



The Four Winds

National Weather Service Employees Organization

NWSEO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet NWSEO AOML Vice Steward Evan Forde

(April 24, 2019) NWSEO continues to collect nominations for our “NWSEO Member Spotlight,” showcasing the work, dedication and talent of our members, inspiring others and connecting all of our union members.

Meet Mr. Evan Forde, NWSEO Vice Steward and researcher in the Marine Geology and Geophysics laboratory at the NOAA’s Atlantic Oceanographic and Meteorological Laboratory (AOML) while an undergraduate at Columbia during the summer of 1973.

Where are you from? What brought you to AOML and NWSEO?

I am a Miami native. Since my advanced education is in oceanography (his B.A. degree in geology with an oceanography specialty and his M.A. degree in marine geology and geophysics from Columbia University in the City of New York.), AOML is a likely place where I could have a career in my chosen occupation. I have been an FTP employee since March 10, 1974.

How did you first hear about NWSEO?

I first heard about NWSEO from the late Michael L. Black.

How long have you been working with AOML? What do you do specifically?

Although I was a student for part of the time, I have been working at AOML for ~ 46 years.



Although a deep-sea diving and sea floor mapping oceanographer by training, my current research focuses on using meteorological satellite data to analyze novel atmospheric conditions that will improve our understanding of how hurricanes form and improve our ability to accurately forecast their intensity.

What do you enjoy about your job?

I enjoy the excitement and joy of discovery associated with scientific research. I have either been a senior or contributing author on published scientific studies in oceanography, marine geology & geophysics, marine biology, atmospheric chemistry, satellite remote sensing and most recently tropical meteorology.

What are your thoughts about supporting NWSEO?

It appears to me that most of the supervisors I have had during my career were much better at doing research and checking the appropriate year end “boxes” (that’s how they got promoted to managers) than they were at creating inspiring and fair working conditions for the folks they supervised. For many of those individuals (in my opinion), they showed virtually no sensitivity to the negative impact of their draconian leadership policies on the staff they relied on to make them successful at the end of the rating cycle. My personal view is that some of my past supervisors were warm and wonderful folks who need to be reminded of the fact that their employees (worker bees) needed to at least have a sniff of “honey” and a feeling that they were at least being treated fairly to sustain maximum productivity.

What accomplishments have you seen/experienced from the work of the NWSEO? Would you recommend joining NWSEO to others?

AOML is a kinder and gentler place to work at since we became a NWSEO shop. I often speak to others about my personal experience of how well-timed words to my supervisors (from AOML NWSEO leadership) has saved me from humiliation and unfair treatment.

Any favorite hobbies, extracurricular activities or something we don't know about you?

I love to volunteer in my community, swim, and I am hoping to soon regain my active pursuit of becoming a better golfer.

Any final words you'd like to share?

It is an honor for me to serve my coworkers in this small way.

Additional Resources:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evan_Forde

<https://www.thehistorymakers.org/biography/evan-forde>

We are so appreciative for Evan's time and dedication to the work he and the members and employees of AOML do every day and also, for participating in our *NWSEO Member Spotlight*.

We hope this will be a communication tool for NWSEO Members to get to know each other, from across the nation, connect even more and, together, support each other in our work and in building our membership. **Please submit your *Member Spotlight*, suggestions, and comments to Christy Fox at mediarelations@nwseo.org.**

-NWSEO-

**No one cares more for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

**No one works harder for National Weather Service employees than
National Weather Service employees.**

We are NWSEO.