Region Headquarters Regional Director Lynn Maximuk.

The display table created for the event contained Lester's Thomas Jefferson, Edward H. Stoll, John Campanius Holm, and Dick Hagemeyer awards.

Also on display were personal letters of recognition from Nebraska U.S. Senators Ben Nelson and Chuck Hagel, U.S. Representative Adrian Smith, Nebraska Governor Dave

Heineman, and Nebraska District 43 Representative, Deb Fisher. The complete file on the Stufft family was brought to the event by Bob Bonack, Central Region Headquarters Cooperative Program Manager.

Lester was presented with Coop paperweights and hats, and received many personal letters both from those attending the award ceremony and those unable to attend.

In a special end to the ceremony, Lester received a signed personal card of recognition from John Cook, head coach of the University of Nebraska women's volleyball team. The Nebraska women's volleyball team also sent Lester a signed poster from every member of the 2008 team, which was undefeated at the time of this presentation. ☼

Lester's mother took over observations shortly afterward and became the first woman Observer ever to reach the plateau of 70 years of service as a weather Observer. The Ruby Stufft Award was named in her honor.



True Tales From Coop Subscribers

Thanks to Timothy P. Dorgan, Cooperative Weather Observer, Winchester, ID, for sharing his story.

I first became interested in the weather when I was in the Navy. I was a Signaller and we had to take weather readings and make up synoptic weather reports and send them to the squadron flagship. I experienced every weather phenomenon in the South Pacific from Monsoons to St. Elmo's Fire. [St. Elmo's fire is an electrical weather phenomenon in which luminous plasma is created by a coronal discharge originating from a grounded object in an atmospheric electric field, such as those generated by thunderstorms or thunderstorms created by a volcanic explosion.] That just increased my weather interest.

After I finished my time in the Navy, I remained in the Naval Reserve and lived in Western Washington between Everett and Seattle. There I learned the meaning of the term Convergence Zone. [Convergence in a horizontal wind field indicates that more air is entering a given area than is leaving at that level.] I relocated to Anchorage, Alaska, and my weather interest increased tremendously due to the amount of air travel I had to take to get around the state.

After retirement, in 1994, I relocated to Winchester, ID. The gentleman who was the Cooperative Weather Observer wanted to relocate to Arizona and I agreed to take his place. I became the Cooperative Weather Observer in November of that year and have not lost any enthusiasm for the weather. I still find it most interesting.

*Why did you become a Cooperative Observer? Send your story to **melody.magnus@noaa.gov**.* ✨

Weather Photos and Stories Wanted!

Got a great weather photo? Have a story to tell about that amazing hurricane, tornado, flood, drought or other extreme weather? Seen some amazing stuff in your travels? Send your digital graphics or story to melody.magnus@noaa.gov. ✨

Schools Join SnowNet Weather Reporting

By Gary Wicklund, Observing Program Leader (OPL), NWS Pocatello, ID
Vernon Preston, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM), NWS Pocatello, ID

Several years ago, NWS Pocatello Forecaster Mike Cantin and OPL Gary Wickland started involving community elementary schools in obtaining and reporting snowfall.

Area schools were initially contacted with two goals in mind: to discuss winter weather safety and to gather snowfall information from data-sparse areas. Snowfall totals are important to both the River Forecast Center in Portland, OR, and the NWS forecast office in Pocatello because it improves their respective ability to more accurately assess moisture content for rivers and the aquifer.

Schools were invited to take part in a "SnowNet." Measuring, recording and transmitting snowfall appealed to the schools as a means to interest children in hands-on science and the instructional use of the Internet. NWS Pocatello staff taught each school's staff and students how to site a snowboard for best collection results, how to properly measure snow depth, and, finally, how to record the data.

NWS Pocatello staff have visited the schools several times because of this program with enthusiastic results. We have gathered a plethora of snowfall data previously unavailable in remote regions. In addition, students taking part in this program benefit from a hands-on approach to science. ✨

Got a great weather photo? Have a story to tell about that amazing hurricane, tornado, flood, drought or other extreme weather? Seen some amazing stuff in your travels? Send your digital graphics or story to melody.magnus@noaa.gov.

Thomas Jefferson Award for Nebraska "Admiral"

Udell "Bud" Williams of North Loup, NE, was presented the Thomas Jefferson Award at the NoLo Community Center in North Loup last summer. Bud also received a 40 Year Length of Service Award.

The Thomas Jefferson Award is presented for unusual and outstanding accomplishment in the tradition of President Jefferson, a pioneer weather Observer. The inscription on the award reads, "For extraordinary service in measuring temperature, rainfall and snow depth from the historical climate site in North Loup, Nebraska. Your exceptionally complete set of daily records of nearly 40 years is a valuable resource to the Nation's climate program as well as the Hastings, Nebraska National Weather Service Forecast Office."

Candidates for this award must also have received the John Campanius Holm Award, given to a maximum of 25 Observers nationally per year. Last year was a banner year for Nebraska's Coop Observers. Of five Jefferson Awards presented, three were from Nebraska. In attendance at the awards ceremony were Bud, his wife, Luella, and several family members and friends as well as NWS MIC Steven Eddy; Marla Doxey, Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM); and Larry Wirth, Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT). Bob Bonack, Regional Cooperative Program Manager from the NWS Central Region Headquarters Kansas City, MO, and OPL Terry Landsvork, NWS Omaha, NE, also represented the NWS. Bonna Wanek, Director of Special Projects for U.S. Congressman Adrian Smith presented a letter of congratulations and certificate of recognition from Congressman Smith.

Bud received letters of congratulation from Nebraska Governor Dave Heineman, U.S. Senators Ben Nelson and Chuck Hagel, State Senator Vickie McDonald and Lynn Maximuk, NWS Central Region Director. One of the highlights of the awards presentation was Bud's commissioning to the rank of Admiral in the "Great Navy of the State of Nebraska" by Governor Heineman. A very fitting honor for someone that has measured 989.54 inches (82.5 feet) of precipitation since October 1968, more than enough water to submerge a Nebraska Navy submarine or float a Nebraska Navy aircraft carrier.

As an NWS Observer, Bud has recorded over 14,000 daily weather observations. Bud's North Loup station dates back to January 1, 1883. During his almost 40 years as an Observer, neither he or his backup Observers ever missed a daily observation! Bud's father, Bert, preceded him as the official North Loup Observer in 1956, giving the Williams family a total of 52 years of dedicated support. In addition to being an Observer, Bud contributes to the local Lion's Club many service projects. He is also actively involved in many church functions, dedicating his time and talents in other capacities. Although retired, he works as the maintenance person for the NoLo Village Retirement Center in North Loup. Many resident of North Loup wrote letters of support for Bud as part of the selection process.



From left, Larry Wirth, HMT, NWS Hastings; **Udell (Bud) Williams**; Luella Williams; Marla K. Doxey, DAPM; and Steven Eddy, MIC.

Thomas Jefferson Award



From left, OPL Gary Wicklund, NWS Pocatello, ID; Award Winner **Dick Clothier**; MIC Rick Dittmann; OPM Susan Nelson, NWS Western Region Headquarters; Dave Phelps, Coop Program Manager.
Photo by Tom Renwick.

Recognizing more than 37 years of dedication, NWS Pocatello, ID, awarded **Dick Clothier** a Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding service in the Coop program. Susan Nelson, CPM at the NWS Western Region Headquarters, and Pocatello MIC Rick Dittmann presented the award.

Dick began recording weather and climate observations at Pocatello in February 1971. During his tenure, Dick provided uninterrupted observations and recorded daily precipitation and temperature data, as well as critical storm spotter information. He is also the recipient of the NWS Cooperative Observer Program's second highest award, the John Campanius Holm Award, which he received in 2001. Dick's flawless and informative observations have been instrumental in providing NWS with critical weather information.

The first extensive network of cooperative stations was set up in the 1890s as a result of an 1890 act of Congress that established the U.S. Weather Bureau. Many of the stations have even longer histories. John Campanius Holm's weather records, taken without benefit of instruments in 1644 and 1645, were the earliest known recorded observations in the United States.

Many historic figures have also maintained weather records, including Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson maintained an almost unbroken record of weather observations between 1776 and 1816, and Washington took weather observations just a few days before he died. The Jefferson and Holm awards are named for these weather observation pioneers.

John Campanius Holm Awards



From left are Susan Nelson, Western Region CPM; Backup Observer and friend Richard Reisenauer; Award Winner **Don Nyquist**; Don's mother, Carley, and brother Dirk.

Don Nyquist, of Anaconda, MT, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for his outstanding service in maintaining an accurate and unbroken climate weather record over the past 26 years. Don is a lifelong resident of Anaconda and considered the “weather expert” for the community and surrounding area. Over the years, he conducted many environmental and climate studies for private and government entities and authored informative and entertaining articles published in the local newspaper.

Don had a debilitating accident in 1998 when he was hit by a car while riding a motorcycle. He suffered major injury to his lower torso and lost one leg. Despite this disability, Don consistently made the two block trip from his home to the weather station in conditions ranging from winter storms to summer heat waves. When he couldn't make it, he enlisted reliable backup from friends, family members and the Anaconda Fire Station.

Charles Porter, longtime Cooperative Observer at Highland Home, AL, was presented the John Campanius Holm Award for outstanding service to NWS. He also received the Dick Hagemeyer Award honoring his 45 years as an Observer.

The award presentation and reception that followed were held at the Highland Home Fire Station. Attending were several members of the Highland Home Fire Rescue Squad, numerous friends and family, and representatives of the Crenshaw County Commission, County Emergency Management Office, as well as local television and newspaper media.



Pictured from left are Jessica Tomlin, Crenshaw County Emergency Manager; NWS Mobile, AL, MIC David McShane; Holm Award Winner **Charles Porter**; NWS Southern Region Director, Bill Proenza; and OPL Gene Jacobi.

John Campanius Holm Awards



Steve Sands, right, accepts a John Campanius Holm Award from NWS San Antonio, TX, MIC Joe Arellano. Steve has been observing, recording and reporting weather information, not only to the National Weather Service, but to the city of San Marcos since June 7, 1985.

Photo by HMT Patrick McDonald.

Every day at 6 pm, **Beth and John Sundberg** check the rain gauge in the raspberry patch behind their Hayden home. They've monitored the moisture and temperature for more than 36 years, reporting the data to the NWS Grand Junction, NE, office. John was tapped for the duty when he worked for the U.S. Forest Service. "At that time, he wasn't home much," Beth said. "So he said, 'No, but my wife will do it.' So I've been doing it ever since."

Beth and John monitor Hayden's weather from their home on Hospital Hill, NE. The temperature varies widely from their backyard down to the river. Beth remembers a day when it was 36 degrees below zero at their house. That means it was probably 46 below in town and 50 below at the river. The Sundbergs saw the biggest monthly snowfall in December 1983: 74.5 inches. The highest temperature they recorded was 97 degrees on July 4, 2001.

Beth and John said they have no problem remembering to gather the data at 6 pm each day — or as close to that time as possible. If they're out of town, someone else, usually a family member, checks the information. Beth Sundberg said she was surprised when she heard about the award at the end of the summer. "It's a small, fun job, but you just have to be around," she said. "And they're nice enough to give me an award for it."

The Sundbergs, who celebrated their 50th anniversary this summer, said they'd continue to keep tabs on the weather for a while. "As long as we're here and able, we'll keep doing it." Beth claims she isn't an expert on what's coming: The Sundbergs record; they don't predict.

"You know what they say about people who predict the weather in Northwest Colorado," John said with a smile. "You're either a newcomer or a fool."



From left, MIC Doug Crowley, **Beth and John Sundberg** and DAPM John Kyle. Photo by CPM Becky Klenk.

John Campanius Holm Awards

From left, HMT Mike Watkins of NWS Honolulu poses with Holm Award winner **John Vollrath** at the Pupukea Heights site on Oahu. Before John's death last year, he was nominated for the Holm Award for his superior service to the Cooperative Weather Observer Program.

Vollrath's son Doug accepted the award on behalf of the family at a presentation by MIC Jim Weyman. Doug said his father was avidly interested in the weather and enjoyed checking his records against those in the news. Weyman said Vollrath was a dedicated Observer, honored by NWS for his 30 years of exceptional maintenance of the Fisher and Porter rain gauge.

"He knew how to read paper tape punched out and often detected problems before we identified them. This is an outstanding legacy Mr. Vollrath has left for the people of Hawaii for generations to come," Jim said. Photo by OPL Mark Farnsworth.



Billy Teague of Teague Ranch near Fredericksburg, TX, accepts both a John Campanius Holm Award and an Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of exceptional service. The awards were presented to Billy at a luncheon at Andy's Steak House by NWS San Antonio, TX staff.

Pictured from left are HMT Patrick McDonald; Judge Mark Stroehrer; Billy Teague and MIC Joe Arellano. Billy and his late wife Helen have been taking weather observations since 1958.

75 Year Honored Institution Awards



The **Los Angeles Department of Water and Power** in Saugus, CA, Power Plant #1 team accepts a 75 Year Honored Institution Award.

Pictured from left are **Steve Cumiskey, Bill Youngquist, Bob Pemberton, Jack Halverson, Henry Hopkinson, Bonnie Bartling (HMT NWS), Donnie Billesbach, Andy Martin, and Ken Caverhill**, Hydro-Electric Station Operators. Photo by OPL Dessa Emch.

Donald P. Huber receives a 75 year Honored Institution Award for the **United States Forest Service Ranger Station** in Truckee, CA.

The Coop site at the ranger station was established on June 1, 1931. Special thanks to Donald for his continued dedication. The award was presented by Rudy Cruz, OPL, NWS Reno, NV.



50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award

Observer **Ruth Beason** was presented the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of service in providing precipitation readings for the Hale, KS, area. CPM Leon Wasinger, left, and MIC Richard Elder from the NWS office in Wichita, KS, presented this award to Ruth. Photo by DAPM Michael Rosner.



Clyde Kennedy of Granada, CO, proudly shows his 50 Year Edward H Stoll Award. The award was presented by OPL Randall Gray, NWS Pueblo, CO.

Erling Dohlen, Coop Observer near Ophiem, MT, receives his 50 Year Edward Stoll Award from NWS Glasgow OPL Matt Moorman and CPM Brian Burleson. Erling was presented with the John Campanius Holm Award in 1991 and the Thomas Jefferson Award in 2007.



50 Year Edward H. Stoll Award

Thomas Hotalen of Dingmans Ferry, PA, was presented the Edward H. Stoll Award for 50 years of dedicated service. The award was presented by Pete Gabrielsen, Chief, SOD, Eastern Region; and Barbara Watson, MIC, NWS Binghamton, NY.

Holding the award from left center are Thomas, Liz Hotalen, Pete Gabrielsen, and Barbara Watson. Thomas was a volunteer fire fighter for more than 50 years. Several firefighters attended to honor him as well. The Hotalen's are continuing nearly 100 years worth of rainfall data from the Dingmans Ferry.



50 Year Honored Institution Award



NWS Los Angeles, CA, presented a 50 Year Honored Institution Award to the staff of **Torrance, CA, Airport.**

Pictured from left are Operations Duty Officer **Mitch Kmiecik**, Operations Supervisor **Michael Blyleven**, Operations Duty Officers **Monty Latham, Aldo Espinoza and Glenn Foster**, Bonnie Bartling, HMT, and Operations Duty Officer **Jeff Taylor**. Photo by NWS OPL Dessa Emch.

50 Year Honored Institution Awards

From left, **Carla Beasley**, Chief of Interpretation; **Judy Bell**, Visitor Center Volunteer Host and **Lindsey Lennek**, NPS Park Guide accept a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for **Dinosaur National Monument**, the Quarry Area, UT. The award was presented by John Kyle, DAPM. Photo by Becky Klenk, CPM at NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Tami Clark is shown accepting a 50 Year Honored Institution Award for **Flaming Gorge Reservoir**, UT. The award was presented by Becky Klenk, CPM, at NWS Grand Junction, CO.

NWS Springfield, MO, WCM Steve Runnels, left, presented a 50 year Honored Institution Award to **Brad Myers**, Operations Manager at the **US Army Corp of Engineers Pomme De Terre Dam Project Office**.



45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Awards

Lester Constable of Unadilla, NY, was presented the Dick Hagemeyer Award for 45 years of dedicated service. Pictured from left are his wife Edna Constable, Lester, and NWS Binghamton, NY, MIC Barbara Watson. The Constables are continuing more than 65 years worth of rainfall data from the Unadilla area.



40 and 35 Year Length of Service Awards



Roy Rice holds up his 40 year Length of Service Award for his generous service to the great state of Texas. Presenting the award and taking the picture is Eva Mullen, HMT/CPM at NWS San Angelo, TX.



Margaret and **“Hop” Hopwood**, right, receive Length of Service Awards from MIC Jim Belles NWS Memphis, TN. The Hopwood’s have been faithfully recording the weather at the Malden, MO, airport for the past 35 years. Their dedication and dependability are legendary throughout the aviation community.

35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



Mr. and Mrs. Frankie Stoker of Haswell, CO, receive their 35 year Length of Service Award for the generous service in rural Colorado. The award was presented by OPL Randall Gray of NWS Pueblo, CO.



Paul Brunick, left, received his 30 Year Award from DAPM Donald Morin of NWS Sioux Falls for his service as Observer at the Vermillion, SD, Coop station. Joining Paul at Vermillion was **Fred Balleweg**, a fellow Observer who was also honored with a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo and presentation by DAPM Donald Morin.



Melvin and Charlene Day of Owego, NY, were presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by Mitch Gilt, HMT, NWS Binghamton, NY.

Before recording rainfall for the National Weather Service, Melvin provided rainfall information to the U.S. Farm Bureau.



Leonard Brewer, Coop Observer at the Beaverton, MI, site, is shown receiving a 30 Year Length of Service Award. Leonard takes and reports river stage readings on the Tobacco River near his home. There is a considerable family history. Len's father, Ferdie Brewer, took river readings at this location for the USGS for 34 years, starting in 1948. The award was presented by Denny Fruehauf, CPM, NWS Gaylord, MI.

30 Year Length of Service Awards, Special Service Award



Suzanne Platt from Kim, CO, receives her 30 Year Length of Service Award from OPL Randall Gray, NWS Pueblo, CO. Photo by Joe Ceru, Meteorology Intern.



Lanette Edmondson of Kendalia, TX, accepts a 30 Year Length of Service Award from Patrick McDonald of the NWS San Antonio, TX, office.



Janet Ross, of Grover Hill, OH, accepts a 30 Year Length of Service Award for her husband **William Ross**. The award was presented by Brentley Lothamer, OPL, NWS Northern Indiana.

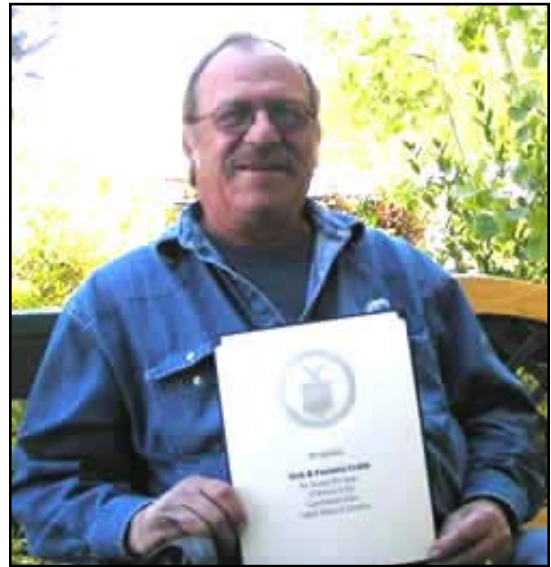


Recently retired Coop Observer, **John W. Neutze**, left, of Fort Collins, CO, was presented a Special Service Award for 32 years of dedication. Carl Burroughs, HMT, NWS Boulder, CO, presented the award. John has always sent the Fisher Porter tape in a timely manner; even when blizzard conditions made the 5 mile trip up the Poudre Canyon very difficult. His time and dedication over the years is much appreciated.

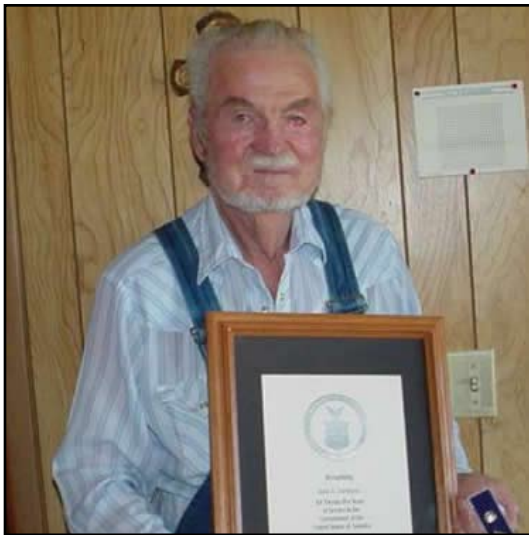
25 Year Length of Service Awards



Lyle Sienknecht of Clutier, IA, received his 25 year Length of Service Award from Brad Fillbach, HMT of NWS Des Moines, IA.



Richard Crabb, of Ridgway, CO, is shown accepting a 25 Year Length of Service Award on behalf of himself and his wife, **Paulette**. The award was presented by Becky Klenk, CPM, at NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Jess Jackson receives his 25 year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award, and taking the picture, is Eva Mullen, HMT/CPM at NWS San Angelo, TX.



Connie Mattice, left, stands by as husband **David Mattice** of Maryland, NY, accepts a 25 Year Award from Barbara Watson, MIC, NWS Binghamton, NY.

25 Year Length of Service Awards 25 year Honored Institution Award



Larry and Christine Petterson, Coop Observers near Mosby, MT, show their 25 Length of Service Award. The award was presented by NWS Glasgow OPL Matthew Moorman.



Byron Tolman, left, of Jensen, UT, was presented with a 25 Year Award by NWS Grand Junction, CO, DAPM John Kyle. Photo by Becky Klenk, CPM at Grand Junction.



Brenda Tolson, Observer at Whittier, AK, accepts her 25 Year Award from Michael Kutz, Alaska Region HQ Coop Program Specialist (CPS). Whittier, AK, is a gateway to Prince William Sound, where cruise ships dock. Glaciers, bear, moose and Orca and Beluga whale-watching are just a few of the area's attractions. Brenda has reindeer in a pen adjacent to her observing equipment and visitors are welcomed to take pictures while catching up on the latest weather in Whittier. Photo by Don Bolton, Alaska Region HQ Maintenance Specialist.



Adam McDowell of Defiance, OH, accepts a 25 Year Honored Institution Award for the **Defiance Water Treatment Plant**. The award was presented by Brentley Lothamer, OPL, NWS Northern Indiana. Adam and others have been observing weather for various organizations at this site since 1895. Photo by OPL Brentley Lothamer.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Marion Catalano of WQHL radio station in Live Oak, FL, accepts a 20 Year Length of Service Award from Mike McAllister, OPL, NWS Jacksonville, FL. The radio station has been in the Coop program for 53 years. Marion has been the primary Observer since 1988. Photo by Jeff Waters, photographer from the Suwannee County Democrat Newspaper.



Robert and Verda Huber, Coop Observers near Vida, MT, were presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by Matthew Moorman, OPL at NWS Glasgow, MT.



David McIntyre, left, Observer in Hastings, MI, was presented his 20 Year Length of Service Award by Grand Rapids, MI, OPL, George Wetzel. David is a local radio station news reporter. In addition to the award, David was the first recipient in the Grand Rapids area of the new frost depth gage.



Brother **Felix McHale**, Observer at the Huntsville Monastery in Utah was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by Steve Summy, OPL, NWS Salt Lake City. Photo by Christopher Young, Meteorologist.

20 and 15 Year Service Awards



Robert Shannon from Kim, CO, shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award from OPL Randall Gray, NWS Pueblo, CO.



Dean Brough, Observer at Myton, UT, proudly displays his 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo and award presentation by Steve Summy, OPL, NWS Salt Lake City, UT.

Certificate of Appreciation



Walter Bailey shows his Certificate of Appreciation, along with a commemorative coin and pin. Award presentation and photo by Michael McAllister, OPL, NWS Jacksonville, FL.

Walter Bailey, river gauge Observer for the Altamaha River at Charlotte, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for reading the staff gauges on the US 221 bridge daily for more than 16 years. The gauges are downstream from the confluence of the Ocmulgee and Oconee Rivers, which help make up the Altamaha River, the third largest river basin on the Atlantic seaboard.

Walter, who is retiring, was a dedicated Observer who rarely missed a day's readings. Driving from his home to the river and back, a round trip of 12 miles, he logged more than 73,000 miles in his years of service. During his Cooperative career he made more than 6,000 phone calls to report the morning river stage and filled out and mailed some 200 B-91s. The U.S. Geological Survey recently installed an automated gauge on the bridge so now Walter can relax and enjoy sleeping late in the mornings.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



Debi Stout, Observer at Boulder, UT, displays her 15 Year Length of Service Award. Boulder is a south central Utah town at an elevation of 6,680 feet. Photo and award presentation by Steve Summy, OPL, NWS Salt Lake City.



Randy Everett shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award, and taking the picture was Eva Mullen, HMT/CPM at NWS San Angelo, TX.



Bryan Murdoch, Observer at Alpine, UT, was presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo and award presentation by Steve Summy, OPL, NWS Salt Lake City.



John "Jack" Higgins, right, of Saint Paul, NE, accepts a 15 Year Service Award from NWS Hasting, NE, staff Larry Wirth and Scott Bryant. Jack maintains a site dating back to January 1895. Jack also monitors river stage equipment located on the Middle and North Loup rivers and is an active HAM radio operator, providing reports to the NWS office in Hastings during severe or adverse weather.



Keith Koster, right, of New London, WI, was presented his 15 Year Service Award by Green Bay MIC Gary Austin.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



Sammy Rhodes of Sargents, CO, receives his 15 Year Length of Service Award from HMT Mike Nosko of NWS Pueblo, CO.



Ron Sullens, left, Essex, MT, accepted a 15 Year Length of Service Award presented by Ray Nickless, Service Hydrologist, NWS Missoula MT. Ron takes river stage readings on the Middle Fork Flathead River along the southern border of Glacier National Park.

Virgil Habenicht of Sisterdale, TX, accepts a 15 Year Length of Service Award. His wife, Betty, (not pictured) also received a 15 Year Award. The Habenichts have been taking weather observations since December 1993. Photo by Patrick McDonald, NWS New Braunfels, TX.



Gwendolyn White, Coop Observer in Willow, AK, receives her 15 Year Award from Michael Kutz, Alaska Region Headquarters CPS. Willow has been the restart point for the famed Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race three times in recent years and was the official restart location in 2008. Photo by Homer Lane, Alaska Region HQ Coop Program QA Specialist.



Amos Yost of Montezuma, KS, was presented with a 15 Year Length of Service Award by Jesse Lee, OPL, Dodge City, KS.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



From left, **Walt T. Sullins**, Observer at Cartersville, GA, receives his 10 Year Length of Service Award and a letter of appreciation. Presenting the award is Frank Taylor, NWS Peachtree City, GA. Photo by Colleen Coyle, Georgia Institute of Technology.



Jerry (not pictured) and **Kay Collins**, Coop Observers at Cohagan, MT, received a 10 Year Length of Service Award from OPL Matt Moorman, NWS Glasgow, MT.



Dennis Brown, right, of rural Bellefont KS was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award by Mike Scott, HMT, Dodge City, KS. Photo by OPL Jesse Lee.



Gary L. Carr, Observer at Whittier, AK, accepts his 10 Year Award from Michael Kutz, Alaska Region HQ CPS. Gary operates a Webcam from his apartment above the weather office (<http://whittierak.yukontel.com/>). With a degree in literature, he shares other facts and history of the Whittier area with those catching up on the latest weather in Whittier. Photo by Joy Kutz, Anchorage, Alaska school district.



Dan Frick, Observer at Ness City, KS, was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award for his generous service by Jesse Lee, OPL at Dodge City, KS.



A 10 Year Length of Service Award was presented to **Homer Hill**, right, Coop Observer at Shaw, CO, by Jim Kalina, Meteorology Intern, NWS Boulder, CO.

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Kevin Kuehn, Coop Observer near Terry, MT, shows his 10 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by OPL, Matthew Moorman, NWS Glasgow, MT.



Chris Nickel, of Hovenweep National Monument, UT was presented with a 10 Year Length of Service Award by Becky Klenk, CPM, at NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Georgene and Dale Smidt of Wood River, NE, show their 10 Year Length of Service Award. Photo by Larry Wirth, NWS Hastings, NE. The Smidts also serve as river stage Observers at Wood River and are dedicated storm spotters.



Tom Shieldsmith of Nashville, IN, received a 10 Year Award from HMT Brad Herold of NWS Indianapolis, IN. Photo by OPL Ed Terrell.



Dale and Janet Veseth hold up their 10 Year Length of Service Award. Dale and Janet take care of the Cooperative station south of Malta that started in 1959. Presenting the award was Matthew Moorman, OPL at NWS Glasgow, MT.



Christine Wright of Del Norte, CO, receives her 10 Year Length of Service Award from HMT Mike Nosko, NWS Pueblo, CO.



Monty Smith of Hazlehurst, GA, shows his 10 Year Length of Service Award certificate and letter. The presentation and photograph are by Mike McAllister, OPL, NWS Jacksonville, FL.

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Winter 2008-09



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

