



Houston Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

December 2012

Notes from the President –

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! With the temperature outside reaching the lower to middle 80s these first few days of December, it does not feel like the holidays are upon us, yet here we are nearing the end of 2012. As many of you have probably already noted, along with the above normal temperatures, we have had a very dry fall and most of southeast Texas has returned to a moderate to severe drought status. This is not good news for the fire threat during the upcoming late winter and early spring period prior to our annual our green-up.

As a reminder, we are still collecting dues (\$20) for this year, and you are welcome to pay at any of our upcoming meetings. Thanks to all who have already paid for this year, it is appreciated.

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“Sargassum Early Advisory System”

Speakers:

Robert K. Webster
Research Assistant
Texas A&M University Galveston

Dr. Tom Linton
Senior Lecturer (Emeritus)
Texas A&M University Galveston

Thursday, December 13th
6:30pm Dinner/Meeting

Dinner & Meeting Location:

Texas A&M Galveston
Integrated Coastal and Marine Lab

Speaker Information-

Robert K. Webster:

Robert is in the process of working on his PhD at Texas A&M University in Wildlife and Fisheries. He has a BS (2003) and MS (2004) from TAMUG in Marine Resources Management and Marine Science Ocean and Coastal Resources. Robert developed and implemented the Sargassum Early Advisory System (SEAS). He is a licensed Captain and has piloted multiple research trips with TAMUG.

Tom Linton:

Tom Graduated from the University of Michigan with a PhD in Fisheries Resource Management in 1965.

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Notes from the President continued...

I am pleased to announce that Mr. Robert Webster and Dr. Tom Linton have agreed to host our next meeting at Texas A&M University Galveston. They will be speaking about their forecasting/modeling system for the arrival of Sargassum on Galveston beaches. This forecast problem is tied to weather patterns that affect large scale surface winds and ocean currents. I think this will be a great opportunity for our group to learn about an interesting application of long range weather forecasting, and also to provide helpful insight to Robert and Tom.



Sargassum beach cast along Pirates Beach April 5th 2006

We will be sending out an Evite request for this meeting with further details including the room location and parking information. Thanks in advance for your response, as it really helps Chris and I to know how many will attend, so we can give a head count for our dinner planning needs. The plan for this meeting is to eat dinner during the meeting as the university cafeteria will be providing sandwiches, chips, etc. We will ask that everyone bring \$6 for the meal.

Thanks,
Lance

Speaker Information continued...

Dr. Linton was a research scientist at the University of Georgia's Marine Institute on Sapelo Island, Georgia, where he developed the state's oyster management plan for the Georgia Game and Fish Commission, which is still in use today. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, served as the Commissioner of Fisheries of the State of North Carolina, where he served on the 15-member committee of the Council of State Governments As Director of the Office of Marine Affairs of North Carolina from 1973-1975, he guided the development of the draft legislation which became the State of North Carolina's coastal zone management program. In 1975, he moved to Australia to serve as the Director of Environmental Studies at the State of Victoria's Ministry for Conservation. Returning to Texas in 1979, he served as the Director of Environmental Programs at the Gulf University Research Consortium (GURC), where he conducted field testing of the environmental impact of newly-developed oil dispersant for use on the largest oil spill in North America, which occurred in the Gulf of Campeche, Mexico. Based on this research, the dispersant was given approval by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and is still in use today, most recently at the Deepwater Horizon spill in the Gulf of Mexico. In 1981, Dr. Linton joined the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Science at Texas A&M University. In the course of his 20-plus years with the university, he served as the chairman and major advisor on the graduate committees for sixty Masters Students and ten PhDs. After retiring from Texas A&M in College Station in 2002, Dr. Linton returned home to Galveston County. At the time, Texas A&M in Galveston had just started a graduate program in Marine Resource Management. He was asked to teach two core curriculum courses (Coastal Zone Management and Wetlands Management). He continues to teach these courses to the present time and as well as chair graduate committees. In 2012, Dr. Linton was presented with the Teaching Excellence Award, the Texas A&M System's highest honor for its educators in all fields.

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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

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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 \$20 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 \$20 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.