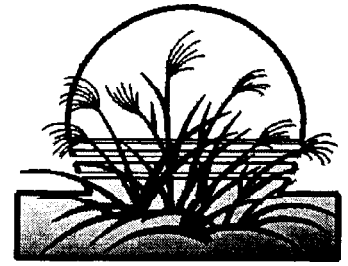





**NEWSLETTER
TWIN CITIES CHAPTER
AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL
SOCIETY**

January 2003 Vol. 24 No. 5



The January meeting of the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS will be at 7 PM Thursday, January 16th, in Borlaug Hall (Soil Sciences), room S415, on the St. Paul Campus of the University of Minnesota. Specific directions to the meeting can be found on page 3. AMS chapter members, interested acquaintances and potential members are invited to attend.

Featured Speaker: Mark Seeley, "Minnesota Climate Trends and Their Implications"



Like many major agricultural producing states, Minnesota has experienced a number of recent climate trends which have important implications for crop producers. Significant trends in temperature, precipitation, and humidity are in evidence. Despite the uncertainty of the cause of these trends, the potential consequences should not be ignored. Crop producers should be aware of these climate trends and possible consequences (many yet implied) and where possible, adjust to help mitigate detrimental effects, whether motivated by economic or ethical perspectives.

Mark Seeley joined the faculty of the University of Minnesota Department of Soil, Water, and Climate in 1978, after spending time as a principal scientist at the NASA/Johnson Space Center in Houston, TX. Since that time he has served as extension climatologist/meteorologist, coordinating the state agricultural weather program with the National Weather Service, the Minnesota State Climatology Office, and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. Dr. Seeley holds degrees from the University of California-Berkeley (B.A. 1969), Northern Illinois University (M.S. 1975) and University of Nebraska-Lincoln (Ph.D. 1977).

He conducts research and extension programs related to the utilization of meteorological and climatological data for agricultural production systems and management of natural resources, and spent 1989-1990 on sabbatical leave with the United Kingdom Meteorological Office and Ministry of Agriculture. He has served as a weekly commentator on Minnesota Public Radio's Morning Edition news program since 1992, and was the recipient of the Sigma Xi Scientific Communication and Education Award in 2001.

Comments from our Chapter President Dean Braatz

Below are the monthly meeting dates for the local Twin Cities AMS Chapter's schedule during the Winter-Spring season of 2002-2003. I was able to locate a speaker for the picnic on May 16, 2003. Bruce Watson mentioned to me at last month's meeting at KARE 11 that he would be interested in making a presentation at the picnic. A quick call recently confirmed his willingness to pick a topic and do the honors. Many thanks to Bruce for

helping us out!

Be sure you mark your calendar with these dates:

- January 16, 2003 - Meeting at the "U", St. Paul, Mark Seeley
- February 20, 2003 - Meeting at St. Thomas University, St. Paul, Bob Johnson
- March 20, 2003 - Meeting at the NWS, Chanhassen, Craig Edwards
- April 17, 2003 - Meeting at SCSU, St. Cloud, Greg Nastrom
- May 15, 2003 - Picnic in Chanhassen, Bruce Watson

The 83rd Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society will be held 9-13 February 2003 at the Long Beach Convention Center, Long Beach, California. Are any of our local members planning to attend? The following information is on the National AMS web site pertaining to the Local Chapters. Does someone have an interest to attend this session and report back to the local Twin Cities AMS Chapter?

"Interactive" Town Hall Discussion
Local Chapters-Your Connection to Success!
Tuesday, 11 February, 12:00—1:30 P.M.
Seaside A,

The AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee, together with the 120 AMS regular and student local chapters across the nation, are jointly sponsoring the Interactive Town Hall Discussion on Tuesday, 11 February, 12:00-1:30 P.M. The theme will be "Local Chapters-Your Connection to Success!" This gathering will focus on the outstanding activities that local chapters are undertaking, the tremendous benefits of being a part of local chapter events, and the positive impact of local chapter participation on career growth and personal understanding of environmental issues. Local chapter members will highlight ways in which they are providing a service to the meteorological, hydrological, or oceanographic professions, fostering education and outreach, and assisting community leaders in making important decisions that affect all of us. Networking, building relationships, and camaraderie will be key themes of this presentation. Distinguished members of our profession, to include leaders in the AMS, public and private sector, will provide testimonials about how being a local chapter member can and has positively affected them and our profession. This discussion is for anyone who would benefit by getting together with colleagues in the scientific community, customers of environmental products and services, local and regional decision makers, and weather enthusiasts. We also invite you to visit the display of local chapter posters. For further information or to volunteer to participate, contact Ken Carey, Mitretek Systems, (703) 610-1933; e-mail: amschaff@ametsoc.org)

Join us at our monthly meetings and keep our chapter active. Invite friends or colleagues that may have an interest in our science. We always welcome new members. My new email address is: dtbraatz1@msn.com

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our next meeting at the Ag Campus at the University of Minnesota.

The officers for 2002-2003 are:

President – Dean Braatz	Vice President – Doug Dokken
Sec-Treasurer – Joan Haley	Newsletter – Kurt Scholz

Member of the Month: Don Baker

At the beginning of Don's sophomore year at the University of Minnesota he saw a notice on the Physics Department bulletin board about a new meteorology program in the Army Air Force. It required successful completion of a six months program (\$50/month) in such subjects as physics, calculus, vector mechanics, etc., and a nine months program (\$75/month) as an aviation cadet in meteorology. The first was at the University of Wisconsin and the second at the University of Chicago. Graduating as a 2nd Lieutenant the day before D-Day, Don served as a forecaster at the Rapid City Army Air Base (B-17 training base) and at Lowry Field, Denver (a transient air base). Then overseas to England forecasting for C-47 and C-46's carrying supplies to Patton and wounded GIs on return. He returned home in 1946 but was recalled to serve in Japan and Korea in 1951-52. He was Forecaster for F-84 fighter-bombers and received the Bronze Star medal for this. Between wars and afterwards finally completed a Ph.D. degree, Don taught meteorology and climatology at the University of Minnesota, specializing in micrometeorology and agricultural climatology for 34 years, retiring in 1994.

Papers he authored on the climatology of Minnesota included several with state climatologists Donald Haines, Joe Strub, Earl Kuehnast and Jim Zandlo.



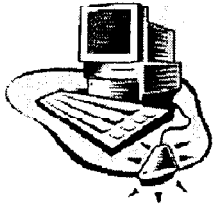
Editor's notes

It is a balmy 50 degrees here in Arden Hills as I write this note. It's difficult to predict the weather in Minnesota. After carefully scrutinizing the weather forecast contest entries, Ron Trendera has come up with the winners:

Snowfall prediction: The total snowfall at the NWS in Chanhassen during December 2002 was 3.0 inches. The winner was **Greg Spoden**, who predicted 3.9 inches.

Low temperature prediction: The low temperature on January 1 was 20 degrees. The winner was **Dean Braatz**, who predicted 20 degrees exactly!

The winners will receive an \$18 gift certificate and the degree of fame offered by this note.



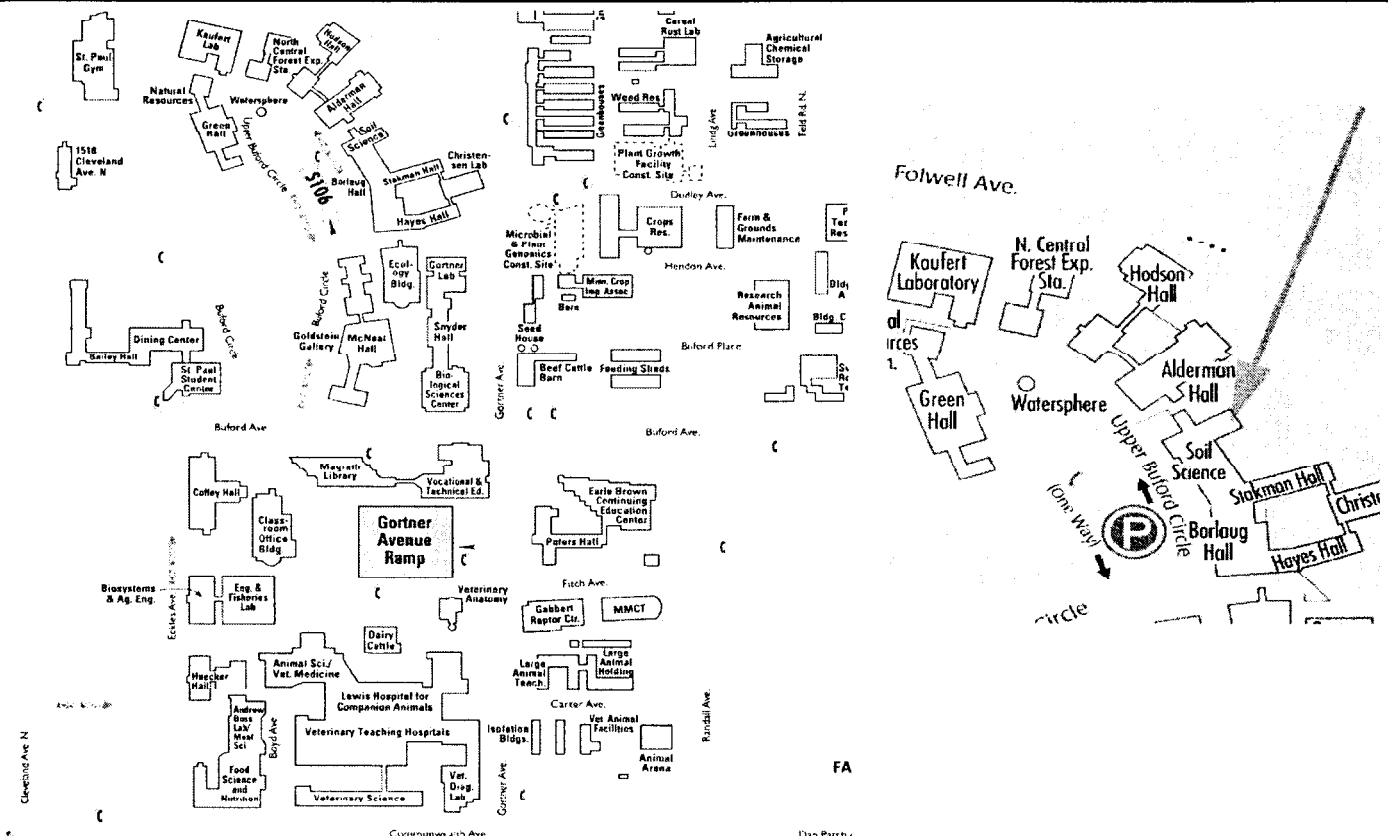
AMS on the WWW

The address for the Twin Cities Chapter of the AMS is:

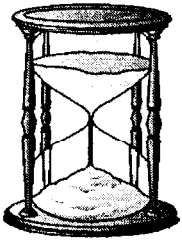
http://byte.stthomas.edu/www/math_http/weather/tcametsoc.html. Please send any comments, suggestions, changes of address, misspellings, etc. to Kurt Scholz, k9scholz@stthomas.edu.

Reminder: The January meeting will be held at 7pm, on Thursday January 16th in S415, Borlaug Hall (Soil Sciences wing), on the St. Paul campus of the U of M. Room S415 is one floor up if you enter the west entrance of the building.

Directions: Take Interstate 94 to highway 280 north. Exit at Larpenteur Avenue and travel east to Gortner Avenue. Turn right and travel south on Gortner to Buford Avenue. Turn right onto Buford Avenue and travel a short distance to Buford circle. Turn right and travel north up to Borlaug Hall, which isn't too far from the water tower. See map below for parking options.



Parking is available at lot S106, which is near Borlaug Hall, and in the Gortner Avenue Ramp, south of Buford Avenue. There is another lot near the fairgrounds, further east on Buford Avenue.



Historical Twin Cities Weather – by Thomas St. Martin

Snowfall values recorded by Twin Cities' observers are problematic estimates no doubt distorted by the effects of drifting and blowing. Minneapolis observer William Cheney recorded eight inches of snow on 7-8 January, 1873. Rev. Dr. A. B. Paterson, in contrast, recorded only two inches of snow on the same two days. St. Paul Signal Corps observers recorded 0.42 inches of melted precipitation from 7 through 9 January, a value which, given the temperatures which prevailed during the storm, suggests a snowfall of four to six inches.

The January 1873 blizzard was both preceded and followed by cold weather. St. Paul Signal Corps observers recorded subzero minima on the two days immediately prior to the storm and, although temperatures warmed into the 20's F during the second week of January, no readings above 32 F occurred until 6 February. The last two weeks of January were especially cold with minima of -25 F, -26 F and -29 F recorded at the Signal Corps station on 17, 18 and 28 January, respectively. Paterson recorded 0700 hour temperatures of -27 F, -29 F and -28 F on the same dates; Cheney recorded -30 F, -33 F and -34 F on the same dates/times. Similarly, Ft. Snelling observers recorded minima of -30 F on 17 January, -31 F on 18 January and -33 F on 28 January. The average temperature for the entire month was about 6 F at Paterson's station, about 5 F at the St. Paul Signal Corps station and about 4 F at the Ft. Snelling post hospital station.

Fortunately for Minnesota's winter weary residents, the first part of February 1873 brought temperatures into the 40's F. Any hopes of an early spring were ended, however, when yet another invasion of cold air brought readings in the 20's F below zero during the last week of February and again during the first week of March. Near record March minima were recorded on the morning of 4 March: -22 F at Paterson's station; -24 F at Ft. Snelling; -22 F at the St. Paul Signal Corps station and -23 F at Cheney's Minneapolis station.

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