

A VERY SEVERE 2011, A BETTER SPRING 2012

Dr. Greg Forbes
The Weather Channel
Atlanta, Georgia

2011 was a horrific year for tornadoes, floods, heat and drought, and other weather phenomena. It brought three of the deadliest tornadoes in decades and a tornado death toll not seen since 1936. The talk will put the year in a historical perspective and review some of the major events, including several from the Northeast. The talk will also examine winter and spring of 2012, how it differed from 2011, and the severe weather consequences.

PRESENTER'S BIO

Gregory S. Forbes is the Severe Weather Expert for The Weather Channel, Inc., based in Atlanta, GA. Dr. Forbes deals with dangerous thunderstorm weather hazards such as tornadoes, damaging winds, hail, floods, and lightning. He received his PhD at the University of Chicago, where he studied tornadoes and severe thunderstorms under Prof. T. Theodore Fujita-- world-famous for his invention of the F-scale used to rate tornadoes and for his discovery of narrow, intense thunderstorm downdrafts called microbursts.

Forbes joined the faculty in the Department of Meteorology at Penn State University in 1978, where as Assistant and then Associate Professor he taught courses in weather analysis and forecasting, natural disasters, and other topics until joining The Weather Channel, Inc. in June 1999.

Dr. Forbes has had a variety of experiences outside of the classroom, including surveying the damage paths left by about 300 tornadoes and windstorms, among them Hurricane Andrew and Typhoon Paka. He spent three summers performing studies to improve lightning forecasting at the Kennedy Space Center. He has written numerous papers on tornadoes, severe thunderstorms, and other meteorological topics and has co-authored and co-edited two books:

Natural and Technological Disasters and Images in Weather Forecasting-- the latter of which deals with the use of satellite and radar imagery in weather forecasting.

He is a Fellow of the American Meteorological Society; on the International Editorial Board of the International Journal of Meteorology; on the Board of Directors of StruckByLightning.Org.; a member of the Board on Atmospheric Sciences and Climate of the National Research Council.