

**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY  
NEWS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY  
MAY SCIENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

This monthly tip sheet is designed to give you story ideas and tips about upcoming AMS meetings, papers in our nine peer-reviewed journals, and other happenings in the atmospheric and related sciences community.

**PAPER TRAIL**

**“Tonight as I stand inside the Rain” – Bob Dylan and Weather Imagery.** This essay in the March issue of the *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* by Alan Robock, professor at Rutgers University and long-time Bob Dylan fan, takes a light look at Dylan’s love and use of weather imagery in his songs. A fun read <http://ams.allenpress.com/pdfserv/10.1175%2FBAMS-86-4-483>

**Do Meteorologists Suppress Thunderstorms?:** ... Driven by curiosity and skepticism, the authors Matthew D. Parker, of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and colleague Jason Knievel, of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, tested the frequent assertion that meteorologists and weather enthusiasts live in weather holes—that is, places that receive less exciting weather than do their surroundings. According to our data and methods, a meteorologist’s hometown is no more likely to be a weather hole or hot spot than is any random place around the conterminous United States. During the entire 6 year study period, the lone weather hole was Grand Forks, North Dakota, and the lone hot spot was Tallahassee, Florida. During any single year, many of the targets were holes or hot spots according to at least one criterion but such short-term behavior does not justify meteorologists’ enduring superstitions that the most exciting weather consistently misses them. Over time, very few sites were repeatedly, anomalously missed or hit by storms. For details see <http://ams.allenpress.com/pdfserv/10.1175%2FBAMS-86-3-341>

**May 3<sup>rd</sup> Tornado Anniversary.** It’s been just over two years since one of the most extensive tornado outbreaks in U.S. history – one that set a record for the most tornadoes ever reported in a week 334 between 4 and 0 May) and contributed to more tornadoes being recorded in May 2003 than any previous month in history,

totaling 559 (361 of which occurred during the 9-day extended outbreak. An article in month's *Bulletin of the American Meteorological Society* reviews the extent of the 3 May 2003 event, what caused this outbreak and how unusual it was. For the complete article see <http://ams.allenpress.com/pdfserv/10.1175%2FBAMS-86-4-531>

## SCIENCE CALENDAR

The Society will host seven specialty meetings throughout 2005 including the **13<sup>th</sup> Conference on Middle Atmosphere, 13<sup>th</sup> Conference on Atmospheric and Oceanic Fluid Dynamics and 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Climate Variability and Change**, June 13-17 in Cambridge, Mass.

Savannah, Georgia, is the site of the **15<sup>th</sup> Conference on Applied Climatology and 13<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Meteorological Observations and Instrumentation**.

The **34<sup>th</sup> Conference on Broadcast Meteorology** will be held in Washington, D.C., between August 1-5, in conjunction with the **21<sup>st</sup> Conference on Weather Analysis and Forecasting and the 17<sup>th</sup> Conference on Weather Prediction**.

NOAA and the EPA will celebrate the **Golden Jubilee Symposium on Air Quality Modeling and Applications** in Durham, N.C., on September 20-21.

The year wraps up with the **11<sup>th</sup> Conference on Mesoscale Processes and the 32<sup>nd</sup> Conference on Radar Meteorology** in Albuquerque from October 24-29.

And it's not too early to plan for the **2006 Annual Meeting**, January 29-February 3, 2006 in Atlanta.

Media are invited to attend these meetings. For details on each meeting, see [http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/meetinfo\\_hp.html#2005](http://www.ametsoc.org/meet/meetinfo_hp.html#2005)

## WEATHER AND CLIMATE SCIENCE HAPPENINGS

**Science on the Hill.** The AMS will host the first seminar of its new Environmental Science Seminar Series on Capital Hill on **Tuesday, May 24 from 3-5 p.m.** The seminar focuses on the declining mountain snowpack in western North American and the implications for water resource managers in the western U.S. Dr. Phillip Mote, University of Washington, and Dr. Soroosh Sorooshian, University of California, will take a close look at the impact of climate change on the snowpack and water supply of the western U.S. What is the evidence for declining snowpack in this region? Is this decline the result of a natural process? What is the scale of the decline and what are the implications for water resources? The seminar takes place in the Russell Senate Office Building, Room 253. **Media are invited to attend.**

**Mark Trail Awards.** Each year the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration recognizes individuals and organizations for their support of NOAA Weather Radio and their leadership or use of NOAA Weather Radio receivers. The Annual Mark Trail Awards Luncheon will take place on **Thursday, May 26, 2005** beginning at 11:45 a.m. in 345 Cannon House Office Building, in the Speaker Caucus Room in Washington, D.C. The awards are named after the cartoon Mark Trail, who serves as the official spokesperson for NOAA Weather Radio. Mark Trail is syndicated by King Features and is published in approximately 175 newspapers

nationwide. For a complete list of winners contact George Wilcox, NOAA Constituent Affairs, at 202/737-9006 Ext. 427, or by e-mail at [george.t.wilcox@noaa.gov](mailto:george.t.wilcox@noaa.gov) **Media are invited.**

## **OTHER NEWS**

**AMS Elects New Leadership.** The Society's more than 11,000 members have elected Franco Einaudi, director of the Earth Sciences Directorate at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md., as the 2005 President Elect. He will serve as president of the AMS in 2006. Walter A. Lyons, president of the FMA Research, Inc., in Fort Collins, Colorado, is the President of the Society for 2005.

**USA TODAY weather editor Jack Williams joins AMS.** Williams joined the AMS staff last month after serving as weather editor of the national newspaper since it began publication in 1982. He also had been weather editor of the USATODAY.com Web site since it began in 1995. Williams joins the AMS as the public outreach coordinator where his first job will be to create a new book on weather and climate aimed at the public. Materials from the book will be used as the foundation in building a collection of public outreach modules that can be used by partner organizations and AMS members in public outreach programs and other educational programs to promote scientific literacy.

**Getting ready for college?** Pursuing a degree in meteorology? Did you know the AMS publishes a curricula guide – a comprehensive listing of all the colleges and universities that offer atmospheric and related science programs. It is an excellent resource for students and parents alike trying to find the right college for their course of study. Pass this along to your education reporter for future reference. It's all online at [http://www.ametsoc.org/amsucar\\_curricula/index.cfm](http://www.ametsoc.org/amsucar_curricula/index.cfm)

**Need An Authoritative Voice?** The AMS has issued a numerous statements on a variety of weather and climate related topic. The statements provide a state-of-the science perspective and occasionally outline recommendations for needed research and funding initiatives. All AMS statements are online at [http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/amsstatements\\_inforce.html](http://www.ametsoc.org/policy/amsstatements_inforce.html)

The AMS (<http://www.ametsoc.org>) is the nation's leading professional society for those in the atmospheric and related sciences.

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