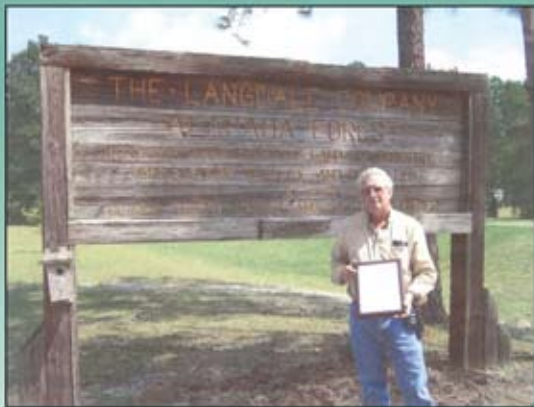


Thomas Yawn (The Langdale Company) was recently honored by the National Weather Service (NWS) for completing over two decades of service in their Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) in the Homerville area. The Cooperative Observer Program is a weather and climate observing network made up of more than 11,000 volunteers that record temperature and precipitation daily on farms, urban and suburban areas, National Parks, seashores and mountaintops.¹



Michael J. McAllister, Observing Program Team Leader for the U.S. Department Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Weather Service Office, stated in a letter that, "The weather readings Thomas takes grow more valuable with time. Long-term climate records are used in determining what is considered normal for an area. When a person needs information about droughts, floods, heat waves, freezes or other weather phenomena, and there is not weather office nearby, you need the readings from a cooperative station like Thomas'. The data he collects, documents, and transmits is quality-controlled, certified, and archived at the National Climatic Data Center. It becomes part of the public record - available to climatologists, meteorologists, hydrologists, researchers, farmers, foresters, insurance agents and claimants, and anyone else with a need for weather information."

Thomas began recording this data as an assigned duty when he worked for Union Camp timber office in Homerville. It then changed hands to Container Corporation and then to Jefferson Smurfit and Thomas continued to take the weather readings. When the office closed permanently, Thomas had the weather equipment moved to his home where he continues to take daily readings.

"I have had the privilege of working with Thomas for the past 12 years," stated McAllister. "I know him to be a family man, a man of faith, and a man of his word. The Langdale Company is fortunate to have someone of his caliber on its workforce, and the American public is fortunate to have a civic-minded individual like Thomas willing to give of his time."

Congratulations Thomas! And THANK YOU!

¹www.weather.gov/om/coop