

**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY
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AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY - OCTOBER SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS

This regular tip sheet is designed to give you story ideas and tips about upcoming AMS meetings, papers in our nine peer-reviewed journals, and other happenings in the atmospheric and related sciences community.

PAPER TRAIL

The October issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society*, along with the Society's other eight peer-reviewed journals, is full of interesting and newsworthy stories this month.

Uncertainties in Climate Trends. Historically meteorological observations have been made for operational forecasting rather than long-term monitoring purposes. Because of this there have been many changes in the instrumentation and procedures, making it difficult to obtain long-term climate records. Ideally climatologists would prefer a network of ground-truth measurements that did not change characteristics over time. However such is not the reality. Therefore researchers must carefully understand the biases in datasets and how to reconcile them to show past and future climate change. The paper is online at <http://ams.allenpress.com/amsonline/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1175%2FBAMS-86-10-1437>

New Wind Chill Chart Just in Time for Winter. The formula used to express the combined effect of wind and low temperature on how cold it feels was changed in November 2001. Many scientists felt that the old formula, derived in the 1960s, exaggerated the severity of the weather. The new formula is based on a mathematical model of heat flow from the upwind side of a head-sized cylinder moving at walking speed into the wind. For the formula and new chart see <http://ams.allenpress.com/amsonline/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1175%2FBAMS-86-10-1453>

What do meteorology students want to learn? An informal survey of 750 students at the University of Georgia and the University of Wisconsin-Madison showed that students getting into the field of meteorology don't just want to study about news-making events such as tornadoes and hurricanes. They are interested in all aspects of the science from understanding the energy cycle to air masses and fronts; from past and present climates to the ozone. Do textbooks and curriculum meet satisfy the students inquisitive minds? Not always. Many introductory meteorology textbooks do not adequately address the broad range of topics that students want to know about. Check out the paper online at <http://ams.allenpress.com/amsonline/?request=get-abstract&doi=10.1175%2FBAMS-86-10-1431>

SCIENCE SEMINAR SERIES

The next Environmental Science Seminar on Capital Hill is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16. The topic is Vertical Temperature Profile. Details to follow soon. For information on the AMS Policy Program and the Environmental Seminar Series see <http://www.ametsoc.org/atmospolicy/index.html>

MEETING MANIA

Annual Meeting Program is Online. The AMS 86th Annual Meeting will be in Atlanta from January 29-February 3, 2006. This year's theme is the "Applications of Weather and Climate Data" with an emphasis on documenting success stories in the applications of atmospheric, hydrologic and oceanic sciences, and the research needed to continue benefiting from new knowledge. Two integrating subthemes are "Managing Our Air, Energy, and Water Resources" and "Environmental Risks and Impacts on Commerce." The program is now online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/> Press registration is also online at <http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/annual/newsroom.html>

MISCELLANEOUS

"The Weatherman" Shows Highs & Lows of Weathercaster. A new movie opening this Friday, October 28, features all the highs and lows that could come with the job of being a television weathercaster. "The Weatherman," starring Nicholas Cage, is a story of a popular Chicago weathercaster who has the opportunity to audition for a national morning show. While his career is doing great, his personal life is in complete disarray. In the movie, weatherman Dave Spritz says he "works two hours a day" and that "people throw things at me in public, they throw milk shakes, pizza." Elite science-trained weathercasters, who are called "broadcast meteorologists" in the media business, say that's not really typical of their day. The job of a broadcast meteorologist is often complex and challenging, according to the AMS, which TV news producers rely on to test and evaluate broadcast meteorologists. These days most of the weathercasters on the air are meteorologists with at least a college degree in atmospheric and related sciences. And more than 1200 of them have earned the prestigious AMS Seal of Approval and the new Certified Broadcast Meteorologist designation showing they have scientific competence and effective communication skills in their weather presentations. The AMS seal is displayed on-screen during their broadcasts. Radio and television

meteorologists seek these designations as a mark of distinction and recognition.
More about the AMS Certification programs is online at
<http://www.ametsoc.org/amscert/index.html>

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The AMS (<http://www.ametsoc.org>) is the nation's leading professional society for those in the atmospheric and related sciences.