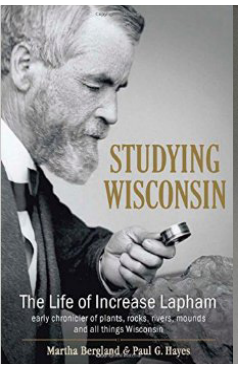
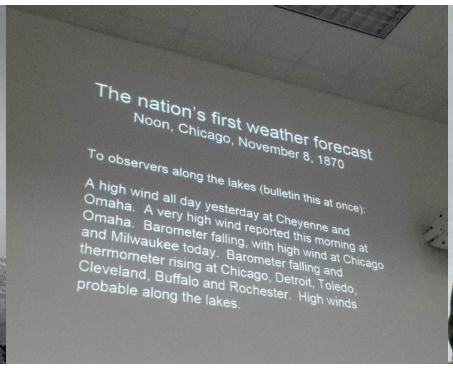
AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Summer/Fall 2015 Volume 5, Issue 1

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS







GREATER MILWAUKEE

On May 20, 2015, the Greater Milwaukee Chapter hosted a presentation titled "Increase Lapham: Studying Wisconsin and Weather," by authors Martha Bergland and Paul G. Hayes. Their book, *Studying Wisconsin: The Life of Increase Lapham*, has been endorsed by Milwaukee historian John Gurda and by National Weather Service Director Dr. Louis Uccellini. The speakers took turns narrating the life story of Increase Lapham, using figures and illustrations from their book. Particular attention was given to Lapham's role in advocating for a national network of weather observations, and we learned he was the first to issue a "cooler near the lake" forecast! The speakers graciously responded to many questions from the audience, which included Dr. Ed Hopkins, Assistant Wisconsin State Climatologist from Madison; UW-Milwaukee Atmospheric Science professors Clark Evans, Jon Kahl, and Paul Roebber; and National Weather Service Senior Forecaster Steve Hentz. Not by coincidence, the meeting was held on the UW-Milwaukee campus in Lapham Hall. ■

SOUTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA

This past May, the Southwest Pennsylvania Chapter of the AMS participated in their annual storm chase. Ten students, two alumni, and one professor ventured on this 12-day field course that entailed hundreds of miles of driving throughout the Great Plains with a purpose of monitoring areas for possible supercell development and tornadogenesis. The course challenged the students' forecasting abilities, as well as their ability to lead forecast discussions. Also, as part of the course, the students were required to write detailed daily synoptic and mesoscale journal entries. Each morning, a group of students would present their weather briefing for the day. These briefings were broadcasted through the chapter's Twitter page via the Periscope app, where fellow students, faculty, and alumni could stay updated with the group and also provide feedback about the discussion that morning. The target area for the day was determined from the information presented by the students each morning. The class experienced four active chase days, one of which ended with the group intercepting a large cone tornado just west of Tipton, Oklahoma. During the dead days, the class hiked in Rocky Mountains National Park and the Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge, toured the National Weather Center, and visited three meteorology alumni. This class is a great opportunity for chapter members to bond with each other and to gain experience doing work in the field. ■



UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON CHAPTER GOES GREEN!

The American Meteorological Society Student Chapter at the University of Houston (CAMS UH) joined the Houston community in celebration of Earth Day on Saturday, April 11th at Discovery Green. The newly appointed officers helped the society's graduate advisors run an informative booth where many stopped by for some useful information about Houston's air quality. Many parents, students, and other members of the community left with a newly downloaded app, OzoneMap, which provides real-time ozone level concentrations across the city of Houston.

In addition, the AMS crew conducted a weather balloon launch where two volunteers were hand-picked from the crowd to help transfer the 100-gram, helium-filled meteorological balloon to a launching area safe from tall buildings or other factors that would have obstructed its path. While one child held on tightly to the balloon, the other held the radiosonde securely in his hands. During preparation for the launch, AMS answered questions for kids and their parents, and many were surprised to know that the balloon would reach up to 30 km before bursting and beginning its descent, all while recording meteorological data such as temperature, relative humidity, altitude, and pressure. Everyone counted down to the time of release: it was a moment filled with joy, laughter, and excitement, a moment fit for celebrating Earth. ■

WESTERN NEW YORK

WNYCAMS is dedicated to the study and dissemination of knowledge about regional weather and climatic influences on the surrounding community. Located on SUNY at Buffalo State's campus, our members come from the college's Meteorology & Climatology Program, housed within the Department of Geography and Planning, and from area laypersons interested in how weather functions.

The chapter's 2015 Autumn Lecture Series will feature the following: On October 20th, Dr. Alan Lockwood talks on "Air Pollution, Past, Present and Future." On November 17th, we have Jason Franklin MIC WSFO Buffalo: anatomy of November 2014 snowstorm. On December 15th, Dr. Lynda Schneekloth lectures on "Climate Change and Human Responsibility." These talks will be recorded and available on YouTube. ■

CENTRAL MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

Pie the Weather Person

Have you ever had the option to pie a meteorologist? Well, the Student Chapter at Central Michigan University put on a fundraiser that gave students and on campus faculty the opportunity to pie one of our broadcast meteorology students. Our chapter took students from CMU's student-run news station, News Central 34, and had them take pies to the face for a donation. The aspiring broadcasters came out dressed in wacky, yet professional clothing and were pied. This was a messy but successful fundraiser, which we hope to continue to do for many years to come.

Kids Expo

The Earth and Atmospheric Department at Central Michigan University teamed up to be part of a local Winter Kids Expo, which took place on CMU's campus. This event, held in mid-February, had around 2,000 kids attend, all aged from toddlers to 12 years old. CMU's Student Chapter set up tables filled with weather maps, small activities, and instruments. We also set up a green screen for the children to "practice" on. We had two broadcast meteorology students from News Central 34 help the kids with the screen and to give them pointers on how to be on TV. Other Chapter members met with children and their parents and discussed meteorology and gave advice on how to stay safe when the weather turns sour. Our goal was to interest the children in meteorology in a fun and exciting way. Our Chapter boosted great reviews from advisors of the event will likely continue to participate in this and other events in the future. ■







LOS ANGELES

The LA Chapter held its annual awards banquet July 11th, 2015 at Vino, a restaurant in Encino, CA. The keynote speaker was Dr. William Patzert, from Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology. Often called the "prophet of California climate" for his accurate forecasts of El Niño, Dr. Patzert gave a lively discussion of the present 16-year California drought, "The end of the drought: Are we in or are we out?" Patzert showed the strong connection between shifts in the Pacific sea surface temperatures, the Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO), and decades long changes in west coast climate. He showed that the positive (warm) phase of the PDO is associated with overall warmer and wetter conditions, especially in southern California, while the negative (cool) phase generally leads to cooler and drier conditions, particularly in Southern California. The current drought started with the major shift from warm to cool phase of the PDO after the large 1997–98 El Niño. When will the drought end? Patzert believes that it will take a strong El Niño event to bring about another shift in the PDO to the warm phase and wetter years. Following Bill Patzert, LA NWS Forecast Office fire weather forecaster David Gomberg spoke about the recent fires and current conditions. It seems that fires can occur all year round with the continued drought.

The evening ended with our annual raffle, rainfall contest winner (Bill Reid), and chapter future meetings announcements. ■

EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY

On March 26th, 2015, the ERAU chapter of AMS traveled from Daytona Beach, FL to the National Hurricane Center in Miami, FL. A group of 10 students traveled through the Operations Room and were able to observe areas where forecasts and products were prepared inside the National Hurricane Center.

Additionally, on April 11th, 2015, ERAU AMS facilitated Science Day, an event where approximately 50 students from local elementary schools participated in a variety of scientific station. These students learned about various topics through the use of tornado machines, a Van de Graaff generator, unmanned aerial vehicles, and one of our many Cessna 172 aircraft. The young students also had the opportunity to be forecasters in front of a green screen in our broadcast and media room.

At the end of the academic year, Embry-Riddle awarded its AMS Chapter "Silver Wing Status" award for continually making strong efforts to improve itself through professional and leadership oriented events. ERAU AMS also received the "Soaring Higher" award for significant growth and development throughout the year. ■



SOUTH CENTRAL TEXAS

In July, Paul Yura, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Austin/San Antonio NWS office presented a briefing on the record May rainfall and the Memorial Day weekend storms. May 2015 set a new record for total rainfall in the state. Paul presented radar data from particular days in the month that showed an association between high rainfall totals and the development of mesovortices in the flow. Other contributing factors in the high rainfall totals were storm training and merging of thunderstorm complexes.

The Memorial Day weekend saw both a major flash flood and tornado outbreak in the CWA. The Blanco River rose to a gauge height of 44.9 feet in Wimberley, exceeding the 1929 record height by 11.6 feet. A height of 43.1 feet was recorded at San Marcos, where the river briefly flooded IH-35. Hydrographs from these stations and others downstream show the importance of the Hill Country topography in the creation of flash floods in this area. Downstream from San Marcos, the topography flattens and the quick rise/fall of the flash flood is transformed into a more characteristic riverine flood.

Paul concluded his presentation with some comments on the challenges faced by forecasters in simultaneously working a major flooding event and a multiple tornadic circulations event. Social media was very important as an additional information source for the forecasters. Work remains to be done in the social science/weather enterprise realm to make such information even more valuable in a weather emergency. ■

NORTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY

The North Carolina State University (NCSU) AMS Student Chapter enjoys interacting with the public and was able to participate in an outreach event over the summer. On Saturday, June 20th, they partnered with the North Carolina Climate Office and attended the Cape Fear Museum's StormFest in Wilmington, NC. This event was open to the public and allowed members of the club to interact and discuss meteorology with people of all ages. The students brought with them an arsenal of weather instruments provided by the Climate Office to display how the weather is measured each day. In addition, a tornado in a bottle and a club member's personal DJI drone were showcased at the event and ended up being the crowd favorites. All in all, StormFest provided members of the NCSU AMS Chapter with an opportunity to engage in an outreach event and enhance their meteorological communication skills with the public. ■



LAKE AGASSIZ

The Lake Agassiz Chapter welcomed members of the atmospheric sciences community to the 4th Annual Northern Plains Convective Storm Symposium on May 18th, 2015, at the University of North Dakota. We enjoyed a day filled with talks from a wide variety of topics including tornado case studies, operational forecasting challenges, and convective modeling. Our keynote speaker, Ms. Amanda Graning of the Duluth Weather Forecast Office, spoke about the implications of post-frontal instability on wildland fires. For more information on this and past year's symposiums, visit https://goo.gl/22f5NG or email us at lake.agassiz.ametsoc@gmail.com. ■

SOUTH DAKOTA SCHOOL OF MINES AND TECHNOLOGY



After becoming a new chapter a few months ago, the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology (SDSMT AMS) chapter has been spreading its weather knowledge across the Black Hills. Members participated in the Days of '76 Museum Weather Camp in Deadwood, SD, where they taught the campers about wind, precipitation, tornadoes, hurricanes, and rainbows. They also discussed the various instrumentation used by meteorologists to observe weather. Alongside teaching about weather, the campers had numerous hands-on experiments, such as creating a cloud in a jar and a tornado in a jar, launching weather balloons, learning about a portable weather station, and making their very own wind vanes and wind socks. Over the three-day camp, the chapter was very happy to see how excited the campers were to learn about weather!

Earlier this summer SDSMT AMS members participated in our semi-annual highway cleanup on our adopted stretch of highway in the Black Hills.

The SDSMT AMS chapter is a fairly new and will continue to grow into the future. We looked forward to what the upcoming school year has to offer! ■

AMERICA'S PREPARATHON!

September is National Preparedness Month and September 30th is National PrepareAthon! Day

National Preparedness Month encourages everyone to think about preparing for disasters. America's PrepareAthon! is an opportunity for individuals, organizations, and communities to take action for specific hazards through drills, group discussions, and exercises.

This year's theme is "Don't Wait. Communicate. Make Your Emergency Plan Today."

Throughout the month, emphasis is placed on emergency planning, including developing a family emergency communication plan and planning for evacuation or staying in place. As leaders in your community, you have a critical role in encouraging your community to take action now to prepare for severe weather.

NPM Weekly Themes: Continued focus on emergency planning messaging/resources.
Week 1 (September 1–5): Flood
Week 2 (September 6–12): Wildfire
Week 3 (September 13–19): Hurricane
Week 4 (September 20–26: Power Outage
Week 5 (September 27–30): Lead up to National PrepareAthon! Day (September 30th)

The goal of this campaign is to increase the number of individuals who:
-Understand which disasters could happen in their community
-Know what to do to be safe and mitigate damage
-Take action to increase their preparedness
-Participate in community resilience planning

For more information about disasters, preparedness, and ways to get involved in America's PrepareAthon!, see www.ready.gov/prepare. ■

NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

AMS ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION FOR CHAPTERS

LOCAL CHAPTER OFFICER'S BREAKFAST

We would like to invite all local chapter officers to the chapter officers' breakfast meeting that will be held at the upcoming 96th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society in New Orleans, LA, on Tuesday, 12 January 2016, from 7:00 to 9:00 am. This is being arranged by the Committee on Local Chapters Affairs in conjunction with the Society. The chapter awards will be presented to both the winning regular chapter and student chapter for 2014-2015. We will also be awarding first, second, and third place ribbons to the best local chapter posters! Posters will be judged on content and design. We will once again be including a Town Hall meeting during the last 30 minutes of the breakfast. Winning chapters will have the opportunity to discuss what activities worked well for them over the past year, and meeting attendees interested in joining a local chapter will be invited to chat with chapter officers attending the breakfast. We ask that every chapter try to be represented. If officers will not be attending the Annual Meeting, please try and designate a member to act as the representative for the chapter. ■

POSTER DISPLAY

The poster display will be held at the Convention Center. Display panels will be available as well as pushpins. Each chapter will be allotted a 4' x 8' poster space to display a poster related to their local chapter history and recent activities. You may view posters from the 95th Annual Meeting **here**. The Local Chapter Affairs Committee created a guideline for the poster award competition. You may view it **online**.

Chapter Poster setup begins at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, 11 January. Teardown ends at 12:00pm on Thursday, 14 January. The poster hall will be closed to the public after that time so please make sure you collect your poster by 12:00 p.m. If you would like to have your poster judged by the committee for the poster awards, please have it up by 11:00am on Monday, 11 January. If you will be displaying a poster, please email a jpeg file of the final poster to Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) by 28 December as photos of the chapter poster winners will be displayed on screen at the Chapter Officers Breakfast on Tuesday. ■

To register for the chapter breakfast and to reserve poster space, please email the following **form** to Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) by **20 November 2015.**

AMS ANNUAL MEETING STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES TO OPEN IN SEPTEMBER!

The American Meteorological Society (AMS) will offer some outstanding opportunities for students in the atmospheric and related oceanic and hydrologic sciences to attend the 96th AMS Annual Meeting in New Orleans. The travel programs (TBA) help assist AMS student members with financial support to attend this professional event and be among their peers and professionals in the field. Look for the information and applications in September on the AMS web site ametsoc.org. Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez; dfernandez@ametsoc.org. ■

ANNUAL MEETING APP

New! Instead of publishing chapter abstracts in the Annual Meeting Program as we have done in prior years, chapters displaying posters will be listed on the AMS Web site and linked to the Annual Meeting App under the Special Events icon. Links to each chapter's web site will be included. ■

The next newsletter will be published in early November. If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events or submit a write-up on a specific activity that was successful, please email Kelly Savoie (**ksavoie@ametsoc.org**) no later than October 15. To view prior newsletters, see **http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/newsletters.html**

WEBINAR ON RESEARCH AND APPLICATIONS

The AMS Board of Operational Government Meteorologists (BOGM) are pleased to present another webinar on Research and Operations. This is the 4th webinar hosted by BOGM of this type.

This webinar will be held on August 25 and registration is required. Please note the webinar link and phone line provided below.

We hope you can join and learn more from keynote speakers on important operational topics. This is open to all interested.

Agenda

9:45 AM Set and Introduction to Webinar

10:00 to 10:30 (17:00-17:30 UTC)
Evaluating the Usefulness and Usability of Different GOES-R Scanning Strategies at the Operations Proving Ground
-Chad M. Gravelle, NWS Operations Proving Ground/CIMSS, Kansas City, MO; and K. J. Runk

10:30 to 11:00 (17:30-18:00 UTC)
Forecasting a Continuum of Environmental Threats (FACETs): The Science and Strategic Implementation Plan for a Watch/Warning Paradigm Change
-Lans P. Rothfusz, NOAA, Norman, OK; and T. M. Smith and C. D. Karstens

11:00 to 11:30 (18:00-18:30 UTC)
Storm-scale data assimilation and ensemble forecasting with the NSSL Experimental Warn-on-Forecast System for ensembles
-Dustan M. Wheatley, CIMMS/Univ. of Oklahoma, NOAA/NSSL, Norman, OK; and K. H. Knopfmeier, T. A. Jones, and G. J. Creager

11:30 to Noon (18:30-19:00 UTC)
Derivation of Climatology – Based CONUS POP Guidance Grids
-Paul Wolyn, Pueblo, CO

Break (Noon to 12:30 PDT)

12:30 to 1:00 PM (19:30-20:00 UTC)
The Impact of Different Microphysics and Boundary Layer Parameterization on Storm-Scale Diagnostics in Convection-Allowing Models
-Philip N. Schumacher, NOAA/National Weather Service, Sioux Falls, SD; and Joshua M. Boustead, NOAA/National Weather Service, Valley, NE

1:00 PM to 1:30 PM (20:00-20:30 UTC)
An Introduction to the National Blend of Global Models Project
-Kathryn K. Gilbert and David Myrick, NOAA/NWS, Silver Spring, MD; and J. P. Craven, D. R. Novak, T. M. Hamill, J. Sieveking, D. P. Ruth, and S. J. Lord

1:30 PM to 2:00 PM (20:30-21:00 UTC)
Progress, Challenges, and Future Directions in Communicating Uncertainty
-Eli Jacks, NOAA/NWS Forecast Services Division, Silver Spring, MD; and D. R. Novak

The webinar information is as follows:
"BOGM R20 Webinar"
Tue, Aug 25, 2015 9:30 AM-2:30 PM PDT(12:30–5:30 PM EDT)
Add to Calendar
1. Click the link to REGISTER for the webinar at the specified time and date:

https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/2524572523728855042

2. Choose one of the following audio options:
Call in using the phone number(s) below:
203-607-8442
Passcode: 1308903 ■

VOTE NOW!

The ballot for AMS President-Elect and Councilors opened for voting on 1 August and will close on 10 November. https://www2.ametsoc.org/ams/index.cfm/about-ams/ams-election-information/. ■

WEBINAR ON MID-CAREER JOB TRANSITIONS

The Board of Private Sector Meteorologists held a webcast on mid-career job transitions on 15 July. In case you missed it, the recording is available on the AMS YouTube Channel at https://youtu.be/hHhYZC_OpDM. ■

Local Chapter Mission

The AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee serves as a link between local student and professional chapters and the national AMS. The committee exists in order to provide guidance and support in the mission of all local AMS chapters.

Committee Leadership
Kristy Carter, Chair
Elizabeth Smith, Chair-Elect
Kelly Savoie, AMS Liaison
AMS Headquarters
45 Beacon St. Boston, MA 02108

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AMS Local Chapter Affairs

This newsletter is constructed by members of the American Meteorological Society's Local Chapter Affairs Committee in conjunction with AMS Headquarters. The LCAC meets at every AMS Annual Meeting to help foster the growth of the local chapters. E-mail the committee at: **amschaps@ametsoc.org**