



# GAFM News



Volume 1, Issue 2

July 15, 2008

## A Message from the Chair

Dear GAFM Members,

The following was published in the Atlanta Journal-Constitution on 6/20/2008:

### The Wave of the Future

Developers and homeowners need to plan for more extreme floods.

By Terri Turner  
For the Journal-Constitution  
Published on: 06/20/08

I doubt that there are many of us who have not seen the photos of houses being torn apart and washed downstream by flood waters in the Midwest. I have to sit and wonder, were those people in the path of the flood prepared? More aptly stated, did the people whose homes were flooded know their flood risk?

The flooding that is flashing across our TV screens is not unheard of, beyond belief or unpredictable. Nationwide, flooding is increasing for a number of reasons.

Changes in rainfall patterns are occurring. It makes no difference if you think it is caused by global warming or some other phenomenon. The reality is that while average yearly rainfall may remain fairly constant, rain events are less

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## Your GAFM Board for 2008

### Executive Board

**Chair**                    **Terri Turner, AICP, CFM**  
City of Augusta

**Vice-Chair**           **Tom McDonald, CFM**  
City of Savannah

**Secretary**           **Juanita Mikell**  
City of Savannah

**Treasurer**           **Garrett Skinner, CFM**  
URS Corporation; Atlanta

### Regional Reps

**North**                    **Vee Burnham, CFM**  
Gilmer County

**East**                    **George Eastman, CFM**  
Columbia County

**Coastal**                **David Smith**  
Jekyll Island Fire Dept

**Southwest**           **Michael Burgess, CFM**  
Columbus Consolidated Gov't

**Central**                **Ray Parker, CFM**  
City of Douglas

**Metro Atlanta**      **Charles Absher, CFM**  
Jordan, Jones & Goulding; Atlanta

### At-Large Reps

**Steve Larson, CFM**  
Gwinnett County  
(Newsletter Editor)

**Collis Brown, CFM**  
GA DNR/State NFIP Office; Atlanta  
(Legislative Officer)

**Michael Blakely, CFM**  
Chatham County  
(CFM Mentor Program Coordinator)

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frequent but involve more intense storms. It is not uncommon to hear reports of a storm that dropped enormous amounts of rain in an area in a short period of time, or about storm events that caused dams or retention ponds to overflow for the first time. Also not uncommon are reports of major flooding, dam failures and community devastation where levees breach or fail or where raging rivers overtop their banks.

As development brings about vast changes to watersheds by converting farmland and forest to rooftops and big-box parking lots, less water soaks into the earth and more rain runs into our creeks, streams and rivers. This increase in stormwater runoff — the amount of water from each rainfall event — into our streams results in an increase in flood heights during even the smallest of storm events.

It is very important that we regulate development so that it is on higher ground than tomorrow's flood, not yesterday's flood. Flood heights are increasing and will continue to increase. When a new flood map is produced for any given area, it will likely show higher flood levels. This is reality, and it is important that communities use that better data for regulation. Property owners should be made aware of the increased flood levels so that they know their true risk.

Further, while many people seem to think it can only flood within the boundaries of that 100-year floodplain on the flood map, there is flood risk above and beyond that relatively common and often small floodplain.

Just ask the folks who have lost their homes in areas that are outside the mapped floodplain — areas that may have been above the 100-year flood level but were not safe from a larger, more intense storm. Larger storms are occurring now and will continue to occur in the future. Each and every property is subject to some risk of flooding. It just depends on how big the flood must be to impact each of them.

It is important to note that nationally, more than one-third of the flood insurance claims in recent years were outside the 100-year floodplain shown on the Flood Insurance Rate Map.

There are ways that property owners can protect their lives and property:

> Buy flood insurance. Anyone, anywhere, can buy flood insurance as long as their community has joined and complies with the minimal requirements of the National Flood Insurance program. A primary responsibility of your community is public safety. Flood safety is no different than fire or police safety. Insist that your community leaders join and comply with the NFIP.

> If you live in or anywhere near water, know your flood risk. Also, know how to evacuate. Homes and possessions can be replaced, but life is precious and cannot.

> Avoid building in floodplains. Plan wisely and develop wisely.

> Don't build in a way that pushes flood water on other people's property. That is not a good neighbor policy and

may potentially create liability for you as a property owner.

> Do not drive through floodwater. Driving through floodwater causes the most deaths from floods. Please remember that as little as 6 inches of water can float a vehicle. Do not walk through floodwater, either — moving water can and will sweep people off their feet.

After the water recedes from these most recent floods, communities and property owners will consider what they can do to reduce the loss of property and life from the next flood.

Only by accepting personal and community responsibility now, and effectively planning for the future, will we reduce the adverse impacts of flooding for ourselves and generations to come.

> Terri Turner is chair of the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management.

JORDIN ISIP / United Features Syndicate

### **Want to know more ??**

**For other related articles on the Midwest flooding situation from earlier this year, from a national perspective, see ASFPM's website at: [www.flood.org](http://www.flood.org) (2008 Summer Midwest Floods); and for a more local perspective see: <http://savannahnow.com/node/517374>**

### **GAFM Committee Chairs**

#### **Conference Planning Committee**

Ranko Pudar, CFM  
URS Corporation ; Atlanta

#### **Outreach and Membership Services**

David Smith  
Jekyll Island Fire Dept

#### **Awards Committee**

Charles Absher, CFM  
Jordan, Jones & Goulding; Atlanta

#### **Programs Committee**

Tom Tkacs, CFM  
Greenehome & O'Mara, Inc; Atlanta

#### **GIS Mapping & Technology Committee**

Sam Crampton, CFM  
Dewberry; Atlanta

#### **Mitigation / NAI Committee**

Michael Taylor, CFM  
Watershed Concepts; Atlanta

#### **Webmasters**

Chris Budd, CFM and Bo Murphy; PBS&J; Atlanta

## **TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **AUGUST 25-29, 2008 – GEORGIA WEEK-LONG CFM COURSE / TEST**

PLACE SAVANNAH CIVIC CENTER, MASON ROOM  
301 WEST OGLETHORPE; SAVANNAH, GA 30401  
TIME DAILY

FEMA and the GA Floodplain Management Staff will serve as instructors for E-273 "Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) / CFM test to follow course – you must register for the test with ASFPM

### **SEPTEMBER 11, 2008 - GAFM CFM REFRESHER COURSE / TEST**

PLACE JEKYLL OCEANFRONT ("COASTAL CONNECTIONS"  
CONFERENCE; JEKYLL ISLAND, GA)  
TIME 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

GAFM in conjunction with PBS&J is offering a one –day CFM refresher course; CFM test to follow course – you must register for the test with ASFPM

### **SEPTEMBER 24, 2008 - ELEVATION CERTIFICATE TRAINING**

PLACE JYG OFFICE; NORCROSS, GA  
TIME 8:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

GAFM in conjunction with FEMA and JYG will hold a free one-day Elevation Certificate Training.

### **SEPTEMBER 29, 2008 - ELEVATION CERTIFICATE TRAINING**

PLACE EVANS GOVERNMENT COMPLEX AUDITORIUM - 630  
RONALD REAGAN DRIVE, BUILDING A - EAST WING;  
EVANS GEORGIA  
TIME 1:00 – 5:00 P.M.

GAFM in conjunction with FEMA , the City of Augusta, and Columbia County will hold a free one-day Elevation Certificate Training

### **FEB 18, 2009 – GAFM CFM REFRESHER COURSE / TEST**

PLACE COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER  
(GAFM'S FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE)  
TIME 8:30 A.M. - 4:00 P.M. TEST 4:00 – 7:00 P.M.

GAFM in conjunction with PBS&J is offering a one –day CFM refresher course; CFM test to follow course – you must register for the test with ASFPM

### **SPRING 2009 – GEORGIA WEEK-LONG CFM COURSE / TEST**

PLACE TBD (AUGUSTA AREA)  
TIME TBD

FEMA and the GA Floodplain Management Staff will serve as instructors for E-273 "Managing Floodplain Development Through the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) / CFM test to follow course – you must register for the test with ASFPM

## **CONFERENCE CALENDAR OF EVENTS (SAVE THE DATE !!)**

*Bring your sun-tan oil and your flip-flops –  
GAFM  
is  
"going Coastal" !!!!!*



### **Save the Date**

September 11 and 12, 2008  
Jekyll Oceanfront, a Clarion Resort  
975 North Beachview Drive  
Jekyll Island, Georgia



The  
Coastal Region  
Education & Technical Training  
Conference

*"Coastal Connections"*

*You don't want to miss it !!*

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### **FEB 18-20, 2009 – GAFM'S FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

PLACE COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER ; COLUMBUS, GA  
TIME 8:00 – 5:00 DAILY

GAFM's Annual Conference

### **JUNE 7-12, 2009 – ASFPM ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

PLACE ROSEN CENTER HOTEL; ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
TIME DAILY

ASFPM's Annual Conference

## **JOB CORNER**

**CHECK OUT THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES POSTED ON GAFM'S WEBSITE AT:**

**[WWW.GAFLOODS.ORG](http://WWW.GAFLOODS.ORG)**

**Jen Marcy receives the "John Ivey Award for Certification" from John Ivey himself at the ASFPM Annual Conference in Reno, Nevada on Thursday, May 22, 2008, at ASFPM's Annual Awards Luncheon**



## **GAFM WELL WISHES**

**(BIRTHDAYS, PROMOTIONS, JOB CHANGES, E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES, ETC)**

### **BIRTHDAYS IN JULY, AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER**

Happy Birthday wishes go out to:

Collis Brown	July 6
Ray Parker	August 9
Steve Larson	September 2
Tom Tkacs	September 18
Michael Burgess	September 28

### **E-MAIL ADDRESS CHANGES**

**CARL BARKALOW'S EMAIL ADDRESS HAS CHANGED:**

**THE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS IS:  
[CARLBARKALOW@FRONTIERNET.NET](mailto:CARLBARKALOW@FRONTIERNET.NET)**

## **Awards and "All that Stuff"**

Nominations will be received later this year for GAFM's Second Annual Awards Ceremony to be held at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual GAFM Conference at the Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, GA on Feb 18-20, 2009. Awards categories include:

- Program Award for Excellence in Floodplain Management
- Outstanding Floodplain Manager Award
- Distinguished Service Award
- Meritorious Achievement Award

For more information about the awards, see Awards on GAFM's website at [www.gafloods.org](http://www.gafloods.org)

## **NEW CFM'S IN GEORGIA**

### **URS (Atlanta, GA) Testing (June 13, 2008)**

Brett Bowen, URS  
Jeff Butler, URS  
Charles Crowell, URS  
Amir Fallahi, URS  
Sarah Greibrok, URS  
Fred Halterman, URS  
Jeff Henry, URS  
Chris Hill, URS  
Jenny Monroe, URS  
Tom Shillock, GA DNR  
Joshua Stansell, Digital Rio  
Mariam Yousuf, URS

### **ASFPM bids farewell to their Secretary from 2006-2008, Georgia's own, Collis Brown**



## Smart Vent to Help with "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" Season Finale

Press Release  
March 7, 2008

Smart Vent, Inc., manufacturer of code compliant foundation flood vents, is among a group of builders and suppliers selected to help in the construction of a home and church destroyed by Hurricane Katrina by "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition".

The Usea family of Westwego, LA home was severely damaged during hurricane Katrina. Brad Usea's mother Grace's home was completely destroyed, leaving her and Brad's brothers homeless. Brad and Laura Usea immediately took their family members in, even though their home was in disrepair. In February 2007, their home was struck by a tornado, causing even more damage to their home and completely destroying the FEMA trailer in the backyard.

Considered local heroes by many, Brad and his brother Chad, both volunteer firefighters work to help rebuild their community. They are a very deserving family. Three homes are being built on their existing lot to accommodate the entire extended family. In addition, Deltec Homes, Ty Pennington and the "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" team will also rebuild the Noah's Ark Missionary Baptist Church in New Orleans.

Smart VENT® has stepped up to the plate with financial assistance, product donation, engineering consultation and labor to help "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" and Deltec Homes to provide shelter and security for this family. Smart VENT'S® Vice President and General Manager, Michael Graham, and Ronald Long, our gulf coast certified installer and technical representative are down in New Orleans and will be on site during the entire length of the build helping with construction. The home and church are built in a flood plain in New Orleans. The raised foundation needed openings to allow floodwater in and out and that is what Smart VENT® does best. The church needed ventilation along with flood vents and the home needed insulated vents due to a design calling for a green sealed crawl space. Smart VENT'S® first recommendation was to

first raise the height of the first floor to one foot above the BFE (Base Flood Elevation), then use Smart VENT® insulated vents in the house and Smart VENT® automatic flood/air vents in the church. Both products open automatically when floodwater rises, and because of their patented opening system, these two projects required 2/3 less vents than first thought. "As a leader in the production of hurricane-resistant housing, Deltec Homes has a great number of homes that are built in flood zones. The flexibility of the Smart VENT® system to work with both vented and sealed crawlspaces makes it an ideal product for these areas." States Steve Linton of Deltec Homes.

As an added surprise, Smart VENT® will pay the cost of ten year's worth of flood insurance for the family and for the church. "The hurricane was a horrible tragedy, but today, nearly three years after Katrina, homeowners and builders are not realizing the financial and safety benefits of building-in protection. By building the home only one foot above the base flood elevation and adding the proper amount and placement of flood vents- the flood insurance premiums have been reduced by 94% on both structures. This is a big money. On these two structures they will save about \$3200.00 per year on flood insurance, and we do this for our customers every day." Adds Mike Graham. "People just don't know these savings are available. Our donation to pay for the flood insurance for both the family's home and the church represent Smart VENT'S® commitment to educating homeowners that there are ways to safely build in a flood zone, reduce flood insurance premiums and ensure that they will be first to receive a settlement should another catastrophic event happen. Saving money for homeowners is rewarding, but the calls and letters we receive after saving a customer's home is an unbelievable feeling". Floods are horrible. Let's take action. Let's build safer homes and take advantage of the FEMA premium reductions while doing so. On this EMHE project, the additional cost will be paid for in one year with reduced premiums." Concludes Graham. All SMART VENT® products are certified engineered openings providing an automatic entry and exit of floodwaters that release hydrostatic pressure yielded upon foundations during flooding. The indestructible vents have two patented floats that automatically release with rising water and open the bi-directional flood door rotating it out of the path of flood water, providing the required 3" diameter of completely unobstructed open area for flood water to enter and exit.

# Your news and information could go here !

Contact Steve Larson,  
GAFM Newsletter Editor,  
at

[Steve.larson@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:Steve.larson@gwinnettcounty.com)  
to fill this space

## Important information regarding "Week-long CFM Courses and CFM Refresher Courses (listed on the website and in this newsletter)

These courses are meant as **preparation courses** for the CFM exam, **but will not take the place of intensive study.**

Prior to this training, GAFM recommends that you read the manual, Floodplain Management Requirements:

A Study Guide and Desk Reference for Local Officials (FEMA 480) available for download at [www.floods.org/Certification/FEMA\\_480.asp](http://www.floods.org/Certification/FEMA_480.asp).

This manual is lengthy, so please give yourself some time to prepare!

Please note that signing up for these courses does not automatically register you for the CFM exam, and signing up for the exam does not register you for the course.

ASFPM requires that you register and submit payment at least two weeks in advance of any CFM exam.

The "GAFM News" is published on a quarterly basis on Jan 15, Apr 15, Jul 15 and Oct 15 of each year. To submit information for the Newsletter contact Steve Larson, Editor, at [Steve.larson@gwinnettcounty.com](mailto:Steve.larson@gwinnettcounty.com).