



The National Cooperative Observer

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Fall 2017

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Weatherman at War: NWS Honors and Remembers the Ultimate Sacrifice of Charles Foster Jones, Civilian Weather Observer



*NWS Office of Planning and Programming for Service Delivery Director **Kevin Cooley**, right, presents a recognition plaque to **Donald K. Jones**, nephew to Charles Foster Jones at the Saint Paris Pony Wagon Historical Museum on September 7, 2017.*

NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) **Joel Curtis** of NWS Juneau, AK, recently discovered the story of Coop Observer **Charles Foster Jones**, an NWS Observer executed by the Japanese during WWII.

Jones story was captured in a book entitled, "Last Letters from Attu," which was sent to NWS Director **Louis Uccellini**.

Recognizing the significance of this distinct part of U.S. history, Curtis enlisted the NWS Communications team to create a commemoration worthy of the sacrifice Jones made.

Jones lived with his wife, Etta, in the village of Attu in Alaska's sparsely populated Aleutian Islands. His tenacity and bravery

held fast when, after sending his final weather observation, he tried to alert officials that the Japanese had landed on June 7, 1942.

He was the only civilian weather observer to be executed by the Japanese Navy during World War II. He died on June 8, 1942.

On September 7, 2017, NWS Leadership honored the families of Charles Foster Jones and of his wife Etta during a public event with 50-plus members of the local community in Saint Paris, OH, where his nephew, **Donald K. Jones**, lives.

Donald accepted the recognition plaque. A duplicate plaque will be displayed at the Gateway to NOAA exhibition adjacent to NWS Headquarters in Silver Spring, MD.

In 1885, the general submitted recommendations in his Annual Report to the Secretary of War in 1885, for the erection of a fireproof building for the use of the Bureau.

NWS History

The following article is excerpted from "An NWS History of the Signal Corps," the Signal Corps was the predecessor of the National Weather Service. This edition is the fourth and final chapter of the story told by John P. Finney. See the [Summer edition](#) for Part 3.

New Quarters for Weather Service

Circumstances connected with the occupation of privately owned buildings that were "insecure, unsafe and in every way unsuited for public offices," by the U. S. Signal Corps and the U. S. Weather Service on "F" Street in Washington, D.C., and the fact that this important Bureau was denied quarters in the New War Department building, spurred a very active campaign by the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, General William B. Hazen, to properly house the Bureau in government-owned buildings at a new location.

In 1885, the general submitted recommendations in his Annual Report to the Secretary of War in 1885 for the erection of a fireproof building for the use of the Bureau. These recommendations were renewed in 1886 and contained in Senate Exchange Document, No. 152, 48th Congress, 1st Session.

Reference was made to the alternative of purchasing the property of the Fergusson brothers at the corner of 24th and M Streets in Washington. This property was improved as one of the "show places" of the Capital City, by the erection of a singular appearing residence, that with its surrounding grounds, occupied a large portion of the square on which it was located.

It was built after the Spanish-American or Mexican style of architecture, with a patio, or open inner court, around which the many rooms were built, each opening upon the court on the first story, and upon a balcony overlooking the court on the second story.

The large residence was completed for occupancy and then the Fergusson family decided to return to California and the property was offered for sale.

The Fergussons had been residents of Mexico for sometime, engaged in mining, and had acquired considerable wealth. On our acquisition of the Philippines, the Fergusson brothers turned up in Manila, as did many other venturesome American civilians, and the elder brother, on account of his education and thorough knowledge of the Spanish language, became the Spanish Official Interpreter for Civil Governor Taft, and finally the Executive Secretary of the Insular Government, remaining on duty in that position until his death in Manila in 1908.

I accompanied General Hazen, on several occasions, to inspect the Fergusson residence, with a view to its acquisition by the government for the use of the Signal Corps and U.S. Weather Service, for which it was finally purchased. It ultimately became the permanent headquarters of the reorganized U. S. Weather Bureau.

The last inspection was made in December 1886, and at a time when the weather was very inclement. The building was not heated when we made these inspections, and I protested with the General that our visit was a very dangerous exposure for him, in fact for both of us, but nevertheless we finished the inspection, in a very thorough manner, including the basement of the structure, as was customary with the General in the performance of all of his duties. As a result both of us acquired severe colds.

Death of General Hazen

The General was suffering from incipient Brights disease but not to the extent of incapacitating him for active duty. This cold, however, aggravated the symptoms and he was confined to his quarters for a few days, which consisted of rooms over a business shop in the north side of F Street between 13th and 14th Streets, N.W.

When the General's family went to Europe (Mrs. Hazen and her young son) in the autumn of 1886, he finally removed to these rooms from the family residence at the northwest



John P. Finley

corner of 16th and K Streets. This new and beautiful residence was the personal property of Mrs. Hazen, specially constructed for and made as a gift to her by her father, the late Washington McLean, when the general and his family came to Washington upon his appointment as the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, to succeed the late General Albert J. Myer.

Before her marriage, Mrs. Hazen was a Miss McLean of Cincinnati, a member of the family of the millionaire publishers of that city and Washington. As a widow, she later became the wife of our famous Admiral Dewey, the hero of the Naval Battle of Manila Bay, May 1, 1898.

During the holiday week in January 1887, I accompanied General Hazen to an evening reception at the White House.

It was a cold day and the evening set in with snow and high winds. The general was in full uniform with only the protection of his military cape. He was not feeling well. I urged that I should go to his quarters for his overcoat, that he might be well protected on leaving the overheated White House.

He overruled my desire, and later, near the close of the reception, when some of his lady friends were leaving on account of the storm, he gallantly helped them to their carriage, without even his cape.

When I discovered the situation I rushed to get his cape and flung it over his shoulders,

but the swirling wind took it off, or nearly so and he was much exposed on the White House portico. Two days after this reception the General became quite ill and was confined to his rooms, and later on to his bed, from which he never arose, death ending his great sufferings on January 16, 1887.

I was with the General daily during this illness. At times his pains were so violent that he had to be held down in bed, and his death was agonizing in the extreme. Also there were his body attendant and a messenger at the Signal Office and the Weather Bureau who accompanied the general during the latter part of the Civil War, especially on Sherman's March to the Sea, at the close of which Gen. Hazen made the celebrated attack on the Confederate position at Fort McAllister, as Sherman entered Savannah.

Reminiscences of Signal Service

I entered the Signal Corps of the Army and the U.S. Weather Service at Washington, D.C. on March 7, 1877. When I presented my application for admission to the Executive Officer at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, I was informed that the waiting list numbered more than 1,000; that if I had letters of recommendation they would be considered in connection with my application.

I was well supplied with letters from public men and with certificates from the leading educational institutions of Michigan, my native state, where I was born at Ann Arbor, the university town, on April 11, 1854.

I finally received notification to appear for physical examination and having successfully passed that, I was advised to appear for a mental examination. During my 4 years course at the Michigan State Agricultural and Mechanical College, I had given special attention to the subjects of meteorology and climatology in relation to agriculture.

This bent in my college work directed my attention to the U.S. Weather Service, then in control of the Signal Corps of the Army. After completing a postgraduate course at the University of Michigan, I sought admission to the Signal Corps. Immediately following entry into the Corps came a tour of duty at the Signal Service School of Instruction at Fort Myer, VA.

When I presented my application for admission to the Executive Officer at the Office of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army, I was informed that the waiting list numbered more than 1,000

Thomas Jefferson Award



Betty Wing was awarded the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award as well as a 55 Year Length of Service Award for her dedication and quality observations over more than a half century. Betty started out taking observations for the Maine Forest Service, which tracked evaporation and soil temperature. When she retired, she asked to move the site to her home. The award was presented by NWS Gray, ME, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) **Hendricus Lulofs** and Senior Service Hydrologist **Thomas Hawley**. The photo was taken by Betty's son.

John Campanius Holm Award

Observer **LaRaine Johnston** of Wellington, UT, center, proudly displays her 2016 John Campanius Holm Award and jacket. NWS Salt Lake City MIC **Randy Graham**, right, presented the award, with Wellington Mayor Joan Powell. Also attending were LaRaine's husband Von and several family members.

LaRaine is the original observer at this rural eastern Utah site, which she started 37 years ago. She phones in her observations every evening for inclusion in the Regional Temperature and Precipitation product.



125 and 100 Year Honored Institution Awards

The **U.S. Forest Service Office** in Camp Crook, SD, was presented a 125 Year Honored Institution Award.

Photo and presentation by NWS Aberdeen, SD, Hydrometeorological Technician (HMT) **Mitch Erickson**, NWS Rapid City, SD, far right. Photo by MIC **David Hintz**.



The **Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (DPU)** and the weather team at **Big Cottonwood Water Treatment Plant** received a 100 Year Honored Institution Award for daily weather observations at the Cottonwood Weir, UT, weather station.

From left are Lead Plant Operator **Mike Gill**, who has been taking observations for nearly 20 years; Deputy Director **Jesse Stewart**; Observer **Jeff Martin**; NWS OPL **Lisa Verzella**; Observer **Russ Ranck**; Department of Public Utilities Director **Laura McIndoe Briefer**; and NWS Salt Lake City MIC **Randy Graham**. Photo by **Holly Mullen**, DPU Communications and Engagement Manager

100 Year Honored Institution Awards

Recognizing 100 years of contribution to the NWS Cooperative Observer Program, the **Sherman Branch Experiment Station**, in Moro, OR, was awarded a 100 Year Honored Institution Award. Pictured from left are Observer **Erling Jacobsen**, NWS Pendleton, OR, MIC **Michael Vescio** and Observer **Kyle Bender**.



The staff at **MSU Northern Agricultural Research Center** at Fort Assiniboine, MT, was presented with a 100 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Great Falls, MT. The site's observations consist of daily maximum and minimum temperatures, 24 hour rainfall or snow melt, 24 hour snowfall, overall snow depth, moisture evaporation and related measurements.

Weather records from Fort Assiniboine date back to June of 1880. The Northern Agricultural Research Center has been taking records at the same location since 1917.



Presenting the award was **Ryan Eldridge**, NWS Western Region Representative, and OPL **Matt Moorman**, NWS Great Falls. Pictured from left are **Emi Smith**, **Kasee Clark**, **Ryan Eldrige**, **Roger Hybner**, **Tom Allan**, **Maryse Bourgault** and **Shelly Green**

75 Year Honored Institution Awards

NWS Buffalo, NY, presented the **Canandaigua, NY, Water Treatment Plant** with a 75 Years Honored Institution Award for its dedicated service to NWS Cooperative Observing Program.

Ron Strobel and his supervisor accepted a 75 Year Honored Institution Award for the **Modesto, CA, Water Treatment Plant**. The award was presented by OPL **Johnnie Powell**. The city of Modesto is in the heart of California's Central Valley, which averages about 13 inches of rain a year. The majority of the rain falls in a 3-month period from December through February. Modesto grows a large amount of grapes and is home to several wineries like E and J Gallo. The water treatment plant provided rainfall rate readings in the winter to help with flooding forecasts. Thanks for your dedication!

75 Year Family Heritage Award



From left are NWS Great Falls MIC **Don Britton** and Observer **Albert Fey**.

Observer **Albert Fey** was presented with a 75 Year Family Heritage Award and a 40 Year individual Length of Service Award from NWS Great Falls, MT, for taking daily weather observations. The observations contain daily maximum and minimum temperatures, 24 hour rainfall or snow melt, 24 hour snowfall and overall snow depth.

Albert's father started taking the observations at his ranch north of Gold Butte, MT, in 1942 and continued until 1977. Albert took over the daily responsibility in 1977 and continued until retiring from ranching this past spring.

In 2001, Albert was awarded the prestigious John Campanius Holm Award.

55 Year Benjamin Franklin Award



Margaret Sease-Jayroe of Little Mountain, SC, was presented with the Benjamin Franklin Award and a commendation from S.C. Governor Henry McMaster for 55 years of service as an NWS Observer. She is the third observer to carry on the incredible Sease Family legacy of volunteer service and is a previous winner of the prestigious Holm Award.

The Little Mountain station was established back in October 1893 by her grandfather, **Dr. John Marion Sease**. Dr. Sease passed the torch to **Elberta Sease** in 1923. Elberta served until 1962, when Margaret Jayroe, then a science teacher, agreed to over. With a virtually unbroken observational record stretching back 124 years, her weather station is one of the select few included in the U.S. Historical Climate Network, which quantifies national-and-regional-scale climate changes.

From left, are HydroMeteorological Technician (HMT) **Alan Moore**, MIC **Richard Okulski**, Observer **Margaret Sease-Jayroe**, State Climatologist **Dr. Hope Mizzell**, and Senior Service Hydrologist **Leonard Vaughan**.

At the ceremony, Margaret said she has no intention of slowing down, and plans to continue taking observations. Her daily reports are always welcome at the NWS Columbia Forecast Office, according to Acting OPL **Doug Anderson**, "Mrs. Margaret's calls are always a highlight of our day. Her dedication, enthusiasm and knowledge of local weather patterns and climate inspire all of us. We look forward to celebrating 125 years together with Mrs. Margaret and the Sease-Jayroe family next year."

Edward R. Stoll 50 Year Awards

John Duckworth, right, of Wallowa, OR, was presented with a 50 Year Length of Service Award. John and his mother, **Dorothy**, began taking daily weather observations in 1967. Presenting the award is NWS Pendleton, OR, MIC **Michael Vescio**.



50 Year Honored Institution Award

Northern Illinois University (NIU) received its 50 Year Honored Institution Award. Receiving the award was **John Anderson**, Student Weather Director.

Also pictured is NWS Chicago HMT **Amy Seeley** who presented the award, and is also a NIU alumni!



On behalf of the **Augusta, ME, Sanitary District**, **Kirby Pinkham** accepted the 50 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Portland, ME.

The **University of Northern Colorado (UNC)** at Greeley, CO, received its 50 Year Honored Institution Award. Over the years, the students have taken the majority of the observations. This observing experience has opened the door for many students when applying for careers in meteorology. Pictured from left are Assistant Professor of Meteorology **Wendilyn Flynn**, NWS, Boulder, CO, WCM **Greg Hanson**, UNC Senior **Tony Ingle**, UNC Sophomore **Jonah Pehl** and Professor of Meteorology **Cindy Shellito**.



50 Year Honored Institution Awards



Pictured from left are Observer **Jason Brown**, Beaver Mayor **Craig Wright** and Observer **David Martin**.

Beaver Canyon Power House was presented an Honored Institution Award for 50 years of daily weather observations. On Valentine's Day of 1967, observers from **Utah Power and Light Company** began taking and recording daily precipitation measurements at the Power House.

A decade later, the team added temperature observations. In 2010, Beaver City Corporation became the weather keepers of this station, with current Observers **Dave Martin** and **Jim Gray** at the helm. The award was presented by NWS Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**.

The **Logan Experimental Farm** at **Utah State University (USU)** received an Honored Institution Award for 50 years of daily weather observations. Since October 26, 1967, Utah State Climatologists and scores of USU students have recorded daily maximum, minimum and at-observation temperatures, in addition to daily precipitation, snowfall and snow depth. This station is also one of the few sites in the state that records evaporation data and soil temperatures.



Pictured from left are Observers **Boniface Fosu** and **Jon Meyer**, Utah State Climatologist **Dr. Robert Gillies**, NWS Salt Lake City MIC **Randy Graham** and OPL **Lisa Verzella**.

45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award



Roy (Pete) Carnagey, of Halltown, MO, received a 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award from NWS Springfield, MO, Service Hydrologist **Megan Terry**. Roy shared some of his experiences working in the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners. Some of the stories included several high-profile Mafia bosses the office treated. The presentation of the award was videoed and shared on social media. Photo and video were taken by OPL **Thomas Olsen**.

John and Carolyn (Beth) Sundberg receive their 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Award near their home in Hayden, CO. The Sundberg's have been taking daily weather observations for the NWS since April 1, 1972. Presenting the award was Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Doris Pinckney, of Wasola, MO, received the 45 Year Dick Hagemeyer Service Award from OPL **Thomas Olsen**, NWS Springfield, MO. Joining in on the award presentation was her dog **Mr. Henry**. Doris took over observing duties from her mother-in-law, whose name was also Doris, starting back in 1972. Her longevity and dedication to the Observer Program is a testament to her strong faith and her ties to the local community. The NWS appreciates Doris' commitment.

35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



NWS Wichita, KS, OPL **Scott Smith** presented a 35 Year Length of Service Award to **Leo Noland** of Longton, KS. Leo is a dedicated observer who consistently provides accurate rain and snow reports and plans to continue taking observations for many years to come. Thanks Leo!



John Stephenson of Kings Mills, OH, has been providing precipitation data for NWS Wilmington, OH, for 35 years. John also regularly reads the manual river gauge at Kings Mills along the Little Miami River. John reads the gauge on evenings, weekends and many times over the years outside of the normal reporting times. John's river observations have directly assisted with river forecasts and warnings for the Kings Mills and South Lebanon areas of Warren County. Due to this, in addition to the 35 Year Award, John was presented with a Public Service Award. Thank you John for your dedication and service! Pictured from left are MIC **Kenneth Haydu**; Operations County Emergency Management Agency Manager **Lesli Holt**; Observer **John Stephenson**; Eastern Regional OPL **Chris Stachelski**, OPL **James Gibson**; and Meteorologist **Ashley Novak**. Photo by **Samantha Burnett**, Otterbein Corporate Office.



Nanc Burns, Observer at Meade, KS, was presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award by MIC **Larry Ruthi**, NWS Dodge City, KS. Nanc has been the primary observer for Meade since 1987. She records temperature, precipitation and snowfall data. The Meade station has been in existence since 1895 when it was begun by **F. Fuhr**. Nanc took over the observing duties from **James Evans** in 1987. Pictured from left are MIC **Larry Ruthi**, Observer **Nanc Burns** and OPL **Jesse Lee**. Photo by WCM **Jeff Hutton**.

30, 15 Year Length of Service Awards



NWS Davenport, IA, held a special ceremony at its offices to honor several of its wonderful Cooperative Volunteers. The event gave the volunteers a chance to meet all the staff, take a tour and celebrate with other observers. Picture from left front are NWS Midwest Regional Climate Center Director **Beth Hall**; 30 Year Observer **Raymond Tull**, Donnellson, IA; 15 Year Observer **Catherine Winslow**, Falena, IL; NWS Meteorologist **Tim Gross**; 15 Year Observer **Larry Schutte**, Augusta, IL; 30 year Observer **Robert Loose**, De Witt, IA; from left back are MIC **Stephan Kuhl**; 10 Year Observer **Wayne Larson**, Marion, IA; 15 Year Observers **Danny and Derrick Murphy**, Stanley, IA; DAPM **Terry Simmons**, and Iowa State Climatologist **Harry Hillaker**.

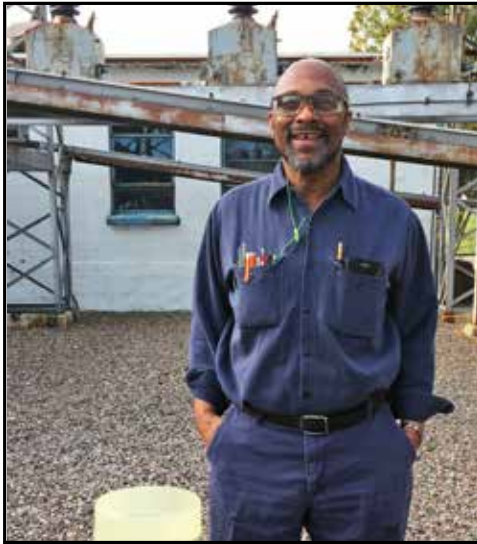


Gerald Fitch, left, celebrated 30 years of service as a dedicated weather observer for NWS Wichita, KS. The award was presented by OPL **Scott Smith**. We thank Gerald for his service and hope for many years of observing to come.

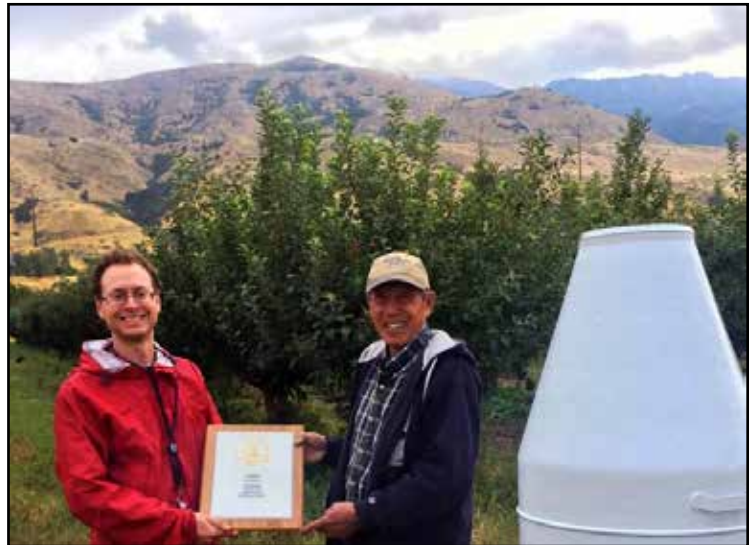


Gary and Carol Fredrickson, center, received a 30 Year Length of Service Award for their service at Northport, MI, on the Leelanau Peninsula. Gary and Carol were also recipients of the prestigious John Campanius Holm award in 2015. The award was presented by NWS Gaylord, MI, Meteorologists **Michael Boguth**, right, and **Scott Rozanski**, left. Photo by OPL **Keith Berger**.

30 and 25 Year Length of Service Awards



Wendell Jackson of **Interface Performance Materials** was presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award for observations at the paper mill in Beaver Falls, NY. In addition to taking precipitation readings, Beaver Falls plant provides vital data for the Hudson and Black River Regulating District operations. The award was presented by NWS Buffalo OPL **Dan Kelly**.



Mas Sumida was presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award. Mas owns and operates Sumida Farms in Perry, UT, where he grows peaches and cherries. His primary emphasis is on peaches, operating an 800-acre peach grove. Despite the busy harvest seasons, Mas reliably submits his data to NWS Pocatello, ID. Mas also uses the precipitation data to adjust his irrigation strategies.



Max Altenbern, right, take observations from his ranch northwest of DeBeque, CO. He was presented with a 25 Year Length of Service Award by DAPM **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Anita Bailey received a 25 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX, OPL **Steve Smart**. Anita is the observer in Spicewood, TX. She and her late husband, **Leon Bailey**, have measured, recorded and reported daily precipitation and weather data for Spicewood since 1992. Photo by Anita's daughter, **Kristie Eason**.

25 Year Length of Service Awards



Dennis Burns, left, of Everly, IA, receives his 25 Year Length of Service Award from Sioux Falls, SD, OPL **Brad Adams**. Dennis is active in his community and enjoys hunting and fishing in his spare time. He also spends time with his grandchildren, teaching them about the outdoors.

Ed Lawrence was presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Billings OPL **Larry Dooley**.



Steve Cowley at the **Honeole, NY, Lake Sewer District** shows his 25 Year Length of Service Award presented by NWS Buffalo, NY, OPL **Dan Kelly**. Steve has been the primary observer at Honeole since the station opened. The daily precipitation reports also are used by the Buffalo District of the Army Corps of Engineers to assist with their Mt. Morris Dam Project.



Lee and Mary Harding of McHenry, ND, show off their 25 Year Length of Service Award presented at NWS Bismarck, ND, at their farmstead.



From left, NWS Portland, ME, Meteorologist **Margaret Curtis** presented a 25 Year Length of Service Award to Winthrop, ME, Observers **Bill Monagles** and **Wendy Dennis**.

25 Year Length of Service and Honored Institution Awards



Richard Shoquist, Observer at Onaway, on Michigan Northeastern Lower Peninsula, show his 25 Year Length of Service Award. Richard retired after a long career serving the state of Michigan as a Department of Natural Resources Officer and Park Ranger. A fan of Michigan's burgeoning craft beer industry, Richard is determined to visit them all. Photo by OPL **Keith Berger**, NWS Gaylord, MI.



Observer **Marvin Thaller**, center, of Hugo, CO, received his 25 Year Length of Service Award with his wife **Estelle**. Presenting the award is OPL James Kalina, NWS Boulder CO.



Darrell Woods, left, observer in Kalvesta, KS, shows his 25 Year Length of Service Award presented by MIC **Larry Ruthi**, NWS Dodge City, KS. Darrell records precipitation and snowfall data. Darrell also served as the backup observer to **J. Hayes Baldwin**. Photo by OPL **Jesse Lee**.



Andrea Warren, left, and **Susanna Leonard**, right, receive a 25 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX, OPL **Steve Smart**. Andrea and Susanna are the observers at the **Lady Bird Johnson Municipal Park** in Fredericksburg, TX. Photo taken by Administrative Support Assistant (ASA) **Norma Jones**, NWS New Braunfels, TX.

25 and 20 Year Length of Service Awards



John W. Gatti, of Bath, ME, accepted a 25 Year Length of Service Award with his wife **Kathy**. Photo by NWS Portland, ME, HMT **James Brown**.



Staff members from the **Iowa Falls Water Pollution Control Plant** receive a 25 Year Length of Service Award. OPL **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA presented the award.

Jane Holtgrewe received a 20 Year Length of Service Award from NWS St. Louis, MO, for her service near Rosebud, MO.

Charles J. Brence was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Billings, MT, OPL **Larry Dooley**.



Amanda Franklin of Atwood, KS, is shown receiving her 20 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Brian Warren**, NWS Goodland, KS.



Stan Darmofal, center, receives a 20 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Keith Berger**, NWS Gaylord MI, left and CPM **Scott Rozanski**, NWS Gaylord, MI. Stan is active in the local community as an amateur radio operator and serves on the Fair Board.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Reinhard and **Beverly Grenz** of Chulitna River, AK, received their 20 Year Length of Service Award. On the way through scenic countryside, and surrounded by moose, caribou, bears and birds of various species, the couple report aviation weather as well as Coop information in the data-sparse interior Alaska near Denali. Photo by NWS Anchorage Meteorologist **Perry Dehne**.



Michael Jezak and family, from East Surry, ME, strike a patriotic pose after receiving a 20 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Peter Rahe**, NWS Caribou, ME.



Robert McGriff of North Vernon, IN, proudly shows his 20 Year Length of Service Award next to his rain gauge where he takes his daily readings.

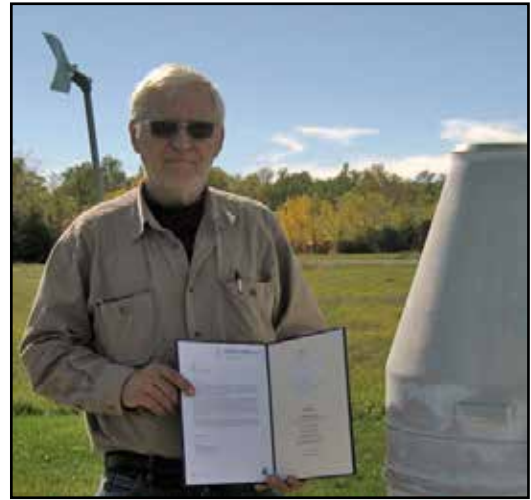


Joan and Ray Medbery received their 20 Year Length of Service Award. Nestled in the Susitna River Valley drainage west of Talkeetna, AK, surrounded by moose, bear and wolves, as well as huge fruit trees and bushes, Joan and Ray report vital weather and river data in the Amber Lake area. Photo by NWS Anchorage Meteorologist **Perry Dehne**.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Ranger **Cindy Micheli**, center, of **Capitol Reef National Park**, in remote southern Utah, was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented by NWS Salt Lake City, UT, OPL **Lisa Verzella**, left, to Ranger Micheli and Acting Park Superintendent **Pamela Rice**. Cindy has been an outstanding leader of the Coop observation team at the park.



Terry Scott shows his 20 year award for monitoring the Fischer-Porter rain gauge at Stickney, SD. Precipitation records for Stickney have been documented since April 1940. The award was presented by HMT **Tim Masters**, NWS Sioux Falls, SD. Terry is Stickney's Maintenance Manager, responsible for the park, the pool, the water and sewer system, the streets, and the garbage/landfill services.



Esther and **John Wallis** show their 20 Year Length of Service Awards. Esther and John, who is a retired NWS employee, take observations at Sault Ste Marie on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, continuing a site dating back to the late 1800s. Pictured from left are NWS Meteorology Intern **Sabrina Jauernic**, Observers **Esther and John Wallis**, and NWS Meteorologists **Jeff Zoltowski** and **Michael Kurz**. Photo by Chippewa Emergency Management staff.



Pam Wetzel, Observer in Offerle, KS, in rural Edwards County, was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Jesse Lee**, NWS Dodge City, KS. Pam records precipitation and snowfall data. She started as the backup observer to **Jack Kersting** and generously took over for Jack in 2012. Photo by NWS Dodge City, KS, MIC **Larry Ruthi**.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



Jim Hook receives his 15 Year Length of Service Award near his home in Bluff, UT. Presenting the award was DAPM **John Kyle** NWS Grand Junction, CO.



Mrs. Kreuger receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award on behalf of her son, **Leonard Kreuger**. Mrs. Kreuger's late husband, **Harold**, initiated the family's observations back in 1947 at their ranch near Cochetopa Creek, CO.

Lillian Becker of Russell Springs, KS, received a 15 Year Length of Service Award from OPL **Brian Warren** of NWS Goodland, KS.



Jerry Nieman, of Lockwood, MO, received his 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Springfield, MO, Service Hydrologist **Megan Terry**. The presentation of the award was videoed and shared on [YouTube](#). Photo by OPL **Thomas Olsen**.



Ron Peterka, Observer at Moran on Michigan's Upper Peninsula, receives a 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Gaylord, MI, Cooperative Program Manager (CPM) **Scott Rozanski**. Ron is active in his local community and enjoys Amateur Radio, electronics and woodworking. Photo by OPL **Keith Berger**.

15 and 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Swede Holmgren, observer in Ellis, KS, shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award presented by MIC **Larry Ruthi**, of NWS Dodge City, KS. Swede has been the primary observer since 2002. Photo by OPL **Jesse Lee**. The Ellis station has been in existence since 1884 and was started by **A. Moggart**. Swede has been one of the longest serving observers for Ellis.



Craig Miller at Brevard, NC, was presented a 10 Year Length of Service Award by OPL **Chris Horne**. Located in the upper French Broad Valley of the North Carolina mountains, climate records for Brevard extend back to 1902.



Harvey Pakkebier, left, of Densmore, KS, accepted a 10 year Length of Service Award for his late brother **Danny Pakkebier**. Harvey assumed the duties of the observer and has kept the site within the family. OPL **Brian Warren** NWS Goodland, KS, presented the award.



Loren and Deborah (not pictured) **Sudbeck** accepted a 10 Year Length of Service Award for their observations at Seneca KS. NWS Aberdeen, SD, OPL **Tim Kearns** presented the award with sincere thanks.



Brad Schwarz, receives a 10 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Austin/San Antonio OPL **Steve Smart**. Brad is the official NWS Observer in Boerne, TX. Brad took over from his father, **Edgar Schwarz, Jr.**, who had been taking observations since 1968 and was a Boerne city manager. Photo by Brad's wife, **Lisa**.

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December, January, February Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks From the Climate Prediction Center

