

Mississippi River Basin Flood of 2011 Symposium

**College of DuPage
Berg Instructional Center
Glen Ellyn, IL**

Friday Oct. 21, 2011
9AM – 2:30 PM

Program

Sponsored by:
COD Earth Sciences
COD Student Chapter – American Meteorological Society

Historical Perspectives of Mississippi River Flooding

Hydrosciences Lab BIC 3640

9AM – 11:15 AM

9:00 AM – 10:15 AM Self-Guided viewing of:

- Consequences of the Flood of 1993
- Satellite images of 2011 Flood Event
- COD Library Mississippi River Flood and Watershed Publications Collections

10:15 AM – 11:15 AM Fatal Flood Video

PBS 2005 Documentary of the 1927 Mississippi Flood that extended from Cairo, IL to New Orleans, LA. This flood event resulted in the loss of 1000 lives and displacement of 1 million people.

Flood Monitoring, Management, and Mitigation Challenges of the 2011 Flood

Meteorology Lab, BIC 3504

11:30 AM – 2:30 pm

Weather Patterns Producing 2011 Flooding Rains

Stephen Rodriguez, Meteorologist, National Weather Service, Chicago

11:30 AM – Noon

Stephen Rodriguez, Jr. has been a Meteorologist with the National Weather Service Forecast Office in Chicago/Romeoville, IL since August, 2007. Before working for the Chicago office, Stephen was stationed in the National Weather Service Forecast Office in St. Louis, MO. Stephen's educational background consists of a Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from the University of Oklahoma and a Master of Science degree in Meteorology from Saint Louis University. During his Master's work at Saint Louis University, Stephen conducted research on Mesoscale Convective Systems. Stephen enjoyed this research transferring over to his thesis work, as he has a strong passion and appreciation for the various modes of severe weather.

USGS Flood Monitoring Technologies and Activities

Jon Hortness, PE, Hydrologist, USGS Illinois Water Science Center – DeKalb

12:10 PM – 12:40 PM

Jon Hortness is the Surface Water Specialist for the Illinois Water Science Center. He is also the office chief for the Northern Illinois Field Office which handles field operations in northern Illinois, including the Chicago Metropolitan area. Jon received his bachelor's

degree in Civil Engineering and Master's degree in Water Resources Engineering from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. He is a Registered Professional Engineer and he began working for the USGS in 1996. Before moving to Illinois, Jon spent 8 years in the Idaho Water Science Center working on various surface water projects related to river and watershed modeling, surface-water/ground-water interactions, flood and drought analyses, and in-stream flow criteria.

Impacts of Flood and Flood Mitigation Strategies on Missouri Agriculture

J. Chris Klenklen, Administrator, Missouri Department of Agriculture
12:50 PM – 1:20 PM

Chris Klenklen is the administrator of the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Grain Regulatory Services program. As administrator, Chris oversees the licensing and auditing of approximately 200 state-licensed warehouses and 400 licensed grain dealers. Chris began working for the department in 1987 as a field auditor, and assumed his current position as administrator in 1996. Along with his grain duties, Chris has been the department's lead contact on river and flooding issues. Much of 2011 has been spent working on issues related to the Bird's Point New Madrid Floodway and the ongoing Missouri River flooding. Chris earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in accounting from the University of Central Missouri. He is also a graduate of the Missouri Agricultural Leadership of Tomorrow program. Chris and his wife, Christy, reside in Columbia, MO, and are partners in a family cattle operation located in Cooper County.

Floodplain Map Development

Suzanne Vermeer, FEMA Region V, Chicago
1:30 PM – 2:00 PM

Suzanne Vermeer works as a Civil Engineer for FEMA Region V in Chicago. Her primary responsibilities include contract administration and management of FEMA's floodplain mapping projects in the states of Illinois and Minnesota. She works with federal and state agencies, local municipalities, contractors, engineers and citizens to provide technical assistance related to engineering standards and floodplain management under the National Flood Insurance Program. Prior to joining FEMA, Ms. Vermeer worked as a consulting engineer on many projects involving floodplain mapping, stormwater management, permitting and plan review. Her background includes experience in design, surveying and construction engineering services for the public and private sectors. She is experienced in hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, storm sewer analyses and stormwater detention design, and has prepared several hydraulic reports for bridge and culvert improvement projects in the state of Illinois.

Ms. Vermeer received a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Iowa State University. She is a Registered Professional Engineer in Illinois and Wisconsin, and is a Certified Floodplain Manager.