



Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

September 2011

Notes from the President –

Greetings! I am excited to serve as president of the Houston AMS Chapter this year. I want to encourage all of our members to come out to our first meeting this fall and support our chapter.

As we near the peak of the 2011 hurricane season, we have one eye on the tropics, and another on the wildfire threat that proved to be devastating to some communities in east and central Texas this past Labor Day weekend. Unfortunately, it appears that we are in for a challenging fall concerning the fire threat, due to the ongoing exceptional drought occurring throughout Texas.

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"Texas Drought: What, Why, and What Next?"

Presented by John W. Nielsen-Gammon,
Professor, Department of Atmospheric
Sciences, Texas A&M University
Texas State Climatologist

Thursday, September 22nd

Dinner – 6:00pm
Meeting – 6:45pm
Lyndon's BBQ
5320 Hollister St
Houston, TX 77040

Speaker Information-

John Nielsen-Gammon holds a Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the faculty at Texas A&M University in 1991 and was appointed Texas State Climatologist by then-Governor George W. Bush in 2000. He has served as Acting Executive Associate Dean for the College of Geosciences, the chair of the American Meteorological Society Board on Higher Education, and the president of the International Commission for Dynamical Meteorology.

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Speaker Information continued...

He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society. Dr. Nielsen-Gammon's research involves such topics as jet streams, heavy rain, sea breezes, air pollution, data assimilation, climate data quality, and drought monitoring and forecasting. He teaches courses in weather analysis, weather forecasting, atmospheric dynamics, and climatology.

Notes from the President continued...

We are fortunate to have Dr. John Nielsen-Gammon speaking at our upcoming September meeting. I have known John for 20 years, as I was fortunate to be one of his first graduate students at Texas A&M University when he arrived in the Fall of 1991. I cannot think of a more qualified person to speak to our group concerning the details of the ongoing drought that has been the number one weather story for the state of Texas since this past spring. John currently serves as the Texas State Climatologist, and also regularly posts entries to his blog on the Houston Chronicle website:

<http://blog.chron.com/climateabyss/>

So, again, please make some time in your busy schedule to come out and hear what John has to say, and I almost forgot, also pay your dues ☺.

**Thanks,
Lance**

Maps & Directions

Lyndon's BBQ, 5320 Hollister St, Houston, TX 77040
Phone (713) 690-2112



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CHAPTER WEBSITE
www.amshouston.net

NATIONAL WEBSITE
www.ametsoc.org

Feel free to contact any of the officers for comments, questions, suggestions or even additions to the newsletter. We would appreciate hearing from you.

Contact Information

<p><i>President – Lance Wood</i> Ph: (281) 799-7349 Email: lance.wood@noaa.gov</p>	<p><i>Vice President – Chris McKinney</i> Ph: Email:</p>
<p><i>Treasurer – Brian Planz</i> Ph: (713) 430-7400 Email: brian.planz@wilkensweather.com</p>	<p><i>Secretary – Jennifer Stein</i> Ph: (210) 844-9384 Email: jstein@impactweather.com</p>

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Houston Chapter boasts of one of the most diverse memberships in the country. Due to our location, we have meteorologists and scientists working for many different types of industry, government, private and media. These people are involved in forecasting and monitoring weather world-wide, right from Houston.

In addition, we welcome everyone and anyone who is interested in weather and weather-related topics.

Our dues are only \$15 per year. Funds are used to pay for dinner and thank you gifts for our speakers, and provide awards for the winners of the Houston AMS Special Awards at the Science and Engineering Fair of Houston held each spring.

If you'd like to become a member, please fill out the form below with your most recent information, include \$15 cash or check and turn it into any officer. If you prefer, you can mail the form and money to our Treasurer. Please see the address below. Checks should be made out to: *Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society*

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Work or Home? (please circle one)

Email Address _____

Home phone number _____

Work _____

Mail to:

Brian Planz

c/o Wilkens Weather Technologies, Inc.

2925 Briar Park Drive, 7th Floor

Houston, TX 77042

This is for: ___ Dues/ ___ Address change.