



**Barb Boustead** is a meteorologist instructor at NWS's Warning Decision Training Division. Her NWS career also has included 13 years as an operational meteorologist in two NWS forecast offices, as well as three years in national climate program leadership. A Michigan native, Barb earned her undergraduate degrees in meteorology, geography, and English from Central Michigan University, an M.S. in meteorology from Penn State, and a Ph.D. in applied climatology from the University of Nebraska. She and Steve Hilberg worked together to develop the AWSSI as a component of her Ph.D. work investigating the weather and climate of Laura Ingalls Wilder's book *The Long Winter* (the story of the Ingalls family's experiences during the winter of 1880-1881). Barb serves on the AMS Committee on Environmental Stewardship and is a past member of the AMS Committee on Applied Climatology, and she is the past president of the Laura Ingalls Wilder Legacy and Research Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.