

## SEMINAR SCHEDULE

AM

PM

8:30 – 8:40	Opening Remarks
8:40 – 9:20	<b>History of #DuPageWxSeminar</b> •Paul Sirvatka & Thomas Mefford @Sirvatka
9:20 – 9:30	<b>Discussion</b> •Tammie Souza @TammieSouza
9:30 – 10:00	<b>Storm Structure</b> •Ben Deubelbeiss
10:00 – 10:20	Break
10:20 – 11:00	<b>Storm Animation</b> •Victor Gensini @GensiniWx
11:00 – 11:10	<b>Discussion</b> •Tammie Souza @TammieSouza
11:10 – 11:30	<b>NWS Partnerships</b> •Mike Bardou
11:30 – 12:00	<b>A El Nino's Effect on Severe Weather</b> •John Allen
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 2:15	<b>Value of Storm Spotting in the High-Tech Age</b> •Roger Edwards
2:15 – 2:25	<b>Discussion</b> •Tammie Souza @TammieSouza
2:25 – 3:15	<b>Deep Thoughts</b> •Chris Novy
3:15 – 3:45	Panel Discussion & Door Prizes



# DUPAGE COUNTY

## HISTORY OF DUPAGE ADVANCED SEVERE WEATHER SEMINAR:

On August 28, 1990 between 3:15 p.m. and 3:45 p.m., a violent F5 tornado ripped through Kendall and Will counties taking the lives of 29 people and injuring 350. In the wake of what is known as “The Plainfield Tornado” was a 16.4 mile-long damage path which ranged from 600 yards to a half a mile in width. An estimated total of \$160 million dollars in damages was added up with a total of 470 homes destroyed and 1000 damaged. DuPage County Emergency Management Director Tom Mefford and College of DuPage Professor Paul Sirvatka first met in the days following this devastating tornado. Their combined efforts resulted in the first DuPage Advanced Severe Weather Seminar . They also worked with NWS to improve severe weather warning coordination and communications throughout northern Illinois.



## HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

418 N. County Farm Road  
Wheaton, IL 60187  
630-682-7925  
or emergency 630-682-7207

[www.protectdupage.org](http://www.protectdupage.org)



# DUPAGE COUNTY

## HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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# 25<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL ADVANCED SEVERE WEATHER SEMINAR

In cooperation with the College Of DuPage, Nexlab,  
and the National Weather Service – Chicago.

March 12, 2016

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## GUEST EMCEE

### TAMMIE SOUZA

is a Meteorologist with Fox 32 Chicago. As a certified broadcast meteorologist, she is one of only a handful of women in the nation that holds both prestigious AMS/CBM Certified Broadcast Meteorology Seal

of Approval from the American Meteorological Society and the NWA Seal of Approval from the National Weather Association. She is also the first female chosen as the National Chairman of the American Meteorological Society Board of Meteorology.

## PRESENTERS



**ROGER EDWARDS** is a Lead Forecaster in the Operations Branch at the NWS Storm Prediction Center. He previously worked at the National Severe Storm Forecast Center and the National Hurricane Center. Roger received his Meteorology degree and

completed graduate work at Oklahoma University. While in college he participated in the TOTable Tornado Observatory (TOTO) project.



**PAUL SIRVATKA** is a professor at the College of DuPage (COD) and received the COD Outstanding Faculty Award and Division of Natural Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award. Sirvatka has served as a representative of the college through scores of newspaper

interviews and television/radio appearances, including the Weather Channel, MSNBC, Fox News, Chicago Tonight and NBC Nightly News. Additionally, he provides regular radio weathercasts on WDCB, the local public radio station in Glen Ellyn. He also co-sponsors severe weather symposia and spotter training across Chicago and as a speaker across the United States.



**VICTOR GENSINI** is an assistant professor of meteorology at the College of DuPage. At the University of Georgia, he studied the impacts of numerous climate change scenarios on severe weather across the United States and received his doctorate degree. Victor has a deep

passion for hazardous weather and the societal response to such events. Along with Professor Sirvatka, he helps maintain the COD "NEXLAB" website. It continues to be a wealth of weather information for thousands of users in education, government, military, and corporations.



**MIKE BARDOU** currently serves as the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the National Weather Service Forecast (NWS) Office in Romeoville. He previously served as a Lead Forecaster and Aviation Program Leader for the NWS. Prior to arriving at the Chicago

office in 2010, Mike served as a meteorologist and Aviation Program Leader at the Minneapolis Weather Forecast Office, and meteorologist-in-training at the Forecast Office in Davenport. Mike appreciates the challenges of forecasting for Lake Michigan, enjoys working with key partners to better understand their forecast needs and looks forward to conducting storm spotter training each spring.



**BEN DEUBELBEISS** has been a forecaster at the National Weather Service in Romeoville, IL since 2010. Ben graduated from Valparaiso University in 2005 with a Bachelor of Science in Meteorology. He served a tour of duty in the United States Air Force

after graduation and then joined the National Weather Service in 2008 as an intern in Elko, NV. Since joining the NWS Chicago team, Ben has served as the office verificationist maintaining the monthly StormData publication and works closely with Amateur Radio Operators who volunteer to gather spotter reports during severe weather.



**CHRIS NOVY** graduated with BS/MS degrees in Public Safety (Law Enforcement) from Southern Illinois University. Chris presently works as Assistant Chief Engineer for Fox25/CW34 in Oklahoma City. He has been involved with

emergency management since 1980 in storm spotting, communications, and safety training. He has also been a ham radio operator since the early '80s.



**THOMAS MEFFORD** currently serves as an Emergency Management Analyst at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security - FEMA Region V. He began his career in emergency management in 1971, as the Civil Defense Director

for the Village of Plainfield, IL. Since then he held several roles, including the Deputy Coordinator for the Will County Emergency Services and Disaster Agency and the Director of the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Furthermore, Tom served as an instructor for FEMA conducting training in the six-state area, as well as the National Emergency Training Center Training Center. Tom retired from DuPage Co. in Feb. 2008.



**JOHN ALLEN** is a postdoctoral research scientist working on the links between severe convection, tornadoes and climate systems. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Melbourne, Australia. Currently, John is lookin at seasonal

prediction and climate linkages to the occurrence of hailstorms and tornadoes for the United States. He also is working on other projects including; a new historical tornado climatology for Australia and recent tornadoes associated with a tropical origin cyclone.