

**Title of Session:** National Weather Service

**Moderator:** BJ Berquist

**Guest Speaker:** Timothy Schott

**Title of File:** 20060320nws

**Date:** March 20, 2006

Room: After School Online

**BJB:** I'd like to welcome Tim, our special guest for this discussion!

**JanettC:** hi Tim

**BJB:** Tim is a meteorologist with the NWS. He has a bio posted on the calendar description

**BJB:** can everyone else please tell us where you are located and what your interest is in the discussion?

**SusanR** joined the room.

**JanettC:** my name is Janett Cavazos, I am a 6th grade science teacher in Houston, Texas, this is my first year teaching and I am looking for as many resources as possible

**BJB:** Hi, Sue. We're starting intros

**SusanR:** K to 8 Occasional teacher from Canada and facilitator of the K to 3+ Great Resources sessions here at TI

**SarahAB:** Hi Sarah here. I'm a resource special ed for upper elementary students

**ShengkaiC:** I am a student in university. My professor recommend this site to find some resource.

**BJB:** Thanks, everyone. Tim, you mentioned that you had some information to share before we open the floor to questions?

**JeffC:** just lurking here

**TimothySc:** I'm honored to be on-line with these teachers--there can't be a more honorable or noble profession/calling.

**BJB** grins...buttering up the participants, Tim?

**TimothySc:** At NOAA we pride ourselves on "good science" and there are many web-based resources for children and teachers alike.

**BjB** . o O ( I'm sure they all appreciate your kind words...I'm just teasing. Thanks )

**TimothySc**: I'll take your questions please on weather, etc...today is the first day of Spring...

**BjB** cheers wildly...my favorite day of the year!

**BjB**: so, when are you going to send some warmer weather to Pennsylvania, Tim?

**SusanR** . o O ( hardly feels like Spring here in Ontario, Canada )

**TimothySc**: Not any sooner than we get it here in Virginia....it will be colder than "normal" the next 2 weeks

**SarahAB**: Or in WI

**BjB**: I would imagine that many people are concerned about hurricane forecasts for the new hurricane season

**JanettC**: This morning I saw a report that Australia was hit with a super storm, how are storms with this type of magnitude created?

**JeffC**: A force 5 cyclone hit Australia yesterday... global warming?

**TimothySc**: Yes, after last year's season it is a topic of concern...the official outlook for the season from NOAA will be provided in mid-May via our Climate Prediction Center

**BjB**: what concerns do the gulf coast states have besides hurricanes?

**JanettC**: Humidity!

**BjB** . o O ( rainfall? )

**TimothySc**: I can't speak for our friends in Australia...here in North America there appear to be cycles of busy years and slow years lasting 20-25 years, Jeff we are in a busy period that began in 1995

**BjB**: what does that mean for North America, Tim?

**BjB** . o O ( besides hurricanes )

**JanettC**: Here in Texas especially in the Houston area, we have cycles of flooding. Or at least they seem to come in cycles. Is there a cycle?

**TimothySc:** It means we are in the middle of a 20-25 year period with an above average number of storms...we track it back to 1850 and it looks like a sine curve...so the news is we may continue to see active seasons for another 10-15 years. Hopefully they will stay out at sea!

**SusanR:** In Ontario we seem to be having more ice storms

**BjB:** . o O ( ice is bad news for people who like to ski )

**TimothySc:** Janett there are cycles in weather, and unfortunately sometimes the weather cycles result from larger climate patterns with extremes: heat, drought, floods.

**JanettC:** Do you know of any interactive websites that you would recommend that students can use to learn more about weather?

**TimothySc:** That is why I put "normals" in quotes...

**BjB:** Tim has compiled a list of sites for you, Janett...

**BjB:** I've featured them under FILES in Featured Items

**BjB:** . o O ( scroll down on the welcome screen above this chat window )

**TimothySc:** First: go to <http://weather.gov/education.php> as a starting point. If you dig in there interactive modules are provided by COMET

**BjB:** is that on the list you sent earlier, Tim?

**TimothySc:** Yes the main URL leads the list

**BjB:** thanks

**TimothySc:** There are teacher and student resources in the list

**BjB:** Tim, what questions do you have for us?

**TimothySc:** Lesson plans, experiments--great stuff

**BjB:** did everyone find the file and open the main URL?

**JanettC:** since this is my first year teaching, I personally found the lessons used not very interesting

**JanettC:** I had to borrow someone else's curriculum

**BjB:** what lessons, Janett?

**JanettC:** There were no interactions with computers whatsoever, the lessons we did were all observation type lessons

**BjB:** ahhhh...ok. So you're not talking about lessons that are from the NOAA websites?

**JanettC:** they had to keep track of the different types of clouds and try to predict the weather, I didn't even think of the NOAA website

**JanettC:** I just wish I had these resources at the beginning of the year

**TimothySc:** I hate to brag but the NOAA resources are excellent. Please look through them.

**BjB** agrees with Tim.

**BjB:** Janett, would you be interested in seeing an NOAA room in the student campus that your classes could access?

**JanettC:** yes that would be very good, our school has recently received a grant for more computers and laptops, so I think it would be a great way to get students to interact

**TimothySc:** I think as educators it would be a lifesaving service if you incorporated safety into weather classes. We are losing too many people each year to weather situations such as flash floods.

**SusanR .** o O ( excellent idea, Timothy )

**BjB:** excellent suggestion, Tim. During the PATH discussion that we chased out of this room, they started with information about emergency preparedness

**JanettC:** I agree, I think we need to have more severe weather drills

**TimothySc:** Every school, every household needs to have severe weather drills.

**BjB:** Janett, it's not just the drills...what do you do if you lose your classroom? your school? Your home?

**BjB .** o O ( although safety is the first priority )

**JanettC:** that's a very good point it should be a priority

**BjB:** There was an article in the paper about how a huge percentage of the adults and children displaced by the hurricanes are suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome

**JanettC:** We talk briefly about the red cross, but that's about it

**BjB** . o O ( I digress...sorry, Tim. Is there information about emergency preparedness on any of the NOAA sites? )

**SusanR**: Alabama and Tennessee.

**SusanR**: are starting severe weather safety drills

**TimothySc**: Absolutely. [www.weather.gov/safety](http://www.weather.gov/safety) provides lots of information for all weather hazards and info for emergency plans

**BjB**: cool. Thanks, Tim.

**TimothySc**: In fact NOAA changed our week in May from National Hurricane Awareness Week to National Hurricane Preparedness Week several years ago. Preparedness is not a passive activity!

**BjB**: good point, Tim. Tornadoes are also a big concern in many states and should be included in that preparedness

**TimothySc**: Another plug: everyone should have a Weather Radio with a SAME encoder at home, in the principal's office. These radios can be set to alarm only when a warning is issued for your county. In the middle of the night such an alarm can save your life!

**BjB** wonders if schools are required to have those radios?

**JanettC**: where could you purchase a weather radio for your home?

**TimothySc**: Depends on the jurisdiction. Once the radios are explained to administrators they usually will purchase one. Such a radio can be purchased at any good electronics/radio store. Just like a smoke detector, this is an investment in life and safety!

**BjB**: Radio Shack sells them...not sure where else, Janett

**BjB** nods solemnly to Tim

**SusanR** . o O ( wonders as well for Canada )

**BjB** . o O ( try online...should be easy to find a huge selection )

**TimothySc**: One other ed note--seems like all we hear in the news are disasters. But I hope teachers can also discuss the "wonders" of meteorology, like the water cycle, rainbows, the seasons, etc.

**BjB**: we have five minutes left. Any other questions for Tim? Tim, any last suggestions for educators?

**BjB** smiles...good point! I love rainbows

**TimothySc**: I hope you enjoy science as much as I (obviously) do. We need more scientists, who continue less than fairly represented among women.

**BjB**: Tim, I'd like to thank you for being our speaker tonight. We'd love to have you return and discuss some of those "wonders" of meteorology!

**TimothySc**: I've enjoyed this!

**JanettC**: thank you for the resources

**ShengkaiC**: thank you

**BjB**: Tim, please tell your colleagues how cool Tapped In and how much we want to have them as a presence in Tapped In

**BjB** . o O ( hint, hint )

**TimothySc**: I will tell them...

**TimothySc**: And I will share this with teachers I know!

**BjB** applauds. Thanks, Tim...this was great!

**SusanR**: Thank you, Timothy. You opened up some new thoughts about the ramifications of our recent weather systems

**BjB**: Thanks, everyone, for your participation and support