

# Shareholders' Report 2009

National Weather Service • Weather Forecast Office • Peachtree City, Georgia



## Big News Items of 2009

- Historic Flooding (pages 6 and 10)
- WFO Wins DOC Silver Medal (page 3)
- Decision Support Program Evolves (page 10)

*In Fiscal Year 2009, Congress appropriated \$958,900,000 to the NWS which equates to an "investment" of \$3.21 per U.S. citizen.*

*This Shareholders' Report provides an accounting of what the NWS office in Peachtree City is doing with its portion of your investment.*

## Inside this issue:

Georgia Weather Overview	4
Severe Weather Performance	6
Hydro & Fire	7
Aviation, CWSU	8, 10
Forecast Performance	9
Web Site Status	12
Outreach	14
Systems	14
Coop Observer Program	15

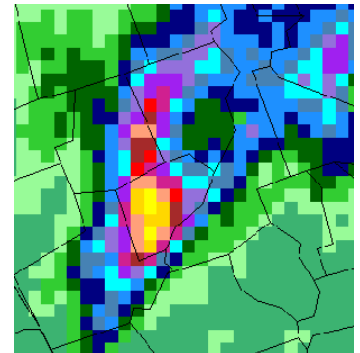
## Status Quo is Not an Option!

Lans P. Rothfusz  
Meteorologist in Charge

Like any Weather Forecast Office (WFO) in the National Weather Service (NWS) after a major weather event, the Peachtree City WFO looks carefully for ways in which warning services and public response might be improved. This was the case after the deadly September floods in North Georgia—especially the fateful morning of September 21 when flooding claimed the lives of ten people. To say this was an epic event is not hyperbole. Receiving >16" of rain in a 24-hour period is beyond a 10,000 year event, meaning there is much less than 0.01% chance of such a rainfall event occurring in any given year. On top of that, the

bulk of the rain fell at a less-than-ideal time (in the middle of the night, at the end of a weekend). Forecasting such a small-scale, rare and epic event with reasonable lead time is unfortunately beyond the state of today's science. Even if it were possible, the public must still respond appropriately.

As you will see in this newsletter, ours is not an office that sits still. We pride ourselves in learning from every event we work. We will continue improving our science and skills. We're collaborating with emergency managers to develop innovative changes in flood warning procedures. Social scientists and other human behavior experts are helping us address public response. These steps will undoubtedly



*24-hour rainfall ending September 21st showing >16" bulls-eye (yellow) over Douglas County. Warnings were in effect, yet eight people perished in this area.*

reduce the loss of life and property over time, but they do take time to develop.

While we regret the loss of life and property to any weather phenomenon, we want you to know that such losses only drive us harder. Read on and learn how we accomplished some of this in 2009. ☀

## Severe Weather 2009

Robert Beasley & Laura Griffith  
Meteorologists  
Verona Murrell  
Senior Meteorologist

Despite 2009 bringing the most warnings ever to WFO FFC (1,748 severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings), the year will best be remembered for the catastrophic late September flooding. Not only was the lingering three-year drought completely erased, the flooding was exacerbated by frequent heavy rain events October through December, including a late season hurricane Ida in

mid-November. Eight-one flash flood events and 154 warnings were the most for WFO FFC since 2003. Flash flooding occurred in every month except January, February, April and June. Tornadoes were not lacking either. Although down slightly from the record 38 tornadoes of 2008, 34 tornadoes affecting 44 counties were confirmed in 2009, well above the 14-year annual average of 14. Thirty tornadoes (88% of annual totals) occurred during the first four months. After this flurry, no tornadoes occurred in the Peachtree City CWA until mid-October when only the second October

tornado on record for our area touched down on October 15th.

For the second consecutive year, February proved to be a significant severe weather month, with ten tornadoes occurring on February 18<sup>th</sup>. After a relatively quiet March, two major severe weather events in April brought 14 (April 10) and two (April 19) tornadoes. The April 10<sup>th</sup> event followed just three days after a period of record cold weather, freezing temperatures, and even some snow! On the contrary, May and July, often

*(Continued on page 3)*

### *Top 25 North and Central Georgia Weather Events for 2009*

	Date	Counties	Cause	Damage	Deaths	Injuries	Cost
<b>1</b>	20-Sep to 23-Sep	Douglas	Flood/Flash Flood	Catastrophic flash flooding and flooding resulted in 6 deaths and damage to hundreds of homes and businesses, many totally destroyed.	7	0	20.01M
<b>2</b>	13-Apr	North & West GA	High Wind (max 50 kt)	Winds of 50 to 60 mph caused widespread damage to trees, power lines, and structures. One person died when a tree struck his vehicle.	1	3	3.15M
<b>3</b>	18-Feb	Hancock, Warren & Glascock	Tornado (EF3)	An EF3 tornado touched down in Hancock county and continued into Warren and Glascock counties. A church, 2 site-built homes, and 4 mobile homes were destroyed, resulting in 1 fatality and 3 injuries.	1	3	0.50M
<b>4</b>	21-Sep to 23-Sep	Gwinnett	Flood/Flash Flood	Catastrophic flash flooding and flooding resulted in significant damage to homes, businesses and roads. A woman died when her vehicle was washed away in the flood waters.	1	0	25.02M
<b>5</b>	21-Sep to 23-Sep	Carroll	Flood/Flash Flood	Record flash flooding and flooding resulted in damage to homes, businesses and roads. A child died when a mobile home washed away in the flood waters.	1	0	22.95M
<b>6</b>	21-Sep to 23-Sep	Chattooga	Flood/Flash Flood	Significant flash flooding and flooding caused the Chattooga River to breach levees, flooding Trion. Dozens of homes and businesses sustained significant damage. A teenager died in an attempt to rescue a person from flood waters.	1	0	11.98M
<b>7</b>	19-Apr	Cherokee	Tornado (EF1)	An EF1 tornado touched down near Woodstock. More than 120 homes were damaged, 12 were completely destroyed. Two residents were injured by debris.	0	2	5.0M
<b>8</b>	7-Jan	North & Central GA	Strong Wind (Max 39 kts)	Wind gusts of 35 to 45 mph, associated with a cold front, caused damage to trees and powerlines in 11 counties, resulting in 2 injuries.	0	2	95.0K
<b>9</b>	10-Apr	Hancock	Tornado (EF3)	An EF3 tornado touched down in Hancock county, destroying 1 site-built home and 1 double-wide mobile home, and damaging 4 others. One person suffered serious injuries.	0	1	0.75M
<b>10</b>	21-Aug	Paulding	Lightning	Nine homes were struck by lightning. Two strikes resulted in fires. One individual was injured as a result of a lightning strike.	0	1	0.25M
<b>11</b>	18-Feb	Putnam	Tornado (EF1)	An EF1 tornado touched down west of Eatonton and lifted at the Hancock county line, destroying 3 commercial buildings. One person was injured from debris.	0	1	0.20M
<b>12</b>	21-Sep	Floyd	Flood	Minor flooding was observed on some roads in the county. A male was injured in a storm drain when raging high water attempted to carry him downstream.	0	1	15.0K
<b>13</b>	18-Feb	Spalding	Lightning	A person was struck and injured by lightning.	0	1	0
<b>14</b>	28-Feb	Harris	Lightning	A woman was stuck and injured by lightning.	0	1	0
<b>15</b>	12-Jul	Gwinnett	Lightning	A woman, at her residence in Lawrenceville, suffered non-life threatening injuries after lightning struck a nearby tree.	0	1	0
<b>16</b>	4-Aug	Gwinnett	Lightning	A teenage girl suffered minor injuries as a result of a nearby lightning strike.	0	1	0
<b>17</b>	21-Sep to 23-Sep	Cherokee	Flood/Flash Flood	Record flash flooding and flooding caused significant damage to hundreds of homes, apartments, and businesses. Some culverts and bridges were washed out and several roads were closed, including Interstate-575 near Woodstock.	0	0	53.04M
<b>18</b>	21-Sep to 23-Sep	Cobb	Flood/Flash Flood	Catastrophic flash flooding and flooding resulted in damages to hundreds of homes, apartments, and businesses. A number of culverts and bridges were washed out and several roads were closed.	0	0	29.95M
<b>19</b>	19-Sep to 23-Sep	DeKalb	Flood/Flash Flood	Record flash flooding and flooding caused damage to hundreds of homes, apartments, businesses and roads.	0	0	10.04M
<b>20</b>	19-Sep to 23-Sep	Walker	Flood/Flash Flood	Extensive flash flooding and flooding resulted in significant damage to dozens of homes. At least 20 roads were closed.	0	0	9.0M
<b>21</b>	18-Feb	Fayette	Hail	Baseball-sized hail caused extensive damage to homes and cars.	0	0	8.0M
<b>22</b>	18-Feb	Clayton	Hail	Baseball-sized hail caused extensive damage to homes and cars in Jonesboro.	0	0	6.0M
<b>23</b>	19-Sep to 23-Sep	Paulding	Flood/Flash Flood	Record to catastrophic flash flooding and flooding resulted in damage to hundreds of homes, apartments, businesses, and roads.	0	0	4.0M
<b>24</b>	18-Feb	Coweta	Hail	Softball-sized hail caused extensive damage to homes and vehicles.	0	0	4.0M
<b>25</b>	19-Apr	Muscogee	Tornado (EF1)	An EF1 tornado moved into Columbus after touching down in Phenix City, AL. Columbus State University's campus sustained significant damage. Over 100 structures suffered minor to moderate damage.	0	0	3.0M

## Severe Weather 2009

(Continued from page 1)

the most convectively active months, were unusually quiet with only 49 severe convective events in May (average is 86) and six severe convective events in July (average is 59), the second lowest July total ever for WFO FFC. The July through September period brought only 28% of normal severe convective events for this period, largely a result of persistent northwest flow aloft.

While an unprecedented five tornadoes affected Carroll county in 2008, Hancock county in east central Georgia won that dubious prize in 2009 with four tornadoes. A church and several small neighborhoods were destroyed. Hancock county also recorded the only 2009 tornado death, as well as four tornado-related injuries, the most for a WFO FFC county during 2009.

But by far the event that many Georgians will remember for years, was the catastrophic flooding of late September. September 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> will long be remembered for some of the worst flooding ever recorded in Georgia. Rainfall of 15 to 20+ inches on totally

saturated ground fell in several west and north Atlanta metro counties (Carroll, Douglas, Paulding, Cobb, Fulton, DeKalb, and Gwinnett) between 9 pm September 20<sup>th</sup> and 10 am September 21<sup>st</sup>. Rivers and creeks in the area reached all time record high levels washing out roads, destroying homes, and killing ten people. Damages from this flood event mounted to at least \$250 million. While nothing of similar magnitude occurred during the remainder of 2009, the area was left primed for repeated flash flood/flood events October through December. Many north/central Georgia rivers and streams remained at or above flood stage throughout this period.

Winter was somewhat more notable during 2009 than in previous years. An unusually late snow storm brought five to nine inches of heavy, wet snow to several north/central Georgia counties on March 1<sup>st</sup>. The weight of the snow resulted in widespread power outages and significant damage to several buildings in northeast Georgia.

Overall, 380 severe convective events were recorded during the year, down considerably

from 527 events in 2008. The 81 flash flood events were the most since 2003, when 196 such events occurred. The number of severe convective events was 88% of the 14-year CWA average of 431. The 2009 “event counts” by season and their 15-year normals (in parentheses) were: January–March: 75 (68); April–June: 249 (228); July–September: 31 (110); and October–December: 25 (25).

### Deaths and Injuries

Twelve weather-related fatalities were recorded during 2009. With the exception of 1998, this is the most ever for WFO FFC. Eight of these were flash flood-related, the most ever for WFO FFC. Two additional deaths were caused by subsequent flooding. There was one tornado and one high wind event death. Eighteen weather-related injuries were recorded. Seven of these were the result of tornadoes, five from lightning, three from high wind, two from strong wind, and one from flooding.

### Property Damage

At \$362M, weather-inflicted property damage in 2009 was

(Continued on page 5)

2009 Deaths and Injuries		
Event	Deaths	Injuries
Tornado	1	7
T-storm Wind	0	0
Hail	0	0
Lightning	0	5
Flash Flood	8	0
Flood	2	1
High Wind	1	3
Strong Wind	0	2

2009 Weather-Related Damage	
Phenomenon	Losses
Floods	\$259,060,000
Hail	\$58,756,000
Tornadoes	\$16,412,000
Flash Floods	\$12,279,000
Thunderstorm Wind	\$6,100,500
Lightning	\$5,603,000
High Winds	\$3,318,000
Strong Winds	\$411,000

## WFO Peachtree City Receives DOC's Second-Highest Award

Lans Rothfus  
Meteorologist in Charge

This past November, we accepted the Department of Commerce's Silver Medal in recognition for our performance during the March 15, 2008 tornado outbreak. We were honored to be only one of two NWS offices to receive this prestigious award in 2009.

The tornado outbreak struck when our staff was decimated by the flu and while others were conducting damage surveys for the downtown Atlanta tornado the previous night. Tornado warnings began just after noon and lasted long into the night. Two people were killed and three were injured in the first tornado of the day. Because of a timely call from our office to

the Floyd County Emergency Manager, however, firefighters working a lightning fire were cleared out of the path of the tornado before it hit, saving several lives. For this event, 96.1% of the events were warned. 240 warnings were issued, with an average lead time of 19 minutes. ☀



Department of Commerce's Silver Medal awarded to WFO Peachtree City for its performance during the March 15, 2008 tornado outbreak.

## General Weather Overview: 2009

Paul Denault  
CWSU Meteorologist

*"[September] rainfall totals were more than two to three times the average for Atlanta (8.94"), Athens (9.86"), and Macon (10.68")."*

After three years of drought, 2009 was an extraordinary year for excess precipitation across north and central Georgia. However, a dry January and February hinted that more of the same was in store for the parched region. Warmer than normal monthly averages only compounded the problem. Then, on February 28, record rainfall of 2.75" in Columbus, along with 1.61" in Atlanta began a drought-reversing trend.

March 1<sup>st</sup> witnessed the first heavy snow in seven years with daily records of 6.5" set in Ath-

ens and Columbus. This also set the March snowfall record in Columbus. Two heavy precipitation events in March contributed to monthly surpluses in all four cities. It was the 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest March on record in Columbus with 12.7". Also, Macon with 7.78" was nearly 3" above normal. April rainfall again exceeded the average in all four cities. On April 2, a drenching of 2.78" in Macon broke a 71 year old record for the date. Similarly, on the 13<sup>th</sup>, Columbus received a soaking 2.33". Ample precipitation continued in May, as Atlanta (+0.59"), Columbus (+1.48"), and Macon (+2.75") were wetter than average. Temperatures, on the other hand, moderated by late May, reaching 90° F in Athens, Columbus and Macon on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

June became the year's warmest month as all four cities recorded monthly averages more than 2° F above normal. High temperatures reached 90° F or above on 17 to 23 days among the four locations.

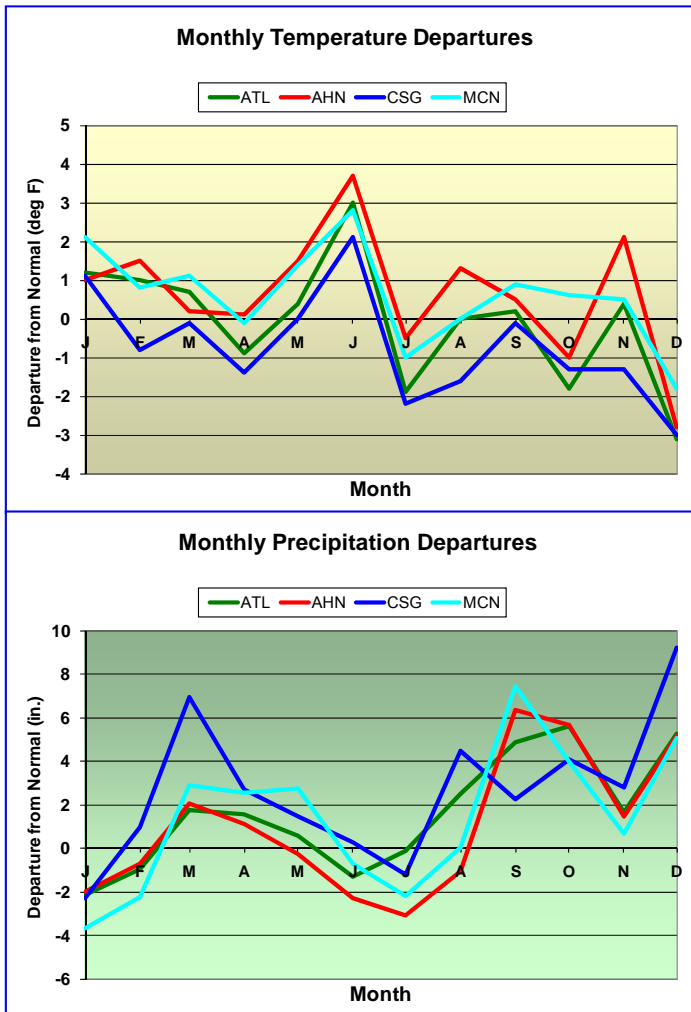
During this heat wave, rainfall became infrequent, and all locations except Columbus recorded rainfall deficits ranging from 0.74" in Macon to 2.28" in Athens. Drier than average conditions persisted in July, as all four locations posted rainfall deficits. Temperatures moderated though, as monthly averages were cooler than normal by as much as 1.9° F and 2.2° F in Atlanta and Columbus, respectively. A surplus of rainfall returned to parts of north and central Georgia in August, due in part to the remnants of T.S. Claudette. Atlanta received an excess of 2.47", while Columbus recorded more than twice its monthly average with 8.26".

A strengthening El Nino/Southern Oscillation (ENSO) warm

episode in the tropical Pacific established a wet pattern across the southeastern U.S. for the fall and early winter. During eight days in mid-September, prolonged periods of heavy rain resulted in flooding which set or broke several high water marks. Monthly rainfall totals were more than two to three times the average for Atlanta (8.94"), Athens (9.86"), and Macon (10.68"). It was the 3<sup>rd</sup> wettest September in Macon, the 4<sup>th</sup> wettest in Athens, and the 5<sup>th</sup> wettest in Atlanta.

The monsoon-like pattern continued through October. Four potent systems brought record rainfall again to north Georgia. On the 12<sup>th</sup>, a deluge of 3.84" in Athens and 2.5" in Atlanta, broke previous records of 2.7" and 1.34", respectively. By Halloween, both Athens and Atlanta had recorded their 2<sup>nd</sup> wettest October ever with 9.14" and 8.71", respectively. October was cooler than average, except in Macon (+0.6° F). Although, not as wet as the previous two months, November also received well above average rainfall.

As the El Nino evolved into a strong episode, rainfall totals again spiked during December. Four moisture laden storms soaked Atlanta, Athens, Columbus, and Macon with 9.10", 8.87", 13.62", and 8.98" of rainfall, respectively. Not only was the Columbus total a new record for December, but it also set the record for their wettest month ever. Incredibly, it was enough to set a new yearly record with 80.20", eclipsing the old record of 73.22" set in 1964. December temperatures cooled dramatically, as departures from normal ranged from -1.9° F in Macon to -3.1° F in Atlanta. ☀



Charts showing the departures from normal for rainfall and temperatures in 2009.

## Severe Weather 2009

(Continued from page 3)

the highest ever reported in the CWA, easily surpassing the \$262M of 2008. Flooding contributed to 75% or \$271.34M of the 2009 weather-related damages.

Several large hail storms in February and April pushed hail to second in the list, with \$58.76M. Despite the number of tornadoes, the \$16.41M in related damages accounted for only 4% of the total damages. Other notable damages

included thunderstorm wind (\$6.1M), lightning (\$5.6M), and high/strong wind (\$3.73M). There were 118 weather-related events in 2009 with estimated damages  $\geq$ \$250,000, compared with 113 in 2008. ☀

### Tornadoes in Peachtree City NWS Forecast Area in 2009

Date	County	Location	Strength	Path		Deaths	Injuries	Damage
				Length (mi)	Width (yds)			
6-Jan	Chattooga	1 SSW Rowell Siding to Holland	EF0	2.0	100	0	0	50K
7-Jan	Monroe	1 W Smarr to 2 ENE Smarr	EF0	2.9	100	0	0	25K
18-Feb	Taylor	3 SW Potterville	EF0	3.9	33	0	0	50K
18-Feb	Houston	2 SE Elberta	EF0	0.1	1	0	0	0
18-Feb	Oconee	1 NW Turpin to 3 SSW Elder	EF1	5.4	880	0	0	0.20M
18-Feb	Jasper	1 W Smithboro to 2 E Smithboro	EF1	3.0	440	0	0	0.25M
18-Feb	Putnam	1 W Willard to 1 ENE Meda	EF1	8.7	1320	0	1	0.20M
18-Feb	Wilkes and McDuffie	Tyrone to 5 SSW Adasburg	EF3	18.6	880	0	0	0.30M
18-Feb	Newton	2 WNW Lassiter to 1 WSW Jamestown	EF1	2.8	200	0	0	0.63M
18-Feb	Jasper	9 WNW Shady Dale to 2 NW Shady Dale	EF1	7.2	440	0	0	0.13M
18-Feb	Meriwether, Coweta, and Spalding	2 NNW Luthersville to 1 S Blantons Mill	EF2	20.4	1760	0	0	1.33M
18-Feb	Hancock, Warren, and Glascock	3 SSE Culverton to 3 NNE Mitchell	EF3	10.4	500	1	3	0.55M
15-Mar	Marion and Schley	1 NW Putnam to 2 NW Walls Crossing	EF0	2.3	100	0	0	0.13M
28-Mar	Dooly	3 ESE Lilly	EF0	0.3	50	0	0	0.10M
10-Apr	Chattooga	1 NNE Fairview to 1 NE Fairview	EF2	0.3	200	0	0	0.90M
10-Apr	Pickens	2 NE Jasper to 5 ENE Jasper	EF1	3.4	440	0	0	25K
10-Apr	Forsyth	3 SE Dunn to 4 SE Dunn	EF1	0.2	200	0	0	0.20M
10-Apr	Chattahoochee	1 NW Central Springs to 1 SSE Halloca	EF1	3.7	440	0	0	0.10M
10-Apr	Chattahoochee	1 WSW Ida Vesper to 3 ESE Ida Vesper	EF1	3.7	100	0	0	0.15M
10-Apr	Hancock	2 NW Sparta to 3 NNW Sparta	EF0	1.1	33	0	0	10K
10-Apr	Hancock	1 WNW Granite Hill to 1 NW Granite Hill	EF0	0.3	33	0	0	7K
10-Apr	Hancock	1 WSW Sunshine to 3.5 SSW Mayfield	EF3	6.8	880	0	1	0.75M
10-Apr	Glascock	Gibson to 1 ESE Gibson	EF0	0.3	150	0	0	4K
10-Apr	Sumter, Dooly, and Wilcox	3 E Methvins to 4 S Five Points	EF1	25.1	250	0	0	0.63M
10-Apr	Dooly	2 N Vienna to 6 ENE Vienna	EF0	5.6	100	0	0	50K
10-Apr	Sumter	2 NE Plains to 2 WSW New Point	EF1	1.2	200	0	0	5K
10-Apr	Glascock and Jefferson	2 W David to 2 NW Wrens Memorial Airport	EF1	4.6	200	0	0	0.10M
10-Apr	Sumter, Crisp, and Wilcox	Cobb to 1 E Owensboro	EF1	28.2	200	0	0	2.20M
19-Apr	Cherokee	4 ESE Woodstock to 4 WSW Arnold Mill	EF1	1.5	880	0	2	5M
19-Apr	Muscogee	1.4 WSW Columbus to 1 NW Wynnton	EF1	2.0	250	0	0	3M
15-Oct	Sumter	1 W Maddox to 1 ESE Maddox	EF1	2.1	100	0	0	0.13M
2-Dec	Jones	3 ESE Juliette to 4 E Juliette	EF0	1.5	100	0	0	15K
2-Dec	Putnam	4 W Eatonton to 4 WNW Eatonton	EF0	1.7	100	0	0	0.10M
2-Dec	Putnam	8 NNE Eatonton to 9 NNE Eatonton	EF0	0.8	100	0	0	0.12M

## Severe Weather Performance for 2009

Robert Handel  
Senior Meteorologist  
& Robert Beasley  
Meteorologist

*“This 33% greater lead time provided the public with, on average, an additional 4.5 minutes of time to reach safety...”*

Several enhancements to our severe weather operations for the 2009 convective season paid dividends this past year and will continue to do so in 2010. Some of the most noteworthy include a faster network connection to the Warner Robins AFB WSR-88D Radar allowing us to receive “super-resolution” radar imagery; a Hazards Monitor Situational Awareness Display (SAD) that analyzes and tracks severe weather events up to a week in advance and helps us to identify and more consistently convey potential weather risks in our outlooks, forecasts, and briefings; as well as two online severe weather reporting systems to get ground-truth information instantly from trained storm spotters in the field to our meteorologists issuing warnings.

During 2009, WFO Peachtree City issued 599 severe convective polygon warnings

	Exclusive Verification Method*			Inclusive Verification Method**
	Svr Tstm	Tornado	Flash Floods	Svr Tstm & Tornado
<b>Warnings Issued</b>	1410	340	154	1750
<b>Warned Events</b>	237	38	70	329
<b>Unverified Warnings</b>	1048	299	71	1239
<b>Unwarned events</b>	103	6	11	55
<b>Total Events</b>	340	44	81	384
<b>POD</b>	0.697	0.864	0.864	0.857
<b>FAR</b>	0.743	0.879	0.461	0.708
<b>CSI</b>	0.231	0.118	0.497	0.278
<b>Lead Time (min.)</b>	17.2	22.3	97.0	17.8

**POD** = Probability of Detection, our ability to issue warnings before damage occurs. Optimum POD is 1.00.  
**FAR** = False Alarm Rate, the percentage of warnings not verified. Optimum FAR is 0.00.  
**CSI** = Critical Success Index, a combination of the POD and FAR. Optimum CSI is 1.00.  
**Lead Time** = The time between warning issuance and first damage.  
 \*Severe Thunderstorm warnings only verified by large hail or damaging winds. Tornado warnings verified by tornadoes only. Flooding only verified by flash floods.  
 \*\* Tornado warnings verified with tornadoes, large hail, or damaging winds. Tornadoes also verify severe thunderstorm warnings.

affecting 1,750 counties, the highest number of counties ever warned and a slight increase over the 1,663 counties warned by 697 polygon warnings in 2008. Our warning numbers continue to be significantly above the 14-year average of 884 counties warned. The greatest number of counties warned were in April (532), May (305), February (290), and June (267). These months accounted for 80% of all warnings issued.

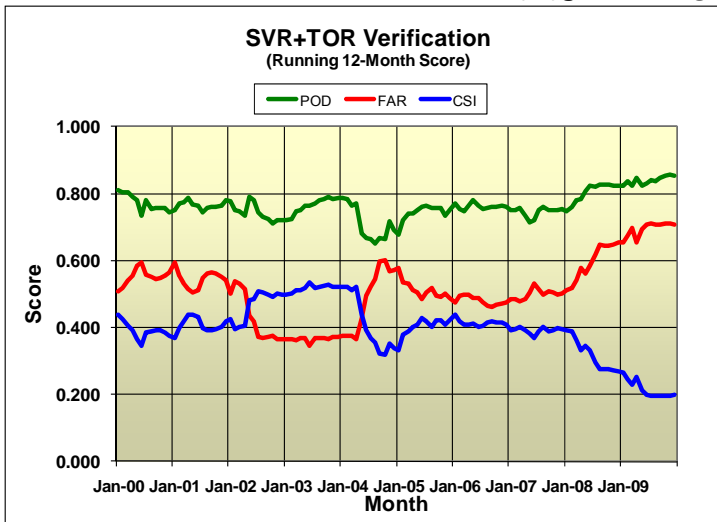
of warnings not verified for each county warned, increased from 0.650 (65.0%) in 2008 to 0.708 (70.8%) in 2009. The optimum FAR is 0.00. This increase partially reflects a gradual shift away from county-based warnings to storm-based warnings, which became official in FY08. Ignoring county boundaries, a severe weather event occurred in 49.9% of all severe convective polygon warnings.

The Probability of Detection (POD), which measures our ability to issue warnings before damage occurs, continues to improve, rising from 0.829 (82.9%) in 2008 to 0.857 (85.7%) in 2009 – higher than any other year on record since at least 2000. The optimum POD is 1.00 (100%).

The estimated average lead time (the time between warning issuance and first damage report) increased sharply from 13.3 minutes in 2008 to 17.8 minutes in 2009. This 33% greater lead time provided the public with, on average, an additional 4.5 minutes of time to reach safety ahead of an approaching severe thunderstorms and tornadoes.

The False Alarm Rate (FAR) which provides the percentage

(Continued on page 15)



Performance statistics for severe weather warnings using a rolling, 12-month methodology. Low FAR, high POD and high CSI are desired.

## Hydrology: The Floodgates Open!

Kent Frantz  
Senior Service Hydrologist

Rainfall amounts increased in 2009, with a wetter than normal year across most of Georgia. This was due to a moderately strong El Nino pattern beginning in June that continued through the end of the year. Most of Georgia received 110 to 150 percent of its normal annual rainfall with a few spots in the north from 90 to 100 percent.

Consequently, the three year historic drought ended in June with above normal rainfall beginning in August. Selected locations with annual rainfall and departure amounts include:

Atlanta (69.43", +19.23"), Athens (60.20", +12.37"), Columbus (80.20", +31.63") and Macon (61.54", +16.54"). A rainfall surplus over most of Georgia caused above normal flows on numerous streams. However, the greatest annual rainfall of 80 to 90 inches across the state occurred on the Tennessee Valley Divide ridge line between Amicalola Falls and Helen. This allowed Lake Lanier to reach full pool in October which was the first time in three years.

Georgia had a minimal tropical season this year. Tropical Storm Ida in November affected north and central Georgia with heavy rain and flash flooding of creeks and rivers in the upper

Chattahoochee River basin. Amounts of 3 to 6 inches were common.

The most hydrologic-active month was September with record flooding in the Chickamauga and Chattooga basins of northwest Georgia and the middle Chattahoochee and upper Ocmulgee basins in the north. This occurred when widespread 5 to 20 inches of rain fell in less than 36 hours. The heavy rain was associated with nearly stationary thunderstorms that had significant Gulf moisture and a strong upper level disturbance that "trained" thunderstorms over the same area the next day. ☀

### Hydro Tally for 2009

125	Flood watches
56	Flash flood warnings
79	Flash flood statements
299	River flood warnings
1081	Flood statements,
24	Flood potential outlooks.

## Fire Weather Surpasses Goals

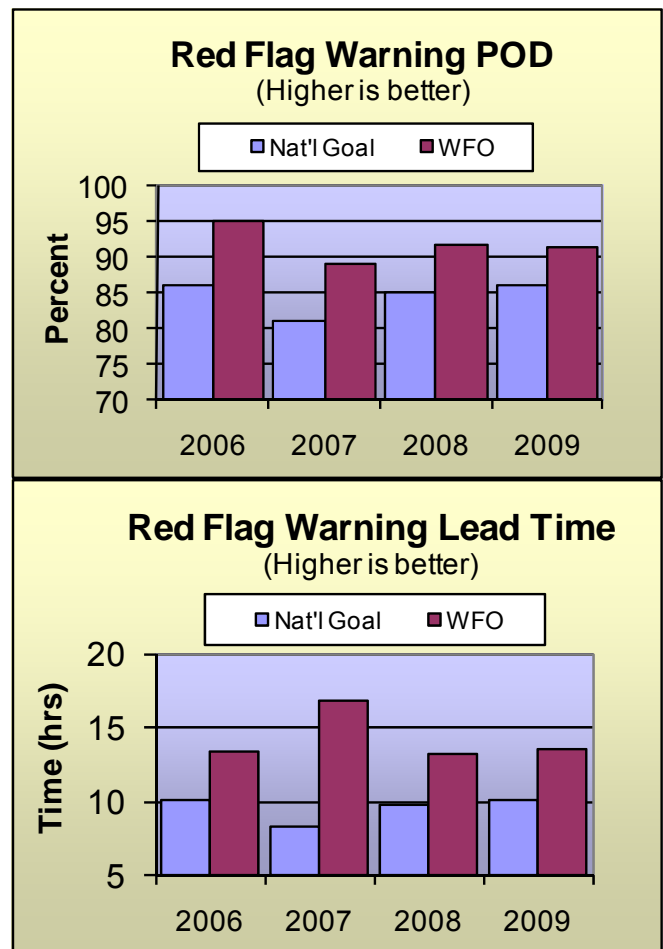
Brian D. Lynn  
Incident Meteorologist

The Peachtree City WFO had another active year in Fire Weather. 29 Red Flag events occurred in 2009, which required the issuance of 2,028 warnings. This yielded an average of 70 fire zones per event (out of 97 possible zones). Five events were missed totaling 115 fire zones. January and February were the busiest months of the year, with 18 of 34 events (53%) occurring in that window, and a total of 1,405 Red Flag Warnings (69% of annual total) being issued. This was due to rainfall being well-below average. March through May had just eleven events while the period of September through December had just two events. The very quiet spring and fall seasons were due to regular and sometimes heavy rains.

Verification scores for Red Flag Warnings continue to exceed national goals (see charts at right).

In the spring of 2009, Brian Lynn was dispatched to Granbury, TX twice to provide IMET support for the Texas Forest Service. Kent Frantz, WFO Service Hydrologist, was also dispatched to Granbury in early August. This was due to ongoing wildfire concerns across the state due to drought. Matt Sena, WFO Meteorologist, has entered the IMET training program and will start his training in 2010.

Finally, fire weather customers have access to a web-based product called the "Fire Weather Point Forecast Matrices." With a lat/lon pair, elevation and a location name, the Peachtree City WFO can produce a fire weather forecast for that location twice a day. ☀



Verification scores for Red Flag Warnings in the Peachtree City WFO area of responsibility.

## Aviation Program Revamped

Patricia Atwell  
Meteorologist

The Peachtree City WFO made two significant changes to our aviation operations on August 26, 2009. The first involved the issuance of scheduled 3-hour Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAF) amendments for Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. Members of the Traffic Management Unit (TMU) of the Federal Aviation Administration requested the 3-hour amendment for the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in order to aid the decision-making process concerning flight arrival and departure rates for the airport. In addition to the regularly-scheduled 00Z, 06Z, 12Z and

18Z TAF, the WFO now issues an amendment at 03Z, 09Z, 15Z and 21Z. The purpose of these amendments is to put the forecaster's most up-to-date thinking in the hands of the TMU when they need to decide airport arrival/departure rates.

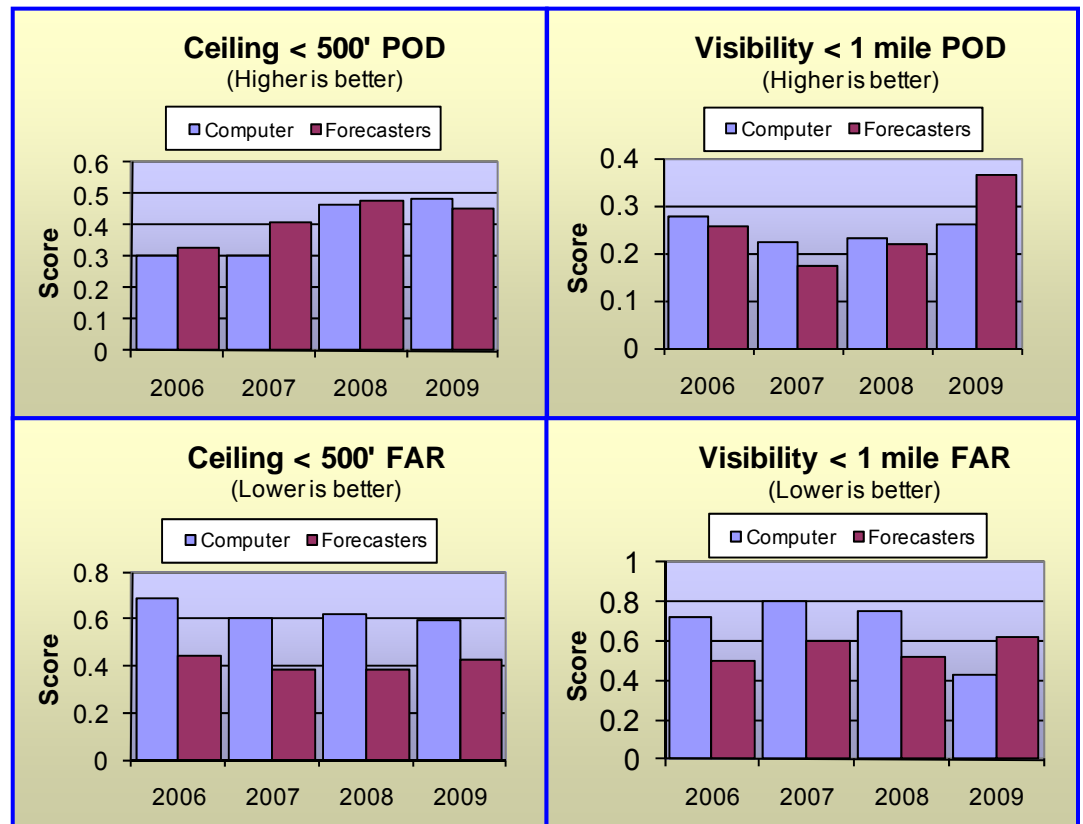
These updated forecasts also benefit airlines trying to make decisions about fuel needs. Since its inception, this practice has resulted in airlines saving thousands of dollars in fuel costs. The Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta reported an 18% improvement in efficiency since our office began the 3-hour TAF amendments and there is evidence, along with customer feedback, that the 3-hour amendments are at least partially responsible for the

improvement.

Another improvement by the WFO involved adjusting the amendment criteria used to update our TAFs in order to focus more on the thresholds which impact our customers at the seven airports for which we issue aviation forecasts. These changes allow forecasters to deliver forecasts more closely aligned with customers' needs. For example, at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, a scattered cloud deck of 4,500 feet can significantly reduce arrival rates. As forecasters assess the different meteorological conditions and the impacts they have on customers, they can respond to those which have a meaningful impact on airport operations.



*“The Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta reported an 18% improvement in efficiency since our office began the 3-hour TAF amendments...”*



Forecast stats for the seven airports in the WFO area of responsibility. For Probability of Detection (POD), higher scores are better. For False Alarm Rate (FAR), lower scores are better.



## Temp and Precip Forecasts Succeed

Trisha Palmer  
Meteorologist

WFO Peachtree City strives to provide Georgians with consistent and reliable forecasts, and we are proud to serve the public by continually making improvements on model forecasts. Over the past 20 years, computer model forecasts have improved by two days. This means that our "Day 2" forecasts today are as good as our "Day 1" forecasts were in 2000. Our "Day 3" forecasts today are as good as our "Day 1" forecasts were in 1990. This increase in computer model skill can present a challenge for the human forecaster, but we have consistently managed to improve upon these improving model forecasts.

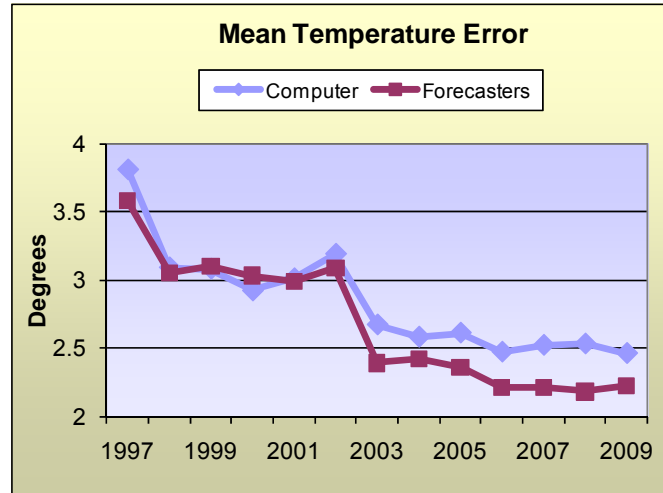
One method we use is to catch systematic model biases and make appropriate adjustments. For example, we know that one model consistently forecasts the high temperatures at Rome too warm by nearly three degrees, especially during the summer. By catching trends like these, pointing them out to forecasters, and combining these biases with day-to-day meteorological skills to improve upon the models, we can provide the best forecasting services possible to north and central Georgia. This year was slightly more complicated than recent years; of the three main models we have always used, one was retired in March and another underwent a change in its statistical equations, resulting in much better temperature forecasts. As we adjusted to these changes, you can see from the Mean Temperature Error chart that our temperature forecast

accuracy decreased slightly in 2009 from 2008 at the five sites we measure across our forecast area (Athens, Atlanta, Columbus, Macon, and Rome) – however we continue to improve upon the overall model error.

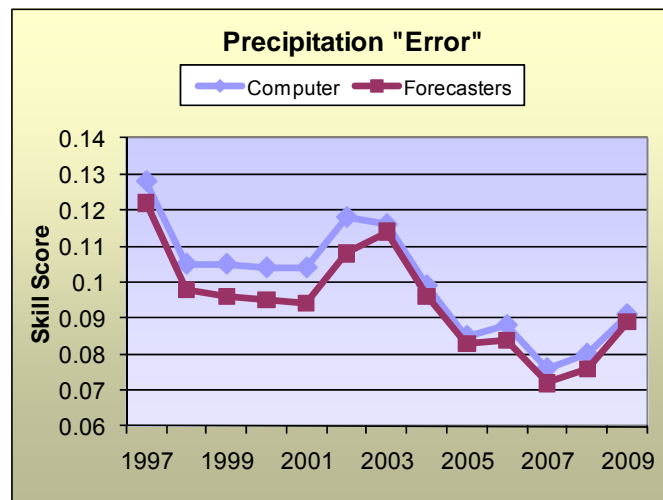
2009 marked one of the wettest years on record, which is noted in the Precipitation "Error" chart. In general over the past several years, the wetter the year, the worse our precipitation scores have been. Again, we continue to improve upon the model error, but our improvement in 2009 was smaller than in 2008.

We also compare our forecasts to observed (actual) temperatures. Our goal is to forecast high and low temperatures within three degrees of the actual high and low. The bottom chart shows that we achieved this goal 82% of the time for the first period of each forecast for the five sites in 2009. We again saw a very slight decrease in accuracy from 2008, but overall it is still one of the highest percentages over the past several years.

Our office does not currently verify, at a local level, weather elements such as winds, cloud cover, and dewpoint. This year, however, we are looking to install a gridded verification package that works with our forecast generation software so that we can start a database on these other weather elements. In addition, this gridded verification package should help with our main elements, temperature and precipitation, so that hopefully next year we will have a return of larger improvements upon the models. ☀



Comparison of WFO Peachtree City forecasters' temperature forecasting skill versus that of the computer models they use. Lower scores are better.



Comparison of WFO Peachtree City forecasters' precipitation forecasting skill versus that of the computer models they use. Lower scores are better.

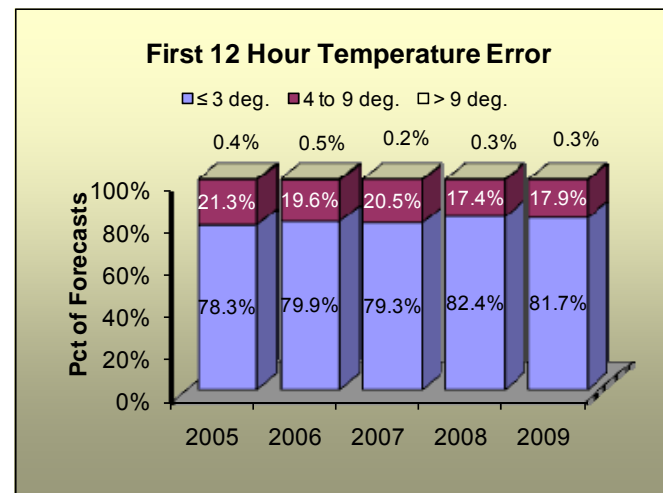
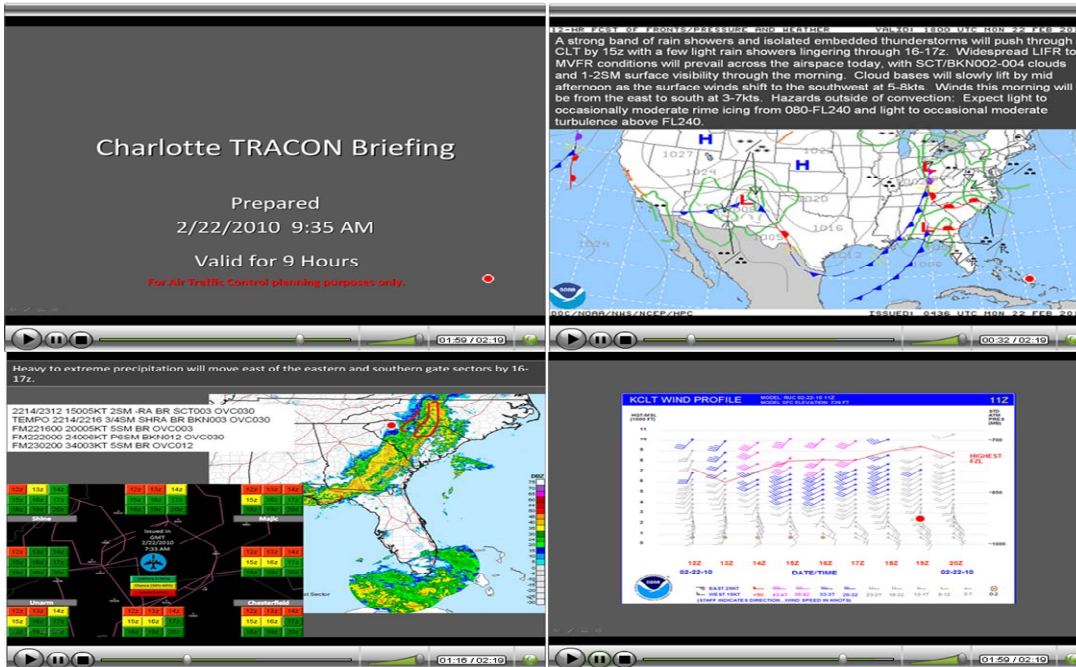


Chart showing distribution of first period (first 12 hours) forecast temperature errors for Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson Airport.



Sample screen captures from multimedia TRACON briefings provided by the CWSU staff at Atlanta.

## CWSU Innovations

Dr. Chip West  
MIC, CWSU Atlanta

Utilizing new technology in 2009, the Atlanta Center Weather Service Unit (CWSU) built and posted 2,190 web based weather briefings for the Atlanta and Charlotte Terminal Approach Control (TRACON) facilities and other aviation customers. The information in these briefings includes current and forecast weather, winds and convection information, which allows traffic management specialists to make better decisions on how much traffic can flow through the two airports. Posting the briefings to a public web site provides a consistent message to airlines, other airport decision-makers, as well as the local traffic management personnel.

Software called Camtasia™ allows the CWSU forecaster to build weather briefings with video and audio and post them to the CWSU website where it can be accessed by the controllers when it is needed to make weather-related decisions. Having both audio and animation in the briefings helps the controller better understand the information, even when a meteorologist may not be immediately available. Briefings are updated three times a day for both Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport and the Charlotte Douglas International Airport. These briefings may be accessed by the public for air traffic control planning purposes only at: [www.srh.noaa.gov/ztl](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ztl).

## Incident/Decision Support Evolves

Matt Sena  
Meteorologist

We will be launching a web page dedicated to Decision Support activities as well as online training for our partners by this spring.

Training continues on our end as well. During 2009 we were able to participate in two major disaster drills. In March we participated in a simulated radiological release in Bartow County and in November we were able to spend three days with the Fayette County Emergency Management community participating in their hazardous chemical release drill. We encourage any of our partners planning a disaster drill in 2010 to contact us if you would like the National Weather Service to participate. Of course we also encourage our Emergency Management partners to contact us for support during any actual emergencies as well.

Probably the most obvious change in this program area over the past year is the name. The 'Incident Support Program' is now the 'Decision Support Program' which more accurately describes our goal of providing our partners with the timely, accurate and relevant weather information they need to make important public safety decisions.

Our outreach efforts continued throughout 2009 with visits to many of our Emergency Managers. We hope to visit with most, if not all, of our remaining EMs in 2010 to introduce everyone to this program. We will continue to expand our outreach efforts to include more of our partners in the public safety sector from the local through the national level.



NWS Senior Forecaster Dan Darbe (seated) at Bartow County Disaster Drill (Mar. 2009)



HySplit Dispersion Model Output

## Special Feature: Epic Floods of 2009

Shirley Lamback &  
Kent McMullen  
Senior Forecasters

A persistent low pressure system meandering across the lower Mississippi Valley brought a prolonged period of heavy rain to much of north and central Georgia during mid September.

During a three-day period (September 19th to September 21st), much of north and central Georgia measured in excess of eight inches of rain. Isolated amounts totaling better than 16 inches were reported across portions of north Georgia, where much of this rain fell within a 24 hour period.

This heavy rainfall caused significant run-off into area streams and rivers, resulting in major to record flooding across the north Georgia, especially in the Atlanta metropolitan area. The Sweetwater Creek Basin rose to the 500-year flood level,

meaning there was a 0.2 percent chance of a flood of this magnitude occurring in a year. The Chattahoochee River and many of its tributaries reached or exceeded the 100-year flood level, which is a 1 percent chance of occurrence any given year.

Damage from the floods was estimated around \$500 million. Some 20,000 homes, businesses and other buildings received major damage, and 17 counties received Federal Disaster Declarations. The flood has been blamed for 10 deaths, where the majority of the victims were in cars and driving into areas where water covered the roads. Hundreds of people were rescued by boat from there homes and neighborhoods.

The Peachtree City WFO issued a total of 61 Flash Flood Warnings and 75 areal flood warnings during those 3 days.



Road washed out by flooding during the epic September 2009 event.

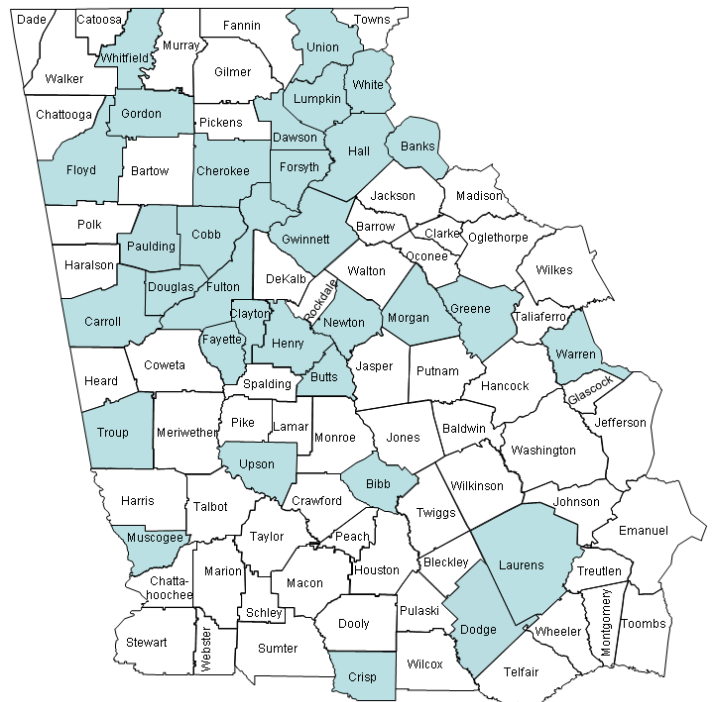
## StormReady® News

Jessica Fieux  
Meteorologist Intern

The StormReady community continued to grow during 2009! Within the Peachtree City County Warning Area (CWA), Butts, White, and Whitfield received StormReady recognition for the first time. In addition, Carroll, Cobb, Laurens, and Muscogee were approved for a second term as Storm-Ready, meaning they have participated in the StormReady program for six years. With the addition of the three new counties to the program, this brings the total number of

StormReady counties in the Peachtree City CWA to 35, or approximately 33% of the CWA. These counties join over 1550 StormReady sites across 49 states, Puerto Rico and Guam! Through strong communication and safety skills, these communities are taking the extra step to save lives and property before, during and after an event.

For information on becoming StormReady, please contact Barry Gooden, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, at (770) 486-1133 ext. 223. Are you StormReady? ☀



StormReady Counties in the Peachtree City County Warning Area.

## Making Training More Effective

Steven Nelson  
Science and Operations Officer

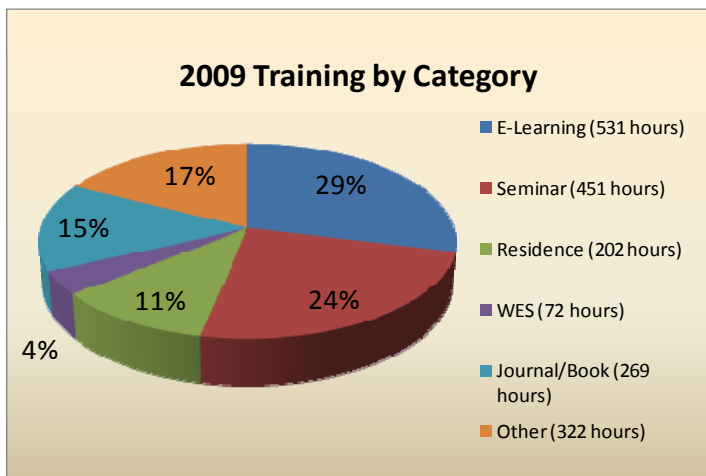
The amount and effectiveness of training remained high in 2009 at the Forecast Office (see chart below), in spite of a continued

decrease in traditional training environments such as residence training and professional conferences and workshops. In the past, specialized training at NWS offices required participants to travel to an off-site training center, away from the distractions due to day-to-day operations and administrative duties. While the quality and retention of the information at a training center was good, the costs are higher. As a result, more training than ever is being produced, delivered, and monitored remotely using the internet. Even live meetings, workshops and conferences are now largely conducted online.

training without being taken off-shift for extended periods. The downside as mentioned are the distractions, but even more significant is the lack of interaction with the subject matter expert or even the others in the group being trained. We can contact experts or others being trained by phone, or email, but subtle distinctions in the material or its application may be lost.

For the 2010 training year, the office has increased its priority on group workshops and discussion of the material. A group and individual exercise will also accompany each workshop to better demonstrate how the material is to be applied. After all, the point of training is not simply to count how many hours we've received training. The goal is to turn the information into better forecasts and warnings for north and central Georgia. ☀

The benefits of remote, self-paced training are numerous. Other than the lower cost, the largest advantage is flexibility. Most of the staff work rotating shifts and online, self-paced training means that everyone has an opportunity to complete



Training achievements of WFO staff, by category, for 2009

## Internal Changes Make Our Web Pages Better

Patricia Atwell  
Meteorologist

The biggest change to our website in 2009 had implications which affected both our web page addresses, as well as the overall reliability of our web pages. On Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> our web page officially transitioned to a "Content Management System" (CMS). With the transition to CMS, some of our pages looked a little different, and the address of most of our pages changed – the address of most of our web pages now look something like this format:

[www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=contact](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/?n=contact)  
(which is a new link to our contact information) or:

[www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/html/warnings.php](http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ffc/html/warnings.php)  
(a new link to the latest Local Hazards page).

The biggest advantage of the transition, however, is the built-in redundancy. Prior to the transition to the CMS, our web servers became overloaded and bogged down on days when web traffic was heavy during active weather. Now our pages are stored on servers at three

different sites (Ft. Worth, Kansas City, and Silver Spring, MD). Now, when we have active weather, all three servers will handle the expected additional traffic. This provide users with faster and more reliable access to our information.

Storywise, much of 2009 was devoted to tracking the transition from extreme drought to flooding. We look forward to what 2010 will bring and welcome your comments and suggestions throughout the year. ☀

## Upper Air Program: GPS Works at Altitude, Too!

Nate Mayes  
Hydrometeorological Technician

This past year is the first full year of operations with the upgraded Upper Air equipment called Radiosonde Replacement System (RRS). This new system uses satellite GPS tracking.

The Radiosonde's balloon expands as it rises then a parachute allows it descend back to the earth.

The radiosonde has a self-contained mailing package for the finder to mail it back to our re-conditioning center in Kansas City, Mo for electronic checks and refurbishing to re-use the instrument. During the

year of 2009 the Weather Forecast Office in Peachtree City sent up a total of 751 flights. NWS Headquarters keeps a formula for scoring each station's performance. This past twelve months resulted in WFO Peachtree City's highest ranking since the Upper Air equipment was moved here from the old station in Athens, Georgia. ☀



Balloon Inflation and parachute .

## NOAA All-Hazards Radio: Current and Future Communications

Mike Leary  
Hydrometeorological Technician

The NWS provides weather forecasts, information, watches, warnings and other emergency messages through the NOAA All-Hazards Radio (NAHR). Our biggest change for the year was the upgrade of the NAHR transmitter on top of Stone Mountain.

The telecommunication systems (phone lines) used to

convey watches and warnings to our NAHR transmitters are occasional sources of performance problems. While we have outstanding service technicians who quickly respond to any problems, keeping 17 transmitters across north and central Georgia operating at optimum levels is a never-ending task.

Within the next couple years, significant changes in the NAHR program are expected. Among other things, the "Weather

Radio Improvement Program" will use use satellite communications to replace the leased phone line circuits connecting NWS offices to the NAHR transmitters. This will significantly increase network reliability, performance and versatility. In the meantime, we'll keep the existing system operating as well as possible - with an excited eye to the near future. ☀

*"...utilities are being used to develop a web-based situational awareness display for Emergency Managers and other key decision makers. Look for it to be released in 2010!."*

## Cool IT Developments

Clark Safford  
Information Technology Officer

While most of 2009 was spent converting the web site to CMS format (see page 12), we did have a little time left over for developing some new programs for our staff and customers.

A "Hazards Monitor" display was developed to help keep the forecasters abreast of the latest key convective parameters. Data that used to require 15 minutes of a forecaster's time to run specialized procedures

are now always available at a glance.

While porting our Situational Awareness Software for another office, we developed a toolbox of routines utilizing Scalable Vector Graphics (SVG) that allow us to easily build web content like our new and improved current conditions map. Those same utilities are being used to develop a web-based situational awareness display for Emergency Managers and other key decision makers. Look for it to be released in 2010! ☀

## Hazards Monitor

Analysis/Model Runs:		03/25 11Z RUC				03/25 06Z GFS											
		Thursday				Friday				Saturday							
		08	09	10	11	12	13	14	18	00	06	12	18	00	06	12	18
<b>Instability</b>																	
mCAPE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
muCAPE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	185	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
sbCAPE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
0-3km mCAPE		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
mLI		11	12	12	15	15	15	13	8	3	11	13	10	9	12	11	8
H7-H5 Lapse		7.2	7.6	7.7	7.3	7.4	7.3	7.5	6.5	5.9	5.7	6.3	6.7	7	6.9	7.2	7.4
H8-H5 Lapse		6.7	6.6	6.9	6.7	6.8	6.6	6.7	5.5	5.8	4.9	5.4	5.6	6.1	5.9	5.8	5.4

Hazards Monitor display co-created by Rob Handel and Clark Safford to provide forecasters with a quick look at key severe weather parameters throughout our area of responsibility.

## Systems Continue to be Improved

Richard Black  
Electronics Systems Analyst

To keep the NWS running effectively we are constantly upgrading our systems with the latest technology available to meet the increasing demand for weather-based products.

**RADAR:** 88D radars received a complete refresh of their operating systems (OS) along with several operational builds to extend and enhance radar products. The changes have given forecasters better tools to detect and anticipate severe storm activity.

**ASOS:** Many significant improvements were made to the Automated Surface Observing Systems (ASOS) reliability and data quality. Notable changes were the installation of uninterrupted power supplies and the relocation of the Falcon Field (Peachtree City) ASOS.

AWIPS is our core system for the origination of watches, warnings and forecasts. This system received numerous upgrades in 2009. We completely replaced most of the hardware with the latest computer technology available. Our processing power has increased four-fold in one year. Our new servers are fitted with

CPUs enhanced with Quad Core technology. That's sixteen "cores" per machine! Couple this with our new fiber optic gigabit network, which gives us symmetrical, high-speed data throughput across our entire AWIPS platform, and we have an impressive system. We have also replaced the operating system with Red Hat Linux further releasing the full potential of these machines. Finally, we installed several operational software builds to improve our weather products and distribution methods.

**Weather Radio:** Pictured at left is the 1KW Crown transmitter newly-installed on top of Stone Mountain, GA. ☀



New, solid-state, NOAA All-Hazards Radio transmitter on Stone Mountain, GA.



WFO staff members Robert Beasley and Kent Frantz prepared for visitors at the 2nd Annual ReadyFest.



NOAA employees Shari Mutchler (Aviation Weather Center), Amelia Ehardt (NOAA Corps Officer), Nicole Cabana (NOAA Corps Officer), Laura Griffith (NWS Forecaster), and Joann Becker (Aviation Weather Center) at the Women in Aviation Conference in Atlanta.



Hurricane Hunter plane of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron from Keesler AFB in Biloxi, MS.

## A Busy Year for Outreach

Laura Griffith  
Meteorologist

The Peachtree City NWS had an exciting 2009 with many outreach events, including two ambitious projects! We kicked off hurricane season with the Air Force Reserve "Hurricane Hunters." Over 4,000 people flocked to Falcon Field Airport in early June to tour the WC-130J and learn about the inland impacts of tropical cyclones. The office also held an open house for 800 attendees!

This year we also teamed up with Cherokee County EMA in September to hold the second annual "ReadyFest" in support of the Department of Homeland Security's National Preparedness Month. Fox5 Meteorologist Ken Cook emceed the event, introducing speakers from the NWS, GEMA, GA Health Dept., Cherokee County EMA, State Insurance

Commission, Citizen Corps, and local radio. Over 250 attendees received valuable emergency preparedness information, and a few lucky individuals took home preparedness items raffled off as door prizes.

Other outreach events included staffing our NWS booth at the Women in Aviation Conference, the Atlanta Home and Garden Show, and conferences for the Georgia Agricultural Association and the Georgia Science Teachers Association. We also held two workshops for our broadcasting media partners.

Spring and Fall Storm Spotter classes continued to attract weather fans, with 893 attendees in 30 classes. Closer to home, we educated 788 individuals through 58 office tours, and provided important weather information to local media through more than 200 phone interviews. ☀

## Severe Weather Performance (Cont.)

(Continued from page 6)

Fifty-seven flash flood warnings were issued during the year, affecting 81 counties – the most since 196 counties were warned in 2003. This well exceeded the 7-year average, mostly due to the record September floods, with that one month accounting for 68% of

total warnings. Lead times also increased significantly for Flash Flood Warnings from 77.9 minutes in 2008 to 97.0 minutes in 2009.

Skill scores and other key statistics developed for WFO Peachtree City are depicted on page 6. ☀



(Left to right) Barry Gooden, WCM Peachtree City; Jack Montgomery, Coop Observer from Rome 8SW; Monty Montgomery (Jack's son and the new observer) and Frank Taylor, NWS Peachtree City.

## Cooperative Observers Pilot National Program

Frank Taylor  
Observations Program Leader

Changes continue in the Cooperative (Coop) Weather program. Last year at this time we began the “roll-out” of WxCoder - the process of entering daily observations via the internet. As of this date, 68% of our observers had converted to WxCoder to disseminate daily observations. Another change was improvement of the Hourly Precipitation Data (HPD) collection. We rebuilt and installed ten new data logger kits (see picture at right). These loggers will use Secure Digital (SD) Media Cards to record one minute rainfall to one one-hundredth of an inch.

Length of Service Awards in 2009:

### 10 Years

Jack & Martha Beech, Jefferson  
Robert Dalton, Alto

### 15 Years

Edwin Penland, Chatsworth  
Preston English, Unicoi State  
Park

### 20 Years

Tommie Strickland, Lafayette  
Ferrell and Steve Morton,  
Dublin

### 25 Years

WPEH Radio Station, Louisville  
Edward Starling, The Rock  
Helen Police Dept., Helen

### 35 Years

John Maddox, Rome

### 40 Years

Lois Dover, Ellijay

### 45 Years

Jack Montgomery, Rome 8 SW

### 50 Years

Cicero Swint, Jonesboro

Hats off to these wonderful  
volunteers! ☀



Fisher-Porter gage with punch mechanism (left) and with the new digital logger (right).

## Administrative Update

Deborah Connell  
Administrative Assistant

Some fairly significant administrative changes took place outside the WFO and impacted our office, in the process. Most notably, our finance and travel support transferred from Boulder, CO to Germantown, MD. Despite a few “bumps,” the transition has gone relatively well.

There were two staffing changes in 2009. Mr. Sean Ryan, our Student Career Experience Program (SCEP) intern was selected for a Meteorologist Intern position at Hydrometeorological Prediction Center in Camp Springs, MD. We also saw the retirement of our long-time friend and co-worker Mr. Terry Murphy after nearly 33 years of dedicated service. We wish them both well. ☀

### WFO Staffing at Year's End

- 1 Meteorologist in Charge
- 1 Administrative Support Assistant
- 1 Warning Coord. Meteorologist
- 1 Science and Operations Officer
- 5 Senior Meteorologists
- 6 General Meteorologists
- 1 Senior Service Hydrologist
- 1 Information Tech Officer
- 1 Observations Program Leader
- 2 Hydrometeorological Technicians
- 2 Meteorologist Interns
- 1 Electronics Systems Analyst
- 3 Electronics Technicians



*National Weather Service • Weather  
Forecast Office • Peachtree City, Georgia*

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Phone: 770-486-1133  
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Email: [lans.rothfusz@noaa.gov](mailto:lans.rothfusz@noaa.gov)

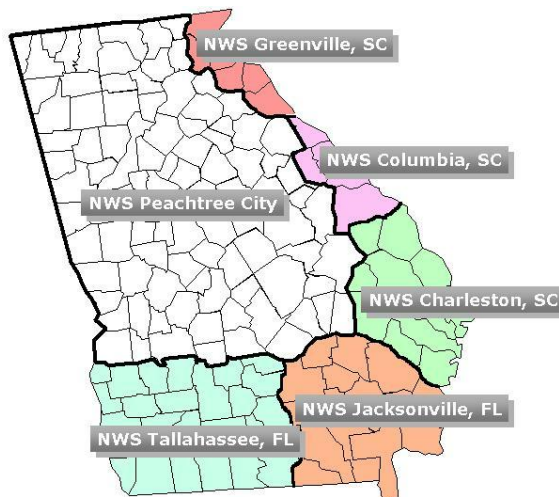
**We are your Weather Service**

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**[weather.gov](http://weather.gov)**  
**(and click on Georgia)**

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The Weather Forecast Office in Peachtree City is a field office of the National Weather Service, an agency of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which is part of the U.S. Department of Commerce. The office is responsible for weather and water forecast and warning services for 96 counties in north and central Georgia (see map below).



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4 Falcon Drive  
Peachtree City, GA 30215