



GAFM News

4th Quarter 2016

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A Message From The Chair

Happy Holidays to all GAFM members, stakeholders and supporters. The time has come once again to say goodbye to another year. 2016 was celebrated with GAFM's 10th Annual

Technical Conference at Lake Lanier, participation in ASFPM's 40th Annual National Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan and a series of training sessions, lunch and learns and webinars. Furthermore, GAFM members spent the year working with the State of Georgia's Floodplain Management Office in preparation of receiving new community Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs), being active in the Community Rating System Users Groups (CRSUGs) and addressing concerns that would develop from the implementation of the new FIRM maps regarding the impacts on local flood ordinances.

The new FIRMs are expected to become effective for Georgia communities and municipalities during various times in 2016 and 2017. With the implementation of the new FIRMs, local Flood Damage Prevention Ordinances (FDPO) must be updated to reflect the new components of the FIRMs. This process has proven to be problematic within some communities as opposition from some local homebuilder organizations provided pushback to the new policies. Groundbreaking progress was realized through a series of meetings between local, State and Federal policymakers to discuss issues, problems and possible resolutions. These processes and methods are to be presented in the near future through training sessions in an attempt to make the ordinance implementation and map adoption process less cumbersome. The time, date and location of proposed training will be posted in future GAFM publications.

GAFM is still a relatively young organization with only having 10 years of development to date. There is still much room for growth and development to discover where GAFM can evolve. What opportunities we have and what adventures we have ahead can be easily realized as a collaborative functioning unit. I am hopeful to see an increase in our membership numbers. Presently, there are just over 160 members in GAFM but just under 300 Certified Floodplain Managers in the State of Georgia. I would like to launch a campaign to encourage all current GAFM members to extend an invitation to co-workers and colleagues that are CFMs and to reach out to those individuals that work in a floodplain management capacity to get involved with GAFM. The organization is comprised of educators, scientists, writers, idealists, achiever, and dreamers. Every member has something to offer and contribute. An idea, an action, or an expression are all elements needed to form an active Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. You can be part of this and are encouraged to do so. Through this organization, there are opportunities for occupational growth and professional development as well as great networking opportunities. Our common interest through floodplain management practices regardless of the specific discipline is to protect life and property.

Michael Blakely, CFM
GAFM Chair

Today's dreams are tomorrow's reality!

PRESENTATIONS NEEDED

GAFM'S 11TH Annual Technical Conference

March 20-24, 2017

Lake Lanier Island, Georgia

This call for presentations is your invitation to join GA floodplain management professionals to address the many problems and issues associated with floodplain, stormwater, coastal waters, and emergency preparedness. Concurrent sessions, networking events, CFM training, and exhibits will all be offered at this year's conference.

Abstract Submittal:

Anyone wishing to present must submit an abstract describing the proposed presentation. Please submit all information by email and limit abstracts to 300 words or less. The abstract must be in Microsoft Word format. Authors selected as presenters will need to be paid registrants attending the conference. Presentations will run between 30 minutes and 4 hours including question and answer time. Longer or more interactive presentations may be considered as the schedule allows. Abstracts will be selected for fit among concurrent sessions on March 21, 22, and 23. Please provide name(s) of author(s) and presentation title. The lead presenter must provide his/her title, place of employment, telephone number, and email address. Please also provide an estimate on the length of time you would like set aside for your presentation.

Abstract Submittal Deadline: January 9, 2017

Direct questions and email abstracts to:

Contact: Emma Bones, Conf. Planning Committee Email: abstracts@gafloods.org

Sponsorship and Exhibitor Opportunities:

Sponsors and Exhibitors are vital contributors to the success of this conference.

Please contact Michael Blakely, GAFM Chair, via Email: chair@gafloods.org

Movies, Videos, Documentaries:

Do you have or do you know of a link to a video or movie of a successful mitigation or the devastating loss after a flood? Please send an email to chair@gafloods.org

GAFM Board Members

Officers:

Chair - Michael Blakely
Vice Chair- Kelen Shostak
Treasurer - Traci Murry
Secretary - Shannon Brewer

Regional Representatives:

Metro - Ligia Negru
North - Kelia Kimbell
Central - Becky Cox
Coastal- Tom McDonald
Southwest - Farhad Alifarhani
East - Shari Mendrick

At-Large Representatives:

Sean Roche
Duane Demeritt

Committee Chairs:

Conference - Emma Bones &
Mike McLaughlin
NAI - Sean Roche
Mapping - Sam Crampton
Webmaster - Nick Turner
Membership: Traci Murry & Michael Blakely
CFM Mentor: Sean Roche



**Managing Floodplain Development through
the National Flood Insurance Program
L-273**

January 23-26, 2017

University of Georgia Marine Extension and Sea Grant College

715 Bay Street

Brunswick, Georgia 31520

The course is designed for local officials responsible for administering their local floodplain management ordinances as well as others involved in floodplain management activities. The course will focus on the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), concepts of floodplain management, the Flood Insurance Study and flood map, effective administration of the local flood ordinance and the relationship between floodplain management and flood insurance. Both FEMA and GA DNR staff will serve as instructors. Sign-in will begin at 8:00 am Monday, January 23. Classes will begin at 8:30 am Monday through Thursday and end at 5:00 pm every day. FEMA will provide course materials. There is no charge for the class but travel, lodging, meals and miscellaneous expenses are the attendee's responsibility. The deadline for enrolling is January 17, 2017. You can email your reservation request to Haydn.Blaize@dnr.ga.gov. "Attn: L-273." You can call (404) 463-4935 with any questions. Spaces will be filled on a "first in" basis.

Lodging: There are many choices in Brunswick along I-95. Please make your reservations directly with the motel.

Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) Exam:

The Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) exam will be administered Friday, January 27 from 8:30 to 11:30. The exam fee is \$100 for ASFPM members and \$375 for nonmembers. You may apply for ASFPM membership concurrent with your exam application. The CFM Exam application deadline is January 13, two weeks prior to the exam date. ASFPM membership applications and CFM Application materials are available for download at:

www.floods.org

Send your exam/membership fees directly to ASFPM. DO NOT send fees to GA DNR or FEMA

Link for registration form: <https://training.fema.gov/apply/119-25-1.pdf>

Link for SID: <https://cdp.dhs.gov/femasid/register>



SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES: **April 30-May 5, 2017**, for ASFPM's 41st annual national conference, "*Managing Flood Risk in the Heartland*" in Kansas City.

The ASFPM annual conference is recognized as the most important floodplain conference in the United States year after year. With more than 120 speakers and 1,200 participants, they are the national conferences all community, state and federal floodplain managers plan to attend. And because of that, many of the most important consulting firms and product vendors associated with floodplain management attend.

In recent years, the attendance has had about an equal number of private, local, state and federal participants from all over the U.S. and several foreign countries.

ASFPM also sponsors and co-sponsors major regional and topical conferences. Every year, there are numerous conferences and workshops of vital interest to all segments of our membership. Please also see our Additional Events page and the Floodplain Manager's Calendar.

Website Resources:

Visit the following websites to obtain valuable information on flood insurance, flood maps, flood insurance reform and being flood smart around your home.

www.gafloods.org

www.FloodSmart.gov

www.FEMA.gov/Flood-Insurance-Reform

www.floods.org

www.FEMA.gov/Risk-Mapping-Assessment-Planning

www.GeorgiaDFIRM.com

<http://MSC.FEMA.gov>

GAFM's Awards Program:

Do you know of a program, an individual or group that excels within their community or on the job? If so, they would be prime candidates for GAFM's Outstanding Achievement Awards. Nominate them via email no later than **February 3, 2017** in WORD or PDF format at GAFM.Awards@gafloods.org. There are several awards that are authorized by the GAFM Board. A description of the award and the criteria for nomination is following. Note that these are not annual awards; there is no requirement that each year an award shall be given in the described categories, nor is there a requirement that only one award be given at any one time for a specific category. Awards will be based on merit as judged by the GAFM Nominations Review Committee in accordance with the following categories:

- **Academia Award** – A committee that supports educational, institution, or philosophy managing principle and promotes sound floodplain practices. The award is given when the committee or philosophy that can be measured to reduce flooding or protect life and property from flooding. The committee or philosophy can also include water quality protection, groundwater recharge, or the management of stormwater, wetlands, marshes, hammocks, and riparian zones. The committee or philosophy must be in practice for over five years and recognized by a national origination. Such committee or philosophy may include LEED, NAI, floodplain model, LID, and Turn Around Don't Drown.

- **Program Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management** – This award recognizes county or municipal programs, or multiple-jurisdictional programs, demonstrating outstanding local commitment to sound floodplain management. The award is open to any municipal or county sponsored program in the state of Georgia. The program can be multi-jurisdictional in nature, for example a multi-county effort, or a combined municipal/county program, or an RDC sponsored program. Although state of Georgia and FEMA programs are not eligible for this award, local programs that are funded fully or in part by the State and/or FEMA, and are generally administered and implemented on the local level, are eligible. The award will be announced at the conference but will be able to presented in the appropriate local setting.

Nominees should be able to generally demonstrate:

- * Improvement to one or more floodplain management outcomes compatible with recognized goals established by GAFM, FEMA, or ASFPM
- * Contributions to knowledge, methods, technology or regulations; and
- * Achievement of floodplain management objectives over a sufficient period of time, where appropriate.

Where possible, and as appropriate, information accompanying the nomination should include:

- * Brief description of the nominated program
- * Key performance data relevant to the outcomes
- * Benefits in terms of health, safety, convenience, aesthetics and quality of urban living; and
- * Independent supporting descriptions and information.

- **Outstanding Floodplain Manager Award** – This award recognizes the individual efforts of an outstanding floodplain manager in the state of Georgia. The individual must have worked, or be currently working in a floodplain management capacity within a municipality or county within the state of Georgia. It is not necessary for them to be a member of GAFM; however, an awardee will also be given a complimentary general one-year membership in GAFM. The award will be announced at the conference but will be presented in the appropriate local setting. Nominees should generally have demonstrated outstanding leadership in local floodplain management issues. It is preferred that at least two statements of recommendation, not including the primary nominating statement, be included from local officials or citizens within the community they serve. The contributions of the nominee should be described in as much detail as appropriate, with specific examples and instances relating to floodplain management included in the nominating document. Self-nominations will not be considered. This award should be considered as peer-recognition for outstanding local leadership and achievement.
- **Distinguished Service Award** - This award recognizes a current or past member of GAFM who has been an outstanding influence on the credibility, responsiveness, and overall quality of the organization. The nominee should characterize the finest in selfless dedication to promoting and expanding recognition of GAFM as an organization of the highest quality. The nominee should be personally recognizable by a large portion of the GAFM membership as having a critical influence on the success of GAFM. It should be clear in the nominating document that this person’s efforts have helped to result in GAFM being recognized as a high quality organization. It is preferred that at least three statements of recommendation, not including the primary nominating statement, also be included. This award will be announced and presented at the annual conference.
- **Meritorious Achievement Award** -This award will recognize an individual for achievement above and beyond the “call of duty”. It is not necessary for them to be a member of GAFM; however, an awardee will also be given a complimentary general one-year membership in GAFM. The event, achievement, or motivation for this award is highly variable; it does not have to have occurred in Georgia and does not have to be directly related to floodplain management, although at least indirectly it should positively influence the goal of sound floodplain management. For example, outstanding volunteer disaster relief outside of Georgia could provide for consideration of a nominee. Meritorious achievement can be recognized in the area of education, government, policy, research, litigation, outreach implementation, or other areas that can have a direct or indirect influence on the goal of sound floodplain management. The nominating document should describe the meritorious nature of the individual’s work or achievement, and should clearly indicate how this individual has performed beyond what would be considered their normal or average activities and abilities. It is preferred that at least two statements of recommendation, not including the primary nominating statement, be included from persons intimately familiar with the event or activities precipitating the nomination.

Request for Board Nominations:

Deadline is February 17, 2017 [GAFM.Nominations@gafloods.org]

GAFM is now accepting nominations for Executive Board members and Regional and At Large members for the 2017-2018 board terms.

Board positions to vote on:

<u>Executive Board:</u>	<u>Regional Reps.</u>	<u>At-Large Representatives</u>
Chair	Region 1 – North	All Three positions
Vice Chair	Region 3 – Central	
Treasurer	Region 5 – Metro Atlanta	
Secretary		

Nomination Period: We will be taking Nominations for two weeks: (February 1st through February 15th @ midnight)

Campaign Period: Nominees will have a period of two weeks to campaign for the respective position: (February 22nd through March 8th)

Voting Period: All members will have one week to vote for each Executive Board member.

***If you have always wanted to make a difference, be a part of something great then now is your chance.
Nominate – Vote – Get Involved!!***