

# SEMINAR SCHEDULE

Presenters and topics are subject to change without notice

AM

PM

8:30 – 8:40	Opening Remarks
8:40 – 9:10	Storm Structure - <i>Solidifying the Basics</i> • Paul Sirvatka
9:15 – 10:00	50th Anniversary of the Oak Lawn Tornado - <i>Reviewing Where We Are from Where We Came</i> • Mike Bardou and Stephen Rodriguez
10:00 – 10:20	Break
10:20 – 10:50	Tools for Anticipating Severe Weather Events • Victor Gensini
10:50– 11:05	Information Explosion - <i>Getting the Word Out</i> • Tammie Souza
11:10 – 11:55	The GOES-16 Revolution - <i>What the Latest Satellite Technology Can Do for Severe Weather Analysis</i> • Scott Lindstrom
12:00 – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 2:15	Field Tactics for Practical Storm Spotting • Skip Talbot
2:15 – 3:00	The Intersection of Science, Communication, and Compassion • James Spann
3:15 – 3:45	Panel Discussion & Door Prizes

For more information regarding this year's and previous years' Weather Seminar, visit [www.dupageco.org/weatherseminar/](http://www.dupageco.org/weatherseminar/).



# DUPAGE COUNTY

## HISTORY OF THE DUPAGE COUNTY 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

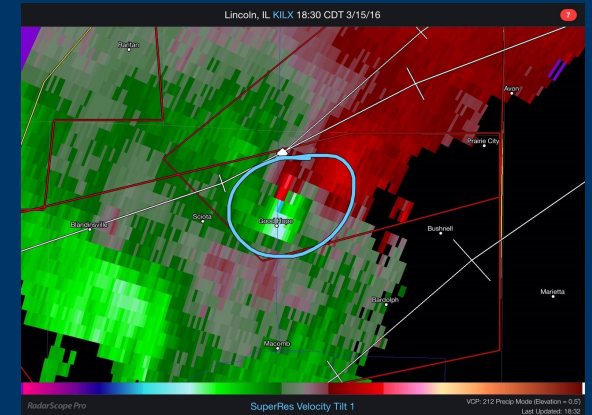
630-682-7925  
or emergency 630-682-7207

[www.dupageco.org/weatherseminar/](http://www.dupageco.org/weatherseminar/)



# DUPAGE COUNTY

## HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



Good Hope (IL) Tornado 3-15-2016  
Courtesy of John Nebl and RadarScope

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

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

March 11, 2017

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[www.dupageco.org/weatherseminar/](http://www.dupageco.org/weatherseminar/)



## GUEST EMCEE

### TAMMIE SOUZA

is a Meteorologist of 17 years with Chicago and will be moving to Philadelphia to be the evening Meteorologist for NBC. She holds both the prestigious AMS/CBM Certified Broadcast Meteorology Seal of Approval and the NWA Seal of Approval from the National

Weather Association. This summer she will also complete the work for a Masters Degree in Applied Meteorology. She is also honored to be chosen the first female chairman of the National AMS Board of Meteorology. She holds 18 Emmy nominations and 7 Emmy Awards for Best Weathercast, Best Science Report and Live Reporting.

position and led the Aviation Program. Prior to arriving at the office in 2010, Mike served as a meteorologist and Aviation Program Leader at the Minneapolis Weather Forecast Office, meteorologist-in-training at the Forecast Office in Davenport, IA and as a student volunteer at the Northern Indiana Forecast Office.

Institute for Satellite Integration Studies) Program, and lately helps train National Weather Service Science and Operations Officers (SOOs) on the GOES-R Series using GOES-16 ABI and Himawari-8 AHI data. He is an enthusiastic advocate for Satellite Data, and actively blogs it.



**STEPHEN RODRIGUEZ, JR.** has been a forecaster at the National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Romeoville since 2007. Before working for the Chicago office, Stephen worked for the National Weather Service Forecast Office in St. Louis, MO.

Stephen graduated with a Master of Science degree in Meteorology from Saint Louis University in 2007. During his Master's work at Saint Louis University, Stephen conducted research on Mesoscale Convective Systems, and enjoyed this research transferring over to his work within the NWS.



**SKIP TALBOT** is a storm chaser and software developer from Illinois. He has been roaming the plains in search of supercells and tornadoes since 2003. He's participated in endeavors from forecasting for a Tornado Intercept Vehicle IMAX movie, piloting small

aircraft for aerial supercell shoots, to driving for the College of DuPage's Thunderstorm Lab. He created the software for the El Reno Survey, a study of the deadly and record breaking El Reno, OK tornado of May 31, 2013. Skip also helps run an all-volunteer, non-profit organization that raises money for storm victims called Storm Assist.

## PRESENTERS



**PAUL SIRVATKA** is a professor at the College of DuPage and has received the College Of DuPage Outstanding Faculty Award and Division of Natural Sciences Outstanding Faculty Award. He is also recognized for receiving National Science Foundation Grants

to develop a complete curriculum of eleven courses in meteorology. 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. He also co-sponsors severe weather symposia and spotter training across Chicago and as a speaker across the United States.



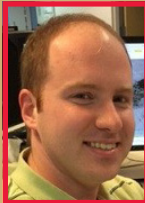
**VICTOR GENSINI** is an assistant professor of meteorology at the College of DuPage. At the University of Georgia, he studied the impacts of numerous climate change scenarios on severe weather across the United States and received his doctorate

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.



**JAMES SPANN** is the Chief Meteorologist for ABC 33/40 for 20 years. He has been a television weather anchor for 38 years. James has received the two highest awards in the nation for a broadcast meteorologist, the national "Broadcaster of the Year"

by the NWA. Also the recipient of the AMS "Award for Broadcast Meteorology". He won an Emmy for best television weather anchor in the Southeast U.S. in June 2014, and was elected to the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences Silver Circle in 2013. He received another Emmy for live coverage of the deadly tornado which hit Tuscaloosa on December 16, 2000.



**MIKE BARDOU** is the Warning Coordination Meteorologist at the Chicago National Weather Service Forecast Office in Romeoville, IL where he serves as the primary interface with NWS partners. Mike previously held a senior forecaster



**SCOTT LINDSTROM** grew up about a mile from the Department of Meteorology on the Penn State Campus. He earned his Masters' and PhD degrees from the University of Wisconsin. Scott is a computer programmer for McIDAS-X, he

develops training modules for the VISIT (Virtual

For more information on any of our speakers, please see the Weather Seminar's speakers page.