



# Monthly Newsletter of the Central North Carolina Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

Volume: 6

Number: 8

April 2011

## **Upcoming Events:**

**Next Meeting:** Thursday, April 21, 7:15 PM.

**SPEAKER:** Dr. Ryan Boyles, Director and State Climatologist, State Climate Office of North Carolina

**LOCATION:** Room 1132, Jordan Hall  
NC State University

**TOPIC:** Recent Initiatives of the State Climate Office of North Carolina

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## **ABSTRACT/BIO:**

Dr. Ryan Boyles is a North Carolina native from Durham with undergraduate and graduate degrees from North Carolina State University. As State Climatologist, Ryan is the chief scientist with responsibilities to develop and promote the Office's climate services for extension, research, and education of applied meteorology and climatology. Ryan supervises staff and students, assists North Carolina state and county agencies, and interacts with a wide range of public and private sector clients to ensure development and delivery of advanced climate science and services. As a core objective for the State Climate Office, Ryan works to increase the exposure of the State

Climate Office and North Carolina State University as a resource for weather and climate expertise and information, including expansion of the North Carolina Environment and Climate Observing Network (NC ECONet) and development of weather-based and climate-based decision support tools.

Ryan has research and development interests in spatial analysis, Geographic Information Systems, global and regional climate change, drought monitoring, water resource management, sensors and instrumentation, agricultural and forest meteorology, and complex data visualization. Ryan leads the Climate Office to continuously develop science applications to aid other agencies and institutions, and extend such tools and technology to support decision-making.

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As a friendly reminder, dues are \$10 (\$5 for student members) for the year, with half the dues going towards the Academic Achievement Fund. Dues can be paid at the monthly meeting or sent to:

Marilyn Schiermeier  
303 Glasgow Road  
Cary, NC 27511

Please make checks payable to "CNCC-AMS". Donations to the Academic Achievement Fund are also welcome, and are tax deductible.

# NEWS

## Chapter Banquet Plans Finalized

The annual Chapter banquet will be held on Friday, May 6 at the Bavarian Brathaus in Cary. Similar to last year, guests will have the option to choose from a menu of four entrees. A cash bar with several beer and wine selections will be available in the private dining room, while a full bar will be available in the main restaurant. Live music from Munich will be played in the private dining area.

If anyone desires a vegetarian meal, arrangements must be made in advance. Please contact an officer to make this request.

After the meal, Brian Short, Director of Emergency Operations with Vance County Emergency Operations, will discuss his experiences with the Hurricane Katrina recovery efforts in Louisiana.

The cost of the banquet is \$30 per person for regular members and guests and \$15 for students. Checks can be sent to Treasurer Marilyn Schiermeier or given to her at the regular chapter meeting. Please make your payment by April 29.

## Updates to AMS Chapter Information Web Page

The Chapter Information page on the AMS website has added photographs of the posters displayed at the AMS Annual Meeting in Seattle and the Chapter of the Year Award winners.

<http://www.ametsoc.org/amschaps/index.html>

## Reminder: 15th Annual High Plains Conference

The Wichita AMS Chapter is hosting the 15th Annual High Plains Conference August 4-6. Conference highlights include guest speakers Don Burgess and professional storm photographer Jim Reed. There will also be a student career fair with a \$400 dollar prize, a formal banquet, a meet and greet with professional storm chasers, and planned activities for families. For more information, please go to:

[www.wichita-amsnwa.org/HPC](http://www.wichita-amsnwa.org/HPC)

## Reminder: 2011 StormFest Invitation

StormFest is scheduled to return to the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences on June 18, 2011 from 9 a.m. to 5 pm. The highly successful event, which attracted around 7,500 people in 2010, plans to expand in 2011, with more agencies and companies invited to participate.

For more details about StormFest, including the schedule of presentations, please see the flyer on the last page of this newsletter.

## **Announcements from the Student Chapter**

The Student Chapter will hold its final meeting of the semester on Thursday, April 28. The meeting will be a catered picnic at a location soon to be determined.

The Student Chapter t-shirt fundraiser is returning this year. T-shirts are now in the process of being ordered. Although an image is not currently available, details about the design, as well as ordering information, can be made available by contacting Suzanne Wilson ([sewilso4@ncsu.edu](mailto:sewilso4@ncsu.edu)).

## March Meeting Minutes

### Business Meeting Notes:

- 23 people were in attendance.
- Treasurer Marilyn Schiermeier noted that total Chapter assets are \$10,574.49, including \$215.00 in the Academic Achievement Fund. Paid Chapter membership stands at 48 individuals.
- Walt Robinson and Marvin Maddox have notified the Academic Award winners and invited them to the upcoming Chapter banquet.
- Chapter Vice President Darin Figurskey has asked members to contact him with any suggestions for topics or speakers for next year's meetings.
- President Frank Schiermeier, while looking through past AMS materials, found several interesting articles and pictures. Please look for some of these in next year's newsletters.

### Speaker Notes:

- Dr. Sukanta Basu, Associate Professor, Department of Marine, Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, North Carolina State University, presented, "Wind Energy Developments: The Challenges Ahead".
- Wind energy in the United States has increased significantly since 2003, with 40 GW produced in 2010.
- Modern wind turbines have 120 meter heights and 115 meter rotor diameters. A 1.6 MW turbine can power 400 to 500 homes.
- A lack of understanding in meteorological issues (wind-wave interaction, boundary layers, and coastal low-level jets) and data collection have hindered offshore wind farms in the U.S.
- Modeling and statistical analysis is used to determine the locations for reliable generation sources. Models typically underestimate mean wind speeds, which can have large economic consequences.
- Wind farms effects on evapotranspiration and CO2 mixing in micro climates are not known. Temperatures can be affected by turbulence.

## Mark those Calendars!

Here are the tentative dates for meetings during the 2010-2011 chapter year. We look forward to seeing you.

April 21

Please be aware that dates are subject to change.

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## Officer 411

Let us know what you think. Have suggestions for speakers? Topics? Interesting weather websites? Please feel free to email any of the officers.

**President:** Frank Schiermeier  
schiermeier@msn.com

**Vice President:** Darin Figurskey  
Darin.Figurskey@noaa.gov

**Treasurer:** Marilyn Schiermeier  
schiermeier@msn.com

**Secretary:** Ryan Cleary  
rhcleary@hotmail.com

**Education Chair:** Marvin Maddox  
maddoxmarvin@aol.com

**Webmaster:** Joseph D'Addezio  
jmdaddez@ncsu.edu



## Free to the Public: StormFest 2011

June 18, 2011, 9am – 5pm

NC Museum of Natural Sciences  
11 West Jones Street  
Raleigh, NC

Interested in weather, hurricanes, and emergency services? Come meet the experts and participate in activities with local agencies and emergency responders. Participants include: National Weather Service, WRAL, ABC11, NBC17, News14, Red Cross, SKYWARN, Amateur Radio Emergency Services, State Medical Assistance Team, Urban Search and Rescue, State Veterinary Emergency Response, Wake County Emergency Management, Highway Patrol, National Guard, NC Baptist Men, WakeMed, Rex Healthcare, local fire departments and more.

StormFest is a unique opportunity to come meet your favorite weather personalities, try your skills in front of the camera, participate in weather experiments and learn about severe weather in our area from the weather and emergency response officials. Many of the emergency vehicles and resources deployed during disasters will be on display.

Weather experiments and kids activities will be conducted on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor all day.

Schedule of special presentations in auditorium;

10:30 AM	"Ask the Experts" discussion with morning meteorologists Elizabeth Gardner (WRAL), Don Schweeneker (ABC11), Jeremy Baker (NBC17) and Lee Ringer (News14).
12:30 PM	North Carolina Hurricane History with Jay Barnes
2:00 PM	"Ask the Experts" discussion with the chief meteorologists Greg Fishel (WRAL), Chris Hohmann (ABC11), Wes Hohenstein (NBC17) and Gary Stephenson (News14).

For more information, contact Jeff Orrock (NWS Warning Coordinator), at [Jeff.Orrock@noaa.gov](mailto:Jeff.Orrock@noaa.gov) or (919) 515-8209 ext.223.

