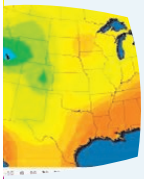
▶ READ ABOUT OUR SUITE OF HURRICANE PRODUCTS.....1

▶ EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: MEET OP RICARDO HUMPHREYS.....2



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ISSUE 15 | Summer | 2016

Tallahassee topics

NEWS AND NOTES FROM YOUR LOCAL NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE OFFICE.

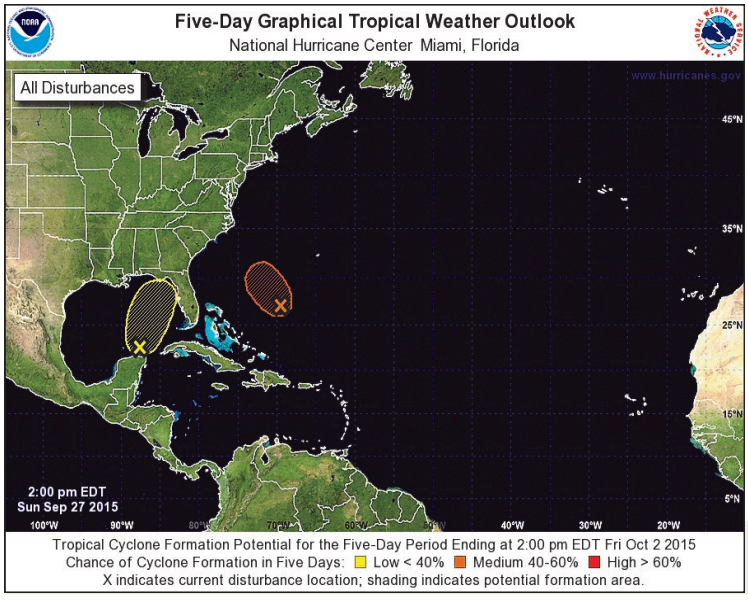
The National Weather Service (NWS) office in Tallahassee, FL provides weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for Southeast Alabama, Southwest & South Central Georgia, the Florida Panhandle and Big Bend, and the adjacent Gulf of Mexico coastal waters. Our primary mission is the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the local economy.

Hurricane Products

By Jessica Fieux

Hurricane season is here! The season runs from June 1 to November 30, however tropical systems can form anytime of the year, as is evidenced by Hurricane Alex that formed in January of this year and Tropical Storm Bonnie that formed over Memorial Day weekend. If a tropical system threatens, it's important to know where to obtain information about the threats and we'll discuss tropical products, where to find them, and how to use them in the next few paragraphs.

Example of a Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook



The National Hurricane Center (www.hurricanes.gov) is a great starting place to see if there are potential tropical threats over the next five days. During hurricane season, the National Hurricane Center (NHC) issues the Tropical Weather Outlook four times per day. This product is provided in a two- and five-day graphical format in addition to a text product. In the Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook, you can obtain the probabilities of tropical formation over the next five days. Note the Five-Day Graphical Tropical Weather Outlook will not include current storms, only potential development.

2016 Atlantic Basin Names

~~Alex~~	Ian	Richard
~~Bonnie~~	Julia	Shary
~~Colin~~	Karl	Tobias
~~Danielle~~	Lisa	Virginie
Earl	Matthew	Walter
Fiona	Nicole	
Gaston	Otto	
Hermine	Paula	

Employee Spotlight: *Ricardo Humphreys*

Observation Program Leader since 2016

By Katie Moore & Ricardo Humphreys

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What got you interested in the weather?

When I was about 8 years old a tree in my backyard was struck by lightning; I was hooked. Ever since that day, I was obsessed with learning everything I could about the weather and how it works. The thirst to learn more eventually lead me to study atmospheric science in college.

Where did you take your studies?

I went to a plethora of schools including TCC here in Tallahassee, though I ended up graduating with a degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Washington.

You've worked out west as a SCEP in Seattle, WA and an intern in Tucson, AZ. What drew you to the southeast?

I've always been interested in tropical meteorology, but was torn at times between more classic severe weather. The southeast has both in spades, I couldn't think of a better place for me to be.

What are your favorite and least favorite aspects of the job?

Severe weather days are my favorite; I'm blessed to work at an office with such a high caliber staff of meteorologists that I feel every severe day I learn something from them I didn't know at the start of the day. At the end of a busy day you feel like you made a difference, and it's a good feeling.

I landed my dream job. I'll be sure to let you know if I ever find anything I don't like (Don't hold your breath though).

Do you have any advice for students who are interested in meteorology?

If you're interested in meteorology, don't shy away from the harder math and computer science classes, the more experience you have before you start your core classes the better. Also, don't wait until you graduate as a meteorologist to get work experience; volunteer where you can (NWS, Local Media, etc.). That experience will look amazing on your resume and give you an inside look into the career field.

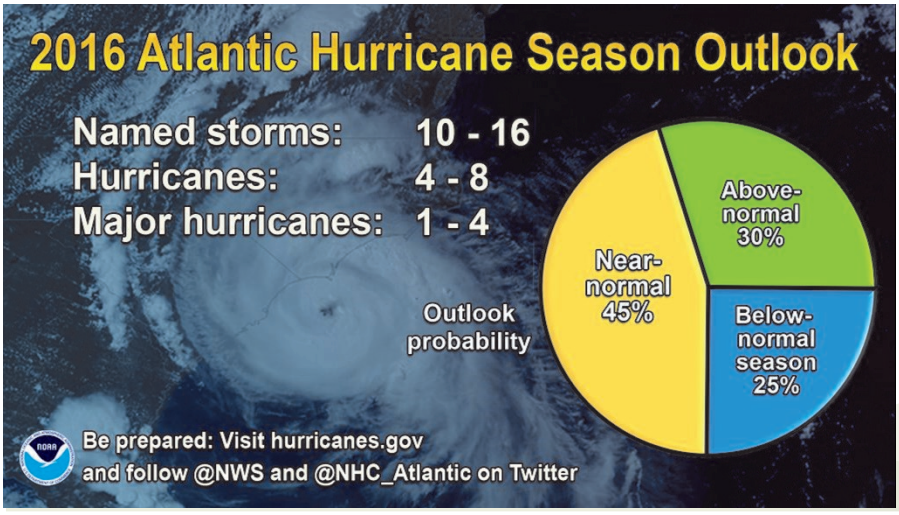
When you're not working here, what do you like to do?

When I'm not at work, I'm usually spending time with my amazing wife. We enjoy a healthy habit of video games, golf and messing with the dog (his name is Divot). I'm not necessarily great at any of those, but I do enjoy myself.

Hurricane Season Outlook

By Tim Barry

June 1st marks the first day of hurricane season which runs through the end of November. The official outlook from NOAA calls for a 70% likelihood that there will be 10 to 16 named storms this season (winds of 39 mph or higher), of which four to eight could become hurricanes (winds of 74 mph or higher). In a normal year, there are 12 named storms, six become hurricanes with two to three major hurricanes (Category 3, 4 or 5; winds of 111 mph or higher). As of this writing, there have already been four named storms so far in 2016. Two tropical systems formed before the official start of the hurricane season. Hurricane Alex was the first Atlantic hurricane to form in the month of January since 1938. Alex formed in the northern Atlantic January 13th and eventually made landfall in the Azores on Jan 15th . Tropical Storm Bonnie formed off the South Carolina coast over Memorial Day weekend making landfall near Charleston on May 29th. Tropical Storm Colin formed over the eastern Gulf of Mexico on June 5th making landfall across the southeast Big Bend of Florida on June 6th. Finally, Tropical Storm Danielle formed off the southeast coast of Mexico on the morning of June 20th and made landfall just north of Tuxpan, Mexico that same evening.



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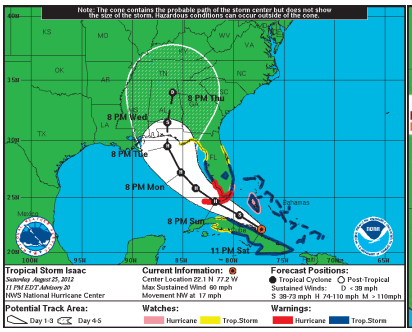
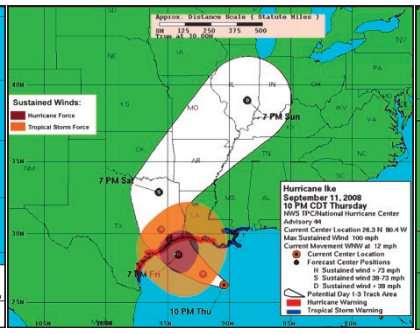
Hurricane Products

(Continued from page 1)

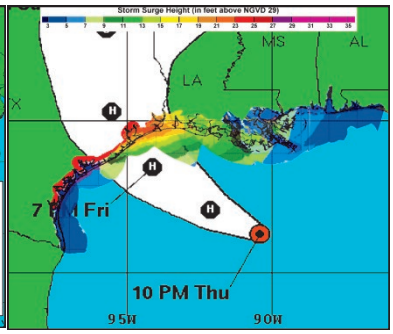
Once a storm is numbered (depression) or named (tropical storm or hurricane), the National Hurricane Center will begin issuing advisories on the system, and for each advisory, a forecast track graphic with the cone of uncertainty is provided. This graphic depicts the current position of the storm and the most likely track of the storm's center. There are a few important points to remember when reviewing the track forecast and cone of uncertainty. First, the cone of uncertainty is based on the average track error from the past five years. In general, the center of the storm, will track within the cone two-thirds of the time and outside the cone, one-third of the time. Thus, it's not guaranteed the storm's center will remain in the cone! The second important point is the cone of uncertainty does not convey impacts. Heavy rain, storm surge and tropical storm/hurricane force winds can reach well beyond the cone of uncertainty. These two graphics (middle and right) clearly show how storm surge and strong winds can stretch beyond the cone.



Forecast Track & Cone of Uncertainty

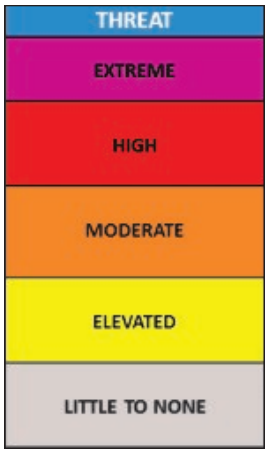


Forecast Track & Cone of Uncertainty with wind speed overlaid



Forecast Track & Cone of Uncertainty with storm surge values overlaid

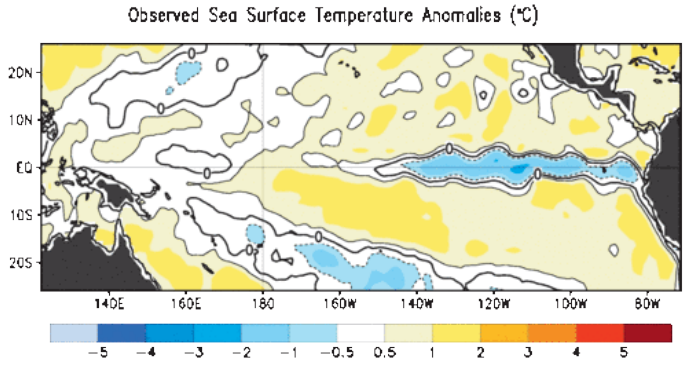
When a tropical storm/hurricane watch or warning is issued, additional tropical products will be available at the local level – these include the Local Watch/Warning Statement, the Hurricane Local Statement and Hurricane Threats and Impacts Graphics. The Local Watch/Warning Statement will be issued when Tropical Storm/Hurricane Watches or Warnings are in effect and will provide information regarding the watch/warning in addition to specifics on the surge, flooding rain, tornado and wind threats. If watches and warnings are in effect, a Hurricane Local Statement will also be issued. While this product will also contain information about all four of the main hurricane hazards, it will be a broad overview of the threats for the entire NWS Tallahassee area that is under the watch or warning. Both of these products will be available on our homepage (www.weather.gov/tallahassee) – click on your area and links to these two products will be provided at the top of the forecast page when the products are in effect. The other main product that will be produced locally are the Hurricane Threats and Impacts (HTI) Graphics. These graphics will display the threat expected from the tropical system on a scale from little to none to extreme for each of the four main tropical hazards (flooding rain, surge, tornadoes and wind). In addition, impacts associated with each threat level will be provided. Once the website is completed, these graphics will be available at (www.weather.gov/hti).



HTI Graphics Scale

El Niño Southern Oscillation Update

By Katie Moore



The latest El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) discussion shows that sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies in the equatorial Pacific continued their decreasing trend from February through May, with near to below normal SSTs beginning to develop in the eastern Pacific. The subsurface temperature anomalies in the equatorial Pacific have already become negative. While the oceanic anomalies are already trending towards ENSO-neutral conditions, the atmospheric anomalies remained consistent with El Niño conditions during May. Most models predict that we will finish the transition to ENSO-neutral conditions early this summer. There is a 75% chance of La Niña conditions during the fall and winter 2016-17, though there remains uncertainty as to when the transition to La Niña conditions will occur and how intense the La Niña will be.

Management-Admin Team

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Mark Wool, WCM
Parks Camp, SOO
Doug Sherrick, ESA
Chris Duggan, ASA
Toan Tran, ITO
Kelly Godsey, Hydrologist

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Jeff Fournier
Don Van Dyke
Donal Harrigan
Jessica Fieux
Blair Scholl

Journeyman Forecasters

Tim Barry
Katie Moore
Justin Pullin
Andy Lahr
Vacant

HMTs

Ricardo Humphreys, OPL

Interns

Claudia (Jeanie) McDermott
Emma Weston
Vacant

Electronic Technicians

Ron Eimiller
Vacant

Outreach Efforts

By Mark Wool

NWS Tallahassee continued to interact with the community in many different ways during the spring months. We conducted several office tours for school children of all ages, including home-schooled students. On March 10, WCM Mark Wool attended a quarterly meeting with emergency managers and government officials from across the Florida Big Bend to discuss the severe weather season. In April, the NWS staffed a booth at the Springtime Tallahassee festival (pictured). Mark interacted with Georgia emergency managers at the annual Emergency Management Association of Georgia Summit in Savannah, GA from April 20-22. FAMU officials toured the office on April 25th. Mark manned a booth and discussed preparedness at the 2nd Annual Hurricane Awareness Event in Taylor County on April 28th. The next day, Mark, Katie Moore and Jessica Fieux met with representative of the FSU School of Communication to discuss ways the school might help improve our safety messaging while providing their students internship opportunities with the NWS. In May, Mark attended the 30th Annual Florida Governor's Hurricane Conference in Orlando, FL where he participated in several training session involving emergency managers, government officials and the media. Mark conducted SKYWARN Spotter Training for the Walton County ARES group over in De Funiak Springs on the 16th and FAMU officials on the 24th. On May 25th, Mark, Jessica and Kelly Godsey provided hurricane season training for area EMs in Marianna, FL. The next day, Kelly provided similar training at the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, GA with personnel from four other military bases across the Southeast joining in via teleconference. On the 31st, Mark attended a Hurricane Awareness Course offered by the National Disaster Preparedness Training Center out of Honolulu, HI. The training was FEMA-certified and arranged by FSU EM, Dave Bujak. Mark acted as a subject matter expert and fielded questions from the class.

Spring Summary & Summer Outlook

By Tim Barry

The climate for Tallahassee during the 3-month period of March through May was hotter than normal with an average temperature of 70.3 degrees, 3.4 above normal. The maximum temperature recorded at the Tallahassee International Airport during spring was 97 degrees on May 30th . The lowest temperature was 34 degrees on the March 22nd . The high temperature of 88 degrees on March 14th and 89 degrees on March 16th , set new maximum temperature records for those dates. There were no other temperature records tied or broken during the reminder of spring. Climatologically, spring is Tallahassee's driest season with April on average the driest month of the year. This spring was wetter than normal with rainfall measuring 14.70", 2.23" above normal. It was wetter thanks in part to a very wet April. Normally we see only 3.06" of rain in April but this year the Tallahassee International Airport recorded 6.49". We received 6.50" of rain in March, which was 0.56" above normal. May was very dry with only 1.71", 1.76" below normal. The greatest rainfall amount in a 24-hour period this past spring was 3.85" from April 1st -2nd . A thunderstorm at the airport produced a peak wind gust of 46 mph from the northwest on March 24th.

Looking ahead to summer (June through August) the Climate Prediction Center calls for an enhanced chance for experiencing above normal temperatures and equal chances of experiencing above, below, or normal rainfall. The average temperature for Tallahassee during summer is 81.3 degrees and the average rainfall is 22.25 inches. On average, about 38% of Tallahassee's annual rainfall occurs during summer which is Tallahassee's convective season.

Recent Office Changes

By Katie Moore

There have been several promotions, new arrivals, and departures at the Tallahassee office recently! This spring, Kelly Godsey officially became our office hydrologist. Katie Moore was promoted in-house as well, from an intern to a general forecaster. We also have a new observation program leader, Ricardo Humphreys. Ricardo comes to us from the Tucson, AZ office where he was an intern. Justin Pullin and Andy Lahr joined our office this month as new general forecasters. Justin comes to us from WFO Las Vegas, NV and Andy (who was formerly student volunteer here) returned from the Twin Cities, MN office. We also have a new lead forecaster, Blair Scholl, who came from the Brownsville, TX office. Finally, we had to say farewell to two of our volunteers, Molly Merrifield and Nikki Hathaway, both of whom will be joining the WFO Houston, TX team as interns this summer. Molly was also the deputy state meteorologist at the Florida Division of Emergency Management. Finally, forecaster Alex Lamers has left us to work as the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS) program coordination officer. Congratulations to all of you!

Volunteers (from left to right) Sid King, Kirsten Chaney, Nikki Hathaway, Molly Merrifield, and Ryan Bennett at Nikki and Molly's send-off dinner.