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Helmut E. Landsburg 60 Year Award



From left, NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA, Observing Program leader (OPL) **Bonnie Bartling** presents Observer **Barbara Cabral** with the Helmut E. Landsburg Award for 60 years of service. Photo by Administrative Services Assistant (ASA) **Alice Carretero**.

NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA, OPL **Bonnie Bartling** presents Observer **Barbara Cabral** with the Helmut E. Landsburg Award for 60 years of dedicated service. Barbara is a Cooperative Observer at the Salsipuedes Gaging Station, near Lompoc, CA.

In the 10 years prior to becoming an observer in 1957, for what was then the Weather Bureau, Barbara and her late husband Joe provided observations for

the United States Geological Survey, which maintains a gaging station on Salsipuedes Creek near the Cabral's property.

Barbara and Joe first started taking observations for personal interest to support their cattle ranching and bean farming.

According to Barbara, her reports are quite popular with local residents, who oftentimes call her to ask how much rain she received.

Thomas Jefferson: Weather Observer

Article reprinted from the [Thomas Jefferson Encyclopedia](#).

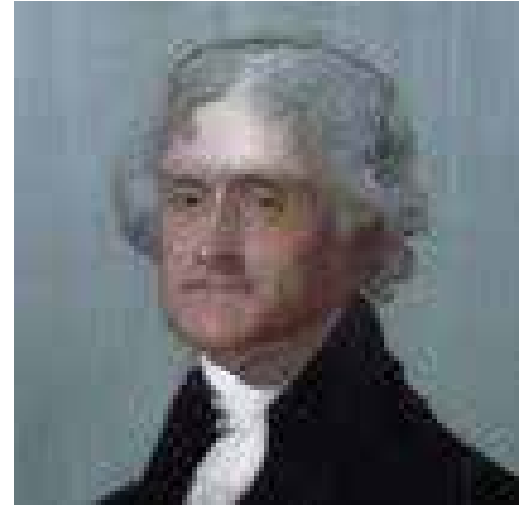
For the more than 50 years that Thomas Jefferson was a systematic weather observer, Monticello was the focus of his efforts to understand the American climate. Well before 1776, the date of his earliest surviving meteorological diary, he was carefully assembling information on the weather of Virginia and making his own observations at Williamsburg and Monticello.

The fruits of these endeavors appeared in the chapter on climate in his *Notes on the State of Virginia*, which, when published in 1785, established his membership in the international fraternity of scientists and natural philosophers.

From 1776, Jefferson kept a consistent and, with inevitable interruptions, continuous record of his weather observations, in America, in Europe and even in the mid-Atlantic. His practices and those of National Weather Service observers today are basically the same: to measure precipitation and to record the daily temperature range.

The modern station at Monticello requires one daily reading of two thermometers, which indicate maximum and minimum temperatures for the preceding 24 hours.

Jefferson had no need of a maximum-minimum thermometer because he rose every day at dawn, which he considered the coldest time of day. He described his daily ritual, the results of which are illustrated in the page from his meteorological diary here reproduced, as follows: "My method is to make two observations a day, the one as early as possible in the morning, the other from 3 to 4 a'clock, because I have found 4 a'clock the hottest and daylight the coldest point of the 24 hours. I state them in an ivory pocket book in the following form, and copy them out once a week. The first column is the day of the month. The second, the thermometer in the morning. The fourth due in the evening. The third, the weather in the morning. The fifth due in the afternoon. The sixth is for miscellanies, such as the appearance of birds, leafing and



Thomas Jefferson

flowering of trees, frosts remarkably late or early, Aurora borealis, etc."

"In the third and fifth columns, "a" is after "c," cloudy: "f," fair: "h," hail: "r," rain: "s," snow. Thus "c a r h s" means, cloudy after rain, hail and snow. Whenever it has rained, hailed or snowed between two observations, I note it thus, "f a r" (i.e., fair after rain), "c a s" (cloudy after snow, etc.), otherwise the falling weather would escape notation. I distinguish weather into fair or cloudy, according as the sky is more or less than half covered with clouds."

Jefferson went beyond the scope of the present weather station by attempting to collect data on winds and humidity, but he was hampered by the imperfect instruments then available to him. An accurate anemometer was not invented until 1850 and the hygrometer was not perfected in his lifetime.

While living in Paris, Jefferson experimented with three different types of hygrometers. He recorded their readings daily for 5 years in the hope of finding an instrument that could be trusted to provide accurate comparative observations.

His initial, patriotic motive was to topple one of the two pillars of the theory of degeneracy of animal life in America advanced by the Comte de Buffon and other European scholars—America's alleged excessive humidity. Also in his role as champion of the North American continent, Jefferson began in Paris to compile

Jefferson had no need of a maximum-minimum thermometer because he rose every day at dawn, which he considered the coldest time of day.

a record of the ratio of cloudy to sunny skies. After a 5-year residence in France, he had proved to himself that America completely eclipsed Europe in the sunshine contest and he appreciated more than ever the "cheerful" sunny climate of his native country.

While responding to international rivalry over climate was at times irresistible, Jefferson's motives for recording comparative weather data were much grander. The patient accumulation of details of what he called "the indexes of climate," temperature, prevailing winds, precipitation and related biological events like the flowering of plants and the migration of birds, was intended to form the foundation of a reliable theory of weather and climate. The advancement of meteorology, which in Jefferson's opinion had made the least progress of any science in his lifetime, was at the root of his own data gathering and inspired him to enlist everyone he could in the process.

In the 1770s, he had planned to provide a thermometer to one dependable deputy for each county of Virginia and to exact from them twice-daily observations of temperature and wind direction. This ambitious scheme, which was meant to be the foundation of a national network of weather observers, was frustrated by the Revolutionary War, but ever afterward Jefferson called on every available watchman to take up his own observation post. Young Americans making the grand tour of Europe, stationary scholars, official explorers, sons-in-law, daughters and grandchildren, were all enlisted to swell the stream of information.

When Jefferson left for Europe in 1784, he practically commanded the two James Madisons, the professor in Williamsburg and the politician in Orange County, to carry on the daily meteorological ritual in his absence. An important clause of his official instructions to Lewis and Clark in 1803 enjoined them to observe "climate as characterized by the thermometer, by the proportion of rainy, cloudy and clear days, by lightening, hail, snow, ice, by the access and recess of frost, by the winds prevailing at different seasons, the dates at which particular plants put forth their flower, or leaf, time of appearance of particular birds, reptiles or insects."

If, in his lifetime, Jefferson never found his own equal in committed and unflinching

A page from Jefferson's 1796 weather observations. Library of Congress.

attention to the details of his climate, his dream of simultaneous observations across the land is real today. Monticello is one of 8,000+ NWS weather stations, which has claimed Jefferson as the "father of weather observers."

It is unquestionable that Jefferson considered his observations a pleasure as well as a duty, especially the contemplation of his own climate at Monticello: "... climate is one of the sources of the greatest sensual enjoyment," he wrote while President.

And from Lake Champlain, in May of 1791, he penned a well-known tribute to his native air: "On the whole, I find nothing any where else in point of climate which Virginia need envy to any part of the world.

Here they are locked up in ice and snow for 6 months. Spring and autumn, which make a paradise of our country, are rigorous winter with them, and a tropical summer breaks on them all at once. When we consider how much climate contributes to the happiness of our condition, by the fine sensations it excites, and the productions it is the parent of, we have reason to value highly the accident of birth in such an one as that of Virginia."

In the 1770s, he had planned to provide a thermometer to one dependable deputy for each county of Virginia and to exact from them twice-daily observations of temperature and wind direction.

John Campanius Holm Awards



Nearly two dozen of Observer **Margaret Bowman's** family and friends attended a ceremony honoring her for extraordinary service with a John Campanius Holm Award. The group also stayed to celebrate Margaret's 88th birthday. Margaret and husband Dwain braved thunderstorms, torrential rains, extreme wind and winter blizzards in this remote mountainous locale in Utah. The couple gathered temperature, rain and snow observations every single day until Dwaine's passing in 1994, when Margaret graciously took over. We will miss her now that she is retiring. Photo by Angelique McNaughton, *Park City Record*

Observer **Margaret Bowman**, (center, right) of Coalville, UT, proudly displays her 2017 Holm Award. Presenting the prestigious award from left are NWS Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**, Meteorologist in Charge (MIC) **Randy Graham** and Western Region Director Dr. **Grant Cooper**.

Excellence in observing daily weather conditions has been a family tradition in Yadkinville, NC, since 1957 thanks to the **Smith-Phillips family**. **William J. Phillips** began observing daily weather conditions from his residence in 1957, earning him the Holm Award in 1980. When William was no longer able to observe in the mid-1990s, his son-in-law **Thurman Smith** stepped up with an equally-high level of commitment and enthusiasm. Thurman has earned his own Holm Award by submitting his daily observation with timeliness and accuracy, in addition to always providing detailed information to supplement his temperature and precipitation reports.



Thurman Smith, center, displays his 2017 John Campanius Holm Award, while his wife **Kaye Smith** displays her father's 1980 Holm Award. Also pictured is NWS Blacksburg, VA, OPL **Nick Fillo**. Photo by MIC **Dave Wert**.

75 Year Honored Institution Awards



The Honored Institution Award was presented to the **Natural Resource Conservation Service Field Office**, in Simla, CO, for 75 continuous years of weather observations.

From left, NWS Boulder, CO, Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) Greg Hanson; Civil Engineer **Benny Kitten**, who has taken observations for the past 25 years; and OPL **Jim Kalina**.

Duke Energy's Great Falls-Dearborn Hydro Station in South Carolina, received an Honored Institution Award for 75 years of service. Receiving this award was Technician **Jimmy Catoe**. The award was presented by OPL **Chris Horne**, NWS Greenville-Spartanburg, SC.



75 Honored Institution, Special Service Awards

Kelly Dunham accepted a 75 Year Honored Institution Award for the city of **Paso Robles Water Division**. The award was presented by OPL **Bonnie Bartling**, NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA.



The **Forest, Fish and Wildlife Management Section, U.S., Army Corps of Engineers**, Savannah, GA, District has been active as a Cooperative Weather Station at Lake Strom Thurmond in Clarks Hill, SC, for over 65 years. During a recent severe weather safety presentation, their staff was presented with a Special Service Award recognizing their years of valuable contributions to the NWS mission.

55 Year Benjamin Franklin Award



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

Margaret Sease-Jayroe of Little Mountain, SC, was recently presented with the Benjamin Franklin Award and a commendation from 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.

The Little Mountain station was established in October 1893 by her grandfather, **Dr. John Marion Sease**. John passed the torch to **Elberta Sease** in 1923. Elberta served until 1962, when Margaret, then a science teacher, agreed to continue taking daily weather observations, now numbering 20,000+.

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 (USHCN). USHCN data is used to quantify national-and-regional-scale climate changes.

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, SC. OPL Doug Anderson adds, "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 Award

NWS Blacksburg, VA, would like to extend to **Julian A. Kesterson** its deepest gratitude and admiration for 50 years of continuous weather records. In the past five decades worth of weather observations, Julian has seen many extremes. Notable examples include the 14.48 inches of rain that fell over a 3-day period June 27-29, 1995, as well as the 27.5 inches of snow Julian observed January 7-8, 1996.

NWS depends on the timely and accurate weather observations of observers such as Julian to help improve the quality of its weather forecasts. Your efforts have been invaluable not only to the weather and climate communities but to our nation as a whole. OPL **Nicholas Fillo** presented the Edward H. Stoll Award and a 50-year pin. Julian was not available for a ceremony.

Edward R. Stoll and 50 Year Family Heritage Awards

William A. Murphy, left, of rural Covert, KS, received the Edward R. Stoll Award for completing 50 years of service. William started taking measurements in 1967. He continues a family tradition of taking weather observations that dates to the 1950s. Presenting the award is NWS Hastings, NE, MIC **Steve Eddy**, right. Photo taken by OPL **Mike Reed**.



Lisamarie Ladd proudly displays two awards she was presented with by HMT **Steve Anderson**, NWS Monterey, CA. On the left is her 15 Year Service Award and on the right is a Family Heritage Award presented to the Mantelli family for over 50 years of service. Lisamarie took over the observing duties from her grandfather **Henry Mantelli** in 2002. Henry served from 1966 until 2002. The gauge is located on the Mantelli Ranch in the hills above Gilroy, CA. Henry bought the ranch in 1960 to raise his prize Charolais cattle. The ranch continues to this day.

From left, **Tom Metsch**, the youngest brother of longtime observer **Martha Metsch** of Cheviot, OH, accepts a 50 Year Family Heritage Award from NWS Wilmington, OH, MIC **Ken Haydu**. Photo by OPL **James Gibson**.



50 Year Honored Institution Award

The Honored Institution Award was presented to the **Cabin Creek Pumped Storage Facility** near Georgetown, CO, for 50 continuous years of weather observations. From left, NWS Boulder, CO, WCM **Greg Hanson**, Xcel Energy Control Specialist **Adam Droll**, Plant Manager **Pat Martinez**, Apprentice Control Specialist **Ken Kleinman**, and OPL **Jim Kalina**. Photo by **Nick Marolda** of Xcel Energy.

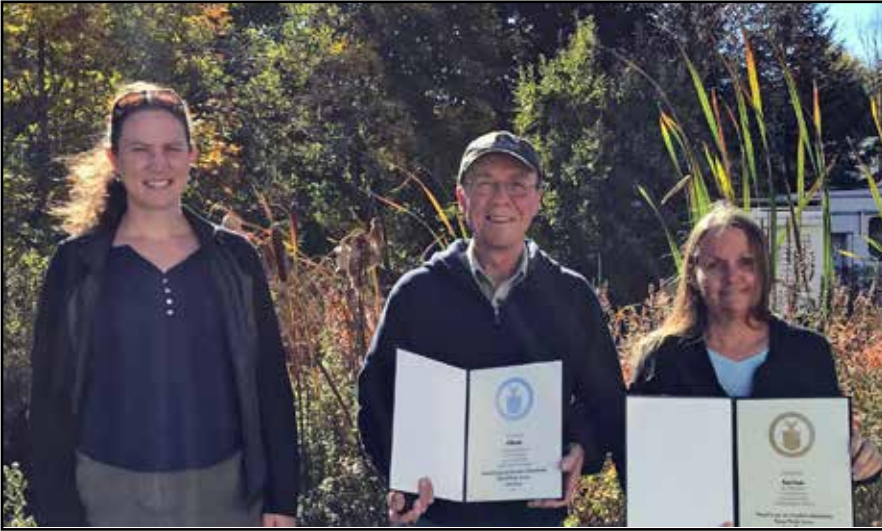


NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA presented the **Culver City Fire Station 2** with a 50 Year Honored Institution Award. The Culver City Fire Station personnel have taken and recorded their daily temperatures and rainfall since 1967. Accepting the award from left are Engineer **Mauricio Blanco**, Firefighter/Paramedic **James Palmer**, Captain **John Bohning**, and NWS Los Angeles/Oxnard, CA, MIC **Mark Jackson**. Photo by OPL **Bonnie Bartling**.

The **Van Buren County Road Commission** in Bloomingdale, MI, received its 50 Year Honored Institution Award from NWS Grand Rapids, MI, OPL **Brandon Hoving**. From left are previous observer **Roger Newcomb** and current observer **Fred Gray**. Also attending was Director **Larry Hummel**. The Road Commission provides not only daily observations but also valuable reports regarding road conditions throughout the county, helping the NWS make more informed forecast decisions.



40, 35 Year Length of Service Award



From left, NWS Portland, ME, Meteorologist **Margaret Curtis** presented a 40 Year Length of Service Award to Observers **Bill Monagle** and **Wendy Dennis** of Winthrop, ME.

Gayle Kingery, observer for Bailey, CO, was presented a 40 Year Length of Service Award. Gayle has been dedicated to taking the observations each day despite being in a wheel chair. Gayle's son **Shawn** has taken the precipitation and snowfall measurements when needed. NWS Boulder, CO, OPL **Jim, Kalina** made the presentation.



Dan Becker, of Colstrip, MT, was presented a 35 year Length of Service Award by NWS Billings, MT, OPL Larry Dooley and HMT Vickie Stephenson. From left, OPL **Larry Dooley** and Observer Dan Becker. Photo by HMT **Vickie Stephenson**.



35 and 30 Year Length of Service Awards



Judith Ann Goubeaux of Versailles, OH, has been providing weather data to NWS Wilmington, OH, for 35 years. Thank you for your dedication and service! The award was presented by OPL **James Gibson**.

Randy Wheatley of Adair, IA, displays his 35 Year Length of Service award. OPL **Brad Fillbach**, NWS Des Moines, IA, presented Randy with his award.



Eunice Achtenberg, right, of Hysham, MT, was presented a 30 Year Length of Service Award by Billings, MT, OPL Larry Dooley and HMT **Vickie Stephenson**. Photo by OPL **Larry Dooley**

NWS Bismarck, ND, presented **John A. Heiser** of Grassy Butte, ND, and **Carolyn E. Dallman** of Edgeley, ND, with 30 Year Length of Service Awards. Since 1987, John and Carolyn have been reporting daily maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation, snowfall and snow depth. Additionally, John includes many detailed remarks in his daily reports.

30 Year Length of Service Awards



From left, Dr. **Greg Carbone** of the **University of South Carolina** (USC) accepts his 30 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Columbia, SC, acting OPL **Doug Anderson**. The USC station dates back 64 years. The station is in the U.S. Historical Climate Network and keeps alive a legacy of weather records in Columbia dating to 1836. The USC station holds the record for the official highest temperature in South Carolina of 113°F on June 29, 2012.



Gregory H. Gordon, of Jefferson, NH, accepted a 30 Year Length of Service Award for himself and his brother **Bruce**, not pictured. Photo by HMT **James Brown**.



Bill Greenway, left, observer in McCracken, KS, was presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award by MIC **Larry Ruthi**, NWS Dodge City, KS. Bill records precipitation and snowfall data. The McCracken station was started in 1911 by **E.D. Floyd**. The station has had several observers between 1911 and 1919. There were no observations between late 1919 and the summer of 1940 when it was started back up by **Guy B. Van Winkle**. Photo by OPL **Jesse Lee**.

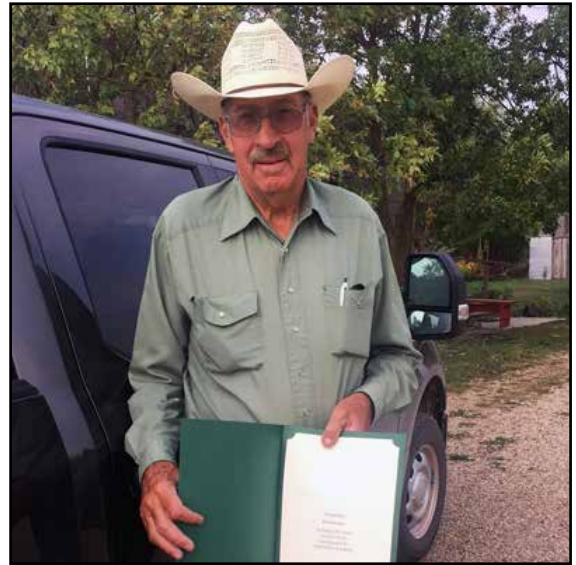


Lance Morgan, Observer in Alexander, KS, was presented with a 30 Year Length of Service Award by MIC **Larry Ruthi**, NWS Dodge City, KS. Larry's records precipitation and snowfall data. His wife, **Gloria**, is the backup observer. Photo by OPL **Jesse Lee**. The Alexander station was started in 1940 by **H.O. Newcomer**. Larry took over the observation duties after **Reuben Schlegel** in 1987 and is the longest serving observer for Alexander.

30, 25 Year Length of Service Awards



From left, **Edwin Riley** of the Saluda, SC, **Public Works Department** recently received his 30 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Columbia, SC, acting OPL **Doug Anderson**. Edwin serves as the focal point for the Saluda station, which dates to 1906. The Public Works Department took over in 1969.



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



Robert McLain, left, a local semi-retired TV meteorologist, at the Castleton station in Marion County, IN, was surprised with a 25 Year Length of Service Award. NWS Indianapolis MIC **Daniel McCarthy** presented the award at an AMS chapter meeting. Also attending were HMT **Brad Herold**. Photo by Meteorologist Intern **Marc Dahmer**. Bob is a shining model of an observer who is also a Holm Award winner.



Richard Shoquist, observer at Onaway, MI, shows his 25 Year Length of Service Award. Richard is retired after a long career serving the state Department of Natural Resource as an 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.

25 Year Honored Institution Awards; 25 Year Length of Service Award



Melissa Schroeder shows off the 25 Year Honored Institution Award for the **Watford City Courthouse** in Watford City, ND. Photo by HMT **Jim Assid**, NWS Williston, ND.



Mike Cook of the **Columbia City Indiana Water Pollution Control Facility** accepts a 25 Year Length of Service Award. Photo taken and award given by NWS Northern Indiana OPL **Brentley Lothamer**.

NWS Bismarck, ND, presented **Bruce Wentz** of Napoleon, ND, with a 25 Year Length of Service Award for reporting daily maximum and minimum temperatures, precipitation, and snowfall data since 1992, when he took over from his dad, **Warren**. Before becoming the primary observer, Warren served as the backup observer for **Mrs. Peterson** in the 1950s, who took observations at the local ice cream shop.



The **Bureau of Land Management** (BLM) in Meeker, CO, received its 25 Year Honored Institution Award. Receiving the award from left are Mining Engineer **Paul Daggett** and Field Manager **Kent Walter**. Data Acquisition Program Manager (DAPM) **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO, presented the award. Photo courtesy of the BLM.



Lonnie Boatwright and **Carl Alewine** accept a 25 Year Honored Institution Award for the **Batesburg-Leesville, SC, Water Treatment Plant**. The plant building dates back to 1935. Photo by NWS Columbia, SC.

20 Year Length of Service Awards



Jim Andrus of Cortez, CO, receives his 20 Year Length of Service Award. Presenting the award was DAPM **John Kyle**, NWS Grand Junction, CO.



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



Brett Darby, of the **Portland Sewage Plant** in Indiana accepted a 20 Year Length of Service Award. The award was presented and photo taken by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Kenneth Frantz, observer at Fleming, CO, was presented a 20 Year Length of Service Award. OPL **Jim Kalina**, Boulder, CO, made the presentation.

20 and 15 Year Length of Service Awards



Harold Greek of Mohall, ND, was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award. Photo taken by OPL **Rick Krolak**, NWS Bismarck, ND.



John Mahoney of the **Elkhart Public Works and Utilities** accepts a 20 Year Individual Length of Service Award. Photo by NWS Northern Indiana OPL **Brentley Lothamer**.



Sarah McCloskey, observer at Alta, UT, was presented with a 20 Year Length of Service Award. Sarah has been an outstanding leader of the Coop Observation Team at this northern Utah recreation mecca, ensuring optimum accuracy for the ever-watched snowfall measurements. Award presented by NWS Salt Lake City OPL **Lisa Verzella**. Photo by MIC **Randy Graham**.



Jeff Boyer of Farmland, IN, received his 15 Year Length of Service Award from NWS Indianapolis Service Hydrologist **Al Shipe**. Jeff is the observation focal point at the **Davis Purdue Ag Center** in Farmland and the site superintendent.

15 Year Length of Service Awards



From left are Backup Observer **Reonlia Parry** and Observer **Cindy Charlton** of the **USDA Farm Service Agency** in Roundup, MT. Cindy was presented with her 15 Year Service Award by NWS Billings, MT, OPL **Larry Dooley** and HMT **Vickie Stephenson**, right.



Steve Hagan, of Denver, IN, accepts a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Steve takes river observations on the Eel River. Award presented and photo taken by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



David Mader, of Biddle, MT, was presented a 15 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Billings OPL **Larry Dooley**.



Larry Dziuk of Underwood, ND, shows his 15 Year Length of Service Award for dedicated service to NWS Bismarck, ND. Photo and presentation by OPL **Rick Krolak**.

15, 10 Year Length of Service Awards



Vince Muntz, of the **Niles Wastewater Treatment Plant**, accepts a 15 Year Length of Service Award. Photo taken by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



Tricia Van Pelt of Sabinal, TX, received her 15 Year Length of Service Award from her son, HMT **Cory Van Pelt**, NWS Austin/San Antonio, TX.



James Jenkins of **WAGS Radio** in Bishopville, SC, accepts his 15 Year Length of Service Award. James is the owner and operator of the radio station, still offering a live format to the community. Award presented by NWS Columbia, SC.



Jim Fors of Bismarck, ND, displays his 10 Year Length of Service Award. Jim was also a Lead Forecaster and Meteorologist in Charge at NWS Bismarck, ND. He retired in 2008 but continues to serve as an observer. Photo taken by **Zack Hargrove**, Meteorologist, NWS Bismarck, ND

10 Year Length of Service Awards



Shane Hansen, of Sheridan, WY, was presented 10 Year Length of Service Award by NWS Billings, MT, OPL **Larry Dooley**.



Guy Verhoff, of Pandora, OH, accepts a 10 Year Length of Service Award. Guy took over from his father-in-law, who began the station back in 1949. The award was presented and photo taken by OPL **Brentley Lothamer**, NWS Northern Indiana.



From left, NWS Dodge City, KS, MIC **Larry Ruthi** and OPL **Jesse Lee** and present a 10 Year Length of Service Award to Observer **Steve Barker**. Larry records temperature, precipitation and snowfall data. The station, originally in Sublette, KS, was founded in 1889 by **J.M. Baker**. There was a break in record keeping from 1890 until 1913 when it was started up again by **John J. Miller**. The station was relocated to Satanta, KS, in 2007. Photo by WCM **Jeff Hutton**.



Edward Denoncourt, right, of Salisbury, NH, accepted a 10 Year Length of Service Award from HMT **James Brown**, NWS Gray, ME.

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National
Cooperative Program
Thomas.Trunk
@noaa.gov

Managing Editor
Melody.Magnus
@noaa.gov

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