ISSUE NO. 4

AMS LOCAL CHAPTER AFFAIRS

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FEATURED CHAPTER

WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA CHAPTER



WCFLAMS Chapter representatives with WCFLAMS meeting and Webinar presenter, Dr. James Elsner (Department of Geography, Florida State University.

By Jennifer Collins
WCFLAMS President

The West Central Florida Chapter of the American Meteorological Society (WCFLAMS), was chartered in 1961. We have about 100 members. Meetings are held in various places around the Tampa Bay Area including The National Weather Service Office in Ruskin, local television stations, Museum of Science and Industry, MacDill Air Force Base, Hillsborough Community College and The University of South Florida. Meetings focus on the science of meteorology/climatology, meteorological tools, exchange of information and friendship.

The chapter focus over the past year was to welcome other chapters, organizations and people with a weather interest from all geographic scales: local, national and international, and we did this through our webinar series offerings (originally offered last year for chapter members who were unable to attend in person such as one member with a disability). We have since changed from using webinars and now use Livestream. Our goal was, and continues to be, to reach out to other AMS/NWS/AAG members in particular to allow participation and discussion from a diverse group of people (Meteorologists and Climatologists within Meteorological organizations/ departments as well as Geography Departments). These webinars and Livestream meetings gained considerable exposure not only for the presenter and their presentation, but also for the WCFLAMS and the AMS as a whole. In addition to those who attended the webinar/Livestream from within the country, departments and organizations also joined us from overseas including (but not limited to) the University of West Scotland, the Netherlands, the Institute for Coastal Research in Germany and the Universita Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan, Italy. Please look out for our chapter's future Livestream offerings by visiting us at our newly designed webpage www.wcflams.org or Facebook page http://www.facebook.com/wcflams. On April 4th, Distinguished Professor Bob Weisberg will be presenting on Livestream about recent developments on ocean prediction for Florida's west coast. In addition to meteorologists in Geography Departments, we are beginning to think about geography as a discipline and the role of geographers in meteorological/climatological research especially with the tools which geographers use and their expertise in spatial analysis. Dr. Elsner from FSU presented at one of our webinars last year and made this point well. Coincidentally, "Working at the intersection of Geography and Atmospheric Science"was the title of a couple of panel sessions at the Association of American Geographers conference in New York this February which was organized by AMS and AAG members. We would encourage other chapters to offer Livestream meetings and advertise through various means and across geography and atmospheric science departments where relevant.

FROM THE EDITOR

Thanks for taking the time to check out our newsletter! The next newsletter will be published in early August. **If your chapter would like to announce upcoming events, Webinars, conferences, etc. in the next issue of the Newsletter,** please email Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) no later than July 15. We still need write-ups for our featured chapter section of the newsletter for future issues so please send them along with a photo in jpeg format. To view prior newsletters, see http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/newsletters.html.

News from AMS Headquarters

Local Chapter of the Year Award Deadline

The deadline for the local chapter of the year awards is **1 May 2012**. Award applications and information may be found on the AMS Web site at http://www.ametsoc.org/awards/index.html. We encourage you to apply for the 2011-2012 award so that we will have another successful year! For guidance on what the committee is looking for when judging for the award, please see http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/awardguidance.html. There is also a sample award application available at http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/LCAC%20COY_Sample.pdf. Please email (preferred), mail, or fax the award application to Kelly Savoie (ksavoie@ametsoc.org) at AMS Headquarters by the deadline. Mailed applications must be received by 1 May 2012. Please note that there have been a few changes to the application so please use the current version that is posted online at http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/index.html#awards.

AMS Local Chapter Members Facebook Page

Last year the AMS Local Chapter Affairs Committee started a new AMS Local Chapter Members Facebook page - http://www.facebook.com/amslcac. We update the page periodically with important local chapter information that will impact both local chapters, as well as young professional members! Please share this information with your chapter members.

New AMS Consulting Award

Call for Nominations for the Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist

The Henry T. Harrison Award for Outstanding Contributions by a Consulting Meteorologist was established in 2011 to annually recognize a consulting meteorologist for outstanding contributions to the profession, clients, and society. Henry Harrison, for whom the award is named, was one of the founders of the certification program for consulting meteorologists and was awarded CCM number one.

Nominees for the Harrison award should demonstrate expertise in weather or climate and their applications, adherence to ethical behavior, and a high level of service to clients and/or the weather and climate enterprise. Nominations are considered by the Board of Certified Consulting Meteorologists, which makes recommendations for final approval by the AMS Council.

Nominations are due by May 1st and must be submitted electronically to the AMS website, http://www.ametsoc.org/awards/.

Upcoming AMS Meetings

- 2012 AMS Washington Forum, April 10-12, 2012, University of California Washington Center, Washington DC
- 30th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, 15-20 April 2012, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
- International Conference on Southern Hemisphere Meteorology and Oceanography, 23ñ27 April 2012, Noumea, New Caledonia
- 30th Conference on Agricultural and Forest Meteorology, 29 May June 2012, Boston, MA
- First Conference on Atmospheric Biogeosciences, 29 May June 2012, Boston, MA
- AMS 25th Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting (WAF) and the 21st Conference on Numerical Weather Prediction (NW) Jointly with the 46th Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographical Society (CMOS) Congress 2012, 29 May June 2012, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- 20th Symposium on Boundary Layers and Turbulence, 8-13 July 2012, Boston, Massachusetts
- 18th Conference on Air-Sea Interaction, 8-13 July 2012, Boston, Massachusetts

Chapter Happenings

The West Central Florida Chapter of the AMS invites you to join remotely for a presentation on "Recent Developments on Ocean Prediction for Florida's West Coast"

When: April 4, 8:45 pm ET

Remote Participation: Please RSVP by contacting Matt Bolton at mbolton4211@yahoo.com if you would like to join remotely via Livestream (requires internet access only). Please provide your name, email address, your affiliation and country (if outside the U.S.). Matt will provide you with a webpage to join the presentation at 8:45 pm.

Presenter: Dr. Robert H. Weisberg, Distinguished University Professor Physical Oceanography, College of Marine Science, University of South Florida.

Full details: http://www.wcflams.org

Ohio University Spring Meteorology Symposium 2012

"A learning experience from the National Weather Service, broadcasters, academia and private sector professionals."

Saturday, April 14th, 1-4pm Ohio University
Walter Hall Rm 135
Athens Campus ALL ARE WELCOME!
RSVP Appreciated

Featured speakers include:

- Chris Vickers (WTOL, OU meteorology club's founder).
- Wendy Parker (Professor, Ohio University Philosophy/Climate Modeling). -Charlie Woodrum (National Weather Service, Pittsburgh, PA).
- Andrew Hatzos (National Weather Service, Wilmington, OH).
- And additional speakers.

Brought to you by Scalia Laboratory for Atmospheric Analysis, Senate Appropriations Commission, and the Ohio University AMS Local Chapter

Please contact Brayden Murdock, OU AMS Student Chapter Advertising Chair, OhioUniversityAMS@gmail.com, for more information and RSVP.

Survey on Climate Change Perspectives

In early 2011, the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Commission on the Weather and Climate Enterprise (CWCE) established the Committee to Improve Climate Change Communication (CICCC) to help facilitate communication among members of the weather and climate community so as to foster greater understanding about the spectrum of views on climate change through various forums and mechanisms.

To that end, CICCC collaborated with Dr. Ed Maibach at George Mason University (GMU) to assess AMS members' perspectives about climate change. Specifically, CICCC hoped to learn AMS member perspectives on a variety of issues pertaining to climate change including: their assessment of the evidence, their perception of conflict among our members, their views about AMS's role in public education, and their personal involvement in public education activities.

On December 29, 2011 the survey was distributed and we are able to share the preliminary results. This report has been vetted among the CICCC members and GMU. These results represent a sample obtained from the voting membership of AMS in order to better understand the varied perspectives that are contained within the AMS. The document may be viewed at http://www.ametsoc.org/boardpges/cwce/docs/BEC/CICCC/2012-02-AMS-Member-Survey-Preliminary-Findings.pdf.

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
CHRIS SCHULTZ, CHAIR
JIM KURDZO, CHAIR-ELECT
KELLY SAVOIE, AMS LIAISON

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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