



GAFM News



Volume 1, Issue 1

May 2008

A Message from the Chair

Dear GAFM Members,

My first two full months in "office" have been a whirlwind of excitement and learning opportunities. Our Board members have been extremely busy setting up the Fall Education and Training Conference – "Coastal Connections" to be held in Jekyll Island, GA, September 11-12, doing the logistics for the Annual Conference to be held somewhere in southwest Georgia in early 2009, and arranging several training opportunities across the state. You are fortunate to have Board members who are diligently looking out for your training and educational needs!

Additionally, your entire Executive Board and two of your At-Large Representatives attended the ASFPM Conference in Reno, Nevada this past week. I wish I could describe the enormous training opportunities that were had there. The biggest and the brightest minds in the industry were there to share their expertise with us on issues such as legal perspectives, coasts and shorelines, public policy, education and outreach, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), flood loss

continued on page 2

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 A Message from the Chair
- 1 Your New GAFM Board for 2008
- 2 GAFM Committee Chairs
- 3 Training Opportunities
- 3 Conference Calendar of Events
- 4 Job Corner / GAFM Well Wishes / Awards and "all that Stuff" / New CFM's in Georgia

Your New 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 (Legislative Officer) |
| Michael Blakely, CFM Chatham County (CFM Mentor Program Coordinator) |

mitigation, levee aspects and issues, No Adverse Impact (NAI) – success stories and “A Living River Approach”, floodplain mapping technology and floodplain mapping application. WOW !! If all of that made your head spin, just imagine what it must have been like to be there!! To give you just a little glimpse of the week, I have posted a blog on the GAFM website. Feel free to check it out to get a feel for what these conferences are all about.

I'll take this opportunity to put in a shameless plug here for next year's ASFPM Conference to be held in Orlando, Florida, June 7-12, 2009. The Florida Chapter is hosting the Conference and our Georgia Chapter has volunteered to assist them with host duties for the Conference. Tom McDonald and I spent the week (between classes) shadowing the Florida Chapter and the host Chapter for this year's Conference. I can tell you from first hand knowledge that a lot of work goes into planning these Conferences. We can always use volunteers, so sing out if you are going to Orlando next year and would like to help!

I am also proud to share with you that each of your At-Large Representatives have accepted new duties with the Board to include:

Steve Larson has become the Newsletter Editor – so get Steve any info that you want published in the “GAFM News”.

Collis Brown has become the Legislative Officer – Collis will keep us up-to-date on legislative issues at the state and national level that affect our Chapter, our membership and our professions.

Michael Blakely has become the CFM Mentor Program Coordinator – Michael will pair up seasoned CFMs (we need you to volunteer !!) with those planning on taking the CFM exam and then those mentors will play “big brother” or “big sister” to their mentees for the first two years after the mentee passes the exam.

The Board is very excited at the new dimension that these duties and individuals will bring to the GAFM Chapter. Stay tuned for further developments in these areas.

Since we are on the subject of CFMs, I am proud to

say that we have added several new CFMs to our ranks – 13 new CFMs from the test given at the annual conference in Decatur in March and 10 more CFMs from the week-long class and test in Forsythe County in April. URS is giving a test for their employees on June 13 and we have several more opportunities for CFM training and testing later this year. THE CFM Program is near and dear to me, as it is to all of the Board, and so you will see a big emphasis on certification and certification maintenance within the GAFM Chapter.

Thank you again for the faith that you put in me by appointing me as Chair. I plan to do my utmost best to continue to make GAFM an organization that you can be proud to be associated with. If ever you need me, or any of the Board, we are just a phone call or e-mail away. We welcome your suggestions, your input and yes, even your criticism – but be very careful, I bruise easily !

Until we meet again, go forth and promote the ideas of sound floodplain management in the organizations that you work for and to the people you work with !

Blessings to you all !

T.

GAFM Committee Chairs

Conference Planning Committee

Ranko Pudar, CFM
URS Corporation

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 and Bo Murphy

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

EARLY AUGUST 2008 - ELEVATION CERTIFICATE TRAINING

PLACE TBD (ATLANTA AREA)
TIME TBD

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

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

PLACE TBD (SAVANNAH 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

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 29, 2008 – ELEVATION CERTIFICATE TRAINING

PLACE TBD (AUGUSTA / COLUMBIA COUNTY AREA)
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

1ST QUARTER 2009 – GAFM CFM REFRESHER COURSE / TEST

PLACE TBD (SW GEORGIA AT GAFM'S FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE)
TIME TBD

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

AUGUST 25-29, 2008 – 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 !!)

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2008 – "COASTAL CONNECTIONS"

PLACE JEKYLL OCEANFRONT; JEKYLL ISLAND, GA
TIME 8:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M. DAILY

This is GAFM's fall education and technical training conference

1ST QUARTER 2009 – GAFM'S FOURTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE TBD (SW GEORGIA)
TIME TBD

GAFM's annual Conference

JUNE 7-12, 2009 – ASFPM ANNUAL CONFERENCE

PLACE ROSEN CENTER HOTEL; ORLANDO, FLORIDA
TIME DAILY

GAFM's annual Conference

JOB CORNER

~ **POST YOUR COMPANY JOB OPENING(S) HERE** ~

For more information about the Georgia Association of Floodplain Management (GAFM), see our website at:

www.gafloods.org

GAFM WELL WISHES

(BIRTHDAYS, PROMOTIONS, JOB CHANGES, ETC)

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL, MAY AND JUNE

Happy Birthday wishes go out to:

Charles Absher May 23

Terri Turner June 6

PROMOTIONS

JOB CHANGES

Awards and "All that Stuff"

Congratulations to Reza Aral who won GAFM's Outstanding Floodplain Manager Award at the 3rd Annual Conference held in Decatur, GA on March 5-7, 2008.

Congratulations to Carl Barkalow who won GAFM's Distinguished Service Award at the 3rd Annual Conference held in Decatur, GA on March 5-7, 2008.

Congratulations to Jen Marcy who won the prestigious John Ivey Award for Superior Efforts in Certification at the ASFPM Conference in Reno, Nevada, May 19-23,

NEW CFM'S IN GEORGIA

Decatur Testing (March 2008)

Susan Castle, CFM
Eric Chommanard, CFM
Antonis Chrisohoides, CFM
Sam Crampton, CFM
Rick Deerman, CFM (Alabama)
James Harvey, CFM
Katherine McLeod, CFM
Jonathan Mitchell, CFM
Maja Radovic, CFM
Mike Talley, CFM
Julio Trinidad, CFM
Danelle Volpe, CFM
Verna Yin, CFM

Forsythe Testing (April 2008)

Clifford Bascombe, CFM
Adam Faulkner, CFM
Shona Gibson, CFM
Nathan Hayden, CFM
Cameron Kerr, CFM
Marc Koopman, CFM
Jim Martinez, CFM
Drew Parker, CFM
Michael Rotalsky, CFM
Emily Wingo, CFM

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.

