Kelly Savoie (00:00):

Hello, Clear Skies Ahead listeners. This is Kelly Savoie and I'm hoping you can take a moment of your time to rate and review our show wherever you listen to podcasts. We have produced over 100 episodes, and you can help us reach even more individuals that will benefit from the diverse experiences shared by our guests. Thanks so much for listening, and I hope you enjoyed this new episode.

Welcome to the American Meteorological Societies podcast series, Clear Skies Ahead, conversations about careers in meteorology and beyond. I'm Kelly Savoie, and I'm here with Emma Collins and we'll be your hosts. We're excited to give you the opportunity to step into the shoes of an expert working in weather, water, and climate sciences.

Emma Collins (00:53):

We're happy to introduce today's guest, a AMS President-elect, Alan Sealls retired broadcast meteorologist and current weather consultant in Mobile, Alabama. Welcome, Alan. Thanks so much for joining us today.

Alan Sealls (01:04):

Thank you so much for having me. I just came in from pulling weeds in the yard. Perfect weather for it.

Kelly Savoie (01:09):

Fun, fun, fun. It's been like 95 degrees and dry here, so we have the opposite thing going on, although it's killing all the plants except for the weeds.

Alan Sealls (01:17):

Right.

Kelly Savoie (01:18):

So Alan, could you tell us a little bit about what sparked your interest in meteorology and how it influenced your educational path?

Alan Sealls (01:24):

Yeah. When you talk to a lot of meteorologists, many will say, oh, there was this big storm, there was this big hurricane or snowstorm or lightning. For me, it was pretty interesting. I grew up outside of New York City where we have four seasons now here in Mobile, Alabama. Weather-wise, we really only have two, maybe three. But the cool thing about four seasons was in second grade I experienced thunder, snow. I was out in the backyard one evening, it was snowing. I saw lightning and heard muffled thunder, and it scared me and also surprised me at the same time, and it made me curious, how was it possible you can get lightning in the middle of the winter? By third grade, I had a teacher, Ms. Costello, she was one of my favorite teachers because she actually kept the good kids after school and gave us little treats.

(02:17):

But one day we had an assignment where we went outside as a class and we looked up at the clouds and we tried to imagine what the shapes were. And while we were doing that, I was trying to figure out how is it possible a cloud could float? And to this day, it amazes me that you can have a cloud float over your house, drop an inch of rain, and a half hour later that cloud is gone. There's no sign that it ever existed.

And I know now as a meteorologist, it has to do with the weight of hydrogen and oxygen and nitrogen, and you have a little updraft, but it still is not intuitive that water floats in the sky. A little later in my elementary school years, I experienced hail. It was a sunny summer, a thunderstorm popped up, and then ice started falling from the sky.

(03:03):

And once again, I was just blown away by the fact that ice could fall from the sky while the sun is shining in the middle of the summer. So all of that just sort of stayed in my background. I think like a lot of kids of my generation in my age, I wanted to be at first a professional athlete, and then I wanted to be a professional musician. And I was good at both of those as a kid, but not good enough to make it a living. So by the time I got into high school and took earth science, I started thinking this weather stuff has potential. One of the other things that stayed with me through high school playing in the band I played trumpet, is knowing the art of performance and creating something, especially in jazz band, for example, you improvise. So I was always a natural performer, always a natural ham. And I was lucky enough to make that connection between meteorology and broadcast TV to know that it's a profession that impacts everybody's lives and most people can't do it. By the time I graduated high school, I knew I wanted to be a broadcast meteorologist, and not just a TV weatherman, but a broadcaster with full training in meteorology.

Kelly Savoie (04:16):

Did you realize that there were degrees in meteorology and atmospheric science, and did you go to college knowing that?

Alan Sealls (04:23):

So I did my research back in the old days, we went to a library that's a building with books in it, which is sort of like Google, except it's more verified. And in the library at the reference desk, there was a book that still exists called Occupational Outlook Handbook. It's put out by the US Department of Labor, and in it lists every single profession in the country. And one of those, of course, was meteorology. So with that, I was able to understand what I was getting into. And then I used the resources at the time of the American Meteorological Society that had a list of colleges and universities with meteorology programs. So being a New Yorker, I applied to SUNY Albany. I applied to North Carolina State, I applied to Cornell. I got into Cornell, I got into SUNY and a couple other schools, and I ended up going to Cornell to study meteorology. Now, initially I was going to dual major in meteorology and music, but once I saw that would take me eight years, I said, okay,

(05:28):

No music. It's going to be meteorology Cornell. I had the time of my life, I learned a lot about myself. I honestly did not learn as much as I should have as a meteorology student because I was having too much fun. But at the end of my four years, I realized I should go to grad school. I need to pick up where I'm weak. So I ended up applying to Florida State among a few other universities, and FSU offered me a teaching assistantship, which at the time I didn't even know what that was. I knew it was financial aid, but the teaching assistantship was perfect because it allowed me to stand up in front of an audience and talk about weather. And I taught meteorology 100 or 1 0 1 or no, one 10 at FSU to non-major. So that really helped a lot in my later career.

Kelly Savoie (06:20):

So even though you didn't dual major in music, were you still in the jazz band or did you do any of those?

Alan Sealls (06:25):

Nope.

Kelly Savoie (06:26):

No.

Alan Sealls (06:27):

Like I said, I was a good musician as a little kid, but by the time I got into high school, I was not that good compared to other high school musicians.

Emma Collins (06:35):

That's all right. You found other ways to perform. I can imagine teaching is you really got to show up and be on for that.

Alan Sealls (06:41):

It is, and I always tell people my style of teaching and my style of broadcasting is based on studying the worst presenters, which unfortunately were a lot of my professors, they knew their science, but they were not able to communicate it to the average person. So some of my communication role models, if you're of a certain age, you would know. You've heard of George Carlin at Richard Pryor who were comedians now. They were X-rated comedians, but the way they communicated information painted a story in your brain that you never get rid of, and they did it with a sense of humor. So when I teach, and I still teach as an adjunct professor at the University of South Alabama, and when I ended my career as a broadcaster a year and a half ago, I always made it a point to entertain, not in a goofy way, but to entertain and educate at the same time. So that to me, that's the way to get your point across to an audience.

Emma Collins (07:42):

Were there any other opportunities that you've pursued during your studies that you found were beneficial in securing employment once you graduated? Or did that kind of launch your career, that teaching experience?

Alan Sealls (07:53):

Yeah. Oh, awesome question. So a lot of people have the misperception that if you're on tv, you're rich, you have an easy life, and you're just perfect. But we, TV people are regular people. We just have a focus and a passion for what we do. So as an undergraduate at Cornell, every summer I had a summer job. This was before the concept of a summer break. And spring break came into being, the breaks were for working and earning money, but at the time, one of my summer jobs was working at a small psychiatric hospital. So that's where I learned the important lesson that mental illness is not visible even though we stereotype a certain person or a certain aspect of that person to be mental illness. But I learned how to deal with all sorts of people and to be compassionate and to listen to people.

(08:50):

The best I could do in terms of a musician wannabe was I was a DJ in college, so I did a lot of the parties for the fraternities, for the sororities, and I also had a radio show when I was at Cornell on Ithaca College's radio station, ic we called. It was really good about partnering with Cornell when it came to

communications. The DJ aspect taught me you have to play what the people want to hear, not what you want to play. That's number one. It also taught me that you can kind of control the mood of an audience by what you're providing. And that goes into, say for example, severe weather coverage. When you're on TV doing severe weather coverage, you don't smile, you don't laugh. You are very serious and straight to the point. But if it's a sunny day, then you can be silly and have fun and be lighthearted. So those two things played into it.

Kelly Savoie (09:47):

So how did you break into broadcast meteorology? What was your first job?

Alan Sealls (09:53):

Oh, awesome question. You're making me remember things that I had forgotten about. So as a junior at Cornell, my summer going into my senior year, remember I said it was all about working Well. I got an internship at the Weather Channel in Atlanta, Georgia, and that was awesome. A paid internship, I believe they still have that internship program. It was awesome on a couple of levels. Number one, I went there, this was 1984. I went there working behind the scenes, and immediately I was doing map analysis. I was doing forecast information that within minutes was on tv. So it taught me that what I was learning in school had a practical purpose, and it gave me the confidence that I actually knew what I was talking about. So that was really good. Aside from the fact, and this one's really silly, I had no concept to that point. That weather happened 24 hours a day in my mind when I woke up, weather started, and when I went to bed, weather stopped. But we worked rotating shifts. So when I worked the overnight shift, I was amazed at how much weather happens in the middle of the night.

Kelly Savoie (11:04):

So were you able to put together a reel or anything like that when you worked at the Weather Channel so that you could use that looking permanent positions?

Alan Sealls (11:12):

I did not, and I should have. I failed to take that opportunity. But right after I got into my senior year at Cornell, I mentioned Ithaca College. Ithaca College had a cable broadcast newscast. Nobody watched it, but it was a, and this again, mid 1980s, cable was pretty brand new, but they allowed Cornell meteorology students to do the weather on their newscast because they didn't have a meteorology program. So I was one of the students who started off at Ithaca College in the green screen, learning how to do chroma key and how to talk about weather. And that was my first, we call it demo reel, reel as in film reel, even though it was video. But that was where I got my first demo reel done.

Kelly Savoie (12:03):

So you've worked for so many years as a broadcast meteorologist. What are some of the do's and don'ts for students hoping to enter that industry?

Alan Sealls (12:13):

Yeah, here's the first, don't, don't post anything right now on your social media that you will regret later in life.

Emma Collins (12:21):

That's just a good piece of advice. Honestly.

Alan Sealls (12:24):

It is. I am so happy that when I was in school in the mid eighties, there was no social media. There really was no consumer internet. And there actually at that time, were very few security cameras. The statute of limitation has expired. I'm not going to say anything specific, but I am just so glad that I did not have those extra eyes watching me, watching me do what students do when they're in college. You do things without thinking because your friends are doing them. And then later in life, sometimes they come back to really hurt you. So don't post anything on your social media that even though it's hard to think now, one day you may be a parent, you may have little children who go to school, you don't want their teacher or their friends to see you on video doing something you did years ago that's going to embarrass them or result in the loss of a job or prevent you from, let's say you want to run for president one day.

(13:20):

You don't want to do anything that's going to come back to hurt you. Another do on a positive side is use your social media to show the world what you want to be. So I teach my students all the time, their social media accounts should be all about weather. It should show that they have a passion for their future career, and it should show them in the light that people that they want to be seen. In other words, and this one with my young lady students, I say, be very careful there's pressure on women, particularly in social media, to focus on your visual appearance. Don't make that your only thing on social media. Limit it because you want people to see your mind and your eyes and your intelligence and your ability to talk about science.

Emma Collins (14:08):

So now that you've retired from broadcast meteorology, could you walk us through a typical day on the job as a weather consultant and expert witness?

Alan Sealls (14:16):

Yeah. The way I do weather consulting, it's a part-time job, and it's really more of a hobby because I don't have to do it. I do it for fun. I do it for the passion. And when we talk about weather consulting, it's a really broad field. It could be something as simple as a new factory is going to be built in your community, and they need a meteorologist to give them the average temperature, the average wind speed, how much rain or snow it might get, so they can figure out drainage and water retention, which way, I had actually had a farmer ask me which way he should point his barn so that the wind wouldn't blow rain inside the barn. So weather controls everything in our society, infrastructure, commerce, transportation, recreation, et cetera. So for me, I don't seek any consulting work, but it has come to me, and it started in the last four or five years of my career.

(15:18):

It's something I always thought about, which as a field, it's known as forensic meteorology where you are using weather information to go backward in a court of law and recreate what the weather scenario was in a particular case. So as a broadcast meteorologist, there were times where attorneys would ask me to help them on a case, and I didn't want to do it. And that's because I never wanted to be perceived as the weatherman in quotes, taking sides against grandma in a lawsuit in a courtroom. I never wanted to be that person. But as I got toward the end of my career in the last four years or so, one of the things I learned is that most weather consulting and most legal cases actually don't go to trial, which is a good thing. And there are a lot of cases, but most of them settle.

(16:11):

So as I started getting calls from random attorneys who either knew me locally or found me online via social media, one of the things they told me was, you're an excellent communicator. And that's extremely valuable in a courtroom. So your science and you know how to communicate, and then jokingly online, if you search for best weatherman ever do it and see what you find. But there's a story behind that, which we'll talk about a little later. But back to the original question, I do a case maybe every other month now, there are certified consulting, meteorologists certified by the American Meteorological Society who do this full-time, 40 hours a week or more, because I don't have to. I don't. But the cases, boy, they're fun and they're interesting. Anything from hurricanes to ice storms to flooding, you name it. Anything can be a legal case where weather is an issue.

Kelly Savoie (17:19):

You sound like you're in demand. I don't know. You may need to rethink this, do more hours.

Alan Sealls (17:25):

It's all about balance though,

Kelly Savoie (17:26):

Right? Of course. You don't want to retire and then just work a whole bunch again.

Alan Sealls (17:32):

Exactly. Yeah. And that's another lesson for my students is that do what your passion tells you to do. Don't just do it because of money unless you have to. And then don't do it because you think you're going to be famous, because what people call famous is overrated. And when it happens, you can't stop it. You can't turn it off, and it doesn't change who you are. In fact, it makes your life a little more difficult because you can't go anywhere without people looking at you and talking about you and slowing you down. But it could be fun though.

Kelly Savoie (18:09):

And you also mentioned that you're a part-time adjunct professor at the University of South Alabama. So how did that opportunity come about and what do you like best about teaching?

Alan Sealls (18:19):

Yeah, so I've been at, we call it USA, university of South Alabama. I've been there teaching introduction to broadcast meteorology for 25 years.

Kelly Savoie (18:29):

Oh, wow.

Alan Sealls (18:29):

I only taught it in the spring, and even now I continue teaching it. And the start of it actually was when I was working in Chicago at WGN. I was a part-time employee in the middle 1990s. And because I part-time, I had a lot of time to do home improvement. I was active with the AMS chapter, Chicago chapter of the AMS there. In fact, I was asked to run for president, and I was selected. It's also because I

was part-time where I had the opportunity to stumble into the world of educational weather videos. So we will come back to that. But because I was part-time, one of my colleagues said, Hey, would you be interested in teaching a meteorology class at Columbia College in Chicago? And at the time, I sure I'll do it. And I taught it for three or four years, and it was fun.

(19:26):

To that point, I didn't realize that I am a natural teacher, that I enjoy sharing information, especially weather information. So when I moved to mobile, the same thing happened. This was in 1999. One of my colleagues said, Hey, I was teaching this class, but I'm going to get away from it. Would you like to teach it? So immediately, that was an easy yes. And that of course was 25 years ago. The class is fairly small. Usually it's about a half dozen students. Most of them are meteorology majors, and they, they're contemplating whether they want to go into broadcasting. Out of the years I've taught, at least as of right now, I've had several dozen students go into TV broadcasting, and they're still on the air. I've had others who got into it, and then they got out of it. And even here in Mobile, Alabama, what's cool right now is I have three students who are on local TV in Mobile.

Kelly Savoie (20:23):

Oh, wow. That must make you feel good. You're like, Hey, I taught them everything they know.

Alan Sealls (20:27):

Yeah. Well, and even to take it a step further, one of my students, most of them don't go into broadcasting, but one of them just last week was proud to share with me that he successfully defended his PhD thesis, his defense. And when he said that, he also said, I remember when you told me, and that's the thing that really excites me, is when people take one little thing I told them that helped them do great things. And then another cool story as a broadcaster, broadcast meteorologist, we had a unique opportunity that most meteorologists don't get, and that is to fly with the Air Force Reserve Hurricane Hunters. And because Keesler Air Force Base is just an hour away from mobile, I was able to fly with them three times. It was all into Cat one hurricane. So it actually is not as scary and dramatic as people would think, at least for most weaker storms. But the coolest thing is the last flight I was on, the two flight meteorologists were both former students of mine, and here we are in the eye of a hurricane.

Kelly Savoie (21:38):

That's awesome. That's so cool.

Alan Sealls (21:40):

Yeah.

Kelly Savoie (21:41):

Did you know that ahead of time, or did you I

Alan Sealls (21:43):

Did not know.

Kelly Savoie (21:44):

Oh, wow. What a great surprise.

Alan Sealls (21:47):

Yeah, I was up at 3:00 AM drove over to Keesler four 30, we're in the briefing room, and I look at the table and I see it's like, wait a minute. I know those two.

Emma Collins (21:58):

That's so cool. So speaking of influencing people, you have weather videos that you write and produce. Can you talk a little bit about those? Let's circle back to that. What's inspired you to get into this?

Alan Sealls (22:10):

Yeah, back to my time in Chicago, when I was part-time at WGN, I did what I did throughout all my career. I went to classrooms, spoke to kids, rotary clubs, Kiwanis clubs, church groups, et cetera, just sharing weather. One of the schools that I spoke at, the teacher ended up referring me to an independent producer who was doing a video on lightning safety. And it was an educational video distributed by a company called United Learning, which was based in Chicago. So I did the video, and after it was done, I looked at it, and this was in the mid 1990s when digital cameras, video cameras were just coming into play and desktop video editing, something we take for granted. It was all starting there. So I looked at the video and I said, oh, I can do this. And I approached the company, United Learning, and I said, I'd like to do a video on weather safety, severe weather safety. And they said, okay, we'll do it. Bring it to us. If we like it, we'll put it in our catalog. So I did the video, it's a 15 minute video, and they liked it. They put it in their catalog. And I didn't know until that point that United Learning was one of the large distributors of educational videos to school systems in the United States. Not just weather, but all science. In fact, they did all the subjects, but they did science at that time. They distributed on VHS videotapes.

Kelly Savoie (23:43):

I remember those. I

Emma Collins (23:43):

Do too,

Alan Sealls (23:44):

Mid 1990s. So I did the video, and then I learned the whole concept of being a producer and royalties. And actually, so that was the mid nineties. After a year or so after I did that, I went back to them and said, Hey, I'd like to do another video. And they said, oh, sure, go ahead. So I did another video, and then shortly after that, I said, okay, these are going really well. My royalties are actually paying very well. So I proposed to them. I do a 10 part series on weather for kids, and most of my videos are geared for second and third grade. So I did that, and that did extremely well. So from there, after the mid nineties, I would do a video or two or three every other year. I did a series for high school level and college level. I did a series for kindergarten, a four-part series, which was translated into Spanish and French. It was a cartoon weather video, and I actually did the animation myself. I am a do it yourselfer. I just love to learn how to do different things. United Learning in the two thousands was bought by Discovery Education, which is the partner to the Discovery Channel. So the videos did really well. The royalties were at one point exceeding my paid job. I was part-time.

Kelly Savoie (25:16):

Wow. You probably had no idea that was going to happen when you started this project. I

Alan Sealls (25:21):

Had no idea. But here you have to play the Enter YouTube. Once YouTube took over, a lot of what I had done, other people started doing and putting on YouTube. So all of a sudden the royalties went way down. However, they're still decent, and to this day, they're still decent. So I am still, my catalog with Discovery Education is close to a hundred videos. And then another company called Bo Clips based in the uk, which is also a distributor of educational videos. They have my catalog, which they have over a hundred. So my videos are seen all around the world in school systems. And one of the coolest stories with that one is back in the two thousands, one of my best friends from third grade growing up, he called me one day and said, my son just brought his homework home. And your name's on it.

Kelly Savoie (26:21):

So was it one of the videos?

Alan Sealls (26:23):

Yes, the school was using one of the videos.

Kelly Savoie (26:26):

About how long are the videos? Like 30 minutes, shorter, longer.

Alan Sealls (26:31):

The typical video, at least up until the last decade was 12 to 15 minutes. Early on. My videos also included lesson plans, written lesson plans for teachers. And then in the last decade or so, what the companies are telling me is they prefer shorter videos, more like two minutes, three minutes.

Kelly Savoie (26:54):

Oh, wow. Really short.

Alan Sealls (26:55):

Yeah. So to me, that's no big difference. You take a long video and you chop it up. For example, I have one on clouds, and you could chop it up into cumulus clouds, stratus clouds, or you can chop it up into C Cloud. You could just chop it up any way you want. But yeah, those are still out there. And again, it's fun to create something that I think is creative that makes people smarter, and by the way, pays me a little bit of money.

Kelly Savoie (27:23):

That's always nice, huh? So you're doing teaching. You did some of the weather videos, and you are also currently the AMS President-Elect. Congratulations on that.

Alan Sealls (27:36):

Thank you.

Kelly Savoie (27:37):

What types of activities are part of that role, and what are some of the things you'd like to focus on as AMS president?

Alan Sealls (27:45):

So it was never my intention or thought to run for any office, especially after retirement. I've been involved with the AMS since I was in graduate school. I earned my AMS broadcast certification a year and a half. After I graduated, I became a member of the Committee on Broadcast Meteorology. Then I was asked to become chair of the committee, and then years later, I was asked to run for council. And then of course, recently I was asked to run for president. So in each case, all my involvement with a MS and National Weather Association, which by the way, I was president in 2018 for all of that, people asked me to do it. I think like most people when it comes to doing work, I'd rather sit back and watch someone else do it. But I was asked, and that's an honor to be asked to lead an organization because it shows that people trust what I do and they trust what I say and that I'm capable of doing. So I thought long and hard about it. I ended up agreeing to run, and I ran against another broadcaster, and we had fun teasing each other about if we would do a poster with our fists hand to hand, like a boxing ring.

(29:13):

But when I ran, nobody knew how our world would change based on Washington DC and the world of science and diversity and grants and travel visas, and the view on climate and weather staffing within the government. So all of that, no one could have predicted that. So everything I just said there is what keeps me busy right now as President-elect. In fact, just before we started this, I saw an email seeing if I could do another radio interview about some of the latest happenings in Washington DC and how they may impact meteorologists. So most of my energy and most of AMS's energy has been dealing with all these unforeseen issues. Given that I did just share with the AMS Council, my theme as president, my annual meeting will be in Denver in 2027. And my meeting theme is People, and People is an acronym.

(30:27):

I'm still fine tuning it, but it stands for People Educated on the Planet Live Empowered. And it's all about recognizing that we meteorologist number one, we are people, we're people first. And at the end of the day, we're people. And no matter what our specialty is, what our focus is, we either train people to help people. We create a product that helps people. Even in private industry, you're selling a product that helps people, employs people. And all of our science is for the benefit of people of humanity. And that's to say that you can have ai, you can have satellites, but no matter what you have, you still need people. And those people have to be healthy and happy. So that's my meeting theme. Did I answer your question?

Kelly Savoie (31:18):

Yes. That's a great theme. It's so broad. It can encompass so many different things.

Alan Sealls (31:24):

Yes.

Emma Collins (31:25):

Well, Alan, you've had an incredible career. Looking back over it, is there anything you wish you had done differently?

Alan Sealls (31:31):

Just a few little things. None of us like to dwell on the negative things in life. And I am at the point now where I realize that all the negative things in life led to where I am now. They're all learning experiences. The hope is that you don't have a lot of negative experiences, but just little things I would've changed, for example, interacting with coworkers, saying things that may have been a little insensitive or a little callous at the time. I'm a New Yorker, so maybe that's part of No, I'm just kidding. I also try to break those stereotypes of what a New Yorker is, or a Yankee, since I live in the South now, or even an African American man. So most of the things I would change would be little things like that. Yeah, I think more of the things I would've changed in my past would've been more with personal relationships, especially with dating. I won't go any deeper into that. But again, that put me where I am with my wife. We've been married for decades.

Kelly Savoie (32:41):

Yes, dating. It's always tough to navigate that, especially these days. Yes. Well, we're so grateful for everything you told us about your career. However, before you go, we always ask our guests one last fun question. At the end of our show, we usually ask something like, what is your favorite movie? But let's shake it up and ask you what's the worst movie you've ever seen?

Alan Sealls (33:05):

Okay. The worst movie, I give credit to my wife for this, and I'm not bashing the movie, but simply it is Hairspray, which featured Ricky Lake. Now. It was based on a play, and my wife made me go to see it, and I didn't know what it was about. And to this day, I don't remember what it was about. I just remember that I did not like it at all.

Kelly Savoie (33:34):

Was that John Waters? I think maybe that was the director.

Alan Sealls (33:38):

I'm not sure

Kelly Savoie (33:39):

If it is. He's definitely a little out there and he's different. I think I'd have to double check on that, but I think that's who directed it. And I could see why it might not be your cup of tea.

Alan Sealls (33:55):

And again, I don't remember. Just like you talked about things I would change in the past, a lot of them I have blanked out because I don't want to remember them. But being that it was based on a play, my wife also took me to made me go see cats.

Kelly Savoie (34:12):

Oh,

Alan Sealls (34:13):

I love real cats. But people dressed as cats didn't do it.

Emma Collins (34:20):

I think that's totally fair. That's totally fair. As a cat person myself I agree.

Alan Sealls (34:24):

Yeah. And same thing with that one. I still don't really get what it was about other than a musical.

Kelly Savoie (34:33):

And I did check, and it was John Waters, so he's got some other movies that are very weird. So you got to be into weird to like his stuff.

Alan Sealls (34:41):

And again, no shade or disrespect to those who are into it or produced it

Kelly Savoie (34:48):

Into it.

Alan Sealls (34:49):

True. And that reminds me, I forgot to mention that one of my other titles other than yard man is author.

Emma Collins (34:58):

That's right.

Alan Sealls (34:59):

And I always forget about that because writing has always been a natural hobby for me. I didn't do it during COVID, because I didn't go to a lot of schools. Typically, I would go to like 30 or 40 schools each year talking about weather. But during the COVID shutdown, I had so much time to organize my writings, my videos, my photography, which is another hobby, whether photos and videos. I realized that I had enough content to create a couple of books. So I ended up writing two books. One is called Weather Things You Always Wanted to Know. The other one is called A Career in Broadcast or a career in TV meteorology, which it's a behind the scenes look at my career. I have a lot of direct quotes from the viewers for things they would say that were to say insensitive would be an understatement when you interrupt the program for something like a tornado warning.

(36:00):

But it's also a career guide for students. So there are some universities that use it in their meteorology programs. And both of those are referenced on my website, which is AlanSeallsauthor.com. And then a third book I did was one called Weather Things in Photos, the Science and Art of the Atmosphere. I've been taking pictures since fifth grade, and I learned also in my part-time work in Chicago that weather photos, especially back in the nineties and two thousands, you could license them to textbooks. You can license them to companies that do commercials. So I started building a collection of weather photos, whether videography and my best photos are in. It's a coffee table book. They're in that book, which is also referenced at alanseallsauthor.com.

Kelly Savoie (36:52):

Nice. We'll make sure that we put links to these in our show notes when we release the episode. And also, I don't know if people would have access to the weather videos. Are those on YouTube now?

Alan Sealls (37:04):

So I do have a YouTube channel, which is Alan Sealls weather. You see the theme here and on that channel, I have a subset of all of the videos that are on the educational video market. So I do have a bunch of, I just posted one on glories. It's that ring you see around the shadow of an airplane when you're flying just above the clouds. I posted one on a horseshoe vortex cloud. So I just love sharing these little things that people out in the public say, I saw that. What is that? And then you post the video and people say, oh, now I understand. So that's on my YouTube channel.

Emma Collins (37:43):

That's very cool. See, you may not have kept up with your music, but the creativity still came out.

Alan Sealls (37:47):

Yeah. That's why I love and loved my career as a meteorologist on tv because you use the skill of communication, performing education, the skills of editing, video editing, audio, learning how to build websites. There's so much that a TV meteorologist does that applies to so many other parts of life.

Emma Collins (38:12):

Well, thanks so much for joining us, Alan, and sharing your work experiences with us.

Alan Sealls (38:16):

Thank you.

Kelly Savoie (38:17):

Well, that's our show for today. Please join us next time. Rain or shine, clear skies ahead. Conversations about careers in meteorology and beyond is a podcast by the American Meteorological Society. Our show is edited by Johnny Le. Technical direction is provided by Peter Klay. Our theme is composed and performed by Steve Savoy. And the show is hosted by Emma Collins and Kelly Savoie. You can learn more about the show online@www.am et soc.org/clear skies. And you can contact us at Sky podcast@ametsoc.org. If you have any feedback. I would like to become a future guest.