



NOAA NATIONAL OCEANIC AND
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



Contact:

Lee Robertson, 609-261-6600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Derbyshire Honored for Outstanding Service as Volunteer Cooperative Observer

NOAA's National Weather Service has selected Virginia Derbyshire, a resident of Springtown, PA, as a recipient of the 2021 **John Campanius Holm Award** for distinguished service to the Nation through the Cooperative Observer Program (COOP program). Valerie Meola, Meteorologist, will present the award to Ms. Derbyshire during a webinar ceremony to be held on November 3, 2021 at 11 am that can be accessed at

Registration URL

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/3291156478542598157>

Webinar ID: 689-550-515

"Weather observations are the backbone of weather forecast and warning operations. The observations our Cooperative Weather Observers take each day not only enhance our climate history, they also are incorporated into computer model that allow our forecasters to provide accurate forecasts and warnings during severe weather, flooding, and winter storm events. These observers are also our eyes and ears in the field during events, at times providing critical near real-time information," said Philadelphia/Mount Holly WFO Meteorologist-in-Charge Jason Franklin.

Ms. Derbyshire has been reporting daily maximum/minimum temperatures, rainfall, snowfall, and snow depth, in addition to any additional severe weather observations to the National Weather Service since October 1990. In addition, she also recorded weather data for her own records dating back to the 1970s. Ms. Derbyshire has battled many heavy rain events, snowstorms, and even wildlife, recently including bears, to take her observations.

"NOAA's National Weather Service relies on dedicated citizen scientists to provide critical surface observations," said Louis W. Uccellini, Ph.D, Director, National Weather Service. "Daily reports from our COOP Observers are the building blocks of our forecasts each day, and provide a foundation for our climate records across the nation. It would be very difficult for us to fulfill our mission of saving lives and property while enhancing the national economy without these dedicated individuals and institutions."

The National Weather Service's [Cooperative Observer Program](#) has provided scientists and researchers with vital observational data for more than a century. Today, over 10,000 volunteer observers participate in the nationwide program to provide daily weather observations on temperature, precipitation, snowfall and other hydrological or meteorological data such as evaporation or soil temperature. The U.S. Congress recognized the value of the COOP program and its observers by authorizing improvements to the program through the [National Integrated Drought Information System Reauthorization Act](#) of 2018 (Public Law 115-423).

[NOAA's National Weather Service](#) is the primary source of weather data, forecasts and warnings for the United States and its territories. The National Weather Service operates the most advanced weather and flood warning and forecast system in the world, helping to protect lives and property and enhance the national economy. In partnership with national and local government, members of the weather enterprise, Weather-Ready Nation Ambassadors, and

Academia, the National Weather Service is working to build a more [Weather-Ready Nation](#) to support community resilience in the face of increasing vulnerability to extreme weather. Visit us online at weather.gov and on [Facebook](#).

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