AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

Spring/Summer 2018 Volume 7 Issue 4

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

BLUE RIDGE

The Blue Ridge Chapter had 12 members attend the 98th annual meeting of the American Meteorological Society in January 2018. Members gained knowledge by attending various sessions and shared the highlights of the conference with club members. Following the conference, activities quickly resumed back in the Blue Ridge with several events and meetings.



The Chapter took a tour of the closely affiliated television station WDBJ 7 out of Roanoke, Virginia. Members gained great insight into the daily activities of a broadcast meteorologist as well as an in-depth look at some of the newest technologies in the business. The tour was timed such that a behind-the-scenes look at a live evening broadcast that ultimately put on a great show for attendees. Another great opportunity for club members, was a video conference with AccuWeather's headquarters in State College. The conference provided information pertaining to internship and career opportunities which were appealing to many members. The Chapter was invited to attend the UNCC WeatherFest in March as an excellent opportunity to perform outreach to local students and families interested in meteorology. The Blue Ridge Chapter's exhibit, the "Mystery of Weather", was a hands-on, minds-on display of weather activities for visitors. The main display of the exhibit was a homemade tornado machine used as a tool to educate the public about severe storm formations and tornado safety. This event was a great success and the chapter looks forward to participating in the years to come! ■



RUTGERS UNIVERSITY

The Rutgers Meteorology Club has been quite busy these past few months. Our monthly meetings are held in the Environmental and Natural Resource Science Building on Cook Campus of the Rutgers University - New Brunswick campus. The members had time to bond over Rutgers Meteorology focused games and competitions, one which includes our annual snowpool with the professors in friendly competition and another around pictionary. Students who attended the AMS Conference in January spoke about their experiences and what they learned from the conference. It was valuable insight to the younger members of the club to see what the trip is like and networking, research, and skills they can gain from attending the conference in future years. A new community outreach initiative the club is focusing on this spring is Rutgers University Dance Marathon. For the first

time ever, the club has their own team and has already raised over $1,000 for Embrace Kids Foundation. The Foundation right here in New Brunswick, New Jersey helps patients and their families handle the non-medical needs they encounter during treatment and the months and years around it. At the marathon on April 6th and 7th, members will be visiting the dancers and cheering them on as they dance for two 12-hour shifts. Valerie, a senior club member, will be volunteering for the marathon and Erin, a junior member, will be a dancer relation captain helping to teach the line dance on stage to the 2,000 dancers and hyping them up. The club's goal is to give a future to these children, siblings, and families so that they will have a sense of normalcy in their lives. The money we raise also goes toward funding for patients' college tuition. Maybe a future meteorologist will earn their degree through our efforts! ■



Dance Captain with Embrace Kids Foundation family members at Opening Ceremony of Rutgers Dance Marathon 2017



Picture to the left is of two club members, Nicole and Erin, from RUDM 2017 dancing their 12-hour shift.

LYNDON STATE COLLEGE

The Lyndon AMS Chapter recently held their 43rd annual Northeastern Storm Conference and it was immensely successful! The chapter was very fortunate to host over 300 attendees at the Holiday Inn in Saratoga Springs, New York. The conference draws attendees from all over the country with numerous backgrounds in the field of meteorology. Being the longest running student-coordinated conference, Lyndon AMS's objective is to allow students to feel welcome in the field and find their place in meteorology. The goal for this year was to diversify the information presented to the audience and provide a myriad of potential career paths. Sessions included research by students and professionals alike, discussing a plethora of topics from operational forecasting to climatology and everything in between. The keynote speakers represented a variety of different backgrounds from initial experience in broadcasting to connecting the public to information on the GOES-R satellite. Meanwhile, career panel speakers offered insight into the worlds of private and public industries, as well as climate change research. Despite having diverse backgrounds, the unity felt at this conference was immeasurable. From first-time attendees to seasoned veterans, the Northeastern Storm Conference is consistently a place for networking, discussing or just catching up for everyone. The sense of community felt here is like no other, promoting academic success and fostering new connections year after year. ■



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE

zotCAMS, the Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society at UCI, attended our first off-campus outreach event on March 3, 2018. We had a booth at the Jumpstart for a Day event, a program targeted to engage preschoolers from underprivileged communities in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math. We focused our booth around the water cycle. We demonstrated the "cloud in a bottle" experiment, which was a big hit! We had a hands on activity which included pipetting "rain" (blue colored syrup) into a "cloud" (shaving cream on top of water) to simulate rain. Full instructions for this activity can be found here. Although Southern California had one of its few days of rain on the morning of our event, it was a great opportunity to engage with local families and the rain provided a great real-world example! ■



CENTRAL VIRGINIA

The Central Virginia Chapter of the American Meteorological Society met on February 1, 2018 to hold its first elections and to hear a presentation about the Virginia Department of Transportation's (VDOT) Winter Storm Preparation by Branco Vlacich, VDOT Maintenance Division Administrator. Vlacich gave a detailed and educational talk about VDOT's winter storm road clearing goals based on the quantity of snowfall expected within specific time-frames. With a $218 million snow removal budget, VDOT uses 4500 of its own trucks equipped with automatic vehicle locators, additional plow contractors, 488,000 tons of salt, 1.1 million gallons of brine (when temperatures remain above 20 degrees F), and 145,000 tons of sand to clear 12800 lane miles on interstate, primary and secondary roads in Virginia. Traffic patterns play an integral part in snowplow response plans. Generally, smaller clipper storms continue to be difficult to respond to due to the variation in spatial impact compared to large-scale events. ■



Newly-elected chapter officers from left to right: Dan Salkovitz, secretary; Russ Harper, vice president; and Peter Effertz, president.

MILLERSVILLE UNIVERSITY

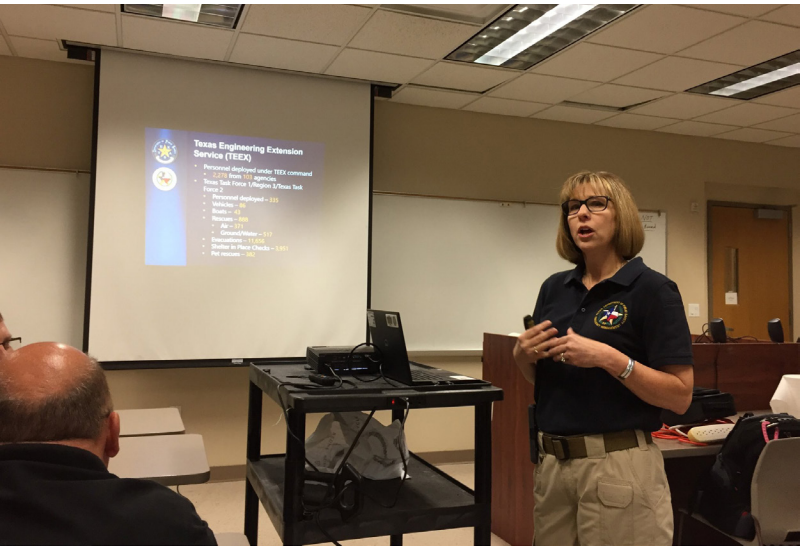
The Millersville University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (MUAMS) sent its largest group in fifteen years to the 43rd Annual Northeastern Storm Conference (NESC) in Saratoga Springs, NY during March 9-11, 2018. The group featured 20 students who were willing to sacrifice their first weekend of Spring Break to learn, network, and grow at one of the most accessible undergraduate-focused weather conferences in the nation. This year's NESC featured three keynote speakers who illuminated three distinctly different routes a meteorologist can follow in their professional career. They highlighted the tough reality often faced by meteorologists in times of adversity and offered practical advice for all students to take home.

Of the many experiences our students will remember, a particularly notable highlight occurred when Ariel Cohen accompanied Millersville students at the banquet dinner table. Ariel has worked at the Storm Prediction Center, National Hurricane Center, multiple National Weather Service Forecast Offices, and now resides at NWS Topeka as their Science and Operations Officer. He has worked in positions many fledgling meteorologists dream about, but is very friendly and open-minded, which made for comfortable conversation with our underclassmen and helped to narrow the gap between students and

professionals at the banquet. Overall, this yearly event is an excellent smaller-scale professional weather conference which not only prepares students to attend the AMS Annual Meeting, but also allows students to develop professional networking skills which will prove invaluable in their future careers. ■



SOUTHEAST TEXAS/SOUTHWEST LOUISIANA



The Southeast Texas/Southwest Louisiana Chapter of the AMS/NWA held a meeting in February to discuss the response of emergency managers to Harvey in Southeast Texas, which was hard hit by flooding. The meeting featured a presentation by Carman Apple the District Coordinator for the Texas Division of Emergency Management/Homeland Security and Texas Department of Public Safety. Carman shared lots of statistics and stories of the major challenges involved in keeping the people of Texas safe in Orange, Jefferson and Hardin counties during Harvey. She also shared her personal stories of response and recovery after Harvey flooded her home. The meeting provided members valuable insight into the perspective of this historic storm from emergency managers. ■

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY

The Iowa State University Student Chapter of the American Meteorological Society has been making strides in order for those not on the cabinet to get more involved in the club and outreach events. The Prairie Trail Elementary Meteorology Club is one way that students can help teach kids and answer any questions they have about weather. Once a month, the Prairie Trail Elementary Meteorology Club members can go visit Prairie Trail Elementary with prepared presentations focused on a specific meteorology topic and answer questions those kids may have. Then afterwards, the elementary kids can work on worksheets and activities that our AMS members have created. This makes it possible for members to get more involved in the club and help children learn new weather information and hopefully spark the weather interests they have. ■



WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

On behalf of the Florida Sea Grant Program, Libby Carnahan hosted a canoeing field trip at Weedon Island Preserve for the West Central Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society entitled Exploring Climate Change in Tampa Bay. This field trip discussed climate change projections for Tampa Bay along with possible impacts to natural resources, the built infrastructure, and people. Weedon Island Preserve was chosen as a case study for understanding sea level rise impacts. Participants had the opportunity to canoe through the preserve for hands on learning. ■





CENTRAL ARIZONA AND SOUTHEAST ARIZONA

The Central AZ and the SEACAMS chapters held their 3rd annual All Arizona State Meeting on February 24, 2018, hosted by the Arizona State University School of Geographical Sciences and Urban Planning. This year's meeting, "Monsoon 2018 Symposium", featured four invited speakers, each of whom discussed a unique element of the southwest monsoon. Dr. Chris Castro from the University of Arizona shared insights from high resolution climate modeling and trends in atmospheric moisture and stability, addressing how the monsoon has changed in the last 30 years and how climate change may affect it in the future. Dr. Mike Leuthold, also from the University of Arizona, discussed predicting monsoon thunderstorms using the Arizona Regional WRF model. Mr. Ken Waters from the National Weather Service spoke about dust storm warning alerts and the status of advancements in polygon warning systems using Wireless Emergency Alerts. Dr. David Hondula of Arizona State University talked about heat-related mortality in Phoenix, including modeling exposure-response relationships and improving local intervention strategies.

The Central AZ chapter (est. 1967) also celebrated their 50th chapter anniversary. ■



ARK-LA-TEX

The Shreveport Weather Forecast Office hosted the ArkLaTex Chapter's first meeting of the new year with a meet and greet. New members were given a tour of the facility and presented with some of the work the weather office has done over the past year. Topics presented at the meeting included the multiple flooding events over the past two years due to an atmospheric river and a look at the data from ULM's radar. Another presentation was given on the evolution and benefits of NWSChat which was developed in collaboration with the NWS Shreveport Information Technology Officer, Matt Duplantis.

The meeting concluded with the election of new officials to lead the ArkLaTex Chapter into the new year. ■



UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

Spring of 2018 is proving to be an active time for the University of Louisiana at Monroe AMS Student Chapter. Our faculty advisor, Dr. Todd Murphy, is leading operations of VORTEX-SE in northeast Louisiana in partnership with NOAA and OU. Following the success of VORTEX-SE deployments in north Alabama in the past two years,



Pictured are, from right to left, sophomores Brandon Cohen and Joel Freeze, and Juniors Alex Melancon and Devore'a McMillian. The balloon is being launched atop of Hanna Hall at ULM.

Dr. Murphy has selected chapter Vice President Nick Slaughter (junior) and chapter Secretary Brandon Cohen (sophomore) as team leaders of the Mobile Rawinsonde Team. This team will travel out from Monroe to sample potential severe weather environments by launching balloons ahead of storms. Chapter President Greg Sova (junior) is the team leader for the Radar/Nowcasting Team, which will analyze radar data from the KULM radar and from OU SMART-R mobile radars to ensure the Mobile Rawinsonde Team launches balloons in safe and effective locations. There is also a Fixed Rawinsonde Team that launches balloons from the roof of ULM's Hanna Hall. In all, 18 ULM AMS students, including four freshmen and three international students, have been selected to participate in this field research project.

The first deployment of the 2018 VORTEX-SE project was on March 10th ahead of a slight risk issued by the SPC. All of the teams were stationed at ULM's Synoptic Meteorology Lab from 11AM until operations ceased at 11PM. In all, 3 balloon launches were held by a collaboration of the Fixed and Mobile Rawindsonde Teams, at 1:30PM, 7:30PM, and 10:30PM. ■

EAST MISSISSIPPI

The East Mississippi Chapter has had one of their most productive and active years in recent history, concluding with the 16th Annual Southeast Severe Storms Symposium on March 24 and 25, 2018. The chapter officers have worked tirelessly throughout the school year to engage with the students and faculty at Mississippi State University, nearly doubling the pre-registration total of attendees for this year's conference. Attendance at chapter meetings has also increased by nearly 50 percent.

The chapter engaged in their first-ever joint meeting with the Central Mississippi Chapter of the NWA and AMS at the French Camp Rainwater Observatory in French Camp, Mississippi. Chapter members enjoyed an interesting presentation about the stars in the night sky, and many of the cosmic features in our universe. It was also great for our student members to speak with members of the National Weather Service office in Jackson, Mississippi, and gain insight into the NOAA

Pathways process.

A number of chapter members, including students and faculty at Mississippi State, have attended regional and national conferences in the last three months. Half a dozen representatives were present at the AMS Annual Meeting in Austin, Texas, while many students attended the Southeastern Coastal and Atmospheric Processes Symposium (SeCAPS) at the University of South Alabama. Finally, students and alumni from MSU were present at the annual Baron Weather Conference in Huntsville, Alabama.

Be sure to follow our chapter on Facebook and Twitter for more on our upcoming events and activities. ■

OKEMOS HIGH SCHOOL

Okemos High School in Michigan has one of the three pre-college local AMS chapters. In addition to visiting a National Weather Service Office for a radiosonde launch, touring an aquarium, visiting with a local TV meteorologist during their newscast, and having a joint meeting with the Michigan State University AMS Chapter, the group participated in the Great Lakes Regional Ocean Science Bowl. Pictured are some of the members at the Ocean Bowl. ■



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Every spring semester the Student Chapter of the AMS at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) organizes and participates in various outreach events. Each of these outreach events gives our members the opportunity to improve their communication and public speaking skills. One particular event that has become a tradition in our chapter is to participate in a campus wide educational event called Engineering Open House (EOH).

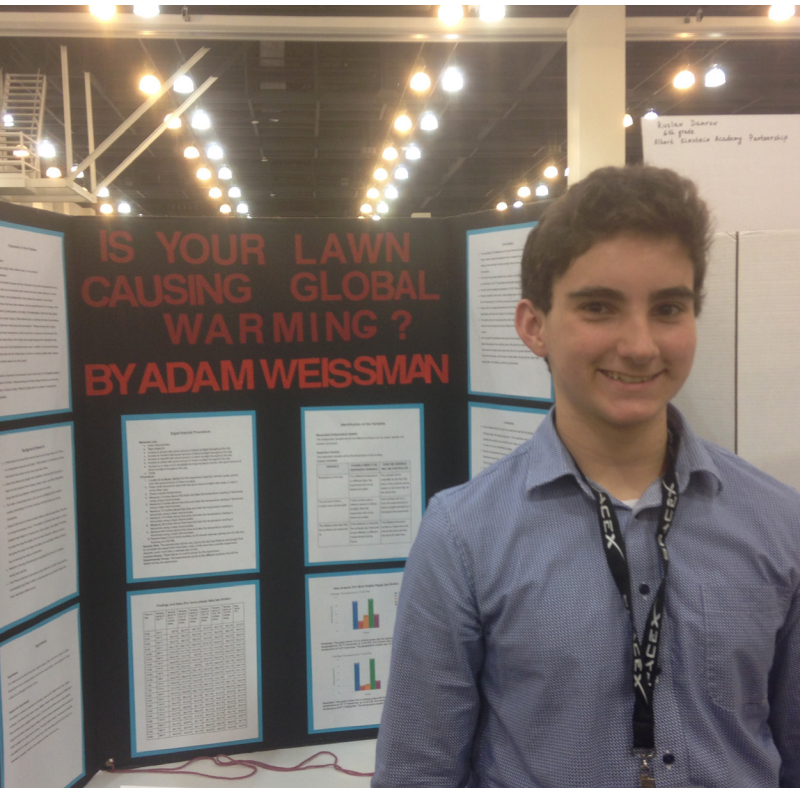
EOH consists of dozens of displays, activities, and exhibits about innovations in energy, environmental understanding, sustainability, and technology. Upon learning that there was no form of weather representation at this event our chapter jumped at the opportunity to bridge the gap between engineering and weather. For the past three years the UIUC student chapter has conducted weather demonstrations that exemplify various weather phenomena and research at our "Weather Wonders" exhibit. Our most popular demonstration is a weather balloon launch and discussion about weather forecasting. This interactive demonstration allows the public to get a better understanding of various instruments that are used to help us understand weather conditions. Youth are allowed to aid in the balloon launch and participate in mathematical calculations of winds speed based on the horizontal distance the balloon has traveled. We even created weather awareness pamphlets for our visitors in honor of severe weather awareness week in Illinois. The group was so intrigued by our demonstrations that we have to make sure we come back with even better demos next year. ■

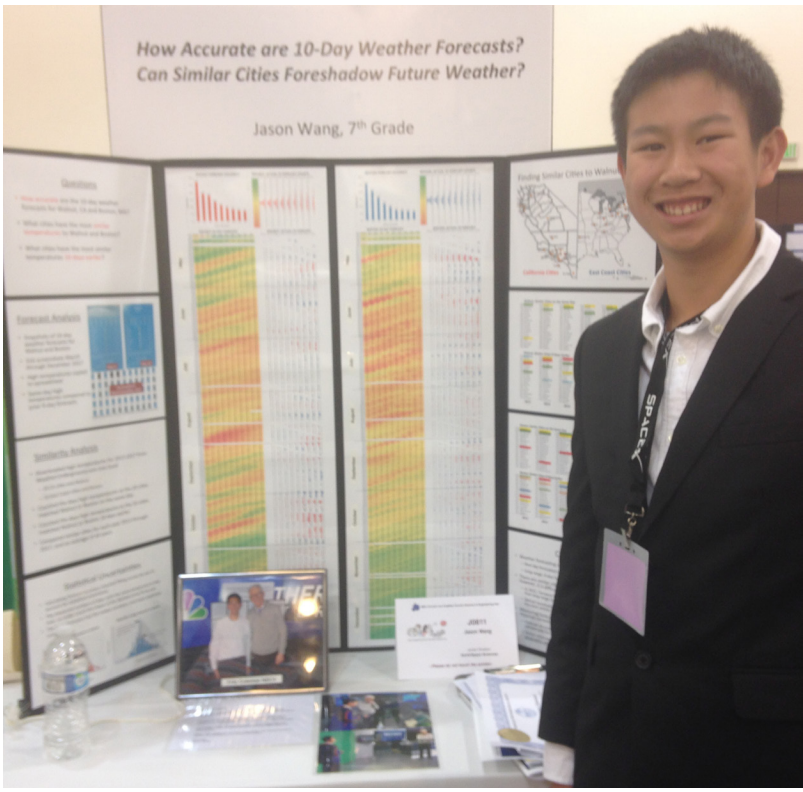


LOS ANGELES

The LA Chapter participated in the 68th Annual Los Angeles County Science & Engineering Fair, March 23rd, judging the top weather-related projects for a Special Award category. Chapter President, Scott Moore, along with members Steve LaDochy and Chris Giesige interviewed students in the junior and senior divisions. The top two projects selected included "How Accurate are 10-Day Weather Forecasts? Can Cities Foreshadow Future Weather?" a data intensive project by Jason Wang, a 7th grader from Suzanne Middle School. Jason calculated the accuracy of the 10-day forecast for several west coast and eastern cities. He also looked at which cities best correlated with Walnut (California) and Boston, Mass. to see if they could be used as predictors (foreshadowing). Jason also visited and interviewed KNBC's weather broadcaster, Fritz Coleman. The other top award went to Adam Weissman, an 8th grader from Pressman Academy for his project, "The Urban Heat Island Effect: Is Your Lawn Causing Global Warming?" Adam investigated the effect of removing natural lawns in Los Angeles on the local climate. During the 5-year drought, the LA Dept. of Water & Power encouraged homeowners to remove some or all of their water-intensive lawns by offering $3 off their bill for every square foot removed. Adam, using an infrared thermometer, measured the surface temperatures over grass, artificial turf and dirt to see the differences in temperatures. As Los Angeles has a large and growing urban heat island (UHI), some scientists have speculated that while removing lawns reduces water use, it may intensify the UHI. Both Adam Weissman and Jason Wang will receive a 1-year subscription to ***Weatherwise*** as well as an invite to the annual LA Chapter banquet. Honorary mention certificates were given to: Jordan Estes, 7th grader for "Storm Surge Safeguard"; Alfiew Ahmed, 6th grader for "Dew-ing an Experiment"; Richard Li, 6th grader for "The Concentration Levels of Carbon Dioxide in LA Over Certain Periods of Time"; and Amanda Li, 9th grader for "The Effects of the Santa Ana Winds on Carbon Dioxide Concentrations in the LA Basin."

The LA Chapter was also invited to judge a Special Award for weather at the Palos Verdes Peninsula Science & Engineering Fair, Feb. 23rd. Chapter member LaDochy judged the special award projects and selected Morgan Farrier (Palos Verdes High School) for his project using drones to detect wildfires, and Kaylen Ng (Palos Verdes Peninsula High School for testing hurricane-resistant materials and designs. ■





NEWS FROM AMS HEADQUARTERS

2018 AMS SPECIALTY CONFERENCE TRAVEL GRANTS

Student Travel Grants are available for the 2018 AMS Specialty Conferences. Don't miss the chance to receive partial travel coverage to attend a conference that relates to your studies or research. Detailed information and applications can be found on the AMS website. Questions? Contact Donna Fernandez. ■

CHAPTER OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATIONS – CHANGES TO THE SUBMISSION PROCESS

We are happy to report that the Local Chapter of the Year Awards are now part of the main AMS Awards system and nominations should be submitted through the Awards page. AMS has a new online awards portal that is much more user-friendly than the prior interface. We have created a tutorial on how to submit an award nomination to help you get acquainted with the new system. The deadline for award nominations is **May 1st** so start your nominations early to ensure that you have uploaded all supporting documents by the due date.

The Chapter Awards are presented each year to a regular chapter and a student chapter. The award will be given for chapter activities conducted during a 12-month period from 1 May through 30 April of the year the nomination is submitted. The complete application package must be submitted online by 1 May. Award winners are notified in July and are acknowledged at the Local Chapter Officers' Breakfast at the AMS Annual Meeting. Visit the Chapter of the Year Awards page for more information on nomination requirements.

ADDITIONAL AWARD OPPORTUNITIES

Each year AMS presents more than 25 awards to individuals, teams of people, and institutions for their outstanding contributions to the atmospheric and related sciences. The awards are open to all sectors of the Society—academia, government, and industry. We encourage you to nominate a deserving colleague for one of these prestigious awards. For a list of awards and more information on the nomination process, visit the AMS Awards site. ■

CHAPTER ELECTIONS

As the reporting of election results is a requirement, please update your online local chapter directory listing when your chapter elections have been held. Updated election results should be entered no later than 1 June 2018. Please keep in mind that the chapter president/chairperson is required to be a member (Associate, Member, Student) of the Society. If the chapter president/chairperson is not a member or pending member of the Society, then the chapter will not be recognized as being active. You may apply for Membership online. Please update your last election date even if your officers were reappointed for 2018. This will ensure that your chapter remains active in our files and that you receive important emails from AMS Headquarters. Instructions on how to update your listing are available online.

Please visit the AMS Web site for more detailed information on the new system and to access your chapter directory listing. The direct link to the login page is here. Contact Sang Lee if you are still having trouble getting into the system. ■

NATIONAL SKY AWARENESS WEEK IS COMING IN APRIL

CONTRIBUTED BY H. MICHAEL MOGIL

Linked to numerous other Planet Earth celebrations, How The Weatherworks has been leading a "sky awareness" campaign for about a quarter of a century. It began with gathering 42 state/territorial "SKY AWARENESS WEEK" proclamations and continued with a petition for (and a realization of) cloud postage stamps (2004). H. Michael Mogil (CCM, CBM, NWA Digital Sealholder) and wife, Barbara Levine (certified educator) have posted online blogs about clouds, written books containing cloud information, and created cloud posters, cloud postcards, and even cloud flash cards.

They have also founded "SKY AWARENESS WEEK" and, this year, the event (celebrated during the week of April 22-28) is taking to the Internet. How The Weatherworks is asking people (meteorologists and others) who want to share sky imagery to do so at either our Twitter page or our Facebook site. Images posted may be used in our outreach and other activities. If crediting or copyright information is provided, we would include that with any images we may use.

We also hope that TV weathercasters, student AMS chapters, and others will help spread the word about this celebration of our one and only sky and even have people in their sphere share cloud and sky images either locally or with us.

Here is a link to a recent "sky" article about crepuscular rays - http://bit.ly/2BW36zG

Look for more sky stories in upcoming weeks. ■

SUMMER WEATHER CAMPS

CONTRIBUTED BY H. MICHAEL MOGIL

Most meteorologists have never seen the inside of a summer weather camp. Yet, a growing number of young meteorologists have "hatched" from these camps.

Across the nation, such camps are becoming mainstays. While camps are mostly based in university settings (e.g., University of Nebraska at Lincoln, University of Oklahoma, and Howard University), some camps are being run outside of academia. One such camp program in Naples, FL attracts students from across the Nation and involves both a week-long middle school camp and a separate week-long high school camp.

And, while we like to think of professors as being the weather experts, some camps are even being operated by students (with faculty advisor approval).

How The Weatherworks is collecting information about all of these camp programs to better enable interested parents to have a one-stop camp shopping experience.

If you run or teach at a weather camp or are aware of such camps, please email us so we can be sure they are included in our online catalog. If you can include a web link and or other contact information that would be greatly appreciated. ■

WEBINAR: AN INTRODUCTION TO PROFESSIONAL WRITING FOR GEOSCIENCE CAREERS

APRIL 26TH, 1PM -2PM EDT

This webinar will provide an overview of the writing skills that geoscience students develop during their undergraduate and graduate academic training, the skills and tools that are needed for non-academic careers, and advice for students on how to acquire the needed writing skills as they prepare for and pursue their career path. This is the first of a series of webinars on developing writing skills for a variety of geoscience career paths.

Our speakers are:
Pranoti Asher, Higher Education Manager, American Geophysical Union
Bob Simmons, Chief Hydrogeologist, HRP Associates, Inc.
Ron Wallace, retired, Georgia Department of Natural Resources

For more information and to register for this webinar, please visit here. ■

The next newsletter will be published in August. If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events or submit a write-up on a specific activity that was successful, please e-mail Kelly Savoie no later than July 15th. To view prior newsletters, **click here**.

Local Chapter Mission	**Committee Leadership**	**Follow Us on Facebook and Twitter**	**AMS Local Chapter Affairs**
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.	Sally Ricardi, Chair Amber Liggett, Chair-Elect Kelly Savoie, AMS Liaison **AMS Headquarters** 45 Beacon St., Boston, MA 02108	**www.facebook.com/AMSLCAC** **@AMSLCAC**	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**